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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. MALOY).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
December 20, 2024.

I hereby appoint the Honorable CELESTE MALOY to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

MIKE JOHNSON,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

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

Lord, if You can do anything, have compassion on us and help us.

Would that we show the maturity of faith that our lives would reflect our belief in You and that in You, we would believe all things are possible. Lord, we believe. Help our unbelief.

For you, O God, rule all things in wisdom and righteousness. You have called each one of us to serve You and be obedient to Your will. In Your providence, You lay before us the ability to trust in our present and hope for our future. Lord, we hope. Help our uncertainty.

You, O God, who are love, and in love created each one of us, and in love still cherish every person where they are and just as they are, call us to share that love with our colleagues, our family and friends, and even our enemies. Lord, we love You. Help us in our inability to love our neighbor.

In our belief, may we find the patience to hope. And in hoping may we become more loving. And in hoping and loving, may we grow stronger in our faith and closer in our walk with You.

In the name of the one who showed us how to love, we pray.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. QUIGLEY led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

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

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

SYRIA LIBERATED

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, the murderous Assad regime in Syria, backed by war criminal Putin, and the Tehran terrorist regime and its Hezbollah puppet, caused the worst refugee crisis since World War II. With 12 million citizens, over one-half of Syria has been displaced. Now murderous Assad escapes to Moscow while one million citizens will be returning in the next 6 months.

Helping Syrians return home should be a priority. This can best promote reconstruction. American policies should reduce sanctions on Syria to help Syrians stay in their homes or return home. It would be positive to see the building of a new Trump Tower in Damascus.

Success for democracy in Moldova and Romania this month, with courageous Ukrainian resistance, and Syria expelling Putin, is an inspiration for patriots in Georgia defeating war criminal Putin puppets.

In conclusion, God bless our troops as the global war on terrorism continues. Open borders for dictators put all Americans at risk of more 9/11 attacks imminent as warned by the FBI. Trump will reinstitute existing laws to protect American families with peace through strength.

Wishing Chaplain Margaret Kibben a merry Christmas.

ATTACKS ON TRANSGENDER COMMUNITY

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

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, today, as in every day, we open the House with the Pledge of Allegiance and the words ''with liberty and justice for all.''

However, some of our Nation's greatest ills have come from moments when we have chosen to make exceptions to ''all.'' Right now there are those who, once again, make exceptions, this time by carving out the transgender community by targeting them for discriminatory policies.

To those crafting these policies, every economic challenge, shift in culture, and electoral loss can be blamed on one small, minority population or another. To them, every problem is someone else's fault, and if only that

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group didn't exist or if they were more like the majority, then perhaps our country's challenges would be solved.

Let us remind ourselves that never have our Nation's problems been solved by creating a scapegoat. In light of Supreme Court cases and derogatory posts, we need to remind ourselves that these are real people whom we are talking about. Just because you may not understand someone's experience, Madam Speaker, does not make them any less valid.

A lack of understanding does not give anyone the liberty to attack someone's existence. Let us lead with empathy and strive to learn from our neighbors.

CELEBRATING THE RETIREMENT OF MIKE VESTA

(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. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the retirement of the chief information officer of the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, FLETC, Mike Vesta.

Mr. Vesta was appointed as the assistant director and chief information officer of FLETC in August of 2016, and he will retire on December 31.

Mr. Vesta has an extensive background in providing training resources to State, local, campus, Tribal, and international law enforcement. He held a crucial role in Federal law enforcement training, as FLETC serves as a law enforcement training agency for over 90 Federal agencies and other partner organizations.

Mr. Vesta began his career in the Federal Government in 1986 where he spent 4 years enlisted in the U.S. Air Force. He also held many roles within the National Weather Service beginning in 1991.

In 2002, Mr. Vesta became the CIO of the Overton Brooks VA Medical Center where he influenced change with information technology in the healthcare world before joining FLETC in 2006.

I celebrate Mr. Vesta's impressive knowledge and impactful career that has supported the U.S. Air Force and advancements in information technology and Federal law enforcement training.

I congratulate Mr. Vesta on his retirement.

BIPARTISAN SPENDING AGREEMENT

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

Mrs. LEE CARTER. Madam Speaker, I did not expect to be here today. We had a bipartisan agreement, and we were set to vote on Wednesday. It was bipartisan and bicameral, yet, at the eleventh hour it was pulled, doing injustice to the American people.

I call for that same agreement to come to the floor so that we can regain the trust of the American people, keep our government open, and do what they have asked us to do, which is fund disaster relief and provide vast, important services across our Nation.

I also rise because this may be my last time in the well. It has been my honor to be a voice for the 18th Congressional District and bring an important vote back to this House in memory of my mother, the Honorable Sheila Jackson Lee, fighting for justice, freedom, access to healthcare, women's rights, human rights, and economic opportunity for all.

She always fought for it to be a more perfect union and for America to live up to her promise. I think that we should do well to remember that when we have these discussions today.

May her legacy live on in this body and live on in this Nation forever. It has been a true honor to be with my colleagues, but I ask that we do what is right in this season of giving for the American people and bring the bipartisan agreement back to the floor for a vote.

RECOGNIZING SLOAN McPHERSON

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

Mr. ROSENDALE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Montana Grizzly defensive end Sloan McPherson from Glendive, Montana. While Sloan is a fantastic football player, I recognize him today for his lifesaving efforts off the gridiron.

Every spring, the Montana Griz football team walks the campus encouraging people to participate in the National Marrow Be the Match Program. Along with encouraging others to join the registry, many players selflessly add their own names to the list.

This past summer, Sloan got a call saying that his stem cells matched a patient with life-threatening leukemia and sickle cell anemia. Sloan made the decision to potentially pass up the opportunity to begin the season with his team and instead flew to Boise, Idaho, to donate his stem cells.

This selfless act resulted in a saved life. When Sloan is asked about his donation, he humbly says: When there is someone in need and you can help them, you have to do it. I have known Sloan since he was born. He lives next door to me. Like his parents, Craig and April, I am proud of the young man that he has grown to be.

The world can use more men like Sloan McPherson.

CELEBRATING THOMAS EYE GROUP'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. CLYDE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Thomas Eye Group. For one-half century, Thomas Eye Group has provided exceptional eye care for folks throughout the north Georgia region, becoming a cornerstone of Georgia's healthcare community.

Whether it is through pediatric care, advanced surgeries, or the everyday gift of clearer sight, Thomas Eye Group has embodied what it means to serve with purpose. Their skilled doctors and staff have not only improved their patients' vision but transformed lives, restoring hope and clarity to countless Georgians.

I applaud their unwavering commitment to their patients, their integrity in practice, and their drive to embrace innovation while never losing sight of their mission.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate Thomas Eye Group on this incredible milestone. As we look ahead to the next 50 years, I am confident their top-notch team will continue leading the way in delivering exceptional eye care.

Wishes for a merry Christmas.

OUR COUNTRY'S BEST

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, I appreciate the efforts of our chairman, G.T. THOMPSON, of the Ag Committee and many of our colleagues in making sure that this year-end agreement we have is going to also include the importance of agriculture.

Agriculture is in big trouble with the commodity prices and disasters they face around the country. Many of these amazing crops you see right here on this poster board, Madam Speaker, would not exist, and, without this aid that we have in this package here, they will be in big trouble and maybe not get the finances here.

Some of the finest quality crops anywhere come from California and the U.S.

Also, some of the finest quality staff we have, our Ella, a staff member who works on this floor, will be leaving us pretty soon and heading over to a different building to work in a new Member's office. We will still miss her and her high-quality work and her thumbs-up like an empress up there in front.

Madam Speaker, I wish Ella best wishes and good luck. God bless Ella.

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 9 o'clock and 12 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1653

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro

tempore (Mr. MOLINARO) at 4 o'clock and 53 minutes p.m.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, December 20, 2024.

Hon. MIKE JOHNSON,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on December 20, 2024, at 1:55 p.m.

That the Senate passed S. 623.
That the Senate passed S. 2020.
That the Senate passed S. 2160.
That the Senate passed S. 2784.
That the Senate passed S. 3617.
That the Senate passed S. 3790.
That the Senate passed S. 4404.
That the Senate passed S. 4451.
That the Senate passed S. 4640.
That the Senate passed S. 4634.
That the Senate passed S. 4803.
That the Senate passed S. 4851.
That the Senate passed S. 4974.
That the Senate passed S. 5062.
That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 1555.
That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 1823.
That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 3354.
That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 5867.
That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 6116.
That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 6162.
That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 6188.
That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 6244.
That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 6492.
That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 6633.
That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 6750.
That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 6810.
That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 6983.
That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 7158.
That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 7180.
That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 7365.
That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 7385.
That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 7417.
That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 7507.
That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 7508.
That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 7606.
That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 7607.
That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 7893.
That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 7938.
That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 8057.
That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 8641.
That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 8717.
That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 8909.
That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 8841.
That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 8868.
That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 8919.
That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 8976.
That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 9285.
That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 9322.
That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 9421.
That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 9487.
That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 9544.
That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 9549.
That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 9580.
That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 9592.
That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 9600.
That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 9775.
That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 10065.

Appointment: United States Commission on International Religious Freedom.

With best wishes, I am,
Sincerely,

KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,
Acting Clerk.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or votes objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

The House will resume proceedings on postponed questions at a later time.

AMERICAN RELIEF ACT, 2025

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 10545) making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 10545

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 ''American Relief Act, 2025''.

SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title.
Sec. 2. Table of contents.
Sec. 3. References.
DIVISION A—FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2025
DIVISION B—DISASTER RELIEF SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2025
DIVISION C—HEALTH
Sec. 3001. Short title; table of contents.
TITLE I—PUBLIC HEALTH EXTENDERS
Sec. 3101. Extension for community health centers, National Health Service Corps, and teaching health centers that operate GME programs.
Sec. 3102. Extension of special diabetes programs.
Sec. 3103. National health security extensions.
TITLE II—MEDICARE
Sec. 3201. Extension of increased inpatient hospital payment adjustment for certain low-volume hospitals.
Sec. 3202. Extension of the Medicare-dependent hospital (MDH) program.
Sec. 3203. Extension of add-on payments for ambulance services.
Sec. 3204. Extension of funding for quality measure endorsement, input, and selection.
Sec. 3205. Extension of funding outreach and assistance for low-income programs.
Sec. 3206. Extension of the work geographic index floor.
Sec. 3207. Extension of certain telehealth flexibilities.
Sec. 3208. Extending acute hospital care at home waiver authorities.
Sec. 3209. Extension of temporary inclusion of authorized oral antiviral drugs as covered part D drugs.
Sec. 3210. Medicare improvement fund.
TITLE III—HUMAN SERVICES
Sec. 3301. Sexual risk avoidance education extension.
Sec. 3302. Personal responsibility education extension.
Sec. 3303. Extension of funding for family-to-family health information centers.
TITLE IV—MEDICAID
Sec. 3401. Eliminating certain disproportionate share hospital payment cuts.
DIVISION D—EXTENSION OF AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS
Sec. 4101. Extension of agricultural programs.
DIVISION E—OTHER MATTERS
Sec. 5101. Commodity futures trading commission whistleblower program.
Sec. 5102. Protection of certain facilities and assets from unmanned aircraft.
Sec. 5103. Additional special assessment.
Sec. 5104. National cybersecurity protection system authorization.
Sec. 5105. Extension of temporary order for fentanyl-related substances.

SEC. 3. REFERENCES.

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

DIVISION A—FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2025

SEC. 101. The Continuing Appropriations Act, 2025 (division A of Public Law 118–83) is amended—

(1) by striking the date specified in section 106(3) and inserting ''March 14, 2025'';

(2) in section 126 to read as follows:

''SEC. 126. Notwithstanding section 101, amounts are provided for 'District of Columbia—Federal Payment for Emergency Planning and Security Costs in the District of Columbia' at a rate for operations of $90,000,000, of which not less than $50,000,000 shall be for costs associated with the Presidential Inauguration to be held in January 2025: *Provided*, That such amounts may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary to maintain emergency planning and security activities.''; and

(3) by adding after section 152 the following new sections:

''SEC. 153. Amounts made available by section 101 for 'Department of Commerce—National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration—Procurement, Acquisition and Construction' may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary to maintain the acquisition schedule for Geostationary Earth Orbit in an amount not to exceed $625,000,000.

''SEC. 154. Amounts made available by section 101 for 'Department of Justice—Justice Operations, Management and Accountability—Justice Information Sharing Technology' may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary to carry out proactive vulnerability detection and penetration testing activities.

''SEC. 155. In addition to amounts otherwise provided by section 101, there is appropriated to the Department of Justice for 'Federal Bureau of Investigation—Salaries and Expenses', $16,668,000, for an additional amount for fiscal year 2025, to remain available until September 30, 2026, to conduct risk reduction and modification of National Security Systems: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

''SEC. 156. (a) Amounts made available by section 101 to the Department of Defense for 'Procurement—Shipbuilding and Conversion, Navy', may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary for 'Columbia Class Submarine (AP)' in an amount not to exceed $5,996,130,000.

''(b) Amounts made available by section 101 to the Department of Defense for 'Procurement—Shipbuilding and Conversion, Navy' may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary for 'Columbia Class Submarine' in an amount not to exceed $2,922,300,000.

''SEC. 157. (a) In addition to amounts otherwise provided by section 101, there is appropriated to the Department of Defense for 'Procurement—Shipbuilding and Conversion, Navy', $5,691,000,000, for an additional amount for fiscal year 2025, to remain available until September 30, 2029, for the Virginia Class Submarine program and for workforce wage and non-executive salary improvements for other nuclear-powered vessel programs: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

''(b) Amounts appropriated by subsection (a) may be used to incrementally fund contract obligations for the improvement of workforce wages and non-executive level salaries on new or existing contracts pertaining to the Virginia Class Submarine program or to other nuclear-powered vessel programs.

''SEC. 158. In addition to amounts otherwise provided by section 101, there is appropriated to the Department of Defense for 'Operation and Maintenance—Defense-Wide', $913,440,000, for an additional amount for fiscal year 2025, to remain available until September 30, 2026, to conduct risk reduction and modification of National Security Systems: *Provided*, That the amount provided by this section may be transferred to accounts under the headings 'Operation and Maintenance', 'Procurement', and 'Research, Development, Test and Evaluation': *Provided further*, That funds transferred pursuant to the preceding proviso shall be merged with and available for the same purpose and for the same time period as the appropriations to which the funds are transferred: *Provided further*, That any transfer authority provided herein is in addition to any other transfer authority provided by law: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

''SEC. 159. (a) Amounts made available by section 101 for 'Department of Energy—Atomic Energy Defense Activities—Environmental and Other Defense Activities—Other Defense Activities' may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary to sustain specialized security activities.

''(b) The Director of the Office of Management and Budget and the Secretary of Energy shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate not later than 3 days after each use of the authority provided in subsection (a).

''SEC. 160. In addition to amounts otherwise provided by section 101, there is appropriated to the Department of Energy for 'Atomic Energy Defense Activities—Environmental and Other Defense Activities—Other Defense Activities', $1,750,000, for an additional amount for fiscal year 2025, to remain available until September 30, 2026, to conduct risk reduction and modification of National Security Systems: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

''SEC. 161. During the period covered by this Act, section 10609(a) of the Northwestern New Mexico Rural Water Projects Act (subtitle B of title X of Public Law 111–11) shall be applied by substituting '$1,640,000,000' for '$870,000,000' and '2025' for '2024'.

''SEC. 162. In addition to amounts otherwise provided by section 101, there is appropriated to the Department of the Treasury for 'Departmental Offices—Office of Terrorism and Financial Intelligence—Salaries and Expenses', $908,000, for an additional amount for fiscal year 2025, to remain available until September 30, 2026, to conduct risk reduction and modification of National Security Systems: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

''SEC. 163. Section 302 of title III of Public Law 108-494 shall be applied by substituting the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act for 'December 31, 2024' each place it appears.

''SEC. 164. (a) Notwithstanding section 101, section 747 of title VII of division B of Public Law 118–47 shall be applied through the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act by—

''(1) substituting '2024' for '2023' each place it appears;

''(2) substituting '2025' for '2024' each place it appears;

''(3) substituting '2026' for '2025'; and

''(4) substituting 'section 747 of division B of Public Law 118–47, as in effect on September 30, 2024' for 'section 747 of division E of Public Law 117–328' each place it appears.

''(b) Subsection (a) shall not take effect until the first day of the first applicable pay period beginning on or after January 1, 2025.

''SEC. 165. Amounts made available by section 101 for 'Department of Education—Student Aid Administration' may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary to ensure the continuation of student loan servicing activities and student aid application and eligibility determination processes.

''SEC. 166. During the period covered by this Act, section 123 of division A of Public Law 118–42 and the provisions carrying the same restriction in prior Acts making appropriations to the Department of Defense for military construction shall not apply to unobligated balances from prior year appropriations made available under the heading 'Department of Defense—Military Construction, Army' and such balances may be obligated for an access road project at Arlington National Cemetery.

''SEC. 167. (a) Notwithstanding section 101, the second proviso under the heading 'Department of Veterans Affairs—Veterans Health Administration—Medical Services' shall not apply during the period covered by this Act.

''(b) Notwithstanding section 101, the second proviso under the heading 'Department of Veterans Affairs—Veterans Health Administration—Medical Community Care' shall not apply during the period covered by this Act.

''(c) Notwithstanding section 101, the second proviso under the heading 'Department of Veterans Affairs—Veterans Health Administration—Medical Support and Compliance' shall not apply during the period covered by this Act.

''SEC. 168. Notwithstanding section 101, the fifth and sixth provisos under the heading 'Millennium Challenge Corporation' in division F of Public Law 118–47 shall be applied by substituting 'December 31, 2025' for 'December 31, 2024' each place it appears.

''SEC. 169. Amounts made available by section 101 for 'Department of Transportation—Federal Aviation Administration—Operations' may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary to fund mandatory pay increases and other inflationary adjustments, to maintain and improve air traffic services, to hire and train air traffic controllers, and to continue aviation safety oversight, while avoiding service reductions.''.

This division may be cited as the ''Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2025''.

DIVISION B—DISASTER RELIEF SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2025

The following sums are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025, and for other purposes, namely:

TITLE I

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS

PROCESSING, RESEARCH, AND MARKETING

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

For an additional amount for ''Office of the Secretary'', $30,780,000,000, to remain available until expended, for necessary expenses related to losses of revenue, quality or production of crops (including milk, on-farm stored commodities, crops prevented from planting, and harvested adulterated wine grapes), trees, bushes, and vines, as a consequence of droughts, wildfires, hurricanes, floods, derechos, excessive heat, tornadoes, winter storms, freeze, including a polar vortex, smoke exposure, and excessive moisture occurring in calendar years 2023 and 2024 under such terms and conditions as determined by the Secretary of Agriculture (referred to in this title as ''Secretary''): *Provided*, That of the amounts provided in this paragraph under this heading in this Act, the Secretary shall use up to $2,000,000,000 to provide assistance to producers of livestock, as determined by the Secretary, for losses incurred during calendar years 2023 and 2024 due to drought, wildfires, or floods: *Provided further*, That the Secretary may provide assistance for such losses in the form of block grants to eligible States and territories and such assistance may include compensation to producers, as determined by the Secretary, for timber (including payments to non-Federal forest landowners), citrus, pecan, and poultry (including infrastructure) losses, and for agricultural producers who

have suffered losses due to the failure of Mexico to deliver water to the United States in accordance with the 1944 Water Treaty: *Provided further*, That of the amounts provided under this heading in this Act, the Secretary shall offer individualized technical assistance to interested non-insured producers to help them apply for assistance made available under this heading: *Provided further*, That of the amounts made available under this paragraph under this heading in this Act, the Secretary may use up to $30,000,000, for reimbursement for administrative and operating expenses available for crop insurance contracts for 2022 and 2023 reinsurance years in a manner consistent with Section 771 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (Public Law 117–328): *Provided further*, That of the amounts made available under this paragraph under this heading in this Act, and without regard to 44 U.S.C. 3501 et. seq., the Secretary shall use $3,000,000 to carry out regular testing for the purposes of verifying and validating the methodology and protocols of the inspection of molasses at any United States ports of entry, including whether the molasses meets each statutory requirement without the use of additives or blending, relevant definitional explanatory notes, and each property typical of molasses in the United States as directed in Senate Report 118–193: *Provided further*, That at the election of a processor eligible for a loan under section 156 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (7 U.S.C. 7272) or a cooperative processor of dairy, the Secretary shall make payments for losses in 2023 and 2024 to such processors (to be paid to producers, as determined by such processors) in lieu of payments to producers and under the same terms and conditions as payments made to processors pursuant to title I of the Additional Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Act, 2019 (Public Law 116–20) under the heading ''Department of Agriculture—Agricultural Programs—Processing, Research and Marketing—Office of the Secretary'', as last amended by section 791(c) of title VII of division B of the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020 (Public Law 116–94): *Provided further*, That notwithstanding section 760.1503(j) of title 7, Code of Federal Regulations, in the event that a processor described in the preceding proviso does not elect to receive payments under such clause, the Secretary shall make direct payments to producers under this heading in this Act: *Provided further*, That the total amount of payments received under this paragraph under this heading in this Act for producers who did not obtain a policy or plan of insurance for an insurable commodity for the applicable crop year under the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1501 et seq.) for the crop incurring the losses or did not file the required paperwork and pay the service fee by the applicable State filing deadline for a noninsurable commodity for the applicable crop year under Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program for the crop incurring the losses shall not exceed 70 percent of the loss as determined by the Secretary, except the Secretary shall provide payments not to exceed 90 percent of the producer's revenue losses as determined by the Secretary if the Secretary determines a de minimis amount of a producer's revenue loss is attributable to crops for which the producer did not insure or obtain Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program coverage: *Provided further*, That the amount provided in this paragraph under this heading in this Act shall be subject to the terms and conditions set forth in the first, second, sixth, seventh, eighth, ninth, tenth, and 12th provisos under this heading in title I of the Disaster Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2022 (division B of Public Law 117–43), except that such ninth proviso under such heading shall be applied by substituting ''2023 and 2024'' for ''2020 and 2021'' and the Secretary shall apply a separate payment limit for economic assistance payments: *Provided further*, That not later than 120 days after the enactment of this Act, and for each fiscal quarter thereafter until the amounts provided under this heading in this Act are expended, the Secretary shall report to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate on the implementation of any programs provided for under this heading in this Act specifying the type, amount, and method of such assistance by State and territory: *Provided further*, That of the amounts provided in this paragraph, $10,000,000,000 shall be made available for the Secretary to make economic assistance available pursuant to section 2102 of this title in this Act: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

For an additional amount for ''Office of the Secretary'', $220,000,000, to remain available until expended, for the Secretary to provide assistance in the form of block grants to eligible States to provide compensation to producers for necessary expenses related to crop, timber, and livestock losses, including on-farm infrastructure, as a consequence of any weather event in 2023 or 2024 that a State, in its sole discretion, determines warrants such relief: *Provided*, That eligible States are those States with a net farm income for 2023 of less than $250,000,000, as recorded in the data in the Economic Research Service publication ''Farm Income and Wealth Statistics'' as of December 3, 2024, and fewer than eight thousand farms and an average farm size of fewer than one thousand acres per farm, as recorded in the National Agricultural Statistics Service publication ''Farms and Land in Farms 2023 Summary (February, 2024)'': *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall work with eligible States on any necessary terms and conditions of the block grants, fully taking in account the needs of each State: *Provided further*, That any such terms and conditions may not impose additional costs on producers: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

For an additional amount for ''Office of Inspector General'', $7,500,000, to remain available until expended, for audits, investigations, and other oversight of projects and activities carried out with funds made available to the Department of Agriculture in this Act: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE

BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES

For an additional amount for ''Buildings and Facilities'', $42,500,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

FARM SERVICE AGENCY

EMERGENCY FOREST RESTORATION PROGRAM

For an additional amount for ''Emergency Forest Restoration Program'', $356,535,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

EMERGENCY CONSERVATION PROGRAM

For an additional amount for ''Emergency Conservation Program'', $828,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

EMERGENCY WATERSHED PROTECTION PROGRAM

For an additional amount for ''Emergency Watershed Protection Program'' for necessary expenses for the Emergency Watershed Protection Program, $920,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

RURAL DEVELOPMENT DISASTER ASSISTANCE FUND

For an additional amount for the ''Rural Development Disaster Assistance Fund'' as authorized under section 6945 of title 7, United States Code, as amended by this Act, $362,500,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That section 6945(b) of title 7, United States Code, shall apply to amounts provided under this heading in this Act: *Provided further*, That amounts provided under this heading in this Act may not be transferred pursuant to section 2257 of title 7, United States Code: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

DOMESTIC FOOD PROGRAMS

FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICE

COMMODITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

For an additional amount for ''Commodity Assistance Program'' for the emergency food assistance program as authorized by section 27(a) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2036(a)) and section 204(a)(1) of the Emergency Food Assistance Act of 1983 (7 U.S.C. 7508(a)(1)), $25,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2026: *Provided*, That such funds shall be for infrastructure needs related to the consequences of a major disaster declaration pursuant to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.) in calendar years 2023 and 2024: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

GENERAL PROVISIONS—THIS TITLE

SEC. 2101. Section 10101 of the Disaster Relief and Recovery Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 (division B of Public Law 110–329; 7 U.S.C. 6945) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in the first sentence—

(i) by striking ''for authorized activities'' and inserting '', in the form of loans, grants,

loan guarantees, or cooperative agreements, for any authorized activity'';

(ii) by striking ''or'' between ''President'' and ''the Secretary of Agriculture'' and inserting a comma; and

(iii) by inserting after ''the Secretary of Agriculture'' the following: '', or the Governor of a State or Territory'';

(B) in the second sentence, inserting after ''to carry out the activity'', the following: '', but shall not be limited to the original form of assistance, if any''; and

(C) by inserting after the first sentence, as so amended, the following: ''The cost of such direct and guaranteed loans, including the cost of modifying loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.''; and

(2) in subsection (c), to read as follows—

''(c) WAIVER OF ACTIVITY OR PROJECT LIMITATIONS.—For any activity or project for which amounts in the Rural Development Disaster Assistance Fund will be obligated under subsection (b)—

''(1) the Secretary of Agriculture may waive any limits on population, income, age, and duplication with respect to replacement of damaged or destroyed utilities, or cost-sharing otherwise applicable, except that, if the amounts proposed to be obligated in connection with the disaster would exceed the amount specified in subsection (h), the notification required by that subsection shall include information and justification with regard to any waivers to be granted under this subsection;

''(2) the Secretary of Agriculture may use alternative sources of income data provided by local, regional, State, or Federal government sources to determine program eligibility; and

''(3) with respect to grants authorized by 7 U.S.C. 1926(a)(19), the Secretary of Agriculture shall not require the applicant to demonstrate that it is unable to finance the proposed project from its own resources, or through commercial credit at reasonable rates and terms, or other funding sources without grant assistance.''.

(3) Amounts provided by this section are designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

SEC. 2102. (a)(1) With respect to the 2024 crop year, if the Secretary determines that the expected gross return per acre for an eligible commodity determined under paragraph (2) is less than the expected cost of production per acre for that eligible commodity determined under paragraph (3), the Secretary shall, not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, make a 1-time economic assistance payment to each producer of that eligible commodity during that crop year.

(2) The expected gross return per acre for an eligible commodity referred to in paragraph (1) shall be equal to—

(A) in the case of wheat, corn, grain sorghum, barley, oats, cotton, rice, and soybeans, the product obtained by multiplying—

(i) the projected average farm price for the applicable eligible commodity for the 2024–2025 marketing year contained in the most recent World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates published before the date of enactment of this Act by the World Agricultural Outlook Board; and

(ii) the national average harvested yield per acre for the applicable eligible commodity for the most recent 10 crop years, as determined by the Secretary; and

(B) in the case of each eligible commodity not specified in subparagraph (A), a comparable estimate of gross returns, as determined by the Secretary.

(3) The expected cost of production per acre for an eligible commodity referred to in paragraph (1) shall be equal to—

(A) in the case of wheat, corn, grain sorghum, barley, oats, cotton, rice, and soybeans, the total costs listed for the 2024 crop year with respect to the applicable eligible commodity contained in the most recent data product entitled ''national average cost-of-production forecasts for major U.S. field crops'' published by the Economic Research Service; and

(B) in the case of each eligible commodity not specified in subparagraph (A), a comparable total estimated cost-of-production, as determined by the Secretary.

(4)(A) The amount of an economic assistance payment to a producer for an eligible commodity under paragraph (1) shall be equal to 26 percent of the product obtained by multiplying—

(i) the economic loss for that eligible commodity determined under subparagraph (B); and

(ii) the eligible acres of that eligible commodity on the farm determined under subparagraph (C).

(B) For purposes of subparagraph (A)(i), the economic loss for an eligible commodity shall be equal to the difference between—

(i) the expected cost of production per acre for that eligible commodity, as determined under paragraph (3); and

(ii) the expected gross return per acre for that eligible commodity, as determined under paragraph (2).

(C) For purposes of subparagraph (A)(ii), the eligible acres of an eligible commodity on a farm shall be equal to the sum obtained by adding—

(i) the acreage planted on the farm to that eligible commodity for harvest, grazing, haying, silage, or other similar purposes for the 2024 crop year; and

(ii) an amount equal to 50 percent of the acreage on the farm that was prevented from being planted during the 2024 crop year to that eligible commodity because of drought, flood, or other natural disaster, or other condition beyond the control of the producers on the farm, as determined by the Secretary.

(D) For purposes of subparagraph (C)(i), the Secretary shall consider acreage planted to include any land devoted to planted acres for accepted skip-row planting patterns, as determined by the Secretary.

(E) If the Secretary determines there is insufficient data to determine the comparable estimate of gross returns with respect to an eligible commodity under paragraph (2)(B) or a comparable total estimated cost-of-production with respect to an eligible commodity under paragraph (3)(B), the Secretary shall use data related to a similarly situated commodity for purposes of determining the payment amount under this paragraph.

(5) In no case shall the amount of an economic assistance payment to a producer for an eligible commodity under paragraph (1) be equal to less than the product obtained by multiplying—

(A) 8 percent of the reference price for the eligible commodity described in section 1111(19) of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9011(19));

(B) the national average payment yield for the eligible commodity described in section 1111(15) of that Act (7 U.S.C. 9011(15)); and

(C) the number of eligible acres for the eligible commodity described in paragraph (4)(C).

(b)(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), sections 1001, 1001A, 1001B, and 1001C of the Food Security Act of 1985 (7 U.S.C. 1308, 1308–1, 1308–2, 1308–3) shall apply with respect to assistance provided under this section.

(2) The total amount of payments received, directly or indirectly, by a person or legal entity (except a joint venture or general partnership) under this section may not exceed—

(A) $125,000, if less than 75 percent of the average gross income of the person or legal entity for the 2020, 2021, and 2022 tax years is derived from farming, ranching, or silviculture activities; and

(B) $250,000, if not less than 75 percent of the average gross income of the person or legal entity for the 2020, 2021, and 2022 tax years is derived from farming, ranching, or silviculture activities.

(3) The payment limitations under paragraph (2) shall be separate from annual payment limitations under any other program.

(c) In this section:

(1) The terms ''extra-long staple cotton'' and ''producer'' have the meanings given those terms in section 1111 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9011).

(2) The term ''cotton'' means extra-long staple cotton and upland cotton.

(3)(A) The term ''eligible commodity'' means a loan commodity (as defined in section 1201(a) of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9031(a)).

(B) The term ''eligible commodity'' does not include graded wool, nongraded wool, mohair, or honey.

(4) The terms ''legal entity'' and ''person'' have the meanings given those terms in section 1001(a) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (7 U.S.C. 1308(a)).

(5) The term ''rice'' means long grain rice and medium grain rice.

(6) The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Agriculture.

(d) Amounts provided by this section are designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

TITLE II

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For an additional amount for ''Economic Development Assistance Programs'', $1,510,000,000, to remain available until expended, pursuant to sections 209 and 703 of the Public Works and Economic Development Act (42 U.S.C. 3149 and 3233), for economic adjustment assistance related to flood mitigation, disaster relief, long-term recovery, and restoration of infrastructure in areas that received a major disaster designation as a result of hurricanes, wildfires, severe storms and flooding, tornadoes, and other natural disasters occurring in calendar years 2023 and 2024 under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.): *Provided*, That within the amount appropriated under this heading in this Act, up to 3 percent of funds may be transferred to ''Salaries and Expenses'' for administration and oversight activities: *Provided further*, That within the amount appropriated under this heading in this Act, $10,000,000 shall be transferred to the Delta Regional Authority (7 U.S.C. 2009aa et seq.): *Provided further*, That the Delta Regional Authority shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate 15 days prior to the obligation of the amounts made available under the preceding proviso: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Commerce is authorized to appoint and fix the compensation of such temporary personnel as may be necessary to implement the requirements under this heading in this Act, without regard to the provisions of title 5, United States Code, governing appointments

in the competitive service: *Provided further*, That within the amount appropriated under this heading in this Act, $7,000,000 shall be transferred to ''Departmental Management—Office of Inspector General'' for carrying out investigations and audits related to the funding provided under this heading in this Act: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

OPERATIONS, RESEARCH, AND FACILITIES

For an additional amount for ''Operations, Research, and Facilities'' for necessary expenses related to the consequences of hurricanes, typhoons, flooding, wildfires, and other disasters in calendar years 2023 and 2024, $244,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2026, as follows:

(1) $144,000,000 for repair and replacement of observing assets, real property, and equipment; for marine debris assessment and removal; and for mapping, charting, and geodesy services; and

(2) $100,000,000 for necessary expenses related to the consequences of tornadoes, hurricanes, typhoons, flooding, and wildfires in calendar year 2024;

Provided, That the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration shall submit a spending plan to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate not later than 45 days after the date of enactment of this Act: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

PROCUREMENT, ACQUISITION AND CONSTRUCTION

For an additional amount for ''Procurement, Acquisition and Construction'' for necessary expenses related to the consequences of hurricanes, typhoons, wildfires, volcanoes, and other disasters in calendar years 2022, 2023 and 2024, $499,000,000, to remain available until expended, as follows:

(1) $100,000,000 for repair and replacement of observing assets, real property, and equipment; and

(2) $399,000,000 for the acquisition of hurricane hunter aircraft and related expenses as authorized under section 11708 of division K of Public Law 117–263:

Provided, That the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration shall submit a spending plan to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate not later than 45 days after the date of enactment of this Act: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

FISHERIES DISASTER ASSISTANCE

For an additional amount for ''Fisheries Disaster Assistance'' for necessary expenses associated with fishery resource disaster relief as authorized by law, $300,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That notwithstanding section 312(a)(3)(A) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (18 U.S.C. 1861a(a)(3)(A)), any request for a fishery resource disaster determination in Tribal salmon and urchin fisheries received by the Secretary prior to September 30, 2025, may be evaluated by the Secretary: *Provided further*, That a portion of the amounts provided under this heading in this Act shall be used to provide additional assistance up to the historical percentage for positively determined disasters announced in calendar year 2024 that were partially funded: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

UNITED STATES MARSHALS SERVICE

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For an additional amount for ''Salaries and Expenses'', $12,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2027, for necessary expenses related to the protection of the residences of the Supreme Court Justices: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

FEDERAL PRISON SYSTEM

BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES

For an additional amount for ''Buildings and Facilities'', $64,795,500, to remain available until expended, for necessary expenses related to the consequences of major disasters: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

SCIENCE

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

CONSTRUCTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE AND RESTORATION

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For an additional amount for ''Construction and Environmental Compliance and Restoration'' for repair and replacement of National Aeronautics and Space Administration facilities damaged by hurricanes, tropical storms, typhoons, and tornadoes in calendar years 2023 and 2024, $740,200,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That up to 20 percent of such amount may be transferred to ''Space Operations'' for necessary expenses related to communications facilities and equipment, required remediation, and alternative operations caused by Typhoon Mawar: *Provided further*, That except as provided in the preceding proviso, the amounts appropriated under this heading in this Act shall not be available for transfer under any transfer authority provided for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration in an appropriation Act for fiscal year 2025: *Provided further*, That the National Aeronautics and Space Administration shall submit a spending plan to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate not later than 45 days after the date of enactment of this Act: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

TITLE III

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, ARMY

For an additional amount for ''Operation and Maintenance, Army'', $451,894,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, for necessary expenses related to the consequences of severe storms, straight-line winds, tornadoes, microbursts, and hurricanes in calendar years 2023 and 2024: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, NAVY

For an additional amount for ''Operation and Maintenance, Navy'', $1,454,153,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, for necessary expenses related to the consequences of Hurricanes Ian, Nicole, Idalia, Helene, and Milton, Typhoon Mawar, and severe storms in calendar year 2023: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, MARINE CORPS

For an additional amount for ''Operation and Maintenance, Marine Corps'', $8,900,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, for necessary expenses related to the consequences of Hurricanes Helene and Milton: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, AIR FORCE

For an additional amount for ''Operation and Maintenance, Air Force'', $912,778,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, for necessary expenses related to the consequences of Hurricanes Helene and Milton and Typhoon Mawar: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, SPACE FORCE

For an additional amount for ''Operation and Maintenance, Space Force'', $90,230,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, for necessary expenses related to the consequences of Hurricanes Helene and Milton and Typhoon Mawar: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, DEFENSE-WIDE

For an additional amount for ''Operation and Maintenance, Defense-Wide'', $1,208,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, for necessary expenses related to the consequences of Hurricanes Helene and Milton: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, ARMY RESERVE

For an additional amount for ''Operation and Maintenance, Army Reserve'', $19,594,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, for necessary expenses related to the consequences of Hurricanes Helene and Milton and microbursts in calendar year 2024: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, AIR FORCE RESERVE

For an additional amount for ''Operation and Maintenance, Air Force Reserve'', $1,319,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, for necessary expenses related to the consequences of Hurricanes Helene and Milton and Typhoon Mawar: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of

the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

For an additional amount for ''Operation and Maintenance, Army National Guard'', $26,065,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, for necessary expenses related to the consequences of Hurricanes Helene and Milton, Typhoon Mawar, and severe storms in calendar years 2023 and 2024: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, AIR NATIONAL GUARD

For an additional amount for ''Operation and Maintenance, Air National Guard'', $2,209,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, for necessary expenses related to the consequences of Hurricane Helene and Typhoon Mawar: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

PROCUREMENT

PROCUREMENT OF AMMUNITION, ARMY

For an additional amount for ''Procurement of Ammunition, Army'', $125,100,000, to remain available until September 30, 2027, for necessary expenses related to the consequences of Hurricane Helene: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

OTHER PROCUREMENT, AIR FORCE

For an additional amount for ''Other Procurement, Air Force'', $129,722,000, to remain available until September 30, 2027, for necessary expenses related to the consequences of Typhoon Mawar: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

PROCUREMENT, SPACE FORCE

For an additional amount for ''Procurement, Space Force'', $37,994,000, to remain available until September 30, 2027, for necessary expenses related to the consequences of Typhoon Mawar: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST AND EVALUATION

RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST AND EVALUATION, ARMY

For an additional amount for ''Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Army'', $41,400,000, to remain available until September 30, 2026, for necessary expenses related to the consequences of severe storms and wave overwash: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST AND EVALUATION, AIR FORCE

For an additional amount for ''Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Air Force'', $69,278,000, to remain available until September 30, 2026, for necessary expenses related to the consequences of Typhoon Mawar: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

OTHER DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE PROGRAMS

DEFENSE HEALTH PROGRAM

For an additional amount for ''Defense Health Program'', $17,362,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, for necessary expenses related to the consequences of Hurricanes Helene and Milton: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

TITLE IV

CORPS OF ENGINEERS—CIVIL

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

CORPS OF ENGINEERS—CIVIL

INVESTIGATIONS

For an additional amount for ''Investigations'', $20,000,000, to remain available until expended, for necessary expenses related to the completion, or initiation and completion, of flood and storm damage reduction, including shore protection, studies that are currently authorized, to reduce risks from future floods and hurricanes, at full Federal expense: *Provided*, That amounts made available under this heading in this Act shall be for high-priority studies of projects in States and insular areas with a major disaster, including for glacial lake outbursts, in calendar year 2022, 2023, or 2024: Provided further, That not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act and not less than three business days prior to public release, the Chief of Engineers shall submit directly to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate a detailed work plan for the funds provided under this heading in this Act, including a list of study locations, new studies selected to be initiated, the total cost for each study selected for funding, the remaining cost for each ongoing study selected for funding, and a schedule by fiscal year of the proposed use of such funds: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of the Army shall not deviate from the work plan, once the plan has been submitted to such Committees: *Provided further*, That funds included in a submitted work plan shall be deemed allocated to specific projects and subject to the reprogramming requirements specified in section 101(6) of the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2024: *Provided further*, That beginning not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act and until all amounts provided under this heading in this Act have been expended, the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works shall provide a quarterly report directly to such Committees detailing the allocation, obligation, and expenditure of the funds provided under this heading in this Act: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

CONSTRUCTION

For an additional amount for ''Construction'', $700,000,000, to remain available until expended, for necessary expenses to address emergency situations at Corps of Engineers projects, construct Corps of Engineers projects, and rehabilitate and repair damages caused by natural disasters to Corps of Engineers projects: *Provided*, That of the amount provided under this heading in this Act, $100,000,000 shall be used for continuing authorities projects to reduce the risk of flooding and storm damage, notwithstanding project number or program cost limitations: *Provided further*, That of the amount provided under this heading in this Act, $300,000,000 shall be to complete, or initiate and complete, without regard to new start or new investment decision considerations, a useful increment of work for water-related environmental infrastructure assistance in States and insular areas that were impacted by disasters occurring in or prior to calendar year 2024: *Provided further*, That of the amount provided under this heading in this Act, $300,000,000 shall be for projects that have previously received funds under this heading in chapter 4 of title X of the Disaster Relief Appropriations Act, 2013 (division A of Public Law 113–2), title IV of division B of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–123), or title IV of the Disaster Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2022 (division B of Public Law 117–43), and for which non-Federal interests have entered into binding agreements with the Secretary as of the date of enactment of this Act: *Provided further*, That each project receiving funds pursuant to the preceding proviso shall be subject to the terms and conditions of such chapter 4 of title X of the Disaster Relief Appropriations Act, 2013 (division A of Public Law 113–2), title IV of division B of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–123), or title IV of the Disaster Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2022 (division B of Public Law 117–43), and as specifically modified by section 111 of the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2024 (division D of Public Law 118–42), as applicable: *Provided further*, That of the amount provided under this heading in this Act, such sums as are necessary to cover the Federal share of eligible construction costs for coastal harbors and channels, and for inland harbors eligible to be derived from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund under section 101 or section 104 of the Water Resources and Development Act of 2020 shall be derived from the general fund of the Treasury: *Provided further*, That for projects receiving funding under this heading in this Act, the limitation concerning total project costs in section 902 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (Public Law 99–662) shall not apply to funds provided under this heading in this Act: *Provided further*, That for any projects using funding provided under this heading in this Act, the non-Federal cash contribution for projects shall be financed in accordance with the provisions of section 103(k) of Public Law 99–662 over a period of 30 years from the date of completion of the project, separable element, or useful increment: *Provided further*, That any projects initiated using funds provided under this heading in this Act shall be initiated only after non-Federal interests have entered into binding agreements with the Secretary requiring, where applicable, the non-Federal interests to pay 100 percent of the operation, maintenance, repair, replacement, and rehabilitation costs of the project and to hold and save the United States free from damages due to the construction or operation and maintenance of the project, except for damages due to the fault or negligence of the United States or its contractors: *Provided further*, That not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act and not less than three business days prior to public release, the Chief of Engineers shall submit directly to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate a detailed work plan for the funds provided under this heading in this Act, including a

list of project locations, the total cost for all projects, and a schedule by fiscal year of proposed use of such funds: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall not deviate from the work plan, once the plan has been submitted to such Committees: *Provided further*, That funds included in a submitted work plan shall be deemed allocated to specific projects and subject to the reprogramming requirements specified in section 101(7) of the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2024: *Provided further*, That beginning not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act and until all amounts provided under this heading in this Act have been expended, the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works shall provide a quarterly report directly to such Committees detailing the allocation, obligation, and expenditure of the funds provided under this heading in this Act: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

MISSISSIPPI RIVER AND TRIBUTARIES

For an additional amount for ''Mississippi River and Tributaries'', $50,000,000, to remain available until expended, for necessary expenses to address emergency situations at Corps of Engineers projects, and to construct, and rehabilitate and repair damages to Corps of Engineers projects, caused by natural disasters: *Provided*, That beginning not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act and until all amounts provided under this heading in this Act have been expended, the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works shall provide a quarterly report directly to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate detailing the allocation, obligation, and expenditure of the funds provided under this heading in this Act: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

FLOOD CONTROL AND COASTAL EMERGENCIES

For an additional amount for ''Flood Control and Coastal Emergencies'', as authorized by section 5 of the Act of August 18, 1941 (33 U.S.C. 701n), $745,000,000, to remain available until expended, for necessary expenses to prepare for flood, hurricane, and other natural disasters and support emergency operations, repairs, and other activities in response to such disasters, as authorized by law: *Provided*, That funding provided under this heading in this Act utilized to repair authorized shore protection projects shall restore such projects to their full project profile at full Federal expense: *Provided further*, That beginning not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act and until all amounts provided under this heading in this Act have been expended, the Chief of Engineers shall provide a quarterly report directly to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate detailing the allocation, obligation, and expenditure of the funds provided under this heading in this Act: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

WATER AND RELATED RESOURCES

For an additional amount for ''Water and Related Resources'', $74,464,000, to remain available until expended, of which $27,930,000 shall be for necessary expenses related to the consequences of natural disasters that occurring in or prior to calendar year 2024: *Provided*, That $46,534,000 shall be available for deposit into the Aging Infrastructure Account established by section 9603(d)(1) of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (43 U.S.C. 510b(d)(1)), and shall be made available for reserved or transferred works that have suffered a critical failure, in accordance with section 40901(2)(A) of division D of Public Law 117–58: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

ENERGY PROGRAMS

STRATEGIC PETROLEUM RESERVE

For an additional amount for ''Strategic Petroleum Reserve'', $60,000,000, to remain available until expended, for necessary expenses related to damages caused by natural disasters: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

ATOMIC ENERGY DEFENSE ACTIVITIES

NATIONAL NUCLEAR SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

WEAPONS ACTIVITIES

For an additional amount for ''Weapons Activities'', $1,884,000, to remain available until expended, for necessary expenses related to damages caused by Hurricanes Helene and Milton: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND OTHER DEFENSE ACTIVITIES

DEFENSE ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANUP

For an additional amount for ''Defense Environmental Cleanup'', $2,415,000, to remain available until expended, for necessary expenses related to damages caused by Hurricanes Helene and Milton: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

TITLE V

THE JUDICIARY

SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For an additional amount for ''Salaries and Expenses'', $13,597,000, to remain available until expended, for protection of the residences of the Supreme Court Justices: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

INDEPENDENT AGENCIES

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

DISASTER LOANS PROGRAM ACCOUNT

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For an additional amount for ''Disaster Loans Program Account'' for the cost of direct loans authorized by section 7(b) of the Small Business Act, $2,249,000,000, to remain available until expended, of which $50,000,000 shall be transferred to ''Small Business Administration—Office of Inspector General'' for audits and reviews of disaster loans and the disaster loans programs, and of which $613,000,000 may be transferred to ''Small Business Administration—Salaries and Expenses'' for administrative expenses to carry out the disaster loan program authorized by section 7(b) of the Small Business Act: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

TITLE VI

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

SECURITY, ENFORCEMENT, AND INVESTIGATIONS

COAST GUARD

OPERATIONS AND SUPPORT

For an additional amount for ''Operations and Support'', $102,500,000, to remain available until September 30, 2027, for necessary expenses related to the consequences of the Francis Scott Key Bridge collapse and other disasters, including for minor repairs, maintenance, and environmental remediation costs: *Provided*, That the Commandant of the Coast Guard shall provide to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate an expenditure plan and quarterly updates for the expenditure of such funds: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

PROCUREMENT, CONSTRUCTION, AND IMPROVEMENTS

For an additional amount for ''Procurement, Construction, and Improvements'', $210,200,000, to remain available until September 30, 2029, for necessary expenses related to the consequences of disasters: *Provided*, That the Commandant of the Coast Guard shall provide to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate an expenditure plan and quarterly updates for the expenditure of such funds: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

PROTECTION, PREPAREDNESS, RESPONSE, AND RECOVERY

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

DISASTER RELIEF FUND

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For an additional amount for ''Disaster Relief Fund'', $29,000,000,000, to remain available until expended, of which $28,000,000,000 shall be for major disasters declared pursuant to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.): *Provided*, That $4,000,000 shall be transferred to ''Office of Inspector General—Operations and Support'' for audits and investigations funded under ''Federal Emergency Management Agency—Disaster Relief Fund'': *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

HERMIT'S PEAK/CALF CANYON FIRE ASSISTANCE ACCOUNT

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For an additional amount for ''Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon Fire Assistance Account'', $1,500,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That $1,000,000 shall be transferred to ''Office of Inspector General—Operations and Support'' for oversight of activities authorized by the Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon Fire Assistance Act: *Provided further*, That the amounts provided under this heading in this Act shall be subject to the reporting requirement in the third proviso of section 136 of the Continuing Appropriations

Act, 2023 (division A of Public Law 117–180): *Provided further*, That amounts provided under this heading in this Act shall be subject to the same authorities and conditions as if such amounts were provided by title III of the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2024 (division C of Public Law 118–47): *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TRAINING, AND SERVICES

FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING CENTERS

PROCUREMENT, CONSTRUCTION, AND IMPROVEMENTS

For an additional amount for ''Procurement, Construction, and Improvements'', $14,020,000, to remain available until September 30, 2029, for necessary expenses relating to the consequences of disasters: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

TITLE VII

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT OF LANDS AND RESOURCES

For an additional amount for ''Management of Lands and Resources'', $58,115,000, to remain available until expended, for necessary expenses related to the consequences of natural disasters occurring in and prior to calendar year 2024: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

CONSTRUCTION

For an additional amount for ''Construction'', $500,000,000, to remain available until expended, for necessary expenses related to the consequences of natural disasters occurring in and prior to calendar year 2024: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

HISTORIC PRESERVATION FUND

For an additional amount for ''Historic Preservation Fund'', $50,000,000, to remain available until expended, for necessary expenses related to the consequences of natural disasters occurring in and prior to calendar year 2024, including costs to States, Tribes, and territories necessary to complete compliance activities required by section 306108 of title 54, United States Code, and costs needed to administer the program: *Provided*, That funds appropriated under this heading in this Act shall be used for historic and cultural resource preservation work that meets the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines as published in the Federal Register (Vol. 48, No. 190, September 29, 1983), to include Reconstruction of National Register listed or eligible sites: *Provided further*, That grants using funds appropriated under this heading in this Act shall only be available for areas that have received a major disaster declaration pursuant to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.): *Provided further*, That such grants shall not be subject to a non-Federal matching requirement: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

CONSTRUCTION

For an additional amount for ''Construction'', $2,262,871,000, to remain available until expended, for necessary expenses related to the consequences of disasters, including hurricanes, tropical storms, tornadoes, and other severe storms, wildfire, fire, and flooding occurring in and prior to calendar year 2024: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

SURVEYS, INVESTIGATIONS, AND RESEARCH

For an additional amount for ''Surveys, Investigations, and Research'', $2,743,000, to remain available until expended, for necessary expenses related to the consequences of natural disasters occurring in and prior to calendar year 2024: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

INDIAN AFFAIRS

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

OPERATION OF INDIAN PROGRAMS

For an additional amount for ''Operation of Indian Programs'', $17,765,000, to remain available until expended, for necessary expenses related to the consequences of natural disasters occurring in and prior to calendar year 2024: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

BUREAU OF INDIAN EDUCATION

EDUCATION CONSTRUCTION

For an additional amount for ''Education Construction'', $153,000,000, to remain available until expended, for necessary expenses related to the consequences of natural disasters occurring in and prior to calendar year 2024: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For an additional amount for ''Salaries and Expenses'', $8,000,000, to remain available until expended, for oversight of the Department of the Interior activities funded by this Act: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

LEAKING UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK TRUST FUND PROGRAM

For an additional amount for ''Leaking Underground Storage Tank Trust Fund Program'', $17,000,000, to remain available until expended, for necessary expenses related to the consequences of Hurricanes Helene and Hilary: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

STATE AND TRIBAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS

For an additional amount for ''State and Tribal Assistance Grants'', $3,000,000,000 to remain available until expended, of which $1,230,000,000 shall be for capitalization grants for the Clean Water State Revolving Funds under title VI of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, and of which $1,770,000,000 shall be for capitalization grants under section 1452 of the Safe Drinking Water Act: *Provided*, That notwithstanding section 604(a) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act and section 1452(a)(1)(D) of the Safe Drinking Water Act, funds appropriated under this paragraph in this Act shall be provided to States or territories in EPA Regions 3, 4, and 9 in amounts determined by the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency for wastewater treatment works and drinking water facilities impacted by Hurricanes Helene and Milton and Hawaii wildfires: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding the requirements of section 603(i) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act and section 1452(d) of the Safe Drinking Water Act, for the funds appropriated under this paragraph in this Act, each State shall use not less than 30 percent of the amount of its capitalization grants to provide additional subsidization to eligible recipients in the form of forgiveness of principal, negative interest loans or grants, or any combination of these: *Provided further*, That the funds appropriated under this paragraph in this Act shall be used for eligible projects whose purpose is to reduce flood or fire damage risk and vulnerability or to enhance resiliency to rapid hydrologic change or natural disaster at treatment works, as defined by section 212 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, or any eligible facilities under section 1452 of the Safe Drinking Water Act, and for other eligible tasks at such treatment works or facilities necessary to further such purposes: *Provided further*, That the funds provided under this paragraph in this Act shall not be subject to the matching or cost share requirements of section 1452(e) of the Safe Drinking Water Act: *Provided further*, That funds provided under this paragraph in this Act shall not be subject to the matching or cost share requirements of sections 602(b)(2), 602(b)(3), or 202 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act: *Provided further*, That the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency may retain up to $5,000,000 of the funds appropriated under this paragraph in this Act for management and oversight: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

For an additional amount for ''State and Tribal Assistance Grants'', $85,000,000, to remain available until expended, for capitalization grants for the Clean Water State Revolving Funds under title VI of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act: *Provided*, That notwithstanding section 604(a) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, funds appropriated under this paragraph in this Act shall be provided to States or territories in EPA Regions 3 and 4 impacted by Hurricanes Helene and Milton in amounts determined by the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to improve the resilience of decentralized wastewater treatment systems to flooding, to assess the potential to connect homes served by decentralized wastewater treatment systems to centralized wastewater systems, and to fund such connections: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding the requirements of section 603(i) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, for the funds appropriated under this paragraph in this Act, each State shall use 100 percent of the amount of its capitalization grants to provide additional subsidization to eligible recipients in the form of forgiveness of principal, grants, negative interest loans, other

loan forgiveness, and through buying, refinancing, or restructuring debt or any combination thereof: *Provided further*, That funds appropriated under this paragraph in this Act shall not be subject to the matching or cost share requirements of sections 602(b)(2), 602(b)(3), or 202 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act: *Provided further*, That the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency may retain up to $3,000,000 of the funds appropriated under this paragraph in this Act for management and oversight: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

For an additional amount for ''State and Tribal Assistance Grants'', $60,000,000, to remain available until expended, for necessary expenses to address water emergencies under section 1442(b) of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j–1(b)) or section 504(a) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1364) in States or territories in EPA Regions 3 and 4 impacted by Hurricanes Helene and Milton: *Provided*, That notwithstanding section 1442(b) of the Safe Drinking Water Act, funds appropriated under this paragraph in this Act may be used to provide technical assistance and grants regardless of whether the emergency situation presents a substantial danger to public health: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding section 1442(b) of the Safe Drinking Water Act, funds appropriated under this paragraph in this Act may be used to provide grants regardless of whether such grants will be used to support actions that would not otherwise be taken without emergency assistance: *Provided further*, That funds appropriated under this paragraph in this Act may be used to provide technical assistance and grants under section 1442(b) of the Safe Drinking Water Act to any appropriate recipient, as determined by the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, to assist in responding to and alleviating an emergency situation affecting a privately owned water system: *Provided further*, That funds appropriated under this paragraph in this Act may be used to take actions authorized under section 504(a) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act that the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency deems necessary to protect the health or welfare of persons affected by a water emergency, including other necessary actions and for providing technical assistance and grants to address such water emergency: *Provided further*, That the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency may retain up to $1,000,000 of the funds appropriated under this paragraph in this Act for management and oversight: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

For an additional amount for ''State and Tribal Assistance Grants'', $10,000,000, to remain available until expended, for grants and other activities authorized by subsections (a) through (c) of section 103 of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7403) or section 105 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 7405) for necessary expenses related to the consequences of Hurricanes Milton and Helene, including repair or replacement of damaged air monitoring equipment: *Provided*, That funds appropriated under this paragraph in this Act may be awarded noncompetitively: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

For an additional amount for ''State and Tribal Assistance Grants'', $95,000,000, to remain available until expended, for the hazardous waste financial assistance grants program and other solid waste management activities for necessary expenses related to the consequences of Hurricanes Helene and Milton: *Provided*, That none of the funds appropriated under this paragraph in this Act shall be subject to section 3011(b) of the Solid Waste Disposal Act: *Provided further*, That the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency may retain up to $500,000 of the funds appropriated under this paragraph in this Act for management and oversight: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

FOREST SERVICE

FOREST SERVICE OPERATIONS

For an additional amount for ''Forest Service Operations'', $68,100,000, to remain available until expended, for necessary expenses related to the consequences of calendar year 2022, 2023, and 2024 wildfires, hurricanes, and other natural disasters: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

FOREST AND RANGELAND RESEARCH

For an additional amount for ''Forest and Rangeland Research'', $26,000,000, to remain available until expended, for necessary expenses related to the consequences of calendar year 2022, 2023, and 2024 wildfires, hurricanes, and other natural disasters: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

STATE, PRIVATE, AND TRIBAL FORESTRY

For an additional amount for ''State, Private, and Tribal Forestry'', $208,000,000, to remain available until expended, for necessary expenses related to the consequences of calendar year 2022, 2023, and 2024 wildfires, hurricanes, and other natural disasters: *Provided*, That of the amounts made available under this heading in this Act, $14,000,000 shall be to provide Forest Health Protection assistance to States for an emerging eastern spruce budworm outbreak approaching the northeastern U.S. border: *Provided further*, That with respect to the preceding proviso, an award of financial assistance from the Forest Service will not be subject to a non-Federal cost-share requirement: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM

For an additional amount for ''National Forest System'', $2,523,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of the amounts made available under this heading in this Act, $2,448,000,000 shall be for necessary expenses related to the consequences of calendar year 2022, 2023, and 2024 wildfires, hurricanes, and other natural disasters: *Provided further*, That of the amounts made available under this heading in this Act, $75,000,000 shall be for the construction or maintenance of shaded fuel breaks in the Pacific Regions: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT AND MAINTENANCE

For an additional amount for ''Capital Improvement and Maintenance'', $3,525,000,000, to remain available until expended, for necessary expenses related to the consequences of calendar year 2022, 2023, and 2024 wildfires, hurricanes, and other natural disasters: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

GENERAL PROVISIONS—THIS TITLE

SEC. 2701. Notwithstanding section 3304 of title 5, United States Code, and without regard to the provisions of sections 3309 through 3318 of such title 5, the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service, may recruit and directly appoint highly qualified individuals into the competitive service to address critical hiring needs for the planning and execution of the projects and activities funded in this title: *Provided*, That such authority shall not apply to positions in the Excepted Service or the Senior Executive Service: *Provided further*, That any action authorized herein shall be consistent with the merit principles of section 2301 of such title 5, and the Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture shall comply with the public notice requirements of section 3327 of such title 5: *Provided further*, That the authority under this section shall terminate on September 30, 2029: *Provided further*, That amounts provided by this section are designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

SEC. 2702. Not later than 45 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the agencies receiving funds appropriated by this title shall provide a detailed operating plan of anticipated uses of funds made available in this title by State and Territory, and by program, project, and activity, to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate: *Provided*, That no such funds shall be obligated before the operating plans are provided to such Committees: *Provided further*, That such plans shall be updated, including obligations and expenditures to date, and submitted to such Committees on Appropriations every 60 days until all such funds are expended.

TITLE VIII

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

PAYMENTS TO STATES FOR THE CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT

For an additional amount for ''Payments to States for the Child Care and Development Block Grant'', $250,000,000, to remain available through September 30, 2026, for necessary expenses directly related to the consequences of major disasters and emergencies declared pursuant to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.) occurring in 2023 and 2024 (referred to under this heading in this Act as ''covered disaster or emergency''), including activities authorized under section 319(a) of the Public Health Service Act: *Provided*, That the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall allocate such funds to States, territories, and Tribes based on assessed need notwithstanding sections 658J and 658O of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990: *Provided further*, That not to exceed 2 percent of funds

appropriated in this paragraph may be reserved, to remain available until expended, for Federal administration costs: *Provided further*, That such funds may be used for alteration, renovation, construction, equipment, and other capital improvement costs, including for child care facilities without regard to section 658F(b) of such Act, and for other expenditures related to child care, as necessary to meet the needs of areas affected by a covered disaster or emergency: *Provided further*, That funds made available in this paragraph may be used without regard to section 658G of such Act and with amounts allocated for such purposes excluded from the calculation of percentages under subsection 658E(c)(3) of such Act: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding section 658J(c) of such Act, funds allotted to a State may be obligated by the State in that fiscal year or the succeeding three fiscal years: *Provided further*, That Federal interest provisions will not apply to the renovation or construction of privately-owned family child care homes, and the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall develop parameters on the use of funds for family child care homes: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall not retain Federal interest after a period of 10 years (from the date on which the funds are made available to purchase or improve the property) in any facility renovated or constructed with funds made available in this paragraph: *Provided further*, That funds made available in this paragraph shall not be available for costs that are reimbursed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, under a contract for insurance, or by self-insurance: *Provided further*, That funds appropriated in this paragraph may be made available to restore amounts, either directly or through reimbursement, for obligations incurred for such purposes, prior to the date of enactment of this Act: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

For an additional amount for ''Payments to States for the Child Care and Development Block Grant'', $250,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025: *Provided*, That amounts made available in this paragraph shall be available without regard to requirements in sections 658E(c)(3)(E) or 658G of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act: *Provided further*, That payments made to States, territories, Indian Tribes, and Tribal organizations from amounts made available in this paragraph shall be obligated in this fiscal year or the succeeding two fiscal years: *Provided further*, That amounts made available in this paragraph shall be used to supplement and not supplant other Federal, State, and local public funds expended to provide child care services for eligible individuals: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

GENERAL PROVISION—THIS TITLE

SEC. 2801. Not later than 45 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the agencies receiving funds appropriated by this title in this Act shall provide a detailed operating plan of anticipated uses of funds made available in this title in this Act by State and territory, and by program, project, and activity, to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate: *Provided*, That no such funds shall be obligated before the operating plans are provided to such Committees: *Provided further*, That such plans shall be updated, including obligations to date and anticipated use of funds made available in this title in this Act, and submitted to such Committees quarterly until all such funds expire.

TITLE IX

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For an additional amount for ''Salaries and Expenses'', $10,000,000, to remain available until expended, for audits and investigations related to Hurricanes Helene and Milton, and other disasters declared pursuant to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.) in calendar years 2023 and 2024: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

TITLE X

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, NAVY AND MARINE CORPS

For an additional amount for ''Military Construction, Navy and Marine Corps'', $1,127,281,000, to remain available until September 30, 2029, for necessary expenses related to the consequences of Typhoon Mawar: *Provided*, That not later than 60 days after enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Navy, or their designee, shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate form 1391 for each specific project and an expenditure plan for funds provided under this heading in this Act: *Provided further*, That such funds may be obligated or expended for design and military construction projects not otherwise authorized by law: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, AIR FORCE

For an additional amount for ''Military Construction, Air Force'', $487,300,000, to remain available until September 30, 2029, for necessary expenses related to the consequences of Typhoon Mawar: *Provided*, That not later than 60 days after enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Air Force, or their designee, shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate form 1391 for each specific project and an expenditure plan for funds provided under this heading in this Act: *Provided further*, That such funds may be obligated or expended for design and military construction projects not otherwise authorized by law: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

For an additional amount for ''Military Construction, Army National Guard'', $21,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2029, for necessary expenses related to the consequences of Typhoon Mawar and severe storms in calendar year 2023: *Provided*, That not later than 60 days after enactment of this Act, the Director of the Army National Guard, or their designee, shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate form 1391 for each specific project and an expenditure plan for funds provided under this heading in this Act: *Provided further*, That such funds may be obligated or expended for design and military construction projects not otherwise authorized by law: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

FAMILY HOUSING CONSTRUCTION, NAVY AND MARINE CORPS

For an additional amount for ''Family Housing Construction, Navy and Marine Corps'', $27,399,000, to remain available until September 30, 2029, for necessary expenses related to the consequences of Typhoon Mawar: *Provided*, That not later than 60 days after enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Navy, or their designee, shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate an expenditure plan for funds provided under this heading in this Act: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

FAMILY HOUSING OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, NAVY AND MARINE CORPS

For an additional amount for ''Family Housing Operation and Maintenance, Navy and Marine Corps'', $102,168,000, to remain available until September 30, 2026, for necessary expenses related to the consequences of Typhoon Mawar: *Provided*, That not later than 60 days after enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Navy, or their designee, shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate an expenditure plan for funds provided under this heading in this Act: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

MEDICAL SERVICES

For an additional amount for ''Medical Services'', $19,258,000, to remain available until September 30, 2027, for necessary expenses related to the consequences of Hurricanes Milton and Helene: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

MEDICAL SUPPORT AND COMPLIANCE

For an additional amount for ''Medical Support and Compliance'', $330,000, to remain available until September 30, 2027, for necessary expenses related to the consequences of Hurricanes Milton and Helene: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

MEDICAL FACILITIES

For an additional amount for ''Medical Facilities'', $41,660,000, to remain available until September 30, 2029, for necessary expenses related to the consequences of Hurricanes Milton and Helene and other Federally declared disasters occurring in 2023 and 2024: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

NATIONAL CEMETERY ADMINISTRATION

For an additional amount for ''National Cemetery Administration'' for necessary expenses related to the consequences of Hurricanes Milton and Helene, $693,000, to remain available until September 30, 2029: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATION

CONSTRUCTION, MAJOR PROJECTS

For an additional amount for ''Construction, Major Projects'', $4,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2029, for necessary expenses related to the consequences of Hurricanes Milton and Helene: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

CONSTRUCTION, MINOR PROJECTS

For an additional amount for ''Construction, Minor Projects'', $2,020,000, to remain available until September 30, 2029, for necessary expenses related to the consequences of Hurricanes Milton and Helene: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

TITLE XI

DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND RELATED AGENCY

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INTERNATIONAL COMMISSIONS

INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION, UNITED STATES AND MEXICO

CONSTRUCTION

For an additional amount for ''Construction'', $250,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That funds provided under this heading in this Act shall be subject to prior consultation with, and the regular notification procedures of, the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

TITLE XII

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION

EMERGENCY RELIEF PROGRAM

For an additional amount for the ''Emergency Relief Program'' as authorized under section 125 of title 23, United States Code, $8,086,020,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That notwithstanding subsection (e) of section 120 of title 23, United States Code, for any obligations made on or after March 26, 2024, for fiscal year 2024, this fiscal year, and hereafter, the Federal share for Emergency Relief funds made available under section 125 of such title to respond to damage caused by the cargo ship Dali to the Francis Scott Key Bridge located in Baltimore City and Baltimore and Anne Arundel Counties, Maryland, including reconstruction of that bridge and its approaches, shall be 100 percent: *Provided further*, That consistent with section 668.105(e) of title 23, Code of Federal Regulations (or a successor regulation), any insurance proceeds, judgments, settlements, penalties, fines, or other compensation for damages, including interest, from whatever source derived, recovered by a State, a political subdivision of a State, or a toll authority for repair, including reconstruction, of the Francis Scott Key Bridge located in Baltimore City and Baltimore and Anne Arundel Counties, Maryland, in response to, or as a result of, the damage caused by the cargo ship Dali to that bridge and its approaches, shall be used upon receipt to reduce liability on the repair, including reconstruction, of such bridge and its approaches from the emergency fund authorized under section 125 of title 23, United States Code: *Provided further*, That any funds recovered and used to reduce liability pursuant to the preceding proviso shall not exceed the total amount of liability on the repair, including reconstruction, of the Francis Scott Key Bridge located in Baltimore City and Baltimore and Anne Arundel Counties, Maryland, and its approaches, from the emergency fund authorized under section 125 of title 23, United States Code: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUND

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For an additional amount for ''Community Development Fund'', $12,039,000,000, to remain available until expended, for the same purposes and under the same terms and conditions as funds appropriated under such heading in title VIII of the Disaster Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2022 (Public Law 117–43), except that such amounts shall be for major disasters that occurred in 2023 or 2024 and the fourth, tenth, 15th, 16th, 20th, and 21st provisos under such heading in such Act shall not apply: *Provided*, That the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development shall allocate all funds provided under this heading in this Act for the total estimate for unmet needs including additional mitigation for qualifying disasters and publish such allocations in the Federal Register no later than January 15, 2025: *Provided further*, That the amount obligated for each qualifying disaster area shall be no less than the amounts specified in such Federal Register publication, unless such allocation is rejected by the grantee: *Provided further*, That a grantee shall submit a plan to the Secretary for approval detailing the proposed use of all funds, including criteria for eligibility and how the use of these funds will address long-term recovery and restoration of infrastructure and housing, economic revitalization, and mitigation in the most impacted and distressed areas: *Provided further*, That unobligated balances remaining as of the date of enactment of this Act included under Treasury Appropriation Fund Symbol 86 X 0162 from Public Laws 108–324, 109–148, 109–234, 110–252, 110–329, 111–212, 112–55, and 113–2 shall also be available for the purposes authorized under this heading in this Act (except that the amount for each set-aside provided herein shall not be exceeded), notwithstanding the purposes for which such amounts were appropriated: *Provided further*, That of the amounts made available under this heading in this Act, $45,000,000 shall be transferred to ''Department of Housing and Urban Development—Management and Administration—Program Offices'' for salaries and expenses of the Office of Community Planning and Development for necessary costs, including information technology costs, of administering and overseeing the obligation and expenditure of amounts made available for activities authorized under title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.) related to disaster relief, long-term recovery, restoration of infrastructure and housing, economic revitalization, and mitigation in the most impacted and distressed areas resulting from a major disaster in this, prior, or future Acts (''this, prior, or future disaster Acts''): *Provided further*, That of the amounts made available under this heading in this Act, $1,850,000 shall be transferred to ''Department of Housing and Urban Development—Information Technology Fund'' for the disaster recovery data portal: *Provided further*, That of the amounts made available under this heading in this Act, $7,000,000 shall be transferred to ''Department of Housing and Urban Development—Office of Inspector General'' for necessary costs of overseeing and auditing amounts made available in this, prior, or future disaster Acts: *Provided further*, That of the amounts made available under this heading in this Act, $25,000,000 shall be made available for capacity building and technical assistance, including assistance on contracting and procurement processes, to support recipients of allocations from this, prior, or future disaster Acts: *Provided further*, That amounts made available under this heading in this Act may be used by a grantee to assist utilities as part of a disaster-related eligible activity under section 105(a) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5305(a)): *Provided further*, That recipients of funds made available in this, prior, or future disaster Acts that use such funds to supplement other Federal assistance may adopt, without review or public comment, any environmental review, approval, or permit performed by a Federal agency, and such adoption shall satisfy the responsibilities of the recipient with respect to such environmental review, approval or permit, so long as the actions covered by the existing environmental review, approval, or permit and the actions proposed for these supplemental funds are substantially the same: *Provided further*, That the Secretary or a State may, upon receipt of a request for release of funds and certification, immediately approve the release of funds for any activity or project if the recipient has adopted an environmental review, approval or permit under the previous proviso or if the activity or project is categorically excluded from review under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), notwithstanding section 104(g)(2) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5304(g)(2)): *Provided further*, That such amount and amounts repurposed under this heading that were previously designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to a concurrent resolution on the budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 are designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

TITLE XIII

GENERAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 21301. Each amount appropriated or made available by this Act is in addition to amounts otherwise appropriated for the fiscal year involved.

SEC. 21302. No part of any appropriation contained in this Act shall remain available for obligation beyond the current fiscal year unless expressly so provided herein.

SEC. 21303. Unless otherwise provided for by this Act, the additional amounts appropriated by this Act to appropriations accounts shall be available under the authorities and conditions applicable to such appropriations accounts for fiscal year 2025.

SEC. 21304. Each amount designated in divisions A or B by the Congress as being for an

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

SEC. 21305. Any amount appropriated by divisions A or B, designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, and subsequently so designated by the President, and transferred pursuant to transfer authorities provided by this division shall retain such designation.

SEC. 21306. Budgetary Effects.—

(1) STATUTORY PAYGO SCORECARDS.—The budgetary effects of division C and each succeeding division shall not be entered on either PAYGO scorecard maintained pursuant to section 4(d) of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010.

(2) SENATE PAYGO SCORECARDS.—The budgetary effects of division C and each succeeding division shall not be entered on any PAYGO scorecard maintained for purposes of section 4106 of H. Con. Res. 71 (115th Congress).

(3) CLASSIFICATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.—Notwithstanding Rule 3 of the Budget Scorekeeping Guidelines set forth in the joint explanatory statement of the committee of conference accompanying Conference Report 105–217 and section 250(c)(8) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, the budgetary effects of division C and each succeeding division shall not be estimated—

(A) for purposes of section 251 of such Act;

(B) for purposes of an allocation to the Committee on Appropriations pursuant to section 302(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974; and

(C) for purposes of paragraph (4)(C) of section 3 of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 as being included in an appropriation Act.

(4) BALANCES ON THE PAYGO SCORECARDS.—Effective on the date of the adjournment of the second session of the 118th Congress, and for the purposes of the annual report issued pursuant to section 5 of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (2 U.S.C. 934) after such adjournment and for determining whether a sequestration order is necessary under such section, the balances on the PAYGO scorecards established pursuant to paragraphs (4) and (5) of section 4(d) of such Act shall be zero.

This division may be cited as the ''Disaster Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2025''.

DIVISION C—HEALTH

SEC. 3001. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This division may be cited as the ''Health Extensions and Other Matters Act, 2025''.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this division is as follows:

Sec. 3001. Short title; table of contents.
TITLE I—PUBLIC HEALTH EXTENDERS
Sec. 3101. Extension for community health centers, National Health Service Corps, and teaching health centers that operate GME programs.
Sec. 3102. Extension of special diabetes programs.
Sec. 3103. National health security extensions.
TITLE II—MEDICARE
Sec. 3201. Extension of increased inpatient hospital payment adjustment for certain low-volume hospitals.
Sec. 3202. Extension of the Medicare-dependent hospital (MDH) program.
Sec. 3203. Extension of add-on payments for ambulance services.
Sec. 3204. Extension of funding for quality measure endorsement, input, and selection.
Sec. 3205. Extension of funding outreach and assistance for low-income programs.
Sec. 3206. Extension of the work geographic index floor.
Sec. 3207. Extension of certain telehealth flexibilities.
Sec. 3208. Extending acute hospital care at home waiver authorities.
Sec. 3209. Extension of temporary inclusion of authorized oral antiviral drugs as covered part D drugs.
Sec. 3210. Medicare improvement fund.
TITLE III—HUMAN SERVICES
Sec. 3301. Sexual risk avoidance education extension.
Sec. 3302. Personal responsibility education extension.
Sec. 3303. Extension of funding for family-to-family health information centers.
TITLE IV—MEDICAID
Sec. 3401. Eliminating certain disproportionate share hospital payment cuts.

TITLE I—PUBLIC HEALTH EXTENDERS

SEC. 3101. EXTENSION FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS, NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE CORPS, AND TEACHING HEALTH CENTERS THAT OPERATE GME PROGRAMS.

(a) EXTENSION FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS.—Section 10503(b)(1) of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 254b–2(b)(1)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (E), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (F), by striking '', $4,000,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023'' and all that follows through ''and ending on December 31, 2024; and'' and inserting a semicolon; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(G) $4,000,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023;

''(H) $526,027,397 for the period beginning on October 1, 2023, and ending on November 17, 2023, $690,410,959 for the period beginning on November 18, 2023, and ending on January 19, 2024, $536,986,301 for the period beginning on January 20, 2024, and ending on March 8, 2024, and $3,592,328,767 for the period beginning on October 1, 2023, and ending on December 31, 2024; and

''(I) $1,050,410,959 for the period beginning on January 1, 2025, and ending on March 31, 2025.''.

(b) EXTENSION FOR THE NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE CORPS.—Section 10503(b)(2) of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 254b–2(b)(2)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (H), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (I), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(J) $85,068,493 for the period beginning on January 1, 2025, and ending on March 31, 2025.''.

(c) TEACHING HEALTH CENTERS THAT OPERATE GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS.—Section 340H(g)(1) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 256h(g)(1)) is amended—

(1) by striking ''not to exceed $230,000,000'' and all that follows through ''and ending on December 31, 2024,''; and

(2) by striking the period at the end and inserting the following: '', not to exceed—

''(A) $230,000,000, for the period of fiscal years 2011 through 2015;

''(B) $60,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2016 and 2017;

''(C) $126,500,000 for each of fiscal years 2018 through 2023;

''(D) $16,635,616 for the period beginning on October 1, 2023, and ending on November 17, 2023, $21,834,247 for the period beginning on November 18, 2023, and ending on January 19, 2024, $16,982,192 for the period beginning on January 20, 2024, and ending on March 8, 2024, and $164,136,986 for the period beginning on October 1, 2023, and ending on December 31, 2024; and

''(E) $43,150,685 for the period beginning on January 1, 2025, and ending on March 31, 2025.''.

(d) APPLICATION OF PROVISIONS.—Amounts appropriated pursuant to the amendments made by this section shall be subject to the requirements contained in Public Law 117–328 for funds for programs authorized under sections 330 through 340 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254b et seq.).

(e) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 3014(h) of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking ''under subparagraphs (E) and (F) of section 10503(b)(1) of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 254b–2(b)(1))'' and inserting ''under section 10503(b)(1) of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 254b–2(b)(1)) for fiscal year 2015 and each subsequent fiscal year (or period thereof)''; and

(2) in paragraph (4), by striking ''and section 101(d) of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024'' and inserting ''section 101(d) of division G of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024, and section 3101(d) of the Health Extensions and Other Matters Act, 2025''.

SEC. 3102. EXTENSION OF SPECIAL DIABETES PROGRAMS.

(a) EXTENSION OF SPECIAL DIABETES PROGRAMS FOR TYPE I DIABETES.—Section 330B(b)(2) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254c–2(b)(2)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (D), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (E), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(F) $39,261,745 for the period beginning on January 1, 2025, and ending on March 31, 2025, to remain available until expended.''.

(b) EXTENDING FUNDING FOR SPECIAL DIABETES PROGRAMS FOR INDIANS.—Section 330C(c)(2) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254c–3(c)(2)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (D), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (E), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(F) $39,261,745 for the period beginning on January 1, 2025, and ending on March 31, 2025, to remain available until expended.''.

SEC. 3103. NATIONAL HEALTH SECURITY EXTENSIONS.

(a) Section 319(e)(8) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d(e)(8)) is amended by striking ''December 31, 2024'' and inserting ''March 31, 2025''.

(b) Section 319L(e)(1)(D) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d–7e(e)(1)(D)) is amended by striking ''December 31, 2024'' and inserting ''March 31, 2025''.

(c) Section 319L–1(b) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d–7f(b)) is amended by striking ''December 31, 2024'' and inserting ''March 31, 2025''.

(d)(1) Section 2811A(g) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300hh–10b(g)) is amended by striking ''December 31, 2024'' and inserting ''March 31, 2025''.

(2) Section 2811B(g)(1) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300hh–10c(g)(1)) is

amended by striking ''December 31, 2024'' and inserting ''March 31, 2025''.

(3) Section 2811C(g)(1) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300hh–10d(g)(1)) is amended by striking ''December 31, 2024'' and inserting ''March 31, 2025''.

(e) Section 2812(c)(4)(B) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300hh–11(c)(4)(B)) is amended by striking ''December 31, 2024'' and inserting ''March 31, 2025''.

TITLE II—MEDICARE

SEC. 3201. EXTENSION OF INCREASED INPATIENT HOSPITAL PAYMENT ADJUSTMENT FOR CERTAIN LOW-VOLUME HOSPITALS.

(a) IN GENERAL.——Section 1886(d)(12) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395ww(d)(12)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (B), in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking ''January 1, 2025'' and inserting ''April 1, 2025'';

(2) in subparagraph (C)(i)—

(A) in the matter preceding subclause (I), by striking ''December 31, 2024'' and inserting ''March 31, 2025'';

(B) in subclause (III), by striking ''December 31, 2024'' and inserting ''March 31, 2025''; and

(C) in subclause (IV), by striking ''January 1, 2025'' and inserting ''April 1, 2025''; and

(3) in subparagraph (D)—

(A) in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking ''December 31, 2024'' and inserting ''March 31, 2025''; and

(B) in clause (ii), by striking ''December 31, 2024'' and inserting ''March 31, 2025''.

(b) IMPLEMENTATION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Health and Human Services may implement the amendments made by this section by program instruction or otherwise.

SEC. 3202. EXTENSION OF THE MEDICARE-DEPENDENT HOSPITAL (MDH) PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.——Section 1886(d)(5)(G) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395ww(d)(5)(G)) is amended—

(1) in clause (i), by striking ''January 1, 2025'' and inserting ''April 1, 2025''; and

(2) in clause (ii)(II), by striking ''January 1, 2025'' and inserting ''April 1, 2025''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1886(b)(3)(D) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395ww(b)(3)(D)) is amended—

(A) in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking ''January 1, 2025'' and inserting ''April 1, 2025''; and

(B) in clause (iv), by striking ''December 31, 2024'' and inserting ''March 31, 2025''.

(2) PERMITTING HOSPITALS TO DECLINE RECLASSIFICATION.—Section 13501(e)(2) of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993 (42 U.S.C. 1395ww note) is amended by striking ''December 31, 2024'' and inserting ''March 31, 2025''.

SEC. 3203. EXTENSION OF ADD-ON PAYMENTS FOR AMBULANCE SERVICES.

Section 1834(l) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395m(l)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (12)(A), by striking ''January 1, 2025'' and inserting ''April 1, 2025''; and

(2) in paragraph (13), by striking ''January 1, 2025'' each place it appears and inserting ''April 1, 2025'' in each such place.

SEC. 3204. EXTENSION OF FUNDING FOR QUALITY MEASURE ENDORSEMENT, INPUT, AND SELECTION.

Section 1890(d)(2) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395aaa(d)(2)) is amended—

(1) in the first sentence—

(A) by striking ''$9,000,000'' and inserting ''$11,030,000''; and

(B) by striking ''December 31, 2024'' and inserting ''March 31, 2025''; and

(2) in the third sentence, by striking ''December 31, 2024'' and inserting ''March 31, 2025''.

SEC. 3205. EXTENSION OF FUNDING OUTREACH AND ASSISTANCE FOR LOW-INCOME PROGRAMS.

(a) STATE HEALTH INSURANCE ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS.—Subsection (a)(1)(B)(xiv) of section 119 of the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act of 2008 (42 U.S.C. 1395b–3 note) is amended by striking ''December 31, 2024, $18,750,000'' and inserting ''March 31, 2025, $22,500,000''.

(b) AREA AGENCIES ON AGING.—Subsection (b)(1)(B)(xiv) of such section 119 is amended by striking ''December 31, 2024, $18,750,000'' and inserting ''March 31, 2025, $22,500,000''.

(c) AGING AND DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTERS.—Subsection (c)(1)(B)(xiv) of such section 119 is amended by striking ''December 31, 2024, $6,250,000'' and inserting ''March 31, 2025, $8,500,000''.

(d) COORDINATION OF EFFORTS TO INFORM OLDER AMERICANS ABOUT BENEFITS AVAILABLE UNDER FEDERAL AND STATE PROGRAMS.—Subsection (d)(2)(xiv) of such section 119 is amended by striking ''December 31, 2024, $18,750,000'' and inserting ''March 31, 2025, $22,500,000''.

SEC. 3206. EXTENSION OF THE WORK GEOGRAPHIC INDEX FLOOR.

Section 1848(e)(1)(E) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w–4(e)(1)(E)) is amended by striking ''January 1, 2025'' and inserting ''April 1, 2025''.

SEC. 3207. EXTENSION OF CERTAIN TELEHEALTH FLEXIBILITIES.

(a) REMOVING GEOGRAPHIC REQUIREMENTS AND EXPANDING ORIGINATING SITES FOR TELEHEALTH SERVICES.—Section 1834(m) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395m(m)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)(B)(iii), by striking ''ending December 31, 2024'' and inserting ''ending March 31, 2025''; and

(2) in paragraph (4)(C)(iii), by striking ''ending on December 31, 2024'' and inserting ''ending on March 31, 2025''.

(b) EXPANDING PRACTITIONERS ELIGIBLE TO FURNISH TELEHEALTH SERVICES.—Section 1834(m)(4)(E) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395m(m)(4)(E)) is amended by striking ''ending on December 31, 2024'' and inserting ''ending on March 31, 2025''.

(c) EXTENDING TELEHEALTH SERVICES FOR FEDERALLY QUALIFIED HEALTH CENTERS AND RURAL HEALTH CLINICS.—Section 1834(m)(8)(A) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395m(m)(8)(A)) is amended by striking ''ending on December 31, 2024'' and inserting ''ending on March 31, 2025''.

(d) DELAYING THE IN-PERSON REQUIREMENTS UNDER MEDICARE FOR MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FURNISHED THROUGH TELEHEALTH AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY.—

(1) DELAY IN REQUIREMENTS FOR MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FURNISHED THROUGH TELEHEALTH.—Section 1834(m)(7)(B)(i) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395m(m)(7)(B)(i)) is amended, in the matter preceding subclause (I), by striking ''on or after'' and all that follows through ''described in section 1135(g)(1)(B))'' and inserting ''on or after April 1, 2025''.

(2) MENTAL HEALTH VISITS FURNISHED BY RURAL HEALTH CLINICS.—Section 1834(y)(2) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395m(y)(2)) is amended by striking ''January 1, 2025'' and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting ''April 1, 2025.''.

(3) MENTAL HEALTH VISITS FURNISHED BY FEDERALLY QUALIFIED HEALTH CENTERS.—Section 1834(o)(4)(B) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395m(o)(4)(B)) is amended by striking ''January 1, 2025'' and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting ''April 1, 2025.''.

(e) ALLOWING FOR THE FURNISHING OF AUDIO-ONLY TELEHEALTH SERVICES.—Section 1834(m)(9) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395m(m)(9)) is amended by striking ''ending on December 31, 2024'' and inserting ''ending on March 31, 2025''.

(f) EXTENDING USE OF TELEHEALTH TO CONDUCT FACE-TO-FACE ENCOUNTER PRIOR TO RECERTIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR HOSPICE CARE.—Section 1814(a)(7)(D)(i)(II) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395f(a)(7)(D)(i)(II)) is amended by striking ''ending on December 31, 2024'' and inserting ''ending on March 31, 2025''.

(g) PROGRAM INSTRUCTION AUTHORITY.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services may implement the amendments made by this section through program instruction or otherwise.

SEC. 3208. EXTENDING ACUTE HOSPITAL CARE AT HOME WAIVER AUTHORITIES.

Section 1866G(a)(1) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395cc–7(a)(1)) is amended by striking ''December 31, 2024'' and inserting ''March 31, 2025''.

SEC. 3209. EXTENSION OF TEMPORARY INCLUSION OF AUTHORIZED ORAL ANTIVIRAL DRUGS AS COVERED PART D DRUGS.

Section 1860D–2(e)(1)(C) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w–102(e)(1)(C)) is amended by striking ''December 31, 2024'' and inserting ''March 31, 2025''.

SEC. 3210. MEDICARE IMPROVEMENT FUND.

Section 1898(b)(1) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395iii(b)(1)) is amended by striking ''$3,197,000,000'' and inserting ''$1,251,000,000''.

TITLE III—HUMAN SERVICES

SEC. 3301. SEXUAL RISK AVOIDANCE EDUCATION EXTENSION.

Section 510 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 710) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1), by striking ''December 31, 2024'' and inserting ''March 31, 2025''; and

(2) in subsection (f)(1), by striking ''December 31, 2024'' and inserting ''March 31, 2025''.

SEC. 3302. PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY EDUCATION EXTENSION.

Section 513 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 713) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking ''December 31, 2024'' and inserting ''March 31, 2025''; and

(B) in subparagraph (B)(i), by striking ''December 31, 2024'' and inserting ''March 31, 2025''; and

(2) in subsection (f), by striking ''December 31, 2024'' and inserting ''March 31, 2025''.

SEC. 3303. EXTENSION OF FUNDING FOR FAMILY-TO-FAMILY HEALTH INFORMATION CENTERS.

Section 501(c)(1)(A)(viii) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 701(c)(1)(A)(viii)) is amended—

(1) by striking ''$1,500,000'' and inserting ''$3,000,000''; and

(2) by striking ''January 1, 2025'' and inserting ''April 1, 2025''.

TITLE IV—MEDICAID

SEC. 3401. ELIMINATING CERTAIN DISPROPORTIONATE SHARE HOSPITAL PAYMENT CUTS.

Section 1923(f)(7)(A) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396r- 4(f)(7)(A)) is amended—

(1) in clause (i), by striking ''January 1'' and inserting ''April 1''; and

(2) in clause (ii), by striking ''January 1'' and inserting ''April 1''.

DIVISION D—EXTENSION OF AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS

SEC. 4101. EXTENSION OF AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS.

(a) EXTENSION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise provided in this section and the amendments made by this section, notwithstanding any other provision of law, the authorities (including any limitations on such authorities)

provided by each provision of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–334; 132 Stat. 4490) and each provision of law amended by that Act (and for mandatory programs at such funding levels) as in effect (including pursuant to section 102 of division B of the Further Continuing Appropriations and Other Extensions Act, 2024 (Public Law 118–22)) on September 30, 2024, shall continue and be carried out until the date specified in paragraph (2).

(2) DATE SPECIFIED.—With respect to an authority described in paragraph (1), the date specified in this paragraph is the later of—

(A) September 30, 2025;

(B) the date specified with respect to such authority in the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–334; 132 Stat. 4490) or a provision of law amended by that Act (Public Law 115–334; 132 Stat. 4490); or

(C) the date in effect with respect to such authority pursuant to section 102 of division B of the Further Continuing Appropriations and Other Extensions Act, 2024 (Public Law 118–22)).

(b) DISCRETIONARY PROGRAMS.—Programs carried out using the authorities described in subsection (a)(1) that are funded by discretionary appropriations (as defined in section 250(c) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 900(c))) shall be subject to the availability of appropriations.

(c) COMMODITY PROGRAMS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The provisions of law applicable to a covered commodity (as defined in section 1111 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9011)), a loan commodity (as defined in section 1201 of that Act (7 U.S.C. 9031)), sugarcane, or sugar beets for the 2024 crop year pursuant to title I of that Act (7 U.S.C. 9011 et seq.), each amendment made by subtitle C of title I of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–334; 132 Stat. 4511), and section 102 of division B of the Further Continuing Appropriations and Other Extensions Act, 2024 (Public Law 118–22) shall be applicable to the 2025 crop year for that covered commodity, loan commodity, sugarcane, or sugar beets.

(2) EXTRA LONG STAPLE COTTON.—Section 1208(a) of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9038 (a)) is amended by striking ''2024'' and inserting ''2026''.

(3) EXTENSION OF PAYMENT AMOUNT.—Section 1116(d) of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9016(d)) is amended, in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking ''2024'' and inserting ''2025''.

(4) DAIRY.—

(A) DAIRY MARGIN COVERAGE.—

(i) DURATION.—Section 1409 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9059) is amended by striking ''December 31, 2024'' and inserting ''December 31, 2025''.

(ii) AVAILABILITY OF PREMIUM DISCOUNT.—With respect to coverage for calendar year 2025, section 1407(g) of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9057(g)) shall only apply to a participating dairy operation with respect to which the premium was reduced in accordance with that section (as applied to such participating dairy operation pursuant to section 102(c)(2)(B)(ii) of division B of the Further Continuing Appropriations and Other Extensions Act, 2024 (Public Law 118–22)) for calendar year 2024.

(B) DAIRY FORWARD PRICING PROGRAM.—Section 1502(e)(2) of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 8772(e)(2)) is amended by striking ''2027'' and inserting ''2028''.

(5) SUSPENSION OF PERMANENT PRICE SUPPORT AUTHORITIES.—The provisions of law specified in—

(A) subsections (a) and (b) of section 1602 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9092)—

(i) shall not be applicable to the 2025 crops of covered commodities (as defined in section 1111 of that Act (7 U.S.C. 9011)), cotton, and sugar; and

(ii) shall not be applicable to milk through December 31, 2025; and

(B) section 1602(c) of that Act (7 U.S.C. 9092(c)) shall not be applicable to the crops of wheat planted for harvest in calendar year 2025.

(d) OTHER PROGRAMS.—

(1) TRADE.—Section 302(h)(2) of the Bill Emerson Humanitarian Trust Act (7 U.S.C. 1736f–1(h)(2)) is amended by striking ''September 30, 2024'' and inserting ''September 30, 2025''.

(2) GRAZINGLANDS RESEARCH LABORATORY.—Section 7502 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Public Law 110–246; 122 Stat. 2019; 132 Stat. 4817) is amended to read as follows:

''SEC. 7502. GRAZINGLANDS RESEARCH LABORATORY.

''Except as otherwise specifically authorized by law and notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Federal land and facilities at El Reno, Oklahoma, administered by the Secretary (as of the date of enactment of this Act) as the Grazinglands Research Laboratory, shall not at any time, in whole or in part, be declared to be excess or surplus Federal property under chapter 5 of subtitle I of title 40, United States Code, or otherwise be conveyed or transferred in whole or in part, for the period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act and ending on September 30, 2025.''.

(3) ENERGY.—Section 9010(b) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8110(b)) is amended in paragraphs (1)(A) and (2)(A) by striking ''2024'' each place it appears and inserting ''2025''.

(e) EXCEPTIONS.—

(1) COMMODITIES.—Subsection (a) does not apply with respect to mandatory funding under the following provisions of law:

(A) Section 1614(c)(4) of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9097(c)(4)).

(B) Section 12314(h) of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 2101 note; Public Law 113–79).

(C) Section 12315(f) of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 7101 note; Public Law 113–79).

(D) Section 12316(a) of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 7101 note; Public Law 113–79).

(2) CONSERVATION.—

(A) MANDATORY FUNDING.—Subsection (a) does not apply with respect to mandatory funding under the following provisions of law for fiscal years 2024 and 2025:

(i) Section 1240O(b)(3) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839bb–2(b)(3)).

(ii) Section 1240R(f)(1) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839bb–5(f)(1)).

(iii) Subparagraphs (A) and (B) of section 1241(a)(1) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3841(a)(1)).

(iv) Section 2408(g)(1) of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (7 U.S.C. 8351 note).

(B) LIMITATIONS.—Subsection (a) does not apply with respect to limitations under the following provisions of law:

(i) Section 1240G of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–7).

(ii) Section 1240L(f) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–24(f)).

(3) NUTRITION.—Subsection (a) does not apply with respect to the mandatory funding in section 203D(d)(5) of the Emergency Food Assistance Act of 1983 (7 U.S.C. 7507(d)(5)).

(4) RURAL DEVELOPMENT.—Subsection (a) does not apply with respect to the mandatory funding in section 313B(e)(2) of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 940c–2(e)(2)).

(5) RESEARCH.—Subsection (a) does not apply with respect to mandatory funding under the following provisions of law:

(A) Section 1446(b)(1) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3222a(b)(1)).

(B) Section 1672E(d)(1) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5925g(d)(1)).

(C) Section 7601(g)(1)(A) of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 5939(g)(1)(A)).

(6) ENERGY.—Subsection (a) does not apply with respect to mandatory funding under the following provisions of law:

(A) Section 9002(k)(1) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8102(k)(1)).

(B) Section 9003(g)(1)(A) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8103(g)(1)(A)).

(C) Section 9005(g)(1) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8105(g)(1)).

(7) HORTICULTURE.—Subsection (a) does not apply with respect to mandatory funding under the following provisions of law:

(A) Section 7407(d)(1) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 5925c(d)(1)).

(B) Section 2123(c)(4) of the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6522(c)(4)).

(C) Section 10606(d)(1)(C) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 6523(d)(1)(C)).

(D) Section 10109(c)(1) of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–334).

(8) MISCELLANEOUS.—Subsection (a) does not apply with respect to mandatory funding under the following provisions of law:

(A) Section 209(c) of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1627a(c)).

(B) Section 12605(d) of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (7 U.S.C. 7632 note).

(f) REPORTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), any requirement under a provision of law described in paragraph (1) of subsection (a) to submit a report on a recurring basis, and the final report under which was required to be submitted during fiscal year 2024, shall continue, and the requirement shall be carried out, on the same recurring basis, until the later of the dates specified in paragraph (2) of that subsection.

(2) APPROPRIATIONS REQUIRED.—If discretionary appropriations (as defined in section 250(c) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 900(c))) are required to carry out a reporting requirement described in paragraph (1), the application of that paragraph to that reporting requirement shall be subject to the availability of appropriations.

(g) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section and the amendments made by this section shall be applied and administered as if this section and those amendments had been enacted on September 30, 2024.

DIVISION E—OTHER MATTERS

SEC. 5101. COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION WHISTLEBLOWER PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1(b) of Public Law 117–25 (135 Stat. 297; 136 Stat. 2133; 136 Stat. 5984) is amended, in paragraphs (3) and (4), by striking ''October 1, 2024'' each place it appears and inserting ''March 14, 2025''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall take effect as if enacted on September 30, 2024.

SEC. 5102. PROTECTION OF CERTAIN FACILITIES AND ASSETS FROM UNMANNED AIRCRAFT.

Section 210G(i) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 124n(i)) is amended by striking ''December 20, 2024'' and inserting ''March 14, 2025''.

SEC. 5103. ADDITIONAL SPECIAL ASSESSMENT.

Section 3014 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by striking ''December 23, 2024'' and inserting ''March 14, 2025''.

SEC. 5104. NATIONAL CYBERSECURITY PROTECTION SYSTEM AUTHORIZATION.

Section 227(a) of the Federal Cybersecurity Enhancement Act of 2015 (6 U.S.C. 1525(a)) is amended by striking ''December 20, 2024'' and inserting ''March 14, 2025''.

SEC. 5105. EXTENSION OF TEMPORARY ORDER FOR FENTANYL-RELATED SUBSTANCES.

Effective as if included in the enactment of the Temporary Reauthorization and Study of the Emergency Scheduling of Fentanyl Analogues Act (Public Law 116–114), section 2 of such Act is amended by striking ''December 31, 2024'' and inserting ''March 31, 2025''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COLE) and the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oklahoma.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. COLE. 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. 10545.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 10545, the American Relief Act of 2025. This bill provides continuing appropriations to keep the government open and operating through March 14, 2025.

When the House Appropriations Committee began our process of drafting bills for fiscal year 2025, we knew we had to work quickly to put the House in the best position possible. To that end, we successfully reported all 12 of our annual appropriations bills out of committee and succeeded in passing five of them across the floor of the House by the end of July.

Unfortunately, the House does not act on its own, and I am sorry to say that, whether we like it or not, our colleagues in the Senate have input into the process. To date, the Senate has yet to pass a single fiscal year 2025 appropriations bill across the floor.

As time has gone on, we have reached the deadline of December 20, meaning another extension is necessary.

□ 1700

Today's bill extends government funding through March 14, which will grant Congress the needed time to reach a final agreement on our FY25 spending bills. It will also give President-elect Trump an opportunity to participate in the process.

Governing by continuing resolution, Mr. Speaker, is never ideal, but Congress has a responsibility to keep the government open and operating for the American people. The alternative, a government shutdown, would be devastating to our national defense and our constituents, and would be a grave mistake.

Today's bill, Mr. Speaker, avoids such a self-inflicted error. Today's bill will also provide much-needed relief to Americans struggling to recover from recent natural disasters.

This includes destruction in my own district, which faced tornados that ripped through Oklahoma, and it will especially provide support for communities ravaged by Hurricanes Helene and Milton.

The devastation caused by these storms and other disasters is heartbreaking. Congress must act. In this bill, we provide $100 billion in supplemental emergency disaster funding. This will provide the necessary disaster recovery aid for States and communities as our fellow citizens rebuild and restore.

Finally, the bill also provides $10 billion in economic assistance for our farmers and ranchers. In the wake of many natural disasters and a difficult farm economy, our farmers and ranchers are in dire need of economic assistance.

While there is still a long road ahead for recovery efforts and rebuilding, this aid will mark a vital step forward and will help preserve family farms and ranches across the country while also continuing to ensure food and agricultural security for our Nation.

For these reasons, Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to vote in support of H.R. 10545 today.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this continuing resolution. We had a strong bipartisan and bicameral agreement among the leadership of both parties at both ends of the Capitol to avert a disastrous and pointless government shutdown, to provide desperately needed disaster aid and emergency assistance, and to provide Congress with the time required to enact full-year funding bills for fiscal year 2025, which is our responsibility.

That bill was a result of a compromise. There were things in it Democrats liked and Republicans did not. There were things in it Republicans liked that Democrats would have preferred to leave out, but that is the nature of government funding bills. They require compromise, which we accomplished with the support of Democrats and Republicans in the House and in the Senate, in order to become the law of the land.

That was true throughout the 118th Congress, despite Republicans' repeated and failed efforts to write extreme and partisan funding bills, and that will be true in the 119th Congress as well.

We are on the cusp of an agreement to move this country forward. Then 2 days ago, a multibillionaire with apparently no working knowledge of our government or of appropriations, someone who is a self-appointed president of the United States, Elon Musk, issued a marching order for House Republicans to go against their own elected leadership and shut down the government.

House Republicans are responsible for any harm and uncertainty brought upon the American people. Should some get their wish for a month-long government shutdown, they will be responsible for cleaning up their mess come Inauguration Day.

Indeed, we are in completely unprecedented times when someone who has no knowledge of government, who has no knowledge of an appropriations process, and who is external to the House of Representatives can make his weight felt here in turning what was a bill that was on its way—a bipartisan bill, a bicameral bill was on its way to achieving its goal of keeping the U.S. Government open. The goal, actually, is providing services to American citizens, to working families, middle-class families, vulnerable families, where our responsibility lies.

The world's richest man, reaping billions in government contracts, is calling the shots in the Republican Party. At the behest of the world's richest man who no one voted for, the United States Congress has been thrown into pandemonium.

It leads you to the question of who is in charge. I thought that there was a Republican majority in this body, not a president Musk majority.

We had a bill on Tuesday that was the result of a year and a half of work and which had the input, as I have said, of Republicans and Democrats. It represented their interests, the interests of their constituents, their concerns, and the needs of their constituents. This bill that we are discussing right now has no such bipartisan input.

This was no deal or no agreement, except for among a small group of House Republicans. The bill removes key provisions to limit the power of pharmaceutical companies, which means our prescription drug prices and what happens to the rising prescription drug prices which families can't get to in order to be able to deal with any illness they have or to save their lives.

It removes a provision to protect SNAP recipients, people at risk of hunger, from the theft of their benefits. It struck a provision from our colleague, Congresswoman WEXTON, to support research into treatments and cures for childhood cancer.

I am a cancer survivor. I know what it means to have a cancer diagnosis. I know what it means when parents are told your child has cancer. We want to remove the provision that supports research into treatments and cures for childhood cancer?

It drops necessary pandemic preparedness and response programs, including the strategic national stockpile. I know that is something that my colleagues on the other side of the aisle are very concerned about and always

work to protect what we do with the strategic national stockpile.

It also drops the necessary efforts for our hospital preparedness programs. That is for hospitals all over the country. I might add, that is really a big problem for rural American hospitals, which are clamoring for these efforts.

It also shortchanges programs to prepare for future public health emergencies, like bird flu, which we now know is striking people on the West Coast of this country in California.

This bill also abandons our bipartisan efforts to ensure American dollars and intellectual property are reinvested in American businesses and workers instead of fueling the China Communist Party's technology and capabilities.

I am deeply disappointed that this bipartisan priority was abandoned after president Elon Musk bullied Republicans into going back on their word. This is Musk, who got rich off of $20 billion in Federal contracts for his companies.

He now makes half of his company's cars at Tesla's $7 billion plant in Shanghai. He clearly does not want to have to answer any questions about how much he plans to expand his business and businesses in China and how many American technologies he plans to sell to the highest bidder.

It is chapter and verse. There are many more pieces of fact about his relationship with China, and he has spent the last few years cozying up to the Chinese Communist Party to protect his own business interests.

The fight is not over. This is something that simply must be done to safeguard our supply chains and our critical capabilities. American policy should be set on behalf of America's workers, not billionaires who cozy up to Communist China.

We must immediately return to considering the bipartisan, bicameral compromise legislation that Speaker JOHNSON, Leader SCHUMER, Leader JEFFRIES, Leader MCCONNELL, and, I might add, the four corners of the Committee on Appropriations, which are the chair of the House Committee on Appropriations, myself as ranking member, the chair of the Senate Committee on Appropriations, Senator MURRAY, and the ranking member on the Senate side of appropriations, Senator SUSAN COLLINS. This is the group that constructed the deal on behalf of the American public, and those services are now being shortchanged.

We must unequivocally reject the illegitimate oligarchy that seeks to usurp the authority of the United States Congress and of the American people.

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

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MEUSER).

Mr. MEUSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the agreement reached between the two houses, the incoming Trump White House and the Republican-led United States House of Representatives.

Mr. Speaker, CRs are not ideal. They are not preferred, but come the New Year, we will begin a new era of regular order. As well, I expect we will be working in a concerted manner for the next 4 years to, borrowing a phrase, ''Make America Great Again.''

As we are all aware, the vacuum of leadership from the current White House has been filled already by the incoming White House. The Trump DOGE team also proved to be consequential, Mr. Speaker, rooting out unnecessary provisions throughout this government-funding process, streamlining bloated legislation, and exposing it to the American people, which resulted in a better, leaner deal and a reduction of pages in the bill from 1,547 to 118, a huge reduction, all done in Trump time.

This legislation delivers responsible disaster relief, targets spending reductions, includes an agreement to address the debt ceiling, and avoids a government shutdown.

Our work will reflect the will of the people to carry out the America First agenda. We must deliver results to show the American people that we are serious about correcting the course of our Nation, and this bill is the first step in that direction.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE), the distinguished ranking member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I heard my colleague on the Republican side talk about the reduction in the number of pages in the bill. What I want to point out is by reducing the number of pages, which is not the issue, they reduced the help for the American people that is in this bill. That is what the Republicans have done.

At the beginning of the week, we had a bipartisan bill that provided critical relief for the American people. From my perspective on the Committee on Energy and Commerce, what we have done over the last year was hear from our constituents. We had hearings to hear about what was necessary to lower costs, to provide relief for people that, as you know, feel very strongly that prices are too high, that there are all kinds of problems with corporate interests and websites that are not protecting their interests, not protecting their privacy, and soliciting all kinds of things with misinformation. We are the committee that deals primarily with healthcare, with consumer protection, with environmental concern.

What we did is worked on a bipartisan basis to put together in this legislation proposals that would really make a difference from what we heard from our constituents around the country.

□ 1715

Now, that is what has been taken out of this bill, and it has been taken out because one man, a billionaire, decided to tell my Republican colleagues that he did not want this bill. I am not going to try to figure out why he doesn't want it, but obviously, you know, the types of things that I am talking about are not the things that he would want in the bill.

What are we talking about here? What was taken out of this bill?

Well, first, my colleague, the ranking member of the Appropriations Committee, mentioned pediatric cancer and rare disease therapies, research for cancer for kids that are facing cancer problems; community health centers; teaching health centers to provide for more primary care doctors were extended for 2 years and then for 5 years with more funding for that purpose; and prescription drug reforms.

One of the biggest problems that we face right now. Is called PBMs, pharmaceutical benefit managers. Theoretically what they are supposed to do is work between the insurer or the individual and the drug companies to reduce prices, but because there is no transparency, what they actually do is pocket the money that they have negotiated, the savings that they have negotiated for themselves, rather than give it back to the consumer.

What we did on the Energy and Commerce Committee is we said, no, we want reform of PBMs. That basically is sort of a way of saying that if they negotiate savings, that has to go back to the consumer to lower costs, to lower the costs for prescription drugs, which is one of the biggest things that people are concerned about now, it is one of the biggest costs they have in healthcare.

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, these are the types of things that have been taken out of this bill: healthcare protections, consumer protections, environmental protections, safety protections. These are the types of things that have been taken out of this bill because some billionaire, the richest man on Earth, decided that he didn't want those things.

This has now become a bill that has taken out anything that is essentially important for consumer or health protection or for relief to lower costs for the American people.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. STAUBER), my very good friend.

Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Speaker, tonight let's put the politics aside. We are here right now discussing a bill that has very good things in it. As my good friend Mr. COLE says, let's not fight about what is not in it at this moment.

We know that Democrats had priorities in it earlier, and Republicans had priorities in this bill earlier. We are going to break the fever here in Washington and stop putting the Christmas

tree gifts in at the last minute that cost American taxpayers millions and millions of dollars.

Let's talk about what is in this bill.

For the small family farmer, for that dairy farmer from Minnesota that was in my office 48 hours ago begging me for assistance, this bill will help that farmer and many other farmers across this great country.

For the victims of the hurricanes, Helene and Milton, the victims tonight who are sleeping in tents, Mr. Speaker, because they don't have a house, there is American rescue. Taxpayers are going to come and help you tonight. Through no fault of your own you suffered through a hurricane, and the U.S. Congress tonight, the House of Representatives, are going to vote to support you.

This is a clean resolution with the debt ceiling. This is what my good friends and colleagues on the other side of the aisle wanted just yesterday.

Let's talk about the good things that are in it. To our farmers, we will support you, both Republicans and Democrats. To our victims of natural disasters, we will support you tonight. This is a clean CR, and I support this resolution.

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

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Missouri (Mr. ALFORD), my very good friend.

Mr. ALFORD. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, 'twas 5 days before Christmas, and all through this House, not a lawmaker was resting, not even their spouse.

The CR was stalled, the debates full of heat, while a shutdown shadow loomed over our streets.

My friends, it is time to fund our defense and aid for our farms and disaster relief to protect our very own citizens from harm.

Our farmers work hard. They deserve every chance to grow and to prosper, advance, and enhance.

Mr. Speaker, this Christmas, this Christmas let's give we the people their due, a funded government from leaders who are true.

So as we vote on this CR, let's keep this in sight: America First, and to all a good night.

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

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I advise my friend I am prepared to close whenever she is, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman would understand that I am waiting for someone else who was coming, but I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I would inquire as to how much time is remaining on each side.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Oklahoma has 12½ minutes remaining. The gentlewoman from Connecticut has 7 minutes remaining.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I just want to take a moment to address something the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE), my very good friend, had to say about what is not in the bill. Again, as another speaker referenced, I always believe you look at legislation according to what is in the bill and don't worry about what is not in it. Make the judgment on what is there.

The reality is, in this bill we keep the government open. My friends favor that. I hope they vote that way tonight. In this bill we provide badly needed aid to Americans that are suffering in a disaster. I know my friends favor doing that. I hope they vote accordingly tonight.

As several speakers have mentioned, we provide much-needed assistance to America's rural economy. I hope my friends actually support that as well with a positive vote tonight.

I also want to point out, and I speak now not as a Republican or a Democrat but as an appropriator: I for one think these very good ideas that people have ought to generally move to the floor as separate bills. One of the reasons people distrust this institution is because we quite often pile things on bills that are totally unrelated.

Everything that my friends on the other side and I negotiated in the appropriations area is actually in this bill and actually as negotiated. I think it is unfortunate—and we do this on both sides, so I am not trying to score political points, but as I said, I am speaking as an appropriator. I hope we get back to doing what we should do and that is move legislation through this body appropriately, as narrowly focused as possible, and these end-of-the-year or end-of-the-session or just before breaks massive bills I don't think serve the American people well. I don't think they serve this institution well.

I know many of my friends on the other side actually agree with that. Let's look at this as an opportunity to step back and actually focus on what our job here is. We have no more important job than funding the government, helping Americans in disaster, assisting folks over a long-term crisis in rural America and then closing down our business and going home. These other matters can and should be dealt with next year, and as has been indicated if they are generally bipartisan in nature, they ought to move through on their own. That is just my thought, my reflection.

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

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

I would like to take a moment of my time that I have to highlight that we did come to an agreement and acknowledge there are things in this bill that reflect the bipartisan and bicameral agreement on disaster relief. I also might add, as the ranking member on Appropriations, we came to agreement on moving forward on appropriations bills. The supplemental, by the way, includes substantial Democratic wins.

Since the summer of 2023, we have been pushing Republicans for a comprehensive disaster supplemental. I am pleased that we have an agreement on $100 billion in disaster aid, and that includes $8 billion for emergency highway funds, including paying the full 100 percent cost to replace the Key Bridge in Maryland; $2.3 billion for disaster loans for small businesses; more than $3 billion for water infrastructure grants from the EPA; and $1.5 billion for the Army Corps of Engineer projects; $12 billion for community development block grants to assist with long-term housing, infrastructure, and economic recovery needs; and $21 billion in disaster assistance to farmers, to producers. This, by the way, is separate from the agreement on an additional $10 billion for farm aid.

I might add that at the outset of the negotiations I think it is important to know that there were those on the other side of the aisle who wanted to really cut the disaster effort even to have to provide offsets for the disaster. That was very real. Democrats held the line and said, no, no, that we would get $100 billion for disaster aid because of how critically important it is.

I might add, there was agreement, as well as what Democrats talked about on disaster relief. There was also agreement on pediatric cancer and rare disease research, community health centers, teaching health centers, prescription drug reform, pediatric therapies. This was all agreed to. It wasn't that we were saying we don't want disaster relief, you don't want this. We came to a conclusion that these were all of the pieces that were needed to move forward.

I also might add because I am very concerned about our supply chain and what happens with regard to what we transmit and provide for the Communist Party for China, and while I support all of disaster pieces and I supported all the health pieces, it is maddening that the Republicans walked away from that bipartisan priority, the outbound investment to ensure American dollars and intellectual property are reinvested in America's businesses and workers instead of fueling the Chinese Communist Party's technology and their capabilities; and that, again, which can be documented is something that is critically important that it not be there to Elon Musk because of all of his efforts and contracts that he has and the work that he has in China. That should not enter into how we craft a bill that serves the American people and American workers.

It is unfortunate the way that this process has worked out.

You know, we want to and we really need to rely on each other. We need to rely on each other to keep our word that when we have an agreement that we keep that agreement. I said this, as well, yesterday. I think all of us know here in the Congress that the only thing that we have is our credibility and our word. That is what allows us to move forward to trust one another, to move forward on legislation that helps and serves the American people.

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

□ 1730

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance my time.

Mr. Speaker, I want to begin and reiterate a point that I made earlier. I know my good friend from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO) and I may disagree tonight on this particular instance, but I think as a broad principle we probably do agree that it is much better, honestly, that as appropriators, we are not carrying everybody else's weight. Sometimes the mule finally breaks down.

I would just tell my friends, working in good faith, particularly on bipartisan bills like we had in WIOA reauthorization and some of the health issues that were mentioned earlier, please bring your bills to the floor under your own time. Don't try to catch a ride with us right at the end. People hate that.

Our own Members don't get a chance to read the bills in some cases. The public doesn't get a chance to hear a full debate on the issue. It is simply not good governance. I would actually argue that this legislation is focused and easy to understand and easy to read.

The parts that are important to it are really only about 130 pages. Those are the things that the Appropriations Committee did, and we did it in a bipartisan fashion and in good-faith debate. All of those things are in this bill.

I tell my friends on both sides of the aisle, and I say this, again, not in a partisan sense at all. Remember that if you vote ''no'' on this bill, you are effectively voting to shut down the government.

If you vote ''no'' on this bill, you are effectively voting to deny assistance to Americans who suffered enormously from natural disasters.

If you vote ''no'' on this bill, you are effectively voting ''no'' to help rural America in a time of crisis on our farms and ranches all throughout the country.

The stakes are pretty clear here. I am hopeful we agree on all these things. We don't have any partisan disagreement. These are things that we agree on, and there is nothing in this bill certainly that my friends on the other side disagree with. There may certainly be some other disagreements here or there. Broadly speaking, this is something we should do.

None of us or most of us do not want to shut down the government. It is not a good thing for the country. I can go on, and we can get into a debate. I would like to be, you know, in a give-and-take of debate as much as anybody else. It is, after all, the holiday season. I know I have Members that are anxious to get home and be with their families and their friends in the holiday season.

I simply want to conclude by wishing everybody a merry Christmas, a happy Hanukkah, or whatever would be appropriate in their faith or tradition. I hope my colleagues have a wonderful and blessed New Year and that we have a great year for America in store ahead of us.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair wishes to express appreciation on behalf of the House to Members for the tone and tenor of tonight's debate and express appreciation to the staff on both sides of the House for working through these last 48 hours.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COLE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 10545.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 366, nays 34, answered ''present'' 1, not voting 29, as follows:

[Roll No. 517]

YEAS—366

Adams
Aderholt
Aguilar
Alford
Allen
Amo
Amodei
Arrington
Auchincloss
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Balint
Barr
Barragán
Bean (FL)
Beatty
Bentz
Bera
Bergman
Beyer
Bice
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Bost
Bowman
Boyle (PA)
Brown
Brownley
Buchanan
Budzinski
Bush
Calvert
Cammack
Caraveo
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carey
Carl
Carson
Carter (GA)
Carter (LA)
Carter (TX)
Cartwright
Casar
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chavez-DeRemer
Cherfilus-McCormick
Chu
Ciscomani
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Cline
Cohen
Cole
Collins
Comer
Connolly
Correa
Courtney
Craig
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crow
Cuellar
D'Esposito
Davids (KS)
Davidson
Davis (IL)
Davis (NC)
De La Cruz
Dean (PA)
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Deluzio
DeSaulnier
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Donalds
Duarte
Duncan
Dunn (FL)
Edwards
Ellzey
Emmer
Escobar
Eshoo
Espaillat
Estes
Ezell
Feenstra
Finstad
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Flood
Fong
Foster
Foushee
Foxx
Frankel, Lois
Franklin, Scott
Frost
Fry
Gallego
Garbarino
García (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Garcia, Robert
Gimenez
Golden (ME)
Goldman (NY)
Gomez
Gonzalez, V.
Gosar
Gottheimer
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Green, Al (TX)
Griffith
Guest
Guthrie
Hageman
Harder (CA)
Hayes
Hern
Higgins (LA)
Hill
Himes
Hinson
Horsford
Houchin
Houlahan
Hoyer
Hoyle (OR)
Hudson
Huffman
Huizenga
Issa
Ivey
Jackson (IL)
Jackson (NC)
Jackson (TX)
Jacobs
James
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (SD)
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Kamlager-Dove
Kaptur
Kean (NJ)
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Khanna
Kiggans (VA)
Kildee
Kiley
Kilmer
Kim (CA)
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster
Kustoff
LaHood
LaLota
LaMalfa
Landsman
Langworthy
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latta
LaTurner
Lawler
Lee (CA)
Lee (FL)
Lee (NV)
Lee (PA)
Lee Carter
Leger Fernandez
Letlow
Levin
Lofgren
Loudermilk
Lucas
Luna
Luttrell
Lynch
Magaziner
Malliotakis
Maloy
Mann
Manning
Mast
Matsui
McBath
McCaul
McClain
McClellan
McClintock
McCollum
McGarvey
McGovern
McHenry
McIver
Meeks
Menendez
Meng
Meuser
Mfume
Miller (IL)
Miller (OH)
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Molinaro
Moolenaar
Moore (AL)
Moore (UT)
Moore (WI)
Moran
Morelle
Moskowitz
Mrvan
Mullin
Murphy
Nadler
Neal
Neguse
Nehls
Nickel
Norcross
Norman
Nunn (IA)
Obernolte
Ocasio-Cortez
Omar
Owens
Pallone
Palmer
Panetta
Pappas
Peltola
Pence
Perez
Peters
Pettersen
Pfluger
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Posey
Pressley
Quigley
Ramirez
Raskin
Reschenthaler
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Ross
Rouzer
Ruiz
Rulli
Ruppersberger
Rutherford
Ryan
Salazar
Salinas
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scalise
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schneider
Scholten
Schrier
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sessions
Sewell
Sherman
Sherrill
Simpson
Slotkin
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Smucker
Sorensen
Soto
Spanberger
Spartz
Stansbury
Stanton
Stauber
Steel
Stefanik
Steil
Stevens
Strickland
Strong
Swalwell
Sykes
Takano
Tenney
Thanedar
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Timmons
Titus
Tlaib
Tokuda
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Trone
Turner
Underwood
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Orden
Vargas
Vasquez
Veasey
Velázquez
Wagner
Walberg
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Westerman
Wexton
Wied
Wild
Williams (GA)
Williams (NY)
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Yakym
Zinke

NAYS—34

Banks
Biggs
Bishop (NC)
Boebert
Brecheen
Burchett
Burlison
Cloud
Clyde
Crane
Curtis
DesJarlais
Fulcher
Gonzales, Tony
Good (VA)
Gooden (TX)
Grothman
Harris
Harshbarger
Hunt
Lesko
Lopez
Mace
Massie
McCormick
Mills
Mooney
Ogles
Perry
Rosendale
Roy
Self
Tiffany
Van Duyne

ANSWERED ''PRESENT''—1

Crockett

NOT VOTING—29

Allred
Blumenauer
Bucshon
Burgess
Clyburn
Costa
Evans
Fallon
Ferguson
Fletcher
Garamendi
Garcia, Mike
Granger
Greene (GA)
Grijalva
Lamborn
Lieu
Luetkemeyer
Moulton
Napolitano
Newhouse
Pelosi
Phillips
Rodgers (WA)
Steube
Suozzi
Waltz
Wenstrup
Williams (TX)

□ 1759

Mr. GROTHMAN changed his vote from ''aye'' to ''no.''

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. ALLRED. Mr. Speaker, I was absent during the time of votes due to illness. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 517, H.R. 10545, *American Relief Act 2025*.

RESEARCH SECURITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN DHS ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the question on suspending the rules and passing the bill (H.R. 9748) to require the Under Secretary of the Science and Technology Directorate of the Department of Homeland Security to develop a Department-wide policy and process to safeguard research and development from unauthorized access to or disclosure of sensitive information in research and development acquisitions, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. GREEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

TSA COMMUTING FAIRNESS ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the question on suspending the rules and passing the bill (H.R. 8662) to reduce commuting burdens on Transportation Security Administration employees, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. GREEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker of the House of Representatives:

WASHINGTON, DC,
December 20, 2024.

I hereby designate the period from Friday, December 20, 2024, through the remainder of the 118th Congress, as a ''district work period'' under section 3(z) of House Resolution 5.

MIKE JOHNSON,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

RECOGNIZING MITCHELL ANGOVE

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding achievement of Warren County native Mitchell Angove.

Mitchell was recently named to Forbes' ''30 Under 30 List.'' This list is produced annually by Forbes magazine and recognizes notable individuals under the age of 30 nationwide.

A native of Pennsylvania, Mitchell attended the Eisenhower High School in Russell, Pennsylvania. He graduated in 2018 and earned his bachelor's and master's degrees throughout the following years.

Today, Mitchell is the cofounder and CEO of Feanix Biotechnologies. This company is helping transform the agriculture industry by analyzing animal genomes to predict traits such as size, milk production, and other key health factors.

As the chairman of the House Committee on Agriculture, I have seen firsthand the issues currently affecting our American farmers, and I am proud to see motivated individuals such as Mitchell continue to pursue advancements that could help farmers nationwide.

MAUI MINUTE NO. 30

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

Ms. TOKUDA. Mr. Speaker, this is my 30th Maui minute. After months of delay, three successive requests from President Biden, and unnecessary anxiety for millions of Americans courtesy of the richest man in the world, Congress will now finally send much-needed disaster recovery funding across the country.

For over a year, I have led bipartisan efforts pushing to deliver this aid to Maui. We have delivered speeches in this Chamber and we have sent letters to leadership to introduce amendments that were blocked.

Finally, we got this done. This disaster recovery package will provide a much-needed boost to meeting all our people's needs. The package will send over $2.1 billion in Federal disaster relief to Hawaii, including about $1.6 billion in the Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Fund, or CDBG-DR, $350 million to rebuild drinking water and wastewater infrastructure, and $72 million to rebuild roads and bridges. It will replenish the Small Business Administration's disaster loans program so homeowners and small businesses can continue to recover.

For my Maui constituents still recovering from the deadly fires, it has been far too long of a wait, but our work will not stop here. We will use these dollars to rebuild housing and infrastructure, restore our ''ʻaina,'' ''land,'' and bring our Maui ''ʻohana,'' ''family,'' home.

RECOGNIZING TEAM MICHIGAN

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

Ms. STEVENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in the concluding salvo of this Congress to thank the 118th session for allowing me to advocate for the incredible constituents and communities that comprise my district, from our robust manufacturing economy, to our amazing public schools, to the hardworking tradespeople building homes and new factories.

Most of all, I recognize my team, the staff here in Washington, D.C., and in Farmington Hills, who had sleeves rolled up and helping people each and every day. We have authored over 31 unique bills, 2 that have become signed into law, and 6 that passed this very Chamber.

Here is to the 118th session and more to come.

SEASON OF GRATITUDE

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

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Still I rise, Mr. Speaker, very honored and very proud to stand here and have this preeminent opportunity to speak for 1 minute.

Mr. Speaker, I speak tonight with an expression of gratitude because this is the season of giving and the season of being grateful for that which we have.

I thank all of the many persons who have made it possible for us to have these opportunities. I am especially grateful to the staff that I have. They have worked tirelessly over this year.

While everything did not go as I would have had it, I do appreciate the fact that there will not be a shutdown, that the American people can go on about their way, and enjoy this and make it the best holiday ever.

Mr. Speaker, my colleagues and I should thank each other for getting this done. There ought to be thanks to the 196 Democrats and to the 170 Republicans.

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(z) of House Resolution 5, the House stands adjourned until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, December 24, 2024.

Thereupon (at 6 o'clock and 13 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Tuesday, December 24, 2024, at 10 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–6488. A letter from the Program Analyst, Agricultural Marketing Service, Specialty Crops Program, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Walnuts Grown in California; Increased Assessment Rate [Doc. No.: AMS-SC-24-0039] received December 4, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Agriculture.

EC–6489. A letter from the Program Analyst, Agricultural Marketing Service, Specialty Crops Program, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Pears Grown in Oregon and Washington; Marketing Order Approval Requirement [Doc. No.: AMS-SC-22-0079] received December 4, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Agriculture.

EC–6490. A letter from the Senior Congressional Liaison, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, transmitting the Bureau's final rule — Truth in Lending Act (Regulation Z) Adjustment to Asset-Size Exemption Threshold received December 19, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

EC–6491. A letter from the Senior Congressional Liaison, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, transmitting the Bureau's final rule — Home Mortgage Disclosure (Regulation C) Adjustment to Asset-Size Exemption Threshold received December 19, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

EC–6492. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, National Institutes of Health, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Clinical Trials Registration and Results Information Submission [Docket No.: NIH-2024-0001] (RIN: 0925-AA71) received December 5, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC–6493. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 24-088 Certification of Proposed Issuance of an Export License Pursuant to Sec 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC–6494. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 24-043 Certification of Proposed Issuance of an Export License Pursuant to Sec 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC–6495. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 24-060 Certification of Proposed Issuance of an Export License Pursuant to Sec 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC–6496. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Use of Federal Real Property To Assist the Homeless (RIN: 0991-AC14) received November 12, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC–6497. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Specialist, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Use of Federal Real Property To Assist the Homeless (RIN: 3090-AK46) received November 25, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC–6498. A letter from the Director, Office of Acquisition Policy, Office of Government-wide Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's summary presentation of final rules — Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2025-02; Introduction [Docket No.: FAR-2024-0051, Sequence No.: 7] received December 18, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC–6499. A letter from the Policy Advisor, National Wildlife Refuge System, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — National Wildlife Refuge System; 2024-2025 Station-Specific Hunting and Sport Fishing Regulations [Docket No.: FWS-HQ-NWRS-2024-0034; FXRS12610900000-245-FF09R20000] (RIN: 1018-BH17) December 3, 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–6500. A letter from the Chief Regulatory Officer, Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Increase of the Automatic Extension Period of Employment Authorization and Documentation for Certain Employment Authorization Document Renewal Applicants [CIS No.: 2785-24; DHS Docket No.: USCIS-2024-0002] (RIN: 1615-AC78) received December 13, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–6501. A letter from the Chief Regulatory Officer, Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Application of Certain Mandatory Bars in Fear Screenings [CIS No.: 2776-24; DHS Docket No.: USCIS-2024-0005] (RIN: 1615-AC91) received December 18, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–6502. A letter from the Chief Regulatory Officer, Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Modernizing H-2 Program Requirements, Oversight, and Worker Protections [CIS No.: 2740-23; DHS Docket No.: USCIS-2023-0012] (RIN: 1615-AC76) received December 18, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–6503. A letter from the Chief Regulatory Officer, Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Modernizing H-1B Requirements, Providing Flexibility in the F-1 Program, and Program Improvements Affecting Other Nonimmigrant Workers [CIS No.: 2766-24; DHS Docket No.: USCIS-2023-0005] (RIN: 1615-AC70) received December 18, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–6504. A letter from the General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Establishment of Categorical Reasonable Period of Time for Action on Requests for Water Quality Certification Under Section 401(a)(1) of the Clean Water Act and Clarifying Types of Hydroelectric Project Proceedings That May Require Water Quality Certification [Docket No.: RM24-5-000] received December 6, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC–6505. A letter from the Adjutant General, Veterans of Foreign Wars, transmitting the proceedings of the 124th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, held in Phoenix, Arizona, July 22-27, 2023 (H. Doc. No. 118—185); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and ordered to be printed.

EC–6506. A letter from the Federal Register Liaison, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Service's final rule — Taxable Income or Loss and Currency Gain or Loss With Respect to a Qualified Business Unit [TD 10016] (RIN: 1545-BO07) received December 17, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

EC–6507. A letter from the Senior Attorney, Office of the Chief Counsel for Trade Enforcement and Compliance, Enforcement and Compliance, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Regulations Enhancing the Administration of the Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Trade Remedy Laws [Docket No.: 241206-0317] (RIN: 0625-AB25) received December 16, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

EC–6508. A letter from the Federal Register Liaison, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Revised Timeline Regarding Implementation of Amended Section 6050W(e) [Notice 2024-85] received December 17, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

EC–6509. A letter from the Federal Register Liaison, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Exempt organization rulings and determination letters procedures (Rev. Proc. 2025-5) received December 17, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. BOST: Committee on Veterans' Affairs. House Committee on Veterans' Affairs Activities Report (Rept. 118–941). 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. GARBARINO:

H.R. 10543. A bill to reauthorize the National Flood Insurance Program; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. TIMMONS (for himself and Mr. TORRES of New York):

H.R. 10544. A bill to specify the treatment of covered non-fungible tokens under the securities laws, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. COLE (for himself and Mr. EDWARDS):

H.R. 10545. A bill making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025, and for other purposes; to the Committees on Appropriations and the Budget; considered and passed.

By Mr. BEYER:

H.R. 10546. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow the disclosure of certain business tax return information to the Bureau of Economic Analysis and the Bureau of Labor Statistics for certain statistical purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. COURTNEY (for himself, Mrs. HAYES, and Mr. BISHOP of Georgia):

H.R. 10547. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act to expand the Magnet Schools Assistance Program; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. DELAURO:

H.R. 10548. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to protect children's health by denying any deduction for advertising and marketing directed at children to promote the consumption of food of poor nutritional quality; to the Committee on Ways and Means, 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. HIGGINS OF LOUISIANA:

H.R. 10549. A bill to abolish the Environmental Protection Agency; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Agriculture, Transportation and Infrastructure, and Science, Space, and Technology, 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. ISSA (for himself, Mr. OBERNOLTE, and Mr. CLINE):

H.R. 10550. A bill to amend the Trademark Act of 1946 to clarify the applicability of Federal trademark law in the area of digital replicas of identifying characteristics of individuals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. LEE OF PENNSYLVANIA:

H.R. 10551. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit a retired member of the Armed Forces to serve as a required member of the funeral honors detail for the funeral of a veteran; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. LEE OF PENNSYLVANIA (for herself and Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin):

H.R. 10552. A bill to require the Secretary of Agriculture to cancel existing school meal debt; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, 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. LEGER FERNANDEZ:

H.R. 10553. A bill to amend title 54, United States Code, to increase amounts deposited in the Historic Preservation Fund, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. PORTER:

H.R. 10554. A bill to direct the Secretary of Defense to submit to Congress annual reports on medical malpractice claims by members of the uniformed services; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. SMITH OF NEW JERSEY (for himself and Mr. VAN DREW):

H.R. 10555. A bill to create mechanisms by which state law enforcement can coordinate with the federal government to detect and stop drones involved in unlawful activities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, Homeland Security, and Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. VAN DUYNE (for herself and Mr. CRENSHAW):

H.R. 10556. A bill to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to promptly comply with State requests for information regarding the citizenship status of an individual; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. VAN DUYNE:

H.R. 10557. A bill to prohibit the use of Federal funds for congressional earmarks targeted to a State or unit of local government that is a sanctuary jurisdiction; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. VARGAS:

H.R. 10558. A bill to amend the Housing and Community Development Act of 1980 and the Housing Act of 1949 to make financial assistance available to DACA recipients, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY AND SINGLE SUBJECT STATEMENTS

Pursuant to clause 7(c)(1) of rule XII and Section 3(c) of H. Res. 5 the following statements are submitted regarding (1) the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution and (2) the single subject of the bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. GARBARINO:

H.R. 10543.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill extends the National Flood Insurance Program through September 30, 2025.

By Mr. TIMMONS:

H.R. 10544.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To define non-fungible tokens and exempt consumptive NFTs, those used for private, personal, or familial use from securities law.

By Mr. COLE:

H.R. 10545.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The principal constitutional authority for this legislation is clause 7 of section 9 of article I of the Constitution of the United States (the appropriation power), which states: ''No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law . . . .'' In addition, clause 1 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution (the spending power) provides: ''The Congress shall have the Power . . . to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States . . . . Together, these specific constitutional provisions establish the congressional power of the purse, granting Congress the authority to appropriate funds, to determine their purpose, amount, and period of availability, and to set forth terms and conditions governing their use.

The single subject of this legislation is:

The making of continuing appropriations and disaster relief supplemental appropriations for fiscal year 2025.

By Mr. BEYER:

H.R. 10546.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To allow the disclosure of federal business tax data to the Bureau of Economic Analysis and the Bureau of Labor Statistics for statistical purposes.

By Mr. COURTNEY:

H.R. 10547.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act to expand the Magnet Schools Assistance Program.

By Ms. DELAURO:

H.R. 10548.

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 legislation would amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to protect children's health by denying any deduction for advertising and marketing directed at children to promote the consumption of food of poor nutritional quality.

By Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana:

H.R. 10549.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Under Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution, Congress has the power ''to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or any Department or Officer thereof''

The single subject of this legislation is:

To abolish the Environmental Protection Agency.

By Mr. ISSA:

H.R. 10550.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 8 provides Congress with the power to promote the ''Progress of Science and useful Arts, by securing for limited Times to Authors and Inventors the exclusive Right to their respective Writings and Discoveries.''

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend the Trademark Act of 1946 to clarify the applicability of Federal trademark law in the area of digital replicas of identifying characteristics of individuals, and for other purposes.

By Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 10551.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 14 provides Congress with the power to make rules for the government and regulation of the land and naval forces.

The single subject of this legislation is:

Veterans

Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania:
H.R. 10552.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, clause 18 allows Congress to make all laws ''which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution'' any ''other'' powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States.
The single subject of this legislation is:
Agriculture and Food
By Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ:
H.R. 10553.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8
The single subject of this legislation is:
Historic Preservation
By Ms. PORTER:
H.R. 10554.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8
The single subject of this legislation is:
To direct the Secretary of Defense to submit to Congress annual reports on medical malpractice claims by members of the uniformed services
By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey:
H.R. 10555.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8
The single subject of this legislation is:
Law Enforcement Authorities
By Ms. VAN DUYNE:
H.R. 10556.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1 Sec. 8
The single subject of this legislation is:
Elections
By Ms. VAN DUYNE:
H.R. 10557.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8
The single subject of this legislation is:
Appropriations
By Mr. VARGAS:
H.R. 10558.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article 1 of the Constitution.
The single subject of this legislation is:
To amend the Housing and Community Development Act of 1980 and the Housing Act of 1949 to make financial assistance available to DACA recipients.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 451: Mr. CROW.
H.R. 472: Mr. CROW.
H.R. 791: Mr. GOMEZ.
H.R. 827: Ms. HOYLE of Oregon.
H.R. 866: Ms. TLAIB, Mr. TAKANO, and Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.
H.R. 1002: Mr. POCAN, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. TLAIB, and Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 1235: Mr. TAKANO, Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. COHEN, and Mr. SOTO.
H.R. 1244: Mrs. LEE CARTER.
H.R. 1406: Ms. BROWNLEY.
H.R. 1538: Mr. DAVIS of Illinois.
H.R. 2530: Ms. DELBENE.
H.R. 2961: Ms. WATERS.
H.R. 3036: Mr. CLINE.
H.R. 3611: Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas.
H.R. 3777: Mr. NEGUSE.
H.R. 3998: Mr. NEGUSE.
H.R. 4052: Mr. MULLIN and Mr. NICKEL.
H.R. 4579: Ms. MENG.
H.R. 4974: Ms. MCCLELLAN.
H.R. 5104: Mr. NEGUSE.
H.R. 5126: Ms. SPANBERGER.
H.R. 5344: Ms. SPANBERGER.
H.R. 5577: Ms. HAGEMAN.
H.R. 5645: Mr. NICKEL.
H.R. 5663: Mr. KEATING.
H.R. 5937: Mr. NEGUSE.
H.R. 5962: Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, Ms. LOFGREN, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. NORTON, and Ms. STEVENS.
H.R. 5976: Mr. DAVIS of Illinois.
H.R. 6021: Ms. TITUS, Ms. NORTON, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, and Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
H.R. 6373: Mr. CROW.
H.R. 7039: Mrs. LEE CARTER.
H.R. 7062: Mr. NEGUSE.
H.R. 7127: Mr. TAKANO and Mr. CASTEN.
H.R. 7573: Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California.
H.R. 7666: Ms. HAGEMAN.
H.R. 7670: Mr. PAPPAS.
H.R. 7958: Mr. KEATING.
H.R. 8200: Mr. CARBAJAL.
H.R. 8331: Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas and Ms. TLAIB.
H.R. 8370: Mr. TAKANO and Mr. SOTO.
H.R. 8540: Mr. PETERS.
H.R. 8617: Ms. NORTON, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. TRONE, Ms. SPANBERGER, Ms. TOKUDA, and Mr. FROST.
H.R. 8714: Ms. MENG.
H.R. 8996: Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.
H.R. 9156: Ms. TLAIB.
H.R. 9164: Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. SOTO, and Mr. SUOZZI.
H.R. 9497: Mr. NEGUSE.
H.R. 9564: Mr. CROW.
H.R. 9699: Mr. HUNT, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. JOYCE of Ohio, Mr. EZELL, Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida, Mr. WITTMAN, Mrs. HINSON, and Mr. BERGMAN.
H.R. 9770: Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky.
H.R. 9792: Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 9855: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.
H.R. 10268: Ms. MENG and Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 10318: Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana.
H.R. 10512: Mr. NEWHOUSE.
H.R. 10514: Mr. ROSE.
H. Res. 991: Mr. DAVIS of Illinois.

PETITIONS, ETC.

Under clause 3 of rule XII,

PT-56. The SPEAKER presented a petition of Mr. Gregory D. Watson, a citizen of Austin, TX, relative to requesting enactment of Federal legislation that would prohibit Federal, State, or local taxation upon disbursements from the Social Security program; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

DISCHARGE PETITIONS—ADDITIONS AND WITHDRAWALS

The following Members added their names to the following discharge petitions:

Petition 18 by Mr. COHEN on House Resolution 1452: Ms. DeGette, Mr. Boyle of Pennsylvania, Ms. Titus, Mr. Carbajal, Mr. García of Illinois, Mr. Landsman, Ms. Velázquez, Mrs. Fletcher, Mr. Castro of Texas, Mr. Nadler, Mr. Soto, Mr. Meeks, Mrs. Hayes, Ms. Brown, Ms. Brownley, Mr. Ruiz, Mr. Huffman, Mrs. Dingell, Ms. Sánchez, Ms. Davids of Kansas, Mr. Courtney, and Mr. Crow.
Petition 20 by Mr. MOULTON on House Resolution 1560: Mr. García of Illinois, Mr. Kennedy, and Mr. Allred.

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of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 118th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 170 WASHINGTON, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2024 *No. 190*

Senate

(Legislative day of Monday, December 16, 2024)

The Senate met at 10 a.m., on the expiration of the recess, and was called to order by the Honorable ALEX PADILLA, a Senator from the State of California.

PRAYER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Today's opening prayer will be offered by the wonderful Senator from the State of Oklahoma JAMES LANKFORD.

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Wonderful Counselor, mighty God, everlasting Father, Prince of Peace, the One who holds the government on Your shoulders, we are grateful for all the joy in this Christmas season. When we were arrogant, powerless, and without hope, You came.

The first Christmas You set the example of humility. You are the suffering servant who loved us and forgave us when we could bring You nothing. We could never say thank You enough.

A prayer of blessing on the Senators who are retiring from the Senate this week. In the days ahead, help them to hear Your voice and to know Your affection.

I pray for my friend Chaplain Barry Black and his family as they care for him. Give him rest, healing, and fresh insight into Your word and vision in the days ahead.

Father, You told us that when we lack wisdom, we should ask You. We are asking now. As we start this day, we do not know how it will end, but we are fixing our eyes on You, and we are asking for Your help. If You could guide the wise men from the East with a star, You can certainly guide us with Your wisdom and with Your presence.

Today, would You give us the clarity of mind to hear Your thoughts, the humility to listen to each other, and the boldness to do the right thing the right way.

Forgive us as only You can and heal our land as we turn to You.

I pray this in the powerful and present Name of Jesus. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

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

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mrs. MURRAY).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, December 20, 2024.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable ALEX PADILLA, a Senator from the State of California, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATTY MURRAY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. PADILLA thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Benjamin J. Cheeks, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of California.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, if Republicans do not work with Democrats in a bipartisan way very soon, the government will shut down at midnight.

It is time to go back to the original agreement we had just a few days ago. It is time the House votes on our bipartisan CR. It is the quickest, simplest, and easiest way we can make sure the government stays open while delivering critical emergency aid to the American people.

If the House put our original agreement on the floor today, it would pass, and we could put the threat of a shutdown behind us. Our agreement would keep the government open, provide emergency aid for communities battered by hurricanes and other natural disasters, support our seniors, support our doctors, nurses, rural hospitals, and protect our farmers from the dairy cliff.

As I said, the only—only—way to get anything done is through bipartisanship.

BUSINESS BEFORE THE SENATE

Mr. President, now on Senate business, as the Senate continues working on government funding, the Senate has other matters to attend to on the floor.

Today, the Senate is scheduled to vote on two more district judges: Ben Cheeks to be the district judge for the Southern District of California and Serena Murillo to be the district judge for the Central District of California.

For the information of my colleagues, our first vote will be at 11 o'clock to advance the Cheeks nomination. If cloture is invoked, the Senate will then vote to confirm Judge Cheeks

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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sometime this afternoon. And after that, we will proceed with a rollcall vote to advance the Murillo nomination. It is my hope that we can finish voting on these two judicial nominees by the end of the day.

SOCIAL SECURITY FAIRNESS ACT

Mr. President, finally, the Senate will keep working on the Social Security Fairness Act. We should pass the bill sent to us by the House as soon as we can. It is very important for our retired teachers and firefighters and postal workers and police officers and so many other public servants who deserve their full Social Security benefits.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Iowa.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I am here to visit with my colleagues about the Social Security bill that is before the Senate, but before I do that, I would like to give my point of view from past shutdowns of the Federal Government and why the shutdown of the Government is a bad idea.

Usually, people approach shutting the Government down because they have some big scheme they want to accomplish, and they will accomplish it during the negotiations to opening up the Government or accomplishing from the threat of shutting down the Government. What I have found in past instances when that has been tried: You shut the government down. You open the government up. And that Member or Members have not accomplished the goal that they wanted to accomplish.

It costs money to shut the Government down. It costs money during this week to get ready to shut the Government down. And after a period of time of a day or, at the most, 35 days, about 6 or 7 years ago, Government opens up, and it costs money to open the Government up.

The Government is supposed to be a service for the American people, and you can't serve the American people when the Government isn't operating. So I hope that something can be accomplished today or tomorrow so the Government stays open.

SOCIAL SECURITY TRUST FUND

Mr. President, now to the Social Security trust fund, that fund is speeding toward insolvency. Come 2033, seniors will automatically see their retirement benefits cut 25 percent, absent congressional action. Congress should be working toward a consensus on legislation to ensure that this never happens. Instead, we are on the cusp of enacting significant changes to Social Security that will result in larger cuts that would normally happen 2033 but now happen sooner. If the bill before us is enacted, a typical senior would see their benefits cut by an additional $4,000 and 6 months earlier than that date that is predicted now to be the year 2033. That is quite a stocking stuffer for 50 million seniors that depend on Social Security, some who have no other income, like from pensions, for example.

While the vast majority of seniors stand to receive a lump of coal for Christmas, a select few State and local government employees will be gifted a boost in their benefits. In Iowa, only 1 percent of the retirees would benefit, while everyone else would get less. That doesn't sound fair to me.

Now, don't get me wrong. I have great respect for the government workers in Iowa. This includes the police officers and firefighters to whom we owe our gratitude. Congress should work to address the inequities that the bill before us is trying to solve.

Let's be crystal clear: This bill would increase unfairness in how Social Security benefits are calculated. The Social Security windfall elimination provision—or WEP, as it is called around here—which this bill repeals, addresses a real concern that exists in how the Social Security benefit formula works, or more, how it fails to work when the government employee spends most of their career in non-Social Security covered positions. The Social Security benefit formula is designed to be progressive; that is, it provides a low-income worker a more generous benefit relative to their contributions compared to a middle-class income individual. As a result, absent the windfall elimination provision, senior-level employees who spend most of their career not contributing to Social Security, while also earning a high salary and a government pension, would receive a generous Social Security benefit working as few as 10 years covered by Social Security.

The Social Security formula treats those 10 years as if this was their only income during their working life and therefore provides an unfair bonus. That is simply not fair to the average private sector worker who spends their entire career paying Social Security taxes, earning similar or lower pay than the government workers but receives less Social Security benefit per dollar paid in.

Now, you don't have to take this Senator's word for it. AARP, the premiere voice for senior citizens, says as much in its website, noting that repealing the WEP without replacing it would allow individuals to inaccurately receive a higher Social Security benefit than if they had worked their whole careers in jobs covered by Social Security.

This unfairness doesn't only exist between government workers and private sector workers. Most States have opted into Social Security for the vast majority of their workers. These States' government employees and retirees covered by Social Security see no benefit under this bill.

In Iowa, only 8 percent of government workers are not covered by Social Security. For some States, it is fewer than 5 percent. But there happens to be a handful of States where 50 percent or more of their workers are exempt from Social Security and thus don't pay Social Security taxes. For instance, in the State of Massachusetts, it is over 97 percent of their government employees.

Can you imagine that? Liberal Massachusetts thinks their government employees are too good for Social Security.

It is these States that will be the big winner under this bill. Effectively, States like Iowa, where the vast majority of government employees are covered by Social Security, are being asked to subsidize the retirement of government workers in Massachusetts, California, Colorado—States that largely choose to opt out of Social Security.

I have put forward a commonsense and fiscally responsible amendment. It would address the inequity that can arise due to how current law addresses noncovered Social Security employment without the unfairness that will arise under the bill before us.

My amendment would pay for the repeal of the windfall elimination provision and the government pension offset, while also making Social Security fair for everyone.

Under my amendment, if State and local employees who are not currently covered by Social Security voluntarily opt in to Social Security, these rules are repealed for current and future retirees of that State's government pension system.

Only current workers under 52 or with at least 10 years until retirement would need to join Social Security. This helps ensure such workers will work long enough to earn Social Security benefits. They would also be able to get the benefit of the more generous Social Security formula.

The underlying bill would raid from the Social Security trust fund $200 billion. In contrast, my amendment would increase Social Security solvency by $100 billion if all States took advantage of my proposal. So that is a win-win for everyone.

Now, I know that this bill will probably be debated under no opportunity to offer my amendment or an amendment by Senator CRUZ of Texas that would also be more fiscally responsible than the bill before us and not harm senior citizens by reducing their income from the Social Security trust fund 6 months sooner than otherwise.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MERKLEY. 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.

GAZA

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, we are all here, getting ready to leave after we fund the government and return home to our families. We get pretty excited about this time of year thinking about the holidays to come. We are heading home to our loved ones. We know there will be extended family gatherings. There will be games with the children. There will be exchanges of presents. There will be food. There will be awesome food—ham, turkey, all kinds of wonderfully crafted vegetable dishes—and there will be so much that we can drink. Oh, yes. There will be wine varieties. There will eggnog; perhaps some of it will be spiked. There will be carbonated apple juice or cranberry juice for the kids. We will put it into glasses, and we will have a toast. We will really celebrate life. We will celebrate life with a roof over our heads, with our loved ones close by, and with our cupboards well-stocked.

Also in these holidays, there will be time for reflection in every religious tradition. For those of us who are fortunate to have that roof over our heads and food in the cupboards and our loved ones close by, we will recognize that, for so many, that is not the case. For so many here in the United States, who by virtue of economic conditions or the ravages of disease or mental afflictions, they will not have a roof over their heads; they may not have family members close by; they may not even have a cupboard, let alone one that is well-stocked. We will ponder our responsibility to try to improve those conditions.

We will ponder the landscape across the broader globe, knowing that in many places, people have been so ravaged by natural disasters, so affected by conflict and war. I am sure we will see programs and commentary about Sudan, where millions have been displaced by civil war and by drought and by famine; or in Burma, where so many are suffering escalating violence; or in Ukraine, where people are brutalized by Putin's invasion, in the efforts to defend their country.

No matter where you look, there is no shortage of suffering, but the place that weighs the heaviest on my heart this season is the Middle East. We have the families of Israel continuing to grieve the losses of 1,200 of their own loved ones on October 7, 2023. We have families in Israel who continue to not know the fate of their loved ones taken hostage—whether they are alive, whether they are dead, whether they are being cared for, whether they are suffering. Will they be released? And there will be an empty chair at the table.

The victims in Israel weigh on my heart, but the Palestinian victims also weigh on my heart, individuals in the West Bank—Palestinians who have suffered from decades of occupation, of the economic constraints and indignity that come from checkpoints, that come from land lost to settlements and to outposts, to olive orchards bulldozed down, to lives lost and injuries suffered from increasing violence by settlers against Palestinian villagers.

But, by far, the most devastated communities are the Palestinian communities in Gaza because of the extraordinary level of devastation. And it weighs on my heart because of the connection between the United States and Israel, our close connection with our ally, where we share security strategies, where we provide economic and military assistance. We share intelligence on the issues of the world. We are so closely connected that we are connected to the devastation in Gaza.

Since October 7, 2023, more than 45,000 Palestinians in Gaza have died. More than 100,000 have been severely injured. The vast bulk of those injured and those who have died are women and children and seniors—people who have no connection whatsoever to Hamas, which conducted the raids on October 7 of 2023. The devastation is massive.

This same picture, taken in North Gaza, could be almost copied for community after community from north to south of Gaza.

Of the 2.1 million people, the Palestinians in Gaza, some 1.9 million—almost everyone, that is—are without a home, either because their home has been blasted into smithereens or because they have been forcibly moved to a different location within Gaza—forced relocation.

A year ago, Senator VAN HOLLEN and I went to Rafah gate. We had hoped to get inside Gaza to see with our own eyes and talk to people and understand better the devastation, but what we heard a year ago was that all of the fundamentals for a normal community were devastated. Shelter I have already spoken to—the 1.9 million people relocated either because they were forced to flee or because their homes no longer existed; that the phone networks were down; that the cell networks were down; that the internet networks were down. Even if they were up, people had very little opportunity to recharge their cell phones because there wasn't electricity. So the power was down. The transportation was down because many roads were impassable. Food was in short supply, driving malnutrition a year ago. Clean water was often unavailable a year ago.

A year ago, Senator VAN HOLLEN and I could not get into Gaza. Reporters have not been allowed into Gaza except for very carefully monitored, short visits monitored by the Netanyahu government. Humanitarian organizations were having a hard time getting in and often had to do a very careful exchange of an exact number for an exact number coming out.

But as we stood there at that gate, a couple of doctors came out, and I spent some time talking to them. One of them was a burn specialist, who described how hard it was to treat many of the massive burns he had witnessed. The other was a bone doctor, and he said: I can treat the broken bones, but I can't necessarily treat the soft tissue damage that comes from the shock waves that emanate from all of the explosions taking down the buildings. The impact, he said, of a blast's radius in terms of the shock waves was even greater than the physical damage.

We were able to talk to humanitarian organizations of aid workers who had been in Gaza, and they said: Understand this—that we are seasoned workers who have been in the worst places in the world. We have been in Yemen. We have been on the frontlines of Ukraine. We have been in Sudan. Nothing compares to the devastation in Gaza.

That was a year ago.

I was particularly affected by hearing about the challenges of mothers. Mothers receive our attention particularly when they are carrying babies because all our efforts go to making sure that delivery—that child will come safely into the world, healthy into the world, and that the mother will be cared for. But what we heard from the humanitarian organizations was that hunger was driving malnutrition and malnutrition made people more susceptible to disease, and for mothers, it meant increases in miscarriages, increases in stillbirths, increases in very low birth weight babies, increases in the difficulty of mothers' breastfeeding their children because they were too malnourished to produce milk, and babies getting sick because when formula was used, if available, the water might be contaminated.

Think about the children you have brought into the world or that your wife or your partner has brought into the world and how horrific it would be to see those circumstances.

This time of year is a time of year in my spiritual tradition where we think a lot about the challenges Mary went through. She and Joseph were traveling from Galilee to Bethlehem, and they were traveling there at the time that Mary was very pregnant with Jesus, because a census had been ordered by Roman Emperor Caesar Augustus, and they were required to be there and report to Joseph's ancestral home of Bethlehem. Traveling the roads when one is pregnant is very hard. And then they weren't able to find a room in Bethlehem, and Mary went into labor and delivered in a barn—not ideal circumstances.

Because of this time of year and because we think about that story so much, the mothers in Gaza—their conditions are so much worse. It is something we can connect with. And now the children in Gaza are entering their second year in this devastation. Some have some format of school, but many do not.

Now, we here in America know—we know—what COVID did to interrupt the education of our children. Some did well with tutors. Many suffered isolation. Many suffered setbacks in what they learned. Many are still carrying that challenge forward as they seek education. So we can also connect to the children of Gaza who have had their education, their lives so disrupted—lives disrupted by a lack of food and water, instability, a lack of safety.

Two weeks ago, an ambassador from the Middle East drew attention to a part of Gaza in worse shape than the rest of Gaza, and he referred to this area. Specifically, it is North Gaza. And where is North Gaza? You have northern Gaza and southern Gaza separated by the Netzarim Corridor that travels from Israel to the Mediterranean Sea. But then within northern Gaza, you have Gaza City and then communities: Beit Lahia, Beit Hanoun, and Jabalia. In those communities, he said, there are 65,000 people who are starving to death because food cannot get in—65,000 people starving.

We know food conditions have been horrific in Gaza for a year; but in this case, it is sustained prevention of food getting in, and people are starving. He asserted this, so I asked a visiting official from another Middle Eastern country about this. And he emphasized, yes. Yes, he said, there are, in fact, 65,000 people or more starving in northern Gaza, isolated from the rest of the world.

OK. Well, that is two officials. But that is a big thing to say. But then this came out, ''Gaza Humanitarian Access Snapshot #8.'' It is cosigned by 30 organizations, organizations like Save the Children, like CARE, like Mercy Corps, and 27 others.

What do they say in this report? They say.

. . . leaving 65,000–75,000 people trapped without food, water, electricity or reliable healthcare.

That is a direct quote from the report of these 30 humanitarian organizations.

It goes on to say:

Humanitarian aid has been almost entirely blocked for 60 days.

It goes on to say that ''only three hospitals remain partially operational with restricted access.'' Very little healthcare.

It says:

The population faces imminent risks of disease, starvation, and violence without urgent relief.

Without urgent relief.

I called up Cindy McCain. We know Cindy well here. Cindy McCain is executive director of the World Food Programme. She is the spouse of our former deceased colleague John McCain. I said to her: Is this right? Are 65,000 people isolated in north Gaza for week after week after week, no deliveries of food or virtually none? She said, ''Yes.'' She said, yes, that is the case.

She didn't just say it to me. She also talked about Gaza more broadly. She said we can no longer sit by and just allow these people to starve to death. Children, especially, she said, are starving to death. The height of malnutrition, the height of hunger in that region is unbelievably horrible.

In November, the United Nations made 41 attempts to deliver aid to this section of north Gaza, to the besieged people trapped in north Gaza. But 37 of the 41 attempts were blocked by the Netanyahu government; four other deliveries were not blocked but were troubled.

Here is the situation. A year ago, we heard that if there isn't sufficient food, chaos will ensue because starving people will storm whatever truck there is that has food because they are desperate. The trucks won't be able to make it to the warehouse. Or if they do make it to the warehouse, the warehouse will be sacked.

We are now in the very condition that the humanitarian organizations told us would happen. So very little food is being allowed in; and what is being allowed in can't be distributed in any significant, organized fashion, and people are starving. Even if those four truckloads could have been at the warehouse and distributed, there is too little food—a microscopic amount of food—for the 65,000 people who are there.

So here we are now. Gaza's destruction—this destruction that we saw in the previous chart, this destruction—this is carried out by American bombs. This is how we are complicit in this situation. It is our munitions that are being used by the Israel Defense Forces to produce this result. We are connected; and, therefore, we are morally connected to the situation in Gaza.

Our weapon packages have included 50,000 120-mm high explosive mortar rounds. Our provisions have included more than 32,000 120-mm tank rounds, more than 14,000 2,000-pound bombs, and 6,500 500-pound bombs, and hundreds of 250-pound bombs.

Think about a 2,000-pound bomb. This is like the biggest bomb. The New York Times described how, when it is dropped, it is designed to break fortified military bunkers. It will create a massive crater 40 to 50 feet wide. And when it explodes, it will shatter ''into razor-sharp fragments that can kill or incapacitate people over several hundred feet.''

You kind of get the feeling how any bomb like that is indiscriminate. Whether it is dropped on the intended building or it falls somewhere further afield, it kills a tremendous number of civilians. We are providing those bombs.

The Biden administration suspended the delivery of 200-pound bombs to the Netanyahu government because of that and also suspended the 500-pound bombs. But the Wall Street Journal reported in July that the delivery of the 500-pound bombs had been restored.

The point here is we continue to be deeply connected and tied to this devastation in Gaza. It is not just the devastation of civilians, it is also American lives, and it is also international law.

National Security Memorandum 20—a process that was created because of the work of my colleague Senator VAN HOLLEN, says this:

It is reasonable to assess that defense articles covered . . . have been used by Israeli security forces . . . inconsistent with its International Humanitarian Law [and the] obligations for mitigating civilian harm.

So what have we done? It was last February—now 10 months ago—that a group of us called on the United States for ''Operation Gaza Relief.'' We must at least provide massive amounts of humanitarian aid so people are not starving in Gaza. We have that responsibility.

If we are urging Israel to provide the aid, which is the best strategy, but they do not do it, we have the obligation to provide it. And we did so little.

We have the most massive sealift capability in the world, and we didn't use a single bit of it to address the humanitarian crisis in Gaza.

We have two hospital ships that have a thousand beds each, and we did not move them into the Mediterranean to help out. We did not encourage other nations to provide their hospital ships.

We did do one modest thing. We did a floating pier that operated intermittently from May to July that had all kinds of problems breaking up in the waves. It provided, ultimately—at the best estimate—enough food for people of Gaza for a week, not at all addressing the magnitude of the challenge.

We had a responsibility to provide help, independent of any other cessation of hostilities, and we failed.

Yes, we pressed for a cessation of hostilities. We pressed for a ceasefire. And I applaud the administration for doing so. But while that failed, we also failed. We, America, failed in our responsibility to provide relief to the humanitarian suffering, on which we are so closely connected.

Our own law says that if our aid is impeded—as it has been by the Netanyahu government—that we cannot provide arms. But we have been violating our own law.

620I says:

No assistance shall be furnished under this Act or the Arms Export Control Act to any country when it is made known to the President that the government of such country prohibits or other otherwise redirects, directly or indirectly, the transport or delivery of United States humanitarian assistance.

We have a moral responsibility, and we have a legal responsibility. So we must—must—do more. We must do more in the remaining weeks of this administration. We must do more in the opening year of the next administration, because these issues of moral responsibility, these issues of international law, do not depend on who sits in the Oval Office.

So as we stand here about to go home and celebrate with our big plates of food and our full pitchers of wine, as we read our cards calling for peace in the world, as we offer our prayers, let us not forget those who suffer in the Middle East. Let us not forget the families who lost their family members on October 7 in Israel. Let us not forget the families in Israel whose family members are still held hostage. Let us not forget those on the West Bank suffering the inflictions of local violence. But most of all, let us not forget the victims in Gaza and do all we can, under our moral responsibility, under our legal responsibility, to come to their aid.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. VAN HOLLEN). The Senator from California.

Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to waive the mandatory quorum call.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CLOTURE MOTION

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. 849, Benjamin J. Cheeks, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of California.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Tammy Duckworth, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Tammy Baldwin, Catherine Cortez Masto, Debbie Stabenow, Patty Murray, Amy Klobuchar, Chris Van Hollen, Jack Reed, Jeanne Shaheen, Andy Kim, Margaret Wood Hassan, Elizabeth Warren, Christopher A. Coons, Adam B. Schiff, Jeff Merkley.

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 Benjamin J. Cheeks, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of California, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) and the Senator from California (Mr. SCHIFF) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 49, nays 47, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 329 Ex.]

YEAS—49

Baldwin	Cantwell	Cortez Masto
Bennet	Cardin	Duckworth
Blumenthal	Carper	Durbin
Booker	Casey	Fetterman
Brown	Coons	Gillibrand
Hassan	Murphy	Smith
Heinrich	Murray	Stabenow
Hickenlooper	Ossoff	Tester
Hirono	Padilla	Van Hollen
Kaine	Peters	Warner
Kelly	Reed	Warnock
Kim	Rosen	Warren
King	Sanders	Welch
Klobuchar	Schatz	Whitehouse
Luján	Schumer	Wyden
Markey	Shaheen	
Merkley	Sinema	

NAYS—47

Barrasso	Fischer	Murkowski
Blackburn	Graham	Paul
Boozman	Grassley	Ricketts
Braun	Hagerty	Risch
Britt	Hawley	Romney
Budd	Hoeven	Rounds
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Schmitt
Cassidy	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Collins	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Lankford	Sullivan
Cotton	Lee	Thune
Cramer	Lummis	Tillis
Crapo	Marshall	Tuberville
Cruz	McConnell	Wicker
Daines	Moran	Young
Ernst	Mullin	

NOT VOTING—4

Manchin	Schiff
Rubio	Vance

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 49, the nays are 47.

The motion is agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The senior Senator from Maryland.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—H.R. 766

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, in a moment, I am going to be making a unanimous consent request. I am going to wait for Senator GRASSLEY to be on the floor.

Let me just, if I might, explain what the unanimous consent will be. It deals with H.R. 766. I am a proud sponsor of the Preventive Health Savings Act since the 113th Congress as it stands. The Congressional Budget Office scores budgetary implications of preventive health legislation in a 10-year timeframe, limiting Congress's ability to understand the long-term impacts of meaningful prevention policies.

This bicameral, bipartisan legislation would direct CBO to more accurately reflect the long-term cost saving potential of preventive healthcare initiatives and encourage the use of data-informed preventive health measures.

On March 19 of this year, the House of Representatives passed this legislation by voice vote.

Now, here is the challenge we have. This legislation will allow us to implement preventive healthcare sooner. That will save lives and will save dollars. To just give you one example, we now have a multicancer blood screening test that could be implemented for certain targeted populations.

The longer that is delayed—and being reimbursable under our healthcare system—the more people are not going to have the advantage of that, and more lives are going to be lost. And later detection of cancer, we know, is a more costly type of care that is needed, and it costs more money.

So we have a chance today, because this is a House-passed bill, to send this bill to the President, and that is why I will be making a unanimous consent request in regards to the bill.

I know that Senator GRASSLEY has other legislation that he has been trying to get attached. I will urge him not to do that because it will, obviously, mean this bill will not pass. His issue is not related to the issue that this bill is about.

I want to thank Senator WHITEHOUSE and Senator GRASSLEY for their help on the Budget Committee itself. But this is our last opportunity to do something meaningful to implement preventive healthcare that will save lives and actually save dollars for the taxpayers of this country. There is no question about it. This bill saves money, and we can get it done now.

Any amendment on it, obviously, would have to go back to the House, and there is no possibility that the House would agree to it.

Mr. President, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 766, which was received from the House and is at the desk; further, that the bill be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Iowa is recognized.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, I have a counteroffer. But before I get to that, I want to say, first of all, it is not easy for me to stand here and object to something the Senator from Maryland wants to bring up, because he is a gentleman in the 100 percent way in the U.S. Senate. So it is not easy to go against his ideas.

But I want you to know, I have been working on the this with Representative BURGESS, the leader in the House of Representatives, and we offered four amendments to him. In the negotiations, he agreed to two of them, and two of them he didn't agree to. And we agreed not to push for that amendment.

So we felt that we had good discussions with Representative BURGESS. But now we are working on the House bill here, and none of those things that Burgess agreed to could be. So where we are is that, even though Burgess agreed to some compromise, Senators over here have issues with preventing Congress from depositing savings into the Medicare Improvement Fund in budget years 11 through 30, based upon CBO estimates of preventing health savings legislation.

Now, I have no doubt that preventive medicine saves money, but putting money in a fund for 11 to 30 years out can only lead to what we know happens too often here in the U.S. Senate of budget gimmicks, saying that we are going to use funds in a certain fund. Well, that is a perfectly legitimate thing to do, but you have to have confidence that what CBO says about that is going to be legitimate and have credibility.

And so what I have been trying to work out with Representative BURGESS

is just exactly to do that: Put this fund out there. As you say, it is going to save money. But I want to make sure that CBO, when they say something, we have a way of verifying that.

So I want to say that I appreciate the intentions of this bill. Increasing preventive healthcare to improve health outcomes and help patients and taxpayers avoid costly treatment and services down the road is a laudable goal. However, I am concerned that, as currently constructed, this bill will lead to budget gimmicks that will ultimately increase rather than decrease health spending.

The sponsors are well aware of my concerns. I worked in good faith to offer up ideas to address my budget gimmick concerns. I made it clear I am willing to compromise. I have already done so with my most recent offer and dropped commonsense budget process reform provisions that I thought were important. And these budget process reforms were what was in the famous Enzi-Whitehouse bill that Senator Enzi—former-Senator Enzi—and, now, Senator WHITEHOUSE worked out in Budget Committee reform. And I have said that BURGESS was willing to go along with my changes to establish commonsense guardrails and to prevent budget gimmicks. But these changes have been rejected in the Senate, and my concerns haven't been addressed.

The bill before us contains no commonsense guardrails, such as requiring a disclaimer that a supplementary estimate doesn't replace a CBO 10-year cost estimate, ensuring supplementary estimates are separate and distinct from the 10-year cost estimates, and requiring the Congressional Budget Office to be transparent in their modeling.

That latter point is based on the proposition that we expect CBO to show us how they arrived at figures dealing with cost savings of some particular preventive medicine program.

The bill also doesn't address concerns about how supplementary analysis could be used for budget gimmicks in the future, such as depositing uncertain out-year savings into the Medicare and Medicaid Improvement Funds.

The bill needs commonsense guardrails to prevent budget gimmicks. So I would like to suggest this alternative.

So I ask the Senator from Maryland to modify his request to include my amendment, which is at the desk; that the amendment be considered and agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the modification?

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, if I might—and, again, I appreciate Senator GRASSLEY's comments about this Senator. I feel the same about Senator GRASSLEY. He has been an incredible voice in the U.S. Senate, particularly on transparency, particularly against waste, and has taken on some of the most challenging battles here on the floor of the U.S. Senate.

I have worked on this legislation now for several Congresses. My partners are Senator CRAPO, Senator CRAMER, Senator KING. We have all worked on this bill together.

And the bill is very simple. It just allows a more realistic budget window for preventive healthcare. And it is something that we have been talking about for a long time so that we don't get trapped with high upfront costs that have large savings, and we never get to the savings because CBO cannot score it under the current budget rules.

The challenges that Senator GRASSLEY is raising are not in this bill. We have worked very closely with the budget people to make sure that this bill does not contain the concerns that Senator GRASSLEY is raising.

The Senator might be raising a very legitimate concerns, but it is not this legislation that is causing it. This legislation only allows us to be able to implement in a more realistic way preventive healthcare services with legitimate cost estimates and offsets so that we can get the savings from preventive healthcare and implement preventive healthcare sooner, saving lives and dollars.

We can make progress on this issue now. The problem is twofold with the request that is being made. First, the potential abuse is not in this legislation. It deals with a broader issue. And then, secondly, if this bill is amended, I think Senator GRASSLEY also understands the chances of passage are zero. There is no possibility that this bill can be taken up in the House at this late stage.

So this is our last opportunity. I came to the floor today and not before because I respect greatly Senator GRASSLEY and his concerns, and I was hoping we could find a path forward for that to happen. But there is no path forward for that to happen now, and by including the request, I would be sacrificing both bills. And I would hope the Senator would recognize that and allow this modest improvement for preventive healthcare to go forward.

With that, I regretfully object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection on the modification is heard.

Is there objection to the original request?

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, yes, I object. I would like to—

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Around here, we use the words ''budget gimmickry'' pretty freely. And I want to say, as an example, that every Senator in this Senate knows the term ''Medicare sequester'' as a budget gimmick, so something at the end of the 10-year window we are going to draw in to spend money today. That is one example of a budget gimmick. I just want to make sure that we don't widen that down the road.

I yield the floor.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COUNTER-UAS AUTHORITY EXTENSION ACT

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, as if in legislative session and notwithstanding rule XXII, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 5639, which was introduced earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 5639) to extend the authority for the protection of certain facilities and assets from unmanned aircraft.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. PETERS. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read three times 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. 5639) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 5639

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 ''Counter-UAS Authority Extension Act''.

SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF COUNTER-UAS AUTHORITIES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY AND THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE.

Section 210G(i) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 124n(i)) is amended by striking ''December 20, 2024'' and inserting ''September 30, 2025''.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, as we near the deadline to fund the government tonight without a clear path from my Republican colleagues in the House, it appears that we are once again on the brink of a government shutdown. When the clock runs out at midnight, the current authorities that the Department of Homeland Security and the FBI have to safely disable drones that pose a security threat will also expire, and we simply cannot let that happen.

I just received unanimous consent to pass a bill that will extend the current authorities for 1 year. I appreciate my Senate colleagues for joining me in passing this legislation so that our Federal law enforcement Agencies can continue to protect against dangerous drones while giving us additional time

to work on bipartisan legislation that Senator JOHNSON and I have authored to strengthen counterdrone efforts.

There are now more than 1 million drones currently registered in the United States, and the overwhelming majority of them are used for hobby, commercial, or law enforcement purposes and in a responsible and legal way, but we have also seen many instances where drones can pose a serious threat to the safety of the public, our critical infrastructure, our airports, and our communities.

From the reports of drone sightings in New Jersey that have led to airport runway closures and caused alarm in multiple cities to drone incursions at NFL games that put fans and teams' safety at risk, we need to be able to take the appropriate actions to identify, track, and safely disable drones that could be a threat.

Earlier this week, I called on the Senate to pass strong bipartisan legislation that would not only extend the current authorities we have in place to take down threatening drones but that would also help address the current concerns we are seeing from communities all across our country by helping to provide State and local law enforcement with the authority to use technology to identify and disarm risky drones so that they can protect our own communities. Unfortunately, that legislation was blocked from passing, and that is why it is so important that we just passed this 1-year extension so that the FBI and the DHS will be able to disable any drones that pose a danger to public service.

So I want to thank my colleagues for joining me in passing this 1-year extension so that we can ensure we will be able to protect our communities from any immediate drone threats. I hope my colleagues on both sides of the aisle will continue to work with me in the months ahead, along with Senator JOHNSON, on a larger piece of legislation that will allow us to more effectively address the risks posed by increasing numbers of drones in our country.

I yield the floor.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

118TH CONGRESS

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, it is hardly breaking news that this is December 20—5 days before Christmas, a day celebrated by 2 billion people throughout the world. It is also the last day of the 118th Congress, and there is no better time than the present to take stock of what we have done or not done this last year.

Students around the country wrapped up their semester, and they have come home with a report card to show their parents the grades they have earned in things like math, science, English, and other subjects. Of course, report cards are a helpful metric of advancement—or not, as the case may be. It is also a means to hold people accountable—where they are excelling, where they need to improve.

Here in the Senate, I think it is important to issue the Democratic majority a similar report card-style evaluation. People may wonder: Well, why would it just be of the Democratic majority and not the Senate as a whole? Well, obviously each of us represents our respective State, but there is one important difference: Only the majority leader, the Democratic majority leader, sets the Senate's schedule.

That means we consider bills that only he calls up for consideration. No one else in the Senate—not the other 99 of us—can schedule bills for votes.

That also means that what he does not schedule on the Senate's calendar is not considered, including bills that have passed the House, even by broad bipartisan majorities. And in a few short days, all the bills that he has chosen not to schedule will suffer a quiet death.

The majority leader's ability to run this Chamber has repercussions in every State, city, and community across the country. As public servants, we are all accountable to the people we serve. And leaders of the institution should be accountable as well, which is what I want to proceed to do now.

Last year, the majority leader's report card at the halfway mark of the congressional session showed that he had quite a bit of room for improvement in the second half of this 2-year session. But, unfortunately, I am sorry to report, he did not improve his performance last year. In fact, in the recent referendum on Senate Democrats' performance, which is the general election of November 5, the American people voted for Republicans to take over the reins of the Senate next year because they believed the Senate—and the country—was headed in the wrong direction.

So let's start with government funding. That seems particularly timely now, since here we are in another government shutdown narrative, which is—I will show or attempt to show that it is entirely contrived and is by design and is not the way the Senate should be running.

You recall, last year, the majority leader earned an incomplete on this subject. I had hopes that we would see a change in the way we handled the government funding. So the first 2 months of this calendar year, we saw the Appropriations Committee pass bipartisan appropriations bills that were never scheduled on the Senate floor.

Now we find ourselves in the exact same situation as last year. The Appropriations Committee did their work, again, on a bipartisan basis. Many of the 12 bills they passed were passed unanimously but never called up or scheduled for votes here in the Senate.

Leader SCHUMER made the exact same mistake he made last year. He procrastinated on scheduling floor time to consider the bills, and we are, even now, as I speak, dealing with the funding decisions that should have been decided and settled last September.

So here we are, less than 3 days before the Senate was scheduled to head home, he negotiated a text of a bill that was more than 1,500 pages. You might wonder why is it that he would fail to call up the 12 funding bills for the entire rest of the year and then 3 days before we are supposed to leave for the Christmas recess, propose a 1,500-page bill.

Well, it should seem pretty obvious. It is because the people who negotiate that bill are not the rank-and-file members of the Senate. As a matter of fact, they don't even get a chance to change the negotiated product, which is done between the so-called Big Four. So he was hoping to shove through a ''cramnibus'' that lawmakers would not even have time to read, and he snuck in a pay raise for Congress to boot.

Now it is only a few days before the end of the year, and we are in the exact same boat we found ourselves last year. We are now tasked with passing a continuing resolution to kick the can down the road even more into March. Again, this should have been addressed last September.

I must say, I am disappointed but not entirely surprised. It was part of a plan.

So I believe that on the appropriations process, keeping the lights on and keeping the government open, the report card for the Democratic majority and the majority leader is an F.

Now let's turn to the National Defense Authorization Act. I have said time and time again on this floor something that I think we all recognize; that this is the most dangerous world since World War II, with North Korea sending soldiers to fight with the Russians in Ukraine; with Kim Jong Un launching missiles over allies of the United States into the Sea of Japan; with Hamas and Hezbollah and the Houthis—the proxies for Tehran—killing innocent people; and then, of course, the war in Ukraine, which has tragically gone on for 2 years with hundreds and thousands of people dead. So you would think that one of the most important things we would do is pass the National Defense Authorization bill—something we have done literally 63 years in a row.

That bill should have been signed into law by the end of the last fiscal year, which is September 30. But, yes, once again, the majority leader—the only person who can schedule these bills on the floor—procrastinated.

That bill was finally completed the last week of the year, more than 2 months past the deadline. But just like government funding, the majority leader did not learn from his mistakes on the NDAA.

Two days ago, on Wednesday of this week, he actually came down here and brazenly acknowledged what many people had said; that they were worried

that we would not even be able to pass the Defense Authorization bill this year because he hadn't scheduled it for consideration on the floor. But he came down and bragged that, yes, here we are; we are going to vote on the NDAA. But it is a conference report that rank-and-file members have never had the chance to debate and amend on the Senate floor. This, again, was a bill negotiated behind closed doors, not in the light of day with Senators—all 100 Senators—having a chance to participate. It was just a railroad job. He acts like the way he handled it was to his credit, but just the opposite is true.

Next, we have the farm bill. A strong and on-time farm bill is essential to the health and well-being of the agriculture industry, the American people, and our economy.

Texas, which I am proud to represent, is home to more than 230,000 farms and ranches—more than any other State in the country. One out of every seven Texans works in an ag-related job, so this legislation provides critical lifelines for the folks back home. And here again, last year, the Senate failed to pass a farm bill on a timely basis and instead kicked the can down the road.

Unfortunately, recently, the chair of the Agriculture Committee—a Democratic chair—waited until November—that was just last month—to release a partisan farm bill that was simply not going to cut it for our farmers and ranchers back home, and it had no chance of passing because it was strictly a party-line, partisan bill. So instead of working together on a bipartisan basis to pass a fair and effective farm bill on time, we had to scramble to include farm assistance in the end-of-the-year continuing resolution. That was part of the 1,500-page bill that the majority leader and others negotiated, which, unfortunately, does not look like it is going to go anywhere—that part of it, the farm assistance.

But we wouldn't have needed to do that, or at least not the scale at which that farm assistance was provided for, if we had simply done our work on time and passed a timely farm bill.

Of course, this continuing resolution, or whatever the House ends up sending to us, doesn't allow producers to plan, doesn't give them certainty for multiple years. The least Congress could do for our farmers and ranchers is to provide them agricultural assistance now.

Playing politics with the livelihoods of the very people who grow our crops and feed the world is unacceptable. That is why getting our work done on the farm bill on time is so important, and it is something that the Republican majority will deliver on next year.

So for this Congress, the Democratic leader, once again, has earned an F for failing to pass a timely farm bill.

With a C-plus on the NDAA and multiple Fs, we have to wonder, What has Senator SCHUMER been doing all year? What has the Senate been doing all year if we haven't done our work on time? What has happened?

The answer is, we have simply squandered our time. There are 365 days in a year. According to my colleague, the incoming Senate majority leader JOHN THUNE, in 2024, the Senate had been in session only 116 days out of 365—116 days—as of today. Last year, we were in session a little bit longer, 124 days. But this year, we had nine Mondays during the regular session weeks where the Senate took an extra recess day off. So we came in on Tuesday and left on Thursday. Honestly, looking at it, we only worked about 2½ days a week.

I am relieved that the incoming majority leader is going to put this Chamber back to work and produce our work on time next year.

The majority leader has also wasted a significant part of the year with the summer of show votes, when he could have been getting this other essential work done. Show votes are something that he knows are not going to pass but are designed for political messaging or to embarrass the opposing political party.

We voted on a number of bills that were never intended to pass. We voted on a tax package that hadn't even been considered here in the Senate by the Finance Committee mere hours before the Senate was scheduled for a recess.

This is a huge bill that hadn't received any input from the Senate Finance Committee—none. It could not have been more clear that the majority leader was playing games, not actually trying to produce a legislative result.

So the only subject where the Democratic leader was remotely successful was this last one here, procrastination. He gets an A. But no one takes a class in procrastination. Recess is not a subject that receives a grade either.

In short, this is an embarrassing report card for the majority leader and the Democratic majority this last year.

It is no surprise, given this lack luster performance, that the American people chose a different direction in the November 5 election.

While I am disappointed, I am very much looking forward to working with my Republican colleagues and President Trump and any willing Democrat who is willing to join us to make sure we can report back to the American people with some better news and a better report card next year.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KELLY). The Senator from Hawaii.

TRUTH AND HEALING COMMISSION ON INDIAN BOARDING SCHOOL POLICIES ACT

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, earlier this week, I spoke about the historic accomplishments of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs with my good friend and vice chair LISA MURKOWSKI over the last 4 years.

I made it very clear that the foundation of this success—and continues to be—Native leaders, communities, and advocates sharing their priorities and telling us what is most important to them.

I also emphasized that we cannot and will not rest on our laurels because our progress is still in progress.

That is why, today, we have to pass S. 1723, the Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies Act.

This bill would establish a Federal commission to investigate the Federal Indian boarding school era, when the Federal Government partnered with religious institutions in an attempt to assimilate Native children at so-called schools, often far from their homes and families, where they were stripped of their cultures, languages, and identities and beaten and abused, both mentally and physically. Thousands—likely more—died at those schools, and those who returned home were never the same.

The Truth and Healing Commission would turn the page on this shameful era and help begin the healing process for Native survivors, descendants, and communities and those who continue to experience the generational trauma and lasting legacy of these policies today.

S. 1723 passed out of the committee after extensive bipartisan debate. Since then, Vice Chair MURKOWSKI and I have worked with the bill's sponsor, Senator WARREN, the Native American Boarding School Coalition, and other advocates to refine the bill and to accommodate feedback. The current version of this legislation is the result of hundreds of hours—hundreds of hours—of drafting, redrafting, discussion, and tough negotiations.

I will now turn it over to the vice chair for some remarks before I make a unanimous consent request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I want to thank and acknowledge Senator SCHATZ, as well as his team on the Indian Affairs Committee, for their work as we have sought to advance S. 1723, the Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies Act.

I also want to acknowledge Senator WARREN for her help on this and, of course, the Native American Boarding School Coalition and so many of the advocates that really, really have helped us advance this.

As the chairman of the committee has noted, we have worked this legislation over a long period of time, and it is a priority for us in the committee because, for too long—for far too long—this dark legacy of the Indian boarding school era has just kind of sat in the corner, unrecognized and unacknowledged.

From 1819 to 1969, the U.S. Government forcibly removed Native children from their families and Tribes and placed them in boarding schools. These Indian boarding schools, as they came

to be called, were not just education institutions, but, oftentimes, they were viewed as tools to eradicate Native cultures, languages, and traditions to ''civilize'' Native American children—again, a very dark era within our government.

So what we seek to do with this bill is to create a commission to bring light to the generational trauma caused by this time of Indian boarding schools. By allowing people's stories to be heard, we can help honor the experience of victims and their families, facilitate healing, and foster greater understanding and empathy among all people.

I think this is a good step and an important step in helping the survivors of Indian boarding schools and the families and communities that were impacted, to help them find healing. We have heard stories—I have heard stories—of many in my State who attended boarding schools, some in the State of Alaska, some outside the State of Alaska, in the listening sessions that Secretary Haaland led, as Secretary of the Interior, on this very important issue. Again, these are stories that must be recognized. And, again, I thank those who have shared them because, at many times, they were very painful, uncovering scars from the past. But how we can offer ways to pursue healing is what this commission is all about.

Again, my thanks to Chairman SCHATZ for being such a great partner on this legislation, as well as on so many other matters that we have been able to advance successfully through the committee. And my thanks to the chairman's team and to mine, as the ranking member on the committee. We have done good work. It has been a successful year for the committee.

I am hoping—hoping—that there is a path somehow and that this legislation will actually be able to be taken up by the House of Representatives and signed into law. That would be a good and a fitting ending.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Hawaii.

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, as if in legislative session and notwithstanding rule XXII, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 432, S. 1723.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1723) to establish the Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies in the United States, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Indian Affairs with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the ''Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies Act of 2023''.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
Sec. 2. Findings.
Sec. 3. Purposes.
Sec. 4. Definitions.

TITLE I—COMMISSION AND SUBCOMMITTEES

Subtitle A—Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies in the United States

Sec. 101. Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies in the United States.

Subtitle B—Duties of the Commission

Sec. 111. Duties of the Commission.

Subtitle C—Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee

Sec. 121. Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee.

TITLE II—ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Subtitle A—Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee

Sec. 201. Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee.

Subtitle B—Federal Truth and Healing Advisory Committee

Sec. 211. Federal Truth and Healing Advisory Committee.

TITLE III—GENERAL PROVISIONS

Sec. 301. Clarification.
Sec. 302. Burial management.
Sec. 303. Co-stewardship agreements.
Sec. 304. No right of action.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) attempts to destroy Native American cultures, religions, and languages through assimilationist practices and policies can be traced to the early 17th century and the founding charters of some of the oldest educational institutions in the United States;

(2) in June 2021, and in light of the long history of the assimilationist policies and practices referred to in paragraph (1) and calls for reform from Native peoples, the Secretary of the Interior directed the Department of the Interior to investigate the role of the Federal Government in supporting those policies and practices and the intergenerational impacts of those policies and practices;

(3) in May 2022, the Department of the Interior published volume 1 of a report entitled ''Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative Investigative Report'' (referred to in this section as the ''Report''), which found that—

(A) as early as 1819, and until 1969, the Federal Government directly or indirectly supported approximately 408 Indian Boarding Schools across 37 States;

(B) American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian children, as young as 3 years old, were forcibly removed from their homes and sent to Indian Boarding Schools located throughout the United States;

(C) Indian Boarding Schools used systematic, violent, and militarized identity-altering methods, such as physical, sexual, and psychological abuse and neglect, to attempt to forcibly assimilate Native children and strip them of their languages, cultures, and social connections;

(D) the violent methods referred to in subparagraph (C) were carried out for the purpose of—

(i) destroying the cultures, languages, and religions of Native peoples; and

(ii) dispossessing Native peoples of their ancestral lands;

(E) many of the children who were taken to Indian Boarding Schools did not survive, and of those who did survive, many never returned to their parents, extended families, or communities;

(F) many of the children who were taken to Indian Boarding Schools and did not survive were interred in cemeteries and unmarked graves; and

(G) American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian communities continue to experience intergenerational trauma and cultural and familial disruption from experiences rooted in Indian Boarding Schools Policies, which divided family structures, damaged cultures and individual identities, and inflicted chronic physical and psychological ramifications on American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian children, families, and communities;

(4) the ethos and rationale for Indian Boarding Schools is infamously expressed in the following quote from the founder of the Carlisle Indian Industrial School, Richard Henry Pratt: ''Kill the Indian in him, and save the man.'';

(5) the children who perished at Indian Boarding Schools or in neighboring hospitals and other institutions were buried in on-campus and off-campus cemeteries and unmarked graves;

(6) parents of children who were forcibly removed from or coerced into leaving their homes and placed in Indian Boarding Schools were prohibited from visiting or engaging in correspondence with their children;

(7) parental resistance to compliance with the harsh, no-contact policy of Indian Boarding Schools resulted in parents being incarcerated or losing access to basic human rights, food rations, and clothing; and

(8) the Federal Government has a responsibility to fully investigate its role in, and the lasting effects of, Indian Boarding School Policies.

SEC. 3. PURPOSES.

The purposes of this Act are—

(1) to establish a Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies in the United States, including other necessary advisory committees and subcommittees;

(2) to formally investigate, document, and report on the histories of Indian Boarding Schools, Indian Boarding School Polices, and the systematic and long-term effects of those schools and policies on Native American peoples;

(3) to develop recommendations for Federal action based on the findings of the Commission; and

(4) to promote healing for survivors of Indian Boarding Schools, the descendants of those survivors, and the communities of those survivors.

SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) COMMISSION.—The term ''Commission'' means the Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies in the United States established by section 101(a).

(2) FEDERAL TRUTH AND HEALING ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—The term ''Federal Truth and Healing Advisory Committee'' means the Federal Truth and Healing Advisory Committee established by section 211(a).

(3) INDIAN.—The term ''Indian'' has the meaning given the term in section 6151 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7491).

(4) INDIAN BOARDING SCHOOL.—The term ''Indian Boarding School'' means—

(A) a site of an institution that—

(i) provided on-site housing or overnight lodging;

(ii) was described in Federal records as providing formal academic or vocational training and instruction to American Indians, Alaska Natives, or Native Hawaiians;

(iii) received Federal funds or other Federal support; and

(iv) was operational before 1969;

(B) a site of an institution identified by the Department of the Interior in appendices A and B of the report entitled ''Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative Investigative Report'' and dated May 2022 (or a successor report); or

(C) any other institution that implemented Indian Boarding School Policies, including an Indian day school.

(5) INDIAN BOARDING SCHOOL POLICIES.—The term ''Indian Boarding School Policies'' means Federal laws, policies, and practices purported to ''assimilate'' and ''civilize'' American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians that included psychological, physical, sexual, and mental abuse, forced removal from home or community, and identity-altering practices intended to terminate Native languages, cultures, religions, social organizations, or connections to traditional land.

(6) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term ''Indian Tribe'' has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

(7) NATIVE AMERICAN.—The term ''Native American'' means an individual who is—

(A) an Indian; or

(B) a Native Hawaiian.

(8) NATIVE AMERICAN TRUTH AND HEALING ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—The term ''Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee'' means the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee established by the Commission under section 201(a).

(9) NATIVE HAWAIIAN.—The term ''Native Hawaiian'' has the meaning given the term in section 6207 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7517).

(10) NATIVE HAWAIIAN ORGANIZATION.—The term ''Native Hawaiian organization'' means a private nonprofit organization that—

(A) serves and represents the interests of Native Hawaiians;

(B) has as its primary and stated purpose the provision of services to Native Hawaiians;

(C) has Native Hawaiians serving in substantive and policymaking positions; and

(D) is recognized for having expertise in Native Hawaiian affairs.

(11) OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS.—The term ''Office of Hawaiian Affairs'' has the meaning given the term in section 6207 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7517).

(12) SURVIVORS TRUTH AND HEALING SUBCOMMITTEE.—The term ''Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee'' means the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee established by section 121(a).

(13) TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE.—The term ''trauma-informed care'' means holistic psychological and health care practices that include promoting culturally responsive practices, patient psychological, physical, and emotional safety, and environments of healing, trust, peer support, and recovery.

(14) TRIBAL ORGANIZATION.—The term ''Tribal organization'' has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

TITLE I—COMMISSION AND SUBCOMMITTEES

Subtitle A—Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies in the United States

SEC. 101. TRUTH AND HEALING COMMISSION ON INDIAN BOARDING SCHOOL POLICIES IN THE UNITED STATES.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a commission, to be known as the ''Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies in the United States''.

(b) MEMBERSHIP.—

(1) MEMBERSHIP.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall include 5 members, to be jointly appointed by the majority and minority leaders of the Senate, in consultation with the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the minority leader of the House of Representatives, and the Chair and Ranking Member of the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives, from among the nominees submitted under paragraph (2)(A), of whom—

(i) 1 shall be an individual with extensive experience and expertise as a principal investigator overseeing or leading complex research initiatives with and for Indian Tribes and Native Americans;

(ii) 1 shall be an individual (barred in good standing) with extensive experience and expertise in the area of indigenous human rights law and policy, including overseeing or leading broad-scale investigations of abuses of indigenous human rights;

(iii) 1 shall be an individual with extensive experience and expertise in Tribal court judicial and restorative justice systems and Federal agencies, such as participation as a Tribal judge, researcher, or former presidentially appointed commissioner;

(iv) 1 shall be an individual with extensive experience and expertise in providing and coordinating trauma-informed care and other health-related services to Indian Tribes and Native Americans; and

(v) 1 shall be a Native American individual recognized as a traditional cultural authority by their respective Native community.

(B) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR MEMBERSHIP.—In addition to the requirements described in subparagraph (A), members of the Commission shall be persons of recognized integrity and empathy, with a demonstrated commitment to the values of truth, reconciliation, healing, and expertise in truth and healing endeavors that are traditionally and culturally appropriate so as to provide balanced points of view and expertise with respect to the duties of the Commission.

(2) NOMINATIONS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Indian Tribes, Tribal organizations, Native Americans, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and Native Hawaiian organizations may submit to the Secretary of the Interior nominations for individuals to be appointed to the Commission not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(B) NATIVE AMERICAN PREFERENCE.—Individuals nominated under subparagraph (A) who are Native American shall receive a preference in the selection process for appointment to the Commission under paragraph (1).

(C) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 7 days after the submission deadline for nominations described in subparagraph (A), the Secretary of the Interior shall submit to Congress a list of the individuals nominated under that subparagraph.

(3) DATE.—Members of the Commission under paragraph (1) shall be appointed not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(4) PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT; VACANCIES; REMOVAL.—

(A) PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT.—A member of the Commission shall be appointed for a term that is the shorter of—

(i) 6 years; and

(ii) the life of the Commission.

(B) VACANCIES.—After all initial members of the Commission are appointed and the initial business meeting of the Commission has been convened under subsection (c)(1), a single vacancy in the Commission—

(i) shall not affect the powers of the Commission; and

(ii) shall be filled within 90 days in the same manner as was the original appointment.

(C) REMOVAL.—A quorum of members of the Commission may remove a member of the Commission only for neglect of duty or malfeasance.

(5) TERMINATION.—The Commission shall terminate 30 days after the date on which the Commission completes its duties under section 111(e)(5)(B).

(6) LIMITATION.—No member of the Commission shall be an officer or employee of the Federal Government.

(c) BUSINESS MEETINGS.—

(1) INITIAL BUSINESS MEETING.—90 days after the date on which all of the members of the Commission are appointed under subsection (b)(1)(A), the Commission shall hold the initial business meeting of the Commission—

(A) to appoint a Chairperson, a Vice Chairperson, a Secretary, and such other positions as determined necessary by the Commission;

(B) to establish rules for meetings of the Commission; and

(C) to appoint members of—

(i) the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee under section 121(b)(1); and

(ii) the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee under section 201(b)(1).

(2) SUBSEQUENT BUSINESS MEETINGS.—After the initial business meeting of the Commission is held under paragraph (1), the Commission shall meet at the call of the Chairperson.

(3) ADVISORY AND SUBCOMMITTEE COMMITTEES DESIGNEES.—Each Commission business meeting shall include participation by 2 non-voting designees from each of the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee, the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee, and the Federal Truth and Healing Advisory Committee, as appointed in accordance with section 121(c)(1)(D), section 201(e)(1)(C), and section 211(c)(1)(C), as applicable.

(4) FORMAT OF MEETINGS.—A business meeting of the Commission may be conducted in-person, virtually, or via phone.

(5) QUORUM REQUIRED.—A business meeting of the Commission may only be held once a quorum, established in accordance with subsection (d), is present.

(d) QUORUM.—A simple majority of the members of the Commission present shall constitute a quorum for a business meeting.

(e) RULES.—The Commission may establish, by a majority vote, any rules for the conduct of Commission business, in accordance with this section and other applicable law.

(f) COMMISSION PERSONNEL MATTERS.—

(1) COMPENSATION OF COMMISSIONERS.—A member of the Commission shall be compensated at a daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay prescribed for grade 14 of the General Schedule under section 5332 of title 5, United States Code, for each day, not to exceed 14 days per month, for which a member is engaged in the performance of their duties under this Act, including convening meetings, including business meetings or public or private meetings to receive testimony in furtherance of the duties of the Commission and the purposes of this Act.

(2) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—A member of the Commission shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for employees of agencies under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while away from their homes or regular places of business in the performance of services for the Commission.

(3) DETAIL OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.—Any Federal Government employee, with the approval of the head of the appropriate Federal agency and at the request of the Commission, may be detailed to the Commission without—

(A) reimbursement to the agency of that employee; and

(B) interruption or loss of civil service status, benefits, or privileges.

(g) POWERS OF COMMISSION.—

(1) HEARINGS AND EVIDENCE.—The Commission may, for the purpose of carrying out this Act—

(A) hold such hearings and sit and act at such times and places, take such testimony, and receive such evidence, virtually or in-person, as the Commission may determine necessary to accomplish the purposes of this Act;

(B) conduct or request such interdisciplinary research, investigation, or analysis of such information and documents, records, or other evidence as the Commission may determine necessary to accomplish the purposes of this Act, including—

(i) securing, directly from a Federal agency, such information as the Commission considers necessary to accomplish the purposes of this Act; and

(ii) requesting the head of any relevant Tribal or State agency to provide to the Commission such information as the Commission considers necessary to accomplish the purposes of this Act;

(C) subject to paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (i), require, by subpoena or otherwise, the production of such records, papers, correspondence, memoranda, documents, books, videos, oral histories, recordings, or any other paper or electronic material, as the Commission may determine necessary to accomplish the purposes of this Act;

(D) oversee, direct, and collaborate with the Federal Truth and Healing Advisory Committee, the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee, and the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee to accomplish the purposes of this Act; and

(E) coordinate with Federal and non-Federal entities to preserve and archive, as appropriate, any gifts, documents, or other property received while carrying out the purposes of this Act.

(2) CONTRACTING; VOLUNTEER SERVICES.—

(A) CONTRACTING.—The Commission may, to such extent and in such amounts as are provided in appropriations Acts, and in accordance with applicable law, enter into contracts and other agreements with public agencies, private organizations, and individuals to enable the Commission to carry out the duties of the Commission under this Act.

(B) VOLUNTEER AND UNCOMPENSATED SERVICES.—Notwithstanding section 1342 of title 31, United States Code, the Commission may accept and use such voluntary and uncompensated services as the Commission determines to be necessary.

(C) GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION.—The Administrator of General Services shall provide, on request of the Commission, on a reimbursable basis, administrative support and other services for the performance of the functions of the Commission under this Act.

(3) POSTAL SERVICES.—The Commission may use the United States mails in the same manner and under the same conditions as other agencies of the Federal Government.

(4) GIFTS, FUNDRAISING, AND DISBURSEMENT.—

(A) GIFTS AND DONATIONS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—The Commission may accept, use, and dispose of any gift, donation, service, property, or other record or recording to accomplish the purposes of this Act.

(ii) RETURN OF GIFTS AND DONATIONS.—On termination of the Commission under subsection (b)(5), any gifts, unspent donations, property, or other record or recording accepted by the Commission under clause (i) shall be—

(I) returned to the applicable donor that made the donation under that clause; or

(II) archived under subparagraph (E).

(B) FUNDRAISING.—The Commission may, on the affirmative vote of ⅗ of the members of the Commission, solicit funds to accomplish the purposes of this Act.

(C) DISBURSEMENT.—The Commission may, on the affirmative vote of ⅗ of the members of the Commission, approve the expenditure of funds to accomplish the purposes of this Act.

(D) TAX DOCUMENTS.—The Commission (or a designee) shall, on request of a donor under subparagraph (A) or (B), provide tax documentation to that donor for any tax-deductible gift made by that donor under those subparagraphs.

(E) ARCHIVING.—The Commission shall coordinate with the Library of Congress and the National Museum of the American Indian to archive and preserve relevant gifts or donations received under subparagraph (A) or (B).

(h) CONVENING.—

(1) CONVENING PROTOCOL.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 45 days after the initial business meeting of the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee, the Commission, 3 designees from the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee, and 3 designees from the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee shall hold a meeting to establish rules, protocols, and formats for convenings carried out under this subsection.

(B) RULES AND PROTOCOLS.—Not later than 45 days after the initial meeting described in subparagraph (A), the Commission shall finalize rules, protocols, and formats for convenings carried out under this subsection by a ⅗ majority in attendance at a meeting of the Commission.

(C) ADDITIONAL MEETINGS.—The Commission and designees described in subparagraph (A) may hold additional meetings, as necessary, to amend, by a ⅗ majority in attendance at a meeting of the Commission, the rules, protocols, and formats for convenings established under that subparagraph.

(2) ANNOUNCEMENT OF CONVENINGS.—Not later than 30 days before the date of a convening under this subsection, the Commission shall announce the location and details of the convening.

(3) MINIMUM NUMBER OF CONVENINGS.—The Commission shall hold—

(A) not fewer than 1 convening in each of the 12 regions of the Bureau of Indian Affairs and Hawai'i during the life of the Commission; and

(B) beginning 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, not fewer than 1 convening per quarter to receive testimony each calendar year until the date on which the Commission submits the final report of the Commission under section 111(e)(3).

(4) OPPORTUNITY TO PROVIDE TESTIMONY.—No person or entity shall be denied the opportunity to provide relevant testimony at a convenings held under this subsection, subject to the discretion of the Chairperson of the Commission (or a designee).

(i) SUBPOENAS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—

(A) ISSUANCE OF SUBPOENAS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—If a person fails to supply information requested by the Commission, the Commission may issue, on a unanimous vote of the Commission, a subpoena requiring from a person the production of any written or recorded evidence necessary to carry out the duties of the Commission under section 111.

(ii) NOTIFICATION.—

(I) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 10 days before the date on which the Commission issues a subpoena under clause (i), the Commission shall submit to the Attorney General a confidential, written notice of the intent to issue the subpoena.

(II) SUBPOENA PROHIBITED BY ATTORNEY GENERAL.—

(aa) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General, on receiving a notice under subclause (I), may, on a showing of a procedural or substantive defect, and after the Commission has a reasonable opportunity to cure, prohibit the issuance of the applicable subpoena described in that notice.

(bb) NOTIFICATION TO CONGRESS.—On prohibition of the issuance of a subpoena under item (aa), the Attorney General shall submit to Congress a report detailing the reasons for that prohibition.

(B) PRODUCTION OF EVIDENCE.—The production of evidence may be required from any place within the United States.

(2) FAILURE TO OBEY A SUBPOENA.—

(A) ORDER FROM A DISTRICT COURT OF THE UNITED STATES.—If a person does not obey a subpoena issued under paragraph (1), the Commission is authorized to apply to a district court of the United States described in subparagraph (B) for an order requiring that person to comply with the subpoena.

(B) LOCATION.—An application under subparagraph (A) may be made within the judicial district where the person described in that subparagraph resides or transacts business.

(C) PENALTY.—Any failure to obey an order of a court described in subparagraph (A) may be punished by the court as a civil contempt.

(3) SUBJECT MATTER JURISDICTION.—The district court of the United States in which an action is brought under paragraph (2)(B) shall have original jurisdiction over any civil action brought by the Commission to enforce, secure a declaratory judgment concerning the validity of, or prevent a threatened refusal or failure to comply with the applicable subpoena issued by the Commission.

(4) SERVICE OF SUBPOENAS.—The subpoenas of the Commission shall be served in the manner provided for subpoenas issued by a district court of the United States under the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

(5) SERVICE OF PROCESS.—All process of any court to which an application is made under paragraph (2) may be served in the judicial district in which the person required to be served resides or transacts business.

(j) NONDISCLOSURE.—

(1) PRIVACY ACT OF 1974 APPLICABILITY.—Subsection (b) of section 552a of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the ''Privacy Act of 1974''), shall not apply to the Commission.

(2) FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT APPLICABILITY.—Records and other communications provided to, from, between, or within the Commission, the Federal Truth and Healing Advisory Committee, the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee, the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee, and related agencies shall be exempt from disclosure under subsection (b)(3)(B) of section 552 of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the ''Freedom of Information Act'').

(3) FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT APPLICABILITY.—Chapter 10 of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the ''Federal Advisory Committee Act''), shall not apply to the Commission.

(k) CONSULTATION OR ENGAGEMENT WITH NATIVE AMERICANS, INDIAN TRIBES, TRIBAL ORGANIZATIONS, THE OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS, AND NATIVE HAWAIIAN ORGANIZATIONS.—In carrying out the duties of the Commission under section 111, the Commission shall meaningfully consult or engage, as appropriate, in a timely manner with Native Americans, Indian Tribes, Tribal organizations, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and Native Hawaiian organizations.

(l) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Commission to carry out this Act $15,000,000 for each fiscal year, to remain available until expended.

Subtitle B—Duties of the Commission

SEC. 111. DUTIES OF THE COMMISSION.

(a) INVESTIGATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall conduct a comprehensive interdisciplinary investigation of Indian Boarding School Policies, including the social, cultural, economic, emotional, and physical effects of Indian Boarding School Policies in the United States on Native American communities, Indian Tribes, survivors of Indian Boarding Schools, families of those survivors, and their descendants.

(2) MATTERS TO BE INVESTIGATED.—The matters to be investigated by the Commission under paragraph (1) shall include, at a minimum—

(A) conducting a comprehensive review of existing research and historical records of Indian Boarding School Policies and any documentation, scholarship, or other resources relevant to the purposes of this Act from—

(i) any archive or any other document storage location, notwithstanding the location of that archive or document storage location; and

(ii) any research conducted by private individuals, private entities, and non-Federal Government entities, whether domestic or foreign, including religious institutions;

(B) collaborating with the Federal Truth and Healing Advisory Committee to obtain all relevant information from—

(i) the Department of the Interior, the Department of Health and Human Services, other relevant Federal agencies, and institutions or organizations, including religious institutions or

organizations, that operated an Indian Boarding School, carried out Indian Boarding School Policies, or have information the Commission determines relevant to the investigation of the Commission; and

(ii) Indian Tribes, Tribal organizations, Native Americans, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and Native Hawaiian organizations; and

(C) conducting a comprehensive assessment of the impacts of Indian Boarding School Policies on American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian cultures, traditions, and languages.

(3) RESEARCH RELATED TO OBJECTS, ARTIFACTS, AND REAL PROPERTY.—If the Commission conducts a comprehensive review of research described in paragraph (2)(A)(ii) that focuses on objects, artifacts, or real or personal property that are in the possession or control of private individuals, private entities, or non-Federal government entities within the United States, the Commission may enter into a contract or agreement to acquire, hold, curate, or maintain those objects, artifacts, or real or personal property until the objects, artifacts, or real or personal property can be properly repatriated or returned, consistent with applicable Federal law and regulations, subject to the condition that no Federal funds may be used to purchase those objects, artifacts, or real or personal property.

(b) MEETINGS AND CONVENINGS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall hold, with the advice of the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee and the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee, and in coordination with, as relevant, Indian Tribes, Tribal organizations, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and Native Hawaiian organizations, as part of its investigation under subsection (a), safe, trauma-informed, and culturally appropriate public or private meetings or convenings to receive testimony relating to that investigation.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The Commission shall ensure that meetings and convenings held under paragraph (1) provide access to adequate trauma-informed care services for participants, attendees, and communities during and following the meetings and convenings where the Commission receives testimony, including ensuring private space is available for survivors and descendants of survivors, family members, and other community members to receive trauma-informed care services.

(c) RECOMMENDATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall make recommendations to Congress relating to the investigation carried out under subsection (a), which shall be included in the final report required under subsection (e)(3).

(2) INCLUSIONS.—Recommendations made under paragraph (1) shall include, at a minimum, recommendations relating to—

(A) in light of Tribal and Native Hawaiian law, Tribal customary law, tradition, custom, and practice, how the Federal Government can meaningfully acknowledge the role of the Federal Government in supporting Indian Boarding School Policies in all issue areas that the Commission determines relevant, including appropriate forms of memorialization, preservation of records, objects, artifacts, and burials;

(B) how modification of existing laws, procedures, regulations, policies, budgets, and practices will, in the determination of the Commission, address the findings of the Commission and ongoing effects of Indian Boarding School Policies; and

(C) how the Federal Government can promote public awareness and education of Indian Boarding School Policies and the impacts of those policies, including through coordinating with the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee, the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee, the National Museum of the American Indian, and other relevant institutions and organizations.

(d) DUTIES RELATED TO BURIALS.—The Commission shall, with respect to burial sites associated with Indian Boarding Schools—

(1) coordinate, as appropriate, with the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee, the Federal Truth and Healing Advisory Committee, the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee, lineal descendants, Indian Tribes, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, Federal agencies, institutions, and organizations to locate and identify, in a culturally appropriate manner, marked and unmarked burial sites, including cemeteries, unmarked graves, and mass burial sites, where students of Indian Boarding Schools were originally or later interred;

(2) locate, document, analyze, and coordinate the preservation or continued preservation of records and information relating to the interment of students, including any records held by Federal, State, international, or local entities or religious institutions or organizations; and

(3) share, to the extent practicable, with affected lineal descendants, Indian Tribes, and the Office of Hawaiian Affairs burial locations and the identities of children that attended Indian Boarding Schools.

(e) REPORTS.—

(1) ANNUAL REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—Not less frequently than annually each year until the year before the year in which the Commission submits the final report under paragraph (3), the Commission shall submit to the Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives a report that describes the activities of the Committee during the previous year, including an accounting of funds and gifts received and expenditures made, the progress made, and any barriers encountered in carrying out this Act.

(2) COMMISSION INITIAL REPORT.—Not later than 4 years after the date on which a majority of the members of the Commission are appointed under section 101(b)(1), the Commission shall submit to the individuals described in paragraph (4), and make publicly available, an initial report containing—

(A) a detailed review of existing research, including documentation, scholarship, or other resources shared with the Commission that further the purposes of this Act;

(B) a detailed statement of the initial findings and conclusions of the Commission; and

(C) a detailed statement of the initial recommendations of the Commission.

(3) COMMISSION FINAL REPORT.—Not later than 6 years after the date on which a majority of the members of the Commission are appointed under section 101(b)(1), the Commission shall submit to the individuals described in paragraph (4), and make publicly available, a final report containing the findings, conclusions, and recommendations of the Commission that have been agreed on by the vote of a majority of the members of the Commission and ⅗ of the members of each of the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee and the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee.

(4) REPORT RECIPIENTS.—The individuals referred to in paragraphs (2) and (3) are—

(A) the President;

(B) the Secretary of the Interior;

(C) the Attorney General;

(D) the Comptroller General of the United States;

(E) the Secretary of Education;

(F) the Secretary of Health and Human Services;

(G) the Secretary of Defense;

(H) the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate;

(I) the Chairperson and Ranking Member of the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives;

(J) the Chair and Co-Chair of the Congressional Native American Caucus;

(K) the Executive Director of the White House Council on Native American Affairs;

(L) the Director of the Office of Management and Budget;

(M) the Archivist of the United States;

(N) the Librarian of Congress; and

(O) the Director of the National Museum of the American Indian.

(5) ADDITIONAL COMMISSION RESPONSIBILITIES RELATING TO THE PUBLICATION OF THE INITIAL AND FINAL REPORTS.—

(A) EVENTS RELATING TO INITIAL REPORT.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall hold not fewer than 2 events in each region of the Bureau of Indian Affairs and Hawai'i following publication of the initial report under paragraph (2) to receive comments on the initial report.

(ii) TIMING.—The schedule of events referred to in clause (i) shall be announced not later than 90 days after the date on which the initial report under paragraph (2) is published.

(B) PUBLICATION OF FINAL REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date on which the Commission submits the final report under paragraph (3), the Commission, the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Education, the Secretary of Defense, and the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall each make the final report publicly available on the website of the applicable agency.

(6) SECRETARIAL RESPONSE TO FINAL REPORT.—Not later than 120 days after the date on which the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Education, the Secretary of Defense, and the Secretary of Health and Human Services receive the final report under paragraph (3), the Secretaries shall each make publicly available a written response to recommendations for future action by those agencies, if any, contained in the final report, and submit the written response to—

(A) the President;

(B) the Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate;

(C) the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives; and

(D) the Comptroller General of the United States.

Subtitle C—Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee

SEC. 121. SURVIVORS TRUTH AND HEALING SUBCOMMITTEE.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a subcommittee of the Commission, to be known as the ''Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee''.

(b) MEMBERSHIP, NOMINATION, AND APPOINTMENT TO THE SURVIVORS TRUTH AND HEALING SUBCOMMITTEE.—

(1) MEMBERSHIP.—The Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee shall include 15 members, to be appointed by the Commission, in consultation with the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition, from among the nominees submitted under paragraph (2)(A), of whom—

(A) 13 shall be representatives from each of the 12 regions of the Bureau of Indian Affairs and Hawai'i;

(B) 9 shall be individuals who attended an Indian Boarding School, of whom—

(i) not fewer than 2 shall be individuals who graduated during the 5-year period preceding the date of enactment of this Act from—

(I) an Indian Boarding School in operation as of that date of enactment; or

(II) a Bureau of Indian Education-funded school; and

(ii) all shall represent diverse regions of the United States;

(C) 5 shall be descendants of individuals who attended Indian Boarding Schools, who shall represent diverse regions of the United States; and

(D) 1 shall be an educator who, as of the date of the appointment—

(i) is employed at an Indian Boarding School; or

(ii) was employed at an Indian Boarding School during the 5-year period preceding the date of enactment of this Act.

(2) NOMINATIONS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Indian Tribes, Tribal organizations, Native Americans, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and Native Hawaiian organizations may submit to the Secretary of the Interior nominations for individuals to be appointed to the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(B) SUBMISSION.—The Secretary of the Interior shall provide the Commission with nominations submitted under subparagraph (A) at the initial business meeting of the Commission under section 101(c)(1) and the Commission shall select the members of the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee from among those nominees.

(3) DATE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall appoint all members of the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee during the initial business meeting of the Commission under section 101(c)(1).

(B) FAILURE TO APPOINT.—If the Commission fails to appoint all members of the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee in accordance with subparagraph (A), the Chair of the Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate, with the concurrence of the Vice Chair of the Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate, shall appoint individuals, in accordance with the requirements of paragraph (1), to all vacant positions of the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee not later than 30 days after the date of the initial business meeting of the Commission under section 101(c)(1).

(4) PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT; VACANCIES; REMOVAL.—

(A) PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT.—A member of the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee shall be appointed for an automatically renewable term of 2 years.

(B) VACANCIES.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—A member of the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee may self-vacate the position at any time and for any reason.

(ii) EFFECT; FILLING OF VACANCY.—A vacancy in the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee—

(I) shall not affect the powers of the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee if a simple majority of the positions of the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee are filled; and

(II) shall be filled within 90 days in the same manner as was the original appointment.

(C) REMOVAL.—A quorum of members of the Commission may remove a member of the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee only for neglect of duty or malfeasance.

(5) TERMINATION.—The Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee shall terminate 90 days after the date on which the Commission submits the final report required under section 111(e)(3).

(6) LIMITATION.—No member of the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee shall be an officer or employee of the Federal Government.

(c) BUSINESS MEETINGS.—

(1) INITIAL MEETING.—Not later 30 days after the date on which all members of the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee are appointed under subsection (b)(1), the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee shall hold an initial business meeting—

(A) to appoint—

(i) a Chairperson, who shall also serve as the Vice Chairperson of the Federal Truth and Healing Advisory Committee;

(ii) a Vice Chairperson, who shall also serve as the Vice Chairperson of the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee; and

(iii) a Secretary;

(B) to establish, with the advice of the Commission, rules for the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee;

(C) to appoint 3 designees to fulfill the responsibilities described in section 101(h)(1)(A); and

(D) to appoint, with the advice of the Commission, 2 members of the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee to serve as non-voting designees on the Commission in accordance with section 101(c)(3).

(2) SUBSEQUENT BUSINESS MEETINGS.—After the initial business meeting of the Survivors Truth and Healing subcommittee is held under paragraph (1), the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee shall meet at the call of the Chairperson.

(3) FORMAT OF BUSINESS MEETINGS.—A business meeting of the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee may be conducted in-person, virtually, or via phone.

(4) QUORUM REQUIRED.—A business meeting of the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee may only be held once a quorum, established in accordance with subsection (d), is present.

(d) QUORUM.—A simple majority of the members of the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee present shall constitute a quorum for a business meeting.

(e) RULES.—The Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee, with the advice of the Commission, may establish, by a majority vote, any rules for the conduct of business, in accordance with this section and other applicable law.

(f) DUTIES.—The Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee shall—

(1) assist the Commission, the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee, and the Federal Truth and Healing Advisory Committee in coordinating public and private convenings, including—

(A) providing advice to the Commission on developing criteria and protocols for convenings; and

(B) providing advice and evaluating Committee recommendations relating to the commemoration and public education relating to Indian Boarding Schools and Indian Boarding School Policies; and

(2) provide advice to, or fulfill such other requests by, the Commission as the Commission may require to carry out the purposes described in section 3.

(g) CONSULTATION OR ENGAGEMENT WITH NATIVE AMERICANS, INDIAN TRIBES, TRIBAL ORGANIZATIONS, THE OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS, AND NATIVE HAWAIIAN ORGANIZATIONS.—In carrying out the duties of the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee under subsection (f), the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee shall meaningfully consult or engage, as appropriate, in a timely manner with Native Americans, Indian Tribes, Tribal organizations, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and Native Hawaiian organizations.

(h) NONDISCLOSURE.—

(1) PRIVACY ACT OF 1974 APPLICABILITY.—Subsection (b) of section 552a of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the ''Privacy Act of 1974''), shall not apply to the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee.

(2) FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT APPLICABILITY.—Records and other communications provided to, from, between, or within the Commission, the Federal Truth and Healing Advisory Committee, the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee, the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee, and related agencies shall be exempt from disclosure under subsection (b)(3)(B) of section 552 of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the ''Freedom of Information Act'').

(3) FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT APPLICABILITY.—Chapter 10 of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the ''Federal Advisory Committee Act''), shall not apply to the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee.

(i) PERSONNEL MATTERS.—

(1) COMPENSATION OF MEMBERS.—A member of the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee shall be compensated at a daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay prescribed for grade 13 of the General Schedule under section 5332 of title 5, United States Code, for each day, not to exceed 14 days per month, for which a member of the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee is engaged in the performance of their duties under this Act, including the convening of meetings, including public and private meetings to receive testimony in furtherance of the duties of the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee and the purposes of this Act.

(2) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—A member of the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for employees of agencies under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while away from their homes or regular places of business in the performance of services for the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee.

TITLE II—ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Subtitle A—Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee

SEC. 201. NATIVE AMERICAN TRUTH AND HEALING ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Commission shall establish an advisory committee, to be known as the ''Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee''.

(b) MEMBERSHIP, NOMINATION, AND APPOINTMENT TO THE NATIVE AMERICAN TRUTH AND HEALING ADVISORY COMMITTEE .—

(1) MEMBERSHIP.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee shall include 19 members, to be appointed by the Commission from among the nominees submitted under paragraph (2)(A), of whom—

(i) 1 shall be the Vice Chairperson of the Commission, who shall serve as the Chairperson of the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee;

(ii) 1 shall be the Vice Chairperson of the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee, who shall serve as the Vice Chairperson of the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee;

(iii) 1 shall be the Secretary of the Interior, or a designee, who shall serve as the Secretary of the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee;

(iv) 13 shall be representatives from each of the 12 regions of the Bureau of Indian Affairs and Hawai'i;

(v) 1 shall represent the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition;

(vi) 1 shall represent the National Association of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers; and

(vii) 1 shall represent the National Indian Education Association.

(B) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS.—Not fewer than 2 members of the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee shall have experience with health care or mental health, traditional healing or cultural practices, counseling, or working with survivors, or descendants of survivors, of Indian Boarding Schools to ensure that the Commission considers culturally responsive support for survivors, families, and communities.

(2) NOMINATIONS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Indian Tribes, Tribal organizations, Native Americans, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and Native Hawaiian organizations may submit to the Secretary of the Interior nominations for individuals to be appointed to the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(B) SUBMISSION.—The Secretary of the Interior shall provide the Commission with nominations submitted under subparagraph (A) at the initial business meeting of the Commission under section 101(c)(1) and the Commission shall select the members of the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee from among those nominees.

(3) DATE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall appoint all members of the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee during the initial business meeting of the Commission under section 101(c)(1).

(B) FAILURE TO APPOINT.—If the Commission fails to appoint all members of the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee in accordance with subparagraph (A), the Chair of the Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate, with the concurrence of the Vice Chair of the Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate, shall appoint, in accordance with the requirements of paragraph (1), individuals to all vacant positions of the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee not later than 30 days after the date of the initial business meeting of the Commission under section 101(c)(1).

(4) PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT; VACANCIES.—

(A) PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT.—A member of the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee shall be appointed for an automatically renewable term of 2 years.

(B) VACANCIES.—A vacancy in the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee—

(i) shall not affect the powers of the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee if a simple majority of the positions of the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee are filled; and

(ii) shall be filled within 90 days in the same manner as was the original appointment.

(5) TERMINATION.—The Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee shall terminate 90 days after the date on which the Commission submits the final report required under section 111(e)(3).

(6) LIMITATION.—No member of the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee (other than the member described in paragraph (1)(A)(iii)) shall be an officer or employee of the Federal Government.

(c) QUORUM.—A simple majority of the members of the Native American Truth and Healing Committee shall constitute a quorum.

(d) REMOVAL.—A quorum of members of the Native American Truth and Healing Committee may remove another member only for neglect of duty or malfeasance.

(e) BUSINESS MEETINGS.—

(1) INITIAL BUSINESS MEETING.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which all members of the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee are appointed under subsection (b)(1)(A), the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee shall hold an initial business meeting—

(A) to establish rules for the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee;

(B) to appoint 3 designees to fulfill the responsibilities described in section 101(h)(1)(A); and

(C) to appoint 2 members of the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee to serve non-voting as designees on the Commission in accordance with section 101(c)(3).

(2) SUBSEQUENT BUSINESS MEETINGS.—After the initial business meeting of the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee is held under paragraph (1), the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee shall meet at the call of the Chairperson.

(3) FORMAT OF BUSINESS MEETINGS.—A meeting of the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee may be conducted in-person, virtually, or via phone.

(4) QUORUM REQUIRED.—A business meeting of the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee may only be held once a quorum, established in accordance with subsection (c), is present.

(f) RULES.—The Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee may establish, with the advice of the Commission, by a majority vote, any rules for the conduct of business, in accordance with this section and other applicable law.

(g) DUTIES.—The Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee shall—

(1) serve as an advisory body to the Commission;

(2) assist the Commission in organizing and carrying out culturally appropriate public and private convenings relating to the duties of the Commission;

(3) assist the Commission in determining what documentation from Federal and religious organizations and institutions may be necessary to fulfill the duties of the Commission;

(4) assist the Commission in the production of the initial report and final report required under paragraphs (2) and (3), respectively, of section 111(e);

(5) coordinate with the Federal Truth and Healing Advisory Committee and the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee; and

(6) provide advice to, or fulfill such other requests by, the Commission as the Commission may require to carry out the purposes described in section 3.

(h) CONSULTATION OR ENGAGEMENT WITH NATIVE AMERICANS, INDIAN TRIBES, TRIBAL ORGANIZATIONS, THE OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS, AND NATIVE HAWAIIAN ORGANIZATIONS.—In carrying out the duties of the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee under subsection (g), the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee shall meaningfully consult or engage, as appropriate, in a timely manner with Native Americans, Indian Tribes, Tribal organizations, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and Native Hawaiian organizations.

(i) NONDISCLOSURE.—

(1) PRIVACY ACT OF 1974 APPLICABILITY.—Subsection (b) of section 552a of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the ''Privacy Act of 1974''), shall not apply to the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee.

(2) FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT APPLICABILITY.—Records and other communications provided to, from, between, or within the Commission, the Federal Truth and Healing Advisory Committee, the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee, the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee, and related agencies shall be exempt from disclosure under subsection (b)(3)(B) of section 552 of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the ''Freedom of Information Act'').

(3) FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT APPLICABILITY.—Chapter 10 of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the ''Federal Advisory Committee Act''), shall not apply to the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee.

(j) PERSONNEL MATTERS.—

(1) COMPENSATION OF MEMBERS.—A member of the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee shall be compensated at a daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay prescribed for grade 13 of the General Schedule under section 5332 of title 5, United States Code, for each day, not to exceed 14 days per month, for which a member is engaged in the performance of their duties under this Act, including the convening of meetings, including public and private meetings to receive testimony in furtherance of the duties of the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee and the purposes of this Act.

(2) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—A member of the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for employees of agencies under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while away from their homes or regular places of business in the performance of services for the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee.

Subtitle B—Federal Truth and Healing Advisory Committee

SEC. 211. FEDERAL TRUTH AND HEALING ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established within the Department of the Interior an advisory committee, to be known as the ''Federal Truth and Healing Advisory Committee''.

(b) MEMBERSHIP AND APPOINTMENT TO THE FEDERAL TRUTH AND HEALING ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—

(1) MEMBERSHIP.—The Federal Truth and Healing Advisory Committee shall include 17 members, of whom—

(A) 1 shall be the Chairperson of the Commission, who shall serve as the Chairperson of the Federal Truth and Healing Advisory Committee;

(B) 1 shall be the Chairperson of the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee, who shall serve as the Vice Chairperson of the Federal Truth and Healing Advisory Committee;

(C) 1 shall be the White House Domestic Policy Advisor, who shall serve as the Secretary of the Federal Truth and Healing Advisory Committee;

(D) 1 shall be the Director of the Bureau of Trust Funds Administration (or a designee);

(E) 1 shall be the Archivist of the United States (or a designee);

(F) 1 shall be the Librarian of Congress (or a designee);

(G) 1 shall be the Director of the Department of the Interior Library (or a designee);

(H) 1 shall be the Director of the Indian Health Service (or a designee);

(I) 1 shall be the Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Abuse of the Department of Health and Human Services (or a designee);

(J) 1 shall be the Commissioner of the Administration for Native Americans of the Department of Health and Human Services (or a designee);

(K) 1 shall be the Director of the National Institutes of Health (or a designee);

(L) 1 shall be the Senior Program Director of the Office of Native Hawaiian Relations of the Department of the Interior (or a designee);

(M) 1 shall be the Director of the Office of Indian Education of the Department of Education (or a designee);

(N) 1 shall be the Director of the Rural, Insular, and Native American Achievement Programs of the Department of Education (or a designee);

(O) 1 shall be the Chair of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (or a designee);

(P) 1 shall be the Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs (or a designee); and

(Q) 1 shall be the Director of the Bureau of Indian Education (or a designee).

(2) PERIOD OF SERVICE; VACANCIES; REMOVAL.—

(A) PERIOD OF SERVICE.—A member of the Federal Truth and Healing Advisory Committee shall serve for an automatically renewable term of 2 years.

(B) VACANCIES.—A vacancy in the Federal Truth and Healing Advisory Committee—

(i) shall not affect the powers of the Federal Truth and Healing Advisory Committee if a simple majority of the positions of the Federal Truth and Healing Advisory Committee are filled; and

(ii) shall be filled within 90 days in the same manner as was the original appointment.

(C) REMOVAL.—A quorum of members of the Federal Truth and Healing Advisory Committee may remove a member of the Federal Truth and Healing Advisory Committee only for neglect of duty or malfeasance.

(3) TERMINATION.—The Federal Truth and Healing Advisory Committee shall terminate 90 days after the date on which the Commission submits the final report required under section 111(e)(3).

(c) BUSINESS MEETINGS.—

(1) INITIAL BUSINESS MEETING.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the initial business meeting of the Commission under section 101(c)(1), the Federal Truth and Healing Advisory Committee shall hold an initial business meeting—

(A) to establish rules for the Federal Truth and Healing Advisory Committee; and

(B) to appoint 2 members of the Federal Truth and Healing Advisory Committee to serve as non-voting designees on the Commission in accordance with section 101(c)(3).

(2) SUBSEQUENT BUSINESS MEETINGS.—After the initial business meeting of the Federal Truth and Healing Advisory Committee is held under paragraph (1), the Federal Truth and Healing Advisory Committee shall meet at the call of the Chairperson.

(3) FORMAT OF BUSINESS MEETINGS.—A business meeting of the Federal Truth and Healing Advisory Committee may be conducted in-person, virtually, or via phone.

(4) QUORUM REQUIRED.—A business meeting of the Federal Truth and Healing Advisory Committee may only be held once a quorum, established in accordance with subsection (d), is present.

(d) QUORUM.—A simple majority of the members of the Federal Truth and Healing Advisory Committee present shall constitute a quorum for a business meeting.

(e) RULES.—The Federal Truth and Healing Advisory Committee may establish, with the advice of the Commission, by a majority vote, any rules for the conduct of business, in accordance with this section and other applicable law.

(f) DUTIES.—The Federal Truth and Healing Advisory Committee shall—

(1) ensure the effective and timely coordination between Federal agencies in furtherance of the purposes of this Act;

(2) assist the Commission and the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee in coordinating—

(A) meetings and other related public and private convenings; and

(B) the collection, organization, and preservation of information obtained from witnesses and by other Federal agencies; and

(3) ensure the timely submission to the Commission of materials, documents, testimony, and such other information as the Commission determines to be necessary to carry out the duties of the Commission.

(g) CONSULTATION OR ENGAGEMENT WITH NATIVE AMERICANS, INDIAN TRIBES, TRIBAL ORGANIZATIONS, THE OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS, AND NATIVE HAWAIIAN ORGANIZATIONS.—In carrying out the duties of the Federal Truth and Healing Advisory Committee under subsection (f), the Federal Truth and Healing Advisory Committee shall meaningfully consult or engage, as appropriate, in a timely manner with Native Americans, Indian Tribes, Tribal organizations, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and Native Hawaiian organizations.

(h) NONDISCLOSURE.—

(1) PRIVACY ACT OF 1974 APPLICABILITY.—Subsection (b) of section 552a of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the ''Privacy Act of 1974''), shall not apply to the Federal Truth and Healing Advisory Committee.

(2) FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT APPLICABILITY.—Records and other communications provided to, from, between, or within the Commission, the Federal Truth and Healing Advisory Committee, the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee, the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee, and related agencies shall be exempt from disclosure under subsection (b)(3)(B) of section 552 of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the ''Freedom of Information Act'').

(3) FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT APPLICABILITY.—Chapter 10 of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the ''Federal Advisory Committee Act''), shall not apply to the Federal Truth and Healing Advisory Committee.

TITLE III—GENERAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 301. CLARIFICATION.

Any human remains or associated or unassociated funerary objects located on Federal land, on land managed by a Federal agency, or land otherwise curated by a Federal agency and relating to an Indian Boarding School shall be considered collections or holdings over which a Federal agency has possession or control and the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (25 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.) shall apply.

SEC. 302. BURIAL MANAGEMENT.

A Federal agency that carries out activities pursuant to this Act or that created or controls a cemetery with remains of an individual who attended an Indian Boarding School may rebury the remains of that individual and any associated funerary items that have been repatriated pursuant to section 7 of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (25 U.S.C. 3005), consistent with Tribal practices, on any Federal land as agreed to by the relevant parties.

SEC. 303. CO-STEWARDSHIP AGREEMENTS.

A Federal agency that carries out activities pursuant to this Act or that created or controls a cemetery with remains of an individual who attended an Indian Boarding School or an Indian Boarding School may enter into a co-stewardship agreement for the management of the cemetery or Indian Boarding School.

SEC. 304. NO RIGHT OF ACTION.

Nothing in this Act creates a private right of action to seek administrative or judicial relief.

Mr. SCHATZ. I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute amendment be withdrawn; that the Schatz-Murkowski substitute amendment at the desk be considered and agreed to; and that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee-reported amendment in the nature of a substitute was withdrawn.

The amendment (No. 3351) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to, as follows:

(The amendment is printed in today's RECORD (legislative day of December 16, 2024) under ''Text of Amendments.'')

The bill, as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

Mr. SCHATZ. I know of no further debate on the bill, as amended.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate on the bill, as amended?

Hearing none, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill, as amended, pass?

The bill (S. 1723), as amended, was passed as follows:

S. 1723

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the ''Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies Act of 2024''.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
Sec. 2. Purposes.
Sec. 3. Definitions.

TITLE I—COMMISSION AND SUBCOMMITTEES

Subtitle A—Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies in the United States

Sec. 101. Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies in the United States.

Subtitle B—Duties of the Commission

Sec. 111. Duties of the Commission.

Subtitle C—Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee

Sec. 121. Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee.

TITLE II—ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Subtitle A—Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee

Sec. 201. Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee.

Subtitle B—Federal and Religious Truth and Healing Advisory Committee

Sec. 211. Federal and Religious Truth and Healing Advisory Committee.

TITLE III—GENERAL PROVISIONS

Sec. 301. Clarification.
Sec. 302. Burial management.
Sec. 303. Co-stewardship agreements.
Sec. 304. No right of action.

SEC. 2. PURPOSES.

The purposes of this Act are—

(1) to establish a Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies in the United States, including other necessary advisory committees and subcommittees;

(2) to formally investigate, document, and report on the histories of Indian Boarding Schools, Indian Boarding School Polices, and the systematic and long-term effects of those schools and policies on Native American peoples;

(3) to develop recommendations for Federal efforts based on the findings of the Commission; and

(4) to promote healing for survivors of Indian Boarding Schools, the descendants of those survivors, and the communities of those survivors.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) COMMISSION.—The term ''Commission'' means the Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies in the United States established by section 101(a).

(2) FEDERAL AND RELIGIOUS TRUTH AND HEALING ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—The term ''Federal and Religious Truth and Healing Advisory Committee'' means the Federal and Religious Truth and Healing Advisory Committee established by section 211(a).

(3) INDIAN.—The term ''Indian'' has the meaning given the term in section 6151 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7491).

(4) INDIAN BOARDING SCHOOL.—The term ''Indian Boarding School'' means—

(A) a site of an institution that—

(i) provided on-site housing or overnight lodging;

(ii) was described in Federal records as providing formal academic or vocational training and instruction to Native Americans;

(iii) received Federal funds or other Federal support; and

(iv) was operational before 1969;

(B) a site of an institution identified by the Department of the Interior in appendices A and B of the report entitled ''Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative Investigative Report'' and dated May 2022 (or a successor report); or

(C) any other institution that implemented Indian Boarding School Policies, including an Indian day school.

(5) INDIAN BOARDING SCHOOL POLICIES.—The term ''Indian Boarding School Policies'' means Federal laws, policies, and practices purported to ''assimilate'' and ''civilize'' Native Americans that included psychological, physical, sexual, and mental abuse, forced removal from home or community, and identity-altering practices intended to terminate Native languages, cultures, religions, social organizations, or connections to traditional land.

(6) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term ''Indian Tribe'' has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

(7) NATIVE AMERICAN.—The term ''Native American'' means an individual who is—

(A) an Indian; or

(B) a Native Hawaiian.

(8) NATIVE AMERICAN TRUTH AND HEALING ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—The term ''Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee'' means the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee established by the Commission under section 201(a).

(9) NATIVE HAWAIIAN.—The term ''Native Hawaiian'' has the meaning given the term in section 6207 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7517).

(10) NATIVE HAWAIIAN ORGANIZATION.—The term ''Native Hawaiian organization'' means a private nonprofit organization that—

(A) serves and represents the interests of Native Hawaiians;

(B) has as its primary and stated purpose the provision of services to Native Hawaiians;

(C) has Native Hawaiians serving in substantive and policymaking positions; and

(D) has expertise in Native Hawaiian affairs.

(11) OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS.—The term ''Office of Hawaiian Affairs'' has the meaning given the term in section 6207 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7517).

(12) SURVIVORS TRUTH AND HEALING SUBCOMMITTEE.—The term ''Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee'' means the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee established by section 121(a).

(13) TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE.—The term ''trauma-informed care'' means holistic psychological and health care practices that include promoting culturally responsive practices, patient psychological, physical, and emotional safety, and environments of healing, trust, peer support, and recovery.

(14) TRIBAL ORGANIZATION.—The term ''Tribal organization'' has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

TITLE I—COMMISSION AND SUBCOMMITTEES

Subtitle A—Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies in the United States

SEC. 101. TRUTH AND HEALING COMMISSION ON INDIAN BOARDING SCHOOL POLICIES IN THE UNITED STATES.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the legislative branch a commission, to be known as the ''Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies in the United States''.

(b) MEMBERSHIP.—

(1) APPOINTMENT.—Nominees submitted under paragraph (2)(A) shall be appointed as members to the Commission as follows:

(A) 1 member shall be appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, in consultation with the Chairperson of the Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate.

(B) 1 member shall be appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, in consultation with the Vice Chairperson of the Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate.

(C) 1 member shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, in consultation with the Chair of the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives.

(D) 1 member shall be appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives, in consultation with the Ranking Member of the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives.

(E) 1 member shall be jointly appointed by the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate.

(2) NOMINATIONS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, Indian Tribes, Tribal organizations, Native Americans, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and Native Hawaiian organizations may submit to the Secretary of the Interior nominations for individuals to be appointed as members of the Commission.

(B) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 7 days after the submission deadline for nominations described in subparagraph (A), the Secretary of the Interior shall submit to Congress a list of the individuals nominated under that subparagraph.

(C) QUALIFICATIONS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Nominees to serve on the Commission shall have significant experience in matters relating to—

(I) overseeing or leading complex research initiatives with and for Indian Tribes and Native Americans;

(II) indigenous human rights law and policy;

(III) Tribal court judicial and restorative justice systems and Federal agencies, such as participation as a Tribal judge, researcher, or former presidentially appointed commissioner;

(IV) providing and coordinating trauma-informed care and other health-related services to Indian Tribes and Native Americans; or

(V) traditional and cultural resources and practices in Native communities.

(ii) ADDITIONAL QUALIFICATIONS.—In addition to the qualifications described in clause (i), each member of the Commission shall be an individual of recognized integrity and empathy, with a demonstrated commitment to the values of truth, reconciliation, healing, and expertise in truth and healing endeavors that are traditionally and culturally appropriate so as to provide balanced points of view and expertise with respect to the duties of the Commission.

(3) DATE.—Members of the Commission under paragraph (1) shall be appointed not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(4) PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT; VACANCIES; REMOVAL.—

(A) PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT.—A member of the Commission shall be appointed for a term that is the shorter of—

(i) 6 years; and

(ii) the life of the Commission.

(B) VACANCIES.—After all initial members of the Commission are appointed and the initial business meeting of the Commission has been convened under subsection (c)(1), a single vacancy in the Commission—

(i) shall not affect the powers of the Commission; and

(ii) shall be filled within 90 days in the same manner as was the original appointment.

(C) REMOVAL.—A quorum of members of the Commission may remove a member of the Commission only for neglect of duty or malfeasance.

(5) TERMINATION.—The Commission shall terminate 6 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(6) LIMITATION.—No member of the Commission may otherwise be an officer or employee of the Federal Government.

(c) BUSINESS MEETINGS.—

(1) INITIAL BUSINESS MEETING.—90 days after the date on which all of the members of the Commission are appointed under subsection (b)(1)(A), the Commission shall hold the initial business meeting of the Commission—

(A) to appoint a Chairperson, a Vice Chairperson, and such other positions as determined necessary by the Commission;

(B) to establish rules for meetings of the Commission; and

(C) to appoint members of—

(i) the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee under section 121(b)(1); and

(ii) the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee under section 201(b)(1).

(2) SUBSEQUENT BUSINESS MEETINGS.—After the initial business meeting of the Commission is held under paragraph (1), the Commission shall meet at the call of the Chairperson.

(3) ADVISORY AND SUBCOMMITTEE COMMITTEES DESIGNEES.—Each Commission business meeting shall include participation by 2 nonvoting designees from each of the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee, the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee, and the Federal and Religious Truth and Healing Advisory Committee, as appointed in accordance with section 121(c)(1)(D), section 201(e)(1)(C), and section 211(c)(1)(B), as applicable.

(4) FORMAT OF MEETINGS.—A business meeting of the Commission may be conducted in-person or virtually.

(5) QUORUM REQUIRED.—A business meeting of the Commission may be held only after a quorum, established in accordance with subsection (d), is present.

(d) QUORUM.—A simple majority of the members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum for a business meeting.

(e) RULES.—The Commission may establish, by a majority vote, any rules for the conduct of Commission business, in accordance with this section and other applicable law.

(f) COMMISSION PERSONNEL MATTERS.—

(1) COMPENSATION OF COMMISSIONERS.—A member of the Commission shall be compensated at a daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay prescribed for grade 5 of the General Schedule under section 5332 of title 5, United States Code, for each day, not to exceed 10 days per month, for which a member is engaged in the performance of their duties under this Act, limited to convening meetings, including public or private meetings to receive testimony in furtherance of the duties of the Commission and the purposes of this Act.

(2) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—A member of the Commission shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for employees of agencies under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while away from their homes or regular places of business in the performance of services for the Commission.

(3) DETAIL OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.—Any Federal Government employee, with the approval of the head of the appropriate Federal agency and at the request of the Commission, may be detailed to the Commission without—

(A) reimbursement to the agency of that employee; and

(B) interruption or loss of civil service status, benefits, or privileges.

(g) POWERS OF COMMISSION.—

(1) CONVENINGS AND INFORMATION.—The Commission may, for the purpose of carrying out this Act—

(A) hold such convenings and sit and act at such times and places, take such testimony, and receive such information, virtually or in-person, as the Commission may determine necessary to accomplish the purposes of this Act;

(B) conduct or request such interdisciplinary research, investigation, or analysis of such information and documents, records, or other data as the Commission may determine necessary to accomplish the purposes of this Act, including—

(i) securing, directly from a Federal agency, such information as the Commission considers necessary to accomplish the purposes of this Act; and

(ii) requesting the head of any relevant Tribal or State agency to provide to the Commission such information as the Commission considers necessary to accomplish the purposes of this Act;

(C) request such records, papers, correspondence, memoranda, documents, books, videos, oral histories, recordings, or any other paper or electronic material, as the Commission may determine necessary to accomplish the purposes of this Act;

(D) oversee, direct, and collaborate with the Federal and Religious Truth and Healing Advisory Committee, the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee, and the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee to accomplish the purposes of this Act; and

(E) coordinate with Federal and non-Federal entities to preserve and archive, as appropriate, any gifts, documents, or other property received while carrying out the purposes of this Act.

(2) CONTRACTING; VOLUNTEER SERVICES.—

(A) CONTRACTING.—The Commission may, to such extent and in such amounts as are provided in appropriations Acts, and in accordance with applicable law, enter into contracts and other agreements with public agencies, private organizations, and individuals to enable the Commission to carry out the duties of the Commission under this Act.

(B) VOLUNTEER AND UNCOMPENSATED SERVICES.—Notwithstanding section 1342 of title 31, United States Code, the Commission may accept and use such voluntary and uncompensated services as the Commission determines to be necessary.

(C) GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION.—The Administrator of General Services shall provide, on request of the Commission, on a reimbursable basis, administrative support and other services for the performance of the functions of the Commission under this Act.

(3) POSTAL SERVICES.—The Commission may use the United States mails in the same manner and under the same conditions as other agencies of the Federal Government.

(4) GIFTS, FUNDRAISING, AND DISBURSEMENT.—

(A) GIFTS AND DONATIONS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—The Commission may accept, use, and dispose of any gift, donation, service, property, or other record or recording to accomplish the purposes of this Act.

(ii) RETURN OF GIFTS AND DONATIONS.—On termination of the Commission under subsection (b)(5), any gifts, unspent donations, property, or other record or recording accepted by the Commission under clause (i) shall be—

(I) returned to the donor that made the donation under that clause; or

(II) archived under subparagraph (E).

(B) FUNDRAISING.—The Commission may, on the affirmative vote of ⅗ of the members of the Commission, solicit funds to accomplish the purposes of this Act.

(C) DISBURSEMENT.—The Commission may, on the affirmative vote of ⅗ of the members of the Commission, approve a spending plan of funds to accomplish the purposes of this Act.

(D) TAX DOCUMENTS.—The Commission (or a designee) shall, on request of a donor under subparagraph (A) or (B), provide tax documentation to that donor for any tax-deductible gift made by that donor under those subparagraphs.

(E) ARCHIVING.—The Commission shall coordinate with the Library of Congress and the Smithsonian Institution to archive and preserve relevant gifts or donations received under subparagraph (A) or (B).

(h) CONVENING.—

(1) CONVENING PROTOCOL.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 45 days after the initial business meeting of the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee, the Commission, 3 designees from the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee, and 3 designees from the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee shall hold a meeting to recommend rules, protocols, and formats for convenings carried out under this subsection.

(B) RULES AND PROTOCOLS.—Not later than 45 days after the initial meeting described in subparagraph (A), the Commission shall finalize rules, protocols, and formats for convenings carried out under this subsection by a ⅗ majority in attendance at a meeting of the Commission.

(C) ADDITIONAL MEETINGS.—The Commission and designees described in subparagraph (A) may hold additional meetings, as necessary, to amend, by a ⅗ majority in attendance at a meeting of the Commission, the rules, protocols, and formats for convenings established under that subparagraph.

(2) ANNOUNCEMENT OF CONVENINGS.—Not later than 30 days before the date of a convening under this subsection, the Commission shall announce the location and details of the convening.

(3) MINIMUM NUMBER OF CONVENINGS.—The Commission shall hold—

(A) not fewer than 1 convening in each of the 12 regions of the Bureau of Indian Affairs and in Hawai'i during the life of the Commission; and

(B) beginning 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, not fewer than 1 convening in each quarter to receive testimony each calendar year until the date on which the Commission submits the final report of the Commission under section 111(e)(3).

(4) OPPORTUNITY TO PROVIDE TESTIMONY.—No person or entity shall be denied the opportunity to provide relevant testimony or information at a convening held under this subsection, except at the discretion of the Chairperson of the Commission (or a designee).

(i) FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT APPLICABILITY.—Chapter 10 of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the ''Federal Advisory Committee Act''), shall not apply to the Commission.

(j) CONGRESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY ACT APPLICABILITY.—For purposes of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1301 et seq.)—

(1) any individual who is an employee of the Commission shall be considered a covered employee under the Act; and

(2) the Commission shall be considered an employing office under the Act; and

(3) a member of the Commission shall be considered a covered employee under the Act.

(k) CONSULTATION OR ENGAGEMENT WITH NATIVE AMERICANS, INDIAN TRIBES, TRIBAL ORGANIZATIONS, THE OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS, AND NATIVE HAWAIIAN ORGANIZATIONS.—In carrying out the duties of the Commission under section 111, the Commission shall meaningfully consult or engage, as appropriate, in a timely manner with Native Americans, Indian Tribes, Tribal organizations, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and Native Hawaiian organizations.

(l) FUNDING.—Of the amounts authorized to be appropriated pursuant to section 105 of the Indian Land Consolidation Act Amendments of 2000 (25 U.S.C. 2201 note; Public Law 106–462) and section 403 of the Indian Financing Act of 1974 (25 U.S.C. 1523), $90,000,000 shall be used to carry out this Act.

Subtitle B—Duties of the Commission

SEC. 111. DUTIES OF THE COMMISSION.

(a) INVESTIGATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall conduct a comprehensive interdisciplinary investigation of Indian Boarding School Policies, including the social, cultural, economic, emotional, and physical effects of Indian Boarding School Policies in the United States on Native American communities, Indian Tribes, survivors of Indian Boarding Schools, families of those survivors, and their descendants.

(2) MATTERS TO BE INVESTIGATED.—The matters to be investigated by the Commission under paragraph (1) shall include, at a minimum—

(A) conducting a comprehensive review of existing research and historical records of Indian Boarding School Policies and any documentation, scholarship, or other resources relevant to the purposes of this Act from—

(i) any archive or any other document storage location, notwithstanding the location of that archive or document storage location; and

(ii) any research conducted by private individuals, private entities, and non-Federal Government entities, whether domestic or foreign, including religious institutions;

(B) collaborating with the Federal and Religious Truth and Healing Advisory Committee to obtain all relevant information from—

(i) the Department of the Interior, the Department of Health and Human Services, other relevant Federal agencies, and institutions or organizations, including religious institutions or organizations, that operated an Indian Boarding School, carried out Indian Boarding School Policies, or have information that the Commission determines to be relevant to the investigation of the Commission; and

(ii) Indian Tribes, Tribal organizations, Native Americans, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and Native Hawaiian organizations; and

(C) conducting a comprehensive assessment of the impacts of Indian Boarding School Policies on Native American students and alumni, including the impact on cultures, traditions, and languages.

(3) RESEARCH RELATED TO OBJECTS, ARTIFACTS, AND REAL PROPERTY.—If the Commission conducts a comprehensive review of research described in paragraph (2)(A)(ii) that focuses on objects, artifacts, or real or personal property that are in the possession or control of private individuals, private entities, or non-Federal Government entities within the United States, the Commission may enter into a contract or agreement to acquire, hold, curate, or maintain those objects, artifacts, or real or personal property until the objects, artifacts, or real or personal property can be properly repatriated or returned, consistent with applicable Federal law, subject to the condition that no Federal funds may be used to purchase those objects, artifacts, or real or personal property.

(b) MEETINGS AND CONVENINGS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall hold, with the advice of the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee and the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee, and in coordination with, as relevant, Indian Tribes, Tribal organizations, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and Native Hawaiian organizations, as part of its investigation under subsection (a), safe, trauma-informed, and culturally appropriate public or private meetings or convenings to receive testimony relating to that investigation.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The Commission shall ensure that meetings and convenings held under paragraph (1) provide access to adequate trauma-informed care services for participants, attendees, and communities during and following the meetings and convenings where the Commission receives testimony, including ensuring that private

space is available for survivors and descendants of survivors, family members, and other community members to receive trauma-informed care services.

(c) RECOMMENDATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall make recommendations to Congress relating to the investigation carried out under subsection (a), which shall be included in the final report required under subsection (e)(3).

(2) INCLUSIONS.—Recommendations made under paragraph (1) shall include, at a minimum, recommendations relating to—

(A) in light of Tribal and Native Hawaiian law, Tribal customary law, tradition, custom, and practice, how the Federal Government can meaningfully acknowledge the role of the Federal Government in supporting Indian Boarding School Policies in all issue areas that the Commission determines relevant, including appropriate forms of memorialization, preservation of records, objects, artifacts, and burials;

(B) how modification of existing statutes, procedures, regulations, policies, budgets, and practices will, in the determination of the Commission, address the findings of the Commission and ongoing effects of Indian Boarding School Policies;

(C) how the Federal Government can promote public awareness of, and education about, Indian Boarding School Policies and the impacts of those policies, including through coordinating with the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee, the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee, the Smithsonian Institution, and other relevant institutions and organizations; and

(D) the views of religious institutions.

(d) DUTIES RELATED TO BURIALS.—The Commission shall, with respect to burial sites associated with Indian Boarding Schools—

(1) coordinate, as appropriate, with the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee, the Federal and Religious Truth and Healing Advisory Committee, the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee, lineal descendants, Indian Tribes, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, Federal agencies, institutions, and organizations to locate and identify, in a culturally appropriate manner, marked and unmarked burial sites, including cemeteries, unmarked graves, and mass burial sites, where students of Indian Boarding Schools were originally or later interred;

(2) locate, document, analyze, and coordinate the preservation or continued preservation of records and information relating to the interment of students, including any records held by Federal, State, international, or local entities or religious institutions or organizations; and

(3) share, to the extent practicable, with affected lineal descendants, Indian Tribes, and the Office of Hawaiian Affairs burial locations and the identities of children who attended Indian Boarding Schools.

(e) REPORTS.—

(1) ANNUAL REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—Not less frequently than annually until the year before the year in which the Commission terminates, the Commission shall submit to the Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives a report that describes the activities of the Commission during the previous year, including an accounting of funds and gifts received and expenditures made, the progress made, and any barriers encountered in carrying out this Act.

(2) COMMISSION INITIAL REPORT.—Not later than 4 years after the date on which a majority of the members of the Commission are appointed under section 101(b)(1), the Commission shall submit to the individuals described in paragraph (4), and make publicly available, an initial report containing—

(A) a detailed review of existing research, including documentation, scholarship, or other resources shared with the Commission that further the purposes of this Act;

(B) a detailed statement of the initial findings and conclusions of the Commission; and

(C) a detailed statement of the initial recommendations of the Commission.

(3) COMMISSION FINAL REPORT.—Before the termination of the Commission, the Commission shall submit to the individuals described in paragraph (4), and make publicly available, a final report containing the findings, conclusions, and recommendations of the Commission that have been agreed on by the vote of a majority of the members of the Commission and ⅗ of the members of each of the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee and the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee.

(4) REPORT RECIPIENTS.—The individuals referred to in paragraphs (2) and (3) are—

(A) the President;

(B) the Secretary of the Interior;

(C) the Attorney General;

(D) the Comptroller General of the United States;

(E) the Secretary of Education;

(F) the Secretary of Health and Human Services;

(G) the Secretary of Defense;

(H) the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate;

(I) the Chairperson and ranking minority member of the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives;

(J) the Co-Chairs of the Congressional Native American Caucus;

(K) the Executive Director of the White House Council on Native American Affairs;

(L) the Director of the Office of Management and Budget;

(M) the Archivist of the United States;

(N) the Librarian of Congress; and

(O) the Director of the National Museum of the American Indian.

(5) ADDITIONAL COMMISSION RESPONSIBILITIES RELATING TO THE PUBLICATION OF THE INITIAL AND FINAL REPORTS.—

(A) EVENTS RELATING TO INITIAL REPORT.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall hold not fewer than 2 events in each region of the Bureau of Indian Affairs and in Hawai'i following publication of the initial report under paragraph (2) to receive comments on the initial report.

(ii) TIMING.—The schedule of events referred to in clause (i) shall be announced not later than 90 days after the date on which the initial report under paragraph (2) is published.

(B) PUBLICATION OF FINAL REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date on which the Commission submits the final report under paragraph (3), the Commission, the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Education, the Secretary of Defense, and the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall each make the final report publicly available on the website of the applicable agency.

(6) SECRETARIAL RESPONSE TO FINAL REPORT.—Not later than 120 days after the date on which the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Education, the Secretary of Defense, and the Secretary of Health and Human Services receive the final report under paragraph (3), the Secretaries shall each make publicly available a written response to recommendations for future action by those agencies, if any, contained in the final report, and submit the written response to—

(A) the President;

(B) the Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate;

(C) the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives; and

(D) the Comptroller General of the United States.

Subtitle C—Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee

SEC. 121. SURVIVORS TRUTH AND HEALING SUBCOMMITTEE.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a subcommittee of the Commission, to be known as the ''Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee''.

(b) MEMBERSHIP, NOMINATION, AND APPOINTMENT TO THE SURVIVORS TRUTH AND HEALING SUBCOMMITTEE.—

(1) MEMBERSHIP.—The Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee shall include 15 members, to be appointed by the Commission, in consultation with the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition, from among the nominees submitted under paragraph (2)(A), of whom—

(A) 12 shall be representatives from each of the 12 regions of the Bureau of Indian Affairs and 1 shall be a representative from Hawai'i;

(B) 9 shall be individuals who attended an Indian Boarding School of whom—

(i) not fewer than 2 shall be individuals who graduated during the 5-year period preceding the date of the enactment of this Act from—

(I) an Indian Boarding School in operation as of that date of the enactment; or

(II) a Bureau of Indian Education-funded school; and

(ii) all shall represent diverse regions of the United States;

(C) 5 shall be descendants of individuals who attended Indian Boarding Schools, who shall represent diverse regions of the United States; and

(D) 1 shall be an educator who, as of the date of the appointment—

(i) is employed at an Indian Boarding School; or

(ii) was employed at an Indian Boarding School during the 5-year period preceding the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) NOMINATIONS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, Indian Tribes, Tribal organizations, Native Americans, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and Native Hawaiian organizations may submit to the Secretary of the Interior nominations for individuals to be appointed as members of the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee.

(B) SUBMISSION.—The Secretary of the Interior shall provide the Commission with nominations submitted under subparagraph (A) at the initial business meeting of the Commission under section 101(c)(1) and the Commission shall select the members of the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee from among those nominees.

(3) DATE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall appoint all members of the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee during the initial business meeting of the Commission under section 101(c)(1).

(B) FAILURE TO APPOINT.—If the Commission fails to appoint all members of the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee in accordance with subparagraph (A), the Chair of the Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate, with the concurrence of the Vice Chair of the Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate, shall appoint individuals, in accordance with the requirements of paragraph (1), to all vacant positions of the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee not later than 30 days after the date of the initial business meeting of the Commission under section 101(c)(1).

(4) PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT; VACANCIES; REMOVAL.—

(A) PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT.—A member of the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee shall be appointed for an automatically renewable term of 2 years.

(B) VACANCIES.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—A member of the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee may vacate the position at any time and for any reason.

(ii) EFFECT; FILLING OF VACANCY.—A vacancy in the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee—

(I) shall not affect the powers of the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee if a simple majority of the positions of the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee are filled; and

(II) shall be filled within 90 days in the same manner as was the original appointment.

(C) REMOVAL.—A quorum of members of the Commission may remove a member of the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee only for neglect of duty or malfeasance.

(5) TERMINATION.—The Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee shall terminate 90 days after the date on which the Commission submits the final report required under section 111(e)(3).

(6) LIMITATION.—No member of the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee may otherwise be an officer or employee of the Federal Government.

(c) BUSINESS MEETINGS.—

(1) INITIAL MEETING.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which all members of the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee are appointed under subsection (b)(1), the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee shall hold an initial business meeting—

(A) to appoint—

(i) a Chairperson, who shall also serve as the Vice Chairperson of the Federal and Religious Truth and Healing Advisory Committee;

(ii) a Vice Chairperson, who shall also serve as the Vice Chairperson of the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee; and

(iii) other positions, as determined necessary by the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee;

(B) to establish, with the advice of the Commission, rules for the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee;

(C) to appoint 3 designees to fulfill the responsibilities described in section 101(h)(1)(A); and

(D) to appoint, with the advice of the Commission, 2 members of the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee to serve as nonvoting designees on the Commission in accordance with section 101(c)(3).

(2) SUBSEQUENT BUSINESS MEETINGS.—After the initial business meeting of the Survivors Truth and Healing subcommittee is held under paragraph (1), the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee shall meet at the call of the Chairperson.

(3) FORMAT OF BUSINESS MEETINGS.—A business meeting of the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee may be conducted in-person or virtually.

(4) QUORUM REQUIRED.—A business meeting of the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee may be held only after a quorum, established in accordance with subsection (d), is present.

(d) QUORUM.—A simple majority of the members of the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee shall constitute a quorum for a business meeting.

(e) RULES.—The Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee, with the advice of the Commission, may establish, by a majority vote, any rules for the conduct of business, in accordance with this section and other applicable law.

(f) DUTIES.—The Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee shall—

(1) assist the Commission, the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee, and the Federal and Religious Truth and Healing Advisory Committee in coordinating public and private convenings, including providing advice to the Commission on developing criteria and protocols for convenings;

(2) provide advice and evaluate Committee recommendations relating to the commemoration and public education relating to Indian Boarding Schools and Indian Boarding School Policies;

(3) assist the Commission—

(A) in the production of the initial and final reports required under paragraphs (2) and (3), respectively, of section 111(e); and

(B) by providing such other advice, or fulfilling such other requests, as may be required by the Commission; and

(4) coordinate with the Commission, the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee, and the Federal and Religious Truth and Healing Advisory Committee.

(g) CONSULTATION OR ENGAGEMENT WITH NATIVE AMERICANS, INDIAN TRIBES, TRIBAL ORGANIZATIONS, THE OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS, AND NATIVE HAWAIIAN ORGANIZATIONS.—In carrying out the duties of the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee under subsection (f), the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee shall meaningfully consult or engage, as appropriate, in a timely manner with Native Americans, Indian Tribes, Tribal organizations, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and Native Hawaiian organizations.

(h) FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT APPLICABILITY.—Chapter 10 of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the ''Federal Advisory Committee Act''), shall not apply to the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee.

(i) CONGRESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY ACT APPLICABILITY.—For purposes of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1301 et seq.), any individual who is a member of the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee shall be considered a covered employee under the Act.

(j) PERSONNEL MATTERS.—

(1) COMPENSATION OF MEMBERS.—A member of the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee shall be compensated at a daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay prescribed for grade 7, step 1, of the General Schedule under section 5332 of title 5, United States Code, for each day, not to exceed 10 days per month, for which a member of the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee is engaged in the performance of their duties under this Act limited to convening meetings, including public and private meetings to receive testimony in furtherance of the duties of the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee and the purposes of this Act.

(2) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—A member of the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for employees of agencies under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while away from their homes or regular places of business in the performance of services for the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee.

TITLE II—ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Subtitle A—Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee

SEC. 201. NATIVE AMERICAN TRUTH AND HEALING ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Commission shall establish an advisory committee, to be known as the ''Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee''.

(b) MEMBERSHIP, NOMINATION, AND APPOINTMENT TO THE NATIVE AMERICAN TRUTH AND HEALING ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—

(1) MEMBERSHIP.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee shall include 19 members, to be appointed by the Commission from among the nominees submitted under paragraph (2)(A), of whom—

(i) 1 shall be the Vice Chairperson of the Commission, who shall serve as the Chairperson of the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee;

(ii) 1 shall be the Vice Chairperson of the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee, who shall serve as the Vice Chairperson of the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee;

(iii) 1 shall be the Secretary of the Interior, or a designee, who shall serve as the Secretary of the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee;

(iv) 12 shall be representatives from each of the 12 regions of the Bureau of Indian Affairs and 1 shall be a representative from Hawai'i;

(v) 1 shall represent the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition;

(vi) 1 shall represent the National Association of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers; and

(vii) 1 shall represent the National Indian Education Association.

(B) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS.—Not fewer than 2 members of the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee shall have experience with health care or mental health, traditional healing or cultural practices, counseling, or working with survivors, or descendants of survivors, of Indian Boarding Schools to ensure that the Commission considers culturally responsive support for survivors, families, and communities.

(2) NOMINATIONS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, Indian Tribes, Tribal organizations, Native Americans, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and Native Hawaiian organizations may submit to the Secretary of the Interior nominations for individuals to be appointed as members of the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee.

(B) SUBMISSION.—The Secretary of the Interior shall provide the Commission with nominations submitted under subparagraph (A) at the initial business meeting of the Commission under section 101(c)(1) and the Commission shall select the members of the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee from among those nominees.

(3) DATE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall appoint all members of the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee during the initial business meeting of the Commission under section 101(c)(1).

(B) FAILURE TO APPOINT.—If the Commission fails to appoint all members of the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee in accordance with subparagraph (A), the Chair of the Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate, with the concurrence of the Vice Chair of the Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate, shall appoint, in accordance with the requirements of paragraph (1), individuals to all vacant positions of the

Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee not later than 30 days after the date of the initial business meeting of the Commission under section 101(c)(1).

(4) PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT; VACANCIES.—

(A) PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT.—A member of the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee shall be appointed for an automatically renewable term of 2 years.

(B) VACANCIES.—A vacancy in the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee—

(i) shall not affect the powers of the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee if a simple majority of the positions of the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee are filled; and

(ii) shall be filled within 90 days in the same manner as was the original appointment.

(5) TERMINATION.—The Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee shall terminate 90 days after the date on which the Commission submits the final report required under section 111(e)(3).

(6) LIMITATION.—No member of the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee (other than the member described in paragraph (1)(A)(iii)) may otherwise be an officer or employee of the Federal Government.

(c) QUORUM.—A simple majority of the members of the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee shall constitute a quorum.

(d) REMOVAL.—A quorum of members of the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee may remove another member only for neglect of duty or malfeasance.

(e) BUSINESS MEETINGS.—

(1) INITIAL BUSINESS MEETING.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which all members of the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee are appointed under subsection (b)(1)(A), the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee shall hold an initial business meeting—

(A) to establish rules for the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee;

(B) to appoint 3 designees to fulfill the responsibilities described in section 101(h)(1)(A); and

(C) to appoint 2 members of the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee to serve as non-voting designees on the Commission in accordance with section 101(c)(3).

(2) SUBSEQUENT BUSINESS MEETINGS.—After the initial business meeting of the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee is held under paragraph (1), the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee shall meet at the call of the Chairperson.

(3) FORMAT OF BUSINESS MEETINGS.—A meeting of the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee may be conducted in-person or virtually.

(4) QUORUM REQUIRED.—A business meeting of the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee may be held only after a quorum, established in accordance with subsection (c), is present.

(f) RULES.—The Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee may establish, with the advice of the Commission, by a majority vote, any rules for the conduct of business, in accordance with this section and other applicable law.

(g) DUTIES.—The Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee shall—

(1) serve as an advisory body to the Commission;

(2) assist the Commission in organizing and carrying out culturally appropriate public and private convenings relating to the duties of the Commission;

(3) assist the Commission in determining what documentation from Federal and religious organizations and institutions may be necessary to fulfill the duties of the Commission;

(4) assist the Commission in the production of the initial report and final report required under paragraphs (2) and (3), respectively, of section 111(e);

(5) coordinate with the Commission, the Federal and Religious Truth and Healing Advisory Committee, and the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee; and

(6) provide advice to, or fulfill such other requests by, the Commission as the Commission may require to carry out the purposes described in section 2.

(h) CONSULTATION OR ENGAGEMENT WITH NATIVE AMERICANS, INDIAN TRIBES, TRIBAL ORGANIZATIONS, THE OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS, AND NATIVE HAWAIIAN ORGANIZATIONS.—In carrying out the duties of the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee under subsection (g), the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee shall meaningfully consult or engage, as appropriate, in a timely manner with Native Americans, Indian Tribes, Tribal organizations, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and Native Hawaiian organizations.

(i) FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT APPLICABILITY.—Chapter 10 of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the ''Federal Advisory Committee Act''), shall not apply to the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee.

(j) CONGRESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY ACT APPLICABILITY.—For purposes of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1301 et seq.), any individual who is a member of the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee shall be considered a covered employee under the Act.

(k) PERSONNEL MATTERS.—

(1) COMPENSATION OF MEMBERS.—A member of the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee shall be compensated at a daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay prescribed for grade 7, step 1, of the General Schedule under section 5332 of title 5, United States Code, for each day, not to exceed 14 days per month, for which a member is engaged in the performance of their duties under this Act, limited to convening meetings, including public and private meetings to receive testimony in furtherance of the duties of the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee and the purposes of this Act.

(2) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—A member of the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for employees of agencies under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while away from their homes or regular places of business in the performance of services for the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee.

Subtitle B—Federal and Religious Truth and Healing Advisory Committee

SEC. 211. FEDERAL AND RELIGIOUS TRUTH AND HEALING ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established within the Department of the Interior an advisory committee, to be known as the ''Federal and Religious Truth and Healing Advisory Committee''.

(b) MEMBERSHIP AND APPOINTMENT TO THE FEDERAL AND RELIGIOUS TRUTH AND HEALING ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—

(1) MEMBERSHIP.—The Federal and Religious Truth and Healing Advisory Committee shall include 20 members, of whom—

(A) 1 shall be the Chairperson of the Commission, who shall serve as the Chairperson of the Federal and Religious Truth and Healing Advisory Committee;

(B) 1 shall be the Chairperson of the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee, who shall serve as the Vice Chairperson of the Federal and Religious Truth and Healing Advisory Committee;

(C) 1 shall be the White House Domestic Policy Advisor, who shall serve as the Secretary of the Federal and Religious Truth and Healing Advisory Committee;

(D) 1 shall be the Director of the Bureau of Trust Funds Administration (or a designee);

(E) 1 shall be the Archivist of the United States (or a designee);

(F) 1 shall be the Librarian of Congress (or a designee);

(G) 1 shall be the Director of the Department of the Interior Library (or a designee);

(H) 1 shall be the Director of the Indian Health Service (or a designee);

(I) 1 shall be the Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Abuse of the Department of Health and Human Services (or a designee);

(J) 1 shall be the Commissioner of the Administration for Native Americans of the Department of Health and Human Services (or a designee);

(K) 1 shall be the Director of the National Institutes of Health (or a designee);

(L) 1 shall be the Senior Program Director of the Office of Native Hawaiian Relations of the Department of the Interior (or a designee);

(M) 1 shall be the Director of the Office of Indian Education of the Department of Education (or a designee);

(N) 1 shall be the Director of the Rural, Insular, and Native American Achievement Programs of the Department of Education (or a designee);

(O) 1 shall be the Chair of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (or a designee);

(P) 1 shall be the Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs (or a designee);

(Q) 1 shall be the Director of the Bureau of Indian Education (or a designee); and

(R) 3 shall be representatives employed by, or representatives of, religious institutions, to be appointed by the White House Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships in consultation with relevant religious institutions.

(2) PERIOD OF SERVICE; VACANCIES; REMOVAL.—

(A) PERIOD OF SERVICE.—A member of the Federal and Religious Truth and Healing Advisory Committee shall serve for an automatically renewable term of 2 years.

(B) VACANCIES.—A vacancy in the Federal and Religious Truth and Healing Advisory Committee—

(i) shall not affect the powers of the Federal and Religious Truth and Healing Advisory Committee if a simple majority of the positions of the Federal and Religious Truth and Healing Advisory Committee are filled; and

(ii) shall be filled within 90 days in the same manner as was the original appointment.

(C) REMOVAL.—A quorum of members of the Federal and Religious Truth and Healing Advisory Committee may remove a member of the Federal and Religious Truth and Healing Advisory Committee only for neglect of duty or malfeasance.

(3) TERMINATION.—The Federal and Religious Truth and Healing Advisory Committee shall terminate 90 days after the date on which the Commission submits the final report required under section 111(e)(3).

(c) BUSINESS MEETINGS.—

(1) INITIAL BUSINESS MEETING.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the initial business meeting of the Commission under

section 101(c)(1), the Federal and Religious Truth and Healing Advisory Committee shall hold an initial business meeting—

(A) to establish rules for the Federal and Religious Truth and Healing Advisory Committee; and

(B) to appoint 2 members of the Federal and Religious Truth and Healing Advisory Committee to serve as non-voting designees on the Commission in accordance with section 101(c)(3).

(2) SUBSEQUENT BUSINESS MEETINGS.—After the initial business meeting of the Federal and Religious Truth and Healing Advisory Committee is held under paragraph (1), the Federal and Religious Truth and Healing Advisory Committee shall meet at the call of the Chairperson.

(3) FORMAT OF BUSINESS MEETINGS.—A business meeting of the Federal and Religious Truth and Healing Advisory Committee may be conducted in-person or virtually.

(4) QUORUM REQUIRED.—A business meeting of the Federal and Religious Truth and Healing Advisory Committee may be held only after a quorum, established in accordance with subsection (d), is present.

(d) QUORUM.—A simple majority of the members of the Federal and Religious Truth and Healing Advisory Committee shall constitute a quorum for a business meeting.

(e) RULES.—The Federal and Religious Truth and Healing Advisory Committee may establish, with the advice of the Commission, by a majority vote, any rules for the conduct of business, in accordance with this section and other applicable law.

(f) DUTIES.—The Federal and Religious Truth and Healing Advisory Committee shall—

(1) ensure the effective and timely coordination among Federal agencies and religious institutions in furtherance of the purposes of this Act;

(2) assist the Commission and the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee in coordinating—

(A) meetings and other related public and private convenings; and

(B) the collection, organization, and preservation of information obtained from witnesses and by other Federal agencies and religious institutions;

(3) ensure the timely submission to the Commission of materials, documents, testimony, and such other information as the Commission determines to be necessary to carry out the duties of the Commission; and

(4) coordinate with the Commission, the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee, and the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee to carry out the purposes of this Act.

(g) CONSULTATION OR ENGAGEMENT WITH NATIVE AMERICANS, INDIAN TRIBES, TRIBAL ORGANIZATIONS, THE OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS, AND NATIVE HAWAIIAN ORGANIZATIONS.—In carrying out the duties of the Federal and Religious Truth and Healing Advisory Committee under subsection (f), the Federal and Religious Truth and Healing Advisory Committee shall meaningfully consult or engage, as appropriate, in a timely manner with Native Americans, Indian Tribes, Tribal organizations, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and Native Hawaiian organizations.

(h) NONDISCLOSURE.—

(1) PRIVACY ACT OF 1974 APPLICABILITY.—Subsection (b) of section 552a of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the ''Privacy Act of 1974''), shall not apply to the Federal and Religious Truth and Healing Advisory Committee.

(2) FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT APPLICABILITY.—Records and other communications in the possession of the Federal and Religious Truth and Healing Advisory Committee shall be exempt from disclosure under subsection (b)(3)(B) of section 552 of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the ''Freedom of Information Act'').

(3) FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT APPLICABILITY.—Chapter 10 of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the ''Federal Advisory Committee Act''), shall not apply to the Federal and Religious Truth and Healing Advisory Committee.

TITLE III—GENERAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 301. CLARIFICATION.

The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (25 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.) shall apply to cultural items (as defined in section 2 of that Act (25 U.S.C. 3001)) relating to an Indian Boarding School or Indian Boarding School Policies regardless of interpretation of applicability by a Federal agency.

SEC. 302. BURIAL MANAGEMENT.

Federal agencies shall permit reburial of cultural items relating to an Indian Boarding School or Indian Boarding School Policies that have been repatriated pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (25 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.), or returned to a lineal descendant, Indian Tribe, or Native Hawaiian organization by any other disinterment process, on any Federal land as agreed to by the relevant parties.

SEC. 303. CO-STEWARDSHIP AGREEMENTS.

A Federal agency that carries out activities pursuant to this Act or that created or controls a cemetery with remains of an individual who attended an Indian Boarding School or an Indian Boarding School may enter into a co-stewardship agreement for the management of the cemetery or Indian Boarding School.

SEC. 304. NO RIGHT OF ACTION.

Nothing in this Act creates a private right of action to seek administrative or judicial relief.

Mr. SCHATZ. I ask that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

S. 1723

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, it is no small task for us to confront the unbearable burden of our history. Yet to stand before that history in silence and to remain idle while these wounds persist is to turn away from one of the most fundamental acts of justice and healing that we are in a position to do something about. We have to turn the light on and let the truth out.

This is the work that we have done in the Senate now, and we do hope the House takes action and passes this incredibly important measure into law.

I yield the floor.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 993

Ms. MASTO. Mr. President, throughout my career, I have been committed to tackling the drug problem in this country and protecting our communities. I have passed bills to hold criminals accountable and crack down on fentanyl manufacturing and trafficking.

But I am here today because our work to protect Americans from these harmful drugs is far from over. As we continue our work to keep our families safe from fentanyl, we must also focus on new drugs that are emerging, like xylazine. Drug traffickers have been adding xylazine to fentanyl to increase the potency of the drug and to boost their profits.

Its nickname is ''tranq'' because it is an animal tranquilizer, and it is surging, unfortunately, across the United States. I have been hearing from law enforcement in Nevada about how xylazine is spreading to the West. Between the years 2019 and 2022, the number of overdose deaths in this country related to xylazine skyrocketed by 276 percent.

Xylazine can do catastrophic damage to our communities, and, right now, it is almost entirely unregulated. We have to get ahead of that. That is why I have introduced the bipartisan, bicameral Combating Illicit Xylazine Act with Senators CHUCK GRASSLEY and MAGGIE HASSAN. This bill has the support of over 115 bipartisan Members of Congress in both Chambers because it is essential.

This legislation would make xylazine a schedule III drug and give the DEA, or the Drug Enforcement Administration, and local law enforcement the resources they need to get it off our streets, while also protecting its use as a veterinary tranquilizer for our farmers and ranchers.

Let me stress this again. This legislation also gives our veterinarians the ability to still have access to this drug, which they need, as a tranquilizer for their animals.

This is not a partisan issue. We all want to keep our families safe from horrific drugs like xylazine. We must act now to pass the Combating Illicit Xylazine Act and get this harmful drug out of our neighborhoods and out of the hands of our kids so that we can save lives.

So, Mr. President, as if in legislative session and notwithstanding rule XXII, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of S. 993 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration; further, that the Cortez Masto-Grassley substitute amendment at the desk be agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Massachusetts.

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, I thank Senator CORTEZ MASTO for being such a leader on fighting the opioid epidemic. She is on the frontline of conducting that battle against this scourge. We are both here on the floor today in an effort to find the best solutions for addressing this crisis.

We lost over 105,000 Americans to overdose last year. That is over 1 million people in a decade who have died,

at that pace. And to put this in more concrete terms, we lost more Americans in a single year to overdose than in the entirety of the Vietnam war or the Korean war—in just 1 year, 105,000 people.

For every death, we unleash waves of grief and hurt on families and communities that lose one of their own. Now, 105,000 deaths is more than unacceptable; it is a tragedy. And this epidemic is made worse by the scourge of xylazine. The tragedy does call for immediate, full-scale solutions. Americans need solutions that work.

In developing those solutions, we must be conscious about any unintended consequences, and I am concerned about the unintended consequences of passing the Combating Illicit Xylazine Act.

The bill would require scheduling xylazine under the Controlled Substances Act as a schedule III drug. And these schedules are meant to create restrictions based on a balance of the substance's legitimate medical use and their potential for abuse. It is a balance. And in the United States we actually have a process to schedule xylazine and other drugs. We have a process that is time tested, that requires the Department of Health and Human Services to provide a scientific and medical evaluation.

And as the Drug Enforcement Administration, the DEA, has indicated, they have already started that process. So instead of waiting for the scientific and medical evaluation to be completed, this bill would actually require we skip the process and let Congress decide what scheduling is the most appropriate.

But, ultimately, this process is something which I believe has to be given due respect. If we schedule this without waiting for the experts, this could lead to more people struggling with addiction, having a hard time asking for help, and less research into xylazine testing, overdose reversal, and treatment.

So, from my perspective, I just don't think we should be skipping over expert recommendations that would help us avoid those unintended consequences. And efforts to skip medical and scientific evaluation should certainly not be supported by the DEA, working to undercut the administration's own health experts in their role in developing a scheduling recommendation.

So there is a tension here that exists between the DEA and between our health officials in terms of the processes that we should be using. And I understand that part of the justification for a legislative solution is to create exemptions for veterinary medicine to avoid unnecessary interference in legitimate uses of xylazine. We can do that once we have a complete medical and scientific recommendation, and I look forward, obviously, to working with my great friend Senator CORTEZ MASTO—she is, again, a great leader in this battle against the opioid epidemic—to identify the appropriate legislative solution once we have obtained that medical recommendation from the medical experts.

I also look forward to working with the Drug Enforcement Administration in making a serious effort to support Americans who are struggling with addiction, and that includes increasing access to medication treatment, including methadone, for opioid use disorder.

Senator CORTEZ MASTO and I agree xylazine is dangerous. Our overdose epidemic is unacceptable, and we need solutions. I am honored to work with Senator CORTEZ MASTO in this fight. We have solutions that we can pursue. We need to pass the Support Act Reauthorization. We need to give communities the tools to test and respond to substances coming into their communities. We need to train and support law enforcement and health providers responding to overdose after overdose. We need to break down old War on Drug structures that make it nearly impossible for Americans to get treatment they need without being criminalized, penalized, and stigmatized. But in pursuing these goals, we cannot provide solutions that offer the potential of undermining the process that has been in place to rely upon medical and scientific evaluation and then work in coordination with the Drug Enforcement Agency.

For that set of reasons, at this time, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Nevada.

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, I absolutely respect my colleague from Massachusetts and look forward to working with him.

Let me just put on the record here the concern in why this legislation is so necessary. Time is of the essence here. We are talking about saving lives.

Never, ever would we want to undermine the process to move forward, but unfortunately, in this case, the process of moving forward is going to take, one, time that we know is very bureaucratic; two, the process moving forward, if we are to wait for it, does not take into consideration our veterinarians, farmers, and ranchers. If we wait for the proposal to come forward from the DEA, that proposal will not carve out and still allow this particular drug, xylazine, to be utilized by our veterinarians and farmers. It will absolutely make it a schedule III and take it off completely.

That is why this legislation was essential. That is why, working with our veterinarians and working with the DEA and the entire executive branch, we wanted to bring them into this process, without undermining that process, to make sure we were doing everything possible to address this in a timely manner.

It is also why, earlier this year, the executive branch issued several legislative proposals in its ''Detect and Defeat'' Counter-Fentanyl Proposal, which was shared with Congress. Those proposals made a provision to make xylazine a schedule III drug. That legislation proposed to place xylazine in schedule III by the executive branch is supported by the entire executive branch, including specifically the Department of Health and Human Services and the Food and Drug Administration. They have been brought into the process. Those are the health experts.

That is what this is about. The goal was to bring everybody together now, to bring all the key stakeholders so we can make this timely legislation and move it because time is of the essence if we are to save lives. That is why, honestly, many of the veterinarian associations across the country, including in Massachusetts, support this process. They do not want to be left out.

If we are to wait for the DEA process to go forward, there is not going to be a carve-out for veterinarians to access this drug.

This was my attempt and Senator GRASSLEY's and so many of us working with all the key stakeholders on good legislation that makes sense, that is common sense to move forward here. Nobody was left out of the process, including the health experts.

I am disappointed we can't move this today, but I am hopeful, working with my colleague from Massachusetts, that we can provide him with the necessary information that he is seeking to move this legislation in a timely manner. I know he cares about this issue, about saving lives, as well.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

PHARMACY BENEFIT MANAGERS

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, earlier this week, Democrats and Republicans from both the House and the Senate made a deal that struck a blow against the healthcare middlemen that manipulate our healthcare system to enrich themselves.

Unfortunately, the very first act of the second Trump administration—or should I say, the first Musk administration—was to step in and strip out the bipartisan agreement that stops the drug middlemen known as pharmacy benefit managers from ripping off taxpayers and seniors.

We all understand that healthcare is an unavoidable expense for most American families. That is why I went into public service. Healthcare is not a Democratic or a Republican issue; it is a family issue. And we know if you or your loved ones don't have their health, everything else in the house goes by the board.

Unfortunately, the chaos sown by the President-elect and his billionaire ''mini-me''—though, again, it is hard to tell which is which—they serve to protect the middlemen, the pharmacy

benefit managers, and insurance companies that take money out of the system while our families are stuck with big medical bills and substandard care.

Donald Trump has spent the last 2 weeks telling everybody who will listen that he wants to take on the drug middlemen. Let me quote Donald Trump here. He said:

They're rich as hell.
We're going to knock them out.

Well, at the very first opportunity to do that, he abandoned that pledge in order to follow Elon Musk's lead.

You don't choose to do business with pharmacy benefit managers, but I will tell you, they are dining out on your paycheck, nevertheless. These PBMs squat between Big Pharma and the insurance companies. While they are supposed to negotiate coverage and the price of prescription medicine for your insurance plan, they have ended up favoring higher priced drugs by taking a fee that is linked to the price of the drug.

The effort to reform these PBM practices has been bipartisan from the getgo. It ought to be a no-brainer. I think I told the President of the Senate, the Senator from Idaho, Senator CRAPO, and I kicked this effort off 2 years ago when the Senate Finance Committee passed a bill 26 to 0 and the House of Representatives has worked in a similarly bipartisan way.

Our legislation would end the practice of profiting off higher prices in Medicare by ensuring that a PBM can only receive a flat fee from drugmakers. That is going to save taxpayers' and seniors' hard-earned dollars because, finally, these pharmacy benefit managers are going to have an incentive to pick lower priced drugs.

Let me just pause on that point for a second. These middlemen are not the good guys. Earlier this week—and I heard my colleagues talking about matters involving opioids—the New York Times reported that in negotiations with opioid manufacturers like Purdue Pharma, the pharmacy benefit managers traded away protections designed to reduce the rate of opioid overdoses and addiction in order to make yet another fast buck. These are the people Donald Trump is letting off the hook at Elon Musk's direction.

The bipartisan agreement, I might also add, is particularly important for us Westerners because we have seen our small, independent community pharmacies hit so hard. These small businesses have been closing their doors at an alarming rate over the past decade, again, in large part, due to the practices by these PBM giants. The pharmacy benefit managers are able to pay independent pharmacies whatever they feel like and then the little pharmacy in Arizona or Oregon or Idaho or anywhere else—the small pharmacy has to accept what the PBMs will pay.

What we do in our bipartisan legislation, what a number of committees in the Senate have worked on—what has been the effort in the House and what our program is all about is giving the small pharmacies a chance to fight back by reporting unreasonable contract terms to a Federal watchdog who is in a position to enforce a fair contract.

That is going to mean that independent community pharmacies are paid what they are owed and keep their doors open in rural America without having to pay off the PBMs by gouging customers.

Beyond the drug middlemen—I am just going to mention several other areas that the bipartisan legislation cracks down on in terms of helping the American people. The bipartisan legislation goes after ghost networks that are blocking Americans from getting the care they need. What these ghost networks are all about is, essentially, the insurance companies take your money, and then there aren't any providers, there aren't any navigators, there isn't anybody to help you get your coverage.

So under what we are calling for in a bipartisan way, the insurance companies would have to have a list of doctors that actually are going to make care available so Americans who need care can contact them, make an appointment, and not have to pay extra costs by going out of the healthcare network they paid for.

Too often, based on investigations conducted by the Government Accountability Office, as well as the investigative staff in the Finance Committee, we have found that, essentially, these ghost networks mean there is no: There, there. You paid your money, and you can't get access to real care. Either the doctors don't take new patients, nobody picks up the phone, you aren't able to get what you paid for.

Finally, the bipartisan agreement—that Donald Trump has directed be rejected. The bipartisan agreement strengthens requirements for insurance companies that sell Medicare Advantage plans to make sure that their directories are actually up to date.

Once again, we are seeing an area that cries out for reform because Americans across the political spectrum are sick and tired of paying premiums for health insurance, only to find they can't actually get care when they need it. So Medicare Advantage, ghost networks, these are the areas that we are strengthening in our bipartisan effort.

I will close by saying there is a lot more to like in the legislation when it comes to healthcare, like continuing access to telehealth and Medicare.

Again, Mr. President, bipartisan.

The late Senator Orrin Hatch negotiated with me the Chronic Care bill, which had telemedicine provisions which became the foundation for what we did to fight COVID—again, during the Trump administration.

But we are not getting the benefits of telehealth if we reject this bipartisan agreement, as Donald Trump is urging. Telemedicine is in our package and higher funding for community health centers.

I want to commend Senator SANDERS and Senator CASSIDY for working in a bipartisan way on that. And we also have improvements to help moms and kids and Americans with disabilities and seniors with Medicaid coverage. Those, of course, are the dual eligibles, the folks who are eligible for Medicaid and Medicare.

I come to the floor simply to say, we have the holidays coming up. Everybody understands that. But there is another gift we can give to the American people, and that is a more fair shake in American healthcare.

We are spending enough money, Mr. President. We are spending over $4 trillion. There are 330 million of us. Divide the 330 million into $4 trillion, you could send every family of four in America a check for more than $50,000 and say: ''Get your healthcare.'' We are not spending it in the right places. I will tell you, in many instances, the reason that is the case is because of these middle men. They made sense 30 years ago when you didn't have all the technology and all the data and people who knew how to use it. But today, these pharmacy benefit managers are, in too many instances, ripping off seniors and taxpayers. And I hope Donald Trump will see that our bipartisan bill is important to do now; important to do before we go home and get some relief to seniors and taxpayers.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

DEFENDING AMERICAN PROPERTY ABROAD ACT

Mr. HAGERTY. Mr. President, I am here today to discuss worrying developments in Mexico, our neighbors to the south, and to promote a solution in which we can all work together in the next Congress.

Sadly, I also need to call out actions by our own U.S. trade representative that would directly undermine American companies facing threats from Mexico by allowing the Mexican government to expropriate their properties.

Under the leadership of Mexico's previous President, Andrés Manuel López Obrador—colloquially known as ''AMLO''—and current President Claudia Sheinbaum, the Mexican government is committing a blatant theft against a major America company and, by extension, the United States itself.

Earlier this year, AMLO launched an aggressive campaign of intimidation and ''lawfare'' to support the outright theft of assets in Mexico belonging to Vulcan Materials, an Alabama-based company that has been a trusted partner in our Nation's infrastructure development for decades. Vulcan built and operated the only deepwater port on the Yucatan Peninsula and has used it to supply the crushed limestone essential to infrastructure projects from Florida to California.

Vulcan's operations in Mexico are not just a business venture; they form

a critical link in our supply chain and a testament to the importance of American investment in Mexico.

But AMLO decided that he wanted Vulcan's assets for himself. Cloaking his true intentions under the facade of environmental claims, AMLO shut down Vulcan's operations and sent armed law enforcement and the military to intimidate Vulcan's employees. And now, under his handpicked successor, President Sheinbaum, Mexico is now seizing Vulcan's deepwater port.

President Sheinbaum now seeks to finalize this theft by declaring the property a naturally protected area.

Let's call this what it is: Corruption dressed up as environmentalism. This is not protection. It is plunder. Lending any credence to this authorization is absurd.

These actions violate international norms. They ignore contractual obligations. They trample over U.S.-Canada-Mexico Free Trade Agreement, again, an agreement where America actually gives preferential trade treatment to Mexico.

Surely America's government is standing up for her own Nation's interest in the face of this brazen misconduct by the government of Mexico, right? Sadly, no. A key reason for the current circumstances is an absence of American leadership, especially at the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative. America's top trade representatives—or America's top trade negotiator, U.S. Trade Representative Katherine Tai, along with our State Department, have stood idly by while AMLO and Sheinbaum have escalated their anti-trade and anti-American agenda.

Their inaction has sent a dangerous signal that the United States will allow its businesses around the world to be bullied, its laws to be ignored, and its negotiated agreements to be undermined.

And it gets worse. Now, as reported in the Wall Street Journal, we are learning that the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative is siding with Mexico against the interests of U.S. firms by reinterpreting trade rules in a way that will erode the rights of American investors whose property was either confiscated or expropriated.

According to news reports, USTR wants to limit the ability to seek redress by American companies whose property is expropriated.

I stand here before my colleagues in the Senate asking why neither Congress nor the U.S. companies that would be impacted by these actions were ever consulted before the USTR stealthily moved to alter the USMCA agreement in a manner that undermines American interest.

Ambassador Tai and USTR leadership need to clearly understand how negatively their actions will be viewed by this Congress. I can assure you, they will not be forgotten.

Making last minute, 11th-hour changes to U.S. trade agreements without review from Congress or the U.S. companies that would be negatively impacted is outright malpractice. It is a slap in the face of American investors and employers who have risked their capital overseas, and it will drive scarcity and inflation of critical infrastructure materials in the United States if Mexico is allowed to confiscate these assets, including a very strategic deepwater port.

The implications of Mexico's theft and the failure of U.S. trade officials to defend America's interest go far beyond Vulcan materials. They directly attack the foundational principles of reciprocal trade, investor protection, and the rule of law.

If Mexico is allowed to target, without repercussion, a company like Vulcan, one that employs thousands of Americans and has operated responsibly in Mexico for decades, that means no American business is safe in Mexico. This kind of lawlessness will shatter investor confidence in Mexico. Why would any U.S. company risk capital in a country where contracts are meaningless, regulations are weaponized, and property can be seized at the government's whim?

This erosion of trust threatens not only American jobs, but also the economic integration of North America, which many think is vital to our national security and our global competitiveness.

Let's remember what the USMCA was supposed to be: a safeguard for trade and investment, a framework to protect the rule of law, and a cornerstone of North American prosperity.

AMLO and Sheinbaum have shredded the spirit of this agreement by expropriating Vulcan's port and its property and by pursuing an anti-investor agenda. AMLO and Sheinbaum are acting like saboteurs of the partnership that binds our two nations.

Congress must respond with strength and resolve, rather than roll over under the ruse of environmentalism. The U.S. Trade Representative should follow its duty as stated on its own website to protect American rights under our trade agreements and ''ensure that American workers, farmers, ranchers, and businesses receive the maximum benefit under our international trade agreement.'' What USTR is contemplating now is anything but that.

That is why my colleagues and I are fully committed to passing S. 5137, the Defending American Property Abroad Act. This legislation will ensure that those who benefit from stolen American assets, whether they be individuals or governments, face substantial consequences.

The Defending American Property Abroad Act will prohibit vessels that utilize expropriated American infrastructure from ever entering U.S. ports. It will bar such facilities from U.S. trade and mandate a full accounting of these violations in the upcoming 2026 USMCA review. The Defending American Property Abroad Act will make clear to President Sheinbaum that the United States will not tolerate the theft of American property.

AMLO and Sheinbaum must understand that their actions will have serious consequences. I will not stand by as Mexico betrays its commitments and undermines decades of cooperation.

The United States must defend its companies, its workers, and its principles with unwavering strength. That is why I am calling on my colleagues to join me in urgently finalizing and passing the Defending American Property Abroad Act in the next Congress. This cannot wait.

Mexico's actions are a test of our resolve. If we fail to respond decisively, we will invite further aggression, not just from Mexico but from every foreign leader watching to see if America will defend its interests. The United States should never be bullied, stolen from, or too feckless to respond to efforts to undermine its strength and sovereignty.

And here at home, USTR leadership must immediately reverse course from its plan to renegotiate trade rules and pull the rug from under U.S. firms—a particularly disgraceful capstone, I might say, for the reputation of this outgoing administration.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, I am glad to be here with my colleagues from Tennessee and Alabama to speak about this Mexican government's unfair, discriminatory treatment of Vulcan Materials and to encourage colleagues to support the Defending American Property Abroad Act.

Before I get into the details—and I see I am engendering an amazing response from the Gallery—I do want to say, I was a strong supporter of the USMCA. NAFTA was 20 years old. And any deal after 20 years, you would have learned what worked, what didn't, how to make it better. And I viewed USMCA as a significant achievement of the Trump administration, which I was glad to support. It got the overwhelming and bipartisan support of this body as well as the House.

I am very worried about incursions into this deal. We will have plenty of time to talk next year about one worry I have, which is the incoming administration's proposal to levy tariffs against Canada and Mexico. My thought is: Once you have a trade agreement that is a state-of-the-art trade agreement that has been voted for by an overwhelming bipartisan majority, that gives you an avenue of communication that you should be able to use with Canada and Mexico, and you shouldn't need to use tariffs against these trade partners. You should use the framework of the agreement to resolve disputes that you have.

But that is a matter for another day. Today, I want to talk about, in some detail, the matter that my friend and colleague Senator HAGERTY raised,

which is the treatment of Vulcan Materials. And it is not just the treatment of Vulcan, but what it might say either about the Mexican government's treatment of American companies generally or, frankly, the American government's posture of either battling to protect American companies or standing by while they are mistreated.

Vulcan is headquartered in Alabama—I see colleagues from Alabama on the floor—but employs over a thousand people in Virginia, nearly 70 facilities in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Vulcan has been operating in the Yucatan Peninsula for more than 30 years.

Senator HAGERTY and I came to the floor to talk about this matter a number of months ago in the hopes that we might be able to avert what the AMLO administration has done. But, nevertheless, even in a transition of government, Mexico has continued to ratchet up efforts to seize Vulcan's property in the Yucatan.

These actions against Vulcan were initiated, to be sure, by the López Obrador administration. But with the inauguration of the new President Sheinbaum earlier in 2024, these efforts that would continue to degrade the rule of law in Mexico continue. They are chilling investor confidence. They are making Mexico a more challenging place for American firms to do business.

In August, I joined Senators CARDIN, RISCH, and RUBIO in expressing our deep concern over proposed constitutional reforms in Mexico. Separate and apart from the matter of Vulcan, there is a larger context of actions in Mexico that should cause us some significant concerns. There is a judicial reform underway in Mexico promoted by the AMLO administration that was widely viewed by civil actors within Mexico, human rights and other organizations, as an effort to undermine the independence of the judiciary and make it harder for the Mexican judiciary to stand up against actions, illegal actions, by the Mexican government.

We strongly urged the AMLO administration in this bipartisan letter, as well as the incoming administration, to pursue only reforms that enhanced the professionalism and the independence of the judiciary; but, unfortunately, neither administration has heeded our call and, instead, moved forward on implementing reforms that weaken the independence of the Mexican judiciary.

Taken together, the direct bad-faith actions against Vulcan and the two administrations' insistence on degrading the independence of the Mexican judiciary are jeopardizing critical economic security interests of both of our nations.

Mexico is one of the top three trade partners of the United States, whether you measure by outgoing or incoming top three; and, certainly, it is the same in Virginia. Our two countries have a long history of friendship, and our cultural ties run deep.

The NAFTA, followed by USMCA, have integrated supply chains in the United States, Canada, and Mexico in a degree that I view as generally positive. We do share essential traditions of democracy, and they require consistent work to ensure strong and independent institutions.

Looking more closely at the USMCA in particular, my colleague talked about worries that rules are being renegotiated around the resolution of disputes that would make it harder for Vulcan and companies like Vulcan to seek assistance.

We have been in this Free Trade Agreement for three decades now. In exchange for preferential access to American markets, which has resulted in the intertwined supply chain that I described, Mexico has committed to uphold certain standards that American workers, consumers, companies, and investors expect. The standards were reinforced and strengthened in the USMCA in 2019. They include robust protection for workers, for the environment, and for companies operating abroad. And the standards not only protect Americans but promote economic growth in Mexico, helping address the root causes of migration and other challenges.

The protections for American investments, for instance, give certainty to other companies and investors looking to participate in helping grow and expand the Mexican economy.

Particularly as companies are looking to near-shore in the aftermath of COVID and looking to bring supply chains back to the United States and nations closer to the United States with which we have free-trade agreements, Mexico has been seen as a very attractive destination, but actions like those that are being taken against Vulcan now undermine that momentum. So in response to these actions, Senators HAGERTY, BRITT, TUBERVILLE, BARRASSO, BUDD, and I introduced the Defending American Property Abroad Act earlier this year. The bill would make it clear that the United States does not condone discriminatory treatment against American companies, particularly with our free-trade agreement partners.

We understand, even if we don't accept the notion, that some American companies are put at great disadvantage in nations where there are not trade agreements, but where there are trade agreements—particularly like USMCA, which is going to be scheduled for a renegotiation and consideration in 2026—we should not condone mistreatment of American companies by our trade agreement partners.

The bill that we have introduced would reiterate that it is a bipartisan priority in Congress for the U.S. Government to work to uphold the USMCA's investment standards in the upcoming 6-year review of the trade agreement. It would work to deter Mexico and any country in our hemisphere from illegally seizing additional U.S. assets. We must make it clear that this behavior will not be tolerated.

I note for my colleague with some sense of dismay that I think I have some colleagues on my side of the aisle who don't like the notion that a disappointed company can seek relief against a regulation put in place by another country. They are concerned about whether that is a violation of sovereignty in some sense.

Yes, it is the case that the USMCA leaves wide latitude for the participating nations to adopt their own regulatory framework, but there should be no disagreement in this body that an effort to completely seize the property of an American company can never be justified as an appropriate regulatory action, and that is what is happening with Vulcan.

I would hope colleagues on both sides of the aisle, in thinking about companies in their own States, would realize that if this is allowed to happen with the United States turning a blind eye or shrugging their shoulders to it, you will see a lot more of it, and we need to stop this now.

I look forward to continuing to work to pass our bill next Congress. We must ensure that the future of the U.S.-Mexico relationship continues to be grounded in the rule of law.

I am the chairman of the Western Hemisphere Subcommittee of the Foreign Relations Committee. I care about this relationship. I want it to get stronger and stronger. I celebrate its successes. I celebrate Mexico's successes. But I don't hesitate to stand and challenge actions either by the Mexican Government or the inaction of the U.S. Government that pose risk to Americans and American companies.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO). The Senator from Alabama.

Mrs. BRITT. Madam President, as has been discussed by my distinguished colleagues, in May of 2022, the Mexican military forcibly shut down Vulcan Materials Company's operations. Almost a year later, military police came in—the military of our supposed ally—and they breached and seized Vulcan's port facility at gunpoint. That is right. Instead of using its armed forces to confiscate the fentanyl killing hundreds of American citizens every single day, the Mexican military, under the directive of their former President, confiscated a port rightfully owned by an American company, an Alabama company. Instead of going after the cartels, our neighbor went after law-abiding Americans.

Radical leftist Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador seized Vulcan's operations and property. Make no mistake, that action was illegal under both Mexican and international law, and it is unacceptable that Mexico's new President seems to be carrying the water for him. She said absolutely nothing except that she is going to continue Lopez

Obrador's unlawful seizure of an American company and she stands with him.

Time and time again over the past 4 years, bad actors across the globe have poked and prodded at the United States because they saw weakness in the White House. They saw they could do it and get away with it. When they did it without even the slightest bit of response, let alone consequences, they just kept doing it.

The Wall Street Journal recently published an editorial citing sources stating that this administration, the Biden administration, has undergone last-minute, backroom negotiations on the U.S.-Mexico-Canada trade agreement. The changes, the Journal reported, would rob American companies like Vulcan of the protections they have relied on when investing in partner countries—the protections that would have prevented those partner countries from seizing, for example, operation centers or port facilities.

The Biden administration and its U.S. Trade Representative are actively undermining American interests. They are leaving American companies out in the cold without consulting Congress, preventing us from exercising our constitutional duty to provide oversight on trade.

The Biden administration's actions should be a front-page story in every newspaper across this Nation. The idea that a sitting President and/or his administration would be working against the interests of the country and/or the people he was elected to serve is absolutely unacceptable.

While we wait for January 20, I am proud, in the interim, to support—proudly—Senator BILL HAGERTY's piece of legislation. It is called Defending American Property Abroad Act. I joined this quickly, alongside Senators BARRASSO, BUDD, KAINE, TUBERVILLE, and WICKER. It would prohibit the Mexican Government from profiting from its unlawful seizure of Vulcan's property and port facility. No vessel that has used a port, land, or infrastructure illegally seized from an American entity would be allowed entry into a U.S. port. Should the Mexican Government attempt to violate the law, it would be met with crushing consequences.

The United States can no longer stand by as its companies are terrorized by foreign governments. We will not sit back and watch as our own government allows our interests around the world, in our own hemisphere, to come under attack, and we will not be afraid of protecting our own citizens and their interests.

This past November, the American people did not choose decline; we chose renewal. We must begin to reassert ourselves and make sure that no country—not Mexico, not anyone else—can get away with seizures like the one the Mexican Government carried out against Vulcan.

American interests, American families, American values, and American securities must come first.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Madam President, I would like to thank Senator HAGERTY for coordinating this event and Senator KAINE and Senator BRITT for standing up and supporting Vulcan Materials.

You know, supporting American businesses abroad should be a unifying position across political parties, and I thank our Democratic colleagues who have joined me in this effort for the past several months.

Unfortunately, we have seen just how little this administration cares about protecting American investments overseas. We could have corrected this problem. Specifically, I am talking about the unlawful actions taken by the Government of Mexico against Vulcan Materials Company, which is headquartered in Birmingham, AL.

Vulcan is the Nation's largest producer of construction inputs, including crushed stone, sand, and gravel. Vulcan is also a major producer of materials like asphalt and ready-mix concrete. The materials produced by Vulcan are used in nearly all forms of construction. This includes infrastructure repairs to a bridge or a road or when a new office building is built or a church that needs to be built. While headquartered in Alabama, Vulcan has 720 facilities and more than 12,000 employees in the United States of America. Its reach is international.

Vulcan has operated a quarry in Mexico since the eighties. This quarry supplies materials to Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina, and Texas.

Vulcan has quarried limestone legally in Mexico, on land that it owns and has paid for, for over 30 years. It has full ownership of the property in Mexico and owns the limestone reserves on the property—all paid for by Vulcan. Vulcan also operates a deepwater port in Mexico paid for by Vulcan. Vulcan operates that port because Vulcan built the port.

Over the course of 30 years, Vulcan Materials has paid billions in taxes to the Mexican Government. It has employed thousands of people over the years, providing them with healthcare and pensions, which is why I was shocked when, 2 years ago, the Mexican Government swooped in and announced it would pursue legal action against Vulcan overnight. After all that Vulcan has done for the country of Mexico, the Mexican Government swooped in to stop all their operations in just a few days. The Mexican Government's baseless claim was that the company is operating illegally in Mexico—after 30 years. That statement is categorically false.

Unfortunately, the Government of Mexico followed through with its threat and legal action. Mexican Government officials presented local Vulcan employees with orders to immediately cease operations on Vulcan's own land in Mexico.

I believe this shutdown ordered by the Mexican Government represents a baseless attack on U.S. companies and demonstrates a disregard for rule of law. It is why I joined Senator HAGERTY in introducing the Defending American Property Abroad Act to impose retaliatory prohibitions that deter and punish any Western Hemisphere nation that unlawfully seizes American assets.

Clearly, Mexico's new President, Claudia Sheinbaum, didn't get the message that this is unacceptable. Under her leadership, the Mexican Government continues to pursue legal action against Vulcan.

Vulcan has been and continues to be subject to public harassment, intimidation tactics, and all kinds of harassment from the Mexican Government. The Mexican Navy sent troops to the entrance of the Vulcan facility for several days. The Mexican Navy flew Black Hawk helicopters and drones over Vulcan's property. The Mexican Navy sent patrol boats to Vulcan's harbor. The Mexican Government withheld the issuance of a routine customs permit for several months.

These actions by the Mexican Government are contrary to the most basic principles of international law and the free-trade agreements that bind our two countries together. Most notably, it goes against the USMCA—United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement—that was signed into law by President Trump.

However, the Mexican Government's attack on Vulcan is bigger than just one company. First of all, it undermines the rule of law in Mexico. It ignores international law and free-trade agreements. It weakens our bilateral relationship. It will discourage future U.S. investment in Mexico.

Over the last several years, we have all heard about the actions the Mexican Government has attempted to take against U.S. energy companies in Mexico. This action against Vulcan is just an example of how far Mexico is willing to go.

This will have a direct impact on the supply chain for major infrastructure projects in the United States and the entire world.

We cannot allow this to stand, and I know President Trump is not going to allow this to stand. He will not tolerate countries abusing the good work of American companies. As chief architect of the USMCA, President Trump won't allow any country in the Western Hemisphere to bully American businesses. It is a fight any country should think twice about starting.

In the meantime, I urge the Biden administration to take appropriate action at the Office of the United States Trade Representative and through diplomatic channels to ensure that Vulcan—a great, great, great American company—can maintain critical operations in Mexico.

I yield the floor.

NOMINATION OF BENJAMIN J. CHEEKS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today, the Senate will vote to confirm Benjamin Jerome Cheeks to the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of California.

Born in Albany, GA, Judge Cheeks earned his B.A. from the University of Miami in 2000 and his J.D. from the Washington College of Law at American University in 2003.

Judge Cheeks began his career in public service as an assistant district attorney in the New York County District Attorney's Office from 2003 to 2010. Cheeks then served as an assistant U.S. attorney in the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of California between 2010 and 2013.

Prior to joining the bench, he worked as a criminal defense attorney at his own firm from 2013 to 2024. As a member of the Criminal Justice Act panel, Judge Cheeks was regularly assigned to represent indigent defendants, and those cases comprised 98 percent of his caseload.

Since July of 2024, Judge Cheeks has served as a magistrate judge on the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of California.

Judge Cheeks enjoys the strong support of both of his home State Senators, and the American Bar Association unanimously rated him as ''qualified'' to serve on the district court.

Having served as a prosecutor, defense attorney, and Federal magistrate judge, Judge Cheeks is well prepared to serve as a district judge in the Southern District of California.

I am proud to support his nomination and urge my colleagues to do the same.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana.

Mr. TESTER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call with respect to the Murillo cloture motion be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

VOTE ON CHEEKS NOMINATION

All postcloture time has expired.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Cheeks nomination?

Mr. TESTER. 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 senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) and the Senator from California (Mr. SCHIFF) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE: The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE).

The result was announced—yeas 49, nays 47, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 330 Ex.]

YEAS—49

Baldwin	Hickenlooper	Sanders
Bennet	Hirono	Schatz
Blumenthal	Kaine	Schumer
Booker	Kelly	Shaheen
Brown	Kim	Sinema
Cantwell	King	Smith
Cardin	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Carper	Luján	Tester
Casey	Markey	Van Hollen
Coons	Merkley	Warner
Cortez Masto	Murphy	Warnock
Duckworth	Murray	Warren
Durbin	Ossoff	Welch
Fetterman	Padilla	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Peters	Wyden
Hassan	Reed	
Heinrich	Rosen	

NAYS—47

Barrasso	Fischer	Murkowski
Blackburn	Graham	Paul
Boozman	Grassley	Ricketts
Braun	Hagerty	Risch
Britt	Hawley	Romney
Budd	Hoeven	Rounds
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Schmitt
Cassidy	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Collins	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Lankford	Sullivan
Cotton	Lee	Thune
Cramer	Lummis	Tillis
Crapo	Marshall	Tuberville
Cruz	McConnell	Wicker
Daines	Moran	Young
Ernst	Mullin	

NOT VOTING—4

Manchin	Schiff
Rubio	Vance

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. DURBIN). 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.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican leader is recognized.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to complete my remarks prior to the next rollcall vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

END OF THE 118TH CONGRESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, it is not entirely clear yet how or when Congress will conclude its end-of-the-year business. But when the Senate does adjourn, I will just about mark the end of my tenure as the Republican leader.

I have made it clear this year that our colleagues haven't seen the last of me. I still fully intend to keep frustrating my critics in the years ahead. But while I still command this particular podium, I thought I might make a few observations I have picked up along the way.

Folks come to Washington to do one of two things: either to make a point or to make a difference—to make a point or to make a difference. It is usually not that hard to tell who is doing which, especially in situations like the one we are in right now.

The people who are here to make a difference recognize pretty quickly you never get everything you want, but, often, you can get quite a lot. And the folks who prefer to make a point have a funny habit of reminding us out loud how poorly they understand that fact.

I don't care to count how many times I have reminded our colleagues—and our House counterparts—how harmful it is to shut the government down and how foolish it is to bet your own side won't take the blame for it.

Recent history doesn't leave a whole lot of room for interpretation on this one: When you try to use normal government function as a bargaining chip, you pay a political price.

That said, if I took it personally every time my advice went unheeded, I probably wouldn't have spent as long as I have in this particular job. Getting a legislative outcome in the Senate requires large majorities of people who don't share all of the same views to actually work together toward outcomes where they do see eye to eye.

We have had divided government here most of the time I have been in this job; neither side has owned the place. You have a choice: Do nothing or try to find things you can agree on and do them together.

With the exception of just one short period of a few months, this place hasn't seen a filibuster-proof Senate in 50 years. Getting things done almost inevitably requires dealing with a lot of people who disagree with you on most things.

And in the interests of stable, enduring outcomes, that is actually a good thing. Anyone who comes to the Senate hoping for a rigid, hard-line conformity and prompt action is barking up the wrong tree.

I have heard folks who like making a point, they would rather serve with 30 colleagues who all agree than with a majority who didn't. So if you want to accomplish absolutely nothing—nothing—sign up with the group that would rather serve with 30 people who all agree than those who have differences.

Everyone I know who is interested in making a difference understands pretty quickly that it requires that kind of interaction in order to achieve something.

Leading means letting folks take a walk when they need to and rallying together when we need to. I have been so grateful over the years to lead majorities that embrace these necessary rhythms. I am gratified by the trust they have placed in me, repeatedly, to determine what that moment requires. And I am so proud of the outcomes we have achieved for our country.

I am looking forward to spending the next Congress as a member of another majority in a set of capable hands. I am rooting hard for my friend JOHN THUNE and the leadership team our conference has assembled around him. There will be no shortage of important work to do, and I will stand ready to do my part.

Back in 2007, my first day in this job, I told our colleagues:

> The Senate has no claim on greatness unless its power is put to great ends.

And I stated my view that ''the first duty of government is the defense and protection of its citizens.'' The Senate

is great, and so is the Nation that it represents. But today, our Nation faces one great challenge from forces betting on our decline. And so that first duty of government is the task to which I will devote my efforts in the coming years.

Our prosperity and security depend on an order forged by American leadership and American strength—both of which require our urgent attention.

The arsenal of democracy must be restored. Peace through strength must, once again, actually mean something other than just a slogan, and I am going to do everything in my power to help continue this to be the greatest country in the world.

No one can do what we do internationally, and that is where I am going to put my focus for the next 2 years.

Thank you all for the opportunity.

(Applause, Senators rising.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I just listened to my friend Leader MCCONNELL deliver what may be his final remarks on the Senate floor as Republican leader. Today, I want to wish him and his family my very best as he prepares to serve in this Chamber in a different role next year.

Everyone knows Leader MCCONNELL and I had plenty of disagreements over the years on matters of policy and politics, but when the time was right, we found ways to work together to get very important things done for this country.

Today, I would like to acknowledge and thank him for those moments. We worked together, for example, to pass the national security supplemental to stand with our friends in Ukraine, to hold the line against Vladimir Putin, and safeguard America's national security interests around the world. I appreciate his commitment to these principles no matter who occupies the Oval Office.

We also worked together in the early days of the COVID–19 pandemic to get the CARES Act done, and in the aftermath of the Capitol attack on January 6, Leader MCCONNELL worked with me and the other leaders to bring the Senate back into session so we could finish the job of certifying the 2020 election.

These are just a few of the examples showing how two very different leaders found common ground to move things forward. In each instance, Leader MCCONNELL's actions benefited our country.

So I thank him for those moments. I wish him, his wife Elaine, and his entire family our best wishes, and I know all of my colleagues on our side of the aisle join me in those best wishes and respect.

(Applause, Senators rising.)

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. 850, Serena Raquel Murillo, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Tammy Duckworth, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Tammy Baldwin, Catherine Cortez Masto, Debbie Stabenow, Patty Murray, Amy Klobuchar, Chris Van Hollen, Jack Reed, Jeanne Shaheen, Andy Kim, Margaret Wood Hassan, Elizabeth Warren, Christopher A. Coons, Adam B. Schiff, Jeff Merkley.

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 Serena Raquel Murillo, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) and the Senator from California (Mr. SCHIFF) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE)

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 49, nays 47, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 331 Ex.]

YEAS—49

Baldwin	Hickenlooper	Sanders
Bennet	Hirono	Schatz
Blumenthal	Kaine	Schumer
Booker	Kelly	Shaheen
Brown	Kim	Sinema
Cantwell	King	Smith
Cardin	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Carper	Luján	Tester
Casey	Markey	Van Hollen
Coons	Merkley	Warner
Cortez Masto	Murphy	Warnock
Duckworth	Murray	Warren
Durbin	Ossoff	Welch
Fetterman	Padilla	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Peters	Wyden
Hassan	Reed	
Heinrich	Rosen	

NAYS—47

Barrasso	Fischer	Murkowski
Blackburn	Graham	Paul
Boozman	Grassley	Ricketts
Braun	Hagerty	Risch
Britt	Hawley	Romney
Budd	Hoeven	Rounds
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Schmitt
Cassidy	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Collins	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Lankford	Sullivan
Cotton	Lee	Thune
Cramer	Lummis	Tillis
Crapo	Marshall	Tuberville
Cruz	McConnell	Wicker
Daines	Moran	Young
Ernst	Mullin	

NOT VOTING—4

Manchin	Schiff
Rubio	Vance

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. SMITH). On this vote, the yeas are 49, the nays are 47.

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 Serena Raquel Murillo, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The senior Senator from Wisconsin.

Ms. BALDWIN. Junior.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Junior. Thanks for the correction.

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE NATIONAL MONUMENT LOCATION ACT

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam President, as if in legislative session and notwithstanding rule XXII, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 1318, the Women's Suffrage National Monument Location Act, which was received from the House and is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1318) to authorize the location of a monument on the National Mall to commemorate and honor the women's suffrage movement and the passage of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Ms. BALDWIN. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill was ordered to a third reading and was read the third time.

Ms. BALDWIN. I know of no further debate on the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (H.R. 1318) was passed.

Ms. BALDWIN. I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam President, I rise today to speak to the Women's Suffrage National Monument Location Act to designate the Women's Suffrage National Monument be built on the National Mall.

I was proud to introduce this bill with Senator BLACKBURN, as she and I represent both the first and the final States to ratify the 19th Amendment and grant women the right to vote across the Nation.

The National Mall honors some of the most important features of our shared American story. Conspicuously

absent from this portrayal of our Nation's history, however, is the story of women's suffrage. In fact, the National Mall receives over 24 million visitors annually, and despite there being 40 commemorative works on the National Mall, none of those are dedicated to women. We have introduced this legislation to correct this glaring omission on the National Mall.

Women's suffrage was only made possible through the fight of multiple generations of activists of all backgrounds, who joined together with the steadfast belief that our country must live up to its highest democratic ideals.

Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott organized the first women's rights convention in Seneca Falls in 1848, where they declared ''that all men and women are created equal.''

Sojourner Truth gave her famous ''Ain't I a woman'' speech in 1851, where she challenged the women's suffrage movement to include Black women.

Susan B. Anthony was arrested in 1872 for violating the law and daring to cast her vote at the ballot box and went on to help found the National American Woman Suffrage Association in 1890.

Carrie Chapman Catt, born in Ripon, WI, took up the helm of that organization after Anthony and traveled around the country, organizing for the ratification of the 19th Amendment.

Inez Milholland led on horseback more than 8,000 marchers in the 1913 Woman Suffrage Procession down Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, DC.

Ida B. Wells and Mary Church Terrell demanded that the movement include women of color by refusing to march at the back of that very demonstration.

Alice Paul and Lucy Burns led acts of peaceful civil disobedience, including ''Silent Sentinels,'' who picketed at the White House continuously from 1917 to 1919.

There are countless other women who fought and continue to fight for true equality for women in this country. Without the story of how women fought to secure our rightful participation in our democracy, our National Mall is incomplete.

This monument is just as much about honoring our past as it is about inspiring our future. Every young girl, every child, and every adult who travels to our Nation's Capital should see themselves reflected there. They should know that they belong in the halls of government, and their stories belong in our Nation's history, and that they belong on the National Mall.

With that, I would yield to the senior Senator from Tennessee, Senator BLACKBURN.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam President, I thank my colleague for her wonderful work on this issue.

Since 2020, we have worked to recognize that 100-year celebration of women achieving the right to vote and to tell these stories. As she said, her State was the first. Tennessee was the 36th State.

Our colleagues who have read about the War of the Roses and that summer of 1920, when suffragists descended on the capital in Nashville. Those who were for suffrage wore a yellow rose. Those who were antis—as they were called—wore a red rose.

Carrie Chapman Catt, Anne Dallas Dudley, and Ida B. Wells led this fight. And what a fight it was. And, finally, they pushed forward with the 36th State granting ratification.

The histories in our States are rich on this issue, and we want all Americans to appreciate the work that went into women gaining that right to vote.

My colleague mentioned that there are 40 monuments, memorials, statues, and historic sites on the Mall. Not a single one of these 40 are specific to women; while 22 are dedicated to individual men, 10 to military history and veterans, 3 to foreign relations, 2 to private organizations, 1 to U.S. postal history, 1 to the history of the U.S. canals, and 1 to the history of horses. All of these have found their way onto the mall.

What we have done is to work with the Park Service, find a place that would be perfect: The Mall's Constitution Gardens. It is a 50-acre space dedicated during our Nation's bicentennial as a living memorial to the founding of the Republic. In this garden, it is appropriate that we recognize the work of women to help preserve the freedoms and the liberties that we have here in this Nation.

I thank my colleagues for passing this legislation. The House passed it unanimously last year, so it is appropriate as we finish and complete this 118th Congress, that we set aside time and that we pass this legislation to recognize the work—the powerful work—of women who gave so much of their life to support freedom, liberty, and voting rights.

Ms. BALDWIN. 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. BARRASSO. 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 CALENDAR

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, as if in legislative session, and notwithstanding rule XXII, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 6395, and the Senate proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following bills: Calendar No. 596, which is S. 3195, and H.R. 6395.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged of the relevant bill, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bills en bloc.

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I now ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute amendment, where applicable, be agreed to; that the bills, as amended, if amended, be considered read a third time and passed; 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 bills passed, en bloc, as follows:

DESIGNATING THE GENERAL GEORGE C. MARSHALL HOUSE, IN THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA, AS AN AFFILIATED AREA OF THE NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM

The bill (S. 3195) to designate the General George C. Marshall House, in the Commonwealth of Virginia, as an affiliated area of the National Park System, and for other purposes, which had been reported from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

SECTION 1. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE GENERAL GEORGE C. MARSHALL HOUSE AS AN AFFILIATED AREA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The General George C. Marshall House in the Commonwealth of Virginia is established as an affiliated area of the National Park System (referred to in this section as the ''affiliated area'') to promote public appreciation of the significant historic contributions made by United States military leader and statesman George Catlett Marshall, Jr.

(b) DESCRIPTION OF AFFILIATED AREA.—The affiliated area shall consist of the area generally depicted as the ''General George C. Marshall House Property, Leesburg, Virginia'' on the map entitled ''General George C. Marshall House, Proposed Affiliated Area'', numbered 999/189,974, and dated September 2023.

(c) ADMINISTRATION.—The affiliated area shall be managed in a manner consistent with—

(1) this section; and

(2) any law generally applicable to units of the National Park System.

(d) MANAGEMENT ENTITY.—The George C. Marshall International Center shall be the management entity for the affiliated area.

(e) AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary of the Interior (referred to in this section as the ''Secretary'')—

(1) may provide technical assistance and enter into cooperative agreements with the management entity designated by subsection (d) for the purpose of providing financial assistance for the marketing, marking, interpretation, and preservation of the affiliated area; and

(2) shall enter into an agreement with the management entity designated by subsection (d) that describes the roles and responsibilities for the management of the affiliated area consistent with the policies and standards that apply to units of the National Park System.

(f) LIMITED ROLE OF THE SECRETARY.—Nothing in this section authorizes the Secretary—

(1) to acquire property at the affiliated area; or

(2) to assume overall financial responsibility for the operation, maintenance, or management of the affiliated area.

The committee-reported substitute amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The bill (S. 3195), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF CRITICAL MINERALS IN HEALTHCARE ACT OF 2023

The bill (H.R. 6395) to amend the Energy Act of 2020 to require the Secretary of the Interior to include the Secretary of Health and Human Services in consultations regarding designations of critical minerals, elements, substances, and materials was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

Mr. BARRASSO. 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. HICKENLOOPER. 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 CALENDAR

Mr. HICKENLOOPER. Madam President, as if in legislative session and notwithstanding rule XXII, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 2997 and the Senate proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following bills: Calendar No. 581, S. 1553; and H.R. 2997.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged of the relevant bill, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bills en bloc.

Mr. HICKENLOOPER. I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute amendment, where applicable, be agreed to; that the bills, as amended, if amended, be considered read a third time and passed; 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 bills passed en bloc, as follows:

RESILIENCY FOR RANCHING AND NATURAL CONSERVATION HEALTH ACT

A bill (S. 1553) to amend the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 to improve the management of grazing permits and leases, and for other purposes, which had been reported from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Resiliency for Ranching and Natural Conservation Health Act''.

SEC. 2. TEMPORARY USE OF VACANT GRAZING ALLOTMENTS FOR HOLDERS OF GRAZING PERMITS OR LEASES DURING EXTREME NATURAL EVENTS AND DISASTERS.

Title IV of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 405. VACANT GRAZING ALLOTMENTS MADE AVAILABLE TO HOLDERS OF GRAZING PERMITS OR LEASES DURING EXTREME NATURAL EVENTS AND DISASTERS.

''(a) DEFINITION OF SECRETARY CONCERNED.—In this section, the term 'Secretary concerned' means—

''(1) the Secretary of Agriculture, with respect to National Forest System land; and

''(2) the Secretary, with respect to public lands.

''(b) ALLOTMENTS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary concerned may make available to the holder of a grazing permit or lease issued by either Secretary concerned the temporary use of a vacant grazing allotment if—

''(A) 1 or more grazing allotments covered by the grazing permit or lease of the holder of the grazing permit or lease are temporarily unusable, as determined by the Secretary concerned, because of unforeseen natural events or disasters (including an extreme weather event, drought, wildfire, infestation, or blight); and

''(B) the Secretary concerned determines that the vacant grazing allotment is appropriate for temporary grazing use.

''(2) TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—In establishing the terms and conditions in a permit or lease for the temporary use of a vacant grazing allotment made available pursuant to this subsection, the Secretary concerned—

''(A) shall take into consideration the terms and conditions of the most recent permit or lease that was applicable to the vacant grazing allotment;

''(B) if there are no terms or conditions available for consideration under subparagraph (A), may assign temporary terms or conditions, after considering ecological conditions of, or terms on, adjacent grazing allotments;

''(C) shall base the terms and conditions on local ecological conditions, as determined by the applicable official;

''(D) shall take into consideration other factors, including any prior agency agreement that resolved or sought to resolve a management conflict, including a conflict related to State management of wildlife; and

''(E) may authorize the placement and use of temporary rangeland improvements (including portable corrals, fencing, aboveground pipelines, and water troughs) on the vacant grazing allotment to accommodate the temporary use.

''(3) COORDINATION.—To the maximum extent practicable, the Secretaries concerned shall coordinate to make available to holders of grazing permits or leases the use of vacant grazing allotments, regardless of agency jurisdiction over vacant grazing allotments, pursuant to paragraphs (1) and (2).

''(4) EFFECT.—The temporary use of a vacant grazing allotment under this subsection shall not—

''(A) preclude or otherwise alter other ongoing or future actions or assessments evaluating the potential of the vacant grazing allotment to be used or otherwise assigned; or

''(B) alter—

''(i) the terms and conditions of the original grazing permit or lease of the holder of the grazing permit or lease;

''(ii) the preference or ability of the holder of the grazing permit or lease to return to the original allotment once access to, or the use of, the original allotment is restored; or

''(iii) the animal unit months in future authorizations, or conditions of a permit, of the holder of the grazing permit or lease.

''(c) DURATION.—The Secretary concerned shall determine the duration of the temporary use of a vacant grazing allotment made available pursuant to subsection (b), after considering—

''(1) the condition of the vacant grazing allotment; and

''(2) the period of time necessary for the original allotment of the holder of the grazing permit or lease to return to use.

''(d) GUIDELINES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary concerned shall establish guidelines to expeditiously, efficiently, and effectively carry out activities authorized under this section.

''(2) CONSIDERATIONS.—In establishing the guidelines under paragraph (1), the Secretary concerned may consider—

''(A) criteria for determining whether the vacant grazing allotment is suitable for temporary grazing use;

''(B) eligibility criteria for the holders of grazing permits or leases;

''(C) prioritizing holders of grazing permits or leases in close proximity to a vacant grazing allotment;

''(D) any class or change in class of livestock on the temporary use of a vacant grazing allotment, with consideration given to local ecological conditions, disease, wildlife conflicts, and other factors based on localized conditions;

''(E) processes for coordinating with allotments adjoining or within the vicinity of a vacant grazing allotment; and

''(F) any other processes intended to expedite procedures for making vacant grazing allotments available during emergent circumstances.

''(e) PERIODIC EVALUATIONS.—The Secretary concerned shall periodically evaluate land health conditions of vacant grazing allotments to facilitate the efficient implementation of this section.''.

The committee-reported amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The bill (S. 1553), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

CLIFTON OPPORTUNITIES NOW FOR VIBRANT ECONOMIC YIELDS ACT

The bill (H.R. 2997) to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey to Mesa County, Colorado, certain Federal land in Colorado, and for other purposes, was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

Mr. HICKENLOOPER. Madam President, Mesa County, CO, out in the far west part of the State, is bursting with opportunities for economic development. The CONVEY Act, which passed the Senate today, will help make sure there is sufficient space to continue that growth.

This bill will direct the transfer of Federal land near Clifton, CO, to the local Mesa County government to support their domestic economic development. Specifically, the bill accelerates the sale of 31 acres of land near Interstate 70 in Clifton, CO. It is a parcel of land that was previously set aside for the Bureau of Reclamation's Grand Valley Reclamation Project, but Reclamation has indicated its intent to relinquish the 31 acres considered in the

sale. The county will pay fair market value for those 31 acres of Federal land. The Federal Government has already determined that it no longer needs this land, and Mesa County has plans for ways to put it to work.

This is a win-win for the Federal Government, for Mesa County, for Colorado, and for our country. By passing the CONVEY Act today, we will finally push this land transfer over the finish line.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I would just like to say a few words, if I may, about the Senate passing S. 1553. In Wyoming, we refer to it as the RANCH Act, and that stands for Resiliency for Ranching and Natural Conservation Health.

This is an important piece of legislation for my home State of Wyoming and for all Western States. Livestock grazing plays a critical role in my State of Wyoming and in a lot of the Rocky Mountain West. It is important to maintain rangeland health, and this is what this bill does. This also supports ranchers' livelihoods.

Natural disasters and emergencies occur. They can have a huge impact on so many of our rural communities. In fact, this past summer, we had significant wildfires, and this is just one example of how bad it can get and how quickly.

So when ranchers face the loss of the use of their normal public land allotments for grazing, they do need access to emergency pastures in a timely manner for their animals to continue to graze. So the RANCH Act allows for temporary use of vacant grazing allotments during extreme events and disasters, which, regrettably, happen more frequently than we would like.

This bill promotes resilient and healthy rangelands. It also supports effective grazing management for the West. The RANCH Act is going to provide land management agencies the authorities that they need to help ranchers and rural communities facing emergency situations. I am so pleased it has passed the Senate today by unanimous consent.

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. KENNEDY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 4772

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam President, as we know, our colleagues in the House of Representatives are, at the moment, trying to pass a continuing resolution to keep government open. As we also know, our government is supposed to shut down if the House and the Senate don't act tonight, I think, at midnight.

Part of the efforts of our colleagues in the House would be, of course, not only to keep government open but to extend the National Flood Insurance Program, which is also scheduled to expire, I think, tonight at midnight.

The National Flood Insurance Program, as I think most people know, is hardly perfect, but it is important. It is almost impossible to buy flood insurance in the private sector. Many people, unfortunately, when they buy homeowner's insurance, think their homeowner's insurance covers them for flood. It does not.

Many Americans, unfortunately, found that out, for example, with the horrible flooding in Appalachia. Virtually all of our friends and neighbors in the Appalachia area and in South Carolina and Kentucky and in Florida who were victims of Hurricane Helene did not have flood insurance. I think many of them had homeowner's, but they were not covered for flood.

The private sector—I don't want to overstate this—but for the most part, it is almost impossible to get flood insurance in the private sector. That is why we have a National Flood Insurance Program. The National Flood Insurance Program is not exactly a model of efficiency. Under President Biden, it has been screwed up even more. FEMA, which is in charge of our Flood Insurance Program, implemented something called Risk Rating 2.0. It has been a disaster. It is a mess. It looks like something that my beagle used to hide under my back porch. But it is better than nothing. It is better than nothing.

We are going to have a new chair of our Banking Committee in the Senate, as you know, Madam President, Senator TIM SCOTT. Senator SCOTT has asked Senator MIKE ROUNDS and I to work on trying to start over with our National Flood Insurance Program, maybe even extend to some other hazards. But TIM has asked MIKE and I to try to design a brandnew program that looks like somebody designed it on purpose. And we are going to get started on that. Indeed, we have already started.

But in the meantime, the current program, as bad as it is, expires tonight at midnight, and we want to continue it. What would be the result of that? It would mean that as of 12:01 tonight, the Flood Insurance Program can no longer write new policies.

I don't want to scare people. If you already have flood insurance through what we call the NFIP, which is just an acronym for the national program, your policy won't expire. If it is not at its termination date, you will continue to have coverage. But you can't buy a new policy. That will have a huge impact on the real estate market in America. Many institutions will not loan money to a new homeowner or a homeowner who is trying to buy a home if they can't get flood insurance because the mortgage companies just don't want to take that risk.

We have already seen, for a variety of reasons, the extraordinary increase in the price of a home in America. I was reading the other day that 10, 15, 20 years ago, the average age of a first-time home buyer in America was 28. Today, it is 38. Why are people having to wait so much longer to buy a home? It is not because they don't want to buy a home. It is because they need time to save up the money for a home.

But my point is that the price of homes, for a variety of reasons—in part because of inflation—the price of a home has just risen dramatically. I don't think any of us want to do anything to make the price of a home go up even further.

I want to say a word about Louisiana. We have about 5 million people who have flood insurance in our Flood Insurance Program. About 10 percent of those are in Louisiana. Those who have flood insurance in Louisiana are, for the most part—I am trying to think of a stronger way of saying it—the vast majority of the people in Louisiana who have flood insurance are working men and working women. Our coast, for example, is a working coast. Some people like to paint the picture of the National Flood Insurance Program serving multimillionaires with multimillion-dollar homes on the coast. That is not Louisiana, I can assure you.

My people are working people. We don't even have a coast like some States that have those type of homes. If you travel to Grand Isle or Port Fourchon in my State, you would see that. These are middle-class Americans that depend on the National Flood Insurance Program.

I worked very hard—many of us have—to try to improve the National Flood Insurance Program through the years. I have been working on it since the first day I came to the U.S. Senate. Frankly, I didn't get a lot of cooperation from leadership of the Banking Committee, which has jurisdiction over the National Flood Insurance Program.

I don't want to make a promise I can't keep, but our Banking Committee is going to be under new leadership, as I just said. And Senator SCOTT, the new chairman, has directed Senator ROUNDS and I to try to come up with a program that is a vast improvement over what we have.

I sum up by saying, what I am going to propose to do here in a moment is to extend the status quo until September 30. It will extend the National Flood Insurance Program that we have right now, imperfect as it may be, ugly as it may be. And it is. It really does look like something my beagle used to hide under the back porch. The American people deserve better, but it is better than nothing. Without it, it will have a huge impact on the real estate market.

So my bill would extend the program—no changes—until September 30,

2025. Hopefully, by then we will have a new bill to present to you, Madam President and my colleagues. And it will contain a National Flood Insurance Program that is much better than what we have right now.

As if in legislative session, Madam President, notwithstanding rule XXII, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be discharged from further consideration of S. 4772—that is the bill I just talked about—and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration; and I further ask that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. PAUL. Madam President, reserving the right to object, once again, we are asked to extend the flood program without any reforms to protect the taxpayers.

Like many Federal programs, the flood program is well-intentioned, but it may very well be the best real-life example of a moral hazard.

The program covers about 5 million policyholders and provides over $1 trillion in coverage. We were told that the program is funded through insurance premiums. But charging below the market price on insurance and capping how much these rates can rise inevitably has led to shortfalls. They are out of money.

They are always out of money.

A 2014 report by the Government Accountability Office found that the flood program collected as much as $17 billion fewer in premiums than the market would have demanded.

So when the program inevitably found itself in need of money, it, in theory, ''borrowed'' from the taxpayers—not that the taxpayers had any choice in the matter. As they often are, they were on the hook regardless of whether we want to be or not.

Just a few years ago, the flood program owed over $30 billion to the taxpayers. Congress later just canceled that debt.

Poof, it is gone. It disappeared.

But the flood program has not made any further repayments to the taxpayers and today still owes over $20 billion in debt. So the taxpayers are expected to cough up money whenever the program needs it, but the program doesn't seem to be in a hurry to pay the taxpayers back.

But perhaps the greatest insult to the taxpayers is the lack of true limits on this delinquent program. There are no limits on how many claims can be filed or how much money can be received by a policyholder filing multiple claims. Rather than encourage people to leave flood-prone areas, it encourages people to stay and rebuild where it continues to flood.

In thousands of instances, the program encourages people to rebuild and rebuild and rebuild again. According to the Pew Charitable Trusts, over 150,000 properties have been rebuilt over and over again.

They say the definition of insanity is doing things over and over again and never understanding you are doing the wrong thing.

In fact, 25 to 30 percent of flood program claims are made by policyholders whose properties flood time and time again. Over 2,000 properties have flooded over than 10 times. We bail them out every time.

One home in Batchelor, LA, flooded 40 times and received a total of $428,000 in flood insurance payments. It doesn't seem like we are learning our lesson. It doesn't seem like that is encouraging good building behavior. It is encouraging the opposite.

If you can believe it, that isn't even the most times a house has been paid for. In Virginia, one home flooded 41 times and received more than $600,000 in payments. It is argued, no matter how much a home is worth, that the Federal Government will only cover the first $350,000 in flood insurance coverage—$250,000 for the structure, another $100,000 for the contents.

That is true.

But the $350,000 limit is only applied per event. That is how you wind up with a home that floods 40 times and gets paid over $400,000. What if the home that flooded 40 times was paid 350,000 times? What if it is a $10 million home, and it has $300,000 worth of damage 40 times? That would mean the policyholder would receive $14 million from the government program.

It was also mentioned during previous debates that there really isn't a private flood insurance market. Well, there is a private insurance market that will cover beyond $350,000. Rich people use the government to insure their beach house up to 350, and then they buy private insurance on top of that. So there is a market and would be a market at whatever number we set.

The government flood program is a disaster for many reasons, but chief among them is that it crowds out the private market for the first $350,000 in losses. That is why the private flood insurance market is so small.

Madam President, $350,000 coverage per event may be enough for most people, but instead of allowing private markets to work, the government has put the primary responsibility of flood losses on taxpayers.

Can you imagine having to withstand the ordeal of your home flooding 10, 20, or 40 times? Well, the taxpayers do not have to imagine paying to rebuild the same home time and time again because that is the reality of the current program.

Adding insult to injury, the Congressional Budget Office found that the flood program tends to benefit the wealthy and that 23 percent of the subsidized coastal properties were not even the policy's primary residence.

So one out of five homes that the taxpayer—people who don't live on the gulf shore, people who don't live on the Atlantic coast, people who don't live on the Pacific Ocean—people who live in Middle America are insuring the second homes of rich people. One in five of the homes being insured are rich people. Ordinary taxpayers in Kansas or Kentucky are asked to pay for the insurance for the second home of rich people.

How in the world would that make any sense? The government forces the taxpayers to pay and rebuild the elite summer homes of the rich. It is estimated that the national average replacement cost of homes in government flood insurance programs—that these homes are valued at over $400,000. So the average home of this government program that is supposed to help the poor—the average home that we are insuring, that the government is insuring—is worth over $400,000, and it is people's second house.

How in the world is that something we should keep borrowing billions and billions of dollars to insure rich people's homes?

In fact, sometimes it seems the flood program caters directly to the wealthy. Nearly 80 percent of the flood program's policies are located in counties that rank within the top 20 percent of income. Enough is enough. It is an insult to rob the taxpayers to give to the wealthy.

This is why I offered an amendment that would require the flood program to only cover your primary residence. So if this is your only house and for some misbegotten reason you have to keep building in a flood zone, you would be eligible. If it is your beach house, you are not eligible. If it is your second house, you wouldn't be eligible.

We also might put a cap on it. We might say: Well, if you have more than a half-a-million-dollar house, you have to buy your own insurance; the government doesn't pay for that.

These are reasonable amendments, reasonable reforms, reasonable changes that have been offered for years and never get done because people come with the song and dance of people needing help and we must help people, but nobody ever says: Are some of these people, people who should be helping themselves?

And that is why it is always bankrupt.

So what I would recommend is that my amendment be added to this bill. We can reauthorize the program. We can re-fund it. But we would now limit who it goes to. The money would not go to homes over $500,000, and it would have to be your primary home, not your second home. To me, that is a modest proposal. It won't fix the whole thing, but it is very, very reasonable.

So I will offer that today. If the Senator from Louisiana wants to pass this tonight, we can pass it tonight. All he has to do is agree to my amendment.

No one is here to object. It is a unanimous consent arrangement. He can

agree right now. We will pass it. The program will, from now on, exclude people with homes over half a million, and it will exclude people where it is their second beach house. How reasonable is that? He can do it tonight.

So, therefore, I ask the Senator to modify his request so that the Paul amendment at the desk be considered and agreed to; the bill as amended be considered read a third time and passed; and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BALDWIN). Does the Senator so modify his request?

Mr. KENNEDY. Reserving the right to object, Madam President, to the request by my colleague from Kentucky to modify—reserving the right to do that—I wanted to make a couple of points.

First, the majority of the homes covered under the Flood Insurance Program are not second homes, and it is not a giveaway for millionaires. If you just come and spend some time in Louisiana and in other States that aren't even on the coast, you will see that these are working people—working men and working women.

Point two, the most that you can receive—the most coverage that you can buy—under the National Flood Insurance Program is $250,000. That is it, and that is for structural damage. You can buy an extra hundred thousand dollars for contents.

Point three, everybody in America is not rich who owns a home. The median—median—cost of a home in America today is $406,000. That means that half of homes cost less, but half cost way more. That is the result of a lot of factors, including, but not limited to, inflation. As I said earlier, it is one of the reasons that the average first-time home buyer in America today is no longer 28; it is 38. It just costs a lot to buy a home today.

So when someone talks about a $500,000 home and somebody being rich who owns a $500,000 home, I don't think that accurately reflects reality. I just don't.

No. 2, the idea to extend this only to a primary residence, I know a lot of hard-working women and men who work a day job and have also saved their money and bought rental homes that they rent out and try to build equity in to give them something to live on during retirement.

These are not wealthy people. These are working women and working men. And I don't know—they are not millionaires living on the coast. That is just a jaundiced view of the Flood Insurance Program, at least in Louisiana.

And I don't know why we would deny those people the right to buy two or three more rental homes to rent out and build equity in for their retirement. They are not going to be able to borrow the money to buy those homes if they can't get flood insurance. No institution will loan it to them.

Finally, the point I will make—and I say this with all due respect. I just spent 4 years listening to some of my colleagues talking about the big, bad, nasty, rich people in America. You know, when I came up, success—financial success and otherwise—and, certainly, there are ways to define success other than finances. But one of the ways in America we do so—we do assign success—is financially.

And I was raised in America to admire people who worked hard and saved their money and invested their money and became successful financially. I regret that we have reached the point in America—and I hope it ends under the new administration—where we just constantly go around denigrating success in America, including but not limited to financial and otherwise.

And for that reason, with respect, I decline the request to modify.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection to the modification is heard.

Is there objection to the original request?

The junior Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. PAUL. Reserving the right to object, let the record show that what I have offered is a way to limit government insurance to regular people of modest income but to say rich people with beach houses shouldn't have government-subsidized insurance. The program costs billions of dollars. It is $30, $40, $50 billion in the hole, anyway you want to measure it. Something has got to be done.

What would those reforms be? What would the most obvious reform be for a flood program that is billions of dollars in the hole? Why don't you tell rich people: Buy your own insurance.

Does that mean I don't like rich people? No. Probably nobody in this body more appreciates success and people who work hard and make a good living—nothing against that, other than we shouldn't give them free stuff.

I mean, I am all for them. If you have got a yacht, invite me over. But I am not for buying insurance for your yacht with taxpayer money. That doesn't mean I don't appreciate that you are wealthy and you have got a yacht. I will ride on your yacht. I will come to your party. But I am not going to buy your insurance with the taxpayer money, which is billions of dollars in the hole with this just one program. The whole government is $2 trillion in the hole.

So let the record reflect that I offered to amend this program, let it go on, and we exclude only the homes of people who have homes—second homes—over $500,000. And that was rejected.

So I have another offer. This will be the second amendment, and this offer will be, if $500,000 for your second home means you are still poor and you need help from the government, what about if your second home costs $2 million or more, should we buy your insurance? Should the government subsidize your insurance?

So I brought along a couple of pictures, and these are pictures of some people that you might have heard of their homes.

This is President Biden's home in Rehoboth Beach, DE. It is worth $2,700,000, and, yes, it is eligible for government insurance. Does anybody think we should be buying insurance for President Biden's home?

Let's see what else we have.

Oh, Nicholas Cage—boy, that is a nice house—4.2 million, in New Orleans, also eligible for government insurance.

Look, I love Nicholas Cage. I would go to parties at his house too. I love his movies. I would pay 20 bucks to go to the movies. Actually, I don't want to pay 20 bucks. I would pay to go see his movies, but I don't think we should buy insurance for his home. If he can get a $4.2 million home, I bet you he can buy his own insurance.

Let's see who else is eligible for government insurance. Oh, Matt Damon—he has had a lot of good movies. Man, he must be doing great. His place costs $20 million, and it is eligible for government insurance too.

Do you think Matt Damon would be embarrassed to find out that the government is subsidizing his first $250,000? Shouldn't we all be embarrassed?

The program is $16 billion in the hole, and we want to renew a program without any reforms. Just keep doing it. Keep losing money. Just keep doing the same thing.

Maybe Matt Damon can buy his own insurance.

Who else has a house that would be eligible for insurance? Oh, Phil Collins—he made some good music. He must have made some great music. His home is worth $40 million, in Biscayne Bay, FL, also eligible for government insurance.

So I can't imagine how we couldn't come to a compromise. So if ordinary people have second homes that are $500,000 beach homes, if we just went up to $2 million, then we are only going to be clipping Phil Collins and Nicholas Cage and a few others.

Do we have anybody else? Let's see who else we have.

Oh, now Cher, she has been doing well for a long time. She has a $42 million place in Miami Beach, also eligible for government insurance.

You know, we could go on and on. But the thing is, this doesn't mean we don't like rich people or appreciate their success. I am all for it. I am just not for giving them free stuff. Why would we give them subsidized insurance?

So what I will offer now is a second amendment, and this one might be easier to accept. And realize that this could be accepted right now. This entire program could be reauthorized with these amendments tonight if the Senator from Louisiana will accept this amendment.

This amendment would say that if your house is worth more than $2 million, and it is your second home, that

it wouldn't be eligible for government insurance.

That would be pretty easy. You know, it still would have significant savings, because there are quite a few homes out there. And do you think they would figure out a place to buy insurance? Sure, they would. A market would develop immediately. So therefore I ask the Senator to modify his request so that the Paul amendment at the desk, the second Paul amendment, be considered and agreed to; the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Does the Senator so modify his request?

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam President, reserving the right to respectfully respond to my colleague's request for a modification, let me just say that I love Cher. I mean, I just remember Sonny and Cher when they were both on TV. Sonny was a Congressman for a while. But I think Cher is what cool looks like. I don't agree with much of her politics, but Cher is equaled in her coolness only by Nick Cage.

I love Nick Cage. I just saw a movie that he did not long ago. I can't remember the name of it. But he was—typically in his movies, he plays these deeply weird characters, you know. He was a truffles hunter, and he had a pig, a special pig that would hunt for truffles, and the bad guys hurt his pig. Well, Nick hurt them. I think he ended up killing them, but before he killed them, he hurt them the entire time they were dying. It was a great movie. I love Nicolas Cage, and I appreciate RAND reminding me of it. I might go home tonight and watch a Nick Cage movie.

But let me get out of la-la land and go back to reality. No. 1, I know my friend didn't mean to give you this impression, but nobody gives you flood insurance. Let me say that again. Nobody gives you flood insurance; you have to buy it. So this idea that the government is somehow giving Cher and Nick Cage and President Biden and—I don't know—who else did you mention? I don't know. Whoever else he mentioned, they don't get free insurance from the government; they have to buy it. That is point one.

No. 2, the price of flood insurance under Risk Rating 2.0—boy, anybody who has bought flood insurance lately is going to see how high the prices have gone. There was a time when the program was subsidized, but it is not being subsidized anymore. In fact, a lot of people have had to drop their flood insurance because they just can't afford it anymore. It is just way too expensive.

I guess point three that I would make is that 99 and 9999 tenths percent of the people who buy flood insurance in America—we are not talking about Phil Collins here. We are not talking about Cher. We are not talking about Nick Cage. We are talking about working men and working women. And this idea that we are going to cap the price of a home—I know places in America today where a $2 million home gets you virtually nothing. Go check out California. Go check out Manhattan. I mean, the housing inflation has just been dramatic. If it hadn't been, I might consider what RAND is proposing.

But the truth is, and I would like the record to reflect this, what Senator PAUL is proposing to do is that we gut a program that doesn't give anything to anybody. You have to buy the insurance that is not available for most people in the private sector, without which they can't buy a home because their lender won't loan them money. If you let this program expire, you are not going to only hurt working women and working men who are trying to buy a home, you are going to destroy the real estate market as well.

Finally—I will say it again—I really hope we come to a time when we don't spend our time on the Senate floor denigrating success in America, trying to say: If you are rich, you are bad. You must have gotten rich because you stole the money or oppressed somebody.

That is not an America I want to live in.

For that reason, Madam President, respectfully, I object to the modification, even though I still do believe that Cher and Nick Cage are what cool looks like.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection to the modification is heard.

Is there objection to the original request?

The junior Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. PAUL. Madam President, reserving the right to object, the argument is made that this is not a gift; this is not subsidized insurance. Well, if it weren't subsidized insurance and if it were a market price for insurance, it wouldn't lose $16 billion a year. By definition, if you lose $16 billion a year, you are not charging enough in premiums, so you have subsidized premiums.

This is a subsidized government insurance program that, even with the subsidized premiums, is woefully inadequate. It is accumulating tens of billions of dollars of debt. It is currently $20 billion in the hole. We have a problem here. I haven't really heard how we are going to fix this, and one obvious, easy way would be that people who can afford to should maybe pay the full price for their insurance and maybe not a subsidized price.

So I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. KENNEDY. Thank you, Madam President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The junior Senator from Delaware.

TRIBUTE TO JOSEPH R. BIDEN, JR.

Mr. COONS. Madam President, it was I believe then-President Reagan who famously asked, ''Are you better off than you were four years ago?'' I rise to take a moment here at the end of the 118th Congress, at the end of the Presidency of Joe Biden, to say: You bet you are better off today than you were 4 years ago.

I wanted to take just a few moments and reflect on the service, the career, the values, and the consequence of Joe Biden's service on behalf of Delaware in this Chamber for 36 years, as our Vice President for 8, and as our President for the last 4.

I have the honor of having Joe Biden's desk here on the floor of the Senate, and in my office in Russell, I have what was his desk as a Senator for 36 years and as a Vice President for 8.

As the son of both Scranton, PA, and Claymont, DE, in many ways, he was a role model to me and many others in Delaware and a source of inspiration to get involved in public service in the first place.

If you think for a moment about where we were this time 4 years ago, there were three different, profound challenges the United States was facing, all really because of the pandemic—a pandemic that had been badly mishandled and spiraled out of control and was still killing 3,000 Americans a day in December of 2020. Violent crime had skyrocketed. Healthcare coverage was declining. Jobs had been lost in the rates of millions. The United States was divided from some of its closest, oldest, and most trusted allies.

Across those different indicators, just briefly, the numbers tell a striking story. We have one of the lowest violent crime rates in 50 years today. The COVID–19 pandemic is mostly a thing of the past, a public health concern that still needs monitoring but that is not at any risk of killing another million Americans. Healthcare coverage has improved dramatically. The number of uninsured Americans is today at an alltime low. While the former President left office with the worst jobs record since Herbert Hoover, the private sector under Joe Biden's leadership helped create 15 million jobs—an alltime record.

Joe Biden is someone who was a committed public servant who put country above self; someone who has been one of the most consequential Presidents in our history and the most consequential of my lifetime; who came to this body from a blue-collar background, focused on the middle class, on unions, on what we could do to strengthen our country from the middle out and the bottom up and took that vision to the Presidency.

He worked tirelessly to restore our leadership around the world and to reweave together the bonds between the United States and a then-fractured coalition of alliances and partnerships around the world and to strengthen our economy as it recovered from the devastation of the pandemic.

He never gave up on the promise of our democracy, our Nation, and this institution in particular. The record of the bipartisan legislation that got

passed under his leadership I think is striking and will stand the test of time, whether it was bringing back advanced manufacturing through the Chips and Science Act—a generational investment in rebuilding infrastructure all over our country of all different kinds and levels; investing in protecting our veterans from the harm of burn pits and doing right by our veterans, making right on that sacred obligation; combating gun violence; investing in community mental health. All of these were landmark, bipartisan pieces of legislation.

He also struck out in a direction that made a lifetime of difference in reducing prescription drug prices and in investing in a cleaner economy through the Inflation Reduction Act, which was a moment when he abandoned bipartisanship in the interest of making a lasting difference for all Americans.

If you look briefly at what he did beyond our shores, the crisis of Russia's brutal, broad spectrum invasion of Ukraine catalyzed not just the revitalization but the expansion of NATO, moved us from a point where only four of our NATO allies had met their spending targets to today—two dozen. He led a global coalition in defense of Ukraine. He stood strong for our ally Israel after the heinous attacks of October 7 and ongoing attacks from Iran. In the Indo-Pacific, he has done more to create a new security situation than even I could have imagined: the Quad in the Indo-Pacific, the reconciliation of Korea and Japan, and the innovative AUKUS partnership that will deliver nuclear propulsion technology to the Australian submarine fleet and deliver new deterrence.

One of my favorite things he has done was celebrated in his most recent trip to Angola: the investment in infrastructure in the Global South in a way that has higher transparency, better labor standards, better environmental standards. It is more sustainable than our competitors, the Chinese, and their investment throughout the world. I have had the chance to visit both the Philippines and Angola to see our President's lasting work in investing in infrastructure.

Across all of these, strengthening our alliances, investing in our values and our partnerships, finding ways to stand up to aggression—it is my hope that we will find in this Chamber bipartisan support to continue.

What I will miss most about Joe Biden's leadership is that he is someone who lived a quintessentially American story. He never forgot the middle-class roots that gave him the strength to live what was a hard life, knocked down by grief, devastating grief, twice in his life. He got back up. Someone who believed deeply in the dignity of work. The son of a hard-working car salesman. Someone who understood the importance of not just a paycheck but having a purpose and the importance of respecting work and its role in creating and strengthening the middle class.

Last, President Biden has been someone who knew and believed in this institution. I worked with then-Leaders MCCONNELL and Reid, Senator Leahy, and Senator GRASSLEY when Joe Biden was leaving his last moments as the President of the Senate, as Vice President, to pull together a ''Recollections of our Vice President Day,'' and dozens of Senators came to this floor and told their favorite Joe Biden stories. There were stories full of compassion, full of humor, full of dedication, and full of service. That is the man I hope we will remember and recognize as he comes to the conclusion of his service as President close to a month from today. That is the man who I will continue to honor and to respect as I continue in my service on behalf of our shared State of Delaware going forward.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The senior Senator from Oklahoma.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—H.R. 5119

Mr. LANKFORD. Madam President, several years ago, it was a December like this; there were big bills that were coming through the House and the Senate, one of them being the National Defense Authorization Act, which has passed every single year for the last six decades.

Stuck in that multi, multi, multipage bill was a little piece on beneficial ownership. Now, most everyone just didn't even notice what it would be. But in the past couple of years, the Biden administration has released the rules for beneficial ownership and what will be required to be able to deal with ''opportunities for fraud.''

What it has become is a way to be able to get from every single small business in America—I do need to emphasize these were all small business; in fact, smallest of the small businesses—every LLC, every businessowner in America a list of them of this: their name, their date of birth, their address, an I.D. number—that is simple—but then, also, a listing of all the senior officers of the company, someone who has authority over the appointment or removal of a senior officer, and this little jewel—someone who substantially influences important decisions in your company.

Every business owner in America is required by January 1—in just a couple of weeks—to turn in that document for every single business that they own.

Now, for many folks in real estate or in construction or in many other businesses, they actually start a company and raise it up for that company. And so they may not own one company or have one LLC; they may have 20 or 30. And they have to go through the paperwork for every single one of those and be able to turn in, including answering the question: Who influences your important decisions on your company? No one even knows what that means.

Well, you may say: Well, it is no big deal if they don't turn it in.

Oh, no, it is, because under the rule that has been put out, if they don't turn this form in, it is a $10,000 fine for each company that they don't turn in or 2 years in jail if they don't submit it.

Let that soak in. Every small business owner in America has to turn in who influences their decisions, or they could go to jail for 2 years.

Now, listen. All of us around this room would say: That is too much. Why is the Federal Government asking that of every pet owner, of every hair shop, of every builder, of every subcontractor? Why are we asking them who substantially influences them? And what authority do we have to have them do that?

Well, it is a good question, actually, because a Federal judge, just a couple of weeks ago, stepped in and did a preliminary injunction, just temporarily stepped in—this, by the way, was a Federal judge who was appointed by President Obama. They stepped in and put a halt on this rule. And they said this rule is—their term—''quasi-Orwellian'' and ''likely unconstitutional.''

Now, this was an Obama judge stepping into this. They put a pause on it. But the problem is, the pause is completely dependent on the judge at this point. They can unpause it at any moment.

So the simple thing that I have asked for throughout this entire year is, let's get rid of this rule. This rule should not be there at all. Congress has no right to go to every business owner and hand them a stack of forms and say to fill these out and tell us who helps you make decisions in your company.

What in the world? So we have no right to be able to do that. So I have asked all year long: We need to get rid of it entirely. I have not been successful getting that. So we have asked a simple thing: Let's take it out for 1 year. Let's just delay it. Let's get more time to be able to talk about this. This is a big issue that Congress is laying down.

Now, I have to tell you, I have not been successful getting that either. But do you know who has been? The House of Representatives. The House of Representatives passed a 1-year delay on this rule—wait for it—420 to 1; 420 to 1.

Yeah, the House said: This is a massive overreach; let's pause this for a year, at least, until we figure out what this actually means.

What does this mean for small business owners across the country? They could—in the very earliest time of next year under a new administration, any single small business in the country could face a $10,000 fine or 2 years in prison if they haven't turned this in.

But they have all turned it in already, right? It was due January 1. Actually, FinCEN has given us the latest numbers of who has turned it in.

Let me just give a few States as an example and the percentage. In New York State: 80 percent of the small businesses haven't turned this form in yet—80 percent.

In my State in Oklahoma, 77 percent of the small businesses have not turned this form in.

In Rhode Island, 72 percent of the small businesses have not turned this form in.

In West Virginia, 80 percent of the businesses have not turned this form in.

In Wisconsin, 74 percent of the businesses have not turned this form in.

That means they could all face—all those businesses could all face a $10,000 fine or 2 years in jail because they haven't submitted a form most of them don't even know exists.

Listen: Delaying for a year is not a radical proposal. And 420 to 1 in the House is a pretty good vote, especially considering the votes of the House in the past week.

That is broad bipartisan agreement. All I am asking is: Let's pause this for a year. Let's agree with the House and not have 75 to 80 percent of American small businesses suddenly be under the heavy hand of a potential fine or jail time because they don't even know this exists. But it does. It is Federal law.

So that is my simple request that I am bringing on this very last moment to be able to deal with this.

Madam President, as if in legislative session and notwithstanding rule XXII, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 5119 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration; I further ask that the bill be considered read a third time, be passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The junior Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, reserving the right to object, let me start by pointing out that this is a national security bill. And the reason that it is a national security bill is because—to paraphrase a famous author—the United States is engaged in a clash of civilizations. And I describe that clash of civilizations as between rule of law countries like the United States and countries that are run by kleptocrats and oligarchs and criminals or subject to control by traffickers and international criminal organizations.

Now, if you are an oligarch or a kleptocrat or international criminal, the thing you want more than anything else is to be able to hide what you stole. And you don't want to hide what you stole in your own corrupt and crooked country. You want to hide what you stole behind rule of law.

And the result is that the United States and other countries on the rule of law side of this clash of civilizations are giving aid and comfort to our enemies by helping them hide their crooked assets.

The concern for the United States was made pretty clear by Treasury Secretary Yellen, who admitted ''there's a good argument that . . . the best place to hide and launder ill-gotten gains is actually the United States.''

So we are trying to clean that mess up. And it is not just this administration. Under President Trump, Secretary Mnuchin said:

> Treasury's ability to combat tax evasion and to detect, deter, and disrupt money laundering and terrorist financing would be greatly enhanced through reporting of beneficial ownership information.

The suggestion that this magically appeared in some bill? No. It was worked through two committees in the Senate. It has been bipartisan from its earliest days, both in the Judiciary Committee and in the Banking Committee. It has been through enormous effort. And, in fact, the last Trump administration, working with us on this bill in 2019, released a statement of administration policy condemning this bipartisan ''measure that will help prevent malign actors from leveraging anonymity to exploit these entities for criminal gain.''

Are there examples of what has been going on? Well, terrorist groups like Hezbollah, Putin's oligarch cronies, North Korean foreign operatives, and fentanyl traffickers all need shell companies to hide what they have stolen.

Viktor Bout, the Russian arms dealer known as the ''Merchant of Death,'' used a global network of anonymous shell companies, including at least 12 incorporated in Delaware, Florida, and Texas. Anonymous LLCs impeded New York City's ability to trace the terror finance scheme that funded the 9/11 attacks—again, shell corporations that we didn't know who was really behind.

An anonymous New York company served as a front for the Iranian government in violation of U.S. sanctions, with millions of dollars in rent illegally funneled to Iran.

A DOJ indictment last year said that cartel operatives designed a network of shell companies in Wyoming to launder illegal millions for the Sinaloa cartel. Narco traffickers in New Jersey were charged with using an American shell company to buy fentanyl-related supplies from China.

So this is a real problem, which is why the Trump administration's Statement of Administration Policy was supportive.

Now, we went through a lot of effort to get here. The first group that stood up against it was the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, and when it was exposed what they were arguing for, they actually ended up backing off and going to neutral on the bill, because they are bank members and they are anti-money laundering members.

And other Members of the Chamber said: What are we doing here?

And as soon as when that entity disappeared, up came the American Bar Association, doing the same thing. And their banking session and their anti-money laundering session and their former prosecutors and their national security folks all said: What are you doing?

And so the American Bar Association backed off.

The third in this game of political special interests whack-a-mole was NFIB, which came in to present the same stale argument to Senator GRAHAM, Senator GRASSLEY, and myself that were so stale and so flagrant that—well, I am not going to name names. Let's just say the NFIB had a very bad day facing down this bipartisan group.

So a lot of work has gone into this. The stakes are very high. This actually is a national security bill. And against that risk of being the loser in the clash of civilizations, because we are giving aid and comfort to our enemies by allowing them to use American shell corporations to hide what they get selling fentanyl to our citizens, here is what we ask: When you set up a corporation, you tell us your name. That is not very complicated. You can do that pretty quickly. You tell us your address. That doesn't take more than a couple of seconds to remember. What is my address? Yeah, write that down. Your date of birth? That is pretty simple too. And then either a passport or driver's license number. It is, literally, that simple. Where it gets complicated is where you have complex networks of joined shell companies in a complex corporate structure. But if that is what you have got, the very same lawyers who put that complex structure together can easily add this information.

So, in my view, delaying the Corporate Transparency Act would empower criminals who are operating through American shell companies, who outcompete and defraud honest small business owners, while emboldening and facilitating terrorist groups, foreign adversaries like Russia and China and Iran, North Korean weapons of mass destruction financing, fentanyl trafficking, and a whole array of grotesquely bad actors.

So I object. With great regard for my friend Senator LANKFORD, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The senior Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. LANKFORD. Madam President, my friend from Rhode Island and I, we have a lot of great conversations. I think we both agree on the problem here. There is clearly a problem that money could be laundered and hidden in American companies and shell companies. There is no question. I think what we disagree on is the answer to that problem.

In this setting, with this set of forms, the assumption is that those who are doing international money laundering would put down their accurate information and would identify themselves as international terrorists and money launderers. In this particular setting, every small business owner who owns a restaurant or a pet store or a bookstore or is a plumber or owns a roofing company—30 million, in fact, small businesses in America—they all have to prove their innocence.

The assumption is that a Russian oligarch who is trying to hide money will tell the truth when he fills his form out, and I find that hard to believe. But in the meantime, 30 million small businesses have to go through a form, and within weeks, probably 23 million of those will be in violation of the law, and they will face penalties of $10,000 or 2 years in jail. And most of those small business owners who run that restaurant down the street don't even know this rule exists.

It is the kind of stuff that drives Americans crazy, that they woke up one day and found out they may go to jail tomorrow because they didn't fill out a form that someone wanted.

That is what we are trying to pause. The problem is real. I just don't think this is the right solution for it in the way it is being implemented. Let's see if we can solve the problem without actually causing, literally, tens of millions of small business owners to be under the sword of Damocles that they could be rounded up and go to jail at any moment because they didn't get a form filled out.

That is what we are trying to solve in the days ahead, and I wish we could at least put a pause on this and think it through more before those small business owners find out.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The junior Senator from Oklahoma.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 2796

Mr. MULLIN. Madam President, for 8 years, beginning with my time in the House, I have worked on the Miami-Illinois Land Claim Settlement Act, which is now S. 2796.

I want to thank Chief Lankford of the Miami Tribe for his assistance to move this bill forward and to help lay out a solid, factual background before the Indian Affairs Committee, which is why it uniquely came out of the committee.

This is a unique piece of legislation. The Miami Tribe is not seeking a settlement for their treaty claim or an appropriation from Congress. This is zero cost to Congress. The Miami Tribe—or ''My-am-uh'' Tribe—is not seeking a settlement. The Tribe is simply asking Congress to do what only Congress can: to extinguish the Tribe's treaty title claim to the land in Illinois.

First, this bill will remove a cloud on the title for non-Indian landowners in eastern and central Illinois, benefiting the Tribe and non-Tribal members alike. Second, the bill will allow the Tribe the opportunity to plead their case before the U.S. Court of Federal Claims.

This is a straightforward bill, cosponsored by both of my colleagues from Illinois, Senator DURBIN and Senator DUCKWORTH. The Miami Tribe has waited long enough to get this done, and it is time to act.

Madam President, as if in legislative session and notwithstanding rule XXII, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 489, S. 2796; that the bill be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The senior Senator from Utah.

Mr. LEE. Madam President, reserving the right to object, I have great respect and admiration for my friend and distinguished colleague, the Senator from Oklahoma.

When I listen to the arguments being presented, I am reminded of a couple of things.

No. 1, these claims arise out of and relate to a treaty—a treaty going back to 1805. Those claims had the opportunity, more recently, to have been litigated in front of the previously existing Indian Claims Commission. Congress, in recognizing the need at the time to open up what might have been a confusing set of legal circumstances or an inadequate availability for relief, opened up a 5-year window for claims related to this treaty that was entered into with the Miami Tribe in 1805. They opened that up for a period between 1946 and 1951.

Jurisdiction over what was previously the Indian Claims Commission has since been transferred over to the U.S. Court of Federal Claims. Interestingly, the Court of Federal Claims still maintains jurisdiction over such things, but it lacks the ability to enter orders, and the statute of limitations has long since passed. There was this 5-year window under which they were able to bring up claims like this.

Now, during that time period between 1946 and 1951, the Miami Tribe did pursue and litigate on a number of claims related to that treaty, enough for them to have received a remedy—a remedy of about $11 million at the time. I am told that, in 2024 dollars, that is about $200 million.

There are reasons why we have statutes of limitations. Those reasons have to do with the fact that, at some point, a stone rolling down the mountain has to come to rest. When you are dealing with litigation, especially litigation on claims dating back a couple hundred years, it is especially important to have finality.

Now, my friend and colleague refers to the need to reopen this window today to remove what he describes as a cloud to the chain of title. The problem with that argument is that it overlooks the fact that the United States is an indispensable party for any and all such claims as might arise so as to underlie the punitive cloud to any chain of title on these lands. As an indispensable party, the United States must be added, or the court can't handle anything like that. The court, under existing law, can't address them in the absence of the indispensable party, and because the United States is and has been deemed an indispensable party pursuant to rule 19 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, no such claim exists. Therefore, any and all claims that could create the asserted cloud to the chain of title are, in fact, illusory—entirely illusory—as the U.S. Department of Justice articulated well when delivering testimony in July of 2019 on behalf of the U.S. Department of Justice—Environment and Natural Resources Division of DOJ—before the Subcommittee for Indigenous Peoples of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Natural Resources.

These claims are especially important here. In other words, the existence of a statute of limitations is especially important here.

Here is what they say:

> Statutes of limitations serve valuable purposes. They are designed—

In supporting Supreme Court precedent here—

> to promote justice by preventing surprises through the revival of claims that have been allowed to slumber until the evidence has been lost, memories have faded, and witnesses have disappeared. Those concerns are particularly acute here, where the United States will be required to litigate claims based on events that occurred more than 150 years ago. Such litigation can be complex and expensive, and it typically requires hiring expert historians and other professionals. There is no valid basis to expend Federal resources to undertake this effort here.

I concur with that assessment and would add that this would add a layer of complexity, create a massive slippery-slope problem, and open up settled expectations and understandings regarding Federal land ownership that had been settled long ago and as to which statutes of limitations have now run.

On that basis, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. MULLIN. Madam President, I appreciate my colleague from Utah in his fine arguments. Obviously, you can tell he is a great attorney.

What frustrates me is that I am literally down the hall. My colleague could have, at any time, picked up the phone and called me. The Senator could have simply talked to me. He could have even called me back today when I called him on the phone, and we could have discussed this. At any given time, we could have had this discussion not here on the floor, but we could have actually taken the time and walked through this.

I do understand his concerns, but his argument is that, since the statute of limitations has been looked at, we should not deal with any Indian issues—which I live in and always have lived in Indian Country, which I know my colleague from Utah has not and may not always understand the complexity which we live with consistently. But, under the Senator's argument, the court should never look at anything inside the treaty because it has been done; it is over with. So why should we even look at it? Yet the court always looks into it, and that is why we have the court. We also have the separation of powers. We are the

legislative branch, and the Senator is quoting the judicial branch.

In this case, the only people who can solve this issue is Congress. The court can't. This is unique. Only Congress can do this—no one else. And there is a dispute because my colleague is from Utah. He is not from Illinois, and he doesn't understand the title issues that there is a dispute on, which is why Congress has looked at this over and over and over again. That is why we have had hearings in the House and in the Senate in the committees that have jurisdiction over this. And both committees have spoken and said, yes, this is something that needs to move forward and that Congress does need to act on.

I would have loved to have had this debate not in public but in private, and we could have discussed this. But the Senator didn't give me that opportunity; so now, we are here.

So, if Congress isn't going to solve this issue, that means we just throw our hands up and leave the Tribes in limbo? I think we have walked away from the Tribes enough, and I take it personal because, when the Tribes do need assistance, where else are they supposed to go? They can't go back and litigate this in the courts until Congress acts, which is why this legislation is in front of us. And then the Congress—once we act, it can be referred to the court, and then the court can decide if the statute of limitations has already run out on it or not or if they have the right to go back and look at it.

Just recently, there was what is called the McGirt decision that went back in and completely changed what was going on in Indian Country inside Oklahoma and uprooted something that was settled a long time ago, we thought, especially considering that the ruling came out and said that they believed the reservation lines still exist inside Oklahoma, under the McGirt decision.

Now, the statute of limitations had run out on that before because, actually, Congress had acted and ended it in 1906 by giving title to the landowners, who in this case would be Indian Country, which would be my relatives, and we still own the land that was given to us at that time before we achieved statehood in 1906, because Congress said, before we can actually become a State, we have got to settle this issue with the Tribes. So we did it. Yet the court still picked up that decision and went back and looked at it and made changes.

So, under my colleague's argument, that can't happen because it is done. And I will say this again: I would have loved to have had this conversation in private, but the Senator didn't give me that opportunity. So here we are.

I would ask the Presiding Officer: If we don't work this out and Congress is the only entity that can handle this, then where is the Tribe supposed to go?

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The senior Senator from Utah.

Mr. LEE. Madam President, if my colleague left me a message, I am unaware of that. I did look and see that he tried to call me today. I have had a million calls today and been in and out of a lot of meetings. If he left me a message, I haven't seen it on my phone, and I apologize for that. I had a lot going on today.

I will say this. My staff has met with my colleague's staff on a number of occasions to discuss this. The concerns here should not be a surprise either to my colleague or to my colleague's staff.

With regard to the question of whether we should just let the court decide, I understand what he said, but that is literally not what this is about. It is not about whether the court can decide whether to reopen the statute of limitations. That is not for the court. That is for Congress. That is for us to decide.

The punitive reason for reopening the statute of limitations, which has been closed since 1951 for claims going back to an 1805 treaty, the purported reason for reopening it is the alleged cloud of title on the chain of title. What I am saying is that is an entirely illusory cloud on the chain of title because there is an indispensable party under rule XIX of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. You cannot litigate that. Unless the United States is a party and unless the United States has abrogated its sovereign immunity sufficiently to allow the United States to be added as an indispensable party, it cannot be litigated; thus, making any claims entirely illusory.

So if there is some other argument, we can pursue those on the merits. But there is no cloud on the chain of title because there can't be because the United States has not, since 1951, recognized an abrogation of U.S. sovereign immunity to a degree sufficient to allow the existence of any type of a cloud on the chain of title.

Mr. MULLIN. Well, if there wasn't a cloud, then this wouldn't be an issue. So, obviously, there was, and there is.

You can say what you want to, but there is. That is why we are here today. That is why we are trying to solve the issue.

This is why the gentleman from Utah isn't from Indian Country; he is not from Illinois; and he doesn't understand the issue, which is why we should have had a conversation one-on-one, not just your staff—because I promise you, if there was an issue that I had with the gentleman from Utah, I would have simply just said: Hey, MIKE, let's talk.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The senior Senator from Utah.

Mr. LEE. Madam President, it is December 20. We are on, likely, the last legislative break before we break for the Christmas holidays. The first time I personally became aware of this issue was this afternoon. So it is not as if one could argue that there has been dilatory conduct on my part and not listening to it. I didn't even know this was an issue. I didn't know what it was until just a few hours ago.

Mr. MULLIN. That is your staff's problem.

Mr. LEE. This is a problem to bring something like this up that could have, potentially, an economic impact on the U.S. Government of tens, if not hundreds, of billions of dollars. To rush something through like this at, literally, the final hour before the end of a legislative year, before the end of a Congress, is not something that we do. And for my colleague to suggest that I have been dilatory, when he is bringing this up to rush this through by unanimous consent at the last possible minute, under an argument that is legally specious and vacuous. The alleged cloud on the chain of title does not, cannot exist. So the argument doesn't work.

If he wants to bring this up in the next Congress, let's do it. Let's talk about it. Let's have it go through regular order but not at the last hour, at the last day, at the end of the Congress.

Mr. MULLIN. That is just not right.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The junior Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. MULLIN. Eight years. This was filed at the beginning of this Congress. Just because your staff didn't make you aware isn't my fault. That is not my fault. To say 8 years, which I opened with—maybe if you would have listened to what I said. We have been working on this for 8 years. This bill has been around for a long time. To accuse me of saying that I am waiting until the last minute, until the last day, at the last hour to do it is just absolutely wrong.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The senior Senator from Utah.

Mr. LEE. Look, we are in fact at the last effective legislative day of the year and of the Congress. And what my colleague from Oklahoma is saying is that we should call it up and pass it tonight.

Now, whether he thinks I should have been aware of this issue long ago—fair enough. I wasn't. But the way this is supposed to work around here is, unless there is unanimity, we don't pass legislation. That is a significant issue. Nor should we pass legislation that could and would expose the United States, potentially, to tens—if not hundreds—of billions of dollars in liability for a lot of transient reasons that haven't been fully vetted on the floor of the U.S. Senate.

Mr. MULLIN. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The junior Senator from Alaska.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to be able to speak for 7 minutes prior to this vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PAY OUR MILITARY ACT

Mr. SULLIVAN. Madam President, I was coming down here to try to pass

my bill, the Pay Our Military Act. This bill would have made sure that we are paying our military, including our Coast Guard, in the event of a government shutdown.

A few hours ago, this looked like we really were going to have to do this. We ran the hotline on the Republican side. Every Republican Senator voted for this. And it makes sense.

This has usually been a bipartisan issue. If there is a government shutdown, which none of us want, we need to pay the men and women who are on the frontlines, in our country, overseas, many in dangerous situations defending our freedom—to make sure they are paid, to make sure they are paid.

The good news is, it looks like, just walking onto the floor here, the House is overwhelmingly passing the continuing resolution. It is not, I am sure, the deal I would have negotiated, but, nevertheless, it looks like there is a likelihood of that coming over here tonight soon, we hope, after the passage. It is likely going to pass in the House overwhelmingly and will likely pass here in the Senate later this evening. So we will likely not have a government shutdown, which is good.

And our military, who is doing a great job around the world, won't be subject to this crazy situation, which has happened before: The government shuts down, and the young men and women defending our freedom all around the world are not getting paid.

So with that, I am not going to ask for unanimous consent on this bill. I was hopeful nobody was going to block it. I am not sure if anyone was going to block it. At prior times, when we had been barreling toward a government shutdown, the Senate has actually taken action in a bipartisan way to pass this legislation—no troops getting their pay cut off. I was hopeful that was going to happen tonight. Maybe it would have; maybe it wouldn't. I am not going to bring it up.

What I want to do is just wish our troops a Merry Christmas.

You know, a lot of people are going to be serving away from their families, serving in dangerous parts of the world. I will tell you, in my great State, the great State of Alaska, our military has been really, really busy. It doesn't make a lot of news in the lower 48, but we have had two Russian incursions into our ADIZ in just the last week—young men and women flying in the middle of the night, going and intercepting Russian bear bombers and fighters. They are doing a great job, a professional job. It is dangerous work.

So to all of our troops, Merry Christmas. Keep up the great work. I am really glad that I am not having to bring my bill to pay all of you.

If the government shuts down, and if we ever have another government shutdown, I sure hope my Pay Our Military Act will get unanimous, bipartisan support.

If the U.S. Congress can't keep funding our government, the men and women in our military should not suffer the consequences when they are defending our freedom around the world.

With that, I yield the floor.

NOMINATION OF SERENA RAQUEL MURILLO

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, today, the Senate will vote to confirm Serena Murillo to the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California.

Born in Pomona, CA, Judge Murillo received her B.A. from the University of California, San Diego and her J.D. from Loyola Law School. After law school, she worked as a post-bar law clerk at Shernoff, Bidart, and Echeverria in Claremont, CA. She then worked as an associate attorney at McNicholas & McNicholas in Los Angeles, where she represented plaintiffs in personal injury cases.

From 1997 to 2014, Judge Murillo served as a deputy district attorney in the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. She prosecuted various criminal cases, including juvenile matters, felonies, white-collar crime, and criminal appeals. She tried approximately 68 cases to verdict in State court, half of which were jury trials.

Since 2015, Judge Murillo has been a judge on the Superior Court of California in Los Angeles County. From 2018 to 2019, she served by appointment of the chief justice of the California Supreme Court as an associate justice pro tem on the California Court of Appeal. She has presided over approximately 55 jury trials in civil, felony, and misdemeanor matters, nearly all of which were criminal trials. She has also taught as a lecturer in law at the University of Southern California Gould School of Law since 2022.

The American Bar Association rated Judge Murillo as ''well qualified'' to serve on the district court. She has deep ties to the Central District of California, and she enjoys the strong support of her home State Senators and the California legal community.

Judge Murillo's litigation background and experience as both an advocate and State court judge ensure that she will be an asset to the district court. I am proud to support her nomination, and I ask my colleagues to join me in my support.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic whip.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the scheduled vote begin immediately.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

VOTE ON MURILLO NOMINATION

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Murillo nomination?

Mr. DURBIN. 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. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN), and the Senator from California (Mr. SCHIFF) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE).

The result was announced—yeas 49, nays 47, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 332 Ex.]

YEAS—49

Baldwin	Hickenlooper	Sanders
Bennet	Hirono	Schatz
Blumenthal	Kaine	Schumer
Booker	Kelly	Shaheen
Brown	Kim	Sinema
Cantwell	King	Smith
Cardin	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Carper	Luján	Tester
Casey	Markey	Van Hollen
Coons	Merkley	Warner
Cortez Masto	Murphy	Warnock
Duckworth	Murray	Warren
Durbin	Ossoff	Welch
Fetterman	Padilla	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Peters	Wyden
Hassan	Reed	
Heinrich	Rosen	

NAYS—47

Barrasso	Fischer	Murkowski
Blackburn	Graham	Paul
Boozman	Grassley	Ricketts
Braun	Hagerty	Risch
Britt	Hawley	Romney
Budd	Hoeven	Rounds
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Schmitt
Cassidy	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Collins	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Lankford	Sullivan
Cotton	Lee	Thune
Cramer	Lummis	Tillis
Crapo	Marshall	Tuberville
Cruz	McConnell	Wicker
Daines	Moran	Young
Ernst	Mullin	

NOT VOTING—4

Manchin	Schiff
Rubio	Vance

The nomination was confirmed.

(Mr. KIM assumed the Chair.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

SOCIAL SECURITY FAIRNESS ACT OF 2023

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. DURBIN). Under the previous order, the Senate will resume the legislative session and the clerk will report the pending business.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 82) to amend title II of the Social Security Act to repeal the Government pension offset and windfall elimination provisions.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

JUDICIAL CONFIRMATIONS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, we just passed our 235th judge. It is historic. It sets a record. In a few moments, I will be speaking about that. But first, let us finish our housekeeping and other business, so we can

finish the business for the Senate for this year.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. So I send a cloture motion to the desk.

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 Calendar No. 693, H.R. 82, a bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to repeal the Government pension offset and windfall elimination provisions.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Brian Schatz, Jeanne Shaheen, Tammy Baldwin, Alex Padilla, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Christopher A. Coons, Patty Murray, Tim Kaine, Jack Reed, Peter Welch, Margaret Wood Hassan, Chris Van Hollen, Debbie Stabenow, Christopher Murphy, Gary C. Peters.

AMENDMENT NO. 3355

Mr. SCHUMER. I have an amendment at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from New York [Mr. SCHUMER] proposes an amendment numbered 3355.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To add an effective date)

At the end add the following:

SEC. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Act shall take effect on the date that is 1 day after the date of enactment of this Act.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask to dispense with further reading of the amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays are ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 3356 TO AMENDMENT NO. 3355

Mr. SCHUMER. I have a second-degree amendment at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from New York [Mr. SCHUMER] proposes an amendment numbered 3356 to amendment No. 3355.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To add an effective date)

On page 1, line 3, strike ''1 day'' and insert ''2 days''.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask to dispense with further reading of the amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH AN AMENDMENT NO. 3357

Mr. SCHUMER. I move to commit H.R. 82 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report back forthwith with an amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from New York [Mr. SCHUMER] moves to commit H.R. 82 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report back forthwith an amendment numbered 3357.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To add an effective date)

At the end add the following:

SEC. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Act shall take effect on the date that is 3 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask to dispense with further reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays are ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 3358

Mr. SCHUMER. I have an amendment to the instructions at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from New York [Mr. SCHUMER] proposes an amendment numbered 3358 to the instructions of the motion to commit.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To add an effective date)

On page 1, line 3, strike ''3 days'' and insert ''4 days''.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask to dispense with further reading of the amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays are ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 3359 TO AMENDMENT NO. 3358

Mr. SCHUMER. I have a second-degree amendment at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from New York [Mr. SCHUMER] proposes an amendment numbered 3359 to amendment No. 3358.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To add an effective date)

On page 1, line 1, strike ''4 days'' and insert ''5 days''.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask to dispense with further reading of the amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

JUDICIAL CONFIRMATIONS

Mr. SCHUMER. Now, Mr. President, as you well know, a few minutes ago the Senate confirmed Judge Murillo to serve as a California District Judge. She is the 235th judge confirmed by this majority.

The majority has now confirmed more judges under President Biden than any majority has confirmed in decades. This is historic. We have confirmed more judges than under the Trump administration, more judges than any administration in this century, more judges than any administration going back decades. One out of every four active judges on the bench has been appointed by this majority. Let me repeat that. One out of every four active judges on the bench has been appointed by this majority.

Together, these individuals are arguably the most qualified and historic nominees ever confirmed in a 4-year span.

I want to thank all Senators—Democrat and Republican—who supported these nominees. Both parties cooperating on many of these judges shows why the advice and consent process is critical to this body and to our democracy.

Two hundred thirty-five judges—that is 235 qualified and experienced mainstream judges. They are former consumer protection lawyers, labor lawyers, voting rights experts, civil rights lawyers, Federal prosecutors, public defenders, teachers, mentors, scholars, great Americans from every walk of life and legal practice.

I am very proud of this milestone, not because of the number alone but because of what the number means. It means our bench is now far more balanced in its experiences, expertise, and qualifications than 4 years ago.

For a very long time, the norm was to prioritize judicial nominees who came from a privileged pool. Most of them were prosecutors or from large corporate law firms. Most were male. Most were White.

But when Senate Democrats entered the majority, we cast a wider net. We turned to new individuals who would make excellent and uniquely qualified judges. For example, we confirmed nominees who represented union workers and had firsthand experience in union negotiations. We confirmed nominees who fought healthcare fraud in court and represented the public in cases of deceptive marketing tactics.

Our nominees have defended the right to vote. They have defended freedom of choice. They have represented victims of abuse. They have put criminal and drug traffickers behind bars. They have been teachers. They have been mentors.

Our nominees are also groundbreaking for their demographic diversity. One hundred fifty of these judges are women, the most under any President.

We confirmed the first Black woman to the highest Court in all the land, Ketanji Brown Jackson. She is also the first public defender to ever hold the title ''Justice.''

We confirmed the most Black judges, Hispanic judges, and AAPI judges and Native American judges under any President's full time in office.

All of these historic judges were confirmed because they were exceptionally qualified for the job.

Our courts, like all our institutions, are better off when they mirror this vibrant country.

There are a lot of people to thank. I want to thank, at the top of the list, you, Mr. President—Chairman DURBIN—for your diligence and hard work. I want to thank Ranking Member GRAHAM and the members of the Judiciary Committee—some of whom are here—for their great work. You recommended excellent individuals to the bench.

I want to thank, of course, President Biden for sending us such an impressive group of well-qualified and historic nominees. And I want to thank Vice President HARRIS, who came here when the vote was tied and helped us confirm a number of these nominees.

And thank you to our Republican colleagues, who recommended good nominees and supported many of ours as well.

Finally, I want to thank my great staff, especially my incredible nominations director, Catalina Tam. It wouldn't have happened without her diligent and hard work. A lot of behind-the-scenes work happened to get them confirmed, and so I am immensely grateful to everyone who worked tirelessly day in and day out.

Thanks to the hard work of the Senate majority, our courts are stronger, our country is strong, our democracy is stronger. And that is something every American can be proud of.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 851.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of David Michael Capozzi, of Maryland, to be a Director of the Amtrak Board of Directors for a term of five years. (New Position).

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 851, David Michael Capozzi, of Maryland, to be a Director of the Amtrak Board of Directors for a term of five years. (New Position)

Charles E. Schumer, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Tammy Baldwin, Richard J. Durbin, Catherine Cortez Masto, Debbie Stabenow, Patty Murray, Amy Klobuchar, Chris Van Hollen, Jack Reed, Jeanne Shaheen, Andy Kim, Margaret Wood Hassan, Elizabeth Warren, Christopher A. Coons, Adam B. Schiff, Jeff Merkley.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 854.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Elaine Marie Clegg, of Idaho, to be a Director of the Amtrak Board of Directors for a term of five years.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 854, Elaine Marie Clegg, of Idaho, to be a Director of the Amtrak Board of Directors for a term of five years.

Charles E. Schumer, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Tammy Baldwin, Richard J. Durbin, Catherine Cortez Masto, Debbie Stabenow, Patty Murray, Amy Klobuchar, Chris Van Hollen, Jack Reed, Jeanne Shaheen, Andy Kim, Margaret Wood Hassan, Elizabeth Warren, Christopher A. Coons, Adam B. Schiff, Jeff Merkley.

Mr. SCHUMER. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KING). The Senator from New York.

JACKIE ROBINSON BALLPARK NATIONAL COMMEMORATIVE SITE ACT

HOLCOMBE RUCKER PARK NATIONAL COMMEMORATIVE SITE ACT

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Mr. President, if you have ever had kids, you know how important it can be to encourage their education. But with many competing priorities, you sometimes need to use creative strategies to inspire success.

That is something that Holcombe Rucker did. Rucker was a Black World War II veteran and teacher in the 1940s in Harlem. He started a small outdoor basketball team for Black youth and encouraged his players to maintain good grades and decorum. Some say he is the father of outdoor organized basketball for youth and helped give thousands of kids better pathways to higher learning.

Holcombe Rucker grew up a poor parentless kid from 141st Street. He served in the Army during World War II before earning his bachelor's degree from City College. He then taught English at a Harlem junior high school, while also serving as a recreation director for both the St. Phillip's Church Community Center and the city parks department.

When Rucker formed his youth basketball tournament in the late 1940s, however, he didn't get much support from city recreational leaders. So he often paid out of his own shallow pockets to provide refreshments and T-shirts and other essentials for players. Rucker would even share his lunch with his students, often coming home to his wife with an empty stomach.

Rucker believed education and supervised recreation could make an enormous difference in the lives of his students. It is no surprise then why many of his players saw him as a father figure and credited him with helping to set them on a better path.

As Rucker's summer tournaments grew in popularity, parks department officials finally moved them to a more desirable location. That would ultimately become the Holcombe Rucker Park. The court attracted the city's most talented young basketball players, including future professional basketball stars like Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Wilt Chamberlain, and Julius ''Dr. J'' Erving.

I want to thank Congressman ESPAILLAT for championing this bill, and I am proud to lead the effort in the Senate to designate this park, which is located on 155th Street, on the banks of the Harlem River, as the ''Holcombe Rucker Park National Commemorative Site.''

This bill would allow for an educational exhibit, a plaque or another marker to be installed that would help memorialize the legacy of Mr. Rucker for generations to come.

I want to thank Senator RUBIO for his assistance.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 6852 and the Senate proceed to an en bloc consideration of the following bills: H.R. 8012, which was received from the House and is at the desk; and H.R. 6852.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged of the relevant bill, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bills en bloc.

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. I ask unanimous consent that the bills be considered read a third time and passed and 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 bill (H.R. 8012) to establish the Jackie Robinson Ballpark National Commemorative Site in the State of Florida, and for other purposes was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

The bill (H.R. 6852) to designate Holcombe Rucker Park, in Harlem, New York, as a National Commemorative Site, and for other purposes was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. I yield the floor. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SOCIAL SECURITY FAIRNESS ACT

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I expect that sometime this evening, the Senate will move to the consideration of the Social Security Fairness Act, which would repeal two Social Security provisions: the windfall elimination provision, pronounced ''WEP,'' and the government pension offset, GPO.

I agree with my colleagues that the WEP and GPO should be improved to ensure that teachers, firefighters, police officers, and others receive fair treatment under Social Security; however, I am disappointed that the Finance Committee did not have the opportunity to examine ways to address the WEP and GPO that would be fair to all Social Security beneficiaries and not hurt Social Security's long-term solvency.

In its current form, the Social Security Fairness Act would cost nearly $200 billion over the next 10 years and exhaust the balance of the old-age and survivors insurance trust fund roughly 6 months earlier for all Social Security beneficiaries. The share of OASI benefits that could be paid when the trust fund is exhausted would be smaller under this bill than under current law, meaning all Social Security beneficiaries will see their Social Security benefits reduced earlier, and their benefits then will be even smaller than they would have been.

I filed an amendment that would delay the implementation of the Social Security Fairness Act until changes are made that would offset the bill's negative impact on Social Security's actuarial balance as determined by the Social Security Board of Trustees. The amendment does not specify what the changes should be or how the changes should be determined.

While I continue to have concerns with the approach taken in the Social Security Fairness Act, at the very least, this amendment needs to be adopted so that we do not have a negative impact on Social Security's solvency and impact the Social Security benefits of all Social Security recipients.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment when it comes up. That will be the Crapo amendment No. 3331.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Carolina.

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I just wanted to get up and explain why I will be voting against the passage of the Social Security Fairness Act a little bit later tonight. I am going to try to keep the volume down and maybe the frustration down a little bit more tonight than I did yesterday, but I thought it was important to again explain why sometimes the tough vote is the right vote.

To kind of lay the groundwork, I am from North Carolina. I am up for reelection in November of 2026. I have heard some people walk up and down the hallway and say that they really oppose the bill, but they are up for reelection in 2028 or are up for reelection in 2030, and they are worried about the politics of it. I never worry about the politics when I am convinced in my heart of hearts it is the right decision, and let me explain why.

The Social Security Fairness Act is trying to address what I think is an inequity and a problem. Unfortunately, it is doing it in a way that is at the expense of $200 billion out of the Social Security trust fund, without a dime offsetting it.

Now, some of my fiscal conservative colleagues have said: Well, no, it is not really depleting it because it is the Social Security trust fund. So it is not adding to our debt.

What they are forgetting is that when the Social Security trust fund becomes insolvent, the fairies don't come back and replenish the Social Security trust fund. We don't have trust fund fairies. What we have is a debt that is already over $33 trillion that we are going to be expected to write another check out of, and we are headed toward a debt crisis.

This bill, by everyone's agreement—even those who are going to vote for it tonight—pulls forward its insolvency. The consensus right now is that it is going to occur 9 years from now. This pulls it forward by 6 months.

So I have to vote against this bill and not because I don't ultimately want to fix an injustice for a very small percentage of people who deserve a few hundred dollars more a month, but the way we have gone about it, it is going to be costly, and it is being done at a time when we are not plussing the accounts back up.

I feel like, in my vote-casting, I am likely to be on the losing side. I understand that. None of these amendments are going to pass because, if they do, the bill fails, and we know that. So, for anybody who is pulling for one amendment or another, let me just show you how I can tell the future: Not a single one will pass. This bill will be voted out this evening, and it will be sent to the President's desk. Once the President signs it, he will have guaranteed that the Social Security trust fund will become insolvent 6 months sooner. Think about it this way: 8½ years from now versus 9 years from now. It is going to pull $200 billion out, causing that to occur.

It is actually going to provide some benefit that I don't believe the beneficiaries deserve. It is really confusing that handful or that segment of the people who will get the benefit and is casting them into a group that, I think, arguably, maybe doesn't deserve the benefit. Anyone who should, we can take care of, but it is not $200 billion. But that is what happens when you don't have a single committee hearing on a bill. That is what happens when it comes from the House through something called a discharge petition. Bypassing all the processes, it comes to the Senate, and we never even have a hearing.

We are going to have a vote later today for a $200 billion raiding of the Social Security trust fund that is going to bring insolvency forward from 9 years to 8½ years, and not a single vote or a single hearing has been held in a single committee on Capitol Hill.

Now, folks, if you can't agree on the finances, if you can't agree on the fairness, can we all agree on the process for something as weighty as this? We should have given it the justice it deserves and held a hearing on it.

For that reason, I am going to vote against it, and then I will be standing there, reminding my colleagues ''I told you so'' when I am also trying to help them fix the problem they are about to vote on to create.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

WYOMING PUBLIC LANDS INITIATIVE ACT OF 2023

MALHEUR COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT FOR THE OWYHEE ACT

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following bills: Calendar No. 422, which is S. 1348, and Calendar No. 501, which is S. 1890.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bills en bloc, which had been reported from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with amendments to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

S. 1348

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Wyoming Public Lands Initiative Act of 2023''.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) BUREAU.—The term ''Bureau'' means the Bureau of Land Management.

(2) RANGE IMPROVEMENT.—The term ''range improvement'' has the meaning given the term in section 3 of the Public Rangelands Improvement Act of 1978 (43 U.S.C. 1902).

(3) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of the Interior.

(4) STATE.—The term ''State'' means the State of Wyoming.

(5) WILDERNESS AREA.—The term ''wilderness area'' means a wilderness area designated by section 3.

SEC. 3. DESIGNATION OF WILDERNESS AREAS.

In accordance with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), the following areas in the State are designated as wilderness and as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System:

(1) ENCAMPMENT RIVER CANYON WILDERNESS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Certain Federal land administered by the Bureau in the State, comprising approximately 4,523.84 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled ''Proposed Encampment River Wilderness'' and dated December 5, 2023, which shall be known as the ''Encampment River Canyon Wilderness''.

(B) EXCLUDED LAND.—The following land is not included in the Encampment River Canyon Wilderness:

(i) Any land in the NW¼NW¼NW¼ sec. 24, T. 14 N., R. 84 W.

(ii) Any land within 100 feet of the centerline of—

(I) County Road 353; or

(II) Water Valley Road.

(2) PROSPECT MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Certain Federal land administered by the Bureau in the State, comprising approximately 1,099.76 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled ''Proposed Prospect Mountain Wilderness'' and dated December 8, 2023, which shall be known as the ''Prospect Mountain Wilderness''.

(B) EXCLUDED LAND.—Any land within 100 feet of the centerline of Prospect Road is not included in the Prospect Mountain Wilderness.

(3) UPPER SWEETWATER CANYON WILDERNESS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Certain Federal land administered by the Bureau in the State, comprising approximately 2,877.35 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled ''Proposed Upper Sweetwater Canyon Wilderness'' and dated December 6, 2023, which shall be known as the ''Upper Sweetwater Canyon Wilderness''.

(B) BOUNDARY.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in clause (ii), the boundary of the Upper Sweetwater Canyon Wilderness shall conform to the boundary of the Sweetwater Canyon Wilderness Study Area.

(ii) EASTERN BOUNDARY.—The eastern boundary of the Upper Sweetwater Canyon Wilderness shall be 100 feet from the western edge of the north-south road bisecting the Upper Sweetwater Canyon Wilderness and the Lower Sweetwater Canyon Wilderness, known as ''Strawberry Creek Road''.

(iii) EXCLUSION OF EXISTING ROADS.—Any established legal route with authorized motorized use in existence on the date of enactment of this Act that enters the Upper Sweetwater Canyon Wilderness in T. 28 N., R. 98 W., sec. 4, or the Lower Sweetwater Canyon Wilderness in T. 29 N., R. 97 W., sec. 33, is not included in the Upper Sweetwater Canyon Wilderness.

(4) LOWER SWEETWATER CANYON WILDERNESS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Certain Federal land administered by the Bureau in the State, comprising approximately 5,665.19 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled ''Lower Sweetwater Canyon Wilderness'' and dated December 5, 2023, which shall be known as the ''Lower Sweetwater Canyon Wilderness''.

(B) BOUNDARY.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in clause (ii), the boundary of the Lower Sweetwater Canyon Wilderness shall conform to the boundary of the Sweetwater Canyon Wilderness Study Area.

(ii) WESTERN BOUNDARY.—The western boundary of the Lower Sweetwater Canyon Wilderness shall be 100 feet from the eastern edge of the north-south road bisecting the Upper Sweetwater Canyon Wilderness and the Lower Sweetwater Canyon Wilderness, known as ''Strawberry Creek Road''.

(iii) EXCLUSION OF EXISTING ROADS.—Any established legal route with authorized motorized use in existence on the date of enactment of this Act that enters the Upper Sweetwater Canyon Wilderness in T. 29 N., R. 98 W., sec. 4, or the Lower Sweetwater Canyon Wilderness in T. 29 N., R. 97 W., sec. 33, is not included in the Lower Sweetwater Canyon Wilderness.

(5) BOBCAT DRAW WILDERNESS.—Certain Federal land administered by the Bureau in the State, comprising approximately 6,246.84 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled ''Proposed Bobcat Draw Wilderness'' and dated December 8, 2023, which shall be known as the ''Bobcat Draw Wilderness''.

SEC. 4. ADMINISTRATION OF WILDERNESS AREAS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to valid existing rights, the Secretary shall administer the wilderness areas in accordance with this section and the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), except that—

(1) any reference in that Act to the effective date of that Act shall be considered to be a reference to the date of enactment of this Act; and

(2) any reference in that Act to the Secretary of Agriculture shall be considered to be a reference to the Secretary.

(b) FIRE MANAGEMENT AND RELATED ACTIVITIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may carry out any activities in a wilderness area as are necessary for the control of fire, insects, or disease in accordance with section 4(d)(1) of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1133(d)(1)).

(2) COORDINATION.—In carrying out paragraph (1), the Secretary shall coordinate with—

(A) the Wyoming Forestry Division; and

(B) the applicable county in the State in which the wilderness area is located.

(3) FIRE MANAGEMENT PLAN.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall establish a fire management plan for the wilderness areas—

(A) to ensure the timely and efficient control of fires, diseases, and insects in the wilderness areas, in accordance with section 4(d)(1) of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1133(d)(1)); and

(B) to provide, to the maximum extent practicable, adequate protection from forest fires, disease outbreaks, and insect infestations to any Federal, State, or private land adjacent to the wilderness areas.

(c) GRAZING.—The grazing of livestock in a wilderness area, if established before the date of enactment of this Act, shall be administered in accordance with—

(1) section 4(d)(4) of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1133(d)(4)); and

(2) the guidelines set forth in Appendix A of House Report 101–405, accompanying H.R. 2570 of the 101st Congress, for land under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Interior.

(d) BUFFER ZONES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in this section establishes a protective perimeter or buffer zone around a wilderness area.

(2) OUTSIDE ACTIVITIES OR USES.—The fact that a nonwilderness activity or use can be seen or heard from within a wilderness area shall not preclude the activity or use outside the boundary of the wilderness area.

SEC. 5. RELEASE OF WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS.

(a) FINDING.—Congress finds that, for purposes of section 603(c) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1782(c)), any portion of a wilderness study area described in subsection (b) that is not designated as a wilderness area by section 3 has been adequately studied for wilderness designation.

(b) DESCRIPTION OF LAND.—The wilderness study areas referred to in subsections (a) and (c) are the following:

(1) The Encampment River Canyon Wilderness Study Area.

(2) The Prospect Mountain Wilderness Study Area.

(3) The Bennett Mountains Wilderness Study Area.

(4) The Sweetwater Canyon Wilderness Study Area.

(5) The Lankin Dome Wilderness Study Area.

(6) The Split Rock Wilderness Study Area.

(7) The Savage Peak Wilderness Study Area.

(8) The Miller Springs Wilderness Study Area.

(9) The Dubois Badlands Wilderness Study Area.

(10) The Copper Mountain Wilderness Study Area.

(11) The Whiskey Mountain Wilderness Study Area.

(12) The Fortification Creek Wilderness Study Area.

(13) The Gardner Mountain Wilderness Study Area.

(14) The North Fork Wilderness Study Area.

(15) The portion of the Bobcat Draw Wilderness Study Area located in Washakie County, Wyoming.

(16) The Cedar Mountain Wilderness Study Area.

(17) The Honeycombs Wilderness Study Area.

(c) RELEASE.—Any portion of a wilderness study area described in subsection (b) that is not designated as a wilderness area by section 3 is no longer subject to section 603(c) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1782(c)).

(d) MANAGEMENT OF RELEASED LAND.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall manage the portions of the wilderness study areas released under subsection (c) in accordance with—

(A) the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.);

(B) applicable land management plans;

(C) applicable management provisions under paragraph (2); and

(D) any other applicable law.

(2) SPECIFIC MANAGEMENT PROVISIONS.—

(A) BENNETT MOUNTAINS WILDERNESS STUDY AREA.—The Secretary shall manage the portion of the Bennett Mountains Wilderness Study Area released under subsection (c) in accordance with section 8(a).

(B) DUBOIS BADLANDS WILDERNESS STUDY AREA.—

(i) DIVISION.—The Secretary shall divide the land within the Dubois Badlands Wilderness Study Area by authorizing the installation of a fence or the repair or relocation of an existing fence in T. 41 N., R. 106 W., sec. 5, that—

(I) follows existing infrastructure and natural barriers;

(II) begins at an intersection with North Mountain View Road in the NE¼NW¼ sec. 5, T. 41 N., R. 106 W.;

(III) from the point described in subclause (II), proceeds southeast to a point near the midpoint of the NE¼ sec. 5, T. 41 N., R. 106 W.; and

(IV) from the point described in subclause (III), proceeds southwest to a point in the SW¼NE¼ sec. 5, T. 41 N., R. 106 W., that intersects with the boundary of the Dubois Badlands Wilderness Study Area.

(ii) MANAGEMENT.—The Secretary shall manage the portion of the Dubois Badlands Wilderness Study Area released under subsection (c) in accordance with—

(I) paragraph (1); and

(II) sections 6 and 7.

(C) COPPER MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS STUDY AREA.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall manage the portion of the Copper Mountain Wilderness Study Area released under subsection (c) in accordance with paragraph (1).

(ii) MINERAL LEASING.—

(I) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may lease oil and gas resources within the land released from the Copper Mountain Wilderness Study Area under subsection (c) if—

(aa) the lease may only be accessed by directional drilling from a lease that is outside of the land released from the Copper Mountain Wilderness Study Area; and

(bb) the lease prohibits, without exception or waiver, surface occupancy and surface disturbance on the land released from the Copper Mountain Wilderness Study Area for any activities, including activities relating to exploration, development, or production.

(II) UNDERGROUND RIGHTS-OF-WAY.—The Secretary may grant underground rights-of-way for any mineral lease entered into under subclause (I).

(III) PROHIBITION OF CERTAIN LEASES.—Subject to valid rights in existence on the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall not issue a new lease for a wind or solar project, an overhead transmission line, or a communication tower on the land released from the Copper Mountain Wilderness Study Area under subsection (c).

(IV) AUTHORITY TO EXCHANGE LAND.—In carrying out any land exchange involving any of the land released from the Copper Mountain Wilderness Study Area under subsection (c), the Secretary shall ensure that the exchange does not result in a net loss of Federal land.

(D) WHISKEY MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS STUDY AREA.—The Secretary shall manage the portion of the Whiskey Mountain Wilderness Study Area released under subsection (c) in accordance with—

(i) paragraph (1); and

(ii) the Whiskey Mountain Cooperative Agreement between the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission, the Forest Service, and the Bureau, including any amendment to that agreement relating to the management of bighorn sheep.

(E) BOBCAT DRAW WILDERNESS STUDY AREA.—

(i) TRAVEL MANAGEMENT PLAN.—

(I) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall develop a travel management plan for the land released from the Bobcat Draw Wilderness Study Area under subsection (c).

(II) REQUIREMENTS.—The travel management plan under subclause (I) shall—

(aa) identify all existing roads and trails on the land released from the Bobcat Draw Wilderness Study Area under subsection (c);

(bb) designate each road or trail available for—

(AA) motorized or mechanized recreation; or

(BB) agriculture practices;

(cc) prohibit the construction of any new road or trail for motorized or mechanized recreation use; and

(dd) permit the continued use of nonmotorized trails.

(ii) WITHDRAWAL.—

(I) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subclause (II), subject to valid rights in existence on the date of enactment of this Act, the land released from the Bobcat Draw Wilderness Study Area under subsection (c) is withdrawn from—

(aa) all forms of appropriation or disposal under the public land laws;

(bb) location, entry, and patent under the mining laws; and

(cc) disposition under laws relating to mineral and geothermal leasing.

(II) EXCEPTION.—The Secretary may lease oil and gas resources within the land released from the Bobcat Draw Wilderness Study Area under subsection (c) if—

(aa) the lease may only be accessed by directional drilling from a lease that is outside of the land released from the Bobcat Draw Wilderness Study Area; and

(bb) the lease prohibits, without exception or waiver, surface occupancy and surface disturbance on the land released from the Bobcat Draw Wilderness Study Area for any activities, including activities related to exploration, development, or production.

SEC. 6. ESTABLISHMENT OF DUBOIS BADLANDS NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Subject to valid existing rights, there is established the Dubois Badlands National Conservation Area (referred to in this section as the ''Conservation Area''), comprising approximately 4,446.46 acres of Federal land administered by the Bureau in the State, as generally depicted on the map entitled ''Proposed Badlands National Conservation Area'' and dated November 15, 2023.

(b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the Conservation Area is to conserve, protect, and enhance for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations the ecological, wildlife, recreational, scenic, cultural, historical, and natural resources of the Area.

(c) MANAGEMENT.—Subject to valid rights in existence on the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall manage the Conservation Area—

(1) in a manner that only allows uses of the Conservation Area that the Secretary determines would further the purpose of the Conservation Area described in subsection (b); and

(2) in accordance with—

(A) the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.);

(B) this section; and

(C) any other applicable law.

(d) MOTORIZED VEHICLES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The use of motorized vehicles in the Conservation Area shall be permitted only on existing roads, trails, and areas designated by the Secretary for use by such vehicles as of the date of enactment of this Act.

(2) EXCEPTIONS.—The Secretary may allow the use of motorized vehicles in the Conservation Area as needed for administrative purposes and emergency response.

(e) GRAZING.—Grazing of livestock in the Conservation Area shall be administered in accordance with the laws generally applicable to land under the jurisdiction of the Bureau.

(f) WITHDRAWAL.—Subject to valid rights in existence on the date of enactment of this Act, the land within the boundaries of the Conservation Area is withdrawn from—

(1) all forms of appropriation or disposal under the public land laws;

(2) location, entry, and patent under the mining laws; and

(3) disposition under laws relating to mineral and geothermal leasing.

SEC. 7. ESTABLISHMENT OF DUBOIS MOTORIZED RECREATION AREA.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Subject to valid existing rights, there is established the Dubois Motorized Recreation Area (referred to in this section as the ''Recreation Area''), comprising approximately 367.72 acres of Federal land administered by the Bureau in the State, as generally depicted on the map entitled ''Proposed Dubois Motorized Recreation Area'' and dated November 15, 2023.

(b) MANAGEMENT.—

(1) BOUNDARY FENCE.—The Secretary shall authorize the construction of a fence along the western boundary of the Recreation Area on any Federal land that—

(A) is managed by the Bureau; and

(B) is west of North Mountain View Road.

(2) TRAVEL MANAGEMENT PLAN.—As soon as practicable after the date of completion of the fence described in paragraph (1), the Secretary shall establish a travel management plan for the Recreation Area that efficiently coordinates the use of motorized off-road vehicles in the Recreation Area.

SEC. 8. ESTABLISHMENT OF SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREAS.

(a) BENNET MOUNTAINS SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Subject to valid existing rights, there is established the Bennett Mountains Special Management Area (referred to in this subsection as the ''Special Management Area''), comprising approximately 6,165.05 acres of Federal land in the State administered by the Bureau, as generally depicted on the map entitled ''Proposed Bennet Mountains Special Management Area'' and dated November 15, 2023.

(2) ADMINISTRATION.—The Special Management Area shall be administered by the Secretary.

(3) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the Special Management Area is to enhance the natural, historic, scenic, and recreational, values of the area.

(4) MANAGEMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall manage the Special Management Area—

(i) in furtherance of the purpose described in paragraph (3); and

(ii) in accordance with—

(I) the laws (including regulations) generally applicable to the Bureau;

(II) this subsection; and

(III) any other applicable law (including regulations).

(B) ROADS; MOTORIZED VEHICLES.—

(i) ROADS.—The construction of new permanent roads in the Special Management Area shall not be allowed.

(ii) MOTORIZED VEHICLES.—Except as needed for administrative purposes, emergency response, fire management, forest health and restoration, weed and pest control, habitat management, livestock management, and range improvement, the use of motorized and mechanized vehicles in the Special Management Area shall be allowed only on existing roads and trails designated for the use of motorized or mechanized vehicles.

(iii) TRAVEL MANAGEMENT PLAN.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall establish a travel management plan for the Special Management Area.

(C) GRAZING.—Grazing of livestock in the Special Management Area shall be administered in accordance with the laws generally applicable to land under the jurisdiction of the Bureau.

(D) TIMBER HARVESTING.—Commercial timber harvesting shall not be allowed in the Special Management Area.

(5) WITHDRAWAL.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to valid existing rights and subparagraph (B), the Special Management Area is withdrawn from—

(i) all forms of appropriation or disposal under the public land laws;

(ii) location, entry, and patent under the mining laws; and

(iii) disposition under laws relating to mineral and geothermal leasing.

(B) EXCEPTION.—The Secretary may lease oil and gas resources within the boundaries of the Special Management Area if—

(i) the lease may only be accessed by directional drilling from a lease that is outside of the Special Management Area; and

(ii) the lease prohibits, without exception or waiver, surface occupancy and surface disturbance within the Special Management Area for any activities, including activities related to exploration, development, or production.

(b) BLACK CAT SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Subject to valid existing rights, there is established the Black Cat Special Management Area (referred to in this subsection as the ''Special Management Area''), comprising approximately 1,178 acres of Federal land in Carbon County, Wyoming, as generally depicted on the map entitled ''Black Cat Special Management Area'' and dated November 13, 2023.

(2) ADMINISTRATION.—The Special Management Area shall be administered by the Secretary of Agriculture.

(3) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the Special Management Area is to enhance the natural, historic, scenic, and recreational values of the area.

(4) MANAGEMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall manage the Special Management Area—

(i) in furtherance of the purpose described in paragraph (3); and

(ii) in accordance with—

(I) the laws (including regulations) generally applicable to National Forest System land;

(II) this subsection; and

(III) any other applicable law (including regulations).

(B) ROADS; MOTORIZED VEHICLES.—

(i) ROADS.—The construction of new permanent roads in the Special Management Area shall not be allowed.

(ii) MOTORIZED VEHICLES.—Except as needed for administrative purposes, emergency response, fire management, forest health and restoration, weed and pest control, habitat management, livestock management, and range improvement, the use of motorized and mechanized vehicles in the Special Management Area shall be allowed only on existing roads and trails designated for the use of motorized or mechanized vehicles.

(iii) TRAVEL MANAGEMENT PLAN.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall establish a travel management plan for the Special Management Area.

(C) GRAZING.—Grazing of livestock in the Special Management Area shall be administered in accordance with the laws generally applicable to grazing on National Forest System land.

(D) TIMBER HARVESTING.—Commercial timber harvesting shall not be allowed in the Special Management Area.

(5) WITHDRAWAL.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to valid existing rights and subparagraph (B), the Special Management Area is withdrawn from—

(i) all forms of appropriation or disposal under the public land laws;

(ii) location, entry, and patent under the mining laws; and

(iii) disposition under laws relating to mineral and geothermal leasing.

(B) EXCEPTION.—The Secretary may, with the approval of the Secretary of Agriculture, lease oil and gas resources within the boundaries of the Special Management Area if—

(i) the lease may only be accessed by directional drilling from a lease that is outside of the Special Management Area; and

(ii) the lease prohibits, without exception or waiver, surface occupancy and surface disturbance within the Special Management Area for any activities, including activities related to exploration, development, or production.

(c) SWEETWATER ROCKS SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Subject to valid existing rights, there is established the Sweetwater Rocks Special Management Area (referred to in this subsection as the ''Special Management Area''), comprising approximately 34,347.79 acres of Federal land in Fremont and Natrona Counties, Wyoming, as generally depicted on the map entitled ''Proposed Sweetwater Rocks Special Management Area'' and dated November 15, 2023.

(2) ADMINISTRATION.—The Special Management Area shall be administered by the Secretary.

(3) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the Special Management Area is to enhance the natural, historic, scenic, and recreational, values of the area.

(4) MANAGEMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall manage the Special Management Area—

(i) in furtherance of the purpose described in paragraph (3); and

(ii) in accordance with—

(I) the laws (including regulations) generally applicable to the Bureau;

(II) this subsection; and

(III) any other applicable law (including regulations).

(B) ROADS; MOTORIZED VEHICLES.—

(i) ROADS.—The construction of new permanent roads in the Special Management Area shall not be allowed.

(ii) MOTORIZED VEHICLES.—Except as needed for administrative purposes, emergency response, fire management, forest health and restoration, weed and pest control, habitat management, livestock management, and range improvement, the use of motorized and mechanized vehicles in the Special Management Area shall be allowed only on existing roads and trails designated for the use of motorized or mechanized vehicles.

(iii) TRAVEL MANAGEMENT PLAN.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall establish a travel management plan for the Special Management Area.

(C) GRAZING.—Grazing of livestock in the Special Management Area shall be administered in accordance with the laws generally applicable to the Bureau.

(D) PROHIBITION OF CERTAIN OVERHEAD TOWERS.—No new overhead transmission or communications tower shall be constructed in the Special Management Area.

(E) LAND EXCHANGES.—The Secretary may propose to, and carry out with, an individual or entity owning land in the vicinity of the Special Management Area any land exchange that—

(i) increases access to the Special Management Area; and

(ii) does not result in a net loss of Federal land.

(F) UNDERGROUND RIGHTS-OF-WAY.—Notwithstanding paragraph (5), the Secretary may expand any underground right-of-way in the Special Management Area that exists as of the date of enactment of this Act.

(5) WITHDRAWAL.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to valid existing rights and subparagraph (B), the Special Management Area is withdrawn from—

(i) all forms of appropriation or disposal under the public land laws;

(ii) location, entry, and patent under the mining laws; and

(iii) disposition under laws relating to mineral and geothermal leasing.

(B) EXCEPTION.—The Secretary may lease oil and gas resources within the boundaries of the Special Management Area if—

(i) the lease may only be accessed by directional drilling from a lease that is outside of the Special Management Area; and

(ii) the lease prohibits, without exception or waiver, surface occupancy and surface disturbance within the Special Management Area for any activities, including activities related to exploration, development, or production.

(C) WIND AND SOLAR ENERGY WITHDRAWAL.—Subject to valid rights in existence on the date of enactment of this Act, the land within the boundaries of the Special Management Area is withdrawn from right-of-way leasing and disposition under laws relating to wind or solar energy.

(d) FORTIFICATION CREEK SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA; FRAKER MOUNTAIN SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA; NORTH FORK SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA.—

(1) DEFINITION OF SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA.—In this subsection, the term ''Special Management Area'' means a special management area established by paragraph (2).

(2) ESTABLISHMENT OF SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREAS.—Subject to valid existing rights there are established the following:

(A) The Fortification Creek Special Management Area, comprising approximately 12,520.69 acres of Federal land administered in the State by the Bureau, as generally depicted on the map entitled ''Proposed Fortification Creek Management Area'' and dated November 15, 2023.

(B) The Fraker Mountain Special Management Area, comprising approximately 6,248.28 acres of Federal land administered in the State by the Bureau, as generally depicted on the map entitled ''Proposed Fraker Mountain Management Area'' and dated November 15, 2023.

(C) The North Fork Special Management Area, comprising approximately 10,026.15 acres of Federal land administered in the State by the Bureau, as generally depicted on the map entitled ''Proposed North Fork Management Area'' and dated November 15, 2023.

(3) ADMINISTRATION.—The Special Management Areas shall be administered by the Secretary.

(4) PURPOSE.—The purpose of a Special Management Area is to enhance the natural, historic, scenic, recreational, wildlife habitat, forest health, watershed protection, and ecological and cultural values of the area.

(5) MANAGEMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall manage each Special Management Area—

(i) in furtherance of the purpose described in paragraph (4); and

(ii) in accordance with—

(I) the laws (including regulations) generally applicable to the Bureau;

(II) this subsection; and

(III) any other applicable law (including regulations).

(B) ROADS; MOTORIZED VEHICLES.—

(i) ROADS.—The construction of new permanent roads in a Special Management Area shall not be allowed.

(ii) MOTORIZED VEHICLES.—Except as needed for administrative purposes, emergency response, fire management, forest health and restoration, weed and pest control, habitat management, livestock management, and range improvement, the use of motorized and mechanized vehicles in a Special Management Area shall be allowed only on existing roads and trails designated for the use of motorized or mechanized vehicles.

(iii) TRAVEL MANAGEMENT PLAN.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall establish a travel management plan for each Special Management Area.

(C) GRAZING.—Grazing of livestock in a Special Management Area shall be administered in accordance with the laws generally applicable to land under the jurisdiction of the Bureau.

(D) PROHIBITION OF CERTAIN INFRASTRUCTURE.—The development, construction, or installation of infrastructure for recreational use shall not be allowed in—

(i) the Fraker Mountain Special Management Area; or

(ii) the North Fork Special Management Area.

(6) WITHDRAWAL.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to valid existing rights and subparagraph (B), the Special Management Areas are withdrawn from—

(i) all forms of appropriation or disposal under the public land laws;

(ii) location, entry, and patent under the mining laws; and

(iii) disposition under laws relating to mineral and geothermal leasing.

(B) EXCEPTION.—The Secretary may lease oil and gas resources within the boundaries of a Special Management Area if—

(i) the lease may only be accessed by directional drilling from a lease that is outside of the Special Management Area; and

(ii) the lease prohibits, without exception or waiver, surface occupancy and surface disturbance within the Special Management Area for any activities, including activities related to exploration, development, or production.

(e) CEDAR MOUNTAIN SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Subject to valid existing rights, there is established the Cedar Mountain Special Management Area (referred to in this subsection as the ''Special Management Area''), comprising approximately 20,745.73 acres of Federal land in the State administered by the Bureau, as generally depicted on the map entitled ''Proposed Cedar Mountain Special Management Area'' and dated November 15, 2023.

(2) ADMINISTRATION.—The Special Management Area shall be administered by the Secretary.

(3) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the Special Management Area is to enhance the natural, historic, scenic, recreational, ecological, wildlife, and livestock production values of the area.

(4) MANAGEMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall manage the Special Management Area—

(i) in furtherance of the purpose described in paragraph (3); and

(ii) in accordance with—

(I) the laws (including regulations) generally applicable to the Bureau;

(II) this subsection; and

(III) any other applicable law (including regulations).

(B) ROADS; MOTORIZED VEHICLES.—

(i) ROADS.—The construction of new permanent roads in the Special Management Area shall not be allowed.

(ii) MOTORIZED VEHICLES.—Except as needed for administrative purposes, emergency response, fire management, forest health and restoration, weed and pest control, habitat management, livestock management, and range improvement, the use of motorized and mechanized vehicles in the Special Management Area shall be allowed only on existing roads and trails designated for the use of motorized or mechanized vehicles.

(iii) TRAVEL MANAGEMENT PLAN.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall establish a travel management plan for the Special Management Area.

(C) GRAZING.—Grazing of livestock in the Special Management Area shall be administered in accordance with the laws generally applicable to land under the jurisdiction of the Bureau.

(5) WITHDRAWAL.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to valid existing rights, the Special Management Area is withdrawn from—

(i) all forms of appropriation or disposal under the public land laws;

(ii) location, entry, and patent under the mining laws; and

(iii) disposition under laws relating to mineral and geothermal leasing.

(B) EXCEPTION.—The Secretary may lease oil and gas resources within the boundaries of the Special Management Area if—

(i) the lease may only be accessed by directional drilling from a lease that is outside of the Special Management Area; and

(ii) the lease prohibits, without exception or waiver, surface occupancy and surface disturbance within the Special Management Area for any activities, including activities related to exploration, development, or production.

SEC. 9. LANDER SLOPE AREA OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN AND RED CANYON AREA OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN.

(a) DEFINITION OF COUNTY.—In this section, the term ''County'' means Fremont County, Wyoming.

(b) LANDER SLOPE AREA OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN AND RED CANYON AREA OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN.—

(1) TRANSFERS.—The Secretary shall pursue transfers in which land managed by the Bureau in the County is exchanged for land owned by the State that is within the boundaries of—

(A) the Lander Slope Area of Critical Environmental Concern; or

(B) the Red Canyon Area of Critical Environmental Concern.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—A transfer under paragraph (1) shall—

(A) comply with all requirements of law, including any required analysis; and

(B) be subject to appropriation.

(c) STUDY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall carry out a study to evaluate the potential for the development of special motorized recreation areas in the County.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The study under paragraph (1) shall evaluate—

(A) the potential for the development of special motorized recreation areas on all land managed by the Bureau in the County except—

(i) any land in T. 40 N., R. 94 W., secs. 15, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 27, 28, 29, and the N½ sec. 34; and

(ii) any land that is subject to a restriction on the use of off-road vehicles under any Federal law, including this Act;

(B) the suitability of the land evaluated under subparagraph (A) for off-road vehicles, including rock crawlers; and

(C) the parking, staging, and camping necessary to accommodate special motorized recreation.

(3) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives a report describing the findings of the study under paragraph (1).

(d) FREMONT COUNTY IMPLEMENTATION TEAM.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall establish a team, to be known as the ''Fremont County Implementation Team'' (referred to in this subsection as the ''Team'') to advise and assist the Secretary with respect to the implementation of the management requirements described in this section that are applicable to land in the County.

(2) MEMBERSHIP.—The Team shall consist of—

(A) the Secretary (or a designee of the Secretary); and

(B) 1 or more individuals appointed by the Board of County Commissioners of the County.

(3) NONAPPLICABILITY OF THE FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT.—The Team shall not be subject to the requirements of chapter 10 of title 5, United States Code (commonly referred to as the ''Federal Advisory Committee Act'').

SEC. 10. STUDY OF LAND IN HOT SPRINGS AND WASHAKIE COUNTIES.

(a) DEFINITION OF COUNTIES.—In this section, the term ''Counties'' means each of the following counties in the State:

(1) Hot Springs County.

(2) Washakie County.

(b) STUDY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall carry out a study to evaluate the potential for the development of new special motorized recreation areas in the Counties.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—

(A) LAND INCLUDED.—The study under paragraph (1) shall evaluate the potential for the development of new special motorized recreation areas on Federal land managed by the Bureau in the Counties except any land that is subject to a restriction on the use of motorized or mechanized vehicles under any Federal law, including this Act.

(B) PUBLIC INPUT; COLLABORATION.—In carrying out the study under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall—

(i) offer opportunities for public input; and

(ii) collaborate with—

(I) State parks, historic sites, and trails; and

(II) the Counties.

(3) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives a report describing the findings of the study under paragraph (1).

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SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Malheur Community Empowerment for the Owyhee Act''.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) BUREAU.—The term ''Bureau'' means the Bureau of Land Management.

(2) COUNTY.—The term ''County'' means Malheur County, Oregon.

(3) FEDERAL LAND.—The term ''Federal land'' means land in the County managed by the Bureau.

(4) LONG-TERM ECOLOGICAL HEALTH.—The term ''long-term ecological health'', with respect to an ecosystem, means the ability of the ecological processes of the ecosystem to function in a manner that maintains the composition, structure, activity, and resilience of the ecosystem over time, including an ecologically appropriate diversity of plant and animal communities, habitats, connectivity, and conditions that are sustainable through successional processes.

(5) MALHEUR C.E.O. GROUP.—The term ''Malheur C.E.O. Group'' means the group established by section 4(b).

(6) OPERATIONAL FLEXIBILITY.—The term ''operational flexibility'', with respect to grazing on the Federal land, means—

(A) a seasonal adjustment of livestock positioning for the purposes of that grazing pursuant to a flexible grazing use authorized under the program with respect to which written notice is provided; or

(B) an adjustment of water source placement with respect to which written notice is provided.

(7) PROGRAM.—The term ''program'' means the Malheur County Grazing Management Program authorized under section 3(a).

(8) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of the Interior.

(9) STATE.—The term ''State'' means the State of Oregon.

SEC. 3. MALHEUR COUNTY GRAZING MANAGEMENT PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may carry out a grazing management program on the Federal land, to be known as the ''Malheur County Grazing Management Program'', in accordance with applicable law (including regulations) and the memorandum entitled ''Bureau of Land Management Instruction Memorandum 2018–109'' (as in effect on September 30, 2021), to provide to authorized grazing permittees and lessees increased operational flexibility to improve the long-term ecological health of the Federal land.

(b) PERMIT OPERATIONAL FLEXIBILITY.—

(1) FLEXIBLE GRAZING USE ALTERNATIVE FOR A GRAZING PERMIT OR LEASE.—At the request of an authorized grazing permittee or lessee, for purposes of renewing a grazing permit or lease under the program, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), the Secretary shall develop and analyze at least 1 alternative to provide operational flexibility in livestock grazing use to account for changing conditions.

(2) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary shall develop alternatives under paragraph (1) in consultation with—

(A) the applicable grazing permittee or lessee;

(B) affected Federal and State agencies;

(C) the Malheur C.E.O. Group;

(D) the Burns Paiute Tribe or the Fort McDermitt Paiute and Shoshone Tribes, as applicable;

(E) other landowners in the affected allotment; and

(F) interested members of the public.

(3) IMPLEMENTATION OF INTERIM OPERATIONAL FLEXIBILITIES.—If an applicable monitoring plan has been adopted under paragraph (4), in order to improve long-term ecological health, on the request of an authorized grazing permittee or lessee, the Secretary shall, using new and existing data, allow a variance to the terms and conditions of the existing applicable grazing permit or lease for the applicable year due to significant changes in weather, forage production, effects of fire or drought, or other temporary conditions—

(A) to adjust the season of use, the beginning date of the period of use, the ending date of the period of use, or both the beginning date and ending date, as applicable, under the grazing permit or lease, subject to the requirements that—

(i) unless otherwise specified in the appropriate allotment management plan or any other activity plan that is the functional equivalent to the appropriate allotment management plan under section 4120.2(a)(3) of title 43, Code of Federal Regulations (or a successor regulation), the applicable adjusted date of the season of use occurs—

(I) not earlier than 14 days before the beginning date specified in the applicable permit or lease; and

(II) not later than 14 days after the ending date specified in the applicable permit or lease; and

(ii) the authorized grazing permittee or lessee provides written notice of the adjustment to the Bureau not later than 2 business days before the date of adjustment;

(B) to adjust the dates for pasture rotation based on average vegetation stage and soil condition by not more than 14 days, subject to the requirement that the authorized grazing permittee or lessee shall provide to the Bureau written notice of the adjustment not later than 2 business days before the date of adjustment;

(C) to adjust the placement of water structures for livestock or wildlife by not more than 100 yards from an associated existing road, pipeline, or structure, subject to applicable laws and the requirement that the authorized grazing permittee or lessee shall provide to the Bureau written notice of the adjustment not later than 2 business days before the date of adjustment; and

(D) in a case in which the monitoring plan adopted under paragraph (4) indicates alterations in the operational flexibilities are necessary to achieve ecological health or avoid immediate ecological degradation of the allotment or allotment area, to adjust the operational flexibilities immediately, subject to the requirement that the authorized grazing permittee or lessee shall provide written notice of the adjustment to the Bureau and the individuals and entities described in subparagraphs (B) through (F) of paragraph (2).

(4) MONITORING PLANS.—

(A) MONITORING PLANS FOR PERMIT FLEXIBILITY.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall adopt cooperative rangeland monitoring plans and rangeland health objectives to apply to actions taken under paragraph (1) and to monitor and evaluate the improvements or degradations to the long-term ecological health of the Federal land under the program, in consultation with grazing permittees or lessees and other individuals and entities described in paragraph (2), using existing or new scientifically supportable data.

(ii) REQUIREMENTS.—A monitoring plan adopted under clause (i) shall—

(I) identify situations in which providing operational flexibility in grazing permit or lease uses under the program is appropriate to improve long-term ecological health of the Federal land;

(II) identify ways in which progress under the program would be measured toward long-term ecological health of the Federal land;

(III) include for projects monitored under the program—

(aa) a description of the condition standards for which the monitoring is tracking, including baseline conditions and desired outcome conditions;

(bb) a description of monitoring methods and protocols;

(cc) a schedule for collecting data;

(dd) an identification of the responsible party for data collection and storage;

(ee) an evaluation schedule;

(ff) a description of the anticipated use of the data;

(gg) provisions for adjusting any components of the monitoring plan; and

(hh) a description of the method to communicate the criteria for adjusting livestock grazing use; and

(IV) provide for annual reports on the effects of flexibility in grazing permit or lease uses under the program to allow the Secretary to make management adjustments to account for the information provided in the annual report.

(B) MONITORING PLANS FOR INTERIM OPERATIONAL FLEXIBILITY.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall adopt cooperative rangeland utilization monitoring plans and rangeland health objectives to apply to actions taken under paragraph (3) and to monitor and evaluate the improvements or degradations to the long-term ecological health of the Federal land identified for flexible use under the program.

(ii) REQUIREMENTS.—A monitoring plan developed under clause (i) shall—

(I) evaluate the percent utilization of available forage;

(II) identify the appropriate percentage of utilization for the feed type, ecosystem, time of year, and type of animal using the allotment;

(III) include—

(aa) a description of the utilization standards for which the monitoring is tracking, including baseline conditions and desired outcome conditions;

(bb) a description of utilization evaluation protocol;

(cc) an evaluation schedule identifying periods during which utilization data will be collected;

(dd) provisions for adjusting any components of the monitoring plan, including acceptance of data from identified third parties; and

(ee) a description of the method to communicate the criteria for adjusting livestock grazing use based on the on-the-ground conditions after the period of use; and

(IV) provide for annual reports on the effects of flexibility in grazing permit or lease uses under the program to allow the Secretary to make management adjustments to account for the information provided in the annual report.

(5) TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—

(A) PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE.—If the Secretary determines that an alternative considered under the program that provides operational flexibility is the preferred alternative, the Secretary shall—

(i) incorporate the alternative, including applicable monitoring plans adopted under paragraph (4), into the terms and conditions of the applicable grazing permit or lease; and

(ii) specify how the monitoring information with respect to the preferred alternative should be used to inform management adjustments under the program.

(B) ADJUSTMENTS.—Before implementing any measure for purposes of operational flexibility with respect to a grazing use authorized under the terms and conditions of a permit or lease with respect to which an alternative has been incorporated under subparagraph (A), the grazing permittee or lessee shall notify the Secretary in writing of the proposed adjustment.

(C) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary may include any other requirements in a permit or lease with respect to which an alternative has been incorporated under subparagraph (A) that the Secretary determines to be necessary.

(c) REVIEW; TERMINATION.—

(1) REVIEW.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), not earlier than the date that is 8 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall conduct a review of the program to determine whether the objectives of the program are being met.

(B) NO EFFECT ON PROGRAM PERMITS AND LEASES.—The review of the program under subparagraph (A) shall not affect the existence, renewal, or termination of a grazing permit or lease entered into under the program.

(2) TERMINATION.—If, based on the review conducted under paragraph (1), the Secretary determines that the objectives of the program are not being met, the Secretary shall, on the date that is 10 years after the date of enactment of this Act—

(A) modify the program in a manner to ensure that the objectives of the program would be met; or

(B) terminate the program.

(d) NO EFFECT ON GRAZING PRIVILEGES.—Nothing in this Act—

(1) affects grazing privileges provided under the Act of June 28, 1934 (commonly known as the ''Taylor Grazing Act''; 43 U.S.C. 315 et seq.);

(2) requires the Secretary to consider modifying or terminating the classification of any existing grazing district on the Federal land in any subsequent plan or decision of the Secretary; or

(3) precludes the Secretary from modifying or terminating an existing permit or lease in accordance with applicable law (including regulations).

SEC. 4. MALHEUR C.E.O. GROUP.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) CONSENSUS.—The term ''consensus'' means a unanimous agreement by the voting members of the Malheur C.E.O. Group present and constituting a quorum at a regularly scheduled business meeting of the Malheur C.E.O. Group.

(2) FEDERAL AGENCY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ''Federal agency'' means an agency or department of the Government of the United States.

(B) INCLUSIONS.—The term ''Federal agency'' includes—

(i) the Bureau of Reclamation;

(ii) the Bureau of Indian Affairs;

(iii) the Bureau;

(iv) the United States Fish and Wildlife Service; and

(v) the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

(3) QUORUM.—The term ''quorum'' means 1 more than ½ of the voting members of the Malheur C.E.O. Group.

(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established the Malheur C.E.O. Group to assist in carrying out this section.

(c) MEMBERSHIP.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Malheur C.E.O. Group shall consist of 18 members, to be appointed in accordance with paragraph (2), including—

(A) 5 voting members who represent private interests, of whom—

(i) 3 members represent livestock grazing interests, of whom—

(I) 1 member resides in the northern ⅓ of the County;

(II) 1 member resides in the center ⅓ of the County; and

(III) 1 member resides in the southern ⅓ of the County;

(ii) 1 member is in the recreation or tourism industry; and

(iii) 1 member is from an applicable irrigation district;

(B) 2 voting members who represent the environmental community, 1 of whom is based in the County;

(C) 1 voting member who represents the hunting or fishing community;

(D) 2 voting members who are representatives of Indian Tribes, of whom—

(i) 1 member shall be a representative of the Burns Paiute Tribe; and

(ii) 1 member shall be a representative of the Fort McDermitt Paiute and Shoshone Tribes;

(E) 2 nonvoting members who are representatives of Federal agencies with authority and responsibility in the County and who shall provide technical assistance, 1 of whom shall represent the Bureau;

(F) 2 nonvoting members who are representatives of State agencies with authority and responsibility in the County and who shall provide technical assistance, of whom—

(i) 1 member shall be from the State Department of Fish and Wildlife; and

(ii) 1 member shall be from the State Parks Department; and

(G) 4 nonvoting members who are representatives of units of local government within the County and who shall provide technical assistance, 1 of whom shall be from the County weeds eradication department.

(2) APPOINTMENT; TERM; VACANCY.—

(A) APPOINTMENT.—

(i) GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES.—A member of the Malheur C.E.O. Group representing a Federal agency or State or local agency shall be appointed by the head of the applicable agency.

(ii) PRIVATE INTERESTS.—A member of the Malheur C.E.O. Group representing private interests shall be appointed by the applicable represented groups.

(B) TERM.—A member of the Malheur C.E.O. Group shall serve for a term of 3 years.

(C) VACANCY.—A vacancy on the Malheur C.E.O. Group shall be filled in the manner described in subparagraph (A).

(d) PROJECTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Malheur C.E.O. Group shall propose eligible projects described in paragraph (2) on Federal land and water and non-Federal land and water in the County to be carried out by the Malheur C.E.O. Group or a third party, using funds provided by the Malheur C.E.O. Group, if a consensus of the Malheur C.E.O. Group approves the proposed eligible project.

(2) DESCRIPTION OF ELIGIBLE PROJECTS.—An eligible project referred to in paragraph (1) is a project—

(A) that complies with existing law (including regulations); and

(B) relating to—

(i) ecological restoration, including development, planning, and implementation;

(ii) range improvements for the purpose of providing more efficient and effective ecologically beneficial management of domestic livestock, fish, wildlife, or habitat;

(iii) invasive species management or eradication, including invasive weeds, vegetation, fish, or wildlife;

(iv) restoration of springs and related water infrastructure to enhance the availability of sustainable flows of freshwater for livestock, fish, or wildlife;

(v) conservation of cultural sites;

(vi) economic development or recreation management; or

(vii) research, monitoring, or analysis.

(3) REQUIREMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—In the case of an eligible project proposed under paragraph (1) that is to be carried out on Federal land or requires the use of Federal funds, the project may not be carried out without the approval of the head of the applicable Federal agency.

(B) FAILURE TO APPROVE.—If an eligible project described in subparagraph (A) is not approved by the head of the applicable Federal agency, not later than 14 business after the date on which the proposal is submitted to the head of the applicable Federal agency, the head of the Federal agency shall provide to the Malheur C.E.O. Group in writing a description of the reasons for not approving the proposed eligible project.

(4) FAILURE TO APPROVE BY CONSENSUS.—If an eligible project proposed under paragraph (1) is not agreed to by consensus after 3 votes are conducted by the Malheur C.E.O. Group, the proposed eligible project may be agreed to by a quorum of the members of the Malheur C.E.O. Group, subject to the limitations that—

(A) the eligible project may not be carried out on Federal land; and

(B) no Federal funds may be used for an eligible project that is agreed to in accordance with this paragraph.

(5) ACCEPTANCE OF DONATIONS.—The Malheur C.E.O. Group may—

(A) accept and place into a trust fund any donations, grants, or other funds received by the Malheur C.E.O. Group; and

(B) use amounts placed into a trust fund under paragraph (1) to carry out eligible projects approved in accordance with this section, including eligible projects carried out on Federal land or water or using Federal funds, if the project is approved by the head of the applicable Federal agency.

(6) COST-SHARING REQUIREMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Federal share of the total cost of an eligible project carried out using amounts made available under subsection (i) shall be not more than 75 percent.

(B) FORM OF NON-FEDERAL CONTRIBUTION.—The non-Federal contribution required under subparagraph (A) may be provided in the form of in-kind contributions.

(7) FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS.—All funding recommendations developed by the Malheur C.E.O. Group shall be based on a consensus of the Malheur C.E.O. Group members.

(e) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—Any Federal agency with authority and responsibility in the County shall, to the extent practicable, provide technical assistance to the Malheur C.E.O. Group on request of the Malheur C.E.O. Group.

(f) PUBLIC NOTICE AND PARTICIPATION.—The Malheur C.E.O. Group shall conduct all meetings subject to applicable open meeting and public participation laws.

(g) PRIORITIES.—For purposes of approving eligible projects proposed under subsection (d)(1), the Malheur C.E.O. Group shall give priority to voluntary habitat, range, and ecosystem restoration projects focused on improving the long-term ecological health of the Federal land and natural bodies of water.

(h) ADDITIONAL PROJECTS.—To the extent permitted by applicable law and subject to the availability of appropriations, Federal agencies may contribute to the implementation of projects recommended by the Malheur C.E.O. Group and approved by the Secretary.

(i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out this section $1,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2024 through 2034.

(2) MAINTENANCE AND DISTRIBUTION.—Amounts made available under paragraph (1) shall be maintained and distributed by the Secretary.

(3) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—Not more than more than 5 percent of amounts made available under paragraph (1) for a fiscal year may be used for the administration of this Act.

(4) GRANTS.—Of the amounts made available under paragraph (1), not more than 10 percent may be made available for a fiscal year to provide grants to the Malheur C.E.O. Group.

(j) EFFECT.—

(1) EXISTING ACTIVITIES.—The activities of the Malheur C.E.O. Group shall supplement, and not replace, existing activities to manage the natural resources of the County.

(2) LEGAL RIGHTS, DUTIES, OR AUTHORITIES.—Nothing in this section affects any legal right, duty, or authority of any person or Federal agency, including any member of the Malheur C.E.O. Group.

SEC. 5. LAND DESIGNATIONS.

(a) DEFINITION OF WILDERNESS AREA.—In this section, the term ''wilderness area'' means a wilderness area designated by subsection (b)(1).

(b) DESIGNATION OF WILDERNESS AREAS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In accordance with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), the following Federal land in the County comprising approximately 1,102,393 acres, as generally depicted on the referenced maps, is designated as wilderness and as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System:

(A) FIFTEENMILE CREEK WILDERNESS.—Certain Federal land, comprising approximately 61,647 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled ''Proposed Wilderness Trout Creek–Oregon Canyon Group'' and dated December 12, 2023, which shall be known as the ''Fifteenmile Creek Wilderness''.

(B) OREGON CANYON MOUNTAINS WILDERNESS.—Certain Federal land, comprising approximately 53,559 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled ''Proposed Wilderness Trout Creek–Oregon Canyon Group'' and dated December 12, 2023, which shall be known as the ''Oregon Canyon Mountains Wilderness''.

(C) TWELVEMILE CREEK WILDERNESS.—Certain Federal land, comprising approximately 38,099 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled ''Proposed Wilderness Trout Creek–Oregon Canyon Group'' and dated December 12, 2023, which shall be known as the ''Twelvemile Creek Wilderness''.

(D) UPPER WEST LITTLE OWYHEE WILDERNESS.—Certain Federal land, comprising approximately 93,199 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled ''Proposed Wilderness Upper Owyhee'' and dated December 12, 2023, which shall be known as the ''Upper West Little Owyhee Wilderness''.

(E) LOOKOUT BUTTE WILDERNESS.—Certain Federal land, comprising approximately 66,242 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled ''Proposed Wilderness Upper Owyhee'' and dated December 12, 2023, which shall be known as the ''Lookout Butte Wilderness''.

(F) MARY GAUTREAUX OWYHEE RIVER CANYON WILDERNESS.—Certain Federal land, comprising approximately 211,679 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled ''Proposed Wilderness Upper Owyhee'' and dated December 12, 2023, which shall be known as the ''Mary Gautreaux Owyhee River Canyon Wilderness''.

(G) BLACK BUTTE WILDERNESS.—Certain Federal land, comprising approximately 12,058 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled ''Proposed Wilderness Upper Owyhee'' and dated December 12, 2023, which shall be known as the ''Black Butte Wilderness''.

(H) TWIN BUTTE WILDERNESS.—Certain Federal land, comprising approximately 18,150 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled ''Proposed Wilderness Upper Owyhee'' and dated December 12, 2023, which shall be known as the ''Twin Butte Wilderness''.

(I) OREGON BUTTE WILDERNESS.—Certain Federal land, comprising approximately 31,934 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled ''Proposed Wilderness Upper Owyhee'' and dated December 12, 2023, which shall be known as the ''Oregon Butte Wilderness''.

(J) MAHOGANY BUTTE WILDERNESS.—Certain Federal land, comprising approximately 8,953 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled ''Proposed Wilderness Upper Owyhee'' and dated December 12, 2023, which shall be known as the ''Mahogany Butte Wilderness''.

(K) DEER FLAT WILDERNESS.—Certain Federal land, comprising approximately 12,250 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled ''Proposed Wilderness Upper Owyhee'' and dated December 12, 2023, which shall be known as the ''Deer Flat Wilderness''.

(L) SACRAMENTO HILL WILDERNESS.—Certain Federal, comprising approximately 9,574 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled ''Proposed Wilderness Upper Owyhee'' and dated December 12, 2023, which shall be known as the ''Sacramento Hill Wilderness''.

(M) DEADMAN BUTTE WILDERNESS.—Certain Federal land, comprising approximately 7,152 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled ''Proposed Wilderness Upper Owyhee'' and dated December 12, 2023, which shall be known as the ''Deadman Butte Wilderness''.

(N) BIG GRASSEY WILDERNESS.—Certain Federal land, comprising approximately 44,238 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled ''Proposed Wilderness Upper Owyhee'' and dated December 12, 2023, which shall be known as the ''Big Grassey Wilderness''.

(O) NORTH FORK OWYHEE WILDERNESS.—Certain Federal land, comprising approximately 5,276 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled ''Proposed Wilderness Upper Owyhee'' and dated December 12, 2023, which shall be known as the ''North Fork Owyhee Wilderness''.

(P) MARY GAUTREAUX LOWER OWYHEE CANYON WILDERNESS.—Certain Federal land, comprising approximately 77,121 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled ''Proposed Wilderness Lower Owyhee'' and dated December 12, 2023, which shall be known as the ''Mary Gautreaux Lower Owyhee Canyon Wilderness''.

(Q) JORDAN CRATERS WILDERNESS.—Certain Federal land, comprising approximately 29,255 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled ''Proposed Wilderness Lower Owyhee'' and dated December 12, 2023, which shall be known as the ''Jordan Craters Wilderness''.

(R) OWYHEE BREAKS WILDERNESS.—Certain Federal land, comprising approximately 31,637

acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled ''Proposed Wilderness Lower Owyhee'' and dated December 12, 2023, which shall be known as the ''Owyhee Breaks Wilderness''.

(S) DRY CREEK WILDERNESS.—Certain Federal land, comprising approximately 33,209 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled ''Proposed Wilderness Lower Owyhee'' and dated December 12, 2023, which shall be known as the ''Dry Creek Wilderness''.

(T) DRY CREEK BUTTES WILDERNESS.—Certain Federal land, comprising approximately 88,289 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled ''Proposed Wilderness Lower Owyhee'' and dated December 12, 2023, which shall be known as the ''Dry Creek Buttes Wilderness''.

(U) UPPER LESLIE GULCH WILDERNESS.—Certain Federal land, comprising approximately 2,997 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled ''Proposed Wilderness Lower Owyhee'' and dated December 12, 2023, which shall be known as the ''Upper Leslie Gulch Wilderness''.

(V) SLOCUM CREEK WILDERNESS.—Certain Federal land, comprising approximately 7,534 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled ''Proposed Wilderness Lower Owyhee'' and dated December 12, 2023, which shall be known as the ''Slocum Creek Wilderness''.

(W) HONEYCOMBS WILDERNESS.—Certain Federal land, comprising approximately 41,122 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled ''Proposed Wilderness Lower Owyhee'' and dated December 12, 2023, which shall be known as the ''Honeycombs Wilderness''.

(X) WILD HORSE BASIN WILDERNESS.—Certain Federal land, comprising approximately 18,402 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled ''Proposed Wilderness Lower Owyhee'' and dated December 12, 2023, which shall be known as the ''Wild Horse Basin Wilderness''.

(Y) QUARTZ MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS.—Certain Federal land, comprising approximately 32,943 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled ''Proposed Wilderness Lower Owyhee'' and dated December 12, 2023, which shall be known as the ''Quartz Mountain Wilderness''.

(Z) THE TONGUE WILDERNESS.—Certain Federal land, comprising approximately 5,909 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled ''Proposed Wilderness Lower Owyhee'' and dated December 12, 2023, which shall be known as ''The Tongue Wilderness''.

(AA) THREE FINGERS ROCK NORTH WILDERNESS.—Certain Federal land, comprising approximately 12,462 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled ''Proposed Wilderness Lower Owyhee'' and dated December 12, 2023, which shall be known as the ''Three Fingers Rock North Wilderness''.

(BB) BURNT MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS.—Certain Federal land, comprising approximately 8,115 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled ''Proposed Wilderness Lower Owyhee'' and dated December 12, 2023, which shall be known as the ''Burnt Mountain Wilderness''.

(CC) CAMP CREEK WILDERNESS.—Certain Federal land, comprising approximately 72,597 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled ''Proposed Wilderness Camp Creek Group'' and dated December 12, 2023, which shall be known as the ''Camp Creek Wilderness''.

(2) MAPS AND LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall prepare a map and legal description of each wilderness area.

(B) EFFECT.—Each map and legal description prepared under subparagraph (A) shall have the same force and effect as if included in this Act, except that the Secretary may correct clerical and typographical errors in the map or legal description.

(C) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The maps and legal descriptions prepared under subparagraph (A) shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the Bureau.

(3) MANAGEMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to valid existing rights, the wilderness areas shall be administered by the Secretary in accordance with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), except that—

(i) any reference in that Act to the effective date of that Act shall be considered to be a reference to the date of enactment of this Act; and

(ii) any reference in that Act to the Secretary of Agriculture shall be considered to be a reference to the Secretary.

(B) GRAZING.—The Secretary shall allow the continuation of the grazing of livestock, in the wilderness areas, if established before the date of enactment of this Act, in accordance with—

(i) section 4(d)(4) of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1133(d)(4)); and

(ii) the guidelines set forth in Appendix A of the report of the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs of the House of Representatives accompanying H.R. 2570 of the 101st Congress (H. Rept. 101–405).

(C) ROADS ADJACENT TO WILDERNESS AREAS.—Nothing in this Act requires the closure of any adjacent road outside the boundary of a wilderness area.

(D) FISH AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—In furtherance of the purposes and principles of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), the Secretary may conduct any management activities that are necessary to maintain or restore fish and wildlife populations and habitats in the wilderness areas, if the management activities are—

(I) consistent with applicable wilderness management plans; and

(II) conducted in accordance with appropriate policies, such as the policies established in Appendix B of the report of the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs of the House of Representatives accompanying H.R. 2570 of the 101st Congress (House Report 101–405).

(ii) INCLUSIONS.—Management activities under clause (i) may include the occasional and temporary use of motorized vehicles, if the use, as determined by the Secretary, would promote healthy, viable, and more naturally distributed wildlife populations that would enhance wilderness values while causing the minimum impact necessary to accomplish those tasks.

(E) EXISTING ACTIVITIES.—Consistent with section 4(d)(1) of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1133(d)(1)) and in accordance with appropriate policies, such as the policies established in Appendix B of the report of the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs of the House of Representatives accompanying H.R. 2570 of the 101st Congress (House Report 101–405), the State may use aircraft (including helicopters) in the wilderness areas to survey capture, transplant, monitor, and provide water for wildlife populations, including bighorn sheep and feral stock, feral horses, and feral burros.

(c) MANAGEMENT OF LAND NOT DESIGNATED AS WILDERNESS.—

(1) RELEASE OF WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS.—

(A) FINDING.—Congress finds that, for purposes of section 603(c) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1782(c)), the Clarks Butte Wilderness Study Area, Saddle Butte Wilderness Study Area, and Bowden Hills Wilderness Study Area have been adequately studied for wilderness designation.

(B) RELEASE.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the land described in subparagraph (A)—

(i) is no longer subject to section 603(c) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1782(c)); and

(ii) shall be managed in accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), including any applicable land use plan adopted under section 202 of that Act (43 U.S.C. 1712).

(2) MANAGEMENT OF CERTAIN LAND WITH WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS.—Any portion of the Federal land that was previously determined by the Secretary to be land with wilderness characteristics that is not designated as wilderness by subsection (b)(1) and is not designated on the Map as ''land with wilderness characteristics'' shall be managed by the Secretary in accordance with the applicable land use plans adopted under section 202 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1712).

SEC. 6. LAND CONVEYANCES TO BURNS PAIUTE TRIBE AND CASTLE ROCK CO-STEWARDSHIP AREA.

(a) JONESBORO RANCH, ROAD GULCH, AND BLACK CANYON LAND CONVEYANCES.—

(1) CONVEYANCE AND TAKING INTO TRUST.—

(A) TITLE.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall accept title to the land described in paragraph (2), if conveyed or otherwise transferred to the United States by, or on behalf of, the Burns Paiute Tribe.

(B) TRUST.—Land to which title is accepted by the Secretary under subparagraph (A) shall—

(i) be held in trust by the United States for the benefit of the Burns Paiute Tribe; and

(ii) be part of the reservation of the Burns Paiute Tribe.

(2) DESCRIPTION OF LAND.—The land referred to in paragraph (1)(A) is the following:

(A) JONESBORO RANCH.—The parcel commonly known as ''Jonesboro Ranch'', located approximately 6 miles east of Juntura, Oregon, consisting of 21,548 acres of Federal land, 6,686 acres of certain private land owned by the Burns Paiute Tribe and associated with the Jonesboro Ranch containing the pastures referred to as ''Saddle Horse'' and ''Trail Horse'', ''Indian Creek'', ''Sperry Creek'', ''Antelope Swales'', ''Horse Camp'', ''Dinner Creek'', ''Upper Hunter Creek'', and ''Tim's Peak'', generally depicted as ''Jonesboro Parcels (Transfer)'' on the map entitled ''Proposed Wilderness Camp Creek Group'' and dated December 12, 2023, and more particularly described as follows:

(i) T. 20 S., R. 38 E., secs. 25 and 36, Willamette Meridian.

(ii) T. 20 S., R. 39 E., secs. 25–36, Willamette Meridian.

(iii) T. 20 S., R. 40 E., secs. 30, 31, and 32, Willamette Meridian.

(iv) T. 21 S., R. 39 E., secs. 1–18, 20–29, and 32–36, Willamette Meridian.

(v) T. 21 S., R. 40 E., secs. 5–8, 17–19, 30, and 31, Willamette Meridian.

(vi) T. 22 S., R. 39 E., secs. 1–5, 8, and 9, Willamette Meridian.

(B) ROAD GULCH; BLACK CANYON.—The approximately 4,137 acres of State land containing the pastures referred to as ''Road Gulch'' and ''Black Canyon'' and more particularly described as follows:

(i) T. 20 S., R. 39 E., secs. 10, 11, 15, 14, 13, 21–28, and 36, Willamette Meridian.

(ii) T 20 S., R. 40 E., secs. 19, 30, 31, and 32, Willamette Meridian.

(3) APPLICABLE LAW.—Land taken into trust under paragraph (1)(B) shall be administered in accordance with the laws (including regulations) generally applicable to property held in trust by the United States for the benefit of an Indian Tribe.

(4) MAP OF TRUST LAND.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall prepare a map depicting the land taken into trust under paragraph (1)(B).

(5) LAND EXCHANGE.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall seek to enter into an agreement with the State under which the Secretary would exchange Federal land for the portions of the area described in paragraph (2)(B) that are owned by the State.

(b) CASTLE ROCK LAND TO BE HELD IN TRUST AND CO-STEWARDSHIP AREA.—

(1) LAND TO BE HELD IN TRUST.—All right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the approximately 2,500 acres of land in the Castle Rock Wilderness Study Area, as depicted

as ''Lands to be Taken into Trust'' on the map entitled ''Land into Trust and Co-Stewardship Castle Rock Group'' and dated December 12, 2023, shall—

(A) be held in trust by the United States for the benefit of the Burns Paiute Tribe; and

(B) be part of the reservation of the Burns Paiute Tribe.

(2) CASTLE ROCK CO-STEWARDSHIP AREA.—

(A) MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall seek to enter into a memorandum of understanding with the Burns Paiute Tribe to provide for the co-stewardship of the area depicted as ''Tribal Co-Stewardship Area'' on the map entitled ''Land into Trust and Co-Stewardship Castle Rock Group'' and dated December 12, 2023, to be known as the ''Castle Rock Co-Stewardship Area''.

(ii) REQUIREMENT.—The memorandum of understanding entered into under clause (i) shall ensure that the Castle Rock Co-Stewardship Area is managed in a manner that—

(I) ensures that Tribal interests are adequately considered;

(II) provides for maximum protection of cultural and archaeological resources; and

(III) provides for the protection of natural resources with cultural significance.

(B) MANAGEMENT AGREEMENTS.—In accordance with applicable law (including regulations), the Secretary may enter into 1 or more management agreements with the Burns Paiute Tribe to authorize the Burns Paiute Tribe to carry out management activities in the Castle Rock Co-Stewardship Area in accordance with the memorandum of understanding entered into under subparagraph (A)(i).

(C) GRAZING.—The grazing of livestock in the Castle Rock Co-Stewardship Area, if established before the date of enactment of this Act, shall be permitted to continue in accordance with applicable law (including regulations).

(D) WATER RIGHTS.—Nothing in this paragraph—

(i) affects any valid and existing water rights; or

(ii) provides the Burns Paiute Tribe with any new water right or claim.

(3) WITHDRAWAL.—Subject to valid existing rights, the land taken into trust under paragraph (1) and the land comprising the Castle Rock Co-Stewardship Area are withdrawn from—

(A) all forms of entry, appropriation, and disposal under the public land laws;

(B) location, entry, and patent under the mining laws; and

(C) operation of the mineral leasing and geothermal leasing laws and mineral materials laws.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out this section $2,000,000 for fiscal year 2025.

(d) EFFECT ON TRIBAL RIGHTS AND CERTAIN EXISTING USES.—Nothing in this section, including any designation or nondesignation of land transferred into trust to be held by the United States for the benefit of the Burns Paiute Tribe under this section—

(1) alters, modifies, enlarges, diminishes, or abrogates rights secured by a treaty, statute, Executive order, or other Federal law of any Indian Tribe, including off-reservation reserved rights; or

(2) affects—

(A) existing rights-of-way; or

(B) preexisting grazing uses and existing water rights or mining claims, except as specifically negotiated between any applicable Indian Tribe and the Secretary.

Mr. BARRASSO. I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute amendments be considered and agreed to and that the bills, as amended, be considered read a third time en bloc.

The committee-reported amendments in the nature of a substitute were agreed to en bloc.

The bills were ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and were read the third time.

Mr. BARRASSO. I know of no further debate on the bills, en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate on the bills, the bills having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bills pass?

The bills (S. 1348 and S. 1890), as amended, were passed en bloc.

Mr. BARRASSO. I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported title amendment to S. 1890 be considered and agreed to; that the title of S. 1890, as amended, be agreed to; and that the motions to reconsider with respect to S. 1348 and S. 1890 be considered made and laid upon the table, all en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee-reported title amendment to S. 1890 was agreed to as follows:

Amend the title so as to read: ''A bill to provide for the establishment of a land health management program on Federal land in Malheur County, Oregon, and for other purposes.''.

The title of S. 1890, as amended, was agreed to.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I want to rise just to spend a couple of moments discussing a bill that we just passed. It is the Wyoming Public Lands Initiative. The Senate passed this by unanimous consent.

This legislation is very important to my home State of Wyoming—something we have been working on for years. The bill would resolve the management status for thousands of acres of Federal public lands across 7 counties of the 23 counties in my home State of Wyoming.

These acres involve what are known as wilderness study areas. These are lands managed solely for preservation, even though they are not included in the National Wilderness Preservation System. The Bureau of Land Management studies these areas. They study them to determine whether they should be designated as wilderness lands or if these lands should be returned to multiple-use status.

Until Congress acts, the Bureau treats all of the land as if it is wilderness. In other words, these lands currently under study are closed off to almost every use. For the people of Wyoming who rely on access to the land to make a living and for recreation, this just doesn't work.

In 1991—now, here we are in 2024, but in 1991, the Bureau of Land Management released a report recommending a balanced approach for these Wyoming wilderness study areas. Specifically, the Bureau of Land Management recommended that Congress designate some of the lands as wilderness and release the majority of the lands back to multiple use.

Well, here we are over three decades later, and the lands still remain in limbo. That is why some of our counties began to work with me on the Wyoming Public Lands Initiative. I want to thank these Wyoming county commissioners for their collaboration going back 9 years, back to 2015.

The bill, which I am proud to sponsor on their behalf, generally follows the recommendations of the 1991 report. It strikes a balance between protecting these special places the people in Wyoming love while expanding the multiple-use areas that our State and local economies rely upon.

The bill was developed by the people who live near the land and who will be accessing the land when this bill is enacted. It has been developed really from the ground up by the people who know the land the best.

This legislation resolves a decades-old stalemate. The bill is going to increase conservation. It is going to ensure that other lands can be unlocked and for uses that are important to the people of Wyoming and to our economy. I firmly believe the people of Wyoming, not Washington, should decide how to manage these lands.

So I want to thank my friend and colleague Senator WYDEN from the State of Oregon. We worked closely together. We serve on several committees together. We live near each other where we stay when we are in Washington instead of when he is home in Oregon and I am home in Wyoming. I look forward to continuing to work with him to get these bills passed into law and through the House in the near future.

As I see my friend and colleague from Oregon on the floor tonight, I just want to thank him for his years of cooperation and working together as we have on the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and thank him for all of his consideration in allowing us to get this bill passed tonight.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, this is a truly historic moment for my home State of Oregon because the Owyhees, which are really Oregon's version of the Grand Canyon, really should have had secured protection years ago. But, finally, as a result of the bipartisan support that my friend from Wyoming and I have—working with the incoming chair of the committee MIKE LEE, and the current leadership, we have been able to pass these important pieces of legislation.

The timing for my home State is really just extraordinary because just yesterday, the Congressman from rural Oregon, Congressman BENTZ from the Second District, and I put out a joint statement about how next year we intend to work together and with our constituents to come up with legislation that our whole State—urban and

rural—could come together on to protect the ranching way of life in Malheur County and also our incredible treasures.

Congressman BENTZ and I said we would work with our representative Chambers' leadership to pass the bill into law. Then, overnight, and to the great excitement of people in our State, due to the ending hours of Congress, when Members are trying to find some common ground, we have been able to work with our leadership in the U.S. Senate today, in this Chamber, to get started on what Congressman BENTZ and I told our constituents yesterday would happen next year.

This did not happen by osmosis. The incoming ranking Senator, MARTIN HEINRICH, and the incoming chair, MIKE LEE, said that my bill, which cleared the Energy and Natural Resources Committee—S. 1890, the Malheur Community Empowerment for the Owyhee Act—that they would allow it to pass the U.S. Senate tonight as an indication of the goodwill that all parties have pledged for next year.

As the chairman of the committee has noted—in fact, all the chairs, past and present since I was the chairman of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee at one point, understand that that is the key to really making some history in this extraordinarily important committee.

In our conversations with the incoming chairman, MIKE LEE, he was particularly interested in the fact that Congressman BENTZ and I are going to be working together to get this bill in shape so that people across Oregon will support it.

When he indicated that that was a priority for him, I basically said that is exactly what we have in mind as Oregonians, what I have in mind as Oregon's senior Senator.

I am very happy to state tonight publicly to the incoming chair of the committee, the Senator from Utah, that I intend to work very closely with Congressman BENTZ to make this become law.

So, everybody in Oregon understands, this bill does not become law tonight, but what its passage does is send a message from the U.S. Senate that when you get people of goodwill and a willingness to find common ground, you can make real action happen. The Owyhee legislation that I have worked on for years with ranchers and hunters and fishers and environmental folks has now passed the U.S. Senate. That is something that, after decades of debate about the future of the Owyhee, nobody thought was going to happen anytime soon. In fact, yesterday people said: Well, we will have to wait to see what happens. Now the U.S. Senate has acted and acted, as I say, to protect the ranching way of life in rural Oregon and also our natural treasures.

I hope that tonight's action will give all parties interested in the protection of the treasures of the Owyhee and interest in preserving the ranching way of life, that it should give folks at home the chance to know that we are going to be in a position in 2025, with the leadership of the Senate and the House behind this effort, to be in a position to make this important legislation the law of the land, and the protection for the Owyhees will be permanent and will be in the text of blackletter law for all to see.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

GABRIELLA MILLER KIDS FIRST RESEARCH ACT 2.0

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, in 2013, in my first year in the Senate, a 10-year-old child in Virginia, Loudoun County, named Gabriella Miller passed away from an inoperable brain tumor.

Nothing could be worse for a family. Her parents, Ellyn and Mark, and her brother suffered greatly in this. But as many do, in an amazing way, in a mysterious way, in a time of suffering, they turned their tragedy into a cause.

Shortly after I came to the Senate, Mark and Ellyn Miller came to see me and talk to me about their daughter Gabriella.

They asked me a question: Senator, what percentage of medical research in this country is devoted to pediatric conditions?

I thought, well, you know, pediatric—under age 18. Maybe it is 12 percent of the population. So I guessed 12 percent.

They said: Less than 1 percent.

Less than 1 percent of medical research funding in the NIH and other Agencies was devoted to pediatric conditions. There was kind of a—I don't know—it was a conventional wisdom of: No, we don't put research into that, but if we can research adult conditions, we can kind of apply it to pediatric conditions—which everyone here knows that is not the case. Many pediatric conditions are very different than adult conditions.

So I began to work with the Miller family on a bill to increase research at the NIH and other Federal Agencies for pediatric conditions, especially pediatric conditions of the kind that killed Gabriella Miller.

The following year, in 2014, I partnered with Virginia Congressman—and then a Republican leader in the Senate—Eric Cantor and others to pass the Gabriella Miller Kids First Pediatric Research Program to fund NIH research on pediatric cancer, and the 10-year bill that we passed is up for reauthorization.

I partnered with Senator JAY MORAN, my colleague from Kansas, to reauthorize it with the support of colleagues on both sides—numerous, numerous colleagues.

The Republican House has passed a version of this bill. The lead sponsor on the House side is Congresswoman JENNIFER WEXTON, who is retiring because she has been diagnosed with an aggressive form of supranuclear palsy, which is an advanced form of Parkinson's disease. My colleague JENNIFER WEXTON is no longer able to speak without an AI-assisted device, but in these last few days of her time in the House, she has made the passing of the reauthorization of the Gabriella Miller Act her chief priority.

The reauthorization was included in the health package in the bipartisan version of the CR bill that we negotiated with the House, but that package was left on the cutting room floor of the CR that was just passed in the House. Advocates of the bill, including Ellyn and Mark Miller and others who care about pediatric research, were bitterly disappointed.

I am going to vote for the CR when it comes over from the House, but if I am going to have to explain to advocates that I share their disappointment in the fact that this 10-year program, which has now produced more than $125 million in research into pediatric cancer, is going to be left on the floor, I have to at least make an effort here on the floor to authorize this program going forward.

The good news is, the bill that Representative WEXTON has put in the House was authorized flat funding for another 5 years. I give credit to my colleagues on the Senate HELP Committee because the Gabriella Miller Act was reauthorized in the Senate for 10 years at an increasing level of funding, beginning at the current funding level of $12.5 million a year and escalating to $25 million over the course of 10 years.

But the time is late—no time to fool around. The bill that has passed not only in committee but was passed in the House of Representatives—5-year funding at its current level, $12.5 million a year, to continue to invest in research into children's cancer and pediatric conditions.

I respect my colleague's sincere commitment to responsible Federal budgeting. One of my colleagues, Senator PAUL—I have worked with him to hopefully lift an objection that he had to this bill by agreeing to work with him to make sure that there are not other overlapping programs where we are spending money to do the same thing.

We have recently talked about other legislative initiatives that we will work on together, but my understanding as I stand here today is, with this commitment I have made to Senator PAUL, he is dropping any objection to including this by unanimous consent.

I think, while it is not everything I hoped and it is not everything the Senate HELP Committee did in a bipartisan way, it would continue this important program.

Gabriella Miller, when she was diagnosed with brain cancer at age 10, didn't go quietly into the good night. I think that is a Dylan Thomas line. She instead said: I am going to raise every bit of money I can for cancer research.

In the last year of her life, she raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for cancer research on her own with little bake sales and fundraisers. The brain tumor that was in her brain was the size of a walnut, and she created a nonprofit foundation called the Smashing Walnuts Foundation.

The comments I make tonight and the effort I undertake with Representative WEXTON truly are to honor her and to thank her parents for their advocacy. In particular, I want to thank her mother Ellyn Miller, who has been a force of nature in creating this program and keeping it going.

We need to keep it going. It is bipartisan, it is bicameral, and it is making groundbreaking research possible. I ask my colleagues to let it pass into law.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that as if in legislative session, the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 3391 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3391) to extend the Gabriella Miller Kids First Pediatric Research Program at the National Institutes of Health, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. KAINE. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill was ordered to a third reading and was read the third time.

Mr. KAINE. I know of no further debate on the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate on the bill, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (H.R. 3391) was passed.

Mr. KAINE. I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. KAINE. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kentucky.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, well, we have arrived. We are here at last, another government shutdown averted. The government will remain open.

I am not sure if that is good news or bad news. People need to know, yes, the government will stay open, and it will not be chaotic. Congress can adjourn, which is probably a good thing when Congress adjourns.

But the thing about government staying open is we will pass something called a continued resolution. What does that mean? It means we are resolved to continue, continue as we have for, really, decades.

We will continue to spend money, regardless of whether we have it or not. We will continue to spend money at a pace such that we will accumulate about $2 trillion in debt each year; the deficit will be about $2 trillion.

Now, the spending is comprised of a lot of different areas. It is about $6.8 trillion in spending, and we bring in about $4.8 trillion in revenue.

So it is about a $2 trillion mismatch. A lot of the spending is entitlements, probably two-thirds of the spending is entitlements, but this body refuses to address entitlements, so as part of the continuing spending tonight, keeping government open, all of the entitlements will be taken off board, and there will be no reforms to entitlements, no reduction in spending in entitlements. They will continue growing; some will be about 5 and 6 percent per year.

Almost everybody on both sides of the aisle acknowledges that entitlements are the problem; entitlements are driving the debt. What we vote on, people call it a budget, or another word they call it is ''discretionary'' spending. It is about $1.7 trillion or so, about $2 trillion. Of that $2 trillion, about half is military, half is nonmilitary.

Well, the military has been taken off the table also, primarily by Republicans, but Democrats are complicit as well. No military spending will be addressed; no waste in the military will be addressed; and the Pentagon will not be audited.

They have said for decades the Pentagon needs to be audited, and the Pentagon says: We are too big to be audited. Leave us alone. We are too big.

Occasionally, we will find some things, $500 toilet seats or $800 hammers, things like that, but overall, we have no idea where the money is going and neither do they. They sometimes talk about hundreds of millions of dollars really literally missing that they have no idea.

But it is taken off the table because the powers that be say that military is sacrosanct, cannot be looked at, and must have increased spending. So all the entitlements are going up. That is two-thirds of $6.8 trillion. The remaining $2 trillion is half military. It is going up, and nobody is looking at it either.

So we have discretionary. Nonmilitary discretionary spending is part of the budget also. And we couldn't come to an agreement, other than we are going to be resolved to continue spending at about the pace we are. It will be short term, and that would be bad enough because the spending will accumulate and is accumulating about a $2 trillion deficit. But that is not enough.

This has been a horrendous week for fiscal conservatives because we are not going to just continue as we have been doing, continue loading on the debt, we are also adding to it in a dramatic fashion.

This week, there will be $330 billion added on to the spending; $200 billion of it will be for Social Security. You say: Well, we should want to help people. Why wouldn't we give people that are senior citizens more money? Well, if we give new people more money, we have to take it from somewhere. We are going to have to either borrow it or we are going to have to print it, but it has to come from somewhere. Money doesn't grow on trees.

So $200 billion increase in spending for Social Security. Where is the money going to come from?

Now, I will offer an amendment that would pay for it. My amendment would be to raise the age gradually of Social Security 3 months a year for about 12 years, and that would pay for the expansion of benefits.

I think that is the only responsible way to do this. You want more benefits for people? You can't just, you know, push the bankruptcy of Social Security and say: Well, yeah, it will go bankrupt in about 9 years, but maybe I won't be here, or maybe I won't be alive, and maybe it will still exist for people.

But shouldn't we care about what is going to happen to the future of Social Security? Shouldn't we care about how this is going to be paid for? But it will be interesting to see how the vote is. I suspect I won't win, but we are going to have a vote on gradually raising the age.

But here is the rub of how difficult it is and how far behind the eight ball we have become. I proposed this solution 12 years ago, 13 years ago. When I did, it fixed two-thirds of the shortfall. If you raise the age gradually from 67 to 70, about 2 or 3 months a year, it wiped out most of the shortfall and fixed the problem 13 years ago. If you do it now, it only gives us 1 more year of solvency before bankruptcy comes.

So we have taken a problem that was eminently fixable a decade ago, and at this point, if we were to do it and my amendment were to pass, it would pay for the expansion, but still the system is going bankrupt because we just keep adding stuff to it.

Most people don't realize this, but Social Security actually will give you money no matter what your income is if you have teenage children and one of the parents is over 65. Now, somebody thought up this program and said: Wow, this would be good. We should help out elderly parents that are taking care of teenagers.

You can be a billionaire and—I know people who are wealthy whose kids drive Porsches who are getting $1,500 a month for each of their kids because the dad is 65.

Why would we do a program that is not based on income at all? Why would we let anybody join in that? Is that why Social Security is going bankrupt? No. That is just an element, though, of where the money is going.

But everything that happens in this city is based on compassion. I feel for people, and I want to help people, but nobody does anything based on math. Nobody really looks at this and says: Well, shouldn't we do something to

make sure it is paid for? What about next decade? What is going to happen to Social Security? Not a care. They just expand it, and it is feel-good.

You know, the free lunch, the mantra of free lunch is good. Here is stuff. Here is manna. We are going to give you more money. Just be content. Take some soma. Just relax. Here is some more money.

But we are destroying the entitlement programs. Social Security is going bankrupt, and we sped up the bankruptcy this week by adding $200 billion. That is going to be concluded tonight.

That is $200 billion in brandnew spending to a system that was already $2 trillion short. Now, we also gave $30 billion to farmers. That is going to be in the package tonight, too.

Now, why do the farmers say they need money? Many farmers are actually pretty well-off and doing pretty well actually. But they say that the tariffs during the first Trump administration hurt them so badly that they are still having to reduce exports, and they need more money. So we are still paying them for the tariff wars that were begun 4 years ago, and still half the people in the country are jumping up and down and saying they want more tariffs.

What are we going to do, pay off everybody that doesn't benefit from the tariffs? Think about it. If you put tariffs on a steel mill and you say: Well, we are not going to let the Chinese sell any steel over here. You have this bright, shiny steel mill and all the thousand workers stand in front of it, and they love you because you are going to help them with their jobs, and they are going to be more secure.

But for every person making steel, there are 80 workers working somewhere buying steel. So what you do is you just ignore the other half of the equation. Why? Because it is easy to see the shiny steel factory. It is easy to see those workers.

The 80 workers that are working for other industries, car industry, building warehouses, anybody that uses steel, fences, all these people buying stuff are scattered through small industries, and you don't see them.

But their economic impact at least equals but probably exceeds the one you are trying to benefit. We do so many crazy things. So $200 billion to expand Social Security that won't be paid for and speeds up the bankruptcy and demise of Social Security; $30 billion for farmers, many of whom have other resources and really are not desperately in need of this.

What happens to the borrowing—$230 billion. Well, it is not over. We also are adding $100 billion for disaster. And you say to yourself: Well, you know, we have got to help people in need. They have had storms. They have had flooding. We have got to help them. Well, shouldn't we try to root out the waste and fraud in those systems, the people that are stealing money from these things? If you want to know how people are stealing things and how many people are stealing things, when we did all that COVID stuff, we stopped the economy and gave free money to everybody.

We actually had foreign scoundrels, foreign fraudsters come in and take tens of millions of dollars, but we also had U.S. citizens buying Lamborghinis and Bugattis and all kind of fancy cars on their government.

We had people signing up for the program. One of them used an ID that had a picture of Barbie on it and got money. Many of them said: I have 500 workers, and they didn't have any workers. They didn't have a business.

So just fraud was rampant throughout it. This happens also in the disaster relief programs as well. People claim things they lost in disasters that didn't exist. But let's put that aside, the waste and fraud in the program, and say: We have to help people. We have to do something about disasters.

Well, maybe there ought to be a decision-making process where we say: What is more important? Ukraine or Asheville, NC?

Do we have enough money to do both? Well, we do if we borrow it. But when we borrow it, we add to the debt. The Fed buys the debt, and you create inflation.

It is no mystery why your goods cost more. During the last 4 years, groceries, meat, poultry, gasoline, rent, everything has gone up on average at least 20 percent. Now did it become more precious? Did we all of a sudden lose a supply of things? No. The dollar became weaker; the dollar became diluted because we had to buy all of this debt.

So it is a bait-and-switch. What we do is we expand, you know, this week 200 billion for Social Security, hundred billion for disasters—that is 300 billion—30 billion for farm subsidies. That is $330 billion unpaid for. But the people here are gathered. The vast majority of them who will vote for this will go home, pat themselves on the back, and say: I brought you stuff. Isn't that what you want me to do? Bring you free stuff?

Well, it is not free. It has ramifications. They are destroying the dollar. They are destroying the country, and yet it goes on because it seems to be easy just to promise people something for nothing.

So I have a couple different solutions. To pay for the Social Security, let's gradually raise the age 3 months each year. And what it does is it actually pays entirely for this $200 billion expansion and then some. It has to be done. It will be done at some point. I offered it 13 years ago. And every year we have waited, we have gotten further behind the eight ball. And every year we have waited, we have gotten to the point where it is much more difficult to dig out of this hole.

As far as the shutdowns, I will admit that it is chaotic to go through this every 3 months, every 6 months, every year. There could be a way that we could actually say, when there is an impasse and both parties don't agree, we agree to continue spending but not at the same level.

See, the vote today on at least some of the budget, the part that is not going up like this, on a small portion, we will continue at the same level. But realize three-fourths of it is going up. We are not keeping it steady.

So if we vote to keep it steady, does that really fix the problem? No. If you keep it steady and even if you didn't increase spending, the budget never balances. Why? Because you are only keeping a very small portion of the budget steady. It is really about 16 percent. Two-thirds, 66 percent, entitlements; the remaining third: half military, half nonmilitary. Military is going up at 3 percent.

Oh, that is right. I forgot. Republicans have a great plan. Come spring, the Republicans are, by simple majority, going to bust through the military caps.

The military caps are put in place like all other caps to try to restrain spending, and they are ignored. But in the spring, the first reconciliation package the Republicans will pass with a simple majority is to bust through the military caps.

Military doesn't have enough money. We spend more on our military than the next eight countries combined, and yet it is never enough.

People say: We are going to find waste and fraud. I am all for it. I am a big supporter of looking for waste and fraud. I am a big supporter of getting rid of it.

Guess what. If you don't look at the entitlements, you are not a serious person. If you don't look at the military, you are not a serious person. The trouble will go on.

In the first Trump administration, $8 trillion were borrowed. I am a fan of Donald Trump. I supported him. I voted for him. But we borrowed $8 trillion. During the Biden administration, coincidentally, we borrowed another $8 trillion. They were equally fiscally irresponsible.

Now, at least during the Trump administration, you could argue there was COVID and the pandemic and all of that. But the reaction was too much, and the lockdowns were not necessary. They didn't save any lives through the lockdowns, and we spent a ton of money that we passed out for people not to work.

But the bottom line is, when you look at all of this, we have this enormous problem. I am all for eliminating the waste and fraud. It is not enough. You have to look at the entitlements. You have to look at the military.

Currently, we look at only about 16 percent of the budget. If you eliminated all of that—it is called nonmilitary discretionary; it is part of the budget. You eliminate all of it—which isn't going to happen—the budget still

never balances. You have to look at all the spending. We are not looking at any of the entitlement spending.

In fact, it is worse. Entitlements are driving the debt. Almost everybody agrees with it, and we are expanding the entitlements.

Social Security—beginning in 2021, Social Security, for the first time, pays out more than it brings in in taxes. It was the opposite for many years; Social Security brought in more than they spent, and they actually developed and had a reserve. For the last 3 years, Social Security has been paying out more than comes in. In 2021, they paid out 50 billion more than came in. In 2022, they paid out 22 billion more than came in. Last year, we paid out 40 billion more than came in.

If you had a business or even if you had a social program and you were paying out more than you brought in, wouldn't you try to reverse that trend? No. What we did this week is expand Social Security by $200 billion over 10 years. It is 20 billion a year. So if the debt next year for Social Security is going to be about the same as this year, it would be $40 billion. We added 20 billion to that. What is the math? A 50-percent increase in our debt.

So for someone who is fiscally conservative, this isn't a very good Christmas. This is a Christmas of just doing the same old thing.

So when you hear ''CR,'' continuing resolution, realize your government is resolved just to continue doing the same thing. They are kicking the can down the road. The debt is going to continue to accumulate, and they are not doing anything to fix it. So don't be pleased with your people. Look closely. Who are my representatives, and are they doing the right thing?

So we are going to offer a pay-for for Social Security. That will be one of my amendments tonight. We are also going to offer something called the Government Shutdown Protection Act. And what it will do is it says: When there is an impasse, when Republicans and Democrats don't agree, that the spending would continue at a reduced level. The level we chose was enough to try to bring both sides together to actually form an agreement; but also, we chose a number that would be enough of a cut to actually put us on a path to balance.

So if my amendment were to pass, government wouldn't shut down from here on out. But the spending would be at a 6-percent reduced level. This actually balances the budget, and it is a pretty significant cut. Most of them will say, Oh, it is too much. We can't vote for it.

But the thing is, is: Even if my cuts were to go into place, even if my amendment were to pass, a 6-percent cut would take 5 years to get to balance in 1 year. Not to get rid of any debt that we have accumulated, but just to get to an annual balance.

And they are like, Oh, woe is me. We can never do it. We can't cut people. People deserve money. People deserve stuff. We have to give them more stuff.

Do you know that in the European Union, 16 out of 28 countries in the European Union, who many are considered to be socialist, actually balance their budget? I met with a socialist from Sweden. He was more conservative than everybody across the aisle. He was more conservative than half the Republicans up here, because they thought that actual entitlements should be based on the economy. Their entitlements actually go down when the economy goes down. If the economy shrinks, their entitlements shrink. Everyone knows it is going to happen. If it is a bad year, we get a little less.

People would go nuts here. We do the opposite. During the last 4 years, they created so much inflation that people's costs went up 20 percent. What do we do? We have to give cost-of-living adjustments to those on Social Security, and we did; but we were short even more money. And it made the problem even worse and sped up the bankruptcy of Social Security.

So my amendment would say: We actually have to reduce spending. Now some people say to conservatives—both in my party and the others—they say, Oh, you people are unrealistic. You will never vote to raise the debt ceiling. But even if I had my way and we got cuts significant enough that I think the American people would accept, but most of this body wouldn't, and we balance the budget in 5 years, we would still accumulate debt over those 5 years. And I would vote to raise the debt ceiling during that brief period of time as we were on the way toward balancing our budget. But none of that is going to happen.

What we are doing this week and what both parties will be complicit in—and I mean both parties. Every Democrat here will vote for this bill, I assume. Every Democrat will vote to continue to be resolved to spend money at a rate that is $2 trillion more than comes in. And half the Republicans will join them.

There will be a minority of Republicans who will say: We are conservative, and we shouldn't spend this much money.

But we will offer amendments tonight, and people will get to decide where they are. And people at home will have to decide: Are we going to live this way? How long can we live this way? What causes inflation? Can we not have representatives who believe that balancing our budget is the appropriate thing to do?

So the amendments I offer today are such that I think they are necessary. I think they will help us to save Social Security from bankruptcy, but they won't be very popular here. But I offer them in hopes that people will see them across America and say: At least somebody cares about the solvency of Social Security. At least somebody has the guts to say, This is what we would do to try to save and preserve Social Security, rather than just giving free stuff to everybody and saying, No big deal. You can have more. You want more? Here is more.

Somebody's got to ask: How are we going to pay for this? Someone has to be responsible up here. And if you watch closely who votes on this amendment, you will see who are the truly fiscally responsible people in the Senate.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

SOCIAL SECURITY FAIRNESS ACT

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, today is a day to celebrate. The Senate is moments away from keeping a promise we made to the American people when Social Security became law.

Folks will get the benefits they earned. State and local workers in Louisiana and other States across the country are no different than other Americans who paid into the system. State and local government workers deserve their full Social Security benefit.

Now with the passage of the Social Security Fairness Act, they will get it.

This act repeals WEP, GPO—that stands for ''windfall elimination provision'' and ''government pension offset''—and stops Social Security from punishing public workers for the crime of serving their communities. Nurses, teachers, firefighters, police officers, widows of those who worked in the Social Security system will be made whole by what we do here tonight.

I had a civics teacher in high school who always delighted in the fact that she taught someone who went on to become a Member of Congress, and Betty worked her whole life teaching in public schools. And because of GPO, when her husband passed away—her husband worked at Exxon Refinery, if I remember correctly—her Social Security benefit was cut to a fraction because she had worked in the public sector as a teacher.

Under this system, she would have been better in terms of Social Security benefits if she had never worked at all.

Most of us have a Betty in their life, in their State, in their hometown, or in their family—often a police officer or a firefighter, a first responder who served us, and now we have the opportunity to thank them for that service.

With a vote today, we are standing up for folks like Betty and everyone like her across our Nation. It is a day to celebrate.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Mississippi.

REPUBLIC OF GEORGIA

Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, I rise tonight to make a simple but important point on behalf of the brave, freedom-loving citizens of the Republic of Georgia. It is time for the United States to stand alongside the brave nation of Georgia, the citizens of which went to the polls recently and voted to elect their own leadership.

It is time to impose heavy sanctions on the individuals and institutions now trying to thwart the democratic will of the people of the Republic of Georgia.

Now is the time to act. This is the 20th of December 2024. We don't need to act in mid-January. We need to act now while the people of Georgia are taking to the freezing streets in towns like Tbilisi and elsewhere to exercise their right to protest.

Now, here is what has happened—and it is such a familiar story, Mr. President. The Georgian people recently went to the polls, as really is the right of all mankind according to our Declaration of Independence. And the Georgian people rejected the Georgian Dream Party, which is really more and more becoming an arm of Vladimir Putin's Russian dictatorship.

The Georgian people, when they voted, rejected Bidzina Ivanishvili, the pro-Russian oligarch behind the party. This is similar to what other free voters have done in other countries around in that area—a decade or so ago in the Republic of Ukraine, in the recent Romanian elections.

It is happening also in Moldova. The people there do not wish to be under the thumb of a reincarnation of the Soviet Union under Vladimir Putin's dictatorship. And so they voted against the Georgian Dream Party, but the Georgian Dream Party in charge of the election machinery has tried to rig the election. And so the people of Georgia have risen up in response. And the Georgian Dream government, an arm of the Putin Russian Government, has responded in tyrannical fashion. The Georgian Dream Party has worked to overthrow the will of the voters and has marshalled the power of the police to crack down violently on peaceful protest.

In a number of days, Mr. President, the Georgian Dream Party could actually forcibly remove the democratically elected President of Georgia from power.

Now, the Biden administration has taken baby steps, long overdue, and I wish they would be more forceful. Our American administration has now publicly sanctioned two individuals. The State and Treasury Departments have sanctioned a senior ministry official and the Georgia Minister of Internal Affairs.

Now, what do the sanctions involve? They involve blocking the offending officials of the Georgian Dream Party from transactions in American banks. We can do that. They have frozen any assets these Russian puppets have owned in the United States and revoked any visas they have for our country. And I applaud the administration for these steps, but they could do so much more.

Of course, in response, the Georgian Dream Prime Minister Kobakhidze announced that he would decorate these two sanctioned Russian puppets and give them state honors in their roles for quashing the protests.

This is what is going on around the world. This is how tyrants act. Georgian Dream has thumbed its nose, of course, at our somewhat half-hearted measures. And so it is time, I would say, for the United States to demonstrate more decisive and timely resolve. Half measures are the wrong message at this point. So I call on the Biden administration to sanction the leaders of Georgian Dream, including Bidzina Ivanishvili, Kakha Kaladze, and Prime Minister Kobakhidze.

The Republic of Georgia is the home of freedom-loving people. They were once under the thumb of Moscow, and they do not wish to go back. Vladimir Putin would like to have Georgia back in its orbit, just like they would like to have Moldova back in their orbit, just like they even wish to have Romania and certainly Ukraine. And Vladimir Putin is willing to rig elections to have his agents brutally repress the peaceful protests that are going on.

Now, I admire these Georgian freedom fighters. They strongly oppose Putin's interference; and we ought to stand with them. I call on the State Department and the Biden administration in the last month of office to stand tall with the freedom-loving Georgian people. We must continue our legacy of cooperation and shared democratic values with the Republic of Georgia.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CARDIN). The Senator from Oregon.

SOCIAL SECURITY FAIRNESS ACT

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, as chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, I want to spend a minute saying a special commendation to Senators BROWN and CASEY, two exceptionally valuable members of the Senate Finance Committee who are going to be departing the Senate at the end of the year.

Nobody in the Senate understands the importance of Social Security for seniors and Americans with disabilities better than Senators BROWN and CASEY. They have been leading the fight for years to protect and strengthen Social Security for current and future generations of Americans, and they have done it for their entire careers. That includes battling those who would want to privatize the system, those who would raise the retirement age or advance schemes that would otherwise cut benefits.

It strikes me as particularly fitting that one of the final votes this body takes—and the first time the Senate votes to increase benefits in decades—will be a vote to ensure everyday Americans receive their earned benefits.

I was director of the Oregon Gray Panthers for almost 7 years before coming into public life, and I long ago decided that protecting Americans' earned benefits has been a lodestar, and Senators CASEY and BROWN have followed that through their public service.

This vote is also a chance for the American people to see clearly who is fighting for middle-class families, because what the Senate is doing is preventing across-the-board cuts to Social Security benefits for public servants like firefighters and nurses and busdrivers and police officers and teachers. These are all individuals who work in crucial professions, paying into Social Security out of every paycheck. They went into their line of work not to strike it rich but to answer the call to serve their communities.

As chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, I would urge all Members of the Senate, Republicans and Democrats, to stand with Senators BROWN and CASEY and all our colleagues who have been working to pass this legislation. It is long overdue.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BENNET). The majority leader.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate resume legislative session and the only remaining amendments in order to H.R. 82 be the following: Paul 3346, Paul 3352, Cruz 3360, and Crapo 3331; that there be a 60-affirmative vote threshold for the adoption of the amendments; that upon disposition of the Crapo amendment, Senator LEE be recognized to make a budget point of order; that upon disposition of the point of order, the pending amendments and motion be withdrawn, H.R. 82 be considered read a third time, and the Senate vote on passage of the bill with 60-affirmative votes required for passage; further, that following the disposition of H.R. 82, the Senate proceed to the consideration of H.R. 10545; that there be up to 30 minutes for debate on the bill, equally divided, and that upon the use or yielding back of time, the Senate vote on passage of the bill, with 60 affirmative votes required for passage and with no amendments or motions in order to the bill; further, that following the disposition of H.R. 10545, the Senate resume executive session to consider the following nominations en bloc: Calendar Nos. 851, 853, 854, 857; that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc without intervening action or debate; that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; further, that there be up to 2 minutes for debate, equally divided, prior to each vote, all without further intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SCHUMER. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The majority leader.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I have very good news for my colleagues and for the country. Democrats and Republicans have just reached an agreement that will allow us to pass the CR tonight before the midnight deadline.

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. PAUL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume legislative session.

The Senator from Kentucky.

AMENDMENT NO. 3346

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, I call up my amendment, No. 3346, and ask that it be reported by number.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. PAUL] proposes an amendment numbered 3346.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To adjust the normal and early retirement ages for Social Security benefits and increase the maximum age for delayed retirement credits)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ___. ADJUSTMENT TO NORMAL AND EARLY RETIREMENT AGE.

Section 216(l) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 416(l)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) in subparagraph (D), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(B) in subparagraph (E), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following new subparagraphs:

''(F) with respect to an individual who—

''(i) attains 62 years of age after December 31, 2024, and before January 1, 2032, such individual's early retirement age (as determined under paragraph (2)(A)(ii)) plus 60 months; or

''(ii) receives a benefit described in paragraph (2)(B) and attains 60 years of age after December 31, 2024, and before January 1, 2032, 67 years plus the number of months in the age increase factor (as determined under paragraph (5)(A)) for the calendar year in which such individual attains 60 years of age;

''(G) with respect to an individual who—

''(i) attains 62 years of age after December 31, 2031, and before January 1, 2033, 69 years of age; or

''(ii) receives a benefit described in paragraph (2)(B) and attains 60 years of age after December 31, 2031, and before January 1, 2033, 69 years of age;

''(H) with respect to an individual who—

''(i) attains 62 years of age after December 31, 2032, and before January 1, 2036, 67 years of age plus the number of months in the age increase factor (as determined under paragraph (5)(B)); or

''(ii) receives a benefit described in paragraph (2)(B) and attains 60 years of age after December 31, 2032, and before January 1, 2036, 67 years of age plus the number of months in the age increase factor (as determined under paragraph (5)(A));

''(I) with respect to an individual who—

''(i) attains 62 years of age after December 31, 2035, and before January 1, 2037, 70 years of age; or

''(ii) receives a benefit described in paragraph (2)(B) and attains 60 years of age after December 31, 2035, and before January 1, 2037, 70 years of age; and

''(J) with respect to an individual who—

''(i) attains 62 years of age after December 31, 2036, 70 years of age plus the number of months in the age increase factor (as determined under paragraph (6)); or

''(ii) receives a benefit described in paragraph (2)(B) and attains 60 years of age after December 31, 2036, 70 years of age plus the number of months in the age increase factor (as determined under paragraph (6)).'';

(2) by amending paragraph (2) to read as follows:

''(2) The term 'early retirement age' means—

''(A) in the case of an old-age, wife's, or husband's insurance benefit—

''(i) 62 years of age with respect to an individual who attains such age before January 1, 2025;

''(ii) with respect to an individual who attains 62 years of age after December 31, 2024, and before January 1, 2032, 62 years of age plus the number of months in the age increase factor (as determined under paragraph (4)) for the calendar year in which such individual attains 62 years of age; and

''(iii) with respect to an individual who attains age 62 after December 31, 2031, 64 years of age; or

''(B) in the case of a widow's or widower's insurance benefit, 60 years of age.''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new paragraphs:

''(4) For purposes of paragraph (2)(A)(ii), the age increase factor shall be equal to three-twelfths of the number of months in the period beginning with January 2025 and ending with December of the year in which the individual attains 62 years of age.

''(5) The age increase factor shall be equal to three-twelfths of the number of months in the period beginning with January 2025 and ending with December of the year in which—

''(A) for purposes of paragraphs (1)(F)(ii) and (1)(H)(ii), the individual attains 60 years of age; or

''(B) for purposes of paragraph (1)(H)(i), the individual attains 62 years of age.

''(6) The Commissioner of Social Security shall determine (using reasonable actuarial assumptions) and publish on or before November 1 of each calendar year after 2035 the number of months (rounded, if not a multiple of one month, to the next lower multiple of one month) by which life expectancy as of October 1 of such calendar year of an individual attaining early retirement age on such October 1 exceeds the life expectancy as of October 1, 2036, of an individual attaining early retirement age on October 1, 2036. With respect to an individual who attains early retirement in the calendar year following any calendar year in which a determination is made under this paragraph, the age increase factor shall be the number of months determined under this paragraph as of October 1 of such calendar year in which such determination is made.''.

SEC. ___. INCREASE IN MAXIMUM AGE FOR DELAYED RETIREMENT CREDIT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (w) of section 202 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 402) is amended—

(1) in paragraphs (2)(A) and (3), by striking ''age 70'' each place it appears and inserting ''the maximum delayed retirement age (as determined pursuant to paragraph (7))'';

(2) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(7) For purposes of paragraphs (2)(A) and (3), the 'maximum delayed retirement age' shall be equal to—

''(A) during the period before January 1, 2025, 70 years of age for an individual who has attained early retirement age (as determined under section 216(l)(2)) during such period; and

''(B) during the period after December 31, 2024, the sum of—

''(i) the retirement age for such calendar year, as determined under section 216(l)(1), for an individual who has attained age 62 (for purposes of section 216(l)(2)(A)) or who has attained age 60 (for purposes of section 216(l)(2)(B)) during such calendar year; and

''(ii) 3 years.''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall take effect on January 1, 2025.

Mr. PAUL. I yield back all time on the amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 3346

The question now occurs on the adoption of amendment No. 3346.

Mr. PAUL. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) and the Senator from California (Mr. SCHIFF) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE).

The result was announced—yeas 3, nays 93, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 333 Leg.]

YEAS—3

Lee	Lummis	Paul

NAYS—93

Baldwin	Gillibrand	Peters
Barrasso	Graham	Reed
Bennet	Grassley	Ricketts
Blackburn	Hagerty	Risch
Blumenthal	Hassan	Romney
Booker	Hawley	Rosen
Boozman	Heinrich	Rounds
Braun	Hickenlooper	Sanders
Britt	Hirono	Schatz
Brown	Hoeven	Schmitt
Budd	Hyde-Smith	Schumer
Cantwell	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Capito	Kaine	Scott (SC)
Cardin	Kelly	Shaheen
Carper	Kennedy	Sinema
Casey	Kim	Smith
Cassidy	King	Stabenow
Collins	Klobuchar	Sullivan
Coons	Lankford	Tester
Cornyn	Luján	Thune
Cortez Masto	Markey	Tillis
Cotton	Marshall	Tuberville
Cramer	McConnell	Van Hollen
Crapo	Merkley	Warner
Cruz	Moran	Warnock
Daines	Mullin	Warren
Duckworth	Murkowski	Welch
Durbin	Murphy	Whitehouse
Ernst	Murray	Wicker
Fetterman	Ossoff	Wyden
Fischer	Padilla	Young

NOT VOTING—4

Manchin	Schiff
Rubio	Vance

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 3, the nays are 93.

The 60-vote threshold having not been achieved, the amendment is not agreed to.

The amendment (No. 3346) was rejected.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. SCHUMER. Came close. Came close.

Mr. President and my colleagues, we want to finish at a reasonable hour. If we want to finish as quickly as possible, I would urge Members to stay in their seats and answer to your name when it is called. That will speed things up. Thank you. And we are going to have a 10-minute limit on votes, period.

(Applause.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kentucky.

AMENDMENT NO. 3352

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, I call up my amendment No. 3352 and ask that it be reported by number.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. PAUL] proposes an amendment numbered 3352.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To provide for automatic continuing resolutions)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____. AUTOMATIC CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 13 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 1310 the following new section:

''§ 1311. Continuing appropriations

''(a)(1) On and after the first day of each fiscal year, if an appropriation Act for such fiscal year with respect to the account for a program, project, or activity has not been enacted and continuing appropriations are not in effect with respect to the program, project, or activity, there are appropriated, at the rate for operations specified in paragraph (2), such sums as may be necessary to continue the program, project, or activity if funds were provided for the program, project, or activity during the preceding fiscal year—

''(A) in the corresponding appropriation Act for such preceding fiscal year; or

''(B) if the corresponding appropriation bill for such preceding fiscal year did not become law, in a law making continuing appropriations for such preceding fiscal year.

''(2)(A) Appropriations and funds made available, and authority granted, for a program, project, or activity for any fiscal year pursuant to this section shall be at a rate of operations not in excess of the lower of—

''(i) 94 percent of the rate of operations provided for in the regular appropriation Act providing for such program, project, or activity for the preceding fiscal year;

''(ii) in the absence of such an Act, 94 percent of the rate of operations provided for such program, project, or activity pursuant to a law making continuing appropriations for such preceding fiscal year; or

''(iii) 94 percent of the annualized rate of operations provided for in the most recently enacted law making continuing appropriations for part of that fiscal year or any funding levels established under the provisions of this section,

for the period of 90 days. After the first 90-day period during which this subsection is in effect for that fiscal year, the applicable rate of operations shall be reduced by 1 percentage point. For each subsequent 90-day period during which this subsection is in effect for that fiscal year, the applicable rate of operations shall be reduced by 1 percentage point. The 90-day period reductions shall extend beyond the last day of that fiscal year.

''(B) If this section is in effect at the end of a fiscal year, funding levels shall continue as provided in this section for the next fiscal year.

''(3) Appropriations and funds made available, and authority granted, for any fiscal year pursuant to this section for a program, project, or activity shall be available for the period beginning with the first day of a lapse in appropriations and ending with the date on which the applicable regular appropriation bill for such fiscal year becomes law (whether or not such law provides for such program, project, or activity) or a continuing resolution making appropriations becomes law, as the case may be.

''(b) An appropriation or funds made available, or authority granted, for a program, project, or activity for any fiscal year pursuant to this section shall be subject to the terms and conditions imposed with respect to the appropriation made or funds made available for the preceding fiscal year, or authority granted for such program, project, or activity under current law.

''(c) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, for those programs, projects, or activities that would otherwise have high initial rates of operation or complete distribution of appropriations at the beginning of a fiscal year for which funding is made available under this section because of distributions of funding to States, foreign countries, grantees, or others, such high initial rates of operation or complete distribution shall not be made, and no grants shall be awarded for such programs, projects, or activities funded by this section that would impinge on final funding prerogatives.

''(d) Expenditures made for a program, project, or activity for any fiscal year pursuant to this section shall be charged to the applicable appropriation, fund, or authorization whenever a regular appropriation bill or a measure making continuing appropriations until the end of a fiscal year providing for such program, project, or activity for such period becomes law.

''(e) This section shall not apply to a program, project, or activity during a fiscal year if any other provision of law (other than an authorization of appropriations)—

''(1) makes an appropriation, makes funds available, or grants authority for such program, project, or activity to continue for such period; or

''(2) specifically provides that no appropriation shall be made, no funds shall be made available, or no authority shall be granted for such program, project, or activity to continue for such period.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections of chapter 13 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 1310 the following new item:

''1311. Continuing appropriations.''.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There will now be up to 2 minutes for debate, equally divided.

Mr. PAUL. I yield back.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 3352

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there any debate?

Hearing none, the question is on agreeing to the amendment.

Mr. PAUL. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN), and the Senator from California (Mr. SCHIFF) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE).

The result was announced—yeas 28, nays 67, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 334 Leg.]

YEAS—28

Barrasso	Graham	Paul
Blackburn	Grassley	Risch
Braun	Hagerty	Romney
Budd	Hoeven	Schmitt
Cassidy	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Cramer	Lankford	Scott (SC)
Crapo	Lee	Thune
Cruz	Lummis	Tuberville
Daines	Marshall	
Ernst	Moran	

NAYS—67

Baldwin	Heinrich	Rosen
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Rounds
Blumenthal	Hirono	Sanders
Booker	Hyde-Smith	Schatz
Boozman	Kaine	Schumer
Britt	Kelly	Shaheen
Brown	Kennedy	Sinema
Cantwell	Kim	Smith
Capito	King	Stabenow
Cardin	Klobuchar	Sullivan
Carper	Luján	Tester
Casey	Markey	Tillis
Collins	McConnell	Van Hollen
Coons	Merkley	Warner
Cornyn	Mullin	Warnock
Cotton	Murkowski	Warren
Duckworth	Murphy	Welch
Durbin	Murray	Whitehouse
Fetterman	Ossoff	Wicker
Fischer	Padilla	Wyden
Gillibrand	Peters	Young
Hassan	Reed	
Hawley	Ricketts	

NOT VOTING—5

Cortez Masto	Rubio	Vance
Manchin	Schiff	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 28, the nays are 67.

The 60-vote threshold having not been achieved, the amendment is not agreed to.

The amendment (No. 3352) was rejected.

Mr. SCHUMER. Please, Members, stay in your seats. Let's get this done quick.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SCHATZ). The Senator from Texas.

AMENDMENT NO. 3360

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute.)

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, I call up my amendment No. 3360 and ask that it be reported by number.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment by number.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Texas [Mr. CRUZ] proposes an amendment numbered 3360.

The amendment is as follows:

(The amendment is printed in today's RECORD (legislative day of December 16, 2024) under ''Text of Amendments.'')

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There are now up to 2 minutes of debate, equally divided.

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, everyone is here tonight voting on a provision to treat fairly our retired police officers, firefighters, and teachers. We should do that. The windfall elimination provision treated them unfairly. I have been fighting to correct this since 2017. We can correct this. We can treat our retired cops and firefighters and teachers fairly.

However, the provision on the floor of the Senate tonight would add to the Social Security trust fund $200 billion in debt. Every Member of this Senate—Republican and Democrat—has promised to our voters we will protect Social Security. The bill on the floor of the Senate tonight would accelerate the insolvency of Social Security by 6 months.

My amendment fixes the inequity of the windfall elimination provision but does so at a cost of only $25 billion instead of $200 billion. The amendment on the floor accelerates the insolvency of Social Security; my amendment has a negligible effect on Social Security.

Let me urge everyone: Let's support our cops and firefighters and teachers, but let's also not throw our seniors down the river. I urge you to vote yes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, just very briefly, the House rejected the Cruz proposal by a wide margin. Voting for this amendment, sending it back to the House right before the 118th Congress adjourns is, in effect, a vote to kill the bill. I would urge the body to reject this Hail Mary attempt to kill the bill.

I yield back.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 3360

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on adoption of the amendment.

Mr. CRUZ. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) and the Senator from California (Mr. SCHIFF) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE).

The result was announced—yeas 32, nays 64, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 335 Leg.]

YEAS—32

Barrasso	Grassley	Romney
Blackburn	Hagerty	Rounds
Britt	Hoeven	Schmitt
Budd	Hyde-Smith	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Cramer	Lee	Thune
Crapo	Lummis	Tillis
Cruz	Marshall	Tuberville
Daines	McConnell	Wicker
Ernst	Paul	Young
Graham	Risch	

NAYS—64

Baldwin	Hassan	Peters
Bennet	Hawley	Reed
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Ricketts
Booker	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Boozman	Hirono	Sanders
Braun	Kaine	Schatz
Brown	Kelly	Schumer
Cantwell	Kennedy	Shaheen
Capito	Kim	Sinema
Cardin	King	Smith
Carper	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Casey	Lankford	Sullivan
Cassidy	Luján	Tester
Collins	Markey	Van Hollen
Coons	Merkley	Warner
Cortez Masto	Moran	Warnock
Cotton	Mullin	Warren
Duckworth	Murkowski	Welch
Durbin	Murphy	Whitehouse
Fetterman	Murray	Wyden
Fischer	Ossoff	
Gillibrand	Padilla	

NOT VOTING—4

Manchin	Schiff
Rubio	Vance

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BALDWIN). On this vote, the yeas are 32, the nays are 64.

Under the previous order requiring 60 votes for the adoption of this amendment, the amendment is not agreed to.

The amendment (No. 3360) was rejected.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The senior Senator from Idaho.

AMENDMENT NO. 3331

Mr. CRAPO. Madam President, I call up my amendment No. 3331, and I ask that it be reported by number.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the clerk will report the amendment by number.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Idaho [Mr. CRAPO] proposes an amendment numbered 3331.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To delay the repeal of the Government pension offset and windfall elimination provisions until additional changes are made to offset any negative impacts on the actuarial balance of the Social Security Trust Fund)

Strike section 4 and insert the following:

SEC. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The amendments made by this Act shall take effect on the date on which the condition described in paragraph (1) of subsection (b) is met and shall apply with respect to monthly insurance benefits payable under title II of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 401 et seq.) for months beginning on or after such date.

(b) REQUIREMENT TO OFFSET GPO AND WEP REPEAL.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The condition described in this paragraph is that there are enacted into law such changes to the Social Security program under title II of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 401 et seq.) (or to any other provision of law) as are necessary to fully offset any negative impacts on the actuarial balance of the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund and the Federal Disability Insurance Trust established under such title that would result from the amendments made by this Act.

(2) DETERMINATION THAT CONDITION IS MET.—For purposes of subsection (a), the Board of Trustees of the Trust Funds established under section 201(c) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 401(c)) shall determine the date on which the condition described in paragraph (1) is met.

(c) RECOMPUTATION OF PRIMARY INSURANCE AMOUNTS FOLLOWING REPEAL OF WEP.—Notwithstanding section 215(f) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 415(f)), the Commissioner of Social Security shall adjust primary insurance amounts to the extent necessary to take into account the amendments made by section 3.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There will now be 2 minutes for debate, equally divided.

Mr. CRAPO. Madam President, throughout this entire debate, no one has denied that this bill will raise the insolvency of the Social Security trust fund and cost our hard-working Social Security recipients to lose $200 billion in Social Security benefits when it does go insolvent.

My amendment simply would delay the implementation of the Social Security Fairness Act until changes are made that would offset the bill's negative effects on Social Security's actuarial balance as determined by the Social Security board of trustees.

Let the Finance Committee fix this bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The senior Senator from Oregon.

Mr. WYDEN. Madam President, the public should know that the Senator is raising concerns about the financial impact of this bill while he and other leaders in his party are vowing to use every budget gimmick under the Sun next year to avoid paying for their tax bill.

Second, we have long had a tale of two tax codes in America, where firefighters and teachers pay with every check while the wealthy can avoid taxes. Now we have the tale of two deficits, where deficits don't exist when it benefits the wealthy, but any changes benefiting firefighters have to be paid for.

I urge my colleagues to vote against this amendment.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 3331

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on adoption of the amendment.

Mr. CRAPO. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) and the Senator from California (Mr. SCHIFF) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator

from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE).

The result was announced—yeas 34, nays 62, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 336 Leg.]

YEAS—34

Barrasso	Grassley	Romney
Blackburn	Hagerty	Rounds
Britt	Hoeven	Schmitt
Budd	Hyde-Smith	Scott (FL)
Carper	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Lankford	Thune
Cramer	Lee	Tillis
Crapo	Lummis	Tuberville
Cruz	Marshall	Wicker
Daines	McConnell	Young
Ernst	Paul	
Graham	Risch	

NAYS—62

Baldwin	Hassan	Peters
Bennet	Hawley	Reed
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Ricketts
Booker	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Boozman	Hirono	Sanders
Braun	Kaine	Schatz
Brown	Kelly	Schumer
Cantwell	Kennedy	Shaheen
Capito	Kim	Sinema
Cardin	King	Smith
Casey	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Cassidy	Luján	Sullivan
Collins	Markey	Tester
Coons	Merkley	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Moran	Warner
Cotton	Mullin	Warnock
Duckworth	Murkowski	Warren
Durbin	Murphy	Welch
Fetterman	Murray	Whitehouse
Fischer	Ossoff	Wyden
Gillibrand	Padilla	

NOT VOTING—4

Manchin	Schiff
Rubio	Vance

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 34, the nays are 62.

The 60-vote threshold having not been achieved, the amendment is not agreed to.

The amendment (No. 3331) was rejected.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. LEE. The economist Milton Friedman once said:

> Keep your eye on one thing and one thing only: how much the government is spending, because that is the true tax. . . . If you're not paying for it in the form of explicit taxes, you're paying for it indirectly in the form of inflation or in the form of borrowing.

The Senate is poised to enact another tax on the American people this week—tonight, in fact—a $200 billion tax that will leave a hole in the Social Security trust fund. This tax will give extra Social Security benefits to just 4 percent of the American workforce at the expense of the other 96 percent of hard-working Americans.

We must be honest with ourselves in acknowledging that this bill is fiscally irresponsible. To make matters worse, it is entirely unnecessary at this moment in time. There is no reason why we have to be pressed to pass it tonight. Congress is up against no particular deadlines, nor is any program at risk of expiring.

Social Security is already on a dangerously unsustainable path. The trust fund is projected to run out of money in the next decade, which would lead to an across-the-board benefit cut. This bill would accelerate that crisis. To tax the American people to the tune of another $200 billion is ludicrous by itself, but to do so when there is no immediate need is nefarious.

To that end, the pending measure, H.R. 82, would cause an increase of $197.81 billion in the level of Social Security deficit relative to the level deemed for budget enforcement.

Therefore, I raise a point of order against this measure under section 311(a)(3) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The junior Senator from Rhode Island.

MOTION TO WAIVE

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, pursuant to section 904 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 and the waiver provisions of applicable budget resolutions, I move to waive all applicable sections of that act and applicable budget points of order for the purposes of the pending measure.

I ask for the yeas and nays, and for the sake of our retired police officers, firefighters, and teachers, I would urge you to provide a lot more yeas than nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) and the Senator from California (Mr. SCHIFF) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 66, nays 30, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 337 Leg.]

YEAS—66

Baldwin	Graham	Padilla
Bennet	Hagerty	Peters
Blumenthal	Hassan	Reed
Booker	Hawley	Ricketts
Boozman	Heinrich	Rosen
Braun	Hickenlooper	Sanders
Brown	Hirono	Schatz
Cantwell	Kaine	Schumer
Capito	Kelly	Scott (SC)
Cardin	Kennedy	Shaheen
Carper	Kim	Sinema
Casey	King	Smith
Cassidy	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Collins	Luján	Sullivan
Coons	Markey	Tester
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Van Hollen
Cotton	Moran	Warner
Duckworth	Mullin	Warnock
Durbin	Murkowski	Warren
Fetterman	Murphy	Welch
Fischer	Murray	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Wyden

NAYS—30

Barrasso	Grassley	Risch
Blackburn	Hoeven	Romney
Britt	Hyde-Smith	Rounds
Budd	Johnson	Schmitt
Cornyn	Lankford	Scott (FL)
Cramer	Lee	Thune
Crapo	Lummis	Tillis
Cruz	Marshall	Tuberville
Daines	McConnell	Wicker
Ernst	Paul	Young

NOT VOTING—4

Manchin	Schiff
Rubio	Vance

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 66, the nays are 30.

Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn having voted in the affirmative, the motion is agreed to and the point of order falls.

Under the previous order, the motion to commit and all pending amendments are withdrawn. The bill is considered read a third time.

The amendments were withdrawn.

The bill was ordered to a third reading and was read the third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

Mr. TILLIS. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) and the Senator from California (Mr. SCHIFF) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE).

The result was announced—yeas 76, nays 20, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 338 Leg.]

YEAS—76

Baldwin	Hagerty	Peters
Bennet	Hassan	Reed
Blackburn	Hawley	Ricketts
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Risch
Booker	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Boozman	Hirono	Sanders
Braun	Hoeven	Schatz
Brown	Hyde-Smith	Schmitt
Cantwell	Kaine	Schumer
Capito	Kelly	Scott (FL)
Cardin	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Carper	Kim	Shaheen
Casey	King	Sinema
Cassidy	Klobuchar	Smith
Collins	Lankford	Stabenow
Coons	Luján	Sullivan
Cornyn	Markey	Tester
Cortez Masto	Marshall	Van Hollen
Cotton	Merkley	Warner
Cramer	Moran	Warnock
Duckworth	Mullin	Warren
Durbin	Murkowski	Welch
Fetterman	Murphy	Whitehouse
Fischer	Murray	Wyden
Gillibrand	Ossoff	
Graham	Padilla	

NAYS—20

Barrasso	Grassley	Rounds
Britt	Johnson	Thune
Budd	Lee	Tillis
Crapo	Lummis	Tuberville
Cruz	McConnell	Wicker
Daines	Paul	Young
Ernst	Romney	

NOT VOTING—4

Manchin	Schiff
Rubio	Vance

The bill (H.R. 82) passed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 76, the nays are 20.

The 60-vote threshold having been achieved, the bill is passed.

The bill (H.R. 82) was passed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, tonight, the Senate finally corrects a 50-year mistake by passing the Social Security Fairness Act. Millions of retired teachers and firefighters and letter carriers and State and local workers have waited decades for this moment. No longer will public retirees see their hard-earned Social Security benefits robbed from them, thanks to this bill. It is a very good thing that one of the final acts of the 118th Congress is delivering a huge win for working Americans.

I thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for their outstanding work, particularly Senators BROWN, COLLINS, and CASSIDY, who led the way, and all those who relentlessly, across the country, called their Senators and got this done.

AMERICAN RELIEF ACT OF 2025

Madam President, tonight, the Senate delivers more good news for America. Tonight, the Senate delivers good news for America. There will be no government shutdown right before Christmas.

(Applause.)

This is a good bill. It will keep the government open and funded, and it helps Americans affected by hurricanes and natural disasters. It helps our farmers and avoids harmful cuts. After a chaotic few days in the House, it is good news that the bipartisan approach, in the end, prevailed. It is a good lesson for next year. Both sides have to work together.

By dealing with people who have had trouble with disasters, by helping our farmers, and avoiding harmful cuts, this is a good bill, and I am glad we are passing it.

I thank my Republican colleagues for working with us to move this bill quickly through the Senate. It is a good outcome for America and the American people.

I yield the floor.

AMERICAN RELIEF ACT, 2025

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to the consideration of H.R. 10545, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 10545) making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There will now be up to 30 minutes for debate, equally divided.

The senior Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I will not use 15 minutes, but I do want to just let our colleagues know that I am very pleased that we are on the verge of passing long overdue relief desperately needed by communities that are recovering from disaster, as well as avoiding a damaging shutdown.

The only reason it took so long and this much chaos to get here is that House Republicans chose chaos and chose to follow the whims of the richest man in the world. Needless to say, that is not how this should work.

But I am glad that at the end of the day, we will avoid a shutdown and get disaster relief out to families and communities that are struggling after being hit by hurricanes and fires and floods and so much more.

I worked hard with Members on both sides of the aisle to finally get this aid across the line and to make sure we did so in a comprehensive way that meets the wide range of critical needs in the country, because it is painfully clear there are so many communities that are still reeling from hurricanes, wildfires, tornadoes, flooding, and more that really do need this support.

So, despite all the unnecessary chaos and delay, I am glad we are finally here, getting this done. This relief will make a critical difference for folks who have lost it all and are simply working to get their feet back underneath them.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in passing this package so we can get this over the line and avoid a needless shutdown as we head into the holidays.

Finally, one last important thing. I want to recognize my colleagues who helped pull this relief package together, especially my vice chair on Appropriations, Senator COLLINS, who has been a critical partner, and our House counterparts, Congresswoman DELAURO and Congressman COLE, who have pushed so hard to get this disaster relief done.

Of course, I want to thank all of our staff, especially Evan Schatz, our staff director, who worked so hard around the clock to pull together not just the disaster relief in this package but so many other critical funding packages and proposals over the last 2 years I have been chair of the Appropriations Committee. The work is never easy, and I am incredibly grateful to our entire team and to all of our colleagues who have been working so hard.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The senior Senator from Maine.

Ms. COLLINS. Madam President, I rise to urge the passage of the American Relief Act. This bill will avert a costly government shutdown. Although it is after 12 midnight, we are going to avert it. It will deliver much needed assistance to individuals, small businesses, and communities working to rebuild and repair in the wake of natural disasters. It provides much needed aid to our farmers across the country, who have been hit by a tidal wave of harmful economic conditions.

I want to thank the many Senators who have contributed to this legislation. In particular, I want to recognize Chair MURRAY for her leadership of the Appropriations Committee during this Congress.

I hope that in the next Congress, we can bring appropriations bills to the Senate floor in a timely fashion to avoid this kind of end-of-the-year pileup.

I do urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I, too, want to recognize and thank my outstanding staff for their hard work.

SOCIAL SECURITY FAIRNESS ACT

Finally, Madam President, I do want to say that it is a great accomplishment that tonight the Senate passed the Social Security Fairness Act, which will be sent to the President for his signature. This is long overdue.

I want to share with my colleagues one really important fact, and that is that 83 percent of those who are affected by the government pension offset, which we repealed tonight, are lower income women. So this is a great accomplishment to eliminate these two inequitable, unfair provisions of the Social Security Act. It is going to make a big difference.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, this is the last vote not only of this evening but of the 118th Congress.

We yield back all time.

(Applause.)

VOTE ON H.R. 10545

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All time is yielded back.

The bill was ordered to a third reading and was read the third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) and the Senator from California (Mr. SCHIFF) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE).

The result was announced—yeas 85, nays 11, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 339 Leg.]

YEAS—85

Baldwin	Cramer	King
Barrasso	Cruz	Klobuchar
Bennet	Daines	Lankford
Blackburn	Duckworth	Luján
Blumenthal	Durbin	Lummis
Booker	Ernst	Markey
Boozman	Fetterman	Marshall
Britt	Fischer	McConnell
Brown	Gillibrand	Merkley
Budd	Graham	Moran
Cantwell	Grassley	Mullin
Capito	Hagerty	Murkowski
Cardin	Hassan	Murphy
Carper	Heinrich	Murray
Casey	Hickenlooper	Ossoff
Cassidy	Hirono	Padilla
Collins	Hoeven	Peters
Coons	Hyde-Smith	Reed
Cornyn	Kaine	Ricketts
Cortez Masto	Kelly	Rosen
Cotton	Kim	Rounds

Schatz	Sullivan	Warren
Schumer	Tester	Welch
Scott (FL)	Thune	Whitehouse
Scott (SC)	Tillis	Wicker
Shaheen	Tuberville	Wyden
Sinema	Van Hollen	Young
Smith	Warner	
Stabenow	Warnock	

NAYS—11

Braun	Kennedy	Romney
Crapo	Lee	Sanders
Hawley	Paul	Schmitt
Johnson	Risch	

NOT VOTING—4

Manchin	Schiff
Rubio	Vance

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KAINE). On this vote, the yeas are 85, the nays are 11.

The 60-vote threshold having been achieved, the bill is passed.

The bill (H.R. 10545) was passed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume executive session to consider the following nominations, en bloc: Calendar Nos. 851, 853, 854, and 857.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of David Michael Capozzi, of Maryland, to be a Director of the Amtrak Board of Directors for a term of five years (New Position); Ronald L. Batory, of New Mexico, to be a Director of the Amtrak Board of Directors for a term of five years; Elaine Marie Clegg, of Idaho, to be a Director of the Amtrak Board of Directors for a term of five years; and Lanhee J. Chen, of California, to be a Director of the Amtrak Board of Directors for a term of five years?

The nominations are confirmed en bloc.

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 actions.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Colorado.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—H.R. 3433

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, in a moment, I will ask for unanimous consent to pass H.R. 3433, the bipartisan Give Kids a Chance Act. I would like to highlight how important this legislation is for children with cancer all across this country.

The Give Kids a Chance Act finally authorizes the FDA to direct companies who are conducting research for adult cancer drugs to study those drugs in combination with others to see whether they also can work well for kids who have cancer.

The bill continues the work that Senator RUBIO and I started in 2017, when we worked together to pass the RACE for Children Act, which required sponsors of certain adult cancer drugs to study the benefits or the effects and their use in children.

Since then, Senator RUBIO and I have both learned that combination therapies can be effective treatments and reduce the risk of side effects significantly, both for adults and for kids. That is why this legislation is so important.

This bill can help save the lives of children all over our country who have the most aggressive forms of cancer. It would ensure that pharmaceutical companies are being held accountable to study how their drugs affect children who may have the same kind of cancer as adults but who need more tailored treatment in combination with other drugs.

I know Senator RUBIO and I have both heard numerous stories from patients who have asked for themselves and parents who have asked on behalf of their children and who have advocated on behalf of children who have passed away.

This bill also authorizes the FDA to take enforcement action against companies that do not conduct the pediatric trials that are required under the Pediatric Research Equity Act and requires the FDA to report on enforcement of this act.

Additionally, the bill reauthorizes the FDA rare pediatric disease priority review voucher program through fiscal year 2029, which incentivizes drug development for rare pediatric diseases.

This bill has the support of dozens and dozens of organizations that represent kids and parents all across our country. I ask unanimous consent that their names be printed in the RECORD. In the interest of time this evening, I won't read them on the floor, although I want to say how deeply I appreciate their efforts.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

Kids v Cancer, Arms Wide Open, Christina Renna Foundation Inc, Curing Kids Cancer, DADA2 Foundation, Elevate Childhood Cancer, End Kids Cancer, EVAN Foundation, Gabriella's Smile Foundation, Give Kids The World, just to name a few.

Mr. BENNET. I would also like to highlight the bipartisan nature of this work—Senator RUBIO, as a cosponsor, with Senators CASEY and MULLIN, who cosponsored provisions of this House bill as well.

This bill has passed unanimously out of the House Energy and Commerce Committee. It has passed the House by voice vote.

Now is the time to pass this bill. If we pass it tonight, it will go to the President for his signature.

Mr. President, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be discharged from further consideration of and that the Senate proceed to H.R. 3433; further, that the bill be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The Senator from Colorado.

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I just want to say how deeply I regret the objection of the Senator from Kentucky. That is, of course, his right. I gather that he is objecting because he objects to the lateness of the hour and the time with which this request was made. At least, that is what I was told earlier tonight.

I think after we have been held here in place for hours and hours and hours, the idea that we are not going to be able to pass this legislation is deeply, deeply disappointing to the people who have advocated for this for all of these years. It is a reflection, I think, of how broken this place is in the way that it puts its own interests ahead of the interests of the people who we represent. But we will be back to fight another day.

Mr. President, I wish you and the staff here in the Senate at this late hour, and my colleagues who are here as well, happy holidays and Merry Christmas. We will see you in the new year.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—H.R. 4531

Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, I rise today to urge my colleagues to pass into law lifesaving, bipartisan legislation that will enable us to keep fighting the opioid and fentanyl epidemic that has destroyed families and devastated communities across our country.

New data from just this week found that drug overdose deaths dropped 17 percent from last summer to this summer. We now have a much better sense of what works to prevent and treat addiction, the resources we need to do so, and the light that exists on the other end of this terrible, terrible tunnel. But we can only get there if we keep up the fight.

The SUPPORT Act of 2018 established vital addiction treatment infrastructure. Reauthorizing this law is essential to our addiction prevention, treatment, and recovery efforts. Just two of many examples include funding addiction treatment for pregnant women and supporting first responders.

The original SUPPORT Act passed the Senate with 98 votes, and the bipartisan reauthorization passed the House with 386 votes. Now the Senate must send it to the President's desk before we adjourn for the year. This is not the time for complacency, nor is it time for despair. Nothing less than people's lives depend on us acting.

So, Mr. President, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 4531 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration; further, that the bill be considered read a third time and

passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. PAUL. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The Senator from New Hampshire.

Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, I will just say that I regret the objection. A Senate version of the reauthorization was, of course, included in the package that we all agreed on—bipartisan agreement in both the Senate and the House, after months and months of work, reauthorized through our committee process—and was stripped out, of course, on Wednesday at the instruction of Mr. Musk. So the House had already passed this bipartisan bill. It had huge and overwhelming bipartisan support there, and this is really unfortunate because, of course, the opioid epidemic—especially the fentanyl epidemic—continues to devastate our communities, and it is truly unfortunate that the objection was made tonight.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Colorado.

Mr. BENNET. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SENATE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, the work of the 118th Congress comes to an end. The majority in this Chamber will soon change hands.

Tonight, I would like to take a moment to thank my colleagues for their outstanding work over the past 4 years. This was the most productive, ambitious, and historic 4 years the Senate has seen in decades. I am proud that many of our biggest accomplishments were bipartisan—something I hope the incoming majority embraces as a model. And the accomplishments speak for themselves. They are enormous. I was so proud to lead the Senate when we did so much for so many people—and, as I said, so much of it bipartisan.

It started at the beginning in 2020, when COVID was at its worst. We passed the American Rescue Plan, sending checks to every mailbox and shots in every arm. It helped reduce the problems with COVID so quickly—more quickly than people ever felt.

We passed a once-in-a-generation bipartisan infrastructure law. You see the effects of it all over America right now. Infrastructure is being rebuilt. People are being employed. Our country is getting more efficient, which it always does when we have better infrastructure. It rebuilt America's roads, bridges, and highways. It provided kids with safe drinking water. Rural communities and urban communities got access to broadband, which they had never had before—so essential in the 21st century.

We brought manufacturing jobs back to our shores and revitalized American innovation through the Chips and Science Act.

We took on the NRA and won by passing the first gun safety law in 30 years.

We passed the greatest expansion of veterans care in a generation to ensure that no veteran is denied treatment related to toxic exposure and burn pits.

On this and almost every one of these issues, it was the Senate that led the way; bipartisan—Senators got together with one another and passed legislation that then the House followed and the President signed. But make no mistake about it, we were the cauldron; we were the place where it all got put together and melded together. And I am proud of the job, frankly, that I did as majority leader, but I am so proud of our Senators on both sides of the aisle who got so much done.

There were other things we did as well. We stood with our friends in Ukraine as they defend their country against the brutality of Vladimir Putin.

We took a stand to protect marriage equality.

Through the Inflation Reduction Act, we made insulin $35 a month for millions of seniors.

We empowered Medicare to negotiate with drug companies for the first time.

The IRA was also the most ambitious clean energy bill in American history. The effects are happening all over the country. Our kids are going to breathe cleaner air. Our communities will see less pollution. Future generations are going to see millions of new, good-paying jobs as we complete the wind and solar and nuclear and all the other parts of the bill.

Again, it made us so proud of what we were able to do. It was incredible. The list goes on and on. Our legacy in these past 4 years when we were in the majority is just large. It is grand. I am proud of it.

We also, let's not forget, confirmed 235 highly qualified and historic judges to the bench—more than a quarter of all active judges. We are so proud of this ambitious record.

Years from now, when Americans drive on better roads, buy cleaner cars, make faster chips, have better paying jobs, save on prescription drugs, it will be the work of this majority.

In conclusion, I want to thank the staff here in the Senate who work behind the scenes and make this Chamber come to life, the incredible floor staff sitting here who do incredible work. Thank you to the miracle workers in the cloakroom. They always find everybody, wherever they are. If you say someone is missing, there they are. Thank you to the Senate doorkeepers, to the Secretary of the Senate, and the Senate Sergeant at Arms, to the pages and support staff, and to all of those who make this place function.

A special thanks to my staff. What an amazing, hard-working, dedicated, smart, passionate, and caring group of people they are. I know this for sure: Without my staff, none of this would have been accomplished. They keep me going. Sometimes when I veer off course, they get me back on course. Sometimes when I am doing too much, they sort of limit me. Oftentimes, when I want to do something that is a yes, they sometimes say no, but all too often, they find a better way to do yes. So they are great. I love them, and I am grateful to them as well.

There will be much to do in the year to come. The work will continue. The challenges will be great. And we will no longer be in the majority; we will be in the minority. But our North Star will not change: working every single day to serve the American people and reward the trust they have placed in us.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session and the Committee on Foreign Relations be discharged from further consideration of PN Nos. 794; 795; 796, excepting Peter Gauthier, Mark Gray, Steven Rynecki, Lori Du Trieuille; 898, excepting Kenneth MacLean, Amanda Van den Dool, Adriana Harvey; 1535; 1536; 1538; 1539, excepting Sean Jones, Karl Fickenscher; 1540 excepting Kenneth MacLean; 1975; 2031; 2146; 2148; 2233; 2234; 2235; 2004; 1537 excepting Janee P. Pierre-Louis; 1978; and 2147; that the Senate proceed to their en bloc consideration and vote without intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate resume legislative session.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the nominations en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nominations of PN Nos. 794; 795; 796, excepting Peter Gauthier, Mark Gray, Steven Rynecki, Lori Du Trieuille; 898, excepting Kenneth MacLean, Amanda Van den Dool, Adriana Harvey; 1535; 1536; 1538; 1539, excepting Sean Jones, Karl Fickenscher; 1540 excepting Kenneth

MacLean; 1975; 2031; 2146; 2148; 2233; 2234; 2235; 2004; 1537 excepting Janee P. Pierre-Louis; 1978; and 2147, en bloc?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc, as follows:

PN794

The following-named Members of the Foreign Service of the Department of Commerce to be a Consular Officer and a Secretary in the Diplomatic Service of the United States of America:

George A. Ayache, of Texas; Scott A. Bennett, of Missouri: Syeda S. Borchmeyer, of New York; Thomas S. Clever, of Texas; Erin M. Cole, of Iowa; Ja'Nel M. Edens, of Virginia; Durra R. Elmaki, of Virginia; Scot B. Gonzales, of Virginia; Clinton L. Harper, of Virginia; Matthew J. Kohner, of Virginia; John P. Kim, of Texas; Kerry F. LePain, of Alaska; Annette K. Lipp, of Idaho; Cara L. Lofaro, of Maryland; Debra K. Martin, of West Virginia; John P. McCadams, of Tennessee; John C, Mueller, of Florida; Sichao Ni, of Florida; Sarah E. Nickel, of the District of Columbia; Lawrence T. Outlaw, of Louisiana; David A. Pasquini, of California; Christopher D. Priddy, of Virginia; Aisha N. Salem-Howey, of Florida; Robert E. Scully III, of Virginia; Thomas A. Strauss, of Missouri; Haley M. Sund, of California; Donald E. Townsend. Jr., of Florida; Justin D. Tapp, of Tennessee; Nathan C. Traurig, of the District of Columbia; Matthew T. Westerberg, of South Carolina.

PN795

The following-named Members of the Foreign Service of the Department of Commerce to be a Foreign Service Officer, a Consular Officer, and a Secretary in the Diplomatic Service of the United States of America:

Santiago Davila, of California; Frederick Helfrich, of Pennsylvania; Melissa Hill, of California; Seth Oppenheim, of the District of Columbia; Irwin Roberts, of North Carolina.

PN796–1

The following-named Career Members of the Foreign Service of the United States Agency for International Development to be a Foreign Service Officer, a Consular Officer, and a Secretary in the Diplomatic Service of the United States of America:

Alula Abera, of Nevada; Stephanie L. Altman, of Maryland; Ann Bacon, of Ohio; Mustansir Barma, of Nebraska; Jennifer Bergeson-Lockwood, of the District of Columbia; Chad Berkowitz, of New York; Amanda Boachie, of Maryland; Danielle Brooks, of Texas; Jolisa Brooks, of Michigan; Jeanne Choquehuanca, of Texas; Lea Claye, of the District of Columbia; Marylin Coicou, of Hawaii; Sarah Cooper, of California; Nathan Cutler, of Texas; Jacqueline Schumacher Cutten, of Washington; Dennis E. Foster, of Texas; Brian Friedman, of Alaska; Berhan Hagos, of the District of Columbia; Francis A. Hall, of Texas; Faye E. Haselkorn, of California.

Keisha Herbert, of Ohio; David Howlett, of Nevada; Farida Ibrahim, of Florida; Henock Kewendbelay, of Colorado; Peter Khaemba. of Florida; Joyce Kim, of California; Julie M. Lamadrid, of New Mexico; Benjamin Lawrence, of Pennsylvania; Brian Lecuyer, of the District of Columbia; Angelique Mahal, of New York; Kareem Mansour, of Florida; David Martz, of Florida; Mariela Medina Castellanos, of California; Timothy Melvin, of Florida; Alina Menicucci, of the District of Columbia; Bryan Moody, of Nevada; Brian Murphy, of Florida; Ceara O'Carroll, of Wisconsin; Cory O'Hara, of Wyoming; Jazmian Allen Ohanyere, of California.

Krina Patel, of Virginia; Meron Paulos, of the District of Columbia; Andrea Pavlick, of Pennsylvania; Nathan Piper, of the District of Columbia; David Rawson, of New Hampshire; Vann Rolfson, of Maryland; Kristopher Rowell, of Missouri; Kevin Sampson, of the District of Columbia; Aaron Schubert, of Alaska; Bryce S. Smedley, of Ohio; Noah Sprafkin, of Nevada; Sara Suliman, of Florida; Andreea Surdu, of the District of Columbia; Michael O. Tauras, of California; Summer Tucker, of Michigan; Kion Turner, of the District of Columbia; Stephanie M. Ullrich, of Washington; Patricia A. Viala, of Virginia; Meghan E. Waters, of Colorado; Howard M. Weston, of the District of Columbia; Vanessa Wilks, of Florida.

PN898–1

The following-named Career Members of the Foreign Service of the United States Agency for International Development to be a Foreign Service Officer, a Consular Officer, and a Secretary in the Diplomatic Service of the United States of America:

Kyle L. Abbattista, of New York; Taylor Jade Adams, of Maryland; Mohib Ullah Ahmed, of Virginia; David M. Arnett, of Florida; Jennifer A. Baldwin, of the District of Columbia; Margaret Rose Benavente, of Hawaii; Beth A. Brownson, of Virginia; Brian Yung-Pau Chang, of California; Marvin Crespin-Gamez, of California; Sarah Jane Crites, of California; Emma Henriette Din, of Georgia; Stephanie Dorman, of Wisconsin; Anne A. Flaker, of Missouri; Arvil Antonio Gonzalez, of New York; Eli David Groener, of Massachusetts; Parker Bennett Gueye, of Maryland; Maria Delores (Lola) Hermosillo, of California; Che-Ling Maureen Hsia, of Washington; David Samuel Jackson, of Maryland; Matthew D. Jira, of Arkansas.

Regina S. Jun, of California; Yoel Kirschner, of California; Lisa Welsh Kovack, of New Hampshire; Amita A. Kulkarni, of California; Jennifer Laakso, of Florida; Tracey Lam, of California; Cicely Cornelia Lewis, of Virginia; Kelly Koeppl Mack, of Wisconsin; David Ricardo Mann, of Florida; D. Bruce McPherson, of Virginia; Jeremy Daniel Meadows, of Virginia; Anthony Medeiros III, of Massachusetts; Jeffrey Allen Meyers, of Florida; Nyalambi Derek Mulwanda, of Alaska; Elizabeth (Liz) Nyaga, of Minnesota; Anne Judith Ongono Bisso, of Florida; April L. Peetz, of the District of Columbia; Kevin David Pieters, of Florida; Barton McLain Pogue, of Illinois; Matthew Francis Protacio, of Montana; Sofia E. Quesada, of Washington; Douglas W. Quiggle, of Minnesota.

Rasa Siminkas Kent, of Florida; Robert E. Reno, of Washington; Melinda Ann Roberts, of California; Dennis Ryan Russell, of Utah; Brianne Brown Sanford, of Texas; Justin Louis Selb, of Texas; Nadia Adeel Shah, of Texas; Rabab Shamayleh, of Virginia; Michelle J. Shirley, of Michigan; Kristin Nicholson Shouba, of Maine; Susan E. B. Skolnik, of Maryland; Nathan K. Strand, of West Virginia; Rodney Joel Stubina, of Florida; Jason Swantek, of the District of Columbia; Carrie Teiken, of Illinois; Christopher Charles Thurlow, of Rhode Island; Caitlin M. Unites, of the District of Columbia; Michael T. Weaver, of Illinois.

PN1535

The following-named Career Members of the Foreign Service of the Department of State to be a Foreign Service Officer, a Consular Officer, and a Secretary in the Diplomatic Service of the United States of America:

Cori A. Alston, of Texas; Elizabeth Louise Altmaier, of Virginia; Todd Paul Anderson, of Virginia; Debra Ann Barbessi, of Virginia; Alyssa Nicole Barcenas, of Virginia; Erin Kathleen Barrett, of Virginia; Alexandra Lee Brandon Bernardo, of Florida; Eric J. Bernau, of Virginia; Jessica L. Bigknife, of Virginia; Eric Anderson Bishop, of Virginia; William Tyler Brent, of the District of Columbia; Sue S. Chaisone, of Virginia; Adrienne M. Crozat, of Virginia; Casey A. Driscoll, of Virginia; Joyce E. Dudley, of Maryland; Tamara L. Edmonston, of Virginia; Heidi L. Elkins, of Virginia; Marcus B. Ferguson, of Virginia; William J. Geis, of Virginia; Jacob Eric Gjesdahl, of Washington.

Alfredo L. Gonzalez, of Florida; Adam Richard Hall, of Illinois; Jason Willis Hickman, of Virginia; Grant A. Holyoak, of Virginia; Richard A. Houston, of Virginia; Dylan Simon Hunziker, of Washington; Jonathan Martin Ishee, of Virginia; Paulette Kay Janus, of Illinois; Alexandra K. Johnson, of Hawaii; Julie Marie Kauffman, of Virginia; Amanda E. Kefalas, of Virginia; Cristin Michelle Kirschner, of Virginia; James O. Knable, of Maryland; Beth A. Kuch, of Hawaii; Vanessa D. Lewis, of Virginia; Julian H. Lipscomb, of Pennsylvania; Matthew Theodore Lowe, of Virginia; Erica L. Magnusson, of Virginia; Robert T. McNeary, of Arkansas; Chikondi O. Mseka, of Virginia; Kathleen P. Murphy, of Virginia.

Aseebulla A. Niazi, of New Hampshire; Brandon Paladino, of Virginia; Edgar R. Paredes, of Virginia; Thomas M. Phelan, of Virginia; Jennifer Ann Pierson, of Texas; Zachary David Pozun, of Virginia; Daniel K. Raynes, of Virginia; Andrew M. Reeves, of Virginia; John Eric Ries, of Virginia; James E. Robbins, of Texas; Joseph Sands, of Virginia; Cierra Geneva Saylor, of Florida; Cedar Imboden Simmers, of Florida; Matthew S. Simon Bartholomaus, of Virginia; Sarah Kim Song, of Virginia; Jason J. Stephenson, of Virginia; Margaret Hillmann Walrod, of Florida; James J. Wickersham, of Virginia; Mark A. Wilson, of Virginia; Robert Wimberley, of Virginia; Jordan E. Younes, of Virginia.

The following-named Career Member of the Foreign Service for promotion into the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor:

Jamie Martin, of Rhode Island

The following-named Career Members of the Foreign Service for promotion into the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, and a Foreign Service Officer, a Consular Officer, and a Secretary in the Diplomatic Service of the United States of America:

Vasilli A. Alafogiannis, of Pennsylvania; Michael T. McMahon, of Virginia; James T. Suor, of Maryland.

PN1536

The following-named Members of the Foreign Service of the Department of Commerce to be a Foreign Service Officer, a Consular Officer, and a Secretary in the Diplomatic Service of the United States of America:

Careylou S. Arun, of Maryland; Ross R. Belliveau, of Florida; Cody Alan Dietrich, of Virginia; Robert D. Gaines, of Arizona; Andrew J. Glass, of California; Bryan J. Goldfinger, of California; Antonios Louloudakis, of Virginia; Kolbjorn T. Nelson, of Minnesota; Daniel T. Pint, of New York.

PN1538

The following-named Members of the Foreign Service of the Department of Commerce to be a Consular Officer, and a Secretary in the Diplomatic Service of the United States of America:

Stephanie Riche Boles, of Oregon; David Joshua Bolton, of Texas; Anne Marie Brooks, of Vermont; Roger William Calderone, of Illinois; Matthew Lent Case, of Maine; Jennifer Dawn Chicoski, of Florida; Michael Ryan Erickson, of Virginia; Garrett Martin Gehrer, of Virginia; Michael David Godley, of Virginia; Jessica Monique Gordon, of Texas; Lewis Aaron Jones, of South Dakota; Shanah Seyun Lee, of the District of Columbia; Michael Evan Mangelson, of Utah; Anastasia Feofanova Mukherjee, of South Carolina; Charles Blakesley Murray, of the District of Columbia; Nathaniel Leland Sears, of New

York; Michael Abram Shvartsman, of Florida; Ruth Patricia Soberanes, of Arizona; Nathan Samuel Stickney, of Oregon; Brendon Hahns Thomas, of Michigan; Elisabeth Ann Urfer, of the District of Columbia.

PN1539–1

The following-named Career Members of the Senior Foreign Service of the United States Agency for International Development for promotion within the Senior Foreign Service of the United States of America, Class of Career-Minister:

Stephanie A. Funk, of Florida; Clinton David White, of Maryland.

PN1540

The following-named Career Members of the Senior Foreign Service of the United States Agency for International Development for promotion within the Senior Foreign Service of the United States of America, Class of Minister-Counselor:

Elizabeth Arleva Chambers, of Virginia; Sheri-Nouane B. Duncan-Jones, of Washington; John L. Dunlop, of Virginia; Michael J. Eddy, of North Carolina; Gabriel F. Grau, of Florida; Rebecca A. Latorraca, of Virginia; Maria Lisa Rose P. Magno, of Virginia; Richard L. Nelson, of Texas; Anupama Spatika Rajaraman, of Texas; Joel Sandefur, of Maryland; Matthew D. Rees, of Maryland; V. Kate Somvongsiri, of Washington; Margaret Elizabeth Enis Spears, of Maryland.

The following-named Career Members of the Foreign Service of the United States Agency for International Development for promotion into the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor:

Christopher W. Abrams, of New York; Randy Ali, of Florida; Jorge Marcelo Arellano, of New York; Michael Thomas Behan, of California; Kimberlee Bell, of Nevada; Richard A. Burns, of North Carolina; Scott S. Cameron, of Virginia; Mark Joseph Carrato, of Oregon; Matthew Evan Cohen, of California; Michael Joseph Desisti, of the District of Columbia; Jeri L. Dible, of Washington; Rebekah R. Eubanks, of Illinois; Brian A. Frantz, of Washington; Farhad Ghaussy, of California; Jennifer A. Graetz, of Virginia; John F. Hansen, of Montana; Daniel Eliot Harter, of Virginia; Gregory G. Howell, of Arizona; Mark K. Hyland, of California; Christopher Michael Kelly, of Missouri; Emily Coffman Krunic, of Florida; Ted Lawrence, of California; LeAnna L. Marr, of the District of Columbia; Kevin David McGlothlin, of Florida; Andrew J. McKim, of California; Edward R. Michalski, of Ohio; Erin Nicholson, of Virginia; Laura Palmer Pavlovic, of Virginia; Peter Riley, of California; Heather Ann Schildge, of Virginia; Adam Phineas Schmidt, of Connecticut; Todd M. Sorenson, of Texas; Shanda L. Steimer, of the District of Columbia; Eleanor Marie TanPiengco, of Virginia; Ritu K. Tariyal, of Florida; David J. Thompson, of Virginia.

PN1975

The following-named Career Member of the Foreign Service of the United States Department of Agriculture to be a Foreign Service Officer, a Consular Officer, and a Secretary in the Diplomatic Service of the United States of America:

Apryl Ann Pagliaro, of Rhode Island.

PN2031

The following-named Career Members of the Foreign Service of the Department of State to be a Foreign Service Officer, a Consular Officer, and a Secretary in the Diplomatic Service of the United States of America:

Didier Jordan Ahimera, of Virginia; Caleb Cullen Ballard, of Virginia; Richard Young Beckman, of Virginia; Kerry W. Bell, of Virginia; Nicole Louise Bermudez, of California; Marques M. Bigelow, of Virginia; Rausan Borujerdi, of New York; Jennifer Lee Brodie, of Virginia; Natalie Bronson, of Virginia; Nancy Hess Buckheit, of Nevada; Tiina Burgin, of Virginia; Anastasia G. Burnett, of North Carolina; Tanya Carrie, of Virginia; Dwight M. Chambers, of Virginia; Julie A. Chambers, of Virginia; Andrew Galbraith Chatzky, of New Jersey; Eric Chu, of Minnesota.

Jomo A, Claiborne, of Virginia; William Peter Clark, of Texas; Wade Conrad Cleland, of Virginia; Jennifer Ruth Clemente, of Florida; Justin James Coburn, of Florida; Jennifer Elizabeth Cole, of Wisconsin; Clayton A. Cook, of Virginia; David Clayton Covey, of Virginia; Brittani Mae Dipaolo, of Florida; Tailor S. Dortona, of New Hampshire; Afaf Elaffas, of Virginia; Luke Alan Falkenburg, of Virginia; Kite S. Faulkner, of Virginia; Kevin Michael Fechser, of Virginia; Elizabeth Kiely Folkestad, of Virginia; Hannah Murphy Fowler, of Virginia; Eric S. Frenkil, of the District of Columbia; Blaine Ian Frogget, of Virginia; Adam John Frye, of Virginia; Adam John Gallagher, of California; Alexandra Giacalone, of Virginia; Timothy J. Giangarlo, of Virginia; Gloria M. Glaubman, of Virginia; Mackenzie W. Guido, of Virginia; Lindsay Marie Heebner, of the District of Columbia; Charles Haines Heilman, of Texas; Cara Lon Iavarone, of Virginia; Benjamin Houston Jackson, of Virginia; Christina Lucia James, of Illinois; Ashley D. Jones-Quaidoo, of Florida; Benjamin Scott King, of Arizona; Ethan N. Kinney, of Alabama; Elizabeth Ann Kokemoor, of Virginia; Mark C. Konold, of Virginia; Michael Lambert, of Virginia; Caroline Virginia Lanford-Meek, of Mississippi; Jason Taehee Lee, of California; Jakob Johannes Lengacher, of California.

Cecil R. Macpherson, of Arizona; Sean R. Madden, of Virginia; Michael B. Malloy, of Massachusetts; Danielle C. Marrero, of Virginia; Christopher Alan Marsh, of New Hampshire; Jazmin Lair McGhee, of Virginia; Benjamin R. McIntosh, of Florida; Marcos L. Mercado, of Virginia; Sophia D. Meulenberg, of Idaho; Allison M. Miller, of Florida; Sean K. Miller, of New Jersey; Liana V. Mitlyng Day, of the District of Columbia; Mary Lynn Montgomery, of Minnesota; Agnee Whitney Nadle, of Virginia; Andrew P. Navarra, of Virginia; Daniel Rene O'Quinn, of Florida; Briana Marie Olson, of Wisconsin; Lydia Pacheco, of Virginia; Anthony Palmer, of South Carolina; Lance Erich Peterson, of Virginia; David Stewart Poage, of Texas.

Matthew Bruce Poulsen, of Virginia; Sergio Ramirez, of Virginia; Deborah J, Repass, of Virginia; Rianne L. Rustin, of Virginia; John M. Sabin, of Virginia; Barbara Kristine Salvador, of Virginia; Rodrigo Hernan Sanchez-Yevenes, of Washington; Aleksandra Maria Sandstrom, of Virginia; Hannah Patricia Saperstein, of Virginia; Brian Scarborough, of Virginia; Hidayet Schwartz, of Virginia; Jared Michael Seifter, of Virginia; Manna Selassie, of Pennsylvania; Susan A, Shelton, of Virginia; Hainer E. Sibrian, of Tennessee; Michael Joseph Sieja, of Virginia; Deandre D. Smith, of Maryland; Charles Smith, of Virginia; Rachel Smith, of Virginia; Michael David Stefantz, of Virginia; Alexandra Beth Stein, of Florida.

Kevin Michael Szczepanski, of Virginia; Owen L. Thomas, of Virginia; Ashley R. Tikkanen, of Virginia; Benjamin H. Troupe, of Pennsylvania; Susan M. Valant, of Virginia; Sean David Varner, of Virginia; John Stanley Vrolyk, of Virginia; Grayson M. Walker, of Virginia; Sara Elizabeth Warynovich, of Virginia; Jeffrey Whiting, of Virginia; Sarah Maria Wilson, of Virginia; Juwan A. Woods, of Texas; Justin Cardaleen Young, of California; Yang Qiu Zhou, of New York.

The following-named Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service for promotion within the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, effective May 29, 2024:

Jeffrey J. Anderson, of the District of Columbia.

The following-named Career Members of the Senior Foreign Service for promotion within the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor:

Jayne A. Howell, of South Carolina; David Muniz, of Oregon; George A. Noll, of Pennsylvania; Thad Osterhout, of Virginia; Nicole Dawn Theriot, of Louisiana; Frank J. Wierichs, of Florida.

The following-named Career Members of the Foreign Service for promotion into the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, and a Foreign Service Officer, a Consular Officer, and a Secretary in the Diplomatic Service of the United States of America, effective May 29, 2024:

David W. Howell, of Florida; Nicolas P. Keefe, of Virginia; Matthew J. Perlman, of Virginia.

The following-named Career Member of the Foreign Service for promotion into the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, effective May 4, 2023:

Michelle Marie Yerkin, of Maryland.

PN2146

The following-named Career Members of the Foreign Service of the Department of State to be a Foreign Service Officer, a Consular Officer, and a Secretary in the Diplomatic Service of the United States of America:

Georgina Rita Benjamin, of Virginia; Lindsey T. Bird, of Virginia; Patrick Francis Breen, of Calfornia; Adam M. Brock, of Washington; Emma M. Browning, of South Dakota; Jeremy Allen Bulgrien, of Pennsylvania; Anthony R. Byrd, of Georgia; Michael G. Calabrese, of Louisiana; Rafael Jose Cerame Guillen, of Virginia; April N. Chappelle, of Maryland; Manuel A. Chavez Ayala, of Virginia; Jason Michael Chin, of Virginia; Sehee Chung, of Florida; Caroline Elizabeth Corcoran, of Texas; Kristine D'Alesandro, of the District of Columbia; Cassidy F. Dauby, of Virginia; Michelle D. Davis, of Virginia; Jacob E. Dietrich, of Kentucky; Nicholas James Dramby, of Virginia.

Dana Kristen Drecksel, of Utah; Emily C. Eller, of Maine; Stephen S. Ellsesser, of Texas; Brian Edward Engel, of Virginia; Gregory J. Everett, of Tennessee; Eric A. Franqui, of Arizona; Go Funai, of Virginia; Bradley E. Geer, of Virginia; Elizabeth Gesson, of California; Gian Michael Palma Gozum, of Tennessee; Kristen C. Gray, of Maine; Connor Joseph Hagan, of Georgia; Rebecca Breanna Haggard, of Florida; Paulette L. Hardin, of Virginia; Samuel James Horstmeier, of Virginia; Anna S. Horvath, of Virginia; Benjamin S. Hulefeld, of Massachusetts; Kaija Jean Hurlburt, of Washington; Anders Stensrud Imboden, of Minnesota; Melissa A. Jones, of Virginia; Anna W. Jozwik, of Virginia; Benjamin D. Krueger, of Minnesota; Zachary Michael Laudi, of Virginia; Quinn Asti Lorenz, of North Carolina; Sara Ashley Lueking, of the District of Columbia; Charlie T. Luong, of Virginia; Kimberly Josephine MacFarlane, of Virginia; Justin Michael Mallard, of Virginia; Adam R. Martin, of Virginia; Melissa Sue McCauley, of Arizona; Philip J. Menzner, of Wisconsin; John Leslie Steven Milicevich, Jr., of Virginia.

Christopher A. Mirabello, of Virginia; Khadija H. Mohamud, of Maryland; David Nicholas Morgan, of Texas; Erika Lynn Nutting, of Virginia; Maura O'Brien-Ali, of Virginia; Jordan Mark O'Reilly, of Virginia; Daniella Manera ONeill, of Virginia; Flory Y. Ore, of Utah; Mauricio Parra, of Texas; Manuel I. Peralta, of Virginia; Carly J.

Puzniak, of Michigan; Justin Michael Rivera, of Tennessee; William Fitler Robertson, of California; David G. Rogge, of Maryland; Jasmine Katherina Rohwedder, of Virginia; Kenneth D. Rooney, of the District of Columbia; Benjamin Leif Rowles, of Pennsylvania; Jessica Renee Schrimp, of Minnesota; Michelle P. Schuette, of Wisconsin; Michael Llop Scott, of Virginia; Nadia Sheikh, of the District of Columbia; Julie M. Sherbill, of Maryland; Tian Song, of Virginia; Sandra Lyn Spadoni, of Washington; Nathan B. Stackpoole, of Washington; Bernadette A. Stadler, of Maine; Andrew J. Steele, of Virginia; John Steele, of Virginia; Alexander Leslie Straus, of Montana; Sarah Elizabeth Lucille Stricker, of Oregon.

Nicole A. Summerlin, of Colorado; Sean D. Sumner, of Ohio; Erin E. Sutherland, of Ohio; Camille Z. Swinson, of Massachusetts; Kevin C. Todd, of Utah; Alexander Josiah Troup, of Virginia; Andrew Morris Tucker, of Maryland; Chelsea Brint Tucker, of the District of Columbia; Anastasia E. Turosky, of the District of Columbia; Dominic Andrew Vena, of Virginia; Holly K. Vineyard, of Virginia; Kelly Elizabeth Walden, of Texas; Glenda Monique Wallace, of Florida; Clinton T. Walls, of Florida; Karisa Leigh Werner, of South Carolina.

The following-named Career Member of the Foreign Service for promotion into the Senior Foreign Service. Class of Counselor, effective July 7, 2020:

Jennifer L. Davis, of Virginia.

PN2148

The following-named Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service of the United States Department of Agriculture for promotion within the Senior Foreign Service of the United States of America, Class of Career Minister:

Robert Hanson, of Wisconsin

PN2233

The following-named Career Members of the Senior Foreign Service of the Department of State for promotion within the Senior Foreign Service of the United States of America, Class of Minister-Counselor:

Christina J. Agor, of New York; Darion K. Akins, of Texas; Geoffrey J. Anisman, of the District of Columbia; Susan E. Astley-Cass, of California; Chelsea M.H. Bakken, of Virginia; John A. Ballard, of Maryland; Manu Bhalla, of Virginia; Katelyn S. Choe, of Florida; Nicholas A. Collura, of Florida; Sonata N. Coulter, of Virginia; Martin A. Dale, of the District of Columbia; Jessica L. Davis Ba, of the District of Columbia; Peter A. Dinoia, of Virginia; Julie A. Eadeh, of Virginia; Fiona Scholand Evans, of Connecticut; Mark Robert Evans, of Virginia.

Tressa R. Finerty, of the District of Columbia; Jonathan S. Fischer, of Washington; Michael Flores, of Virginia; Aaron P. Forsberg, of Washington; Ralph A. Gaspard II, of Virginia; Eric Vincent Gaudiosi, of South Carolina; Jeffrey G. Giauque, of Virginia; Silvio I. Gonzalez, of Texas; Robert J. Greenan, of South Dakota; Brian M. Grimm, of Virginia; Stephanie L. Hallett, of Virginia; Leslie M. Hayden, of Virginia; James Denver Herren, of Arkansas; Andrew R. Herrup, of the District of Columbia; Catherine E. Holt, of California; Joshua R. Huck, of New York.

Suzanne M. Inzerillo, of Virginia; Rahima Kandahari, of Virginia; Sherry C. Kenesson-Hall, of Virginia; Jennifer R. Littlejohn, of Virginia; Jessica Patterson Long, of Virginia; Charles Kent May, of Texas; Gregory C. May, of Virginia; Richard C. Michaels, of the District of Columbia; David Jose Mico, of Virginia; Shante Moore, of Florida; Junaid M. Munir, of Michigan; Kevin T. Murakami, of Virginia; Shane I. Myers, of Washington; Paul F. Narain, of Virginia.

Jennifer Davis Paguada, of Virginia; Richard J. Peterson, of Virginia; Shane C. Pierce, of Virginia; Amanda C. Pilz, of California; Jason P. Rebholz, of the District of Columbia; Tracy E. Roberts-Pounds, of Virginia; Catherine Rodriguez, of Florida; Michael Stuart Ross, of Maryland; Gregory K. Schiffer, of Virginia; Michael B. Schooling, of California; Andrew K. Sherr, of Colorado; William B. Stevens, of Virginia; Andrew D. Stowe, of Virginia; Karin B. Sullivan, of Virginia; Victoria J. Taylor, of the District of Columbia; Kevin L. Wagganer, of Missouri.

PN2234

The following-named Career Members of the Senior Foreign Service of the Department of State for promotion within the Senior Foreign Service of the United States of America, Class of Career Minister:

Julie J. Chung, of California; Dereck J. Hogan, of Virginia; Joey R. Hood, of Virginia; Lisa A. Johnson, of Virginia; Yael Lempert, of the District of Columbia; William W. Popp, of Virginia.

PN2235

The following-named Career Members of the Foreign Service of the Department of State for promotion into the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor:

Ory S. Abramowicz, of lllinois; James D. Applegate, of the District of Columbia; David Raymon Atkinson, of Virginia; Kimberly K. Atkinson, of South Dakota; Jonathan T. Austin, of Minnesota; Alexander N. AveLallemant, of Texas; Joshua N. Baker, of Tennessee; Zoja D. Bazarnic, of Arizona; Carla A. Benini, of Washington; Brett Blackshaw, of Virginia; Susan E. Bridenstine, of Rhode Island; Karen L. Bronson, of Washington; Robin S. Brooks, of the District of Columbia; Amy Christine Carlon, of Virginia; Amy Anne Carnie, of Virginia; Lyra Sharon Carr, of Nevada; Eric Catalfamo, of the District of Columbia; John E. Caveness, of Texas; Farah N. Chery-Medor, of Maryland; Ann Marie Chiappetta, of California.

Michael D, Clausen, of the District of Columbia; Mikael Cleverley, of Virginia; William P. Cobb, of the District of Columbia; Robert Allyn Collins, of Virginia; Michael P. Cragun, of Oregon; Roberto Custodio, of Florida; Jennifer J. Danover, of Florida; Hadi K. Deeb, of Maryland; Dion Shannon Dorsey, of Virginia; Ana M. Duque-Higgins, of Virginia; Brinille E, Ellis, of Florida; Erin K. Eussen, of Washington; Yuriy R. Fedkiw, of South Dakota; Nathan D. Flook, of Pennsylvania; Elizabeth Marie Franolich, of Ohio; Elaine French, of New York; Leslie D. Freriksen, of Texas; Daniel T. Froats, of Florida; Adrienne M. Galanek, of New York; Steven G.M. Gillen, of Virginia.

Charles R. Goodman III, of Florida; JoEllen Gorg, of Oregon; John R. Groch, of the District of Columbia; Christopher C. Guest, of Virginia; Hugo A. Guevara, of Virginia; Gabrielle J. Guimond, of Massachusetts; Jonathan A. Habjan, of Virginia; Alexander K. Hardin, of the District of Columbia; Danielle A. Harms, of Virginia; Ruben Harutunian, of Virginia; Inga Heemink, of Texas; Lance K. Hegerle, of the District of Columbia; Paul J. Herman, of New York; Justin Higgins, of the District of Columbia; Laura L. Hochla, of New Mexico; Jerome P. Hohman, of the District of Columbia; David I. Hopper, of Pennsylvania; Jessica M. F. Huaracayo, of Maryland; Julia I. Jacoby, of the District of Columbia; Jason Douglas Kalbfleisch, of Alaska.

Jeremiah A. Knight, of Connecticut; Kevin Kreutner, of the District of Columbia; Richard N. Larsen, of Virginia; Lisa S. Liao, of New York; Genevieve Libonati, of Maryland; Yagnya V. Limaye, of Nevada; Adham Z. Loutfi, of California; Hagen D. Maroney, of Rhode Island; Ellen Bienstock Masi, of Pennsylvania; Danielle H. Monosson, of Virginia; Edward J. Monster, of Virginia; Kristian G. Moore, of Vermont; Charles H. Morrill, of Maine; James M. Morris, of the District of Columbia; Siriana K. Nair, of the District of Columbia; Nicholas S. Namba, of Virginia; Jenifer Lynn Neidhart de Ortiz, of Florida; Aaron A. Nuutinen, of Virginia; Douglas S. O'Neill, of Virginia; Adedeji E. Okediji, of the District of Columbia.

Nicole I. Otallah, of Virginia; Kari A. Paetzold, of Virginia; Robert C. Palmer, of California; John B. Parker, of Maryland; Leah M. Pease, of Virginia; Rafael A. Perez, of Virginia; Jay R. Raman, of Virginia; Christopher R. Reynolds, of Virginia; Steven Bailey Royster, of Virginia; Erin A. Sawyer, of Maryland; Julie M, Schohn, of Maryland; Gregory J. Shaw, of Virginia; John H. Silson, of the District of Columbia; Christopher K. Snipes, of California; Jonas D. Stewart, of Washington; Kristin M. Stewart, of Virginia; Richard E, Swart III, of Maryland; Melissa A. Sweeney, of Washington; Catherine E. Sweet, of Maryland; Zia S. Syed, of Texas.

Michael P. Taylor, of Virginia; Erica Nicole Thibault, of the District of Columbia; Nathaniel Turner, of Maryland; Anny Lam Vu, of the District of Columbia; Jonathan K. Webster, of Virginia; Todd R. Whatley, of Minnesota; Deborah D. Winters, of Virginia; David G. Wisner, of the District of Columbia; Scott E. Woodard, of Virginia; Jennifer Yang, of California; Sara S. Yun, of Virginia; Elisabeth F. Zentos, of Virginia.

The following-named Career Members of the Foreign Service for promotion into the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, and a Foreign Service Officer, a Consular Officer, and a Secretary in the Diplomatic Service of the United States of America

Alexandra Stephanie Aitken, of Virginia; Gregory C. Batman, of Texas; Christopher R. Belmonti, of Virginia; Barrett J. Bishop, of Virginia; Ryan M. Boera, of Virginia; David J. Bright, of Maryland; Rodney D. Burney, of Florida; John Bush, of Virginia; Peter Chordas, of California; Paul A. Comforti, of Virginia; Silvia Maria Dipaolo-Singh, of Virginia; Jacqueline Fields, of Florida; Pamela E. Ganz, of Washington; Zachary N. Gernes, of Wisconsin; Barry S. Hale, of Texas; David F. Haydter, of Virginia; Daniel P. Hess, of Florida; Meredith S. Hiemstra, of Virginia; Noriko Horiuchi, of Virginia; Wagih H. Ibrahim, of South Carolina.

Scott P. Kim, of Virginia; Margaret C. Kosnar, of Montana; Timothy P. Leeds, of Virginia; Ummi M. Myelle, of Virginia; Justin L. Nicholson, of Virginia; David M. Richeson, of Virginia; Michael Edward Rudisile, of Oregon; Gregory Eugene Sanford, of Texas; Catherine Gennings Saxbe, of Massachusetts; Jaime R. Scarpatti, of Florida; David R. Shamber, of Virginia; Daniel J. Smith, of Kentucky; Corynn L. Stratton, of Florida; Kevin G. Tehan, of Virginia; Daniel J. Wilhelm, of Maryland; Michael B. Wofford, of Texas.

PN2004

The following-named Career Members of the Foreign Service of the Department of State to be a Foreign Service Officer, a Consular Officer, and a Secretary in the Diplomatic Service of the United States of America:

Andray Abrahamian, of California; Jason Sloane Adams, of Virginia; Jaime Alpaugh, of Virginia; Richard Clark Anderson, of Virginia; Jacqueline Leigh Andros, of Virginia; Thomas Macaulay Babington, of Maryland; James Landern Barker, of Virginia; James J. Barnes, of South Dakota; Kathryn Griess Baruja, of New Mexico; Amanda R. Belkin, of Virginia; Nancy M. Bellino, of Texas; Lauren Bene, of Virginia; Mara Nielle Bird, of California; Jeffrey L.

Birschbach, of Illinois; Trace A. Biskin, of Virginia; Sarah Louise Blanchard, of Florida; Forest L. Boles, of Oregon; Clara Hilary Engle Boley, of Texas; Emily E. Brehob, of Michigan; Charles B. Brockner, of Virginia.

Katherine S. Bunney, of Virginia; Sarah Whitney Felch Burke, of Virginia; Levi Jesse Burkett, of Oregon; Justin Bernard Campbell, of Virginia; David Michael Cardwell, of Virginia; Aja Alianna Carter, of Virginia; Stephen Y. Chen, of Washington; Mohmoud Chikh-Ali, of Virginia; Taylor Fonte Cofield, of Colorado; Ryan Matthew Cooper, of Virginia; Robert Benjamin Copper, of Virginia; Cody Jesse Craig, of Virginia; Gavin Davis Cronkrite, of Virginia; Kevin R. Crookshank, of Illinois; Sarah M. Davis, of Tennessee; Pietro C. Disciascio, of Virginia; Kevin Paul Dolliver, of South Carolina; James T. Duke, of New Jersey; Dana Durkee, of Minnesota; Jeremy Orland Evans, of Idaho.

Joel L. Fernandez, of Virginia; Rachael Marie Finley, of North Carolina; Aurelie Florian, of Washington; John W. Foster, of Pennsylvania; Sydney L. Freeman, of New Jersey; Gideon M. French, of the District of Columbia; Colleen French, of Virginia; John Benjamin Gallagher, of the District of Columbia; Devon M. Gan, of Colorado; William Todd Garrison, of Florida; Kelly L. Geoghegan, of Virginia; Brent George Gibbons, of Virginia; Douglas M. Grane, of Pennsylvania; Chanel G. Grice, of Hawaii; Karrie A. Gurbacki, of the District of Columbia; Caitlin J. Gustafson, of Virginia; Peter F. Hamm, of Virginia; David J. Hammond, of Arizona; Hassan Y. Hassen, of Georgia; Emily Margaret Ward Hoffman, of Virginia.

Aaron Huang, of California; Gustavus Manfred Hulin, of Florida; Quinn C. Hunter, of Virginia; Ashley T. Inman, of Florida; Michael J. Irvine, of Virginia; Diana L. Johnson, of Virginia; Jennifer M. Johnson, of Virginia; Clinton D. Johnson, of Virginia; Matthew Ryan Jones, of Virginia; Leah Jordano-Kudalis, of Minnesota; Abbey Lynn Jorstad-Cannata, of the District of Columbia; Kelly Diiro Juarez, of Iowa; Trisha Kay Juh, of the District of Columbia; Matthew Miles Katsuki, of Virginia; Sara Anne Kauffman, of Texas; Thanva Khouvongsavanh, of Virginia; Dana Lee Kilian, of Virginia; Clell Knight, of Virginia; Jeffrey William Knoke, of Virginia; Christopher N. Kooy, of Illinois.

Shobhit Kumar, of Florida; Jason S. Kumar, of Virginia; Peter Edwin Laffoon, of Washington; Michael Gregory Larocque, of Rhode lsland; Joy Hong-May Lin, of Indiana; Ming-Hun Liu, of Florida; Kristofer Andrew Lofgren, of Virginia; Evan W. Lord, of Virginia; Alexander Reid Macintosh, of Virginia; Olivia Puaipu Maigret, of Hawaii; Daniel Lawrence Martello, of Virginia; Lucy A. Mason, of the District of Columbia; Phillip John Matias, of Connecticut; Maher K. Matta, of Virginia; Benjamin David May, of Utah; Rebecca E. Mccall, of Virginia; Stephanie M. Mendoza Agatic, of Virginia; Mark C. Meyer, of Virginia; Kira R. Michelson, of Virginia; Anna Waterfield Miller, of Maryland.

Elizabeth A. Mina, of Pennsylvania; Mark Aaron Mitchell, of Virginia; Geraldine L. Montesinos, of New York; John James Mooney, of Virginia; Rebecca Elizabeth Moore, of North Carolina; Katherine Murphy, of Virginia; Andrew C. Murray, of Virginia; Chaniqua Darnae Nelson, of Maryland; Kaitlin E. Nitta, of Virginia; Samuel M. Northrup, of Kentucky; Michelle Kate Olivier, of Virginia; Patrick Thomas O'Neill, of Michigan; Rebecca-Jane R. Ortiz, of Virginia; Rachel V. Patton-Molitors, of Wyoming; Scott Pecoraro, of Virginia; Cristine M. Pedersen, of the District of Columbia; Katherine Lee Plemons, of Virginia; Colleen E. Quigley, of Arizona; John C. Quinn, of Virginia.

Michael Davis Riedell, of Virginia; Victoria Z. Rindone, of Virginia; Nigel H. Robinson, of Massachusetts; La Toya A. Robinson, of Virginia; William H. Roeting, of Virginia; Alyssa J. Roland, of Minnesota; Timothy Alan Russell, of Tennessee; Nicholas Robert Sachanda, of Virginia; Jessica Marie Santos, of Virginia; Justin M. Scarr, of Virginia; Jan Krystian Scislowicz, of the District of Columbia; William Paul Sefcik, of South Carolina; Andrew Joseph Shinn, of California; Leanne Marie Shott, of Virginia; Katherine K. Smith, of Delaware; Tarina Joan Speidel, of Tennessee; Sean Patrick Srichankij, of Arizona; Phillip J. Sticha, of Virginia; Lana Alaine Surface, of Indiana; David G. Tagle, of New York.

Peter W. Taves, of Virginia; Elisabeth Louise Thoreson-Green, of Nebraska; Hawi T. Tilahune, of Minnesota; Charles H. Tisdale, of Washington; Dante Renato Toppo, of Oregon; Darrah Lane Treleaven, of Virginia; Christophe M. Triplett, of Arizona; Megan E. Truxillo, of Washington; Melia Claire Ungson, of Virginia; Robert A. Villar, of Virginia; Catherine Dakshina Voetsch, of the District of Columbia; Kent Vos, of Virginia.

Johnathan A. Wallis, of Virginia; Jiro R. Waters, of South Dakota; Jeffrey Lee Watts, of Texas; Katharine M. Watts, of Hawaii; Raymond Charles Whitney, of Virginia; Marc D. Williams, of Washington; William Chester Wojnarowski, of Illinois; Taryn Elizabeth Wolf, of Virginia; Thomas Francis Woods, of Virginia; Mariam M. Yaqub, of Washington; Sarah Samantha Yee, of California; Bo-Moon Yee, of Virginia.

The following-named Career Members of the Foreign Service for promotion into the Senior Foreign Service Class of Counselor:

Holly Kirking Loomis, of Louisiana; Thomas T. Jung, of Virginia.

The following-named Career Member of the Foreign Service for promotion into the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, and a Foreign Service Officer, a Consular Officer, and a Secretary in the Diplomatic Service of the United States of America:

Zack T. Kendall, of Virginia

The following-named Career Member of the Foreign Service for promotion into the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, and a Foreign Service Officer, a Consular Officer, and a Secretary in the Diplomatic Service of the United States of America, effective July 7, 2020:

Katherine L. Meredith, of Ohio

The following-named Career Member of the Foreign Service for promotion into the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, and a Foreign Service Officer, a Consular Officer, and a Secretary in the Diplomatic Service of the United States of America, effective June 30, 2021:

Thomas W. Eckert, of Virginia

The following-named Career Member of the Foreign Service for promotion into the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, and a Foreign Service Officer, a Consular Officer, and a Secretary in the Diplomatic Service of the United States of America, effective August 8, 2023:

William P. Ferrari, of Virginia

PN1537–1

The following-named Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service of the Department of Commerce for promotion into the Senior Foreign Service of the United States of America, Class of Counselor:

Stephen L. Green, of Texas; Megan A. Schildgen, of Virginia; llona L. Shtrom, of Virginia; Michele Renee Smith, of Virginia.

Alexandra Baych, of New York; Zeke Bryant, of Georgia; Elisa Fertig, of New Hampshire; Andrew Hochhalter, of Maryland; Adam Klein, of Virginia; Mark Rosmann, of Iowa; Erik Syngle, of California.

PN2147

The following-named Career Members of the Senior Foreign Service of the United States Department of Agriculture for promotion within the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor:

Valerie Brown, of Maryland; Cynthia Guven, of Virginia; Morgan Perkins, of Maryland.

The following-named Career Members of the Foreign Service for promotion into the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor:

Lisa Anderson, of Virginia; Oliver Flake, of Maryland; Frederick Giles, of the District of Columbia; Anita Katial, of Florida; Rachel Nelson, of Washington; Kelly Stange, of Missouri.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

APPOINTMENTS

PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair announces, on behalf of the Republican Leader, pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 106–398, as amended by Public Law 108–7, and in consultation with the Ranking Members of the Senate Committee on Armed Services and the Senate Committee on Finance, the appointment of the following individual to serve as a member of the United States-China Economic and Security Review Commission: Hal Brands of Maryland Vice Robin Cleveland of Virginia (term ends 12/31/24).

The Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, pursuant to Public Law 110–315, announces the appointment of the following individual to be a member of the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity: Dr. Gary Ransdell of Kentucky.

SIGNING AUTHORITY

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the junior Senator from Virginia, the senior Senator from Ohio, and the senior Senator from Maryland be authorized to sign duly enrolled bills or joint resolutions from December 20, 2024, through January 3, 2025.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

APPOINTMENTS AUTHORITY

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the upcoming adjournment of the Senate, the President of the Senate, the President pro tempore, and the majority and minority leaders be authorized to make appointments to commissions, committees, boards, conferences, or interparliamentary conferences authorized by law, by concurrent action of the two Houses, or by order of the Senate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

D.C. ROBERT F. KENNEDY MEMORIAL STADIUM CAMPUS REVITALIZATION ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 648, H.R. 4984.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4984) to direct the Secretary of the Interior to transfer administrative jurisdiction over the Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Stadium Campus to the District of Columbia so that the District may use the Campus for purposes including residential and commercial development, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill was ordered to a third reading and was read the third time.

Mr. SCHUMER. I know of no further debate on the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate on the bill, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (H.R. 4984) was passed.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TAXPAYER RESOURCES USED IN EMERGENCIES ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 685, S. 5098.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 5098) to require certain agencies to develop plans for internal control in the event of an emergency or crisis, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Taxpayer Resources Used in Emergencies Accountability Act'' or the ''TRUE Accountability Act''.

SEC. 2. OMB GUIDANCE.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COVERED AGENCY.—The term ''covered agency'' means an agency described in section 901(b) of title 31, United States Code.

(2) DIRECTOR.—The term ''Director'' means the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

(3) INTERNAL CONTROL.—The term ''internal control'' means a process that is—

(A) effected by the management and other personnel of an entity; and

(B) designed to provide reasonable assurance with respect to the achievement of objectives relating to—

(i) effectiveness and efficiency of operations;

(ii) reliability of financial reporting; and

(iii) compliance with applicable law.

(b) GUIDANCE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director shall issue guidance to covered agencies for the development of plans for internal control that are ready or adaptable for immediate use in future emergencies or crises.

(2) CONTENTS.—The guidance issued under paragraph (1) shall—

(A) be in alignment with the documents of the Government Accountability Office entitled ''A Framework for Managing Improper Payments in Emergency Assistance Programs'' and ''A Framework for Managing Fraud Risks in Federal Programs''; and

(B) require plans for internal control of covered agencies to include—

(i) the identification of a senior official of the covered agency to be responsible and accountable for the implementation of the plan; and

(ii) policies and procedures to timely—

(I) assess the risks of improper payments and fraud relating to the implementation of any supplemental appropriation, or other increase in budget authority, that may be made available to the covered agency for a purpose relating to disaster relief or response to a public health or other emergency; and

(II) develop and implement appropriate responses to the risks described in subclause (I), including any changes to internal controls, to ensure that, to the greatest extent possible, appropriate controls are in place prior to the expenditure of funds.

(3) REVIEW.—Not later than 3 years after the date on which guidance is issued under paragraph (1), and not less frequently than once every 3 years thereafter, the Director shall review and, as necessary, revise the guidance.

(c) PLAN SUBMISSION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the head of each covered agency head shall submit to the Director the plan of the covered agency required under the guidance issued under subsection (b)(1).

(2) REVISIONS.—Not later than 3 years after the date on which the head of a covered agency submits a plan under paragraph (1), and not less frequently than once every 3 years thereafter, the head of each covered agency shall—

(A) review and, if necessary, revise the plan of the covered agency; and

(B) submit to the Director any revised plan of the covered agency.

(3) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and not less frequently than annually thereafter, the Director shall submit to Congress, the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate, and the Committee on Oversight and Accountability of the House of Representatives the plans submitted by covered agencies under this subsection.

(d) UNAVAILABILITY OF JUDICIAL REVIEW.—A determination, finding, action, or omission under this section by the Director or the head of a covered agency shall not be subject to judicial review.

(e) NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS.—No additional funds are authorized to be appropriated for the purpose of carrying out this Act.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute amendment be agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee-reported amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The bill (S. 5098), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

GOVERNMENT SERVICE DELIVERY IMPROVEMENT ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 686, H.R. 5887.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (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, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 5887) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

KEEPING MILITARY FAMILIES TOGETHER ACT OF 2024

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask that the Chair lay before the Senate the message to accompany S. 2181.

The Presiding Officer laid before the Senate the following message from the House of Representatives:

Resolved, That the bill from the Senate (S. 2181) entitled ''An Act to amend title 38, United States Code, to repeal the sunset on entitlement to memorial headstones and markers for commemoration of veterans and certain individuals and to repeal the sunset on authority to bury remains of certain spouses and children in national cemeteries, and for other purposes.'', do pass with amendments.

MOTION TO CONCUR

Mr. SCHUMER. I move to concur in the House amendment, and I ask unanimous consent that the motion be agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The motion was agreed to.

MOTION TO CONCUR

Mr. SCHUMER. I move to concur in the House amendment to the title and ask unanimous consent the motion be agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection it is so ordered.

The motion was agreed to.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection it is so ordered.

SITUATIONAL AWARENESS OF FLYING ELEMENTS IN ORBIT ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be discharged from further consideration of S. 3658 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3658) to promote space situational awareness and space traffic coordination and to modify the functions and leadership of the Office of Space Commerce, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the Cornyn substitute amendment at the desk be considered and agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 3362) was agreed to.

(The amendment is printed in today's RECORD under ''Text of Amendments.'')

The bill (S. 3658), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

S. 3658

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 ''Situational Awareness of Flying Elements in Orbit Act'' or the ''SAFE Orbit Act''.

SEC. 2. SPACE SITUATIONAL AWARENESS AND SPACE TRAFFIC COORDINATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Commerce shall facilitate safe operations in space and encourage the development of commercial space capabilities by acquiring and disseminating unclassified data, analytics, information, and services on space activities.

(b) IMMUNITY.—The United States, any agencies and instrumentalities thereof, and any individuals, firms, corporations, and other persons acting for the United States, including nongovernmental entities, shall be immune from any suit in any court for any cause of action arising from the provision or receipt of space situational awareness services or information, whether or not provided in accordance with this section, or any related action or omission.

(c) ACQUISITION OF DATA.—The Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Space Commerce (established under section 50702(b) of title 51, United States Code, as amended by section 3) is authorized to acquire—

(1) data, analytics, information, and services, including with respect to—

(A) location tracking data;

(B) positional and orbit determination information; and

(C) conjunction data messages; and

(2) such other data, analytics, information, and services as the Secretary of Commerce determines necessary to avoid collisions of space objects.

(d) DATABASE ON SATELLITE LOCATION AND BEHAVIOR.—The Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Space Commerce shall provide access for the public, at no charge, a fully updated, unclassified database of information concerning space objects and behavior that includes—

(1) the data and information acquired under subsection (c), except to the extent that such data or information is classified or a trade secret (as defined in section 1839 of title 18, United States Code); and

(2) the provision of basic space situational awareness services and space traffic coordination based on the data referred to in paragraph (1), including basic analytics, tracking calculations, and conjunction data messages.

(e) BASIC SPACE SITUATIONAL AWARENESS SERVICES.—The Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Space Commerce—

(1) shall provide to satellite operators, at no charge, basic space situational awareness services, including the data, analytics, information, and services described in subsection (c);

(2) in carrying out paragraph (1), may not compete with private sector space situational awareness products, to the maximum extent practicable; and

(3) not less frequently than every 3 years, shall review the basic space situational awareness services described in paragraph (1) to ensure that such services provided by the Federal Government do not compete with space situational awareness services offered by the private sector.

(f) REQUIREMENTS FOR DATA ACQUISITION AND DISSEMINATION.—In acquiring data, analytics, information, and services under subsection (c) and disseminating data, analytics, information, and services under subsections (d) and (e), the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Space Commerce shall—

(1) leverage commercial capabilities to the maximum extent practicable;

(2) prioritize the acquisition of data, analytics, information, and services from commercial industry located in or licensed in the United States to supplement data collected by United States Government agencies, including the Department of Defense and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration;

(3) appropriately protect proprietary data, information, and systems of firms located in the United States, including by using appropriate infrastructure and cybersecurity measures, including measures set forth in the most recent version of the Cybersecurity Framework, or successor document, maintained by the National Institute of Standards and Technology;

(4) facilitate the development of standardization and consistency in data reporting, in collaboration with satellite owners and operators, commercial space situational awareness data and service providers, the academic community, nonprofit organizations, and the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology; and

(5) encourage foreign governments to participate in unclassified data sharing arrangements for space situational awareness and space traffic coordination.

(g) OTHER TRANSACTION AUTHORITY.—In carrying out the activities required by this section, the Secretary of Commerce shall enter into such contracts, leases, cooperative agreements, or other transactions as may be necessary.

(h) SPACE OBJECT DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''space object'' means any object launched into space, or created in space, robotically or by humans, including an object's component parts.

SEC. 3. OFFICE OF SPACE COMMERCE.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 50701 of title 51, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''§ 50701. Definitions

''In this chapter:

''(1) ASSISTANT SECRETARY.—The term 'Assistant Secretary' means the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Space Commerce.

''(2) BUREAU.—The term 'Bureau' means the Bureau of Space Commerce established under section 50702.

''(3) ORBITAL DEBRIS.—The term 'orbital debris'—

''(A) means—

''(i) any human-made space object orbiting Earth that—

''(I) no longer serves an intended purpose;

''(II) has reached the end of its mission; or

''(III) is incapable of safe maneuver or operation; and

''(ii) a rocket body and other hardware left in orbit as a result of normal launch and operational activities; and

''(B) includes fragmentation debris produced by failure or collision of human-made space objects.

''(4) SECRETARY.—The term 'Secretary' means the Secretary of Commerce.

''(5) SPACE OBJECT.—The term 'space object' means any object launched into space or created in space robotically or by humans, including the component parts of such an object.

''(6) SPACE SITUATIONAL AWARENESS.—The term 'space situational awareness' means—

''(A) the identification, characterization, tracking, and the predicted movement and behavior of space objects and orbital debris; and

''(B) the understanding of the space operational environment.

''(7) SPACE TRAFFIC COORDINATION.—The term 'space traffic coordination' means the planning, assessment, and coordination of activities to enhance the safety, stability, and sustainability of operations in the space environment.''.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 507 of title 51, United States Code, is amended by striking the item relating to section 50701 and inserting the following:

''50701. Definitions.''.

(b) TRANSITION OF OFFICE TO BUREAU.—Subsection (a) of section 50702 of title 51, United States Code, is amended by inserting before the period at the end the following: '', which, not later than 5 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, shall be elevated by the Secretary of Commerce from an office within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to a bureau reporting directly to the Office of the Secretary of Commerce''.

(c) ADDITIONAL FUNCTIONS OF BUREAU.—Subsection (c) of such section is amended—

(1) in paragraph (4), by striking ''; and'' and inserting a semicolon;

(2) in paragraph (5), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(6) to perform space situational awareness and space traffic management duties pursuant to the SAFE Orbit Act.''.

(d) ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF COMMERCE FOR SPACE COMMERCE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (b) of such section is amended to read as follows:

''(b) ASSISTANT SECRETARY.—The Bureau shall be headed by the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Space Commerce, who shall—

''(1) be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate;

''(2) report directly to the Secretary of Commerce; and

''(3) have a rate of pay that is equal to the rate payable for level IV of the Executive Schedule under section 5315 of title 5.''.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(A) Section 50702(d) of title 51, United States Code, is amended—

(i) in the subsection heading, by striking ''DIRECTOR'' and inserting ''ASSISTANT SECRETARY''; and

(ii) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking ''Director'' and inserting ''Assistant Secretary''.

(B) Section 5315 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking ''Assistant Secretaries of Commerce (11)'' and inserting ''Assistant Secretaries of Commerce (12)''.

(3) REFERENCES.—On and after the date of the enactment of this Act, any reference in any law or regulation to the Director of the Office of Space Commerce shall be deemed to be a reference to the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Space Commerce.

(e) TRANSITION REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Commerce shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report that sets forth transition and continuity of operations plans for the functional and administrative transfer of the Office of Space Commerce from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to a bureau reporting to the Office of the Secretary of Commerce.

(2) GOAL.—The goal of transition and continuity of operations planning shall be to minimize the cost and administrative burden of establishing the Bureau of Space Commerce while maximizing the efficiency and effectiveness of the functions and responsibilities of the Bureau of Space Commerce, in accordance with this section and the amendments made by this section.

(3) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means—

(A) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

SAVE OUR SEAS 2.0 AMENDMENTS ACTS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 5649, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 5649) to amend the Marine Debris Act to improve the administration of the Marine Debris Program of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, to improve the administration of the Marine Debris Foundation, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. SCHUMER. 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. 5649) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 5649

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 ''Save Our Seas 2.0 Amendments Act''.

SEC. 2. MODIFICATIONS TO THE MARINE DEBRIS PROGRAM OF THE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION.

Section 3(d) of the Marine Debris Act (33 U.S.C. 1952(d)) is amended—

(1) in the subsection heading, by striking ''AND CONTRACTS'' and inserting ''CONTRACTS, AND OTHER AGREEMENTS'';

(2) in paragraph (1), by striking ''and contracts'' and inserting '', contracts, and other agreements'';

(3) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in subparagraph (B)—

(i) by striking ''part of the'' and inserting ''part of a''; and

(ii) by inserting ''or (C)'' after ''subparagraph (A)''; and

(B) in subparagraph (C), in the matter preceding clause (i), by inserting ''and except as provided in subparagraph (B)'' after ''subparagraph (A)''; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

''(7) IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS.—With respect to any project carried out pursuant to a contract or other agreement entered into under paragraph (1) that is not a cooperative agreement or an agreement to provide financial assistance in the form of a grant, the Under Secretary may contribute on an in-kind basis the portion of the costs of the project that the Under Secretary determines represents the amount of benefit the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration derives from the project.''.

SEC. 3. MODIFICATIONS TO THE MARINE DEBRIS FOUNDATION.

(a) STATUS OF FOUNDATION.—Section 111(a) of the Save Our Seas 2.0 Act (33 U.S.C. 4211(a)) is amended, in the second sentence, by striking ''organization'' and inserting ''corporation''.

(b) PURPOSES.—Section 111(b)(3) of the Save Our Seas 2.0 Act (33 U.S.C. 4211(b)(3)) is amended by inserting ''Indian Tribes,'' after ''Tribal governments,''.

(c) BOARD OF DIRECTORS.—

(1) APPOINTMENT, VACANCIES, AND REMOVAL.—Section 112(b) of the Save Our Seas 2.0 Act (33 U.S.C. 4212(b)) is amended—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through (5) as paragraphs (2) through (6), respectively;

(B) by inserting before paragraph (2) the following:

''(1) RECOMMENDATIONS OF BOARD REGARDING APPOINTMENTS.—For appointments made under paragraph (2), the Board shall submit to the Under Secretary recommendations on candidates for appointment.'';

(C) in paragraph (2), as redesignated by subparagraph (A), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A)—

(i) by striking ''paragraph (2)'' and inserting ''paragraph (3)'';

(ii) by striking ''and considering'' and inserting ''considering''; and

(iii) by inserting ''under paragraph (1), and with the approval of the Secretary of Commerce'' after ''by the Board'';

(D) by amending paragraph (3), as so redesignated, to read as follows:

''(3) TERMS.—Any Director appointed under paragraph (2) shall be appointed for a term of 6 years.'';

(E) in subparagraph (A) of paragraph (4), as so redesignated, by inserting ''with the approval of the Secretary of Commerce'' after ''the Board''; and

(F) in paragraph (6), as so redesignated—

(i) by inserting ''the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development,'' after ''Service,''; and

(ii) by inserting '', and with the approval of the Secretary of Commerce'' after ''EPA Administrator''.

(2) GENERAL POWERS.—Section 112(g) of the Save Our Seas 2.0 Act (33 U.S.C. 4212(g)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1)(A), by striking ''officers and employees'' and inserting ''the initial officers and employees''; and

(B) in paragraph (2)(B)(i), by striking ''its chief operating officer'' and inserting ''the chief executive officer of the Foundation''.

(3) CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER.—Section 112 of the Save Our Seas 2.0 Act (33 U.S.C. 4212) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(h) CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER.—

''(1) APPOINTMENT; REMOVAL; REVIEW.—The Board shall appoint and review the performance of, and may remove, the chief executive officer of the Foundation.

''(2) POWERS.—The chief executive officer of the Foundation may appoint, remove, and review the performance of any officer or employee of the Foundation.''.

(d) POWERS OF FOUNDATION.—Section 113(c)(1) of the Save Our Seas 2.0 Act (33 U.S.C. 4213(c)(1)) is amended, in the matter preceding subparagraph (A)—

(1) by inserting ''nonprofit'' before ''corporation''; and

(2) by striking ''acting as a trustee'' and inserting ''formed''.

(e) PRINCIPAL OFFICE.—Section 113 of the Save Our Seas 2.0 Act (33 U.S.C. 4213) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(g) PRINCIPAL OFFICE.—The Board may locate the principal office of the Foundation in the National Capital Region, as such term is defined in section 2674(f)(2) of title 10, United States Code, or a coastal shoreline community.''.

(f) BEST PRACTICES; RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Section 113 of the Save Our Seas 2.0 Act (33 U.S.C. 4213), as amended by subsection (e), is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''(h) BEST PRACTICES FOR OUTREACH TO INDIAN TRIBES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Foundation shall develop and implement best practices for conducting outreach to Indian Tribes.

''(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The best practices developed under paragraph (1) shall—

''(A) include a process to support technical assistance and capacity building to improve outcomes; and

''(B) promote an awareness of programs and grants available under this Act.

''(i) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this Act may be construed—

''(1) to satisfy any requirement for government-to-government consultation with Tribal governments; or

''(2) to affect or modify any treaty or other right of any Tribal government.''.

(g) USE OF FUNDS.—Section 118(a)(2) of the Save Our Seas 2.0 Act (33 U.S.C. 4218(a)(2)) is amended by striking ''and State and local government agencies'' and inserting '', State and local government agencies, United States and international nongovernmental organizations, regional organizations, Indian Tribes, Tribal organizations, and foreign government entities''.

SEC. 4. ORGANIZATION OF MARINE DEBRIS ACT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Marine Debris Act (33 U.S.C. 1951 et seq.) is amended—

(1) by inserting before section 3 the following:

''Subtitle A—National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and Coast Guard Programs'';

(2) by redesignating sections 3 through 6 as sections 101 through 104, respectively;

(3) by redesignating sections 7 through 10 as sections 131 through 134, respectively; and

(4) by inserting before section 131, as redesignated by paragraph (3), the following:

"Subtitle D—Administration".

(b) MARINE DEBRIS FOUNDATION.—Subtitle B of title I of the Save Our Seas 2.0 Act (33 U.S.C. 4211 et seq.) is—

(1) transferred to the Marine Debris Act; and

(2) inserted after section 104 of the Marine Debris Act, as redesignated by subsection (a)(2).

(c) GENIUS PRIZE FOR SAVE OUR SEAS INNOVATIONS.—Subtitle C of title I of the Save Our Seas 2.0 Act (33 U.S.C. 4231 et seq.) is—

(1) transferred to the Marine Debris Act; and

(2) inserted after section 119 of the Marine Debris Act, as transferred and inserted by subsection (b).

SEC. 5. DEFINITIONS.

Section 131 of the Marine Debris Act, as redesignated by section 4(a)(3), is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (2), (3), (4), (5), (6), and (7) as paragraphs (4), (5), (6), (10), (11), and (12), respectively;

(2) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

''(1) CIRCULAR ECONOMY.—The term 'circular economy' has the meaning given such term in section 2 of the Save Our Seas 2.0 Act (Public Law 116–224; 33 U.S.C. 4201 note).

''(2) COASTAL SHORELINE COMMUNITY.—The term 'coastal shoreline community' means a city or county directly adjacent to the open ocean, a major estuary, or one of the Great Lakes.

''(3) EPA ADMINISTRATOR.—The term 'EPA Administrator' means the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.'';

(3) by inserting after paragraph (6), as redesignated by paragraph (1), the following:

''(7) NON-FEDERAL FUNDS.—The term 'non-Federal funds' means funds provided by—

''(A) a State;

''(B) an Indian Tribe;

''(C) a territory of the United States;

''(D) one or more units of local governments or Tribal organizations;

''(E) a foreign government;

''(F) a private for-profit entity;

''(G) a nonprofit organization; or

''(H) a private individual.

''(8) NONPROFIT.—The term 'nonprofit', with respect to a corporation or other organization, means the corporation or other organization is described in section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt from tax under section 501(a) of such Code.

''(9) POST-CONSUMER MATERIALS MANAGEMENT.—The term 'post-consumer materials management' has the meaning given such term in section 2 of the Save Our Seas 2.0 Act (Public Law 116–224; 33 U.S.C. 4201 note).'';

(4) in paragraph (12), as so redesignated—

(A) by redesignating subparagraphs (B), (C), and (D) as subparagraphs (C), (D), and (E), respectively; and

(B) by inserting after subparagraph (A) the following:

''(B) Indian Tribe;''; and

(5) by adding after paragraph (12), as so redesignated, the following:

''(13) TRIBAL GOVERNMENT.—The term 'Tribal government' means the recognized governing body of any Indian or Alaska Native Tribe, band, nation, pueblo, village, community, component band, or component reservation, individually identified (including parenthetically) in the list published most recently as of the date of the enactment of the Save Our Seas 2.0 Amendments Act pursuant to section 104 of the Federally Recognized Indian Tribe List Act of 1994 (25 U.S.C. 5131).

''(14) TRIBAL ORGANIZATION.—The term 'Tribal organization' has the meaning given that term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

''(15) UNDER SECRETARY.—The term 'Under Secretary' means the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.''.

SEC. 6. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.

(a) MARINE DEBRIS ACT.—The Marine Debris Act (33 U.S.C. 1951 et seq.), as amended by this Act, is further amended—

(1) in section 103, as redesignated by section 4(a)(2)—

(A) in subsection (d), in the matter preceding paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking ''Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration'' and inserting ''Under Secretary''; and

(ii) by striking ''Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency'' and insert ''EPA Administrator''; and

(B) in subsection (e)(3), by striking ''section 3'' and inserting ''section 101'';

(2) in subsection (b)(4) of section 111, as transferred by section 4(b), by striking ''title III'' and inserting ''subtitle C'';

(3) in subsection (a) of section 123, as transferred by section 4(c), by striking ''title I'' and inserting ''subtitle B'';

(4) in section 134, as redesignated by section 4(a)(3), by striking ''Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency'' and inserting ''EPA Administrator''; and

(5) by striking ''Administrator'' each place it appears (other than in section 103(d)), 131, or 134, as redesignated by section 4(a)) and inserting ''Under Secretary''.

(b) SAVE OUR SEAS 2.0 ACT.—Section 2 of the Save Our Seas 2.0 Act (Public Law 116–224; 33 U.S.C. 4201 note) is amended—

(1) by striking paragraph (7); and

(2) by redesignating paragraphs (8) through (11) as paragraphs (7) through (10), respectively.

THINK DIFFERENTLY DATABASE ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 670, which was received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 670) to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish a website to promote awareness of available resources for individuals with disabilities, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. SCHUMER. 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. 670) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

HOUSE BILLS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be discharged and the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of the following bills en bloc: H.R. 4955, H.R. 8667, and H.R. 9124.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bills en bloc.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the bills be considered read a third time and passed 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 bills were passed, en bloc, as follows:

HENRY PARHAM VA CLINIC

The bill (H.R. 4955) to name the community-based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Monroeville, Pennsylvania, as the ''Henry Parham VA Clinic'' was ordered to third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

DUANE E. DEWEY VA CLINIC

The bill (H.R. 8667) to rename the community-based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Cadillac, Michigan, as the ''Duane E. Dewey VA Clinic'' was ordered to third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

LOUIS A. CONTER VA CLINIC

The bill (H.R. 9124) to name the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Auburn, California, as the ''Louis A. Conter VA Clinic'' was ordered to third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

U.S. CONGRESSMAN SAM JOHNSON MEMORIAL VA CLINIC ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 4136 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4136) to name the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Plano, Texas, as the ''U.S. Congressman Sam Johnson Memorial VA Clinic''.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. SCHUMER. 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. 4136) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

SUPPORTING AMERICA'S CHILDREN AND FAMILIES ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 9076 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 9076) to reauthorize child welfare programs under part B of title IV of the Social Security Act and strengthen the State and tribal child support enforcement program under part D of such title, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. SCHUMER. 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. 9076) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

FISHERY IMPROVEMENT TO STREAMLINE UNTIMELY REGULATORY HURDLES POST EMERGENCY SITUATION ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 5103 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 5103) to require the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to approve or deny spend plans within a certain amount of time, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. SCHUMER. 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. 5103) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

MORNING BUSINESS

REGULATIONS FOR RECORDINGS OF SENATE FLOOR PROCEEDINGS

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD updated ''Regulations for Recordings of Senate Floor Proceedings.''

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

REGULATIONS FOR RECORDINGS OF SENATE FLOOR PROCEEDINGS ADOPTED BY THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION ON DECEMBER 20, 2024

1.0 Scope—S. Res. 28 (99th Congress) authorized broadcast coverage and recordings of proceedings in the Senate Chamber. These regulations describe the procedures for preparation, transfer, and distribution of such recordings.

2.0 Definitions—For purposes of these regulations, the following terms shall have the meaning specified.

2.1 *Depository* means the Library of Congress or the U.S. National Archives and Records Administration.

2.2 *Recording* means an audio and color video recording of proceedings in the Senate Chamber.

2.3 *Recording Studio* means the Senate Recording Studio operated by the Senate Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper of the Senate.

2.4 *Rules Committee* means the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration.

2.5 *Secretary* means the Secretary of the Senate.

3.0 Preparation of Recordings—

3.1 The Recording Studio shall make at least two archival-quality audio and color video recordings of proceedings in the Senate Chamber.

3.2 The Recording Studio may, upon request, make additional recordings for Members. Members who receive recordings shall pay the fee set by Rules and accept the recordings on the condition that the recordings will not be used for political campaign purposes.

4.0 Transfer of Recordings—

4.1 As soon as possible, the Recording Studio shall transfer the two archival-quality recordings to the Secretary of the Senate, who shall transfer one to the Library of Congress and one to the U.S. National Archives and Records Administration.

4.2 Recordings may be made by depositories and distributed to any person or organization upon payment of such fee as the depository may set to recover the cost of copying, subject to the following conditions:

4.2.1 Any person or representative of any organization who receives a recording may not use the recording, or permit the recording to be used by any other party, for political campaign purposes.

4.2.2 Any person requesting a recording who is not representing a public or commercial news organization must agree in writing, as a condition of receiving a recording, that the recording will not be used for political campaign purposes. Each depository is responsible for securing such a written agreement for all recordings distributed by it. Signed agreements shall be retained for a period of at least two years and, upon request, copies of the agreements shall be delivered to the Secretary of the Senate or to the Rules Committee. A suggested form of agreement is attached.

5.0 Property Rights and Agreements with Depositories—The Senate retains all property rights to the recordings of proceedings in the Senate Chamber transferred to the Library of Congress and the U.S. National Archives and Records Administration and those depositories shall hold such recordings in accordance with the terms of an agreement to be entered into with the Secretary of the Senate, subject to the approval of the Rules Committee.

Pursuant to S. Res. 28 (99th Congress):

''Sec. 5. (a) The use of any recording of Senate proceedings for political campaign purposes is strictly prohibited.

(b)(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), any recording of Senate proceedings furnished to any person or organization shall be made on the condition, agreed to in writing, that the recording shall not be used for political campaign purposes.

(2) Any public or commercial news organization furnished a recording described in paragraph (1) shall be subject to the provisions of paragraph (1) but shall not be required to enter into a written agreement.''

I have been advised of the condition set forth in the above resolution and agree that I, and the organization I represent, will not use, nor permit any other person to use, the recording received by me for political campaign purposes.

Furthermore, in signing below, I do so with the understanding that copies of this agreement are available to the Secretary of the Senate and the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration upon request, pursuant to regulations and procedures issued by the Committee on Rules and Administration.

Date:
Signature:
Name:
Address:
Organization:

THOMAS R. CARPER WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, this week, the Senate passed important legislation to Oregon's ports and waterways, the backbone of our regional economy. This legislation includes key provisions that I fought for to ensure the safe navigation of the Lower Columbia River's deep draft channel, which connects the Pacific Northwest and much of the country to the world.

According to the Pacific Northwest Waterways Association, the channel supports more than 49 million metric tons of international trade cargo, accounting for over $31 billion in value and supporting at least 40,000 local jobs. The benefits of ensuring clear passage along the channel reach well beyond the region. The channel is the country's top wheat export gateway, the second largest U.S. soy export gateway, and the third largest grain export gateway in the world, as well as the top West Coast exporter for cars.

Since 1891, through authorizations in a patchwork of Federal laws and agreements, the Port of Portland—and later along with the Ports of Vancouver, Woodland, Kalama, and Longview, WA—has assisted in dredging and maintaining the channel. For the last 60 years, this work has been done by the Dredge *Oregon*, on behalf of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, a dredge owned by the Port of Portland and used exclusively for Columbia River channel maintenance. While the dredge has performed extremely well on demand and often under difficult circumstances, the vessel is now nearly 60 years old and in desperate need of replacement.

I am pleased that section 1325 of this year's Water Resources Development Act will clearly authorize the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to replace Dredge *Oregon* with a more modern vessel. This language makes it clear that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers can reimburse the Port of Portland for financial costs incurred to replace Dredge *Oregon*, which exclusively

works to fulfil the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers responsibilities in the Lower Columbia Channel.

This authorization is critical toward ensuring that the Lower Columbia River will continue to be dredged and maintained with the same reliability as it has been for decades. I once again thank my colleagues and staff for their hard work on this legislation.

MCALESTER ARMY AMMUNITION PLANT

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, I rise today to express my gratitude to the Armed Services Committee and Energy and Natural Resources Committee for working to include an important provision that passed as part of the fiscal year 2025 National Defense Authorization Act (FY25 NDAA). The provision is in section 1706, titled ''Use of royalty gas at McAlester Army Ammunition Plant.''

The Department of Defense has issued a charge to ensure that all U.S. military installations are energy resilient by 2035. Under 10 U.S.C. §2911, the Secretary of Defense is responsible for ''ensur[ing] the readiness of the armed forces for their military missions by pursuing energy security and energy resilience.'' In implementing this section of the U.S. Code, the Department of Defense has pursued a plan to establish microgrids at all military installations, utilizing a diverse array of energy sources to be energy resilient. In FY 2022, the Department of Defense consumed $4.2 billion in fuel for installation energy. Further, natural gas was the largest nonelectric fuel source, used in almost 75 percent of installation energy consumption. As my colleagues know, the purpose of energy resilience is to ensure our military installations are able to continue operations in the event of a local, gridwide, or national energy supply disruption.

In 2021, Senate Report 117–39, which accompanied the National Defense Authorization Act of 2016, requested that the Department of Defense review a 2016 analysis of installations with likely gas and oil reserves to provide a recommendation for a pilot site to initiate use of on-site mineral reserves for energy resilience and security purposes. The program aimed to provide the installation with onsite energy production, light refining, storage, and onsite generation to maintain critical operations during grid outages. The report stated that the Department of Defense had an absence of general statutory authority for the Department of Defense to extract and use minerals at installations. The report also includes a list of nearly 150 military installations that are located within 25 miles of the top 100 most productive natural gas and oil reserves in the United States, of which McAlester is one.

In order to clarify the authorities necessary for the deployment of natural gas resources for the use of military energy resilience and security, I worked with the Senate Armed Services Committee and Energy and Natural Resources Committee to include section 1706 of the FY25 NDAA. This provision would provide the appropriate authorities for McAlester Army Ammunition Plant in McAlester, OK, to develop natural gas on the installation for energy resilience purposes. This language would require coordination between the Department of Defense and Department of the Interior to allow McAlester Army Ammunition Plant to produce, treat, manage, and use national gas by contracting with appropriate entities to meet directives from the Department of Defense for energy resiliency.

This authority has been years in the making starting from efforts led by Oklahoma's former senior Senator and my friend, the late Jim Inhofe. The language also includes feedback and technical assistance from the Department of Defense, the Bureau of Land Management, multiple committees in the House and Senate, and Senate leadership. There is already precedent for the production and use of natural gas on military installations, as is the case with Fort Knox in Kentucky. The strategic use of energy such as natural gas promotes the readiness of the Armed Forces for their military mission. I urge the Department of Defense to swiftly implement this authority, and I congratulate McAlester on the opportunity to reach energy resiliency and continue the great work they do for our national security.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. HAWLEY. Mr. President, had there been a recorded vote, I would have voted ''no'' on the en bloc confirmation of Executive Calendar Nos. 851, 853, 854, and 857.

40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND ENERGY STUDY INSTITUTE

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate the Environmental and Energy Study Institute (EESI) on its 40th anniversary.

Since its founding four decades ago by members of Congress from both sides of the aisle, EESI has steadfastly pursued its vision of a sustainable, resilient, and equitable world—a vision I share. EESI's work is a reminder that there is considerable common ground if we work together to find it. For the sake of our planet, our economy, our health, and our children's future, I hope we have the strength to do just that.

EESI plays a key role as it informs Congress of developments in the energy, environmental, and climate space. Every year, EESI convenes dozens of congressional briefings, publishes white papers, releases newsletters, and hosts a podcast. All of this science-based, nonpartisan information—clearly explained and synthesized—helps us develop good policy.

EESI has also been one of the driving forces behind the annual Congressional Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency EXPO and Policy Forum. I have the privilege of serving as a deputy co-chair of the Senate Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Caucus, which showcases, on a bipartisan basis, the many benefits of clean energy and helps cohost the EXPO. I am very proud to have participated in almost every EXPO since 2003. At these EXPOs, clean energy leaders convene and share what their organizations are doing to advance renewable energy and energy efficiency. They describe how clean energy and energy efficiency are creating good-paying jobs in their communities, expanding economic development in rural areas, helping families and businesses become more resilient to extreme weather and climate impacts, contributing to national security, and ensuring that all communities have access to clean air and water.

I would also like to take this opportunity to recognize the many accomplishments of former Representative Richard L. ''Dick'' Ottinger. He co-founded the Environmental and Energy Study Conference when he represented New York in Congress in the 1970s. Under Mr. Ottinger's leadership, the conference later evolved into the independent nonprofit we are celebrating today, EESI.

We are in the middle of a decisive decade for climate action. What we choose to do now—or fatefully, choose not to do—will affect future generations in profound ways. As we seek bipartisan agreement to achieve our climate goals, I know we can count on EESI and its remarkable resources to help guide the way.

Congratulations again to EESI and its 40 years of advancing climate solutions on Capitol Hill. I look forward to working with EESI for many years to come as we strive together to achieve a sustainable, resilient, and equitable world.

TRIBUTE TO SARAH BENEDICT ANSTAETT

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, I rise today to celebrate and honor the service of Sarah Benedict Anstaett, my State director. Soon, Sarah will retire from the U.S. Senate after a lengthy career serving the people of Wisconsin and our Nation.

Sarah's steadfast dedication to constituent services has set a high standard for our office that will have a lasting impact. With over 25 years of Federal experience, Sarah's mentorship and willingness to pass on her wealth of knowledge to junior staffers is not only a testament to her rare style of leadership, but to her belief in the importance of quality public service. Sarah holds a BA in psychology and a masters in social work from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, making her exceptionally well qualified to handle any constituent service concern.

Under Sarah's guidance, my office has assisted thousands of Wisconsinites and their families who were confronted with urgent and often very serious challenges.

Sarah joined our Madison area House of Representatives staff as a caseworker. Constituents coming to our office with concerns were met with Sarah's capable and calm approach to problem solving. She was incredibly effective in addressing all manner of issues and quickly became an indispensable part of the team. She traveled throughout our district, meeting constituents where they were—especially our seniors—in places that allowed them to interact directly with the Federal Government. During this time, Sarah and her husband Dave welcomed two children, which spurred our office to embrace family-forward work policies and practices.

When I took my seat in the Senate, I was delighted that Sarah chose to continue with our team. In my Senate office, Sarah became our director of constituent services, working with a team to address Federal issues from constituents around the State. She developed effective processes and guides for our caseworkers, shared her wealth of experience and best practices, and was always ready to step in and help on the trickiest and stickiest of concerns.

She also created one of our favorite reports: a weekly roundup of casework successes, concerns and trends. Each week, the report of Sarah and her team's exceptional work was filled with stories ranging from expeditious replacement of lost passports to saving small businesses that were facing existential challenges with Federal Agencies.

In 2021, Sarah assumed the role of my State director, overseeing and guiding our outstanding team of outreach staff, caseworkers, and other support staff. Her leadership in this new role was pragmatic, focused, and inclusive. She kept our priorities at the forefront and guided staff to make the best decisions.

In her new role, Sarah immediately hit the ground running and refined and established new processes for our outreach team, in-state scheduling and travel, and continued to support our casework team. My staff often reported to me that she managed to do the impossible: make their jobs less stressful. As State director, Sarah set high standards for our staff, inspiring and bringing out the best in each of them. She led by example and demonstrated the importance and value of having women in senior leadership roles.

She traveled the State both with and without me, continually developing and cultivating important relationships with constituents and organizations throughout Wisconsin. She has been a constant presence at events around the State and always actively pursued opportunities to strengthen ties between our office and the communities we serve. My staff and I will miss the kindness, humility, good humor, and grace that she brings each day to our team.

Outside of the office, Sarah's an avid traveler and explorer, with a wide group of friends and interests. I am sure that her retirement will bring her more opportunities to travel with her husband Dave and their children Henry and Ursula.

Sarah, thank you for your service to the people of Wisconsin and to our Nation.

TRIBUTE TO JENNIFER GARNER

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, I rise today to celebrate and honor the service of Jennifer ''Jen'' Garner, my northeastern Wisconsin regional representative. Soon, Jen will retire from the U.S. Senate after a lengthy career serving the people of Wisconsin and our Nation.

Jen's well-deserved retirement comes after 46 years of working in the political sphere in some form or another. She graduated from Northern Michigan University with a BS in public administration and hit the ground running. She has worked on political campaigns large and small, for and with local union members and leaders, in community and statewide organizations, local government, and finally on our Senate team. Her more than 40-year commitment to public service is evidenced by her strong connections to labor and manufacturing communities in the region that she serves.

I first met Jen many years ago when I was seeking a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives and she was working with AFSCME. She will regularly share that I ''knocked her socks off'' in our initial meeting. But really, I was the one impressed with Jen's strategic approach and tenacity. And I never forgot that during our many interactions throughout my time in the House. When the opportunity came for her to join our staff, it was an easy decision for both of us.

During her time on our staff, Jen has continually developed and strengthened relationships across her service area. Jen serves the people of Wisconsin in 11 counties—Marinette, Oconto, Waupaca, Outagamie, Winnebago, Calumet, Brown, Sheboygan, Manitowoc, Kewaunee, and Door—on my behalf. When we travel around together, Jen is an instant ambassador and magnet at gatherings large and small. She is recognized and welcomed warmly in every room, and I know the reaction to her work is authentic and appreciated.

My staff fondly refers to Jen as the unofficial ''Dean'' of our outreach team. Jen knows all the intricacies on how best to interact with various groups, organizations, and stakeholders. She is a wealth of knowledge and is always available to share context, history, and recommendations on the best way to engage. She is always ready for a gut-check or to share an excellent scene-setting story and knows that details and history matter when it comes to relationship building and serving constituents. She is also game for a challenge, usually brought on by our team's insistence on the adoption of new technologies and systems.

As Jen begins this new chapter of her life, I know she will not stray far from engagement in her local community and causes dear to her heart. I am delighted that she will be able to spend more time with her family and friends, especially her grandchildren, who are the lights of her life. My staff and I will miss Jen's camaraderie, friendship, and leadership through action. We wish her all the best in her retirement, and I am pleased to officially designate her as dean emerita of our outreach team.

Jen, thank you for your service to the people of Wisconsin and our Nation.

TRIBUTE TO CHRISTINE RAHLF

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, I rise today to celebrate and honor the service of Christine ''Chris'' Rahlf, my veterans services representative. Soon, Chris will retire from the U.S. Senate after a lengthy career serving the people of Wisconsin and our Nation.

Chris began her career as an officer in the Navy Civil Engineer Corps. Equipped with a BS in Civil Engineering from Marquette University in Milwaukee, Chris began her Federal service managing construction projects at the Naval Training Center in Newport, RI. She later moved to California, where she directed the quality assurance program and supervised more than 100 evaluators at Diego Garcia. She finished her Active service in the Navy as the course director for the Naval Facilities Contracts Training Center, improving both course pass rates and test scores, as well as developing models for future course curricula.

Following her time in the Navy, Chris received an MBA at San Diego State University and worked in project management at several large corporations based in California. Upon her return to Wisconsin, she joined Faith Technologies located in Menasha and held a variety of leadership positions during her time on their team. She developed strong relationships in her local community, later running for a seat in the Wisconsin State Assembly to serve Northern Ozaukee County and Washington County.

In early 2019, we were fortunate to have Chris join our staff. Her tireless work ethic and commitment to public service were evident from the moment we met. Chris fully dedicated herself to supporting, uplifting, and communicating with veterans across Wisconsin something you could say she has spent her entire life doing. As the daughter of a 100 percent disabled veteran, wife of a veteran, mother of two servicemembers, and as a veteran herself, Chris brought the perspective and

candor of all these different facets of her life experience together to address the specific needs of veterans and their families.

Chris immediately continued to build strong relationships with veterans and veteran's organizations across the State, demonstrating time and time again to Wisconsin's veteran community that our team works hard and gets results. She was recognized as being tough but fair in her work, holding Agencies accountable and garnering respect and trust throughout the State by her approach. She has helped veterans and their families establish closure through obtaining missing service records and medals, fought for pay and services owed to them, and tackled systemic problems in the VA medical system to address incorrect diagnoses and quality of care issues. Her efforts have made a lasting and positive impact on both individual veterans and the wider veterans community in Wisconsin.

When news spread about Chris's upcoming retirement, I heard from many Wisconsin veterans about the quality of her work, her compassion, and her dedication to service. To have earned that kind of respect says all that needs to be said for what Chris means to our office and the work she has done. We will miss her leadership, enthusiasm, and steadfast commitment to service.

Chris, thank you for your service to our nation. And thank you for your service to the veterans of Wisconsin.

RECOGNIZING THE CENTENNIAL OF COLUMBIA SAVINGS AND LOAN ASSOCIATION

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Columbia Savings and Loan Association on its 100th anniversary. It gives me great pleasure to honor this remarkable organization and to commemorate this historic milestone.

Founded by Ardie and Wilbur Halyard in 1924 in Milwaukee, WI, Columbia Savings and Loan is the first—and currently only—African-American owned bank in Wisconsin. For 100 years, Columbia has been dedicated to supporting and uplifting the Milwaukee community, primarily serving low- and moderate-income families in Milwaukee. Now led by Ernest Jones and Will Martin, who continue to uphold the values of its founders, Columbia celebrates its centennial anniversary.

When the Columbia Savings and Loan Association was first founded, the beginnings of discriminatory redlining practices were emerging in Wisconsin. Thousands of Black families were forced to live in the so-called ''black belt'' in Milwaukee, with similar situations occurring across the United States. These communities struggled to build wealth as insured mortgages were not available to them. However, during that dark time, Columbia Savings and Loan was steadfast in turning the tides and to supporting the African-American community in Milwaukee.

One of the many lasting impacts that Columbia has etched into Milwaukee's history is the rise of the Halyard Park area, in the heart of the city. After the construction of Interstate 43, many homes were demolished, displacing many residents. At a time when banks still practiced discriminatory mortgage policies against African Americans, fair housing advocates Ardie and Wilbur Halyard focused on financing for Black individuals and families to revitalize the neighborhood with backing of the Columbia Savings and Loan. Throughout the years, Halyard Park grew and is now a cornerstone of the city of Milwaukee, from hosting various music performances and art shows to being home to some of Milwaukee's well-known restaurants. Without the help of Columbia and its founders, Halyard Park would not be what it is today. While other neighborhoods have seen high population turnover and decreased home values, Halyard Park residents have stayed and have boasted higher valued homes.

After the savings and loans crisis in the 1980s and 1990s, hundreds of savings and loans organizations were impacted across the Nation, with many having to close. But Columbia survived, is thriving, and is one of the only left in Wisconsin. I applaud their hard work and dedication to serving the Milwaukee community over the last 100 years. Countless people and families have had their lives changed because of the Columbia Savings and Loan Association. I look forward to the association's continued success in the years to come.

RECOGNIZING THE UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT MEN'S SOCCER TEAM

Mr. WELCH. Mr. President, all of Vermont celebrates the University of Vermont Men's Soccer Team on winning the NCAA Men's Soccer National Championship.

The UVM Men's Soccer Team affectionately known as the ''Cardiac Catamounts,'' pulled off a historic comeback on Monday, December 16 to win 2–1 against Marshall University after a 95th minute golden goal, earning their first title in program history and becoming the first team in the America East Conference to win a national championship.

It was a game for the record books, literally Marcell Papp's perfectly timed goal gave the Catamounts a golden opportunity in overtime, and Maximilian Kissel's winning goal—his 11th of the season—will be remembered for all time.

The entire squad—Niklas Herceg, Lou Liedtka, Nathan Siméon, Mike Bleeker, Cole Richardson, Adrian Schulze Solano, Connor Thompson, Andrew Millar, Niels Hartman, Maximilian Kissel, Nick Lockermann, Yaniv Bazini, Nash Barlow, David Ismail, Ethan Czaporowski, Gianluca Armellino, Ioanis Vassiliou, Marcell Papp, Toby Grant, Karl Daly, Sydney Wathuta, TJ Liquori, Pieter Bultman, Ryan Zellefrow, Zach Barrett, Jeremy Tsang, Max Murray, and Mitchell Ringman—played an important part in this season's success.

To the casual observer, the Catamounts may have been the tournament's underdogs or a Cinderella story. But to the team and the Vermonters rooting for them back home, this championship win was not a fluke or a lucky break. It was inevitable.

In the 2024 season, the Catamounts scored 22 goals in the 76th minute or later, with the championship equalizing goal being no exception. Late game victories were a habit for the Catamounts this tournament, beating San Diego University in overtime during the third-round match and tying the University of Denver in the dying minutes of the semifinal match to push the game into penalty kicks, where a save from Catamounts goalkeeper Niklas Herceg secured the Catamounts a ticket to the finals.

The Cardiac Catamounts is only the third unseeded program to win a championship since the National Collegiate Athletic Association expanded the tournament to 16 seeded teams in 2003.

The Cats have shown heart, persistence, and never lost their cool all season, Vermont Values through and through. With this championship, the Catamounts put UVM athletics on display and made all of us proud to cheer for Vermont.

I congratulate the University of Vermont Men's Soccer Team for their well-deserved championship win and for representing the values of Vermont.

And a special congratulations to the Catamounts' Head Coach Rob Dow and his wife Loren Bowley Dow, who welcomed their second child Russel only weeks ago.

This is a team of champions, not underdogs. They have made Vermont very proud.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO JEFF REH

● Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, today, I want to recognize Salina, KS, native Jeff Reh upon his well-earned retirement after more than four decades of dedicated service.

Jeff is a graduate of Kansas State University and American University Washington College of Law. While pursuing his degrees, Jeff worked as an intern on Capitol Hill for Senator Bob Dole, worked at the Pentagon, and, tapping into his entrepreneurial spirit, started a consulting business during law school.

Jeff's career then led him to join the oldest active firearm manufacturer and one of the oldest continuously operating companies in the world, Beretta.

Initially working as a consultant to Beretta USA Corporation, he played an

integral role in Beretta successfully signing a contract to make the M9 the service pistol for the U.S. military in 1985. Jeff was brought in-house to be the general counsel for Beretta USA in the mid-1980s, a position he held until his retirement 41 years later.

After the Maryland Legislature passed strict anti-gun legislation that prevented Marylanders from purchasing legal firearms manufactured in their own backyard, Jeff helped Beretta USA relocate its manufacturing plant to Gallatin, TN.

Jeff was instrumental in the founding of the Hunting and Shooting Sports Heritage Foundation in 1999 and served as chairman of its firearms litigation support committee.

Since 2002, Jeff has served on the board of governors of the National Shooting Sports Foundation, the firearm and ammunition industry trade association, and since 2007, served as vice chairman of the board. He also served on the board of directors of the Sporting Arms and Ammunition Manufacturers' Institute, the industry's ANSI-accredited standard setting organization, for 23 years, including 6 years as chairman and 4 years as vice chairman.

Beretta is renowned in the industry for superior quality and performance. According to his peers, the same can be said of Jeff. He is a man of high caliber. Not only is he a skilled skeet shooter and an avid upland bird hunter, but Jeff is also a loving husband, father, and grandfather. Jeff's passion and professional commitment is highly respected among those in the firearm industry.

As Jeff enters this next chapter in his life, I congratulate him and wish him, his wife Vickie, and their entire family all the best.●

TRIBUTE TO HUGH ESPEY

● Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Hugh Espey of Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement—a friend, fellow champion of the working class, and person who has never been afraid to speak truth to power and challenge the wealthy elite and special interests.

I met Hugh in 2014 when I travelled to Iowa to hear from folks in the Midwest about the challenges they were facing and what they wanted to be done about it. And almost immediately, I met a man who had been doing just that for most of his life. You see, Hugh had been with Iowa CCI since 1979 and served as its executive director since 2003. And he has left a mark that deserves recognition.

In the heart of our country is a man and a grassroots organization that has been engaging everyday people to stand up to corporate power and right the injustices faced by the working class for 50 years. That is no small feat. When farmers were told to ''get big or get out,'' and tens of thousands across the country, particularly the Midwest, faced foreclosure and immense undue hardship, Hugh Espey and Iowa CCI were there. Working together, they saved numerous family farmers from foreclosure, in part by using a tool passed by this body in the seventies called the Community Reinvestment Act. Hugh and the members of Iowa CCI showed everyday people that government can and should—and needs—to work for everyday people, not the billionaires, banks, and special interests that want to divide us.

And he kept that up through the Great Recession and the challenges facing our country right now. While massive income inequality continues to grow, Hugh Espey and Iowa CCI are there in the heart of the Midwest listening and talking to the people who break their backs to help make this country great—and after hearing their stories, telling them that together we will make an economy that works for us all. Hugh and members of Iowa CCI know that it isn't the wealthy elite who built and who will maintain this country—it is the people who clock in and out every day, tend to the farm, and hold those in power accountable who will be the ones who shepherd us into the next phase of American greatness.

Throughout 45 years at Iowa CCI, Hugh has understood the plight of working Americans—because he listens, asks questions, and makes no assumptions about the pain they are feeling. It is a lesson we could all learn from. Hugh has taught, mentored, advised, and more countless community organizers who are out there making this world a better place for those of us living in it and those who will live in it.

This isn't easy work, but Hugh doesn't do things that are easy. He does the hard things that need to be done—for the worker, the farmer, the immigrant, the stranger—because he knows we are all in this together and that we all do better when we all do better.

I thank Hugh for the important work he has done over the past 45 years and for all that he will accomplish in the years to come—because even though he has retired from CCI, I know that he cannot and will not stop fighting to put people first and put our communities before corporations.●

250TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE CITY OF GREENVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA

● Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the 250th anniversary of the founding of the city of Greenville, NC.

Greenville is the economic, medical, educational, and cultural hub of eastern North Carolina with top-ranked educational institutions, groundbreaking medical and research facilities, a diversified base of industries, an abundance of indoor and outdoor recreational opportunities, and a down-home feel that is warm and welcoming.

Greenville's history goes back to before the Revolutionary War and the founding. In 1761, Pitt County was established and named after William Pitt, a British politician and veteran of the French and Indian War. In 1774 Martinsborough was formally founded and established as the county seat of Pitt County.

In 1787, Martinsborough was renamed Greenesville after Major General Nathanael Greene, the consequential American Revolutionary War general who helped ensure American victory over the British. In 1791, Greenville hosted President George Washington during his tour of the southern States.

Sadly, a fire destroyed the Pitt County courthouse in 1857 and most of the county's existing records within it, limiting the ability for future generations to track Greenville's genealogy.

But the loss of the county courthouse did not impede the city's continued growth as a major city in eastern North Carolina. For example, in 1889, Greenville further expanded as a hub for eastern North Carolina when the first train traveled along the new railroad extension to Greenville, connecting the community to larger markets and transportation networks.

In 1907, the North Carolina General Assembly founded the East Carolina Teachers Training School. It would later join the University of North Carolina System and become East Carolina University, which continues to serve as a pillar of the community, and today graduates over 6,000 students annually.

In 1923, the first Pitt Community Hospital opened. Today, the ECU Health Medical Center is the heart of the ECU Health System, serving 1.4 million people from 29 counties across nine hospital locations.

Continuing its role as a regional hub, the city of Greenville and Pitt County purchased 500 acres of land with an airstrip in 1940 to create the region's first airport, providing service to both local residents and the military over the years.

In 1987, the city of Greenville made history by electing Edward Carter as its first African-American mayor. He had previously served for 4 years on the Greenville City Council before his election to serve as mayor.

In more recent history, the city of Greenville opened a new city hall in 2006 which includes design features intended to illustrate how government should be open and transparent to its citizens.

In 2020, Pitt County was one of the 10 counties recognized by the National Civic League as an ''All-America County,'' highlighting the county's work on inclusive civic engagement to address health and well-being and creating stronger connections among residents.

This anniversary is a monumental occasion to celebrate and commemorate the achievements of Greenville, NC. For 250 years, the city has served as a regional hub for eastern North Carolina and a place where you will find yourself in good company.

It is my honor to recognize and celebrate the 250th anniversary of the founding of the great city of Greenville, NC.●

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:59 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, without amendment:

S. Con. Res. 46. Concurrent resolution providing for corrections in the enrollment of S. 4367.

At 6:21 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 10545. An act making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025, and for other purposes.

At 7:30 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MCHENRY) has signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 59. An act to implement merit-based reforms to the civil service hiring system that replace degree-based hiring with skills- and competency-based hiring.

S. 141. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve certain programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs for home and community based services for veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 223. An act to amend the Controlled Substances Act to fix a technical error in the definitions.

S. 709. An act to improve performance and accountability in the Federal Government, and for other purposes.

S. 759. An act to authorize the National Detector Dog Training Center, and for other purposes.

S. 932. An act to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide for the halt in pension payments for Members of Congress sentenced for certain offenses, and for other purposes.

S. 1147. An act to amend the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act to provide for grants in support of training and education to teachers and other school employees, students, and the community about how to prevent, recognize, respond to, and report child sexual abuse among primary and secondary school students.

S. 1351. An act to study and prevent child abuse in youth residential programs, and for other purposes.

S. 2513. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve benefits administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 2414. An act to require agencies with working dog programs to implement the recommendations of the Government Accountability Office relating to the health and welfare of working dogs, and for other purposes.

S. 3448. An act to reauthorize the Director of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum to support Holocaust education programs, and for other purposes.

S. 3791. An act to reauthorize the America's Conservation Enhancement Act, and for other purposes.

S. 3857. An act to take certain land in the State of California into trust for the benefit of the Jamul Indian Village of California, and for other purposes.

S. 3938. An act to designate the community-based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Lynchburg, Virginia, as the ''Private First Class Desmond T. Doss VA Clinic''.

S. 3946. An act 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. 3959. An act to require the Transportation Security Administration to streamline the enrollment processes for individuals applying for a Transportation Security Administration security threat assessment for certain programs, including the Transportation Worker Identification Credential and Hazardous Materials Endorsement Threat Assessment programs of the Administration, and for other purposes.

S. 3998. An act to provide for the permanent appointment of certain temporary district judgeships.

S. 4077. An act 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''.

S. 4107. An Act to require Amtrak to report to Congress information on Amtrak compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 with respect to trains and stations.

S. 4610. An act to amend title 36, United States Code, to designate the bald eagle as the national bird.

S. 4716. An act to amend section 7504 of title 31, United States Code, to improve the single audit requirements.

S. 5314. An act to designate the medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Tulsa, Oklahoma, as the James Mountain Inhofe VA Medical Center.

S. 5355. An act to ensure that the National Advisory Council on Indian Education includes at least 1 member who is the president of a Tribal College or University.

H.R. 663. An act to amend the Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention Act.

H.R. 1607. An act to clarify jurisdiction with respect to certain Bureau of Reclamation pumped storage development, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1727. An act to amend the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Development Act to extend the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park Commission.

H.R. 2468. An act to require the Secretary of the Interior to convey to the State of Utah certain Federal land under the administrative jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management within the boundaries of Camp Williams, Utah, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3324. An act to extend the authority to collect Shasta-Trinity Marina fees through fiscal year 2029.

H.R. 4094. An act to amend the Central Utah Project Completion Act to authorize expenditures for the conduct of certain water conservation measures in the Great Salt Lake basin, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4385. An act to extend authorization of the Reclamation States Emergency Drought Relief Act of 1991.

H.R. 4467. An act to direct the Under Secretary for Management of the Department of Homeland Security to assess contracts for covered services performed by contractor personnel along the United States land border with Mexico, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5646. An act to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to require institutions of higher education to disclose hazing incidents, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5770. An act to reauthorize certain United States Geological Survey water data enhancement programs.

H.R. 6826. An act to designate the visitor and education center at Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine as the Paul S. Sarbanes Visitor and Education Center.

H.R. 6843. An act to expand boundaries of the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area to include Lafourche Parish, Louisiana.

H.R. 7177. An act to amend title 28, United States Code, to consolidate certain divisions in the Northern District of Alabama.

H.R. 7213. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to enhance and reauthorize activities and programs relating to autism spectrum disorder, and for other purposes.

H.R. 7332. An act to require the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to convey certain Federal land to the State of Utah for inclusion in certain State parks, and for other purposes.

H.R. 7524. An act 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, and for other purposes.

H.R. 8219. An act to require the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to assess the suitability and feasibility of designating certain land as the Lahaina National Heritage Area, and for other purposes.

H.R. 8413. An act to provide for the conveyance of certain Federal land at Swanson Reservoir and Hugh Butler Reservoir in the State of Nebraska, and for other purposes.

H.R. 8663. An act to require the Science and Technology Directorate in the Department of Homeland Security to develop greater capacity to detect and identify illicit substances in very low concentrations.

H.R. 9566. An act to require government-wide source code sharing, and for other purposes.

At 9:29 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 8662. An act to reduce commuting burdens on Transportation Security Administration employees, and for other purposes.

H.R. 9748. An act to require the Under Secretary of the Science and Technology Directorate of the Department of Homeland Security to develop a Department-wide policy and process to safeguard research and development from unauthorized access to or disclosure of sensitive information in research and development acquisitions, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bills were subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mrs. MURRAY).

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 12:51 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 10545. An act making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bill was subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mrs. MURRAY).

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 8662. An act to reduce commuting burdens on Transportation Security Administration employees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 9748. An act to require the Under Secretary of the Science and Technology Directorate of the Department of Homeland Security to develop a Department-wide policy and process to safeguard research and development from unauthorized access to or disclosure of sensitive information in research and development acquisitions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs .

ENROLLED BILL PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on December 20, 2024, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bill:

S. 4199. An act to authorize additional district judges for the district courts and convert temporary judgeships.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC–6852. A communication from the Administrator and Chief Executive Officer, Bonneville Power Administration, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Administration's Annual Report for fiscal year 2024; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–6853. A communication from the Alternate Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Technical Amendments'' (DARS–2024–0001) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 19, 2024; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–6854. A communication from the Alternate Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Task Order and Delivery Order Contracting for Architectural and Engineering Services (DFARS Case 2023–D007)'' ((RIN0750–AM23) (DARS–2024–0033)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 19, 2024; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–6855. A communication from the Alternate Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''DoD Discharge Appeal Review Board'' (RIN0790–AL57) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 19, 2024; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–6856. A communication from the Alternate Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Small Business Innovation Research Program Data Rights (DFARS Case 2019–D043)'' ((RIN0750–AK84) (DARS–2020–0033)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 19, 2024; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–6857. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Mandatory Transmission and Distribution Planning Support Activities'' (RIN1930–AA01) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 18, 2024; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–6858. A communication from the Associate Administrator for Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Compliance Evaluation of Community Water Systems in the United States using Data from the Safe Drinking Water Information System Report to Congress''; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–6859. A communication from the Associate Administrator for Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Alternative Decentralized and Centralized Wastewater Treatment Technology''; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–6860. A communication from the Executive Secretary, United States Agency for International Development (USAID), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Deputy Administrator for Management and Resources, United States Agency for International Development (USAID), received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 19, 2024; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–6861. A communication from the Director, Administrative Office of the United States Courts, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to compliance by the United States courts of appeals and district courts with the time limitations established for deciding habeas corpus death penalty petitions; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–6862. A communication from the Secretary, Judicial Conference of the United States, transmitting, a report relative to the continuing need for bankruptcy judgeships; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–6863. A communication from the Chief Regulatory Officer, Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Increase of the Automatic Extension Period of Employment Authorization and Documentation for Certain Employment Authorization Document Renewal Applicants'' (RIN1615–AC78) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 19, 2024; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–6864. A communication from the Chief Regulatory Officer, Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Application of Certain Mandatory Bars in Fear Screenings'' (RIN1615–AC91) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 19, 2024; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–6865. A communication from the Chief Regulatory Officer, Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Modernizing H–2 Program Requirements, Oversight, and Worker Protections'' (RIN1615–AC76) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 19, 2024; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–6866. A communication from the Chief Regulatory Officer, Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Modernizing H–1B Requirements, Providing Flexibility in the F–1 Program Improvements Affecting Other Nonimmigrant Workers'' (RIN1615–AC70) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 19, 2024; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–6867. A communication from the Management Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments; Amendment No. 4140'' ((RIN2120–AA65) (Docket No. 31576)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 18, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6868. A communication from the Management Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments; Amendment No. 4139'' ((RIN2120–AA65) (Docket No. 31575)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 18, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6869. A communication from the Management Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of Class C Airspace; Austin, TX'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2024–2524)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 19, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6870. A communication from the Management Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of Class E Airspace; Lady Lake, FL'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2023–2166)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 18, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6871. A communication from the Management Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of Class D Airspace; Dallas, TX'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2024–2370)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 18, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6872. A communication from the Management Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Establishment of Class E Airspace; Rose Hill, KS'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2023–1624)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 18, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6873. A communication from the Management Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes; Amendment 39–22876'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2024–2008)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 18, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6874. A communication from the Management Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; De Havilland Aircraft of Canada Limited (Type Certificate Previously Held by Bombardier, Inc.) Airplanes; Amendment 39–22878'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2024–1692)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 18, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6875. A communication from the Management Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Canada Limited Partnership (Type Certificate Previously Held by C Series Aircraft Limited Partnership (CSALP); Bombardier, Inc.) Airplanes; Amendment 39–22872'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2024–1285)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 18, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6876. A communication from the Management Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes; Amendment 39–22879'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2024–1888)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 18, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6877. A communication from the Management Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Safran Helicopter Engines, S.A. (Type Certificate Previously Held by Turbomeca, S.A.); Amendment 39–22892'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2024–2537)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 18, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6878. A communication from the Management Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Embraer S.A. Airplanes; Amendment 39–22886'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2024–2426)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 18, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6879. A communication from the Management Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; MD Helicopters, LLC, Helicopters; Amendment 39–22876'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2024–2008)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 18, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6880. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Great Lakes Pilotage Rates - 2025 Annual Review'' ((RIN1625–AC94) (Docket No. USCG–2024–0406)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 19, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6881. A communication from the Management Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments'' ((RIN2120–AA65) (Docket No. 31573)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6882. A communication from the Management Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments'' ((RIN2120–AA65) (Docket No. 31574)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6883. A communication from the Management Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airspace; Amendment of Class E Airspace; Zanesville, OH'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2024–2159)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6884. A communication from the Management Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2024–1894)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6885. A communication from the Management Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc., Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2024–0767)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6886. A communication from the Management Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc., Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2024–2007)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6887. A communication from the Management Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Canada Limited Partnership (Type Certificate Previously Held by C Series Aircraft Limited Partnership (CSALP); Bombardier, Inc.) Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2024–0464)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6888. A communication from the Management Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Safran Aerosystems (Formerly AVOX Systems Inc.; Scott Aviation) Oxygen Cylinder and Valve Assemblies, and Oxygen Valve Assemblies'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2024–0759)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6889. A communication from the Management Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airspace; Amendment of Class E Airspace; South Haven, MI'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2024–1912)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6890. A communication from the Management Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airspace; Revocation of Class E Airspace; Manchester, NH'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2024–1361)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6891. A communication from the Management Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airspace; Amendment of Class E Airspace; Claremont, NH'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2024–1650)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6892. A communication from the Management Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Various Helicopters'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2024–1004)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6893. A communication from the Management Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Lycoming Engines'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2024–1695)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6894. A communication from the Management Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Criteria: Special Class Airworthiness Criteria for the AgustaWestland Philadelphia Corporation Model AW609 Powered-Lift'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2024–1726)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6895. A communication from the Management Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments'' ((RIN2120–AA65) (Docket No. 31572)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6896. A communication from the Management Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments'' ((RIN2120–AA65) (Docket No. 31571)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6897. A communication from the Management Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Canada Limited Partnership (Type Certificate Previously Held by C Series Aircraft Limited Partnership (CSALP); Bombardier, Inc.) Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2024–2415)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6898. A communication from the Management Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of

a rule entitled ''Airspace; Amendment of Jet Route J–133 and Establishment of Area Navigation Route Q–801 in the Vicinity of Anchorage, AK'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2023–1957)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6899. A communication from the Management Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airspace; Amendment of Class E Airspace; Asheville, NC'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2023–2254)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6900. A communication from the Management Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Rolls-Royce Deutschland Ltd & Co KG'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2024–1899)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6901. A communication from the Management Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airspace; Modification of Class E Airspace; Colusa County Airport, Colusa, CA'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2024–2048)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6902. A communication from the Management Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''IFR Altitudes; Miscellaneous Amendments'' ((RIN2120–AA63) (Docket No. 31579)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6903. A communication from the Management Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airspace; Amendment of VOR Federal Airways V–258, V–519, and RNAV Route T–426; and Revocation of Jet Routes J–213 and J–526, and VOR Federal Airway V–59 in the Vicinity of Beckley, WV'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2024–1396)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6904. A communication from the Management Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airspace; Amendment of United States Area Navigation Route Q–8 and Revocation of United States Area Navigation Route Q–18 in Alaska'' ((RIN2120–AA65) (Docket No. FAA–2024–1691)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6905. A communication from the Management Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2024–2545)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6906. A communication from the Management Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of Class D and Class E Airspace Gainesville, FL'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2023–2176)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6907. A communication from the Program Analyst, Office of Budget and Program Analysis, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Biobased Markets Program'' ((RIN0570–AB05) (Docket No. RBS–24–BUSINESS–0004)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2024; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–6908. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Ethiprole; Pesticide Tolerances'' (FRL–12457–01–OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2024; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–6909. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Bacillus Thuringiensis Cry1Da2 protein; Exemption From the Requirement of a Tolerance'' (FRL No. 12380–01–OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2024; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–6910. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Streptomyces Sviceus DGT–28 EPSPS (5-enolpyruvylshikimate-3-phosphate synthase) Protein; Exemption From the Requirement of a Tolerance'' (FRL No . 12381–01–OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2024; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–6911. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Brevibacillus Laterosporus Mpp75Aa1.1 and Bacillus Thuringiensis Vpb4Da2 Proteins; Exemption From the Requirement of a Tolerance'' (FRL No. 12399–01–OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2024; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–6912. A communication from the Senior Congressional Liaison, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Home Mortgage Disclosure (Regulation C) Adjustment to Asset-Size Exemption Threshold'' received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2024; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–6913. A communication from the Senior Congressional Liaison, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Truth in Lending Act (Regulation Z) Adjustment to Asset-Size Exemption Threshold'' received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2024; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–6914. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Office of Housing, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Disbursing Multifamily Mortgage Proceeds: Permitting Mortgages To Disburse Mortgage Proceeds With Mortgagor-Provided Funds'' (RIN2502–AJ72) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2024; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–6915. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Office of Housing, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Federal Housing Administration: Single Family Sale Program'' (RIN2502–AJ47) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2024; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–6916. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Office of Housing, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''30-Day Notification Requirement Prior To Termination of Lease for Nonpayment of Rent'' (RIN2501–AE09) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2024; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–6917. A communication from the Director of the U.S. Geological Survey, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled, ''Fourth Annual Report to Congress on the National Volcano Early Warning System October 1, 2022 to September 30, 2023''; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–6918. A communication from the Chairman of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Agency Performance Report for fiscal year 2024 received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–6919. A communication from the Biologist of Domestic Listing, Fish and Wildlife Services, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Endangered Species Status for the Penasco Least Chipmunk and Designation of Critical Habitat'' (RIN1018–BD94) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–6920. A communication from the Associate Administrator for Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''National Water Quality Inventory: Report to Congress''; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–6921. A communication from the Associate Administrator for Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Water Affordability Needs Assessment: Report to Congress''; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–6922. A communication from the Director of Civil Works, Army Corps of Engineers, Department of the Army, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Corps of Engineers Agency Specific Procedures to Implement the Principles, Requirements, and Guidelines for Federal Investments in Water Resources'' (RIN0710–AB41) received in the office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–6923. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Uplift Climate and Environmental Community Action Grant'' received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–6924. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Interim Final Determination To Defer Sanctions; AK, Fairbanks North Star Borough'' (FRL No. 12391–03–R10) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–6925. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Air Plan Approval; Air Plan Disapproval; Delaware; Removal of Excess Emissions Provisions; Final Correction'' (FRL No. 12391–03–R10) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–6926. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Air Plan Approval; Ohio; Nitrogen Oxide Standards Rules'' (FRL No. 12471–01–R5) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–6927. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Outer Continental Shelf Air Regulations; Amendment to State Requirements Incorporated by Reference; Massachusetts'' (FRL No. 12222–02–R1) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–6928. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Determination of Attainment by the Attainment Date; Michigan; St. Clair 2010 Sulfur Dioxide Nonattainment Area'' (FRL No. 12224–02–R5) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–6929. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Significant New Use Rules on Certain Chemical Substances (19–5.F)'' (FRL No. 7645–02–OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–6930. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Air Plan Approval; Delaware; 2022 Amendments to Delaware's Ambient Air Quality Standards'' (FRL No. 10461–02–R3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–6931. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Partial Approval, Partial Disapproval and Promulgation of State Plans for Designated Facilities and Pollutants; Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency; Control of Emissions from Existing Large Municipal Waste Combustors'' (FRL No. 10859–02–R10) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–6932. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Air Plan Disapproval; Louisiana; Removal of Excess Emissions Provisions; Correction'' (FRL No. 10997–04–R6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–6933. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Air Plan Approval; Indiana; Update to CFR References'' (FRL No. 11928–02–R5) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–6934. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Air Plan Approval; Illinois; Alton Township 2010 Sulfur Dioxide Redesignation and Maintenance Plan'' (FRL No. 12265–02–R5) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–6935. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Air Plan Approval; WA; Excess Emissions, Startup, Shutdown, and Malfunction Revisions, Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council'' (FRL No. 12293–02–R10) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–6936. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Air Plan Approval; Revisions to Colorado Common Provisions Regulation'' (FRL No. 12341–02–R8) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–6937. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Air Plan Approval; KY; Revisions to Jefferson County Control of Open Burning'' (FRL No. 12355–02–R4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–6938. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Air Plan Approval; Ohio; Title V Operating Permit Rules Revisiting'' (FRL No. 12468–02–R5) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–6939. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Utah: Final Authorization of State Hazardous Waste Management Program Revisions and Incorporation by Reference'' (FRL No. 12226–02–R8) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–6940. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Air Plan Disapproval; Texas; Control of Air Pollution from Visible Emissions and Particulate Matter'' (FRL No. 12218–02–R6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–6941. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Federal Implementation Plan for Nonattainment New Source Review Program; Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District, California'' (FRL No. 11830–02–R9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–6942. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Air Plan Approval; Georgia; Update to Materials Incorporated by Reference'' (FRL No. 12273–01–R4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–6943. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Determination to Defer Sanctions; California; Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District'' (FRL No. 12442–03–R9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–6944. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval of State Plans for Designated Facilities and Pollutants; MO; Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Control of Emissions from Existing Municipal Solid Waste Landfills'' (FRL No. 10830.1–01–R7) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–6945. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Reconsideration of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Particulate Matter; Correction'' ((RIN2060–AW48) (FRL No. 8635.1–02–OAR)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–6946. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Reconsideration of the Dust-Lead Hazard Standards and Dust-Lead Post-Abatement Clearance Levels; Technical Correction'' ((RIN2070–AK91) (FRL No. 8524–03–OCSPP)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–6947. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Certain Existing Chemicals; Request to Submit Unpublished Health and Safety Data under the Toxic Substances Control Act'' ((RIN2070–AL15) (FRL No. 11164–02–OCSPP)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–6948. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''National Priorities List'' (FRL No. 11724–02–OLEM) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–6949. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Redesignation of Portions of Westmoreland and Cambria Counties, Pennsylvania for the 2010 Sulfur Dioxide (SO2) National Ambient Air Quality Standards'' (FRL No. 11736–02–R3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–6950. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Designation of Areas for Air Quality Planning Purposes; Redesignation Request and Associated Maintenance Plan for Whatcom County, WA 2010 SO2 Nonattainment Area'' (FRL No. 12159–02–R10) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–6951. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Partial Approval and Disapproval of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Arizona; Regional Haze State Implementation Plan for the Second Implementation Period and Prong 4 (Visibility) for the 2015 Ozone and 2012 Particulate Matter Standards'' (FRL No. 11919–02–R9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–6952. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Significant New Use Rules on Certain Chemical Substances (22–4.5e)'' ((RIN2070–AB27) (FRL No. 11912–02–OCSPP)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–6953. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Phasedown of Hydrofluorocarbons: Restrictions on the Use of HFCs under the AIM Act in Variable Refrigerant Flow Air Conditioning Subsector'' ((RIN2060–AW20) (FRL No. 11739–02–OAR)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–6954. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Perchloroethylene; Regulation under the Toxic Substances Control Act'' ((RIN2070–AK84) (FRL No. 8329–01–OCSPP)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–6955. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Trichloroethylene; Regulation under the Toxic Substances Control Act'' ((RIN2070–AK83) (FRL No. 8317–02–OCSPP)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–6956. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Carbon Tetrachloride; Regulation under the Toxic Substances Control Act'' ((RIN2070–AK82) (FRL No. 8206–02–OCSPP)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–6957. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Updates to New Chemicals Regulations under the Toxic Substances Control Act'' ((RIN2070–AK95) (FRL No. 7906–02–OCSPP)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–6958. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Clean Water Act Section 404 Tribal and State Assumption Program'' ((RIN2040–AF83) (FRL No. 6682–01–OW)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–6959. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Water Quality Standards; Establishment of a Numeric Criterion for Selenium for the State of California'' ((RIN2040–AF79) (FRL No. 6322–03–OW)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–6960. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Review of the Secondary National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Oxides of Nitrogen, Oxides of Sulfur, and Particulate Matter'' ((RIN2060–AS35) (FRL No. 5788–05–OAR)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–6961. A communication from the Management Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2024–1890)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6962. A communication from the Management Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2024–2025)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6963. A communication from the Management Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Defense and Space S.A. (Formerly Known as Construcciones Aeronauticas, S.A.) Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2024–2134)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6964. A communication from the Management Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; MHI RJ Aviation ULC (Type Certificate Previously Held by Bombardier, Inc.) Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2024–1890)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6965. A communication from the Management Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; ATR - GIE Avions de Transport Regional Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2024–2128)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6966. A communication from the Management Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2024–1698)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6967. A communication from the Management Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2023–2403)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6968. A communication from the Management Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2023–1053)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6969. A communication from the Management Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments'' ((RIN2120–AA65) (Docket No. 31578)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6970. A communication from the Management Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airspace; Amendment of Class D and Class E Airspace and Establishment of Class E Airspace; Flagstaff, AZ'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2024–2221)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6971. A communication from the Management Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airspace; Establishment of Class D Airspace and Amendment of Class E Airspace; Auburn, AL'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2024–2062)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6972. A communication from the Management Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation,

transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Robinson Helicopter Company'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2024–1477)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6973. A communication from the Management Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airspace; Establishment of Class E Airspace; Rose Hill, KS'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2023–1624)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6974. A communication from the Management Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2024–0463)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6975. A communication from the Management Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2024–1897)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6976. A communication from the Management Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Rolls-Royce Deutschland Ltd & Co KG Engines'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2024–2014)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6977. A communication from the Management Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Canada Limited Partnership (Type Certificate Previously Held by C Series Aircraft Limited Partnership (CSALP)'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2024–1474)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6978. A communication from the Management Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc., Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2024–2015)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6979. A communication from the Management Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Embraer S.A. Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2024–2020)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6980. A communication from the Management Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airspace; Modification of Class E Airspace; Chenga Bay Airport, Chenga, AK'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2024–0183)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6981. A communication from the Management Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airspace; Amendment of Class D and Class E Airspace and Revocation of Class E Airspace; Youngstown/Warren, OH'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2024–2294)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6982. A communication from the Management Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Standard Instrument Approach Procedures'' ((RIN2120–AA65) (Docket No. 31577)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6983. A communication from the Management Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Canada Limited Partnership (Type Certificate Previously Held by C Series Aircraft Limited Partnership (CSALP)'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2024–0468)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6984. A communication from the Management Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airspace; Amendment of VOR Federal Airways V–68, V–76, V–212, V–222, and V–558, and United States Area Navigation Route T–220 in the Vicinity of Industry, TX'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2024–1707)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6985. A communication from the Management Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Cirrus Design Corporation Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2024–2546)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6986. A communication from the Management Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airspace; Amendment of VOR Federal Airways V–216 and V–380, and Revocation of VOR Federal Airways V–549 and V–551 in the Vicinity of Mankato, KS'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2024–1890)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6987. A communication from the Management Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; ATR - GIE Avions de Transport Regional Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2024–2129)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6988. A communication from the Management Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airspace; Amendment of United States Area Navigation (RNAV) Routes Q–117 and Q–135; Eastern United States'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2024–2525)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6989. A communication from the Management Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2024–2139)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6990. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation 2024 Report to Congress''; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–6991. A communication from the Staff Attorney, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Regulations Enhancing the Administration of the Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Trade Remedy Laws'' (RIN0625–AB25) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2024; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–6992. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Risk Adjustment in Medicare Advantage 2024''; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–6993. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''International Traffic in Arms Regulations: Registration Fees'' (RIN1400–AF78) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2024; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–6994. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a notification regarding plans to provide $500 million in DoD defense articles and services, and military education and training, under drawdowns previously directed under section 506(a)(1) of the FAA, including for self-defense and border security operations; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–6995. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of firearms, parts, and components controlled under Category I of the U.S. Munitions List to the Germany in the amount of $1,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 24–088); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–6996. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) and 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles, including technical data and defense services in the amount of $100,000,000 or more for the manufacture of significant military equipment abroad to Australia and the United Kingdom (Transmittal No. DDTC 23–060); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–6997. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to

section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of firearms abroad controlled under Category I of the U.S. Munitions List to Senegal in the amount of $1,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 24–043); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–6998. A communication from the Management Analyst, Fisheries Office of International Affairs, Trade, and Commerce, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Final Rule to Implement Revised Rules Pertaining to Inspection and Certification of Establishments, Fishery Products, and Other Marine Ingredients'' (RIN0648–BH37) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6999. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Public Notice of Revised Exchange Visitor Skills List'' (RIN1400–AF92) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 18, 2024; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–7000. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Fiscal Year 2022 Progress Report on Understanding the Long-Term Health Effects of Living Organ Donation''; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–7001. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Privacy Act Regulation; Exemption for Legal Case Management Records'' (RIN1212–AB59) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2024; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–7002. A communication from the Senior Advisor, Wage and Hour Division, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Tip Regulations Under the Fair Labor Standards Act; Restoration of Regulatory Language'' (RIN1235–AA44) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2024; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–7003. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Administration for Children and Families, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Privacy Act; Implementation'' (RIN0970–AD15) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2024; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–7004. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Possession, Use, and Transfer of Select Agents and Toxins; Biennial Review of the List of Select Agents and Toxins'' (RIN0920–AA71) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2024; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–7005. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Health Data, Technology, and Interoperability: Protecting Care Access'' (RIN0955–AA06) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 18, 2024; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–7006. A communication from the Chairman, Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Performance and Accountability Report for fiscal year 2024 received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–7007. A communication from the Director of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2025–02, Introduction'' (FAC 2025–02) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2024; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–7008. A communication from the Board Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Administration's Performance and Accountability Report for fiscal year 2024 received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–7009. A communication from the Chairm of the National Endowment for the Arts, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Semiannual Report of the Inspector General and the Chairman's Semiannual Report on Final Action Resulting from Audit Reports, Inspection Reports, and Evaluation Reports for the period from April 1, 2024 through September 30, 2024 received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–7010. A communication from the Chairman and Chief Executive and Administrative Officer, Federal Labor Relations Authority, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Authority's Performance and Accountability Report for fiscal year 2024 received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–7011. A communication from the Chair, National Endowment for the Humanities, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Endowment's Performance and Accountability Report for fiscal year 2024 received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–7012. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Office of the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Uniform Resource Locator (URL) for the Department's Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2024 received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–7013. A communication from the Secretary of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's fiscal year 2024 Agency Financial Report received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–7014. A communication from the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department of Housing and Urban Development Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2024 through September 30, 2024; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–7015. A communication from the Assistant to the Director of the Office of Regulatory Affairs and Collaborative Action, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Self-Governance PROGRESS Act Regulations'' (RIN1076–AF62) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2024; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

EC–7016. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Visas: Special Immigrant Visas - U.S. Government Employee Special Immigrant Visas for Service Abroad'' (RIN1400–AF82) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 18, 2024; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–7017. A communication from the Chief of the Immigration Law Division, Executive Office for Immigration Review, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Security Bars and Processing; Delay of Effective Date'' ((RIN1125–AA81) (RIN1615–AC57)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2024; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–7018. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''National Institute of Justice Annual Report 2023''; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM–192. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of North Carolina urging the United States Congress to work closer with Germany on mutually beneficial trade relations to encourage increased investment and collaboration between German and American companies in the economy of both the United States and Germany, respectively; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 1076

Whereas, North Carolina and Germany have enjoyed decades of friendly and enduring relations, marked by robust economic partnerships, vibrant cultural ties, and shared values that have strengthened the relations between the two regions; and

Whereas, North Carolina has enjoyed a tight cultural infusion from Germany through immigration, particularly the establishment of the Moravian community in Winston-Salem, and the State's first capital, New Bern, founded by Swiss and German Palatines led by Baron Christoph von Graffenried, and German-namesakes for our communities, including the County of New Hanover, named after the House of Hanover, and the Counties of Mecklenburg and Brunswick, named after Charlotte of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, Queen Consort of Great Britain, and King George I of Great Britain, Duke of Brunswick-Lüneburg, and Prince-Elector of the Holy Roman Empire, respectively; and

Whereas, Germany stands as one of the largest originators of foreign direct investment in North Carolina, with over $3 billion invested into North Carolina's economy since 2007; and

Whereas, Germany is one of North Carolina's largest trading partners, and ninth largest export destination, with $4 billion in trade annually; and

Whereas, Germany has played an essential role in job creation in North Carolina across various sectors, with 230 German companies employing over 43,000 North Carolinians, with 7,075 new jobs and more than $2.2 billion in capital investment announced since 2014, thereby contributing significantly to the State's employment and economy; and

Whereas, North Carolina has emerged as a premier destination for German investment

and ranks among the top US states selected by Germany as a beneficiary of foreign direct investment, reflecting the State's favorable business environment, developed infrastructure, and skilled workforce; and

Whereas, German companies have made significant contributions to North Carolina's economic diversification and innovation, driving research and development initiatives through North Carolina's esteemed higher education institutions and in partnerships with domestic industries; and

Whereas, trade with Germany plays an instrumental role in North Carolina's economic activity, enhancing prosperity and growth, and fostering mutually beneficial exchanges of goods, services, and technologies, thereby solidifying Germany as a vital trading partner and ally; and

Whereas, over 16,600 German expatriates currently live or work in North Carolina, leading to the establishment of the Deutsche Schule Charlotte in 1974 to service the German language education needs of the German-speaking community in Charlotte; and

Whereas, five daily direct flights now connect North Carolina with Germany, including service from the Charlotte Douglas and Raleigh-Durham International Airports to Frankfurt and Munich; and

Whereas, ApprenticeshipNC's dual-track model for manufacturing apprenticeships was inspired by the Duales Ausbildungssystem pioneered by Germany; and

Whereas, Germany and the United States have maintained a steadfast alliance, founded on shared principles of democracy, human rights, and global security with this beneficial relationship contributing to international and regional peace, stability, and prosperity; and

Whereas, the democratic principles upheld by both Germany and the United States, serving as essential foundations for international order and cooperation, form the bedrock of the enduring friendship between North Carolina and Germany; and

Whereas, North Carolina remains committed to its friendship with Germany and to the US-German alliance and peaceful trade between the nations; Now, therefore,

be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

Section 1. The House of Representatives recognizes the historic significance of the friendship and alliance between the United States and Germany.

Section 2. The House of Representatives commends the people of Germany for their remarkable achievements in promoting democracy, economic prosperity, and international cooperation.

Section 3. The House of Representatives applauds Germany for its continued partnership and economic cooperation with the State of North Carolina.

Section 4. The House of Representatives affirms the steadfast and enduring friendship and cooperation between Germany and the State of North Carolina and expresses commitment to further strengthening these ties.

Section 5. The House of Representatives urges Congress to work closer with Germany on mutually beneficial trade relations to encourage increased investment and collaboration between German and American companies in the economy of both the United States and Germany, respectively.

Section 6. The House of Representatives expresses to Congress full support for the longstanding alliance between the United States of America and Germany, which remains essential for global security and prosperity.

Section 7. The Principal Clerk shall transmit a copy of this resolution to the Embassy of Germany in Washington, D.C., and the Consulate-General of Germany in Atlanta, Georgia, each member of North Carolina's Congressional Delegation, the Clerk of the United States House of Representatives and the Secretary of the United States Senate, and the President of the United States.

Section 8. This resolution is effective upon adoption.

POM–193. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of California requesting the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention conduct further investigation into the concerns raised regarding potential health impacts attributed to pollution in the Tijuana River; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 18

Whereas, The Tijuana River, which flows east to west from Mexico into California and drains into the Pacific Ocean through the Tijuana Estuary, has for decades experienced an increased discharge of trash, sediment, and wastewater generated on the Mexico side, which, as a result of sewage infrastructure inadequacies, has created recurring and worsening pollution problems for the County of San Diego and the southern California coastline; and

Whereas, This past January, a storm surge caused 14.5 billion gallons of raw sewage and pollution to wash up on the banks of the river, as well as overflow into the nearby coastal wetlands, one of the few remaining such ecosystems left in southern California; and

Whereas, The City of Imperial Beach has declared a continued state of emergency since 2017 as a result of the escalated discharge of raw sewage from the City of Tijuana, Mexico, that has caused numerous health problems and significant beach closure days at Imperial Beach, which include 101 days in 2018, 243 days in 2019, 295 days in 2020, and 246 days in 2021, and the beach has yet to open since December 2021; and

Whereas, The County of San Diego, on June 27, 2023, declared a local emergency due to the public health, environmental, and economic impacts of the cross-border pollution disaster; and

Whereas, The San Diego County Air Pollution Control District has deployed air monitors in the communities surrounding the Tijuana River Valley that have shown levels of sulfur dioxide and hydrogen sulfide above standards set by the United States Environmental Protection Agency; and

Whereas, Californians who live and work in communities such as Imperial Beach, Nestor, San Ysidro, and the Tijuana River Valley have reported headaches, chronic cough, diarrhea, vomiting, and other symptoms, particularly after heavy rains when more sewage hits the riverbed and when odors seem stronger during hot and dry days; and

Whereas, Research by the Scripps Institution of Oceanography at the University of California, San Diego, attributed 34,000 annual illnesses to water quality pollution along the City of Imperial Beach coastline in the County of San Diego, and linked up to 76 percent of bacteria in the City of Imperial Beach air to cross-border water pollution, and data from medical clinics in the City of Imperial Beach shows a significant increase in cases of diarrhea and other intestinal problems during significant cross-border flow events; and

Whereas, Flesh-eating bacteria and other dangerous pathogens have been linked to Tijuana River pollution and the exposure to raw human sewage, massive coliform bacteria contamination, and toxic chemicals; and

Whereas, A 2023 study conducted by the Scripps Institution of Oceanography at the University of California, San Diego, showed sea spray associated with pollution in the Tijuana River carries dangerous bacteria and chemical compounds inland through tiny aerosolized particles that can reach people on land; and

Whereas, The risk of acute infectious diseases and chronic conditions is potentially high, but not well understood, indicating a public health crisis with the possibility for long-term impacts on health, society, and the economy; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of California, jointly, That the Legislature requests the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to conduct further investigation into the concerns raised regarding potential health impacts attributed to pollution in the Tijuana River; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the Majority Leader of the Senate, to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States, to the Secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human Services, and to the Director of the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

POM–194. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of California urging the President of the United States and the United States Congress to modify bankruptcy rules to provide, in the event of liquidation and termination of oil and gas leases under the United States Bankruptcy Code, that priority is given to plug and abandonment and restoration obligations, to protect the environment, over all secured creditor claims; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 12

Whereas, in 2016, Rincon Island Limited Partnership, a lessee of state oil and gas leases offshore of the County of Ventura, filed for bankruptcy in Texas, and in 2017, quitclaimed their three leases to the state, deliberately ignoring their contractual and statutory obligations to plug and abandon 75 oil and gas wells and decommission two oil production facilities located on public lands; and

Whereas, In 2017, Venoco, LLC, a lessee of state oil and gas leases offshore of the County of Santa Barbara, surrendered its leases to the state and then declared bankruptcy in Delaware, without undertaking its legal obligation to plug 32 wells across the leases or to decommission Platform Holly and the associated facilities; and

Whereas, At the time of the bankruptcies, the leases operated by Rincon Island Limited Partnership were out of compliance with the lease requirements, creating greater risk of an uncontrolled release of oil or gas into the marine environment, and rather than bring the leases into compliance, as they were legally required to do, and as California governmental agencies were pressing them to do, Rincon Island Limited Partnership chose bankruptcy as a way to avoid the costs of compliance and decommissioning; and

Whereas, The leases operated by Venoco, LLC were ultimately deserted on the grounds that the company could no longer afford to operate, risking releases of hydrogen sulfide gas and oil from wells located on Platform Holly; and

Whereas, In both instances, the State of California was forced to use its police powers to enter and to manage the abatement of the deserted oil and gas facilities to ensure protection of human health and safety and the environment; and

Whereas, The obligations under the leases for both Rincon Island Limited Partnership and Venoco, LLC required each to permanently and safely plug and abandon all wells

and restore public property to its natural condition at the lessee's expense, an obligation now forced upon the State of California because of bankruptcy protections provided for in federal law, costing taxpayers more than $150,000,000; and

Whereas, The State of California has statutory obligations, enforced by the Department of Conservation's California Geologic Energy Management Division, for operators to permanently plug and abandon oil wells and decommission oil and gas infrastructure at the end of its useful life and

Whereas, By quitclaiming its leases before filing bankruptcy, Venoco, LLC was allowed to convert the contractual obligations that it agreed to when it became a lessee of the state, including the obligation to plug wells and restore public lands, into an unsecured claim, ensuring that the State of California would receive only a fractional payment of its estimated claim and only after all secured creditors were paid; and

Whereas, Despite active and aggressive attempts by the state to pursue Rincon Island Limited Partnership through the bankruptcy process, including traveling to Texas, where Rincon Island Limited Partnership filed bankruptcy, and retention of outside counsel specializing in these matters, Rincon Island Limited Partnership was legally able to dissolve and largely avoid its responsibilities to plug and abandon and decommission by virtue of the United States' debtor-friendly bankruptcy laws; and

Whereas, Despite active participation in each bankruptcy, the State of California will likely receive little to no compensation from the debtor's estates for the public monies spent to safely manage and abate the facilities deserted by the debtors; and

Whereas, Beyond these two cases, there are over 35,000 oil wells in California categorized as idle, with many owned by companies that could seek bankruptcy protection, requiring future plug and abandonment by the State of California, without recompense; and

Whereas, The risk remains that oil and gas companies could, in the future, employ the strategy of filing bankruptcy to circumvent their decommissioning responsibilities, thereby shifting the costs of remediation and abatement to California taxpayers; and

Whereas, The people of California believe it is important that the federal government ensure that bankruptcy does not provide a default pathway for oil and gas companies, or their equity owners, to shift critical environmental obligations to decommission oil and gas infrastructure to the public or to otherwise publicly subsidize the operations of these private companies; and

Whereas, On January 31, 2019, the Supreme Court of Canada held that, consistent with an order of the Alberta State regulator, a bankruptcy debtor had to comply with end-of-life abandonment obligations prior to any distribution to creditors (Orphan Well Association v. Grant Thornton Ltd. (2019) SCC 5); now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of California, jointly, That the Legislature of the State of California respectfully urges the President of the United States and the United States Congress to modify bankruptcy rules to treat the plug and abandonment and lease restoration obligations for debtor held oil and gas leases, quitclaimed or accepted, as nondischargeable obligations; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature of the State of California respectfully urges the President of the United States and the United States Congress to modify bankruptcy rules to provide, in the event of liquidation and termination of oil and gas leases under Chapters 7 and 11 of the United States Bankruptcy Code (11 U.S.C. Sec. 101 et seq.), that priority is given to plug and abandonment and restoration obligations, to protect the environment, over all secured creditor claims; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Majority Leader of the Senate, and each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States, and to the author for appropriate distribution.

POM–195. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of California urging the President of the United States and the United States Congress to address, with effective policies, the issue of servicemembers who were unjustly discharged under 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' or predecessor provisions, in order to unify efforts to upgrade discharges issued under the DADT policy, and to restore benefits; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 6

Whereas, In the 1940s and the 1980s, the United States Department of Defense (DOD) established policies that penalized military members and resulted in the discharge of gay, lesbian, and bisexual members regardless of their service to the country and good military service. During the 1980s, more than 17,000 military members were dismissed from their duties due to their orientation, not because of misconduct; and

Whereas, In the military, there are administrative and punitive discharges. The three types of administrative terminations that exist are honorable, general, and other than honorable. The punitive discharges are bad conduct and dishonorable; and

Whereas, Receiving a dishonorable discharge represents the most serious form of punitive termination. Thousands of brave women, men, and transgender people were discharged due to their orientation and their associations; and

Whereas, The different branches of the DOD have labeled their discharges as ''sexual perversion,'' ''homosexual,'' or other codes, which are derogatory, harmful, and outdated; and

Whereas, Thousands of veterans have carried the emotional pain, anguish, and burden of their discharge for decades; and

Whereas, Almost 30 years ago, ''Don't Ask, Don't Tell'' (DADT) brought a new wave of homophobia and persecution to the military. In 1993, President Clinton signed the DADT policy into law, which would ultimately lead to the discharge of more than 14,000 servicemembers over the 17 years in which the policy was in place; and

Whereas, This policy discriminated against and prevented servicemembers from expressing their sexuality and participating as equal members of the military and continues to punish them to this day. The policy punished servicemembers for being their authentic selves if other members or supervisors found out about their orientation; gay, lesbian, and bisexual members would be discharged under the ''other than honorable'' and ''dishonorable'' categories; and

Whereas, Such discharges resulted in servicemembers losing benefits they were entitled to and hindered future employment opportunities. Veterans that received ''other than honorable'' or ''dishonorable'' discharges have not had access to health care and their full benefits. This limits their ability to access benefits such as a debt-free college education and other employment opportunities. Furthermore, with these discharges, members are prevented from careers within the federal government; and

Whereas, In 2010, President Obama signed into law, the repeal of the DADT policy, that went into effect the next year; and

Whereas, The repeal of DADT provided a pathway for veterans that received an ''other than honorable'' discharge to undergo an upgrade, and veterans with a ''dishonorable'' discharge to apply for a ''character of discharge process.'' While this was an important step to help right a wrong it is the responsibility of the discharged veteran to initiate the process to clear their record; and

Whereas, Despite that initial effort, and further changes to the policy, thousands of veterans still have not upgraded their discharges, and have not had access to their benefits; and

Whereas, Thousands of former members face different obstacles to access the discharge upgrade. Many are unaware the process to update their discharge is available. Some of the members that have been working on their discharges learned about it by chance or because of their families. There have not been other forums to educate former servicemembers of the possibility of utilizing this process; and

Whereas, Another barrier that exists is the emotional trauma associated with reengaging the military that wrongfully discharged them. When members have to go back to the entity that discriminated against them, it becomes an emotional strain. And there is still resistance from the boards that are processing discharge upgrades. Boards are harsh, they do not see the harm, and there is no recognition of the context; and

Whereas, A further burden when applying for a discharge upgrade is the accessibility and complexity of the process. Veterans often need to retain legal guidance and the overall process can take over a year. If a servicemember's record was destroyed or misplaced, that can add even more time to the process; and

Whereas, Transgender people have also faced discrimination while serving our country. In 2019, President Trump barred them from joining the military. Those already in the military had to refrain from gender-affirming health care and serve according to their assigned sex at birth. In 2021, President Biden issued an executive order repealing this discriminatory policy; and

Whereas, On September 20, 2023, the DOD announced the ''DOD's Proactive Approach to Reviewing Military Records for Those Affected by DADT'' to proactively work on the review of military records of veterans whose records indicate administrative separation under the DADT period, this effort still leaves out thousands of veterans discharged prior to the DADT policy because it ignores other discharged members that were not explicitly discharged on these grounds. Other discharged members were affected by the previous policies that resulted in service records with aggravating factors such as misconduct or court-martial convictions; and

Whereas, These non-DADT discharges were also the product of bias, perception, or suspicion of sexual orientation or the identity of the members, or a pretext to separate and discipline the members; and

Whereas, Some discharges were also the product of cases in which the members of the DOD had consensual activity with adults of the same sex, and that some of these were categorized as sodomy, and eventually misconduct that was used to effect administrative separation for activity which is now acceptable; and

Whereas, Guidance is available with respect to the applications that are more complex than those addressed in previous efforts. Guidance may be provided by veterans' advocates or found in the Memorandum for Secretaries of the Military Departments regarding discharge review boards and boards for correction of military and naval records dated July 25, 2018; and

Whereas, Despite the many obstacles, there have been many great efforts to help discharged military members. Most of the work has been done through legal service providers, which have been working with unfairly discharged veterans to provide free or low-cost services to upgrade their discharge; and

Whereas, For the last 70 years, much harm was caused to the thousands of veterans unfairly discharged under DADT and previous policies. For many, the damage and the trauma can be permanent. Discharged members have struggled with feelings of shame and anxiety. The true cure must be addressed with more effective policies to restore their dignity; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of California, jointly, That the Legislature denounces the obstacles and harm that members of the military discharged before, under, and even after the DADT policy have undergone and suffered; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature urges the President and Congress of the United States to address the issue with effective policies to unify efforts to upgrade the ''less than honorable'' discharges issued under DADT and predecessor policies. The federal government should address the obstacles veterans and organizations have encountered to create a streamlined, simple, and immediate option to upgrade an ''other than honorable'' discharge and restore benefits to veterans who have served our country honorably are entitled to; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the Majority Leader of the Senate, to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States, and to the author for appropriate distribution.

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. MERKLEY:

S. 2. A bill to amend the Commodity Exchange Act to prohibit political election or contest agreements, contracts, transactions, and swaps; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. WARNER (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. BALDWIN, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 3. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to waive cost-sharing for advance care planning services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KIM, and Mr. LANKFORD):

S. 5639. A bill to extend the authority for the protection of certain facilities and assets from unmanned aircraft; considered and passed.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 5640. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to protect children's health by denying any deduction for advertising and marketing directed at children to promote the consumption of food of poor nutritional quality; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. MURPHY, and Ms. WARREN):

S. 5641. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a credit against income tax for qualified conservation contributions which include National Scenic Trails; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. WELCH (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, and Mr. RISCH):

S. 5642. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prevent and mitigate the potential for conflicts of interest following government service, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GRAHAM (for himself and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. 5643. A bill to impose sanctions with respect to the Government of Turkiye, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. YOUNG (for himself and Mr. MANCHIN):

S. 5644. A bill to establish a new visa category for high-skilled aliens seeking employment in slow-growing and shrinking counties in the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HEINRICH:

S. 5645. A bill to amend title 54, United States Code, to increase amounts deposited in the Historic Preservation Fund, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, and Mr. MORAN):

S. 5646. A bill making continuing appropriations for military pay in the event of a Government shutdown; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. KENNEDY:

S. 5647. A bill to require Federal agencies to impose in-person work requirements for employees of those agencies and to occupy a certain portion of the office space of those agencies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina):

S. 5648. A bill to protect the national security of the United States by imposing sanctions with respect to certain persons of the People's Republic of China and prohibiting and requiring notifications with respect to certain investments by United States persons in the People's Republic of China, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 5649. A bill to amend the Marine Debris Act to improve the administration of the Marine Debris Program of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, to improve the administration of the Marine Debris Foundation, and for other purposes; considered and passed.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Ms. WARREN:

S. Res. 938. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that it is the duty of the Federal Government to dramatically expand and strengthen the care economy; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MORAN (for himself and Mr. MARSHALL):

S. Res. 939. A resolution commending and congratulating the Hutchinson Community College Blue Dragons football team for winning the 2024 National Junior College Athletic Association Football National Championship; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. HAWLEY (for himself and Mr. SCHMITT):

S. Res. 940. A resolution honoring the lives and service of Natalie and Davy Lloyd and expressing condolences to the family of Natalie and Davy Lloyd; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WELCH (for himself and Mr. SANDERS):

S. Res. 941. A resolution congratulating the University of Vermont men's soccer team on winning the 2024 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I men's soccer national championship; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. SCHMITT (for himself and Mr. HAWLEY):

S. Res. 942. A resolution congratulating the Washington University in St. Louis Bears women's soccer team for winning the 2024 NCAA Division III Women's Soccer Championship; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 725

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 725, a bill to amend the Combat-Injured Veterans Tax Fairness Act of 2016 to apply to members of the Coast Guard when the Coast Guard is not operating as a service in the Department of the Navy, and for other purposes.

S. 1631

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1631, a bill to enhance the authority granted to the Department of Homeland Security and Department of Justice with respect to unmanned aircraft systems and unmanned aircraft, and for other purposes.

S. 2204

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2204, a bill to ensure that federally backed financing for the construction, rehabilitation, or purchase of manufactured home communities is available only for communities whose owner has implemented minimum consumer protections in the lease agreements with residents of all manufactured home communities owned by such owner, and for other purposes.

S. 2555

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) 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. 2570

At the request of Mr. WARNOCK, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2570, a bill to amend the Agricultural Trade Act of 1978 to provide technical assistance to improve infrastructure in foreign markets for United States agricultural commodities.

S. 2681

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from Maryland

(Mr. VAN HOLLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2681, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide appropriate standards for the inclusion of a term of supervised release after imprisonment, and for other purposes.

S. 3740

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3740, a bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to reauthorize the residential substance use disorder treatment program, and for other purposes.

S. 4110

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4110, a bill to reauthorize the African Growth and Opportunity Act.

S. 4297

At the request of Mr. TUBERVILLE, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4297, a bill to repeal the Corporate Transparency Act.

S. 5270

At the request of Mr. KELLY, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) were added as cosponsors of S. 5270, a bill to amend the Office of National Drug Control Prevention Act of 1998 to include new requirements for assessments and reports, and for other purposes.

S. 5319

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. 5319, a bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to direct the Under Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis of the Department of Homeland Security to conduct an annual audit of the information systems and bulk data of the Office of Intelligence and Analysis of the Department, and for other purposes.

S. 5362

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 5362, a bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 regarding the application of wage and hour provisions to minor league baseball players, and for other purposes.

S. 5408

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 5408, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint commemorative coins in recognition of the life and legacy of Roberto Clemente.

S. 5463

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 5463, a bill to establish the Department of Homeland Security Northern Border Mission Center.

S. 5622

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 5622, a bill to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to establish an energy efficient appliance rebate program to provide rebates for the manufacturing, distribution, contracting, installation, and servicing of certain building electrification products and industrial heat pumps, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 122

At the request of Mr. HOEVEN, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 122, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to ''Waste Emissions Charge for Petroleum and Natural Gas Systems: Procedures for Facilitating Compliance, Including Netting and Exemptions''.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 938—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT IT IS THE DUTY OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO DRAMATICALLY EXPAND AND STRENGTHEN THE CARE ECONOMY

Ms. WARREN submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 938

Whereas the preamble of the Constitution of the United States cites the duty to ''promote the general Welfare'', establishing care for the people of the United States as one of the pillars of our system of government;

Whereas, even before the novel coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID–19) pandemic and the recession it triggered—

(1) the United States was experiencing profound crises of care and well-being; and

(2) critical public services and programs in the United States were under-resourced or nonexistent;

Whereas we are interdependent and, at various stages of life, everyone will give or receive care;

Whereas care work makes all other work possible, and the economy of the United States cannot thrive without a healthy and robust foundation of care for all people;

Whereas over 3,500,000 children are born every year in the United States, and about 11,000 people in the United States reach retirement age each day;

Whereas, in 2019, the number of adults over 60 requiring long-term care was around 8,000,000 and that number was expected to triple by 2050;

Whereas, in 2019, more than 1 out of 5 adults in the United States had been an unpaid caregiver for an adult family member or friend, or for a child with disabilities, in the preceding 12 months;

Whereas 60 percent of unpaid caregivers worked for pay outside the home, and most were women;

Whereas over 3,600,000 children and young people in the United States had also been caregivers for adults;

Whereas, in 2023, women in the United States performed nearly 296 hours per year of unpaid care work on average, amounting to nearly two-thirds of all unpaid care work performed and about 102 annual hours of care more than men on average, and Asian women and Latinas spent about an hour a day providing unpaid care on average, more than any other group;

Whereas the estimated size of the care economy, including both unpaid and paid caregiving, is up to $6 trillion, approaching a quarter of total United States gross domestic product (GDP);

Whereas just as our country's physical infrastructure is crumbling, the Federal and State programs constituting our care infrastructure are an outdated patchwork, and quality care is inaccessible for millions of people in the United States;

Whereas the United States does not guarantee paid time off to give and receive care, and is the only industrialized country in the world without a national paid family and medical leave program;

Whereas States throughout the country have created sustainable paid family and medical leave models that could meet the needs of all people in the United States;

Whereas, in 2023, only 27 percent of the United States private sector workforce had access to paid family leave through their employer, while only 6 percent of the lowest wage workers, who are predominantly women and workers of color, had access to paid family leave;

Whereas Federal law in the United States does not guarantee paid sick days for workers and, in 2023, 22 percent of workers in the private sector workforce did not have even a single paid sick day;

Whereas the ability for workers to use paid sick time during the COVID–19 pandemic prevented 400 confirmed cases of COVID–19 per State per day;

Whereas the median cost of a private room in a nursing home facility is $120,304 per year;

Whereas Medicaid—

(1) covers long-term care needs, but with strict income and asset eligibility requirements; and

(2) has an institutional bias, requiring State programs to cover care in congregate facilities, while home and community-based services are optional or limited;

Whereas Medicare generally does not cover long-term services and supports;

Whereas only 7 percent of individuals in the United States aged 50 or older are covered by private long-term care insurance, which is often prohibitively expensive while providing inadequate coverage;

Whereas, in 2024, nearly 27,000,000 people, including 3,800,000 children, did not have health insurance in the United States, over half of them people of color, and tens of millions more people were underinsured;

Whereas childcare is one of the highest expenses for families in much of the United States, and public childcare assistance is limited;

Whereas, in 2020, 30 percent of all children under the age of 14 were potentially eligible to receive childcare assistance through the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) based on Federal income eligibility, but only 10 percent of these children had access to assistance;

Whereas the median annual pay of childcare and home care workers is $30,370 and $33,530, respectively, leading to high turnover and reliance on public assistance;

Whereas childcare workers are 95 percent women, and home care workers are 87 percent women, and both are disproportionately Black and Hispanic;

Whereas, in 2023, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, less than 8 percent of health care support workers and 4.3 percent

of personal care and service workers were members of unions;

Whereas these conditions have historical roots, as—

(1) in the decades following the abolition of slavery in the United States, Black people primarily worked as domestic and agricultural laborers; and

(2) during the New Deal-era, domestic and agricultural workers were excluded from social programs and labor protections, particularly those created by—

(A) the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 301 et seq.);

(B) the National Labor Relations Act (29 U.S.C. 151 et seq.); and

(C) the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 201 et seq.);

Whereas the COVID–19 pandemic underscored that frontline work, including direct care, childcare, nursing, health care, public and community health, mental health, domestic, social assistance, education, service, retail, delivery, food, restaurant, agricultural, and other work, is essential to the functioning and flourishing of the United States, and to the well-being of all people;

Whereas, throughout the COVID–19 pandemic and the following recovery period, it was necessary for frontline workers to engage in numerous strikes and work stoppages to obtain safe workplaces, personal protective equipment, the right to shelter in place, and other basic protections for their health and safety;

Whereas domestic workers, mostly from the global South, were the most common victims of labor trafficking reported in the United States between 2007 and 2017;

Whereas care and domestic workers who are migrants or immigrants are especially likely to face wage theft, abuse, and other forms of exploitation;

Whereas hospitals in the United States are understaffed, and most of the country does not require minimum nurse-to-patient ratios that save lives;

Whereas health care and social assistance workers suffer from the highest rates of injuries due to workplace violence;

Whereas the closure of rural hospitals is accelerating, and 136 rural hospitals closed between 2010 and 2021;

Whereas the increased acquisition of healthcare services by profit-driven private equity firms is rapidly driving up the costs of healthcare and compromising quality of care across the country;

Whereas 3 of the largest childcare providers in the United States are owned by profit-driven private equity firms, which creates further risks for care affordability and quality and worker well-being;

Whereas the decision of the Supreme Court of the United States in Olmstead v. L.C., 527 U.S. 581 (1999), established the right of people with disabilities to be independent and supported in their homes and communities;

Whereas lack of access to technology and broadband internet among people of color, communities with low-income, communities in rural areas, older adults, and people with disabilities has negatively impacted the well-being of those people, particularly during the COVID–19 pandemic;

Whereas, on any given night in 2023, well over 650,000 people were unhoused in the United States;

Whereas, in 2022, in the United States, 16.3 percent of children, 19.6 percent of Latino children, 18.8 percent of American Indian and Alaska Native children, and 18.4 percent of Black children lived in poverty;

Whereas youth suicide rates are rising, and suicide attempts by Black adolescents increased by 144 percent between 2007 and 2020;

Whereas in the 2020–2021 school year, the Federal Head Start program reached only 30 percent of eligible children from families with low incomes, and Early Head Start reached only 9 percent;

Whereas access to high quality childcare and early childhood programs is associated with—

(1) better long-term socioeconomic, academic, and health-related outcomes for children; and

(2) increased labor force participation and higher earnings for parents and families, especially for mothers;

Whereas the historic funds provided for childcare through the American Rescue Plan led to increased childcare access and increased labor force participation for women, and the expiration of these resources has led to a slowdown of that progress;

Whereas a 2019 report found that 14,000,000 students attended schools with a police officer but no counselor, nurse, psychologist, or social worker;

Whereas mental health professionals, such as school psychologists and counselors, are best equipped to maintain school safety without pushing children into the school-to-prison pipeline;

Whereas the youth mental health crisis has been exacerbated by the climate crisis, COVID–19 pandemic, increased social isolation, and economic collapse;

Whereas Black, Brown, Indigenous, and low-income communities have borne the brunt of health impacts arising from fossil fuel use, industrial pollution, and crumbling infrastructure;

Whereas, increasingly, climate disasters and extreme weather events are leaving behind communities suffering from widespread trauma and in need of mental health care;

Whereas nurses, care and social assistance workers, and educators—

(1) have been first responders during climate disasters and extreme weather events;

(2) are essential for responding to other forms of environmental harm; and

(3) have taken grave personal risks to help the people they serve;

Whereas worsening climate impacts will make care work more necessary and care more difficult to administer, disproportionately impacting children, older adults, and people with disabilities, who risk being separated from their regular care workers and caregivers;

Whereas, despite the prevalence of low wages and difficult conditions, direct care jobs, including home care, residential care, and nursing assistant jobs, are already among the fastest growing in the United States and represent the largest occupational group in the country;

Whereas estimates indicate that, globally, adequately investing in care work and expanding care services could create nearly 300,000,000 jobs by 2035;

Whereas communities devastated by deindustrialization and disinvestment are particularly reliant on care and social assistance work for employment;

Whereas many care, social assistance, and education jobs are relatively low-carbon occupations, and can quickly become green jobs as certain physical infrastructures decarbonize, especially transit systems, health care facilities, and public buildings;

Whereas a robust care workforce will also be required to support a just transition to a healthy, zero-carbon economy, as other workers shift to new industries, move across the country, and develop new care needs;

Whereas the multiple crises now facing the United States require not only unprecedented investments in physical infrastructure, but also similarly sized investments in social infrastructure, including care infrastructure;

Whereas public investment in care work supports care workers' increased economic activity, creating additional jobs throughout the economy;

Whereas we have a historic opportunity to finally build care infrastructure that is equitable and inclusive, and one in which all people can thrive, prosper, weather future disruptions, and age with dignity in their own homes and communities; and

Whereas in the context of addressing and defeating the lasting repercussions of the COVID–19 pandemic, future public health emergencies, compounding economic crises, stark income and wealth inequalities, systemic racism, and climate change, and taking seriously the mandate to ''promote the general Welfare'', bold investments in care can anchor the rebirth of our country: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) it is the duty of the Federal Government to dramatically expand and strengthen the care economy, healing and supporting the country as we continue to recover from the COVID–19 pandemic and face the challenges of the 21st century and beyond;

(2) the obligation described in paragraph (1) can only be met with far-reaching public investments, designed to achieve the goals of—

(A) repairing the wrongs of history, including by—

(i) acknowledging and addressing the legacies of exclusion and oppression faced by caregivers and care workers, particularly women of color and immigrants;

(ii) acknowledging and addressing the trauma of all those with unmet care needs, such as—

(I) people of color, including Black, Brown, and Indigenous people;

(II) Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders;

(III) immigrant, limited English proficiency, LGBTQIA+, older, low-income, rural, and deindustrialized communities;

(IV) people with disabilities;

(V) people who are unemployed, under-employed, and unhoused:

(VI) people who are incarcerated or who were formerly incarcerated:

(VII) veterans:

(VIII) survivors of abuse: and

(IX) children and young people coping with economic and climate disruption; and

(iii) approaching care policy as part of a broader agenda of dismantling systemic racism, sexism, economic inequality, and other forms of oppression, alongside efforts to achieve truth and reconciliation, reparations, decarceration, restorative justice, Indigenous sovereignty, a fair and humane immigration system, demilitarization, a Federal jobs guarantee, and economic, environmental, and climate justice for all;

(B) raising pay, benefits, protections, and standards for existing care workers, such that—

(i) care jobs are family sustaining, paying substantially more than $17 an hour and offering generous benefits;

(ii) all care workers have—

(I) the right, and have pathways, to unionize;

(II) the ability to engage in collective action; and

(III) full labor protections, including those specified in the Domestic Workers Bill of Rights Act;

(iii) all care workers have access to adequate paid family and medical leave that includes paid safe leave and paid sick time;

(iv) all care workers who wish to form worker-owned cooperatives have access to resources and technical support with which to do so;

(v) all care workers have access to ample training opportunities, apprenticeships, and career ladders leading to higher compensation, along with other resources and support, including funding to facilitate those opportunities;

(vi) all care workers have the mandated employer protections they need to conduct their work safely in general, and in the event of a pandemic, infectious disease outbreak, or other disaster, including having optimal personal protective equipment, optimal isolation protocols, testing and contact tracing, and paid days off due to exposure or illness;

(vii) all care workers are safe from workplace violence, harassment, and threats to health; and

(viii) all undocumented workers have pathways to citizenship and full and equal access to all public benefits, including health, nutrition, and income support;

(C) creating millions of new care jobs over the next decade, including as part of existing and new public jobs programs, subject to the same principles in subparagraph (B), in the context of the Green New Deal, public health and emergency preparedness needs, and any similar efforts to meet the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century;

(D) building and expanding zero-carbon, non-polluting, climate-safe infrastructure, both physical infrastructure and social infrastructure, to guarantee care to all people throughout the life cycle, moving the United States toward universal, public programs ensuring—

(i) high-quality health care, including comprehensive and noncoercive mental health care coverage, substance use treatment, and reproductive care, free at the point of service;

(ii) free, high-quality home and community-based services, without income or asset tests and without waiting lists, which would fix the institutional bias of the current system, and allow people with disabilities and older adults to receive needed support and live self-directed lives;

(iii) free, high-quality childcare and early childhood education including appropriate attention to the unique needs of children and families in the focus on the first 1,000 days of life, and robust, culturally responsive, and diverse care settings to achieve healthy child development;

(iv) paid family and medical leave of at least 6 months, with full wage replacement, job protection, and a recognition of all types of families, as well as paid safe leave and paid sick time; and

(v) additional support for unpaid caregivers, people with disabilities, older adults, and children, with the goal of eradicating child poverty; and

(E) building and expanding other zero-carbon, non-polluting, climate-safe infrastructure and jobs that are intimately connected to the care infrastructure described in subparagraph (D), to meet the fundamental material, developmental, emotional, and social needs of all people, including—

(i) clean air and water;

(ii) public, permanently affordable, and dignified housing and transit systems, integrated with adequate social services to support residents of all ages and abilities;

(iii) safe, accessible infrastructure, including public accommodations, schools, workplaces, housing, transit, and streets allowing for full mobility for all people;

(iv) public education, with a focus on social and emotional learning, unleashing creativity in the arts and sciences, and educating and nurturing the whole child, and including fully funded programs for high-need students;

(v) healthy, nourishing, and sustainable food systems that provide affordable, accessible, and culturally appropriate foods;

(vi) comprehensive public health and emergency preparedness infrastructure, including equitable, democratic response and recovery efforts during and after climate disasters;

(vii) clear opportunities for, and the removal of barriers to, unionization and collective action in all economic sectors, including the service, technology, and gig work sectors;

(viii) a Federal minimum wage of at least $17 an hour, indexed to the cost of living, and the elimination of subminimum wages for people with disabilities, tipped workers, and all other workers;

(ix) expanded leisure time, with no loss in pay or benefits;

(x) generous paid sick time, paid safe leave, paid family and medical leave, and vacation time, with full wage replacement, job protection, and a recognition of all types of families;

(xi) support for worker ownership, worker-owned cooperatives, and safety and democracy in the workplace, so that workers have meaningful influence over their conditions of work and the decisions that affect their lives;

(xii) adequate public services and programs to support all people in navigating economic and social challenges, including navigating life on a rapidly warming planet, and to help all people unleash their full potential as human beings;

(xiii) public libraries, community centers, and other spaces that foster creativity, connection, well-being, and human development;

(xiv) support for practicing and aspiring artists, as well as institutions, venues, and platforms that empower and fairly compensate artists, bringing their work to wider audiences, and integrating the arts into community well-being, education, and resilience efforts;

(xv) access to nature, public space, diverse forms of public recreation, and technology, including public broadband internet; and

(xvi) mechanisms for democratic oversight of data, algorithmic, and technological systems, along with worker and community participation in the development and application of those systems, in service of expanding and improving care and social infrastructures;

(3) all public health, care-related, and economic legislation must prioritize and invest in care infrastructure as a down payment on building an interconnected, holistic caregiving system that—

(A) is the backbone of the economy and essential to all people; and

(B) celebrates the interdependence of all people;

(4) unpaid caregivers deserve pay and support, care workers deserve quality, high-paying, union jobs, people with disabilities and older adults deserve independence and self-determination, and every person, at every stage of life, deserves to live, work, play, and care with dignity; and

(5) our ultimate aim is to build an economy and society based on care for people, communities, and the planet we all share.

SENATE RESOLUTION 939—COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING THE HUTCHINSON COMMUNITY COLLEGE BLUE DRAGONS FOOTBALL TEAM FOR WINNING THE 2024 NATIONAL JUNIOR COLLEGE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Mr. MORAN (for himself and Mr. MARSHALL) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

S. RES. 939

Whereas, on Wednesday, December 18, 2024, the Hutchinson Community College Blue Dragons football team (in this preamble referred to as the ''Blue Dragons'') defeated the Iowa Western Community College Reivers by a score of 28 to 23 in the 2024 National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) National Championship game;

Whereas the 2024 NJCAA National Championship is the second championship in the history of the Blue Dragons' football program;

Whereas the Blue Dragons finished the 2024 season with an 11 wins to 1 loss record;

Whereas, during the championship game, the Blue Dragons outscored the Reivers 28 to 9 in the last 3 quarters, after trailing by 14 points in the first quarter;

Whereas quarterback Christian Johnson entered the game in the third quarter and completed a 34-yard pass to take the lead for the first time in the game;

Whereas the Blue Dragons defense held the Reivers to 6 points in the second half;

Whereas running back Waymond Jordan Jr. was named the NJCAA Player of the Year in 2024; and

Whereas head coach Drew Dallas won his second championship in 5 seasons as head coach of Hutchinson Community College: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commends the Hutchinson Community College Blue Dragons football team for winning the 2024 National Junior College Athletic Association Football National Championship;

(2) recognizes the players, coaches, and staff of the Hutchinson Community College Blue Dragons football team; and

(3) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to—

(A) the president of Hutchison Community College, Tricia Paramore;

(B) the athletic director of Hutchison Community College, Josh Gooch; and

(C) the head coach of the Hutchinson Community College Blue Dragons football team, Drew Dallas.

SENATE RESOLUTION 940—HONORING THE LIVES AND SERVICE OF NATALIE AND DAVY LLOYD AND EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILY OF NATALIE AND DAVY LLOYD

Mr. HAWLEY (for himself and Mr. SCHMITT) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 940

Whereas Natalie Elizabeth Lloyd—

(1) was born on March 2, 2003, in Joplin, Missouri;

(2) graduated from Ozark Christian Academy and Ozark Bible Institute and College; and

(3) was known for her exceptionally kind heart and love for everyone she encountered and her dedication to caring for children;

Whereas David (referred to in this preamble as ''Davy'') Joseph Lloyd, III—

(1) was born on July 3, 2000, in Tulsa, Oklahoma;

(2) grew up in Haiti, developing a heart for the Haitian community; and

(3) graduated from Ozark Bible Institute and College in Neosho in April 2022 and went on to become an effective preacher;

Whereas Natalie and Davy Lloyd were married on June 18, 2022, at the Bible Holiness Assembly of God in Neosho, Missouri;

Whereas Natalie and Davy Lloyd began their married life together in Neosho, Missouri;

Whereas Natalie and Davy Lloyd became full-time missionaries in Haiti in January 2023 with Missions in Haiti, serving the Haitian community and, in particular, Haitian children through a local orphanage; and

Whereas Natalie and Davy Lloyd were tragically killed by unlawful Haitian gangs on May 23, 2024: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) extends heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of Natalie and David (referred to in this resolution as ''Davy'') Lloyd;

(2) recognizes and honors Natalie and Davy Lloyd as extraordinarily faithful missionaries, exceptional Missourians, and great Americans who selflessly dedicated their entire lives to God and serving others; and

(3) commemorates the amazing work Natalie and Davy Lloyd completed as missionaries in Haiti and the powerful legacy that the young couple leaves.

SENATE RESOLUTION 941—CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT MEN'S SOCCER TEAM ON WINNING THE 2024 NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION DIVISION I MEN'S SOCCER NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Mr. WELCH (for himself and Mr. SANDERS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

S. RES. 941

Whereas, on December 16th, 2024, the University of Vermont men's soccer team (referred to in this preamble as the ''Catamounts''), after a golden goal with 5 minutes and 6 seconds left in overtime, pulled off an historic comeback against Marshall University to win the 2024 National Collegiate Athletic Association (referred to in this preamble as ''NCAA'') Division I men's soccer national championship, with a final score of 2 goals to 1;

Whereas the 2024 NCAA Division I men's soccer national championship victory for the Catamounts is the first-ever NCAA Division I national championship in the history of the Catamounts;

Whereas the 2024 NCAA Division I men's soccer national championship game was a game for the record books, with many notable moments including—

(1) a perfectly timed goal by Marcell Papp, which gave the Catamounts a golden opportunity in overtime; and

(2) the game winning goal by Maximilian Kissel, his 11th goal of the season, which will be remembered by the Catamounts for all time;

Whereas the coaching staff of the Catamounts led the team with grit and determination;

Whereas the support staff of the Catamounts played critical roles in supporting the Catamounts throughout the 2024 season;

Whereas, to the casual observer, the Catamounts may have been the underdogs or the ''Cinderella story'' of the entire 2024 NCAA Division I men's soccer national championship tournament;

Whereas, during the 2024 season, the Catamounts scored 22 goals in the 76th minute or later, including the championship equalizing goal, earning the Catamounts the nickname ''Cardiac Cats'';

Whereas last-minute victories were a habit for the Catamounts during the 2024 NCAA Division I men's soccer national championship tournament, including—

(1) beating San Diego University in overtime in the third round match; and

(2) tying the University of Denver in the final minutes of the semifinal match to push the game into penalty kicks, where a save from Catamounts goalkeeper Niklas Herceg ended up securing the Catamounts a ticket to the championship match;

Whereas Vermonters and fans of the Catamounts congratulate the Catamounts for their well-deserved 2024 NCAA Division I men's soccer national championship win;

Whereas the Catamounts are champions, not underdogs; and

Whereas the Catamounts made the people and State of Vermont very proud and showed the United States that the State of Vermont is, in fact, a soccer State: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the University of Vermont men's soccer team on winning the 2024 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I men's soccer national championship; and

(2) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to—

(A) the interim president of the University of Vermont, Patricia A. Prelock;

(B) the director of athletics of the University of Vermont, Jeff Schulman; and

(C) the head coach of the University of Vermont Catamounts men's soccer team, Rob Dow.

SENATE RESOLUTION 942—CONGRATULATING THE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY IN ST. LOUIS BEARS WOMEN'S SOCCER TEAM FOR WINNING THE 2024 NCAA DIVISION III WOMEN'S SOCCER CHAMPIONSHIP

Mr. SCHMITT (for himself and Mr. HAWLEY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

S. RES. 942

Whereas, on December 8, 2024, the Washington University in St. Louis Bears women's soccer team (referred to in this preamble as the ''Bears'') defeated the nationally ranked William Smith Herons, 3 to 0, to win the 2024 NCAA Division III Women's Soccer Championship;

Whereas the Bears demonstrated extraordinary teamwork, skill, and hard work throughout this victory and the entire season;

Whereas the Bears attained a 23–0–2 record during this season;

Whereas the Bears achieved the top ranking in the 2024 NCAA Division III Women's Soccer season;

Whereas the coaching staff led by head coach Jim Conlon provided outstanding leadership and strategy, contributing significantly to the victories throughout the season, culminating with the end-of-year victory in the 2024 NCAA Division III Women's Soccer Championship;

Whereas Olivia Clemons was named Offensive Player of the Year, Rookie of the Year, and All-Tournament Offensive Player, finishing the season with an impressive 22 goals and 6 assists;

Whereas head coach Jim Conlon and assistant coaches Brandon Santel, Amanda Kesler, and Katharine Zaber were named Coaching Staff of the Year;

Whereas 4 players earned First-Team honors, 2 players earned honorable mention nods, and 4 players were selected to the All-Tournament Team; and

Whereas fans of the Bears demonstrated enthusiasm and loyalty in supporting their team throughout the 2024 NCAA Division III soccer season: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commends the Washington University in St. Louis Bears women's soccer team on winning the 2024 Division III Women's Soccer Championship;

(2) recognizes the achievements, contributions, and dedication of the players, coaches, management, and support staff of the Bears;

(3) congratulates the alumni, students, and faculty of the Washington University in St. Louis;

(4) recognizes the hard work and commitment of the staff of the Francis Olympic Field and Peter Johann Memorial Field; and

(5) respectfully requests the Secretary of the Senate to transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to—

(A) the Chancellor of the Washington University in St. Louis, Andrew D. Martin;

(B) the Director of Athletics of the Washington University Bears, Anthony J. Azama; and

(C) the head coach of the Washington University Bears women's soccer team, Jim Conlon.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3351. Mr. SCHATZ (for himself, Ms. MURKOWSKI, and Ms. WARREN) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1723, to establish the Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies in the United States, and for other purposes.

SA 3352. Mr. PAUL proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 82, to amend title II of the Social Security Act to repeal the Government pension offset and windfall elimination provisions.

SA 3353. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 10545, Official Title Not Available; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3354. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 10545, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3355. Mr. SCHUMER proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 82, to amend title II of the Social Security Act to repeal the Government pension offset and windfall elimination provisions.

SA 3356. Mr. SCHUMER proposed an amendment to amendment SA 3355 proposed by Mr. SCHUMER to the bill H.R. 82, supra.

SA 3357. Mr. SCHUMER proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 82, supra.

SA 3358. Mr. SCHUMER proposed an amendment to amendment SA 3357 proposed by Mr. SCHUMER to the bill H.R. 82, supra.

SA 3359. Mr. SCHUMER proposed an amendment to amendment SA 3358 proposed by Mr. SCHUMER to the amendment SA 3357 proposed by Mr. SCHUMER to the bill H.R. 82, supra.

SA 3360. Mr. CRUZ proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 82, supra.

SA 3361. Mr. MERKLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 82, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3362. Mr. SCHUMER (for Mr. CORNYN) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 3658, to promote space situational awareness and space traffic coordination and to modify the functions and leadership of the Office of Space Commerce, and for other purposes.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 3351. Mr. SCHATZ (for himself, Ms. MURKOWSKI, and Ms. WARREN) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1723, to establish the Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies in the United States, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the ''Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies Act of 2024''.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
Sec. 2. Purposes.
Sec. 3. Definitions.
TITLE I—COMMISSION AND SUBCOMMITTEES
Subtitle A—Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies in the United States
Sec. 101. Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies in the United States.
Subtitle B—Duties of the Commission
Sec. 111. Duties of the Commission.
Subtitle C—Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee
Sec. 121. Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee.
TITLE II—ADVISORY COMMITTEES
Subtitle A—Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee
Sec. 201. Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee.
Subtitle B—Federal and Religious Truth and Healing Advisory Committee
Sec. 211. Federal and Religious Truth and Healing Advisory Committee.
TITLE III—GENERAL PROVISIONS
Sec. 301. Clarification.
Sec. 302. Burial management.
Sec. 303. Co-stewardship agreements.
Sec. 304. No right of action.

SEC. 2. PURPOSES.

The purposes of this Act are—

(1) to establish a Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies in the United States, including other necessary advisory committees and subcommittees;

(2) to formally investigate, document, and report on the histories of Indian Boarding Schools, Indian Boarding School Polices, and the systematic and long-term effects of those schools and policies on Native American peoples;

(3) to develop recommendations for Federal efforts based on the findings of the Commission; and

(4) to promote healing for survivors of Indian Boarding Schools, the descendants of those survivors, and the communities of those survivors.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) COMMISSION.—The term ''Commission'' means the Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies in the United States established by section 101(a).

(2) FEDERAL AND RELIGIOUS TRUTH AND HEALING ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—The term ''Federal and Religious Truth and Healing Advisory Committee'' means the Federal and Religious Truth and Healing Advisory Committee established by section 211(a).

(3) INDIAN.—The term ''Indian'' has the meaning given the term in section 6151 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7491).

(4) INDIAN BOARDING SCHOOL.—The term ''Indian Boarding School'' means—

(A) a site of an institution that—

(i) provided on-site housing or overnight lodging;

(ii) was described in Federal records as providing formal academic or vocational training and instruction to Native Americans;

(iii) received Federal funds or other Federal support; and

(iv) was operational before 1969;

(B) a site of an institution identified by the Department of the Interior in appendices A and B of the report entitled ''Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative Investigative Report'' and dated May 2022 (or a successor report); or

(C) any other institution that implemented Indian Boarding School Policies, including an Indian day school.

(5) INDIAN BOARDING SCHOOL POLICIES.—The term ''Indian Boarding School Policies'' means Federal laws, policies, and practices purported to ''assimilate'' and ''civilize'' Native Americans that included psychological, physical, sexual, and mental abuse, forced removal from home or community, and identity-altering practices intended to terminate Native languages, cultures, religions, social organizations, or connections to traditional land.

(6) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term ''Indian Tribe'' has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

(7) NATIVE AMERICAN.—The term ''Native American'' means an individual who is—

(A) an Indian; or

(B) a Native Hawaiian.

(8) NATIVE AMERICAN TRUTH AND HEALING ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—The term ''Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee'' means the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee established by the Commission under section 201(a).

(9) NATIVE HAWAIIAN.—The term ''Native Hawaiian'' has the meaning given the term in section 6207 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7517).

(10) NATIVE HAWAIIAN ORGANIZATION.—The term ''Native Hawaiian organization'' means a private nonprofit organization that—

(A) serves and represents the interests of Native Hawaiians;

(B) has as its primary and stated purpose the provision of services to Native Hawaiians;

(C) has Native Hawaiians serving in substantive and policymaking positions; and

(D) has expertise in Native Hawaiian affairs.

(11) OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS.—The term ''Office of Hawaiian Affairs'' has the meaning given the term in section 6207 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7517).

(12) SURVIVORS TRUTH AND HEALING SUBCOMMITTEE.—The term ''Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee'' means the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee established by section 121(a).

(13) TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE.—The term ''trauma-informed care'' means holistic psychological and health care practices that include promoting culturally responsive practices, patient psychological, physical, and emotional safety, and environments of healing, trust, peer support, and recovery.

(14) TRIBAL ORGANIZATION.—The term ''Tribal organization'' has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

TITLE I—COMMISSION AND SUBCOMMITTEES

Subtitle A—Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies in the United States

SEC. 101. TRUTH AND HEALING COMMISSION ON INDIAN BOARDING SCHOOL POLICIES IN THE UNITED STATES.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the legislative branch a commission, to be known as the ''Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies in the United States''.

(b) MEMBERSHIP.—

(1) APPOINTMENT.—Nominees submitted under paragraph (2)(A) shall be appointed as members to the Commission as follows:

(A) 1 member shall be appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, in consultation with the Chairperson of the Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate.

(B) 1 member shall be appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, in consultation with the Vice Chairperson of the Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate.

(C) 1 member shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, in consultation with the Chair of the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives.

(D) 1 member shall be appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives, in consultation with the Ranking Member of the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives.

(E) 1 member shall be jointly appointed by the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate.

(2) NOMINATIONS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, Indian Tribes, Tribal organizations, Native Americans, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and Native Hawaiian organizations may submit to the Secretary of the Interior nominations for individuals to be appointed as members of the Commission.

(B) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 7 days after the submission deadline for nominations described in subparagraph (A), the Secretary of the Interior shall submit to Congress a list of the individuals nominated under that subparagraph.

(C) QUALIFICATIONS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Nominees to serve on the Commission shall have significant experience in matters relating to—

(I) overseeing or leading complex research initiatives with and for Indian Tribes and Native Americans;

(II) indigenous human rights law and policy;

(III) Tribal court judicial and restorative justice systems and Federal agencies, such as participation as a Tribal judge, researcher, or former presidentially appointed commissioner;

(IV) providing and coordinating trauma-informed care and other health-related services to Indian Tribes and Native Americans; or

(V) traditional and cultural resources and practices in Native communities.

(ii) ADDITIONAL QUALIFICATIONS.—In addition to the qualifications described in clause (i), each member of the Commission shall be an individual of recognized integrity and empathy, with a demonstrated commitment to

the values of truth, reconciliation, healing, and expertise in truth and healing endeavors that are traditionally and culturally appropriate so as to provide balanced points of view and expertise with respect to the duties of the Commission.

(3) DATE.—Members of the Commission under paragraph (1) shall be appointed not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(4) PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT; VACANCIES; REMOVAL.—

(A) PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT.—A member of the Commission shall be appointed for a term that is the shorter of—

(i) 6 years; and

(ii) the life of the Commission.

(B) VACANCIES.—After all initial members of the Commission are appointed and the initial business meeting of the Commission has been convened under subsection (c)(1), a single vacancy in the Commission—

(i) shall not affect the powers of the Commission; and

(ii) shall be filled within 90 days in the same manner as was the original appointment.

(C) REMOVAL.—A quorum of members of the Commission may remove a member of the Commission only for neglect of duty or malfeasance.

(5) TERMINATION.—The Commission shall terminate 6 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(6) LIMITATION.—No member of the Commission may otherwise be an officer or employee of the Federal Government.

(c) BUSINESS MEETINGS.—

(1) INITIAL BUSINESS MEETING.—90 days after the date on which all of the members of the Commission are appointed under subsection (b)(1)(A), the Commission shall hold the initial business meeting of the Commission—

(A) to appoint a Chairperson, a Vice Chairperson, and such other positions as determined necessary by the Commission;

(B) to establish rules for meetings of the Commission; and

(C) to appoint members of—

(i) the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee under section 121(b)(1); and

(ii) the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee under section 201(b)(1).

(2) SUBSEQUENT BUSINESS MEETINGS.—After the initial business meeting of the Commission is held under paragraph (1), the Commission shall meet at the call of the Chairperson.

(3) ADVISORY AND SUBCOMMITTEE COMMITTEES DESIGNEES.—Each Commission business meeting shall include participation by 2 nonvoting designees from each of the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee, the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee, and the Federal and Religious Truth and Healing Advisory Committee, as appointed in accordance with section 121(c)(1)(D), section 201(e)(1)(C), and section 211(c)(1)(B), as applicable.

(4) FORMAT OF MEETINGS.—A business meeting of the Commission may be conducted in-person or virtually.

(5) QUORUM REQUIRED.—A business meeting of the Commission may be held only after a quorum, established in accordance with subsection (d), is present.

(d) QUORUM.—A simple majority of the members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum for a business meeting.

(e) RULES.—The Commission may establish, by a majority vote, any rules for the conduct of Commission business, in accordance with this section and other applicable law.

(f) COMMISSION PERSONNEL MATTERS.—

(1) COMPENSATION OF COMMISSIONERS.—A member of the Commission shall be compensated at a daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay prescribed for grade 5 of the General Schedule under section 5332 of title 5, United States Code, for each day, not to exceed 10 days per month, for which a member is engaged in the performance of their duties under this Act, limited to convening meetings, including public or private meetings to receive testimony in furtherance of the duties of the Commission and the purposes of this Act.

(2) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—A member of the Commission shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for employees of agencies under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while away from their homes or regular places of business in the performance of services for the Commission.

(3) DETAIL OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.—Any Federal Government employee, with the approval of the head of the appropriate Federal agency and at the request of the Commission, may be detailed to the Commission without—

(A) reimbursement to the agency of that employee; and

(B) interruption or loss of civil service status, benefits, or privileges.

(g) POWERS OF COMMISSION.—

(1) CONVENINGS AND INFORMATION.—The Commission may, for the purpose of carrying out this Act—

(A) hold such convenings and sit and act at such times and places, take such testimony, and receive such information, virtually or in-person, as the Commission may determine necessary to accomplish the purposes of this Act;

(B) conduct or request such interdisciplinary research, investigation, or analysis of such information and documents, records, or other data as the Commission may determine necessary to accomplish the purposes of this Act, including—

(i) securing, directly from a Federal agency, such information as the Commission considers necessary to accomplish the purposes of this Act; and

(ii) requesting the head of any relevant Tribal or State agency to provide to the Commission such information as the Commission considers necessary to accomplish the purposes of this Act;

(C) request such records, papers, correspondence, memoranda, documents, books, videos, oral histories, recordings, or any other paper or electronic material, as the Commission may determine necessary to accomplish the purposes of this Act;

(D) oversee, direct, and collaborate with the Federal and Religious Truth and Healing Advisory Committee, the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee, and the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee to accomplish the purposes of this Act; and

(E) coordinate with Federal and non-Federal entities to preserve and archive, as appropriate, any gifts, documents, or other property received while carrying out the purposes of this Act.

(2) CONTRACTING; VOLUNTEER SERVICES.—

(A) CONTRACTING.—The Commission may, to such extent and in such amounts as are provided in appropriations Acts, and in accordance with applicable law, enter into contracts and other agreements with public agencies, private organizations, and individuals to enable the Commission to carry out the duties of the Commission under this Act.

(B) VOLUNTEER AND UNCOMPENSATED SERVICES.—Notwithstanding section 1342 of title 31, United States Code, the Commission may accept and use such voluntary and uncompensated services as the Commission determines to be necessary.

(C) GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION.—The Administrator of General Services shall provide, on request of the Commission, on a reimbursable basis, administrative support and other services for the performance of the functions of the Commission under this Act.

(3) POSTAL SERVICES.—The Commission may use the United States mails in the same manner and under the same conditions as other agencies of the Federal Government.

(4) GIFTS, FUNDRAISING, AND DISBURSEMENT.—

(A) GIFTS AND DONATIONS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—The Commission may accept, use, and dispose of any gift, donation, service, property, or other record or recording to accomplish the purposes of this Act.

(ii) RETURN OF GIFTS AND DONATIONS.—On termination of the Commission under subsection (b)(5), any gifts, unspent donations, property, or other record or recording accepted by the Commission under clause (i) shall be—

(I) returned to the donor that made the donation under that clause; or

(II) archived under subparagraph (E).

(B) FUNDRAISING.—The Commission may, on the affirmative vote of ⅗ of the members of the Commission, solicit funds to accomplish the purposes of this Act.

(C) DISBURSEMENT.—The Commission may, on the affirmative vote of ⅗ of the members of the Commission, approve a spending plan of funds to accomplish the purposes of this Act.

(D) TAX DOCUMENTS.—The Commission (or a designee) shall, on request of a donor under subparagraph (A) or (B), provide tax documentation to that donor for any tax-deductible gift made by that donor under those subparagraphs.

(E) ARCHIVING.—The Commission shall coordinate with the Library of Congress and the Smithsonian Institution to archive and preserve relevant gifts or donations received under subparagraph (A) or (B).

(h) CONVENING.—

(1) CONVENING PROTOCOL.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 45 days after the initial business meeting of the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee, the Commission, 3 designees from the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee, and 3 designees from the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee shall hold a meeting to recommend rules, protocols, and formats for convenings carried out under this subsection.

(B) RULES AND PROTOCOLS.—Not later than 45 days after the initial meeting described in subparagraph (A), the Commission shall finalize rules, protocols, and formats for convenings carried out under this subsection by a ⅗ majority in attendance at a meeting of the Commission.

(C) ADDITIONAL MEETINGS.—The Commission and designees described in subparagraph (A) may hold additional meetings, as necessary, to amend, by a ⅗ majority in attendance at a meeting of the Commission, the rules, protocols, and formats for convenings established under that subparagraph.

(2) ANNOUNCEMENT OF CONVENINGS.—Not later than 30 days before the date of a convening under this subsection, the Commission shall announce the location and details of the convening.

(3) MINIMUM NUMBER OF CONVENINGS.—The Commission shall hold—

(A) not fewer than 1 convening in each of the 12 regions of the Bureau of Indian Affairs and in Hawai'i during the life of the Commission; and

(B) beginning 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, not fewer than 1 convening in each quarter to receive testimony each calendar year until the date on which the Commission submits the final report of the Commission under section 111(e)(3).

(4) OPPORTUNITY TO PROVIDE TESTIMONY.—No person or entity shall be denied the opportunity to provide relevant testimony or information at a convening held under this subsection, except at the discretion of the Chairperson of the Commission (or a designee).

(i) FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT APPLICABILITY.—Chapter 10 of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the ''Federal Advisory Committee Act''), shall not apply to the Commission.

(j) CONGRESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY ACT APPLICABILITY.—For purposes of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1301 et seq.)—

(1) any individual who is an employee of the Commission shall be considered a covered employee under the Act; and

(2) the Commission shall be considered an employing office under the Act; and

(3) a member of the Commission shall be considered a covered employee under the Act.

(k) CONSULTATION OR ENGAGEMENT WITH NATIVE AMERICANS, INDIAN TRIBES, TRIBAL ORGANIZATIONS, THE OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS, AND NATIVE HAWAIIAN ORGANIZATIONS.—In carrying out the duties of the Commission under section 111, the Commission shall meaningfully consult or engage, as appropriate, in a timely manner with Native Americans, Indian Tribes, Tribal organizations, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and Native Hawaiian organizations.

(l) FUNDING.—Of the amounts authorized to be appropriated pursuant to section 105 of the Indian Land Consolidation Act Amendments of 2000 (25 U.S.C. 2201 note; Public Law 106–462) and section 403 of the Indian Financing Act of 1974 (25 U.S.C. 1523), $90,000,000 shall be used to carry out this Act.

Subtitle B—Duties of the Commission

SEC. 111. DUTIES OF THE COMMISSION.

(a) INVESTIGATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall conduct a comprehensive interdisciplinary investigation of Indian Boarding School Policies, including the social, cultural, economic, emotional, and physical effects of Indian Boarding School Policies in the United States on Native American communities, Indian Tribes, survivors of Indian Boarding Schools, families of those survivors, and their descendants.

(2) MATTERS TO BE INVESTIGATED.—The matters to be investigated by the Commission under paragraph (1) shall include, at a minimum—

(A) conducting a comprehensive review of existing research and historical records of Indian Boarding School Policies and any documentation, scholarship, or other resources relevant to the purposes of this Act from—

(i) any archive or any other document storage location, notwithstanding the location of that archive or document storage location; and

(ii) any research conducted by private individuals, private entities, and non-Federal Government entities, whether domestic or foreign, including religious institutions;

(B) collaborating with the Federal and Religious Truth and Healing Advisory Committee to obtain all relevant information from—

(i) the Department of the Interior, the Department of Health and Human Services, other relevant Federal agencies, and institutions or organizations, including religious institutions or organizations, that operated an Indian Boarding School, carried out Indian Boarding School Policies, or have information that the Commission determines to be relevant to the investigation of the Commission; and

(ii) Indian Tribes, Tribal organizations, Native Americans, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and Native Hawaiian organizations; and

(C) conducting a comprehensive assessment of the impacts of Indian Boarding School Policies on Native American students and alumni, including the impact on cultures, traditions, and languages.

(3) RESEARCH RELATED TO OBJECTS, ARTIFACTS, AND REAL PROPERTY.—If the Commission conducts a comprehensive review of research described in paragraph (2)(A)(ii) that focuses on objects, artifacts, or real or personal property that are in the possession or control of private individuals, private entities, or non-Federal Government entities within the United States, the Commission may enter into a contract or agreement to acquire, hold, curate, or maintain those objects, artifacts, or real or personal property until the objects, artifacts, or real or personal property can be properly repatriated or returned, consistent with applicable Federal law, subject to the condition that no Federal funds may be used to purchase those objects, artifacts, or real or personal property.

(b) MEETINGS AND CONVENINGS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall hold, with the advice of the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee and the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee, and in coordination with, as relevant, Indian Tribes, Tribal organizations, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and Native Hawaiian organizations, as part of its investigation under subsection (a), safe, trauma-informed, and culturally appropriate public or private meetings or convenings to receive testimony relating to that investigation.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The Commission shall ensure that meetings and convenings held under paragraph (1) provide access to adequate trauma-informed care services for participants, attendees, and communities during and following the meetings and convenings where the Commission receives testimony, including ensuring that private space is available for survivors and descendants of survivors, family members, and other community members to receive trauma-informed care services.

(c) RECOMMENDATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall make recommendations to Congress relating to the investigation carried out under subsection (a), which shall be included in the final report required under subsection (e)(3).

(2) INCLUSIONS.—Recommendations made under paragraph (1) shall include, at a minimum, recommendations relating to—

(A) in light of Tribal and Native Hawaiian law, Tribal customary law, tradition, custom, and practice, how the Federal Government can meaningfully acknowledge the role of the Federal Government in supporting Indian Boarding School Policies in all issue areas that the Commission determines relevant, including appropriate forms of memorialization, preservation of records, objects, artifacts, and burials;

(B) how modification of existing statutes, procedures, regulations, policies, budgets, and practices will, in the determination of the Commission, address the findings of the Commission and ongoing effects of Indian Boarding School Policies;

(C) how the Federal Government can promote public awareness of, and education about, Indian Boarding School Policies and the impacts of those policies, including through coordinating with the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee, the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee, the Smithsonian Institution, and other relevant institutions and organizations; and

(D) the views of religious institutions.

(d) DUTIES RELATED TO BURIALS.—The Commission shall, with respect to burial sites associated with Indian Boarding Schools—

(1) coordinate, as appropriate, with the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee, the Federal and Religious Truth and Healing Advisory Committee, the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee, lineal descendants, Indian Tribes, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, Federal agencies, institutions, and organizations to locate and identify, in a culturally appropriate manner, marked and unmarked burial sites, including cemeteries, unmarked graves, and mass burial sites, where students of Indian Boarding Schools were originally or later interred;

(2) locate, document, analyze, and coordinate the preservation or continued preservation of records and information relating to the interment of students, including any records held by Federal, State, international, or local entities or religious institutions or organizations; and

(3) share, to the extent practicable, with affected lineal descendants, Indian Tribes, and the Office of Hawaiian Affairs burial locations and the identities of children who attended Indian Boarding Schools.

(e) REPORTS.—

(1) ANNUAL REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—Not less frequently than annually until the year before the year in which the Commission terminates, the Commission shall submit to the Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives a report that describes the activities of the Commission during the previous year, including an accounting of funds and gifts received and expenditures made, the progress made, and any barriers encountered in carrying out this Act.

(2) COMMISSION INITIAL REPORT.—Not later than 4 years after the date on which a majority of the members of the Commission are appointed under section 101(b)(1), the Commission shall submit to the individuals described in paragraph (4), and make publicly available, an initial report containing—

(A) a detailed review of existing research, including documentation, scholarship, or other resources shared with the Commission that further the purposes of this Act;

(B) a detailed statement of the initial findings and conclusions of the Commission; and

(C) a detailed statement of the initial recommendations of the Commission.

(3) COMMISSION FINAL REPORT.—Before the termination of the Commission, the Commission shall submit to the individuals described in paragraph (4), and make publicly available, a final report containing the findings, conclusions, and recommendations of the Commission that have been agreed on by the vote of a majority of the members of the Commission and ⅗ of the members of each of the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee and the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee.

(4) REPORT RECIPIENTS.—The individuals referred to in paragraphs (2) and (3) are—

(A) the President;

(B) the Secretary of the Interior;

(C) the Attorney General;

(D) the Comptroller General of the United States;

(E) the Secretary of Education;

(F) the Secretary of Health and Human Services;

(G) the Secretary of Defense;

(H) the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate;

(I) the Chairperson and ranking minority member of the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives;

(J) the Co-Chairs of the Congressional Native American Caucus;

(K) the Executive Director of the White House Council on Native American Affairs;

(L) the Director of the Office of Management and Budget;

(M) the Archivist of the United States;

(N) the Librarian of Congress; and

(O) the Director of the National Museum of the American Indian.

(5) ADDITIONAL COMMISSION RESPONSIBILITIES RELATING TO THE PUBLICATION OF THE INITIAL AND FINAL REPORTS.—

(A) EVENTS RELATING TO INITIAL REPORT.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall hold not fewer than 2 events in each region of the Bureau of Indian Affairs and in Hawai'i following publication of the initial report under paragraph (2) to receive comments on the initial report.

(ii) TIMING.—The schedule of events referred to in clause (i) shall be announced not later than 90 days after the date on which the initial report under paragraph (2) is published.

(B) PUBLICATION OF FINAL REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date on which the Commission submits the final report under paragraph (3), the Commission, the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Education, the Secretary of Defense, and the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall each make the final report publicly available on the website of the applicable agency.

(6) SECRETARIAL RESPONSE TO FINAL REPORT.—Not later than 120 days after the date on which the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Education, the Secretary of Defense, and the Secretary of Health and Human Services receive the final report under paragraph (3), the Secretaries shall each make publicly available a written response to recommendations for future action by those agencies, if any, contained in the final report, and submit the written response to—

(A) the President;

(B) the Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate;

(C) the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives; and

(D) the Comptroller General of the United States.

Subtitle C—Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee

SEC. 121. SURVIVORS TRUTH AND HEALING SUBCOMMITTEE.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a subcommittee of the Commission, to be known as the ''Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee''.

(b) MEMBERSHIP, NOMINATION, AND APPOINTMENT TO THE SURVIVORS TRUTH AND HEALING SUBCOMMITTEE.—

(1) MEMBERSHIP.—The Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee shall include 15 members, to be appointed by the Commission, in consultation with the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition, from among the nominees submitted under paragraph (2)(A), of whom—

(A) 12 shall be representatives from each of the 12 regions of the Bureau of Indian Affairs and 1 shall be a representative from Hawai'i;

(B) 9 shall be individuals who attended an Indian Boarding School of whom—

(i) not fewer than 2 shall be individuals who graduated during the 5-year period preceding the date of the enactment of this Act from—

(I) an Indian Boarding School in operation as of that date of the enactment; or

(II) a Bureau of Indian Education-funded school; and

(ii) all shall represent diverse regions of the United States;

(C) 5 shall be descendants of individuals who attended Indian Boarding Schools, who shall represent diverse regions of the United States; and

(D) 1 shall be an educator who, as of the date of the appointment—

(i) is employed at an Indian Boarding School; or

(ii) was employed at an Indian Boarding School during the 5-year period preceding the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) NOMINATIONS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, Indian Tribes, Tribal organizations, Native Americans, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and Native Hawaiian organizations may submit to the Secretary of the Interior nominations for individuals to be appointed as members of the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee.

(B) SUBMISSION.—The Secretary of the Interior shall provide the Commission with nominations submitted under subparagraph (A) at the initial business meeting of the Commission under section 101(c)(1) and the Commission shall select the members of the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee from among those nominees.

(3) DATE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall appoint all members of the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee during the initial business meeting of the Commission under section 101(c)(1).

(B) FAILURE TO APPOINT.—If the Commission fails to appoint all members of the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee in accordance with subparagraph (A), the Chair of the Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate, with the concurrence of the Vice Chair of the Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate, shall appoint individuals, in accordance with the requirements of paragraph (1), to all vacant positions of the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee not later than 30 days after the date of the initial business meeting of the Commission under section 101(c)(1).

(4) PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT; VACANCIES; REMOVAL.—

(A) PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT.—A member of the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee shall be appointed for an automatically renewable term of 2 years.

(B) VACANCIES.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—A member of the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee may vacate the position at any time and for any reason.

(ii) EFFECT; FILLING OF VACANCY.—A vacancy in the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee—

(I) shall not affect the powers of the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee if a simple majority of the positions of the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee are filled; and

(II) shall be filled within 90 days in the same manner as was the original appointment.

(C) REMOVAL.—A quorum of members of the Commission may remove a member of the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee only for neglect of duty or malfeasance.

(5) TERMINATION.—The Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee shall terminate 90 days after the date on which the Commission submits the final report required under section 111(e)(3).

(6) LIMITATION.—No member of the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee may otherwise be an officer or employee of the Federal Government.

(c) BUSINESS MEETINGS.—

(1) INITIAL MEETING.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which all members of the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee are appointed under subsection (b)(1), the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee shall hold an initial business meeting—

(A) to appoint—

(i) a Chairperson, who shall also serve as the Vice Chairperson of the Federal and Religious Truth and Healing Advisory Committee;

(ii) a Vice Chairperson, who shall also serve as the Vice Chairperson of the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee; and

(iii) other positions, as determined necessary by the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee;

(B) to establish, with the advice of the Commission, rules for the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee;

(C) to appoint 3 designees to fulfill the responsibilities described in section 101(h)(1)(A); and

(D) to appoint, with the advice of the Commission, 2 members of the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee to serve as nonvoting designees on the Commission in accordance with section 101(c)(3).

(2) SUBSEQUENT BUSINESS MEETINGS.—After the initial business meeting of the Survivors Truth and Healing subcommittee is held under paragraph (1), the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee shall meet at the call of the Chairperson.

(3) FORMAT OF BUSINESS MEETINGS.—A business meeting of the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee may be conducted in-person or virtually.

(4) QUORUM REQUIRED.—A business meeting of the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee may be held only after a quorum, established in accordance with subsection (d), is present.

(d) QUORUM.—A simple majority of the members of the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee shall constitute a quorum for a business meeting.

(e) RULES.—The Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee, with the advice of the Commission, may establish, by a majority vote, any rules for the conduct of business, in accordance with this section and other applicable law.

(f) DUTIES.—The Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee shall—

(1) assist the Commission, the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee, and the Federal and Religious Truth and Healing Advisory Committee in coordinating public and private convenings, including providing advice to the Commission on developing criteria and protocols for convenings;

(2) provide advice and evaluate Committee recommendations relating to the commemoration and public education relating to Indian Boarding Schools and Indian Boarding School Policies;

(3) assist the Commission—

(A) in the production of the initial and final reports required under paragraphs (2) and (3), respectively, of section 111(e); and

(B) by providing such other advice, or fulfilling such other requests, as may be required by the Commission; and

(4) coordinate with the Commission, the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee, and the Federal and Religious Truth and Healing Advisory Committee.

(g) CONSULTATION OR ENGAGEMENT WITH NATIVE AMERICANS, INDIAN TRIBES, TRIBAL ORGANIZATIONS, THE OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS, AND NATIVE HAWAIIAN ORGANIZATIONS.—In carrying out the duties of the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee under subsection (f), the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee shall meaningfully consult or engage, as appropriate, in a timely manner with Native Americans, Indian Tribes, Tribal organizations, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and Native Hawaiian organizations.

(h) FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT APPLICABILITY.—Chapter 10 of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the ''Federal Advisory Committee Act''), shall not apply to the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee.

(i) CONGRESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY ACT APPLICABILITY.—For purposes of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1301 et seq.), any individual who is a member of the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee shall be considered a covered employee under the Act.

(j) PERSONNEL MATTERS.—

(1) COMPENSATION OF MEMBERS.—A member of the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee shall be compensated at a daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay prescribed for grade 7, step 1, of the General Schedule under section 5332 of title 5, United States Code, for each day, not to exceed 10 days per month, for which a member of the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee is engaged in the performance of their duties under this Act limited to convening meetings, including public and private meetings to receive testimony in furtherance of the duties of the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee and the purposes of this Act.

(2) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—A member of the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for employees of agencies under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while away from their homes or regular places of business in the performance of services for the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee.

TITLE II—ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Subtitle A—Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee

SEC. 201. NATIVE AMERICAN TRUTH AND HEALING ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Commission shall establish an advisory committee, to be known as the ''Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee''.

(b) MEMBERSHIP, NOMINATION, AND APPOINTMENT TO THE NATIVE AMERICAN TRUTH AND HEALING ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—

(1) MEMBERSHIP.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee shall include 19 members, to be appointed by the Commission from among the nominees submitted under paragraph (2)(A), of whom—

(i) 1 shall be the Vice Chairperson of the Commission, who shall serve as the Chairperson of the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee;

(ii) 1 shall be the Vice Chairperson of the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee, who shall serve as the Vice Chairperson of the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee;

(iii) 1 shall be the Secretary of the Interior, or a designee, who shall serve as the Secretary of the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee;

(iv) 12 shall be representatives from each of the 12 regions of the Bureau of Indian Affairs and 1 shall be a representative from Hawai'i;

(v) 1 shall represent the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition;

(vi) 1 shall represent the National Association of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers; and

(vii) 1 shall represent the National Indian Education Association.

(B) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS.—Not fewer than 2 members of the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee shall have experience with health care or mental health, traditional healing or cultural practices, counseling, or working with survivors, or descendants of survivors, of Indian Boarding Schools to ensure that the Commission considers culturally responsive support for survivors, families, and communities.

(2) NOMINATIONS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, Indian Tribes, Tribal organizations, Native Americans, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and Native Hawaiian organizations may submit to the Secretary of the Interior nominations for individuals to be appointed as members of the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee.

(B) SUBMISSION.—The Secretary of the Interior shall provide the Commission with nominations submitted under subparagraph (A) at the initial business meeting of the Commission under section 101(c)(1) and the Commission shall select the members of the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee from among those nominees.

(3) DATE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall appoint all members of the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee during the initial business meeting of the Commission under section 101(c)(1).

(B) FAILURE TO APPOINT.—If the Commission fails to appoint all members of the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee in accordance with subparagraph (A), the Chair of the Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate, with the concurrence of the Vice Chair of the Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate, shall appoint, in accordance with the requirements of paragraph (1), individuals to all vacant positions of the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee not later than 30 days after the date of the initial business meeting of the Commission under section 101(c)(1).

(4) PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT; VACANCIES.—

(A) PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT.—A member of the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee shall be appointed for an automatically renewable term of 2 years.

(B) VACANCIES.—A vacancy in the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee—

(i) shall not affect the powers of the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee if a simple majority of the positions of the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee are filled; and

(ii) shall be filled within 90 days in the same manner as was the original appointment.

(5) TERMINATION.—The Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee shall terminate 90 days after the date on which the Commission submits the final report required under section 111(e)(3).

(6) LIMITATION.—No member of the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee (other than the member described in paragraph (1)(A)(iii)) may otherwise be an officer or employee of the Federal Government.

(c) QUORUM.—A simple majority of the members of the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee shall constitute a quorum.

(d) REMOVAL.—A quorum of members of the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee may remove another member only for neglect of duty or malfeasance.

(e) BUSINESS MEETINGS.—

(1) INITIAL BUSINESS MEETING.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which all members of the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee are appointed under subsection (b)(1)(A), the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee shall hold an initial business meeting—

(A) to establish rules for the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee;

(B) to appoint 3 designees to fulfill the responsibilities described in section 101(h)(1)(A); and

(C) to appoint 2 members of the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee to serve as non-voting designees on the Commission in accordance with section 101(c)(3).

(2) SUBSEQUENT BUSINESS MEETINGS.—After the initial business meeting of the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee is held under paragraph (1), the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee shall meet at the call of the Chairperson.

(3) FORMAT OF BUSINESS MEETINGS.—A meeting of the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee may be conducted in-person or virtually.

(4) QUORUM REQUIRED.—A business meeting of the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee may be held only after a quorum, established in accordance with subsection (c), is present.

(f) RULES.—The Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee may establish, with the advice of the Commission, by a majority vote, any rules for the conduct of business, in accordance with this section and other applicable law.

(g) DUTIES.—The Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee shall—

(1) serve as an advisory body to the Commission;

(2) assist the Commission in organizing and carrying out culturally appropriate public and private convenings relating to the duties of the Commission;

(3) assist the Commission in determining what documentation from Federal and religious organizations and institutions may be necessary to fulfill the duties of the Commission;

(4) assist the Commission in the production of the initial report and final report required under paragraphs (2) and (3), respectively, of section 111(e);

(5) coordinate with the Commission, the Federal and Religious Truth and Healing Advisory Committee, and the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee; and

(6) provide advice to, or fulfill such other requests by, the Commission as the Commission may require to carry out the purposes described in section 2.

(h) CONSULTATION OR ENGAGEMENT WITH NATIVE AMERICANS, INDIAN TRIBES, TRIBAL ORGANIZATIONS, THE OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS, AND NATIVE HAWAIIAN ORGANIZATIONS.—In carrying out the duties of the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee under subsection (g), the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee shall meaningfully consult or engage, as appropriate, in a timely manner with Native Americans, Indian Tribes, Tribal organizations, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and Native Hawaiian organizations.

(i) FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT APPLICABILITY.—Chapter 10 of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the ''Federal Advisory Committee Act''), shall not apply to the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee.

(j) CONGRESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY ACT APPLICABILITY.—For purposes of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1301 et seq.), any individual who is a member of the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee shall be considered a covered employee under the Act.

(k) PERSONNEL MATTERS.—

(1) COMPENSATION OF MEMBERS.—A member of the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee shall be compensated at a daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay prescribed for grade 7, step 1, of the General Schedule under section 5332 of title 5, United States Code, for each day, not to exceed 14 days per month, for which a member is engaged in the performance of their duties under this Act, limited to convening meetings, including public and private meetings to receive testimony in furtherance of the duties of the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee and the purposes of this Act.

(2) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—A member of the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for employees of agencies under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while away from their homes or regular places of business in the performance of services for the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee.

Subtitle B—Federal and Religious Truth and Healing Advisory Committee

SEC. 211. FEDERAL AND RELIGIOUS TRUTH AND HEALING ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established within the Department of the Interior an advisory committee, to be known as the ''Federal and Religious Truth and Healing Advisory Committee''.

(b) MEMBERSHIP AND APPOINTMENT TO THE FEDERAL AND RELIGIOUS TRUTH AND HEALING ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—

(1) MEMBERSHIP.—The Federal and Religious Truth and Healing Advisory Committee shall include 20 members, of whom—

(A) 1 shall be the Chairperson of the Commission, who shall serve as the Chairperson of the Federal and Religious Truth and Healing Advisory Committee;

(B) 1 shall be the Chairperson of the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee, who shall serve as the Vice Chairperson of the Federal and Religious Truth and Healing Advisory Committee;

(C) 1 shall be the White House Domestic Policy Advisor, who shall serve as the Secretary of the Federal and Religious Truth and Healing Advisory Committee;

(D) 1 shall be the Director of the Bureau of Trust Funds Administration (or a designee);

(E) 1 shall be the Archivist of the United States (or a designee);

(F) 1 shall be the Librarian of Congress (or a designee);

(G) 1 shall be the Director of the Department of the Interior Library (or a designee);

(H) 1 shall be the Director of the Indian Health Service (or a designee);

(I) 1 shall be the Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Abuse of the Department of Health and Human Services (or a designee);

(J) 1 shall be the Commissioner of the Administration for Native Americans of the Department of Health and Human Services (or a designee);

(K) 1 shall be the Director of the National Institutes of Health (or a designee);

(L) 1 shall be the Senior Program Director of the Office of Native Hawaiian Relations of the Department of the Interior (or a designee);

(M) 1 shall be the Director of the Office of Indian Education of the Department of Education (or a designee);

(N) 1 shall be the Director of the Rural, Insular, and Native American Achievement Programs of the Department of Education (or a designee);

(O) 1 shall be the Chair of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (or a designee);

(P) 1 shall be the Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs (or a designee);

(Q) 1 shall be the Director of the Bureau of Indian Education (or a designee); and

(R) 3 shall be representatives employed by, or representatives of, religious institutions, to be appointed by the White House Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships in consultation with relevant religious institutions.

(2) PERIOD OF SERVICE; VACANCIES; REMOVAL.—

(A) PERIOD OF SERVICE.—A member of the Federal and Religious Truth and Healing Advisory Committee shall serve for an automatically renewable term of 2 years.

(B) VACANCIES.—A vacancy in the Federal and Religious Truth and Healing Advisory Committee—

(i) shall not affect the powers of the Federal and Religious Truth and Healing Advisory Committee if a simple majority of the positions of the Federal and Religious Truth and Healing Advisory Committee are filled; and

(ii) shall be filled within 90 days in the same manner as was the original appointment.

(C) REMOVAL.—A quorum of members of the Federal and Religious Truth and Healing Advisory Committee may remove a member of the Federal and Religious Truth and Healing Advisory Committee only for neglect of duty or malfeasance.

(3) TERMINATION.—The Federal and Religious Truth and Healing Advisory Committee shall terminate 90 days after the date on which the Commission submits the final report required under section 111(e)(3).

(c) BUSINESS MEETINGS.—

(1) INITIAL BUSINESS MEETING.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the initial business meeting of the Commission under section 101(c)(1), the Federal and Religious Truth and Healing Advisory Committee shall hold an initial business meeting—

(A) to establish rules for the Federal and Religious Truth and Healing Advisory Committee; and

(B) to appoint 2 members of the Federal and Religious Truth and Healing Advisory Committee to serve as non-voting designees on the Commission in accordance with section 101(c)(3).

(2) SUBSEQUENT BUSINESS MEETINGS.—After the initial business meeting of the Federal and Religious Truth and Healing Advisory Committee is held under paragraph (1), the Federal and Religious Truth and Healing Advisory Committee shall meet at the call of the Chairperson.

(3) FORMAT OF BUSINESS MEETINGS.—A business meeting of the Federal and Religious Truth and Healing Advisory Committee may be conducted in-person or virtually.

(4) QUORUM REQUIRED.—A business meeting of the Federal and Religious Truth and Healing Advisory Committee may be held only after a quorum, established in accordance with subsection (d), is present.

(d) QUORUM.—A simple majority of the members of the Federal and Religious Truth and Healing Advisory Committee shall constitute a quorum for a business meeting.

(e) RULES.—The Federal and Religious Truth and Healing Advisory Committee may establish, with the advice of the Commission, by a majority vote, any rules for the conduct of business, in accordance with this section and other applicable law.

(f) DUTIES.—The Federal and Religious Truth and Healing Advisory Committee shall—

(1) ensure the effective and timely coordination among Federal agencies and religious institutions in furtherance of the purposes of this Act;

(2) assist the Commission and the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee in coordinating—

(A) meetings and other related public and private convenings; and

(B) the collection, organization, and preservation of information obtained from witnesses and by other Federal agencies and religious institutions;

(3) ensure the timely submission to the Commission of materials, documents, testimony, and such other information as the Commission determines to be necessary to carry out the duties of the Commission; and

(4) coordinate with the Commission, the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee, and the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee to carry out the purposes of this Act.

(g) CONSULTATION OR ENGAGEMENT WITH NATIVE AMERICANS, INDIAN TRIBES, TRIBAL ORGANIZATIONS, THE OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS, AND NATIVE HAWAIIAN ORGANIZATIONS.—In carrying out the duties of the Federal and Religious Truth and Healing Advisory Committee under subsection (f), the Federal and Religious Truth and Healing Advisory Committee shall meaningfully consult or engage, as appropriate, in a timely manner with Native Americans, Indian Tribes, Tribal organizations, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and Native Hawaiian organizations.

(h) NONDISCLOSURE.—

(1) PRIVACY ACT OF 1974 APPLICABILITY.—Subsection (b) of section 552a of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the ''Privacy Act of 1974''), shall not apply to the Federal and Religious Truth and Healing Advisory Committee.

(2) FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT APPLICABILITY.—Records and other communications in the possession of the Federal and Religious Truth and Healing Advisory Committee shall be exempt from disclosure under subsection (b)(3)(B) of section 552 of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the ''Freedom of Information Act'').

(3) FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT APPLICABILITY.—Chapter 10 of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the ''Federal Advisory Committee Act''), shall not apply to the Federal and Religious Truth and Healing Advisory Committee.

TITLE III—GENERAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 301. CLARIFICATION.

The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (25 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.) shall apply to cultural items (as defined in section 2 of that Act (25 U.S.C. 3001)) relating to an Indian Boarding School or Indian Boarding School Policies regardless of interpretation of applicability by a Federal agency.

SEC. 302. BURIAL MANAGEMENT.

Federal agencies shall permit reburial of cultural items relating to an Indian Boarding School or Indian Boarding School Policies that have been repatriated pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (25 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.), or returned to a lineal descendant, Indian Tribe, or Native Hawaiian organization by any other disinterment process, on any Federal land as agreed to by the relevant parties.

SEC. 303. CO-STEWARDSHIP AGREEMENTS.

A Federal agency that carries out activities pursuant to this Act or that created or

controls a cemetery with remains of an individual who attended an Indian Boarding School or an Indian Boarding School may enter into a co-stewardship agreement for the management of the cemetery or Indian Boarding School.

SEC. 304. NO RIGHT OF ACTION.

Nothing in this Act creates a private right of action to seek administrative or judicial relief.

SA 3352. Mr. PAUL proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 82, to amend title II of the Social Security Act to repeal the Government pension offset and windfall elimination provisions; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. AUTOMATIC CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 13 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 1310 the following new section:

"§ 1311. Continuing appropriations

''(a)(1) On and after the first day of each fiscal year, if an appropriation Act for such fiscal year with respect to the account for a program, project, or activity has not been enacted and continuing appropriations are not in effect with respect to the program, project, or activity, there are appropriated, at the rate for operations specified in paragraph (2), such sums as may be necessary to continue the program, project, or activity if funds were provided for the program, project, or activity during the preceding fiscal year—

''(A) in the corresponding appropriation Act for such preceding fiscal year; or

''(B) if the corresponding appropriation bill for such preceding fiscal year did not become law, in a law making continuing appropriations for such preceding fiscal year.

''(2)(A) Appropriations and funds made available, and authority granted, for a program, project, or activity for any fiscal year pursuant to this section shall be at a rate of operations not in excess of the lower of—

''(i) 94 percent of the rate of operations provided for in the regular appropriation Act providing for such program, project, or activity for the preceding fiscal year;

''(ii) in the absence of such an Act, 94 percent of the rate of operations provided for such program, project, or activity pursuant to a law making continuing appropriations for such preceding fiscal year; or

''(iii) 94 percent of the annualized rate of operations provided for in the most recently enacted law making continuing appropriations for part of that fiscal year or any funding levels established under the provisions of this section,

for the period of 90 days. After the first 90-day period during which this subsection is in effect for that fiscal year, the applicable rate of operations shall be reduced by 1 percentage point. For each subsequent 90-day period during which this subsection is in effect for that fiscal year, the applicable rate of operations shall be reduced by 1 percentage point. The 90-day period reductions shall extend beyond the last day of that fiscal year.

''(B) If this section is in effect at the end of a fiscal year, funding levels shall continue as provided in this section for the next fiscal year.

''(3) Appropriations and funds made available, and authority granted, for any fiscal year pursuant to this section for a program, project, or activity shall be available for the period beginning with the first day of a lapse in appropriations and ending with the date on which the applicable regular appropriation bill for such fiscal year becomes law (whether or not such law provides for such program, project, or activity) or a continuing resolution making appropriations becomes law, as the case may be.

''(b) An appropriation or funds made available, or authority granted, for a program, project, or activity for any fiscal year pursuant to this section shall be subject to the terms and conditions imposed with respect to the appropriation made or funds made available for the preceding fiscal year, or authority granted for such program, project, or activity under current law.

''(c) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, for those programs, projects, or activities that would otherwise have high initial rates of operation or complete distribution of appropriations at the beginning of a fiscal year for which funding is made available under this section because of distributions of funding to States, foreign countries, grantees, or others, such high initial rates of operation or complete distribution shall not be made, and no grants shall be awarded for such programs, projects, or activities funded by this section that would impinge on final funding prerogatives.

''(d) Expenditures made for a program, project, or activity for any fiscal year pursuant to this section shall be charged to the applicable appropriation, fund, or authorization whenever a regular appropriation bill or a measure making continuing appropriations until the end of a fiscal year providing for such program, project, or activity for such period becomes law.

''(e) This section shall not apply to a program, project, or activity during a fiscal year if any other provision of law (other than an authorization of appropriations)—

''(1) makes an appropriation, makes funds available, or grants authority for such program, project, or activity to continue for such period; or

''(2) specifically provides that no appropriation shall be made, no funds shall be made available, or no authority shall be granted for such program, project, or activity to continue for such period.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections of chapter 13 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 1310 the following new item:

''1311. Continuing appropriations.''.

SA 3353. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 10545, Official Title Not Available; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in division A, insert the following:

SEC. _____. AUTOMATIC CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 13 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 1310 the following new section:

"§ 1311. Continuing appropriations

''(a)(1) On and after the first day of each fiscal year, if an appropriation Act for such fiscal year with respect to the account for a program, project, or activity has not been enacted and continuing appropriations are not in effect with respect to the program, project, or activity, there are appropriated, at the rate for operations specified in paragraph (2), such sums as may be necessary to continue the program, project, or activity if funds were provided for the program, project, or activity during the preceding fiscal year—

''(A) in the corresponding appropriation Act for such preceding fiscal year; or

''(B) if the corresponding appropriation bill for such preceding fiscal year did not become law, in a law making continuing appropriations for such preceding fiscal year.

''(2)(A) Appropriations and funds made available, and authority granted, for a program, project, or activity for any fiscal year pursuant to this section shall be at a rate of operations not in excess of the lower of—

''(i) 94 percent of the rate of operations provided for in the regular appropriation Act providing for such program, project, or activity for the preceding fiscal year;

''(ii) in the absence of such an Act, 94 percent of the rate of operations provided for such program, project, or activity pursuant to a law making continuing appropriations for such preceding fiscal year; or

''(iii) 94 percent of the annualized rate of operations provided for in the most recently enacted law making continuing appropriations for part of that fiscal year or any funding levels established under the provisions of this section,

for the period of 90 days. After the first 90-day period during which this subsection is in effect for that fiscal year, the applicable rate of operations shall be reduced by 1 percentage point. For each subsequent 90-day period during which this subsection is in effect for that fiscal year, the applicable rate of operations shall be reduced by 1 percentage point. The 90-day period reductions shall extend beyond the last day of that fiscal year.

''(B) If this section is in effect at the end of a fiscal year, funding levels shall continue as provided in this section for the next fiscal year.

''(3) Appropriations and funds made available, and authority granted, for any fiscal year pursuant to this section for a program, project, or activity shall be available for the period beginning with the first day of a lapse in appropriations and ending with the date on which the applicable regular appropriation bill for such fiscal year becomes law (whether or not such law provides for such program, project, or activity) or a continuing resolution making appropriations becomes law, as the case may be.

''(b) An appropriation or funds made available, or authority granted, for a program, project, or activity for any fiscal year pursuant to this section shall be subject to the terms and conditions imposed with respect to the appropriation made or funds made available for the preceding fiscal year, or authority granted for such program, project, or activity under current law.

''(c) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, for those programs, projects, or activities that would otherwise have high initial rates of operation or complete distribution of appropriations at the beginning of a fiscal year for which funding is made available under this section because of distributions of funding to States, foreign countries, grantees, or others, such high initial rates of operation or complete distribution shall not be made, and no grants shall be awarded for such programs, projects, or activities funded by this section that would impinge on final funding prerogatives.

''(d) Expenditures made for a program, project, or activity for any fiscal year pursuant to this section shall be charged to the applicable appropriation, fund, or authorization whenever a regular appropriation bill or a measure making continuing appropriations until the end of a fiscal year providing for such program, project, or activity for such period becomes law.

''(e) This section shall not apply to a program, project, or activity during a fiscal year if any other provision of law (other than an authorization of appropriations)—

''(1) makes an appropriation, makes funds available, or grants authority for such program, project, or activity to continue for such period; or

''(2) specifically provides that no appropriation shall be made, no funds shall be

made available, or no authority shall be granted for such program, project, or activity to continue for such period.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections of chapter 13 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 1310 the following new item:

''1311. Continuing appropriations.''.

SA 3354. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 10545, Official Title Not Available; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ___. ADJUSTMENT TO NORMAL AND EARLY RETIREMENT AGE.

Section 216(l) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 416(l)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) in subparagraph (D), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(B) in subparagraph (E), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following new subparagraphs:

''(F) with respect to an individual who—

''(i) attains 62 years of age after December 31, 2024, and before January 1, 2032, such individual's early retirement age (as determined under paragraph (2)(A)(ii)) plus 60 months; or

''(ii) receives a benefit described in paragraph (2)(B) and attains 60 years of age after December 31, 2024, and before January 1, 2032, 67 years plus the number of months in the age increase factor (as determined under paragraph (5)(A)) for the calendar year in which such individual attains 60 years of age;

''(G) with respect to an individual who—

''(i) attains 62 years of age after December 31, 2031, and before January 1, 2033, 69 years of age; or

''(ii) receives a benefit described in paragraph (2)(B) and attains 60 years of age after December 31, 2031, and before January 1, 2033, 69 years of age;

''(H) with respect to an individual who—

''(i) attains 62 years of age after December 31, 2032, and before January 1, 2036, 67 years of age plus the number of months in the age increase factor (as determined under paragraph (5)(B)); or

''(ii) receives a benefit described in paragraph (2)(B) and attains 60 years of age after December 31, 2032, and before January 1, 2036, 67 years of age plus the number of months in the age increase factor (as determined under paragraph (5)(A));

''(I) with respect to an individual who—

''(i) attains 62 years of age after December 31, 2035, and before January 1, 2037, 70 years of age; or

''(ii) receives a benefit described in paragraph (2)(B) and attains 60 years of age after December 31, 2035, and before January 1, 2037, 70 years of age; and

''(J) with respect to an individual who—

''(i) attains 62 years of age after December 31, 2036, 70 years of age plus the number of months in the age increase factor (as determined under paragraph (6)); or

''(ii) receives a benefit described in paragraph (2)(B) and attains 60 years of age after December 31, 2036, 70 years of age plus the number of months in the age increase factor (as determined under paragraph (6)).'';

(2) by amending paragraph (2) to read as follows:

''(2) The term 'early retirement age' means—

''(A) in the case of an old-age, wife's, or husband's insurance benefit—

''(i) 62 years of age with respect to an individual who attains such age before January 1, 2025;

''(ii) with respect to an individual who attains 62 years of age after December 31, 2024, and before January 1, 2032, 62 years of age plus the number of months in the age increase factor (as determined under paragraph (4)) for the calendar year in which such individual attains 62 years of age; and

''(iii) with respect to an individual who attains age 62 after December 31, 2031, 64 years of age; or

''(B) in the case of a widow's or widower's insurance benefit, 60 years of age.''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new paragraphs:

''(4) For purposes of paragraph (2)(A)(ii), the age increase factor shall be equal to three-twelfths of the number of months in the period beginning with January 2025 and ending with December of the year in which the individual attains 62 years of age.

''(5) The age increase factor shall be equal to three-twelfths of the number of months in the period beginning with January 2025 and ending with December of the year in which—

''(A) for purposes of paragraphs (1)(F)(ii) and (1)(H)(ii), the individual attains 60 years of age; or

''(B) for purposes of paragraph (1)(H)(i), the individual attains 62 years of age.

''(6) The Commissioner of Social Security shall determine (using reasonable actuarial assumptions) and publish on or before November 1 of each calendar year after 2035 the number of months (rounded, if not a multiple of one month, to the next lower multiple of one month) by which life expectancy as of October 1 of such calendar year of an individual attaining early retirement age on such October 1 exceeds the life expectancy as of October 1, 2036, of an individual attaining early retirement age on October 1, 2036. With respect to an individual who attains early retirement in the calendar year following any calendar year in which a determination is made under this paragraph, the age increase factor shall be the number of months determined under this paragraph as of October 1 of such calendar year in which such determination is made.''.

SEC. ___. INCREASE IN MAXIMUM AGE FOR DELAYED RETIREMENT CREDIT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (w) of section 202 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 402) is amended—

(1) in paragraphs (2)(A) and (3), by striking ''age 70'' each place it appears and inserting ''the maximum delayed retirement age (as determined pursuant to paragraph (7))'';

(2) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(7) For purposes of paragraphs (2)(A) and (3), the 'maximum delayed retirement age' shall be equal to—

''(A) during the period before January 1, 2025, 70 years of age for an individual who has attained early retirement age (as determined under section 216(l)(2)) during such period; and

''(B) during the period after December 31, 2024, the sum of—

''(i) the retirement age for such calendar year, as determined under section 216(l)(1), for an individual who has attained age 62 (for purposes of section 216(l)(2)(A)) or who has attained age 60 (for purposes of section 216(l)(2)(B)) during such calendar year; and

''(ii) 3 years.''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall take effect on January 1, 2025.

SA 3355. Mr. SCHUMER proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 82, to amend title II of the Social Security Act to repeal the Government pension offset and windfall elimination provisions; as follows:

At the end add the following:

SEC. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Act shall take effect on the date that is 1 day after the date of enactment of this Act.

SA 3356. Mr. SCHUMER proposed an amendment to amendment SA 3355 proposed by Mr. SCHUMER to the bill H.R. 82, to amend title II of the Social Security Act to repeal the Government pension offset and windfall elimination provisions; as follows:

On page 1, line 3, strike ''1 day'' and insert ''2 days''.

SA 3357. Mr. SCHUMER proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 82, to amend title II of the Social Security Act to repeal the Government pension offset and windfall elimination provisions; as follows:

At the end add the following:

SEC. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Act shall take effect on the date that is 3 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

SA 3358. Mr. SCHUMER proposed an amendment to amendment SA 3357 proposed by Mr. SCHUMER to the bill H.R. 82, to amend title II of the Social Security Act to repeal the Government pension offset and windfall elimination provisions; as follows:

On page 1, line 3, strike ''3 days'' and insert ''4 days''.

SA 3359. Mr. SCHUMER proposed an amendment to amendment SA 3358 proposed by Mr. SCHUMER to the amendment SA 3357 proposed by Mr. SCHUMER to the bill H.R. 82, to amend title II of the Social Security Act to repeal the Government pension offset and windfall elimination provisions; as follows:

On page 1, line 1, strike ''4 days'' and insert ''5 days''.

SA 3360. Mr. CRUZ proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 82, to amend title II of the Social Security Act to repeal the Government pension offset and windfall elimination provisions; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Equal Treatment of Public Servants Act of 2024''.

SEC. 2. REPLACEMENT OF THE WINDFALL ELIMINATION PROVISION WITH A FORMULA EQUALIZING BENEFITS FOR CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS WITH NONCOVERED EMPLOYMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 215(a) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 415(a)) is amended by inserting after paragraph (7) the following:

''(8)(A) In the case of an individual whose primary insurance amount would be computed under paragraph (1) of this subsection—

''(i) who first becomes eligible for an old-age or disability insurance benefit after 2067,

''(ii) who subsequently becomes entitled to such benefit, and

''(iii) who has earnings derived from noncovered service performed in a year after 1977,

the primary insurance amount of such individual shall be the amount computed or recomputed under this paragraph.

''(B) The primary insurance amount of an individual described in subparagraph (A), as computed or recomputed under this paragraph, shall be the product derived by multiplying—

''(i) the individual's primary insurance amount, as determined under paragraph (1) of this subsection and subparagraph (C) of this paragraph, by

''(ii) a fraction—

''(I) the numerator of which is the individual's average indexed monthly earnings (determined without regard to subparagraph (C)), and

''(II) the denominator of which is an amount equal to the individual's average indexed monthly earnings (as determined under subparagraph (C)),

rounded, if not a multiple of $0.10, to the next lower multiple of $0.10.

''(C)(i) For purposes of determining an individual's primary insurance amount pursuant to clauses (i) and (ii)(II) of subparagraph (B), the individual's average indexed monthly earnings shall be determined by treating all recorded noncovered earnings (as defined in clause (ii)(I)) derived by the individual from noncovered service performed in each year after 1977 as 'wages' (as defined in section 209 for purposes of this title), which shall be treated as included in the individual's adjusted total covered earnings (as defined in clause (ii)(II)) for such calendar year together with amounts consisting of 'wages' (as so defined without regard to this subparagraph) paid during such calendar year and self-employment income (as defined in section 211(b)) for taxable years ending with or during such calendar year.

''(ii) For purposes of this subparagraph:

''(I) The term 'recorded noncovered earnings' means earnings derived from noncovered service (other than noncovered service as a member of a uniformed service (as defined in section 210(m)) for which satisfactory evidence is determined by the Commissioner to be available in the records of the Commissioner.

''(II) The term 'adjusted total covered earnings' means, in connection with an individual for any calendar year, the sum of the wages paid to the individual during such calendar year (as adjusted under subsection (b)(3)) plus the self-employment income derived by the individual during any taxable year ending with or during such calendar year (as adjusted under subsection (b)(3)).

''(iii) The Commissioner of Social Security shall provide by regulation or other public guidance for methods for determining whether satisfactory evidence is available in the records of the Commissioner for earnings for noncovered service (other than noncovered service as a member of a uniformed service (as defined in section 210(m))) to be treated as recorded noncovered earnings. Such methods shall provide for reliance on earnings information which is provided to the Commissioner by employers and which, as determined by the Commissioner, constitute a reasonable basis for treatment of earnings for noncovered service as recorded noncovered earnings. In making determinations under this clause, the Commissioner shall also take into account any documentary or other evidence of earnings derived from noncovered service by an individual which is provided by the individual to the Commissioner and which the Commissioner considers appropriate as a reasonable basis for treatment of such earnings as recorded noncovered earnings.

''(D) Upon the death of an individual whose primary insurance amount is computed or recomputed under this paragraph, such primary insurance amount shall be computed or recomputed under paragraph (1) of this subsection.

''(E) In the case of any individual whose primary insurance amount would be computed under this paragraph who first becomes entitled after 1985 to a monthly periodic payment made by a foreign employer or foreign country that is based in whole or in part upon noncovered service, the primary insurance amount of such individual shall be computed or recomputed under paragraph (7) or paragraph (1), as applicable, for months beginning with the first month of the individual's initial entitlement to such monthly periodic payment.''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 215(a)(7)(A) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 415(a)(7)(A)) is amended—

(1) in clause (i)—

(A) by striking ''after 1985'' and inserting ''after 1985 and before 2068''; and

(B) by striking ''or'' at the end;

(2) in clause (ii)—

(A) by striking ''after 1985'' each place it appears and inserting ''after 1985 and before 2068''; and

(B) by adding ''or'' at the end;

(3) by inserting after clause (ii) the following:

''(iii) is an individual described in paragraph (8)(E),''; and

(4) by striking ''hereafter in this paragraph and in subsection (d)(3)'' and inserting ''in this paragraph, paragraphs (8) and (9), and subsection (d)(3)''.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply with respect to monthly insurance benefits payable on or after January 1, 2025.

SEC. 3. BENEFIT CALCULATION DURING TRANSITION PERIOD.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 215(a) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 415(a)), as amended by section 2, is further amended by inserting after paragraph (8) the following:

''(9) In the case of an individual whose primary insurance amount would be computed under paragraph (1) of this subsection—

''(A) who first becomes eligible for an old-age or disability insurance benefit after 2024 and before 2068,

''(B) who subsequently becomes entitled to such benefit, and

''(C) who has earnings derived from noncovered service performed in a year after 1977,

the primary insurance amount of such individual shall be the higher of the amount computed or recomputed under paragraph (7) without regard to this paragraph or the amount that would be computed or recomputed under paragraph (8) if the individual were an individual described in subparagraph (A) of such paragraph.''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 215(a)(7)(A) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 415(a)(7)(A)), as amended by section 2(b), is further amended by striking ''shall be computed or recomputed'' and inserting ''shall, subject to paragraph (9), be computed or recomputed''.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply with respect to monthly insurance benefits payable on or after January 1, 2025.

SEC. 4. ADDITIONAL MONTHLY PAYMENT FOR INDIVIDUALS WHOSE BENEFIT AMOUNT IS REDUCED BY THE WINDFALL ELIMINATION PROVISION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 215(a) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 415(a)), as amended by sections 2 and 3, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''(10)(A) For any month beginning at least 270 days after the date of enactment of the Equal Treatment of Public Servants Act of 2024, the Commissioner of Social Security shall, subject to subparagraphs (C) and (D), make an additional monthly payment of $100 to each individual who is an eligible individual for such month, and an additional monthly payment of $50 to each individual (other than an eligible individual) who is entitled to a benefit under section 202 for such month on the basis of the wages and self-employment income of such eligible individual.

''(B) For purposes of this paragraph, the term 'eligible individual' for a month means an individual who—

''(i)(I) first becomes eligible for an old-age or disability insurance benefit under this title before 2025, or

''(II) is an individual described in paragraph (8)(E), and

''(ii) is entitled to an old-age or disability insurance benefit under this title for such month based on a primary insurance amount that was computed or recomputed under paragraph (7) (and not subsequently recomputed under any other paragraph of this subsection).

''(C) In any case in which this title provides that no monthly benefit under section 202 or 223 shall be paid to an individual for a month, no additional monthly payment shall be paid to the individual for such month. This subparagraph shall not apply in the case of an individual whose monthly benefit under section 202 or 223 is reduced, regardless of the amount of the reduction, based on the individual's receipt of other income or benefits for such month or the application of section 203(a) or due to the adjustment or recovery of an overpayment under section 204.

''(D)(i) An individual is not entitled to receive more than one additional monthly payment for a month under this paragraph.

''(ii) An eligible individual who is entitled to a benefit under section 202 on the basis of the wages and self-employment income of another eligible individual for a month shall receive an additional monthly payment under this paragraph in the amount of $100 for such month.

''(E) Except for purposes of adjustment or recovery of an overpayment under section 204, an additional monthly payment under this paragraph shall not be subject to any reduction or deduction under this title.

''(F) Whenever benefit amounts under this title are increased by any percentage effective with any month as a result of a determination made under subsection (i), each of the dollar amounts in subparagraph (A) shall be increased by the same percentage for months beginning with such month.''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply with respect to monthly insurance benefits payable for months beginning at least 270 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 5. REPORTING OF NONCOVERED EARNINGS ON SOCIAL SECURITY ACCOUNT STATEMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1143(a)(2) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1320b–13(a)(2)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subparagraphs (B) through (E) as subparagraphs (C) through (F); and

(2) by inserting after subparagraph (A) the following:

''(B) the amount of earnings derived by the eligible individual from service performed after 1977 which did not constitute employment (as defined in section 210), not including service as a member of a uniformed service (as defined in section 210(m)), as shown by the records of the Commissioner at the date of the request;''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply with respect to Social Security account statements issued on or after January 1, 2025.

SA 3361. Mr. MERKLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 82, to amend title

II of the Social Security Act to repeal the Government pension offset and windfall elimination provisions; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. PROHIBITION ON POLITICAL ELECTION OR CONTEST AGREEMENTS, CONTRACTS, TRANSACTIONS, AND SWAPS.

Section 5c(c)(5) of the Commodity Exchange Act (7 U.S.C. 7a–2(c)(5)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(D) PROHIBITION RELATING TO POLITICAL ELECTIONS OR CONTESTS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, no agreement, contract, transaction, or swap involving any political election or any other political contest (or any index, measure, value, or data related thereto, or occurrence, extent of an occurrence, or contingency based thereon) may be listed or made available for clearing or trading on or through a registered entity.''.

SA 3362. Mr. SCHUMER (for Mr. CORNYN) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 3658, to promote space situational awareness and space traffic coordination and to modify the functions and leadership of the Office of Space Commerce, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Situational Awareness of Flying Elements in Orbit Act'' or the ''SAFE Orbit Act''.

SEC. 2. SPACE SITUATIONAL AWARENESS AND SPACE TRAFFIC COORDINATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Commerce shall facilitate safe operations in space and encourage the development of commercial space capabilities by acquiring and disseminating unclassified data, analytics, information, and services on space activities.

(b) IMMUNITY.—The United States, any agencies and instrumentalities thereof, and any individuals, firms, corporations, and other persons acting for the United States, including nongovernmental entities, shall be immune from any suit in any court for any cause of action arising from the provision or receipt of space situational awareness services or information, whether or not provided in accordance with this section, or any related action or omission.

(c) ACQUISITION OF DATA.—The Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Space Commerce (established under section 50702(b) of title 51, United States Code, as amended by section 3) is authorized to acquire—

(1) data, analytics, information, and services, including with respect to—

(A) location tracking data;

(B) positional and orbit determination information; and

(C) conjunction data messages; and

(2) such other data, analytics, information, and services as the Secretary of Commerce determines necessary to avoid collisions of space objects.

(d) DATABASE ON SATELLITE LOCATION AND BEHAVIOR.—The Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Space Commerce shall provide access for the public, at no charge, a fully updated, unclassified database of information concerning space objects and behavior that includes—

(1) the data and information acquired under subsection (c), except to the extent that such data or information is classified or a trade secret (as defined in section 1839 of title 18, United States Code); and

(2) the provision of basic space situational awareness services and space traffic coordination based on the data referred to in paragraph (1), including basic analytics, tracking calculations, and conjunction data messages.

(e) BASIC SPACE SITUATIONAL AWARENESS SERVICES.—The Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Space Commerce—

(1) shall provide to satellite operators, at no charge, basic space situational awareness services, including the data, analytics, information, and services described in subsection (c);

(2) in carrying out paragraph (1), may not compete with private sector space situational awareness products, to the maximum extent practicable; and

(3) not less frequently than every 3 years, shall review the basic space situational awareness services described in paragraph (1) to ensure that such services provided by the Federal Government do not compete with space situational awareness services offered by the private sector.

(f) REQUIREMENTS FOR DATA ACQUISITION AND DISSEMINATION.—In acquiring data, analytics, information, and services under subsection (c) and disseminating data, analytics, information, and services under subsections (d) and (e), the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Space Commerce shall—

(1) leverage commercial capabilities to the maximum extent practicable;

(2) prioritize the acquisition of data, analytics, information, and services from commercial industry located in or licensed in the United States to supplement data collected by United States Government agencies, including the Department of Defense and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration;

(3) appropriately protect proprietary data, information, and systems of firms located in the United States, including by using appropriate infrastructure and cybersecurity measures, including measures set forth in the most recent version of the Cybersecurity Framework, or successor document, maintained by the National Institute of Standards and Technology;

(4) facilitate the development of standardization and consistency in data reporting, in collaboration with satellite owners and operators, commercial space situational awareness data and service providers, the academic community, nonprofit organizations, and the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology; and

(5) encourage foreign governments to participate in unclassified data sharing arrangements for space situational awareness and space traffic coordination.

(g) OTHER TRANSACTION AUTHORITY.—In carrying out the activities required by this section, the Secretary of Commerce shall enter into such contracts, leases, cooperative agreements, or other transactions as may be necessary.

(h) SPACE OBJECT DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''space object'' means any object launched into space, or created in space, robotically or by humans, including an object's component parts.

SEC. 3. OFFICE OF SPACE COMMERCE.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 50701 of title 51, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''§ 50701. Definitions

''In this chapter:

''(1) ASSISTANT SECRETARY.—The term 'Assistant Secretary' means the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Space Commerce.

''(2) BUREAU.—The term 'Bureau' means the Bureau of Space Commerce established under section 50702.

''(3) ORBITAL DEBRIS.—The term 'orbital debris'—

''(A) means—

''(i) any human-made space object orbiting Earth that—

''(I) no longer serves an intended purpose;

''(II) has reached the end of its mission; or

''(III) is incapable of safe maneuver or operation; and

''(ii) a rocket body and other hardware left in orbit as a result of normal launch and operational activities; and

''(B) includes fragmentation debris produced by failure or collision of human-made space objects.

''(4) SECRETARY.—The term 'Secretary' means the Secretary of Commerce.

''(5) SPACE OBJECT.—The term 'space object' means any object launched into space or created in space robotically or by humans, including the component parts of such an object.

''(6) SPACE SITUATIONAL AWARENESS.—The term 'space situational awareness' means—

''(A) the identification, characterization, tracking, and the predicted movement and behavior of space objects and orbital debris; and

''(B) the understanding of the space operational environment.

''(7) SPACE TRAFFIC COORDINATION.—The term 'space traffic coordination' means the planning, assessment, and coordination of activities to enhance the safety, stability, and sustainability of operations in the space environment.''.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 507 of title 51, United States Code, is amended by striking the item relating to section 50701 and inserting the following:

''50701. Definitions.''.

(b) TRANSITION OF OFFICE TO BUREAU.—Subsection (a) of section 50702 of title 51, United States Code, is amended by inserting before the period at the end the following: '', which, not later than 5 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, shall be elevated by the Secretary of Commerce from an office within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to a bureau reporting directly to the Office of the Secretary of Commerce''.

(c) ADDITIONAL FUNCTIONS OF BUREAU.—Subsection (c) of such section is amended—

(1) in paragraph (4), by striking ''; and'' and inserting a semicolon;

(2) in paragraph (5), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(6) to perform space situational awareness and space traffic management duties pursuant to the SAFE Orbit Act.''.

(d) ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF COMMERCE FOR SPACE COMMERCE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (b) of such section is amended to read as follows:

''(b) ASSISTANT SECRETARY.—The Bureau shall be headed by the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Space Commerce, who shall—

''(1) be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate;

''(2) report directly to the Secretary of Commerce; and

''(3) have a rate of pay that is equal to the rate payable for level IV of the Executive Schedule under section 5315 of title 5.''.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(A) Section 50702(d) of title 51, United States Code, is amended—

(i) in the subsection heading, by striking ''DIRECTOR'' and inserting ''ASSISTANT SECRETARY''; and

(ii) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking ''Director'' and inserting ''Assistant Secretary''.

(B) Section 5315 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking ''Assistant Secretaries of Commerce (11)'' and inserting ''Assistant Secretaries of Commerce (12)''.

(3) REFERENCES.—On and after the date of the enactment of this Act, any reference in any law or regulation to the Director of the Office of Space Commerce shall be deemed to be a reference to the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Space Commerce.

(e) TRANSITION REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Commerce shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report that sets forth transition and continuity of operations plans for the functional and administrative transfer of the Office of Space Commerce from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to a bureau reporting to the Office of the Secretary of Commerce.

(2) GOAL.—The goal of transition and continuity of operations planning shall be to minimize the cost and administrative burden of establishing the Bureau of Space Commerce while maximizing the efficiency and effectiveness of the functions and responsibilities of the Bureau of Space Commerce, in accordance with this section and the amendments made by this section.

(3) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means—

(A) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2024, THROUGH FRIDAY, JANUARY 3, 2025

Mr. SCHUMER. Finally, Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it convene for a pro forma session only, with no business conducted on the following dates and times: Monday, December 23, at 9:30 a.m.; Thursday, December 26 at 2:30 p.m.; Monday, December 30 at 12:30 p.m.; Thursday, January 2 at 12 noon; Friday, January 3 at 11:45 a.m.; that following the January 3 pro forma, the Senate stand adjourned sine die and next convene at 12 noon, pursuant to the Constitution; further, I ask that following the prayer and pledge and following the presentation of the certificates of election and the swearing in of elected Members and the required live quorum, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SCHUMER. For the information of the Senate, on January 3, the swearing in of our new and recently re-elected Senators will be at noon, followed by a live quorum.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2024, AT 9:30 A.M.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 1:23 a.m., adjourned until Monday, December 23, 2024, at 9:30 a.m.

DISCHARGED NOMINATIONS

The Senate Committee on Foreign Relations was discharged from further consideration of the following nominations by unanimous consent and the nominations were confirmed:

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH GEORGE A. AYACHE AND ENDING WITH MATTHEW T. WESTERBERG, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JUNE 21, 2023.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH SANTIAGO DAVILA AND ENDING WITH IRWIN ROBERTS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JUNE 21, 2023.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ALULA ABERA AND ENDING WITH VANESSA WILKS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JUNE 21, 2023.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH KYLE L. ABBATTISTA AND ENDING WITH MICHAEL T. WEAVER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 25, 2023.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH CORI A. ALSTON AND ENDING WITH JAMES T. SUOR, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MARCH 14, 2024.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH CAREYLOU S. ARUN AND ENDING WITH DANIEL T. PINT, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MARCH 14, 2024.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH STEPHEN L. GREEN AND ENDING WITH MICHELE RENEE SMITH, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MARCH 14, 2024.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH STEPHANIE RICHE BOLES AND ENDING WITH ELISABETH ANN URFER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MARCH 14, 2024.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH STEPHANIE A. FUNK AND ENDING WITH CLINTON DAVID WHITE, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MARCH 14, 2024.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ELIZABETH ARLEVA CHAMBERS AND ENDING WITH DAVID J. THOMPSON, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MARCH 14, 2024.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATION OF APRYL ANN PAGLIARO.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ALEXANDRA BAYCH AND ENDING WITH ERIK SYNGLE, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 11, 2024.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ANDRAY ABRAHAMIAN AND ENDING WITH WILLIAM P. FERRARI, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 23, 2024.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH DIDIER JORDAN AHIMERA AND ENDING WITH MICHELLE MARIE YERKIN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 31, 2024.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH GEORGINA RITA BENJAMIN AND ENDING WITH JENNIFER L. DAVIS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 18, 2024.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH VALERIE BROWN AND ENDING WITH KELLY STANGE, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 18, 2024.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATION OF ROBERT HANSON.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH CHRISTINA J. AGOR AND ENDING WITH KEVIN L. WAGGANER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 12, 2024.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JULIE J. CHUNG AND ENDING WITH WILLIAM W. POPP, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 12, 2024.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ORY S. ABRAMOWICZ AND ENDING WITH MICHAEL B. WOFFORD, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 12, 2024.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate December 20, 2024:

THE JUDICIARY

BENJAMIN J. CHEEKS, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA.

SERENA RAQUEL MURILLO, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA.

AMTRAK BOARD OF DIRECTORS

DAVID MICHAEL CAPOZZI, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A DIRECTOR OF THE AMTRAK BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS.

RONALD L. BATORY, OF NEW MEXICO, TO BE A DIRECTOR OF THE AMTRAK BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS.

ELAINE MARIE CLEGG, OF IDAHO, TO BE A DIRECTOR OF THE AMTRAK BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS.

LANHEE J. CHEN, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE A DIRECTOR OF THE AMTRAK BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS.

FOREIGN SERVICE

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH GEORGE A. AYACHE AND ENDING WITH MATTHEW T. WESTERBERG, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JUNE 21, 2023.

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EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CELEBRATING THE 80TH BIRTHDAY OF GWENDOLYN NAVY

HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 20, 2024

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and celebrate the 80th birthday of Mrs. Gwendolyn Navy. Mrs. Navy is a shining example of resilience, dedication, and love. A woman whose life story is a testament to her strength of character and deep commitment to family and community.

Born on December 6, 1944 in Mobile, Alabama, Gwendolyn Navy grew up under the guidance and love of her parents, Melvin and Edna Wells. At eighteen, she moved north to Buffalo, New York, where she would build a life that exemplifies hard work and service.

For ten years, Mrs. Navy worked at Fisher-Price, contributing to the joy of countless children through her role on the assembly line and toy making. She then devoted twenty-seven years of service to the State of New York as a Corrections Officer at the Attica Correctional Facility, where she upheld her duties with strength and integrity.

Beyond her professional accomplishments, Mrs. Navy's greatest pride is her family. She is the beloved mother of two children, Gerard Navy and Felicia Williams. Her legacy extends to six grandchildren and one great-grandchild, who are undoubtedly inspired by her wisdom and love. Mrs. Navy was married eighteen years to her late husband, Walter Navy, whose memory she cherishes deeply.

Mrs. Navy is known for her many talents including her culinary expertise. Her collard greens, okra, peach cobbler, and sweet potato pie are legendary within her family and community.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Gwendolyn Navy, a woman with poise and resilience to her beloved family and community. On this milestone birthday, we celebrate her extraordinary life, her legacy, and the profound impact she has made on who knows her.

HONORING BRANDON HORNE

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON
OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 20, 2024

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the outstanding service of Brandon Horne, my intern who served with distinction in my office and dedicated his time to serving the people of Florida's 24th Congressional District.

Brandon, a proud alumnus of Southern University, brought his background and passion for creating meaningful change to my office. He was a member of the Student Government Association serving as President and a member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Incorporated. His commitment to improving transportation and infrastructure across South Florida was evident in his diligent support of my work on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

One of Brandon's greatest strengths is building bridges and fostering collaboration. His dedication to empowering others and uplifting underrepresented voices has left a lasting impression on our team and the communities we serve.

His next chapter will undoubtedly be marked by his continued success and impactful work in public service.

On behalf of Florida's 24th Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Brandon Horne for his drive and dedication to public service.

CONGRATULATING INDIAN VALLEY BRAVES FOOTBALL ON FIRST STATE CHAMPIONSHIP WIN

HON. MICHAEL A. RULLI
OF OHIO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 20, 2024

Mr. RULLI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today along with my colleague, The Honorable TROY BALDERSON, to congratulate the Indian Valley Braves on their victory over the Sandusky Perkins Pirates in the 2024 Ohio High School Athletic Association Division IV Football State Championship.

Attendance topped 7,000 in Tom Benson Hall of Fame Stadium that Saturday night, December 7, 2024. Amidst freezing and rainy conditions, the Perkins Pirates scored first to lead 7–0. The Braves responded with a touchdown but missed the extra point making the game 7–6. On the following kickoff, Sandusky Perkins fumbled, and Indian Valley recovered. They capitalized by driving down the field for a touchdown and successfully executed a two-point conversion pulling ahead 14–7. This back-and-forth battle characterized the game as neither team punted all night.

Heading into the fourth quarter, Indian Valley trailed Sandusky Perkins 36–29. The Braves drove back down the field and scored their fifth rushing touchdown of the game making the score 36–35. They took a risk by trying for a two-point conversion and were successful. The Braves' defense held strong and forced a turnover with just over four minutes of regulation left to play. They ran out the clock to clench the win with the final score reading 37–36.

This Division IV state final was historic as it marked the Braves' first football state championship in school history as well as the first for a Tuscarawas County school. The team finished with an overall record of 16–0 in the regular season and 5–0 in conference.

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating the Indian Valley Braves' players, coaches, staff, families, and friends as we celebrate this victory of an undefeated season and a state championship title. Go Braves.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF REV. DR. WILLIAM R. SAUNDERS

HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN
OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 20, 2024

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, today I honor the remarkable life and legacy of Rev. Dr. William R. Saunders, a trailblazer who broke barriers as the first Black full-time chaplain in a correctional institution in the United States. His steadfast commitment to faith and community left a profound impact on Michigan and beyond.

Born in Selma, North Carolina in 1917, William Saunders dedicated his life to ministry and service. He earned a Bachelor of Theology degree from Lynchburg Theological Seminary and College in Virginia, pursued further studies at Hartford Seminary in Connecticut, and was later awarded an honorary doctorate from Temple University in Illinois.

He became a minister of the gospel and was ordained in 1941 by the late Doctor A.B. Johnson, Superintendent of Missions of the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. In 1948, he made his way to Michigan, where he served as Assistant Minister of Second Baptist Church in Detroit. It was during this period of his life, in 1952, that he married his beloved wife, Mary E. Debnam.

Two years later, in April 1950, Rev. Saunders made history when he was appointed Chaplain of the State Prison of Southern Michigan. His tenure spanned 34 years, working under eight wardens and alongside twelve other chaplains before retiring in 1985. In a role defined by his compassion and resolve, Chaplain Saunders ministered to incarcerated individuals, offering guidance, spiritual support, and hope for renewal.

Rev. Saunders' influence extended far beyond the prison walls. He founded and pastored Southside Baptist Church in Jackson, Michigan, and held leadership roles with numerous community organizations. He served as President of Family Service, President of Potential Developmental Homes, Inc., and Board Member of the Inner City Child Day Care Center. A committed civic leader, he was an active member of the NAACP, Civitan International, and the Jackson County Ministerial Association, where he served as Treasurer. His dedication to public service earned him recognition from President Gerald Ford for his contributions as a member of the United States Draft Board.

A passionate advocate for youth and education, Rev. Saunders supported the Boy Scouts of America and served on the Jackson Public School Advisory Committee, where he helped empower generations of young leaders.

● 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.

Rev. Saunders' decades of tireless efforts to uplift others exemplified his compassion, integrity, and dedication to service. Though he passed away in 1987, his values live on through his three children, Theresa, William, and Anne (Percy Brown), as well as his two grandchildren, Jason and Haile.

It is with deep respect and gratitude that I celebrate the life of the Rev. Dr. William R. Saunders and recognize his legacy. May his example continue to inspire those who seek to serve others and foster positive change in our communities.

HONORING DEPUTY JIM LAU

HON. CHUCK EDWARDS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 20, 2024

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, it is with sorrow and gratitude that I rise today to honor the life of Deputy Charles James "Jim" Lau for his service to our country and community as a security officer at the Macon County Courthouse in Western North Carolina. Jim drowned in the floodwaters of Hurricane Helene and was found dead on September 28.

Jim lived a life dedicated to public service in every role he undertook. Jim served in the U.S. Air Force, rising to the rank of Master Sergeant and fighting in the Vietnam War, before beginning his successful career in law enforcement.

As a member of the Volusia County Sheriff's Office in Florida, Jim spent over 20 years working as a deputy, working primarily in the Major Case and Crime Scene units and pioneered a crime scene program which trained hundreds of deputies.

Jim was described by the Sheriff's Office as a hard worker, dependable and was well-liked. After full retirement from the police force in 2005, Jim moved with his then wife Millie to Franklin, North Carolina to be closer to family; Millie died in 2007 after a battle with breast cancer.

Even in his retirement, Jim felt called to serve others and chose to serve his community as a volunteer with REACH of Macon County, a domestic violence, rape crisis, and human trafficking center, and as a security officer at the Macon County Courthouse.

On Friday, September 27, Jim showed up to work to serve the people of Macon County amidst the devastation of Hurricane Helene, with the worst storm conditions Western North Carolina has seen in recorded history. Jim was reported missing after he failed to return from lunch and his body was found in his truck, still trapped in the floodwater, the following day.

Jim was known as a family man and loved nothing more than being a grandfather. Jim leaves behind his wife, Judie; children, Kimberly, Destiny, Cameron, Brittany and Tyler; and many grandchildren and extended relatives.

After decades of working to protect others, Jim made the world a better and safer place, and I thank him for his lifetime of public service. I offer my deepest condolences to the Lau family and will continue to keep them in my thoughts and prayers.

CELEBRATING DIWALI IN CARY, NORTH CAROLINA

HON. WILEY NICKEL

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 20, 2024

Mr. NICKEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the celebration of the Diwali Festival in Cary, North Carolina, my home and part of North Carolina's 13th Congressional District.

This year's Diwali Festival was made to happen thanks to the great work of the Cary Town Council. The event is being hosted in commemoration of Cary's Diwali Proclamation, which will be presented to Manoj Pandya, the President of the Hindu Society of North Carolina.

It is also important that I recognize Councilwoman Sarika Bansal of the Town of Cary, for her efforts in organizing this event. Councilwoman Bansal is the first ever Indian-American woman to serve on the Cary Town Council. Councilwoman Bansal ran on the platform that including more voices and citizen engagement would help us to make investments in the town of Cary that will benefit many generations to come. She understands the importance of diversity and uplifting those voices.

North Carolina is a place of abundance, where diverse communities and their traditions contribute to the prosperity of our great state. Specifically, the Indian-American and Hindu communities make great and important contributions to the economic, social, and cultural fabric of North Carolina.

From business and technology to education and healthcare, our Hindu neighbors continue to make a lasting impact on our state. The tradition of Diwali is a testament to the strength that comes from our community's diversity.

Diwali is a time that holds immense significance and marks the triumph of light over darkness, knowledge over ignorance, and good over evil. It is a time to come together with friends and family to enjoy dancing and delicious food. It is also a holiday of hope; an important opportunity to reflect on the importance of light, particularly in times of great darkness and social discord. Diwali stands as a testament to the enduring spirit of resilience and optimism that unites us as a community and a Nation.

I ask my esteemed colleagues to join me in reminding our communities and ourselves to shine our light in darkness, to fight for peace, for justice, and for understanding, even as powerful forces work to sow hate and division. In North Carolina y'all means all.

May we all dedicate ourselves to the beauty of diversity, and pursuit of a brighter future for everyone.

HONORING THE LIFE OF SISTER BERNADETTE KENNY

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 20, 2024

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of Sister Bernadette Kenny, who passed away on December 7, 2024.

"Sister Bernie" came into the world on December 8, 1938. She was born in Boston, Massachusetts, and raised in Massachusetts. Her Catholic faith and interest in caring for others resulted in her joining the Medical Missionaries of Mary at age 19. She went to study nursing at Ireland's Lady of Lourdes Hospital.

After completing her training as a nurse and midwife, she served several missions in Africa, which included stints in Tanzania, Ethiopia and the Central African Republic.

In 1978, Sister Kenny moved to Southwest Virginia. Soon thereafter, she founded the Health Wagon in Norton, Virginia.

Southwest Virginia is a sprawling rural area, and access to health care services has always been a challenge for the local communities. For many people, it takes hours of driving to simply reach a hospital.

Sister Kenny founded the Health Wagon to address this challenge head on. The Health Wagon consisted of a Volkswagen Beetle filled with medical tools and supplies. Sister Kenny traveled in her Beetle throughout the coalfields region to meet the health care needs of the local communities.

She administered services to struggling residents free of charge in her quest to heal their bodies as well as heal their souls. She underscored the emotional aspects to health care, saying "in most health care the emotional part is ignored." She added: "health care is social; it's a way of identifying what's inside a person."

Thanks to Sister Kenny's support, the Remote Area Medical (RAM) project, a popular and overwhelmingly successful venture that delivers free health care to various underserved communities in America, has hosted clinics in Southwest Virginia.

Because of Sister Kenny's strong leadership and fierce advocacy, the Health Wagon has sustained operations to this very day. The group takes pride in providing compassionate, quality health care to the medically underserved people in the mountains of Appalachia.

The indispensable endeavor to deliver vital health care to Appalachian communities, including the region's coal miners, would not have been so emphasized today if it were not for Sister Kenny. I join the people of Southwest Virginia and all of Appalachia in mourning her loss, but the lasting impact she had on the region will forever be cherished.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP COUNCILMAN RON SMITH

HON. MIKIE SHERRILL

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 20, 2024

Ms. SHERRILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Councilman Ron Smith, who will retire at the end of this month after years of dedicated service to Jefferson Township.

After earning a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Seton Hall University and a Master's Degree in Supervision and Administration from Kean University, Councilman Smith embarked on a career as a School Business Administrator. Over his career, he has worked for Essex County Vocational Schools and as an Interim School Business Administrator for numerous school districts,

most recently the Kearny Board of Education. Currently, he is the President and Educational Management Consultant with HRS Management Services.

In addition to serving as an adjunct faculty member at Kean University and Seton Hall University, Councilman Smith was an Associate Vice President for Administration and Finance at Kean University and an aide to New Jersey State Senator Robert Martin. Prior to being elected as a Councilman in 2017, he was a member of the Piscataway Board of Adjustment, the Jefferson Township Planning Board, and served as the President of the Jefferson Township Board of Education. Additionally, he currently serves as a Chairman of the Lake Hopatcong Commission.

A U.S. Army veteran, Councilman Smith received an honorable discharge after serving from 1954 to 1956. His dedication to his community and country is reflected in his civic activities and professional memberships, including leadership roles with the Association of School Business Officials International and the New Jersey Association of School Business Officials.

Councilman Smith's lifelong dedication to service and leadership has left an indelible mark on the community.

I want to express my gratitude to Councilman Smith for his decades of service and for the countless ways he has enriched the lives of others, and I wish him the best for a well-earned and restful retirement.

HONORING ANDRE PIERRE

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 20, 2024

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the outstanding service of Andre Pierre, my former intern who served with distinction and dedicated his time to serving the people of Florida's 24th Congressional District. Andre is currently a student at Florida International University, where he focuses on International Business and serves as the Vice-President of the Real Estate Club. I am proud to highlight Andre's remarkable contributions, particularly in foreign policy and Haiti. His work in this area has been instrumental in shaping policy discussions and providing valuable insights into the complex challenges facing Haiti. In my office, Andre has shown great dedication, immersing himself in the legislative process, especially in transportation and infrastructure. He has also worked closely with the Caucus on the Commission of the Social Status of Black Men and Boys, demonstrating his commitment to addressing critical issues impacting communities. Andre has emerged as a true leader on the Hill, uniting individuals from diverse backgrounds to foster a more inclusive and collaborative culture.

I wish Andre all the best as he continues his academic journey, which I am certain will be filled with success.

On behalf of Florida's 24th Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Andre for his commitment and service.

HONORING THE BREVARD HIGH SCHOOL CROSS-COUNTRY TEAM

HON. CHUCK EDWARDS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 20, 2024

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Brevard High School boys' cross-country team for winning the 2A state championship. This is the Brevard "Blue Devils" second 2A state championship in a row and third in the last four years, solidifying their dominant status as a dynasty.

The Brevard High School girls' cross-country team placed 7th at the state cross country meet.

Congratulations to the Blue Devils. Their continued success is a testament to countless hours of training, hard work, and a genuine passion for running.

They have made Western North Carolina proud.

May the future bring many more years of success as we continue to celebrate the legacy of your exceptional cross-country program.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 20, 2024

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I missed votes due to recovery from a hip replacement surgery after sustaining an injury during a bipartisan Congressional delegation trip to Luxembourg to mark the 80th anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 516.

HONORING ROBERT SENA

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 20, 2024

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the outstanding service of Robert Sena, my intern who served with distinction in my office and dedicated his time to serving the people of Florida's 24th Congressional District.

Robert, a graduate of Rollins College, brought his background and enthusiasm for communications and civic engagement. His service in my office has been instrumental to the constituents of Florida's 24th Congressional District as well as the state of Florida.

Robert's hard work and dedication were highlighted in his outstanding skills for sharing the functions of the federal government with a wide audience.

I applaud Robert's passion for civic involvement and his plan to educate the youth on the importance of local-level government.

Robert leaves a legacy of hard work and dedication. I do not doubt that the next step in his journey will be filled with continued success.

On behalf of Florida's 24th Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Robert Sena for his commitment and service.

HONORING MAJOR MICHELLE QUINTERO

HON. CHUCK EDWARDS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 20, 2024

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to honor Major Michelle Quintero of the Madison County Sheriff's Office who was killed as Hurricane Helene hit Western North Carolina on September 27.

As director of operations at the Madison County Detention Center, which includes Madison Juvenile Detention Center, Michelle was known for her positive influence on inmates and as a source of comfort and strength for young people.

Michelle's family and friends described her as a second mother to juvenile inmates, employees, and members of her community, even bringing juvenile inmates Christmas presents, making sure no one felt left out. On the morning of Friday, September 27, in the midst of Helene's destruction, Michelle thought only of serving others and attempted to get to work from her home in Yancey County.

Michelle was quickly surrounded by the rising flood waters after going outside to enter her car and became caught in the current; Michelle's neighbor, Chris Robinson, jumped into the flood water and made attempts to save Michelle's life but she was fatally injured by the falling trees and waves of debris in the water. Michelle was 48 years old. Michelle made a lasting impact on the law enforcement community and on those who were lucky enough to know her.

The Division of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention of the North Carolina Department of Public Safety posthumously awarded Michelle the Raising the Bar award, for her lifetime of public service and going above and beyond to help create better outcomes for incarcerated youth.

Michelle spent nearly 18 years working at the sheriff's office and came from a family dedicated to public service. Michelle leaves behind the love of her life and husband, Isaac Quintero; daughter, Ashlyn Quintero; son, Isaac Quintero; and many extended family members.

I thank Michelle for her contributions to Western North Carolina and for the positive influence and safe environment she provided for youth in her care.

I offer my deepest condolences to the Quintero family. I will continue to keep them and their loved ones in my thoughts and prayers. Michelle will be remembered for her lifetime of service and in every life she touched.

RECOGNIZING MARK R. BAKER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 20, 2024

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to recognize Mark R. Baker, who is retiring after more than a decade of distinguished service as the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association.

Mark's leadership in support of the general aviation community has been invaluable to hundreds of thousands of pilots and aircraft owners and the endeavors they support through flight. His unwavering commitment to promoting and protecting the freedom to fly—a freedom truly unique to the United States—has helped facilitate the wide range of general aviation flight missions, including business, disaster relief, philanthropy, and personal transportation.

Mark has been the most impactful leader in AOPA's 85-year history, serving as a tireless and effective advocate for general aviation. He has consistently provided legislators and regulators with valuable insights on important issues such as medical certification reform, strengthening our national network of airports, aviation and education career opportunities for youth, advancing flight deck technology, ensuring fair and transparent pricing for pilots, and improving aviation safety. Among the important legislation he has helped shape is the very first general aviation title in an FAA reauthorization bill, setting an important precedent for the future.

Mark's passion for aviation began as a child growing up in Minnesota, when he and his younger brothers, Scott and Jim, rode their bicycles to the local airport to watch airplanes and take penny-a-pound airplane rides. He took a ground school class in high school and earned his private pilot certificate soon after. Flight instructor Waldo Anderson, who is now 90 years old and still flying, mentored and inspired Mark as he worked to earn additional pilot certificates and ratings.

As a teenager just starting college, Mark found additional mentors in his employers, Knox Lumber founders Don DeCoster, Larry Platt, and Mel Maurer. The World War II veterans quickly recognized Mark's strong work ethic, which he learned from parents Ralph and Bev. Taking him under their wing, the trio soon taught Mark the ins and outs of retail lumber, laying the groundwork for his future business success in the home improvement industry.

After leaving Knox, Mark held leadership roles with Payless Cashways, Scotty's, and Home Base before joining Home Depot in that company's formative years. While at Home Depot, Mark held numerous executive positions, including Chief Operating Officer, and continued to build deep and lasting relationships throughout the home improvement vendor and real estate communities, helping to drive large-scale growth for his company and the industry. He even used his flying skills, and both personal and business aircraft, to help identify locations for hundreds of new stores nationwide.

Mark has held numerous other influential positions, including Chief Operating Officer at Scotts Miracle-Gro Company, President and Chief Executive Officer at outdoor outfitter Gander Mountain, and Chief Executive Officer at Orchard Supply Hardware.

Recognizing the important role of mentors in his own life, Mark has generously mentored hundreds of pilots, providing access to aircraft, instructors, and opportunities to fly, as well as sharing the wisdom he has gained in more than 10,000 hours at the controls. In that same spirit, he launched the You Can Fly program at AOPA, which has so far provided free aviation STEM curriculum to more than 100,000 high school students nationwide.

Mark's commitment to creating opportunities for young people is matched only by his commitment to his family, including his wife JoAnn; his four children, Lindsay, Kristine, Shannon, and Andrew; his sons-in-law Pete and Alex; and his eight grandchildren.

As Mark prepares to retire from AOPA, I wish him well in all his endeavors and thank him for his service to the aviation community and the Nation. I am confident he will continue to mentor the next generation of aviators as a passionate and influential advocate for GA.

HONORING PINYI WANG

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 20, 2024

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the outstanding service of Pinyi Wang, my fellow who served with distinction in my office and dedicated her time to serving the people of Florida's 24th Congressional District.

Pinyi is currently working on her Ph.D. in the Educational Leadership and Policy program at the University of Florida. I am proud to say that Pinyi has shown great dedication and passion for education and has devoted her time in my office to advance education policy forward.

It was obvious that Pinyi was ready to meet the challenge of contributing to the field of education. Her commitment to closing the opportunity gap across race, ethnicity, and gender became apparent with her work in addressing the inequalities found in the use of Artificial Intelligence in educational spaces. Furthermore, she has contributed significantly to moving my One School, One Nurse Act along the legislative process.

Pinyi's intellect, kindness, and hard work will always be remembered. I wish Pinyi all the best as she continues her doctoral studies in education equity and equality both domestically and internationally. I am certain that the next step in her journey will be filled with much success.

On behalf of Florida's 24th Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Pinyi Wang for her commitment and service.

HONORING ASHEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL BOYS AND GIRLS INDIVIDUAL CROSS COUNTRY

HON. CHUCK EDWARDS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 20, 2024

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Michael Haskin and Sofi Alexander, the boys and girls individual cross country winners of North Carolina's 4A state championship race, both belonging to Asheville High School.

Asheville High senior Michael Haskin ran his second fasted time of the season in a neck and neck race to win the boys individual 4A championship.

In the girls individual 4A race, junior Sofi Alexander took home first place for the Asheville High Cougars. Sofi is the first Cougar to win a girls cross country state championship.

Both runners, Michael and Sofi, won their races by less than two seconds, a testament to the determination of both athletes and the highly competitive fields.

On behalf of all of Western North Carolina, congratulations to Michael and Sofi.

HIGHLIGHTING THE CAREER OF SYLVIA GÓMEZ

HON. JENNIFFER GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 20, 2024

Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements and contributions of Puerto Rican broadcast journalist and news anchor Sylvia Gómez, after a career spanning over fifty years.

Sylvia Gómez was a pioneer in broadcast journalism in Puerto Rico, starting in this field at a time when the opportunities for women had barely began to become available. She was able to find valuable mentors among seasoned figures and prove herself in the field and on the air, soon establishing herself in reporting, interviewing, and anchoring as part of the news teams in the San Juan media market.

She has since been a constant presence in Puerto Rico TV screens, starting in public television and making her way through our major news outlets becoming an anchorwoman and a lead investigative reporter, eventually leading to a 44-year career at Telemundo WKAQ–TV.

Her reporting on environmental issues helped set the standard for such coverage and earned her numerous recognitions inside and outside the industry, with over 15 awards from press organizations, including a Silver Circle Emmy awarded by the Suncoast Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences in 2022.

I also want to highlight her principled fight against age discrimination by media employers, an issue that disproportionately impacts women in this field. Her stand on this subject bore witness to her integrity, strength and courage, and will certainly lead to a better workplace for many in the future. She has been an example to be followed, showing how one can and should continue fighting for your rights and the rights of others.

Sylvia is now moving on to enjoy a different stage of her life. I know she will continue to be a valuable member of Puerto Rico's community, and today I applaud her outstanding work, thank her for her commitment to what she saw as right and true to keep us informed, and wish her all the best moving forward.

HONORING DELANEY JANE CALLAHAN

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 20, 2024

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the outstanding service of Delaney Jane Callahan, my intern who has served with

distinction in my office and dedicated their time to serving the people of Florida's 24th Congressional District.

A Florida native, Delaney, arrived at my office determined to make a difference in the American legislative landscape. During her time here, she has advanced my agendas significantly, whether by drafting speeches and press releases, organizing press events, or conducting policy research. Her passion for public service and government is unparalleled, and she exemplifies the qualities of a dedicated public servant.

Delaney is currently a student at the University of Colorado Boulder where she focuses on Journalism and Political Science. She also serves on CU Bold's Student Government Association as Strategic Communications and Public Relations Chair. In addition, Delaney is the Vice President of her Panhellenic sorority. Delaney has also followed her academic interests by studying abroad in Paris, France, where she served as a strategic communications intern for the U.S. Department of State's Diplomatic Security Service Bureau.

Throughout Delaney's time in my office, I've observed that Delaney is deeply committed to journalism expertise to enhance the reach and influence of my office to as many constituents as possible. I am confident that she will continue to use her voice and talents to uplift underserved communities and champion important causes.

On behalf of Florida's 24th Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Delaney Jane Callahan for her commitment and service.

HONORING SWAIN COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY

HON. CHUCK EDWARDS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 20, 2024

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Swain County High School girls cross country team on their fourth consecutive North Carolina 1A girls cross country state championship title.

The Maroon Devils girls went above and beyond this season by posting their best score yet out of their four straight championships.

Additionally, Swain County senior, Arizona Blankenship, won her second individual 1A cross country title.

Once again, congratulations to the Swain County High School girls cross country team. Their streak of success is a testament to the dedication and passion of their runners and the exceptional culture of their program.

HONORING THE MICHIGAN BLACK CAUCUS OF LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIALS

HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 20, 2024

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, today I honor the Michigan Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials, a cornerstone of leadership, collaboration, and advocacy in Michigan since its founding in 2004. For two decades, the Caucus has provided a forum for local elected officials to network, mentor, and support one another, fostering stronger and connected communities throughout Michigan.

First organized in March 2004 during the Michigan Municipal League Conference in Lansing, the Caucus began with 45 Black local elected officials before officially becoming an affiliate of the Michigan Municipal League later that year. The organization has grown in scope and impact under the leadership of its Presidents—Clara Shephard of Muskegon, Lois Allen-Richardon of Ypsilanti, and its current President, Brenda F. Moore of Saginaw. Together, these leaders have guided the Michigan Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials in its mission to amplify the voices of African American municipal officials and promote equitable governance across the state.

Through leadership development, data-informed policy, and its committees, the Caucus ensures that the needs of Michigan's diverse communities are heard and addressed. Its collaboration with state partners as well as national organizations has advanced policies that improve outcomes and representation for the African-American community. Additionally, its scholarships for high school students help ensure that the next generation of leaders has the tools they need to succeed in higher education.

The Caucus also serves as an important resource for its members, offering workshops, regional conferences, and a network of officials who share ideas and solutions to challenges faced by local governments. Through these efforts, it strengthens Michigan's cities, towns, and villages, empowering local governments to deliver meaningful progress and opportunity to their residents.

The Michigan Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials exemplifies the power of collaboration and shared purpose. By fostering equity, supporting emerging leaders, and advocating for policies that uplift the communities they serve, the Caucus has left an indelible mark on Michigan and beyond.

It is with great respect and gratitude that I ask that we recognize the Michigan Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials for its contributions and its role in shaping a more inclusive and prosperous future. May it continue to lead and inspire for many more years to come.

CELEBRATING SHERIFF STEVE KEMPKER'S RETIREMENT

HON. BILL HUIZENGA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 20, 2024

Mr. HUIZENGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Sheriff Steve Kempker on his retirement following 44 years of outstanding service to Ottawa County. Sheriff Kempker has been a sworn officer of the law for over four decades, protecting the citizens of West Michigan, and I thank him for his courageous service in the line of duty.

Sheriff Kempker began his law enforcement career in 1980 with the City of Holland Police Department before joining the Ottawa County Sheriff's Office in 1989. Throughout his career, Sheriff Kempker served the county in a variety of roles, including Road Patrol Sergeant, Operations & Services Lieutenant, Captain, and Undersheriff. In 2016, Steve Kempker was elected as the 33rd Sheriff of Ottawa County.

In addition to his storied career as an officer, Sheriff Kempker has been a part of several law enforcement organizations and was appointed by Governor Rick Snyder and reappointed by Governor Gretchen Whitmer to the State of Michigan Mental Health Diversion Council. He also served on the Michigan High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) Board under the President's Office of Drug Control and Policy.

Sheriff Kempker has been an outstanding public servant for the people of Ottawa County for over 40 years. I am honored to call Steve a friend and wish him the best in his well-earned retirement. His impact on our community will never be forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in commending Sheriff Steve Kempker for his decades of exceptional service to Ottawa County. I wish him the best as he enjoys his well-deserved retrrement.

HONORING DANIEL CASTRO BONILLA

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 20, 2024

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the outstanding service of Daniel Castro Bonilla, my fellow who served with distinction in my office and dedicated his time to serving the people of Florida's 24th Congressional District.

Daniel, a proud Honduran American from Miami, FL, graduated from Bowdoin College with a degree in Asian Studies. His commitment to bridging cultural and linguistic divides is exemplified by his experiences studying in China under the Department of State's Critical Language Scholarship and conducting research with the Middlebury program. Furthermore, Daniel served four impactful years with the Fulbright Program in Taiwan, where he collaborated with schools nationwide to enhance educational opportunities.

Daniel served as a research analyst for Miami-Dade County policymakers, whose work is instrumental in developing data-driven policy solutions. Daniel has demonstrated a profound commitment to public service in my office, showcasing his analytical skills and international perspective to benefit our constituents. His work has been particularly impactful in fostering meaningful conversations around current events in Haiti, using his international relations expertise to help me navigate these unprecedented times. His insights have been invaluable in supporting friends and families in foreign countries during these challenging circumstances.

Daniel is a current Rangel fellow and will work for the State Department. I wish Daniel all the best as he transitions into his graduate studies in foreign service. I do not doubt that the next step in his journey will be filled with continued success.

On behalf of Florida's 24th Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Daniel Castro Bonilla for his commitment and service.

HONORING WEST HENDERSON HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

HON. CHUCK EDWARDS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 20, 2024

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the West Henderson High School girls volleyball team for winning the North Carolina 3A volleyball championship game.

This is the Falcons' sixth volleyball championship and first since 2008.

The West Henderson girls persevered through the challenges brought by Hurricane Helene, which interrupted their season for two weeks as many of the players were without power and water.

On and off the court, the West Henderson girls battled all season long to finish with an impressive 26 and 2 record and the championship title.

Congratulations to the West Henderson High School Girls Volleyball team, they have made all of Western North Carolina proud.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF OFFICER JACOB ANDREW CANDANOZA

HON. LANCE GOODEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 20, 2024

Mr. GOODEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Officer Jacob Andrew Candanoza of the Terrell Police Department, who lost his life in the line of duty on December 8, 2024.

Officer Candanoza embodied the highest ideals of courage and commitment in his service to the Terrell community. On December 8, during a routine traffic stop, Officer Candanoza made the ultimate sacrifice to protect and serve.

Officer Candanoza dedicated his life to the protection of our Nation as a sergeant in the United States Marine Corps between 2014 and 2019. Following his military service, he worked with the Dallas Sheriff's Office as a courtesy patrol technician. After being sworn in as an officer with the Terrell Police Department in July 2024, Officer Candanoza quickly earned the respect of his colleagues and community for his professionalism and compassion. His sacrifice is a solemn reminder of the debt of gratitude we owe to all who serve on the thin blue line.

My deepest condolences go out to Officer Candanoza's family, friends, and fellow officers during this profoundly difficult time. May his memory serve as a beacon of courage and a reminder of the dedication of our law enforcement community.

HONORING MIA RODRIGUEZ

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 20, 2024

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the outstanding service of Mia Rodriguez, my intern who served with distinction in my office and dedicated her time to serving the people of Florida's 24th Congressional District.

Mia is currently a student at Florida International University where her focus is on International Relations and Political Science. She also has served with distinction on FIU's Student Government Association as Chief Justice. I am proud to say that Mia has shown great dedication and has devoted her time in my office to diving deep into the legislative process, particularly when it comes to foreign affairs and trade policy.

Mia's eagerness to learn and excel will always be remembered. I wish Mia all the best as she continues her academic journey of which I am certain will be filled with much success.

On behalf of Florida's 24th Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mia Rodriguez for her commitment and service.

HONORING POLK COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

HON. CHUCK EDWARDS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 20, 2024

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Polk County High School girls volleyball team for winning the North Carolina 1A volleyball championship game with a score of 3–0.

This is the Wolverine girls' second consecutive 1A volleyball championship title.

Making their championship win all the more impressive, the team did not have practices or games for a period of 19 days during the middle of their season due to Hurricane Helene.

Congratulations to the Polk County High School girls volleyball team. I commend their work ethic, fortitude, and determination that resulted in an outstanding season.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF COMMISSIONER ANTONIO WILLIAMS OF WAYNE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

HON. WILEY NICKEL

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 20, 2024

Mr. NICKEL. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following proclamation honoring the service of Commissioner Antonio Williams.

Whereas Commissioner Antonio Williams continues to advocate for the creation of the Wayne County Homeless Committee to combat homelessness in Wayne County.

Whereas Commissioner Williams accomplished the approval of digital libraries in District 2, which in turn brought more support to the Summer Youth Employment Program that he started.

Whereas the commissioners approved resolutions authorizing the spending of national opioid settlement funds, which will bring needed relief to communities impacted by the opioid epidemic in Wayne County. These funds support every aspect of the effort to combat addiction, from early intervention to recovery support services and the treatment of incarcerated people.

Whereas the commissioners' progress on public service infrastructure, from the Northern Wayne County Library, to Fremont Elementary school, adds to the quality of life in Wayne County and contributes to the delivery of essential support for all constituents.

Whereas the increased allocation for public schools in this year's budget, including expansion of the School Resource Officer program is critical to ensuring safe and accessible public education.

I, WILEY NICKEL, Congressman of the 13th District of North Carolina, am honored to recognize the incredible service of Commissioner Antonio Williams of the Wayne County Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Williams' efforts to improve citizens' lives through public service is laudable, and his impact on community is immeasurable. I Thank Commissioner Williams for his devoted attention to Wayne County and contributions to the strength of our state.

RECOGNIZING THE 2024 AAA STARS OF LIFE

HON. CLIFF BENTZ

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 20, 2024

Mr. BENTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the members of the emergency medical services (EMS) profession who dedicate their lives to providing often lifesaving medical care and transport services to patients as well as entire communities. These health care professionals are on the frontlines of providing vital emergency 9–1–1 and interfacility ambulance services.

Every year, the dispatch of an ambulance is the first response to millions of medical emergencies. Often, the survival of a patient is enhanced by the prompt medical attention provided by paramedics and emergency medical technicians (EMTs) prior to the arrival at an emergency department. As a result of the selfless acts of these courageous and devoted professions, the lives of thousands of Americans are saved each year. While these professionals do not expect to receive recognition for their work, they deserve our outmost gratitude.

I would like to highlight a very special group of EMS professionals or ''Stars of Life'' who were honored this by the American Ambulance Association. These Stars of Life are meeting with their members of Congress this week and I strongly encourage my colleagues to take the time to chat with these exceptional individuals.

The American Ambulance Association honors each year those paramedics, emergency medical technicians, dispatchers and other ambulance service personnel who exemplify what is best about the EMS field. The American Ambulance Association has appropriately designated these individuals as ''Stars of Life''. Past Stars of Life have included paramedics and EMTs who were part of evacuation and response efforts to natural disasters, acts of terrorism and public health emergencies. Members of this year's Stars of Life program are no different and were involved with exceptional acts such as delivering and saving a baby born pulseless during transport to a hospital and extracting a patient involved in a fiery

car crash and then providing critical medical care.

Of equal importance, this program also pays tribute to those ambulance service personnel whose heroic acts or community service activities may not have made the news, but were just as meaningful to the people they aided. They are truly America's health care safety net.

I am especially proud of the five Stars of Life from Oregon being recognized this year who serve Oregonians with pride. They are Aubree Arneson, Jorge Garcia, Jason Hodges, Don Marr and Joe Scott. I had the opportunity to meet with Jorge Garcia with Umpqua Valley Ambulance from Roseburg, Oregon today and can tell you he is a first-class EMS professional who deeply cares about his community and his patients.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the names, organizations and hometowns of the 2024 American Ambulance Association Stars of Life honorees.

Names	Company	Location Display
Frank Alba	American Medical Response	Kansas City, KS
Johan Alvarado	Air Evac Lifeteam	Laredo, TX
Aubree Arneson	Cal-Ore Life Flight	Brookings, OR
Adam Aronberg	Northwell Health System Center for EMS	Norwalk, CT
Glenn Arremony	Hartford HealthCare EMS Network	Meriden, CT
Robyn Asher	Priority Ambulance, LLC	Oak Ridge, TN
Krystal Barboza	Hall Ambulance Service	Bakersfield, CA
Keone Bareng	Life EMS Ambulance	Grand Rapids, MI
Henry Barsh	American Medical Response	Philadelphia, PA
John Basile	Superior Air-Ground Ambulance Service	Highland, IN
Jason Baum	Falck	Orange, CA
Alec Belau	Priority Ambulance, LLC	Phoenix, AZ
Antoine Berenger	Rural Metro Fire	Tempe, AZ
Samantha Blackwell	Acadian Ambulance	Lafayette, LA
Cornelius Brady	VMSC Emergency Medical Services	Lansdale, PA
Spencer Brittain	Life EMS	Enid, OK
Gregg Bulman	Gundersen Tri-State Ambulance	Dorchester, IA
Jade Calvin	Bell Ambulance, Inc	Waukesha, WI
Jeremiah Capps	Superior Mobile Health	Converse, TX
Josh Cavaness	EagleMed	Chanute, KS
Emily Chandler	American Medical Response	Duxbury, MA
Cassandra Clark	Medix Ambulance Service Inc	Vancouver, WA
Eric Constantine	Medic Ambulance Service Inc	Santa Rosa, CA
Jason Cooke	Priority Ambulance, LLC	Darlington, SC
Bernard Cote	Rescue Inc	Newfane, VT
Janiece Cox	Superior Air-Ground Ambulance Service	Valparaiso, IN
Brandi Crist	Metropolitan EMS	Bigelow, AR
Andrew Davalos	American Medical Response	Rancho Cucamonga, CA
Dwight Derby	Advanced Life Systems, Inc	Selah, WA
Michael Dobrosky	Superior Air-Ground Ambulance Service	Genoa, OH
Dianna Drake	Hartford HealthCare EMS Network	Meriden, CT
Nate Dutt	Sanford Ambulance	Fargo, ND
Amie Ebarb	Southern Oklahoma Ambulance Service	Ardmore, OK
Riggs Egolf	American Medical Response	Hampton, VA
Yahya Elshawarbi	Falck	Orange, CA
Steve Emery	Priority Ambulance, LLC	Indianapolis, IN
Aidan Enders	Mohawk Ambulance Service	Delanson, NY
Juvencio Estrada	Air Evac Lifeteam	Laredo, TX
William Fisher	Air Evac Lifeteam	Walnut Ridge, AR
Jason Florance	American Medical Response	Overbrook, KS
Eric Foell	Regional Ambulance Service, Inc	Rutland, VT
Robert Ford	Lifenet Inc	Stillwater, OK
John Frierson	Lifenet Inc	Wake Village, TX
Jorge Garcia	Umpqua Valley Ambulance	Roseburg, OR
Hope Garrison	Lifenet Inc	Royal, AR
Craig Gesterling	Sunstar Paramedics	St. Petersburg, FL
Taylor Gibson	Mayo Clinic Ambulance Service	Rochester, MN
Jacob Gilmore	Mohawk Ambulance Service	Burnt Hills, NY
Wayne Gooding	Emergent Health Partners	Jackson, MI
Jessup Grogan	Metropolitan EMS	Little Rock, AR
Kenneth Guzman	Northwell Health System Center for EMS	Farmingville, NY
Diamond Hall	Superior Air-Ground Ambulance Service of Illinois	Oak Park, IL
Morgan Halliburton	Pro Med Ambulance	Maynard, AR
Scotland Hamlin	American Medical Response	Orlando, FL
Kayleen Harding	Priority Ambulance, LLC	Fort Washakie, WY
Josh Harrington	Sunstar Paramedics	Tampa, FL
John Hathaway	Spirit Medical Transport, LLC	Greenville, OH
Robert Hatzikonstantis	Armstrong Ambulance Service	Arlington, MA
William Helm, Jr.	REMSA Health	Reno, NV
Jason Henry	Rural Metro Fire	Mesa, AZ
Kylend Hetherington	Medstar Ambulance	Auburn, MI
Jon Hibbard	Action Ambulance Service, Inc	Tuftonboro, NH
Timothy Hinchcliff	Burholme Emergency Medical Services	Philadelphia, PA
Jason Hodges	American Medical Response	Wilsonville, OR
Royce Hsiung	Lakes Region EMS	North Branch, MN
Alan Hughry	Medic Ambulance Service Inc	Vallejo, CA
Kristen Hunter	Action Ambulance Service, Inc	Southboro, MA
Heather James	American Medical Response	Hogansville, GA
Lillie Jamison	Priority Ambulance, LLC	Nesbit, MS
Steve Jaskot	Emergent Health Partners	Chelsea, MI
Brian Keith	Superior Air-Ground Ambulance Service	Oshkosh, WI
David Kingdon	American Medical Response	Wailuku, HI
Alissa Krisher	Superior Air-Ground Ambulance Service	New London, WI
Daniel Laguna	REACH	North Salt Lake, UT
Matthew Lambert	Lifeguard Ambulance Service	Florence, AL
Carla Landrum	Priority Ambulance, LLC	Buchanan, GA

Names	Company	Location Display
Miki Leslie	American Medical Response	White Swan, WA
William Loftus-Rooney	Cataldo Ambulance Service, Inc	Holyoke, MA
George Lombardo	Superior Mobile Health	Kirby, TX
Patti Ludvig McCartney	Life EMS Ambulance	Portage, MI
Eric Lumpkin	Priority Ambulance, LLC	Dacula, GA
Don Marr	Bay City Ambulance	Coos Bay, OR
James Martin	Pafford EMS	Tulsa, OK
Maurice Matthews	Superior Air-Ground Ambulance Service	Berkley, MI
Amanda McQuistian	Priority Ambulance, LLC	Hampton, VA
Alyssa Meier	Life Line Ambulance	Prescott, AZ
Eli Melamed	Life Line Ambulance	Prescott Valley, AZ
Shelly Miller	Mecklenburg EMS Agency	Charlotte, NC
Loren Mitchell	Gundersen Tri-State Ambulance	Waterloo, IA
Michael Mitchell	Superior Air-Ground Ambulance Service	Yorkville, IL
Kevin Moore	Cataldo Ambulance Service, Inc	Newburyport, MA
Amber Munch	East Baton Rouge Parish EMS	Baton Rouge, LA
Scott Munoz	Missoula Emergency Services	Frenchtown, MT
Adam Mysona	Falck	Aurora, CO
Philip Neff	Falck	La Palma, CA
Shellaine Novak	PatientCare EMS	Sioux Falls, SD
Stacy Omdahl	LifeCare EMS	Roseau, MN
Megan Overbeck	Abbott EMS	Decatur, IL
Michael Penna	American Medical Response	Grand Terrace, CA
Lori Peterson	Medstar Ambulance	Shelby Twp, MI
Jon Jakob Peterson	Sanford Ambulance	Fargo, ND
Emily Robillard	East Baton Rouge Parish EMS	New Roads, LA
Kevin Rochford	American Medical Response	Temple, TX
Brian Rogers	Superior Air-Ground Ambulance Service	Ontario, OH
Daniel Schaefer	Metro-Area Ambulance Service	Mandan, ND
Madison Schatzer	McClain-Grady County EMS	Moore, OK
Mark Schiltz	Gundersen Tri-State Ambulance	Caledonia, MN
Ryan Schott	Mecklenburg EMS Agency	Charlotte, NC
Joe Scott	Medix Ambulance Service Inc	Warrenton, OR
Allison Sharp	East Baton Rouge Parish EMS	Baton Rouge, LA
Faith Shuff	Priority Ambulance, LLC	Oxford, GA
Nicole Silver	Northwell Health System Center for EMS	Staten Island, NY
Dale Simmons	Mercy Ambulance Service, Inc	Savannah, GA
Lance Smeal	American Medical Response	Lockport, NY
Chad Smith	Priority Ambulance, LLC	Mohawk, NY
Robin Smith	Priority Ambulance, LLC	Nashville, TN
Thomas Smith	EMSA	Claremore, OK
Raquel Soto	American Medical Response	Newington, CT
Jason Southard	American Medical Response	Tucson, AZ
Allen Steele	Priority Ambulance, LLC	Darlington, SC
Savannah Steele Welch	Acadian Ambulance	West Monroe, LA
Ambrose Stevens	American Medical Response	Redding, CA
Dalton Stewart	Pafford EMS	Boyle, MS
Sam Swanson	Hall Ambulance Service	Bakersfield, CA
Jessicah Sweet	Monticello Ambulance Service	Monticello, AR
Sam Sye	Gundersen Tri-State Ambulance	Mindoro, WI
Keri Taylor	EMSA	Oklahoma City, OK
Nikki Taylor	Metropolitan EMS	North Little Rock, AR
Heather Teague	Mecklenburg EMS Agency	Charlotte, NC
Shane Terry	Air Evac Lifeteam	Snyder, TX
Chris Thomason	Pro Med Ambulance	El Dorado, AR
Cynthia Torkelson	Gundersen Tri-State	Monona, IA
Richelle Treece	REACT EMS	Shawnee, OK
David Trimberger	Pafford EMS	Edmond, OK
Cheryl VanSeters	Life EMS Ambulance	Grand Rapids, MI
Andrew Clei Varela	American Medical Response	Keyes, CA
Lucie Walters	AirMed International	Foley, AL
Nicole Warren	Air Evac Lifeteam	Osceola, AR
Andrew Watson	EMSA	Oklahoma City, OK
Paul Winter	Hartford HealthCare EMS Network	Shelton, CT
Amy Wollenburg	Mayo Clinic Ambulance Service	Austin, MN
Haywad Yusufzai	Armstrong Ambulance Service	Arlington, MA
Ronnie Zermeno	Pafford EMS	Sherwood, AR

HONORING GENESIS SANTIAGO

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 20, 2024

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the outstanding service of Genesis Santiago, who has made an exceptional contribution to my office during her time as a Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute Fellow. Genesis has served with distinction in my office and dedicated her time to serving the people of Florida's 24th Congressional District.

Genesis holds an impressive academic background, earning three undergraduate degrees from the University of South Florida in History, Secondary Social Studies Education, and Classics and a master's degree in public policy from Georgetown University. Genesis demonstrated exceptional leadership and a deep commitment to advancing education equity during her fellowship. Her extensive experience as a teacher brought a wealth of knowledge that greatly enhanced our education policy efforts. Genesis immersed herself in the legislative process, consistently delivering high-quality briefing memos and policy recommendations.

In addition to her policy work in higher education, Genesis played a key role in drafting bills and collaborating with several organizations to move our legislative priorities forward. Her ability to articulate complex ideas through Op-eds and legislative writing further underscored her dedication to the issues we care deeply about. She also took on a leadership role with the fellows and interns, assigning meaningful projects and ensuring each team

member had a valuable and enriching congressional experience.

Genesis's attention to detail, collaborative spirit, and positive attitude have made a lasting impression in my office. As her fellowship concludes, I commend her for her unwavering dedication and commitment to education policy. I do not doubt that Genesis will continue to excel and make significant contributions to the field, and I wish her continued success in all her future endeavors.

On behalf of Florida's 24th Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Genesis for her commitment and service.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP COUNCIL PRESIDENT JAY DUNHAM

HON. MIKIE SHERRILL

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 20, 2024

Ms. SHERRILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Council President Jay Dunham, who will retire at the end of this month after an extraordinary 14 years of faithful and dedicated service as a councilman in Jefferson Township.

Council President Dunham's commitment to public service is rooted in a distinguished career that spans multiple industries and an unwavering dedication to his community. For 33 years, he worked for Verizon, and he later served as the manager of the Mount Paul Retreat Center in Jefferson prior to its sale, where he was in charge of a complex that included a 68-room main building, a large lake, a dam, and a cemetery.

A veteran of the Vietnam War, Council President Dunham has continued to advocate tirelessly for his fellow servicemembers. He is a past commander and current quartermaster for VFW Post 564, as well as a past commander and current chaplain of American Legion Post 423. His leadership in these roles reflects his enduring dedication to his fellow servicemembers who answered our Nation's call to service.

He has been an active member of the Milton First Aid Squad, the Jefferson Township Historical Society, and the St. Thomas Church finance committee. Additionally, he is a founding member of the Jefferson Township Veterans' Memorial Committee and has contributed his time to civic organizations such as Jefferson Highlights and the Jefferson Arts Committee.

Council President Dunham's lifelong dedication to service and his leadership, vision, and unwavering commitment to the betterment of our community has left an indelible mark on Jefferson Township.

I want to express my gratitude to Council President Dunham for his decades of service and for the countless ways he has enriched the lives of others, and I wish him the best for a well-earned and restful retirement.

HONORING DAWSON CONNELL

HON. CHUCK EDWARDS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 20, 2024

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Dawson Connell, for his work as an intern serving in my D.C. office. I would like to take this opportunity to thank him for his hard work and recognize the meaningful contributions he has made to the office this fall.

Dawson is from Waxhaw, North Carolina, and is currently a getting his Master's in Political Science at American University. Dawson is a graduate of Mars Hill University in western North Carolina and majored in History with both Pre-Law Studies and Political Science minors. Dawson was on the varsity baseball team at Mars Hill and is an impressive golfer.

Interns work with staff to serve constituents in North Carolina's 11th congressional district. Dawson was chosen from a competitive pool of applicants and exceeded every expectation with his positive attitude and impressive work ethic.

It was a pleasure to work with Dawson, and I am so proud to have such an intelligent and ambitious intern representing my office. Dawson exemplified the spirit of public service and represents the best that our Nation has to offer. I congratulate Dawson on this successful completion of his internship, and thank him on behalf of the people of Western North Carolina.

HONORING KENNETH CARTER FOR HIS WORK WITH THE ORANGE COUNTY SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 20, 2024

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, Kenneth Carter was born and raised in Miami, Florida, by his loving Christian parents, who were both very involved in his hometown church. Their example instilled in him to serve others in whatever capacity was needed.

Mr. Carter graduated from Florida State University with a bachelor's degree in criminology in 1987. He married his wife in 1988 and has three sons.

For the past 27 years, Mr. Carter has worked for the Orange County Supervisor of Elections in various roles. He's organized mock student elections at various elementary and middle schools to teach the importance of voting to younger generations. He's also served as a poll worker for the Orange County community, making sure the voting process goes smoothly for residents.

Mr. Carter is recognized for his dedication to voters in Orange County. His dedication has not only impacted thousands, but also inspired his wife and two of his sons to follow in his footsteps.

Mr. Carter looks forward to serving the community year after year and can't wait to continue his efforts for years to come.

HONORING CHRISTIAN HOLLOWELL

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 20, 2024

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the exemplary service of Christian Hollowell, who was my Director of Operations, and was instrumental in advancing the mission and goals of our office and serving the people of Florida's 24th Congressional District.

Christian's journey in operations and management brought invaluable expertise to our team. From day one, Christian demonstrated an unwavering commitment to efficiency, innovation, and collaboration. As my former Director of Operations, she navigated complex challenges with grace and determination, streamlining processes, enhancing productivity, and fostering a culture of teamwork and excellence. Her strategic insights and leadership were pivotal in driving my office's success and achieving our legislative and community objectives.

Beyond her professional achievements, Christian's integrity, humility, and compassion have touched the lives of everyone in my office. Her ability to inspire and uplift others and her genuine dedication to public service reflects her character and values.

On behalf of Florida's 24th Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to Christian Hollowell for her outstanding service, leadership, and dedication to public service.

HONORING BATTALION CHIEF TONY R. GARRISON

HON. CHUCK EDWARDS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 20, 2024

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor Battalion Chief Tony R. Garrison who was killed in the line of duty on September 27 when Tropical Storm Helene hit Western North Carolina. Tony was a native of Western North Carolina and by every account, Tony was a great man.

Known for his outgoing personality and compassionate nature, Tony enjoyed woodworking, fishing, and most of all, spending time with his family. Tony leaves behind the love of his life and wife of 28 years, Mary Chantelle Garrison, his daughter Hannah, and his son Dylan.

I would like to extend my appreciation for the work he accomplished during his time with the U.S. Forest Service, as a volunteer with the Garren Creek Fire Department, member of the Buncombe County Task Force, and as an instructor at A-B Tech in Asheville. Tony dedicated his life to serving others and protecting his neighbors.

As a Battalion Chief with the Fairview Volunteer Fire Department, Tony was used to running towards danger when others would run away. Friday, September 27 was a day of confusion and destruction in Western North Carolina.

Helene made landfall Thursday night and by Friday morning millions of people were left

without cell service, power, or any way to contact the outside world as trees fell and landslides washed away their houses, neighbors, and family members.

Tony's community of Fairview saw historic levels of flooding and suffered from catastrophic damage. During the confusion, Tony did what he was trained to do and what he spent his life doing—helping save others. While Tony worked with his nephew Brandon Ruppe to rescue neighbors during a landslide, a second landslide occurred and both Tony and Brandon tragically passed away from their injuries.

I offer my deepest condolences to the Garrison family. I will continue to keep them and their loved ones in my thoughts and prayers. Tony is a hero and will be remembered for his lifetime of service.

RECOGNIZING THE MO BETTER JAGUARS

HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 20, 2024

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I am honored to recognize the Mo Better Jaguars of Brownsville, Brooklyn, who capped off an undefeated season by overcoming their opponent 13–7 in the national Pop Warner Super Bowl in Orlando. Truly, these exceptional young men have defied all the odds and proven precisely what Brooklyn is capable of.

While the team's skill, cohesion, and passion were never in question throughout their sensational season, when challenges brought upon by high travel costs arose that would have prevented the Jaguars from competing for the D2 Title, their community stepped in. Through their support, the team succeeded in raising the funds they needed to reach the championship game, where they ultimately prevailed.

I extend my sincerest congratulations to every player, coach, family, and fan whose collective efforts led the Mo Better Jaguars to their well-deserved victory. Our community is incredibly proud of their achievements and their dedication, and we look forward to watching their athletic careers continue as they reach new and exciting triumphs.

HONORING SHANELLE ANIMLEY

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 20, 2024

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the outstanding service of Shanelle Animley, an intern in my office who served the people of Florida's 24th Congressional District with distinction,

Shanelle, currently a rising senior at South County High School, has brought her willingness to learn and her open-mindedness to public service. In particular, her commitment to creating a more equitable and inclusive environment for international students is evident. Her diligent support of mental health for South Floridians is also impressive.

One of Shanelle's greatest strengths is her positivity and maturity, which allowed her to tackle the demanding work of serving the constituents of Florida's 24th Congressional District with skill and ease. Shanelle has concluded her internship in my office, and she leaves a legacy of excellence and service. Her next chapter will undoubtedly be marked by 'her continued success and impactful work.

On behalf of Florida's 24th Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Shanelle Animley for her drive and dedication to the office and beyond.

RECOGNIZING POLLY'S PANCAKE PARLOR

HON. ANN M. KUSTER

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 20, 2024

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a small business in my district that is an important part of the Sugar Hill community: Polly's Pancake Parlor.

Since it was opened in 1938 by Willfred and Pauline ''Polly'' Taylor, Polly's pancakes has served up some of the lightest, fluffiest pancakes in New England, attracting visitors from across the Nation. Beyond serving excellent food, Polly's helped popularize maple syrup as a sweetener, contributing to the success of New Hampshire's world-renowned maple syrup industry.

What truly makes Polly's standout is the generous hospitality. When you visit Polly's, you're treated like a member of the family. That is why I have relished the opportunity to bring my family and friends to Polly's both before and during my time in Congress. Polly's is an important part of the fabric of the White Mountains community, and I am proud to recognize this outstanding business.

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

Senate passed H.R. 82, Social Security Fairness Act.

Senate passed H.R. 10545, American Relief Act.

Senate

Chamber Action

(Legislative Day of Monday, December 16, 2024)

Routine Proceedings, pages S7247–S7348

Measures Introduced: Thirteen bills and five resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 2–3, 5639–5649, and S. Res. 938–942. **Page S7332**

Measures Passed:

Counter-UAS Authority Extension Act: Senate passed S. 5639, to extend the authority for the protection of certain facilities and assets from unmanned aircraft. **Pages S7252–53**

Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies Act: Senate passed S. 1723, to establish the Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies in the United States, after withdrawing the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute, and agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: **Pages S7254–67**

Schatz Amendment No. 3351, in the nature of a substitute. **Page S7261**

Women's Suffrage National Monument Location Act: Senate passed H.R. 1318, to authorize the location of a monument on the National Mall to commemorate and honor the women's suffrage movement and the passage of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution. **Pages S7274–75**

General George C. Marshall House: Senate passed S. 3195, to designate the General George C. Marshall House, in the Commonwealth of Virginia, as an affiliated area of the National Park System, after agreeing to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. **Pages S7275–76**

Recognizing the Importance of Critical Minerals in Healthcare Act: Committee on Energy and Natural Resources was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 6395, to amend the Energy Act of 2020 to require the Secretary of the Interior to include the Secretary of Health and Human Services in consultations regarding designations of critical minerals, elements, substances, and materials, and the bill was then passed. **Page S7276**

Resiliency for Ranching and Natural Conservation Health Act: Senate passed S. 1553, to amend the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 to improve the management of grazing permits and leases, after agreeing to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. **Page S7276**

Clifton Opportunities Now for Vibrant Economic Yields Act: Committee on Energy and Natural Resources was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 2997, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey to Mesa County, Colorado, certain Federal land in Colorado, and the bill was then passed. **Pages S7276–77**

Jackie Robinson Ballpark National Commemorative Site Act: Senate passed H.R. 8012, to establish the Jackie Robinson Ballpark National Commemorative Site in the State of Florida. **Pages S7287–88**

Holcombe Rucker Park National Commemorative Site Act: Committee on Energy and Natural Resources was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 6852, to designate Holcombe Rucker Park, in Harlem, New York, as a National Commemorative Site, and the bill was then passed. **Pages S7287–88**

Wyoming Public Lands Initiative Act: Senate passed S. 1348, to redesignate land within certain wilderness study areas in the State of Wyoming, after agreeing to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. **Pages S7288–97**

Malheur Community Empowerment for the Owyhee Act: Senate passed S. 1890, to provide for the establishment of a land health management program on Federal land in Malheur County, Oregon,

after agreeing to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute, and the committee amendment to the title. **Pages S7288–97**

Gabriella Miller Kids First Research Act 2.0: Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 3391, to extend the Gabriella Miller Kids First Pediatric Research Program at the National Institutes of Health, and the bill was then passed. **Pages S7297–S7302**

Social Security Fairness Act: By 76 yeas to 20 nays (Vote No. 338), Senate passed H.R. 82, to amend title II of the Social Security Act to repeal the Government pension offset and windfall elimination provisions, by the order of the Senate of Friday, December 20, 2024, 60 Senators having voted in the affirmative, and after taking action on the following motions and amendments proposed thereto: **Pages S7285–87**

Rejected:

By 3 yeas to 93 nays (Vote No. 333), Paul Amendment No. 3346, to adjust the normal and early retirement ages for Social Security benefits and increase the maximum age for delayed retirement credits. (Pursuant to the order of Friday, December 20, 2024, the amendment having failed to achieve 60 affirmative votes, was not agreed to.) **Pages S7302–03**

By 28 yeas to 67 nays (Vote No. 334), Paul Amendment No. 3352, to provide for automatic continuing resolutions. (Pursuant to the order of Friday, December 20, 2024, the amendment having failed to achieve 60 affirmative votes, was not agreed to.) **Page S7303**

By 32 yeas to 64 nays (Vote No. 335), Cruz Amendment No. 3360, in the nature of a substitute. (Pursuant to the order of Friday, December 20, 2024, the amendment having failed to achieve 60 affirmative votes, was not agreed to.) **Page S7304**

By 34 yeas to 62 nays (Vote No. 336), Crapo Amendment No. 3331, to delay the repeal of the Government pension offset and windfall elimination provisions until additional changes are made to offset any negative impacts on the actuarial balance of the Social Security Trust Funds. (Pursuant to the order of Friday, December 20, 2024, the amendment having failed to achieve 60 affirmative votes, was not agreed to.) **Pages S7304–05**

Withdrawn:

Schumer Amendment No. 3355, to add an effective date. **Page S7286**

Schumer Motion to Commit the bill to the Committee on Finance, with instructions, Schumer Amendment No. 3357, to add an effective date. **Page S7286**

During consideration of this measure today, Senate also took the following action:

By 66 yeas to 30 nays (Vote No. 337), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn, having voted in the affirmative, Senate agreed to the motion to waive all applicable sections of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 and applicable budget points of order for purposes of the pending measure. Subsequently, the point of order, pursuant to Section 311(a)(3) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, that the pending measure would cause an increase of $197.81 billion in the level of Social Security deficits relative to the levels deemed for budget enforcement, was not sustained, and the point of order fell. **Page S7305**

Schumer Amendment No. 3356 (to Amendment No. 3355), to add an effective date, fell when Schumer Amendment No. 3355 (listed above) was withdrawn. **Page S7286**

Schumer Amendment No. 3358 (to the instructions (Schumer Amendment No. 3357) of the motion to commit), to add an effective date, fell, when Schumer Amendment No. 3357 (listed above) was withdrawn. **Page S7286**

Schumer Amendment No. 3359 (to Amendment No. 3358), to add an effective date, fell, when Schumer Amendment No. 3358 fell. **Page S7286**

Subsequently, upon passage of the bill, the motion to invoke cloture on the bill was rendered moot. **Page S7286**

American Relief Act: By 85 yeas to 11 nays (Vote No. 339), Senate passed H.R. 10545, making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025, by the order of the Senate of Friday, December 20, 2024, 60 Senators having voted in the affirmative. **Pages S7306–07**

D.C. Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Stadium Campus Revitalization Act: Senate passed H.R. 4984, to amend the District of Columbia Stadium Act of 1957 to provide for the transfer of administrative jurisdiction over the Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Stadium Campus to the Administrator of General Services and the leasing of the Campus to the District of Columbia for purposes which include commercial and residential development. **Pages S7312–13**

Taxpayer Resources Used in Emergencies Accountability Act: Senate passed S. 5098, to require certain agencies to develop plans for internal control in the event of an emergency or crisis, after agreeing to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. **Page S7313**

Government Service Delivery Improvement Act: Senate passed 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. Page S7313

SAFE Orbit Act: Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation was discharged from further consideration of S. 3658, to promote space situational awareness and space traffic coordination and to modify the functions and leadership of the Office of Space Commerce, and the bill was then passed, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: Pages S7314–15

Schumer (for Cornyn) Amendment No. 3362, in the nature of a substitute. Page S7314

Marine Debris Act: Senate passed S. 5649, to amend the Marine Debris Act to improve the administration of the Marine Debris Program of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, to improve the administration of the Marine Debris Foundation. Pages S7315–16

Think Differently Database Act: Senate passed H.R. 670, to amend title IV of the Public Health Service Act to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish a clearinghouse on intellectual disabilities. Page S7316

Henry Parham VA Clinic: Committee on Veterans' Affairs was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 4955, to name the community-based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Monroeville, Pennsylvania, as the ''Henry Parham VA Clinic'', and the bill was then passed. Page S7316

Duane E. Dewey VA Clinic: Committee on Veterans' Affairs was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 8667, to rename the community-based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Cadillac, Michigan, as the ''Duane E. Dewey VA Clinic'', and the bill was then passed. Page S7316

Louis A. Conter VA Clinic: Committee on Veterans' Affairs was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 9124, to name the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Auburn, California, as the ''Louis A. Conter VA Clinic'', and the bill was then passed. Page S7316

U.S. Congressman Sam Johnson Memorial VA Clinic: Committee on Veterans' Affairs was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 4136, to name the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Plano, Texas, as the ''U.S. Congressman Sam Johnson Memorial VA Clinic'', and the bill was then passed. Page S7316

Protecting America's Children by Strengthening Families Act: Committee on Finance was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 9076, to reauthorize and modernize part B of title IV of the Social Security Act to strengthen child welfare services, expand the availability of prevention services to better meet the needs of vulnerable families, and the bill was then passed. Page S7317

FISHES Act: Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 5103, to require the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to approve or deny spend plans within a certain amount of time, and the bill was then passed. Page S7317

House Messages:

Keeping Military Families Together Act: Senate concurred in the amendments of the House of Representatives to S. 2181, to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend the entitlement to memorial headstones and markers for commemoration of veterans and certain individuals and to extend authority to bury remains of certain spouses and children in national cemeteries. Page S7313

Appointments:

United States-China Economic and Security Review Commission: The Chair announced, on behalf of the Republican Leader, pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 106–398, as amended by Public Law 108–7, and in consultation with the Ranking Members of the Senate Committee on Armed Services and the Senate Committee on Finance, the appointment of the following individual to serve as a member of the United States-China Economic and Security Review Commission: Hal Brands of Maryland vice Robin Cleveland of Virginia (term ends 12/31/24). Page S7312

National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity: The Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, pursuant to Public Law 110–315, announced the appointment of the following individual to be a member of the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity: Dr. Gary Ransdell of Kentucky. Page S7312

Signing Authority—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that Senator Kaine, Senator Brown, and Senator Cardin be authorized to sign duly enrolled bills or joint resolutions from December 20, 2024 through January 3, 2025. Page S7312

Authorizing Leadership To Make Appointments—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that, notwithstanding the adjournment of the Senate, the President of the Senate, the President Pro Tempore, and the Majority and Minority Leaders be authorized to make appointments to commissions, committees, boards,

conferences, or interparliamentary conferences authorized by law, by concurrent action of the two Houses, or by order of the Senate. **Page S7312**

Pro Forma Sessions—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the Senate adjourn, to then convene for pro forma sessions only, with no business being conducted, on the following dates and times, and that following each pro forma session, the Senate adjourn until the next pro forma session: Monday, December 23, 2024, at 9:30 a.m.; Thursday, December 26, 2024, at 2:30 p.m.; Monday, December 30, 2024, at 12:30 p.m.; Thursday, January 2, 2025, at 12 noon; and Friday, January 3, 2025, at 11:45 a.m.; and that when the Senate adjourns following the Friday, January 3, 2025 pro forma session, it stand Sine Die, and next convene at 12 noon, on Friday, January 3, 2025, pursuant to the Constitution. **Page S7347**

Capozzi Nomination: Senate began consideration of the nomination of David Michael Capozzi, of Maryland, to be a Director of the Amtrak Board of Directors for a term of five years. **Page S7287**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S7287**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S7287**

Upon confirmation of the nomination, the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination was rendered moot. **Page S7287**

Clegg Nomination: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Elaine Marie Clegg, of Idaho, to be a Director of the Amtrak Board of Directors for a term of five years. **Page S7287**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S7287**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S7287**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S7287**

Upon confirmation of the nomination, the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination was rendered moot. **Page S7287**

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

By 49 yeas to 47 nays (Vote No. EX. 330), Benjamin J. Cheeks, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of California. **Pages S7247–52, S7273**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 49 yeas to 47 nays (Vote No. EX. 329), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S7251**

By 49 yeas to 47 nays (Vote No. EX. 332), Serena Raquel Murillo, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California. **Page S7285**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 49 yeas to 47 nays (Vote No. EX. 331), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S7274**

David Michael Capozzi, of Maryland, to be a Director of the Amtrak Board of Directors for a term of five years.

Ronald L. Batory, of New Mexico, to be a Director of the Amtrak Board of Directors for a term of five years.

Elaine Marie Clegg, of Idaho, to be a Director of the Amtrak Board of Directors for a term of five years.

Lanhee J. Chen, of California, to be a Director of the Amtrak Board of Directors for a term of five years. **Page S7347**

Routine lists in the Foreign Service.

(Prior to this action, Committee on Foreign Relations was discharged from further consideration.) **Page S7347**

Messages from the House: **Page S7322**

Measures Referred: **Pages S7322–23**

Enrolled Bills Presented: **Page S7323**

Executive Communications: **Pages S7323–29**

Petitions and Memorials: **Pages S7329–32**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S7332–33**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S7333–36**

Additional Statements: **Pages S7320–22**

Amendments Submitted: **Page SS7336–47**

Record Votes: Eleven record votes were taken today. (Total—339) **Pages S7251, S7273–74, S7285, S7302–07**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 1:23 a.m., on Saturday, December 21, 2024, until 9:30 a.m. on Monday, December 23, 2024. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S7347.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

No committee meetings were held.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 16 public bills, H.R. 10543–10558, were introduced.

Pages H7414–15

Additional Cosponsors: **Page H7416**

Report Filed: A report was filed today as follows:

Committee on Veterans' Affairs. House Committee on Veterans' Affairs Activities Report (H. Rept. 118–941). **Page H7414**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Maloy to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H7393**

Recess: The House recessed at 9:12 a.m. and reconvened at 4:53 p.m. **Page H7394**

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measure:

American Relief Act, 2025: H.R. 10545, making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 366 yeas to 34 nays with one answering "present", Roll No. 517. **Pages H7395–H7413**

Suspensions—Proceedings Resumed: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures. Consideration began Wednesday, December 18th.

Research Security and Accountability in DHS Act: H.R. 9748, to require the Under Secretary of the Science and Technology Directorate of the Department of Homeland Security to develop a Department-wide policy and process to safeguard research and development from unauthorized access to or disclosure of sensitive information in research and development acquisitions; and **Page H7413**

TSA Commuting Fairness Act: H.R. 8662, to reduce commuting burdens on Transportation Security Administration employees. **Page H7413**

Work Period Designation: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he designated the period from Friday, December 20, 2024, through the remainder of the 118th Congress, as a "district work period" under section 3(z) of House Resolution 5. **Page H7413**

Senate Referrals: S. 623 was held at the desk. S. 2020 was held at the desk. S. 2160 was held at the desk. S. 2784 was held at the desk. S. 3617 was held at the desk. S. 3790 was held at the desk. S. 4404 was held at the desk. S. 4451 was held at the desk. S. 4640 was held at the desk. S. 4634 was held at the desk. S. 4803 was held at the desk. S. 4851 was held at the desk. S. 4974 was held at the desk. S. 5062 was held at the desk. **Page H7395**

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appear on page H7395.

Quorum Calls—Votes: One yea-and-nay vote developed during the proceedings of today and appears on pages H7412–13.

Adjournment: The House met at 9 a.m. and adjourned at 6:13 p.m.

Committee Meetings

No hearings were held.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR MONDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2024

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

House

No hearings are scheduled.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

9:30 a.m., Monday, December 23

Senate Chamber

Program for Monday: Senate will meet in a pro forma session.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Tuesday, December 24

House Chamber

Program for Tuesday: House will meet in Pro Forma session at 10 a.m.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

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