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No. 13

## House of Representatives

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

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,  
January 22, 2025.

I hereby appoint the Honorable NATHANIEL MORAN to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

MIKE JOHNSON,  
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

### MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 3, 2025, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

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

### ADDRESSING NEEDS OF WORKING FAMILIES

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

Mrs. TRAHAN. Mr. Speaker, we are more than 3 weeks into January, yet Republican leadership in this Chamber has failed to call a vote on a single piece of legislation to address the pressing needs of hardworking families. There has been nothing to ease the burden of grocery prices, nothing to lower the cost of prescription drugs, and

nothing to make it easier for an American to buy a home.

Instead, what is the priority for the Republicans this week? A vote on H.R. 21, the so-called Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act, a bill that will give politicians here in Washington the power to monitor women's pregnancies and criminalize doctors and nurses who provide lifesaving care to women in need. I wish I was kidding.

Over the next couple of days, we are going to hear Republicans get up here and use scare tactic after scare tactic in attempting to justify this vote, so let's set the record straight about what this legislation does.

At first glance, its stated goal might sound reasonable: "to prohibit a health care practitioner from failing to exercise the proper degree of care in the case of a child who survives an abortion or attempted abortion."

That sounds logical on paper, but here is the reality: This situation almost never happens. When Texas passed a law requiring reporting on abortions resulting in live births, they reported zero live births over 3 years—zero. The same was true in Oklahoma.

What is this bill actually targeting? As we dig into H.R. 21, it becomes clear that this legislation purposely distorts what abortion care really is. It sweeps up highly complex and deeply personal medical situations, including those where a mother learns that her life is in danger because her baby has a fatal abnormality and cannot survive outside the womb.

Imagine the agony of that mother, a woman who dreamed of holding her child, now forced to make the unthinkable decision to induce labor to save her own life.

As her baby is born in agonizing pain with just minutes or hours to live, because no amount of medical intervention can save them, this bill seeks to make that horrifying situation even worse by overruling any decision by

the mother and her doctor to provide compassionate, appropriate medical care.

Instead, it threatens doctors and nurses with jail time, even if the only alternative is prolonging the pain, suffering, and, tragically, the inevitable death of the baby.

Tell me, Mr. Speaker, how does that make sense? Why do Republican Members of Congress insist they know what is better for a mother and her baby than she and her doctor do?

This bill is not about protecting life. It is about pushing out blatant lies about women's healthcare, and it is about control. It is about extreme Republican politicians inserting themselves into the most personal, private, and heartbreaking decisions a family has to make.

The cost is that women's lives are put at risk because some here would rather legislate ideology than acknowledge the complexity of real-life medical decisions.

To my colleagues across the aisle, instead of advancing a dangerous, divisive bill that exploits women's health for political gain, let's focus on what Americans are actually asking us to do. Let's work to lower costs. Let's expand access to healthcare. Let's give families the tools they need to thrive. The American people sent us here to do that work together.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on the GOP's reproductive healthcare surveillance act.

### PUTTING AMERICA ON A BETTER PATH

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate President Trump's inauguration and his commitment to revitalizing our great Nation.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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Over the past 4 years, Pennsylvania families have struggled under Biden's America-last policies. While every administration faces challenges, President Biden leaves behind a legacy of weakness and failure.

As President Trump said in his inaugural speech on Monday, our country is at the dawn of a golden age, thanks to the President's commitment to America First policies.

Look no further than the dozens of executive orders the President signed on his very first day in office as a sign that our country has turned the corner and is headed toward a brighter future. These orders immediately implement policies that will unleash American energy, ensure the freedom of speech in this country, end Federal censorship, secure our southern border, and restore accountability throughout the Federal Government.

While all of these policies put our country on a better path forward, I want to highlight a few that will have immediate, positive impacts for our country.

With a commitment to safeguarding our great Nation, President Trump is restoring commonsense immigration policy. On day one, he reversed the dangerous immigration policies of the Biden administration, reinstating sound enforcement measures like the remain in Mexico policy.

President Trump further prioritized our national security by designating the crisis at our southern border as a national emergency. Through this designation, the Trump administration can deliver military assistance and critical infrastructure investments to combat the cartels' campaigns of violence. These actions are critical in reclaiming control of our southern border and upholding the sovereignty of our Nation. By strengthening our resolve to fight unauthorized entry and unlawful presence, President Trump has once again demonstrated his commitment to American security and prosperity.

Unlike the previous administration, President Trump also recognizes the unique and present threat that drug smugglers and cartels pose to the health and safety of the American people. His declaration to designate these organizations as foreign terrorists will ensure the full capabilities of the Federal Government are being utilized to combat these bad actors.

On the global stage, America's standing suffered under President Biden. His disastrous withdrawal from Afghanistan led to chaos and the rapid resurgence of the Taliban. This not only endangered countless lives but also tarnished the credibility of the United States among its allies and adversaries alike. President Trump's plan to restore America's leadership on the global stage is centered on strength, accountability, and putting America's interests first.

This is why President Trump also issued an executive order to enhance

vetting procedures for foreign nationals entering the United States, focusing on identifying security threats and establishing stricter screening protocols.

On day one, President Trump also put our country back on the path of energy independence with his Unleashing American Energy initiative, which reverses the previous administration's harmful policies and expands domestic energy production. Representing the fairway of the Marcellus shale in Pennsylvania, I know firsthand how important domestic energy production is for our national security and the global environment. By expediting permits, eliminating unnecessary regulations, and fostering the development of America's abundant natural resources, we are reclaiming our status as a global energy leader.

Mr. Speaker, all these policies were implemented within hours of President Trump taking office. His message and determination to put this country on a better path are absolutely clear. I look forward to working with President Trump and his administration in ensuring a more secure border and energy independence and making our Nation respected again.

#### PUTTING ALL AMERICANS FIRST

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

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge Donald Trump to truly put America first by setting politics aside and providing California with the disaster relief we urgently need and deserve. Let's do that by fighting for California, home to close to 40 million people who also live in America.

Just a few weeks ago, big, bad fires broke out across Los Angeles County. Donald Trump's first instinct was to point fingers at California leaders for fires caused not by them but by Mother Nature herself and climate change. For the record, California has a lot of things, but one thing we do not have is a big old sink that can water the entire State.

Now, Trump wants to be a unifier. He claims he wants to put America first, so let's talk about what America First genuinely means.

America First does not involve placing conditions on disaster aid to Americans simply because of how a State voted.

America First does not mean leaving thousands of people without housing amid an ongoing housing crisis.

America First does not look like insurance companies robbing people or putting shareholders first.

What putting America first does mean, however, is passing disaster aid without conditions because, as Americans, we help each other when we are in need. At least, I thought that is what we do.

America First means build and rebuild. Build, baby, rebuild, swiftly and fairly, so no one remains unhoused.

America First means making insurance plans accessible to everyone, not just the rich and those properties that are considered low risk.

Mr. Trump, the individuals impacted by the fires in Los Angeles are not just, as you put it, "the wealthiest and most powerful individuals in our country" who were present at your inauguration. These are real people—grandparents, parents, children, and grandchildren, working, middle-class individuals—who have lost everything.

News flash, Donald Trump, many of them voted for you.

Let's support them and not just the wealthy few. That is how we truly put America first.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair and not to a perceived viewing audience.

#### BEGINNING A NEW ERA IN AMERICAN HISTORY

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

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, it is a new era in American history.

I congratulate President Donald Trump and Senator, now-Vice President J.D. Vance on their inauguration. This is the beginning of a golden age where we will secure our borders, lower prices, unleash American energy, and drain the D.C. swamp.

Under President Trump's leadership, we will restore safety by securing our borders and putting American citizens first—no more open borders or out-of-control illegal immigration. We will cut the costs that are crushing families across this Nation and especially in Iowa. By unleashing American energy, we will lower gas prices and, subsequently, food prices and reduce our dependency on foreign energy.

Let's be clear. We are here to drain the D.C. swamp. It is time to root out waste, inefficiency, and corruption that has held this Nation back for too long.

I pray for their success and that God blesses their leadership and guides their efforts to make America stronger, safer, and more prosperous for everyone than ever before.

I also wish President Trump and First Lady Melania Trump a wonderful and happy 20th anniversary.

□ 1015

#### CELEBRATING CLARA PETERSEN

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate a remarkable woman from West Branch, Iowa, Clara Petersen, who recently turned 100 years old.

While this milestone is extraordinary on its own, Clara's life and legacy are made even more remarkable by her service to our country during World

War II. She proudly served in the Coast Guard, and the Iowa City VA Healthcare System honored her with a plaque to recognize her incredible dedication.

Clara's humble spirit and sense of humor shine through as she fondly recalls her time in service, joking that she joined in 1945 to help get that darn war over with.

As she, herself, will tell you, her greatest achievements are not in her service but in the joys of family, getting married, raising children, and cherishing a family she calls the greatest in the world.

Clara's century of life is a testament to the strength and heart of our Nation. We are grateful for her service and her example.

#### SUPPORTING THE MOST VULNERABLE

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to reaffirm my unwavering commitment to protecting life and supporting both mothers and babies. Every life is precious, and it is our responsibility to defend the most vulnerable among us.

As a mother, a doctor, and a Member of Congress, I have always been dedicated to ensuring that children have the opportunity to grow, thrive, and fulfill their potential.

I am proud to share that I earned an A+ on the Susan B. Anthony Pro-Life America National Pro-Life Scorecard for the 118th Congress. This score reflects my consistent pro-life voting record, cosponsorship, and efforts to protect the sanctity of life.

This week, people from all around the country are coming to Washington, D.C., to celebrate life and advocate for those who cannot speak for themselves.

In addition to defending life, we must ensure that mothers have the support and resources they need to make the best choices for themselves and their children.

Mr. Speaker, today I wish a happy 15th birthday to my best buddy and nephew, Andrew Martino. I hope he has a wonderful day.

#### CELEBRATING EAGLE SCOUT RECIPIENTS

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

Mr. BERA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to celebrate three young men who this weekend will receive their Eagle Scout badges.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I was a Boy Scout in Troop 805 in Downey, California, but I never actually achieved my Eagle Scout. I know what an honor this is and how hard they worked.

I celebrate Vincent Misenti, an honor student at Pleasant Grove High School in Elk Grove, California. For his Eagle Scout project, he planned, developed, and installed pre-identification signs along the Gold River Parkway's nature trails.

This project totaled 30 distinct permanent signs representing a total of 11

different tree species. Vincent is also a member of the Pleasant Grove High School varsity football team, and he has got a stellar academic record with a 4.0 GPA.

Mr. Speaker, I honor Chase Soriano. Chase is a freshman at Jesuit High School in Sacramento, California. His Eagle Scout project was working with the Cordova Recreation and Park District to purchase, build, and install a little free library at the neighborhood park to improve literacy in his community.

This library allows children to exchange books that they have outgrown or read, allowing others to read the same stories Chase read as a child. Chase plays bass guitar, violin, and is a member of the football, rugby, and track teams at Jesuit High. He also has an impressive 4.1 GPA.

Mr. Speaker, I also honor Gregory Rubio who will become an Eagle Scout this weekend as well.

Gregory is a junior at Cordova High School in Rancho Cordova, California, and is on track to achieve his international baccalaureate diploma. His Eagle Scout project was working with the Cordova Recreation and Park District and the Tuskegee Airmen Heritage Chapter of Sacramento to design, purchase, install, and promote a memorial to the Tuskegee Airmen at Veterans Park in Mather. These signs focus on the 477th Bombardier Squadron who served at Mather Air Force Base during World War II.

Gregory plays the drums, participates in Skills USA, competes in National History Day at the county and State level, and is a student pilot who just flew his first solo flight.

I congratulate Vincent, Chase, and Gregory on this achievement. When I think about what I learned in the Boy Scouts, and when I think about the world that we are confronted with, they can teach us a lot by that Scout motto: "Be prepared."

#### SENSE OF TOGETHERNESS

Mr. BERA. Mr. Speaker, often the public out there sees Democrats and Republicans fighting and wonder: Where did that comity go? Where did the sense of being together go?

Well, Mr. Speaker, this past December over the Christmas holiday, I was surprised by one of my Republican colleagues, the Congressman from Tyler, Texas, who sent me a Greenberg Smoked Turkey out of the blue.

Mr. Speaker, that is the civility that exists between Democrats and Republicans. I thank that Member of Congress who represents Tyler, Texas, and that Greenberg Smoked Turkey sure was delicious.

#### MAKING AMERICA PROSPEROUS

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I just want to point out again, President

Trump is leading the way to make America prosperous and even more free than what we have been the last 4 years.

President Trump, as part of his package of executive orders, has withdrawn us, once again, from the calamity that is the Paris accords. Our Governor, Gavin Newsom, in California, keeps pushing us down this path, taking away our cars, taking away our gas stoves, leaf blowers, light bulbs, you name it, in this endless effort to somehow chase down carbon dioxide.

Well, let me show you. Carbon dioxide, I will remind you once again, is a tiny portion of our atmosphere. When I ask the average person—it is kind of interesting—how much CO<sub>2</sub> is there in the atmosphere? What percentage is in the atmosphere?

Most people just tend to believe—they don't really know. They have got their lives and they are busy, but they think, wow, it must be 20 percent, 50 percent. A lot of it is because of the hype of our colleagues on the other side of the aisle and the so-called scientists and the media trying to corral us into being scared of CO<sub>2</sub> production.

In our past years, past decades, past centuries, it has been much higher than what it is right now. Let me give you what the representation actually is. Right here, see this chart? Mr. Speaker, 78 percent of our atmosphere is nitrogen, and 21 percent is oxygen. We have over here a few trace gases here that includes krypton and a few things like that and water vapor.

Here, the third place one is argon, right here in green, 0.93 percent. Way over here in fourth place is CO<sub>2</sub> at 0.04 percent. Most people have been hyped into believing it is half the atmosphere, 20 percent of the atmosphere, as I said.

Fear is the effort that is being put upon people. Climate action now, oh my gosh, it is going to be the end of us by Al Gore, by all the people taking their private jets to Davos and having these climate meetings. Yet, the U.S.—whether it is part of the Paris accords or it is just how we do things—when we improve our technology, improve our engines, we improve everything that we do if we are allowed to. If we are allowed to focus on that, we are one of two countries that actually has seen our curve go down a little bit on CO<sub>2</sub> production. It is us and Japan. We are the only ones in the Paris accord of all the Western countries doing that.

Now, let's take a look at what China is doing. China is ever-increasing their amount of CO<sub>2</sub>, more and more coal-fired power plants with very little scrubber activity on them, if at all, on the output from those plants.

China is nearly triple the CO<sub>2</sub> production than what the United States is. We are number two. We are a highly industrialized country, but we are already bending the curve downward, aren't we? We don't get credit for that. Let's, instead, export all our jobs, our economy, our manufacturing to China, to India, places like that.

India is on the rise as well. They are a smaller country industrially, but they are on the rise.

Why would we do that? Why would we exchange our economy and the way we do things in a much cleaner and efficient way to send it over there because, A, it can be cheaper, easier to get by the environmental regulations and the ridiculousness of chasing this CO<sub>2</sub>.

Carbon dioxide is an essential building block of life. Plants and trees need it. If we were too successful at dropping CO<sub>2</sub> below whatever established standard they want, which is out in the air—it is interesting when I am in committees here, people don't even know. The experts that sit on panels say we need to do more to reduce CO<sub>2</sub>. They don't even know what the baseline number is. I asked them. They think it is 7, 8, 9 percent. They don't even know. They don't know what the start is, let alone what the target is.

Are we going to continue to let other countries produce the things we need and trade our economy and jobs for that versus as efficiently and as well as we do it here? What does that mean?

Well, in my district, they have already torn out hydroelectric dams. Do you know what hydroelectric dams provide? They provide CO<sub>2</sub>-free power. Oh, let's tear them out because of a fish deal that isn't even going to work out. Let's not build more hydroelectric dams.

We could add to Mount Shasta here 600,000 more acre-feet for all Californians, including those talking about the issues in southern California where they ran out of water, and they are not tending to the foliage there that is helping drive that. No. No. No. We can't have conditions on aid. No, we are helping people down there. That is a different story.

Management of forests, it helps have stronger forests, which are better CO<sub>2</sub> sinks, you know, a managed forest here versus the one that is going to be the next fire. More CO<sub>2</sub> is released from the fires in southern California and the million-acre fires in my district than what 5 years of cars driving in southern California produces, let alone a volcanic eruption and how much CO<sub>2</sub> comes out of that.

We are chasing the wrong thing here. I believe, instead, let's not make CO<sub>2</sub> the enemy. Let's follow President Trump and get out of the Paris accords and bring our economy back to this country.

#### THE NATION'S NUMBER ONE INSURANCE PROGRAM

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

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I am here this morning, and I rise to speak and address the Nation's number one insurance program: Social Security.

Mr. Speaker, it might surprise you that on average, there are about 150,000 Social Security recipients per district. What is equally shocking, however, is that Congress has done nothing in more than 50 years to comprehensively address Social Security, the Nation's number one antipoverty program for seniors and also for individuals.

I know we will have another Speaker, but in the gentleman's district alone, there are over 175,000 recipients. Social Security brings in a monthly amount of almost \$200 million. That makes it the best economic development program in the Nation with everyone receiving those benefits.

Yet, Congress hasn't acted. Mr. Speaker, since Richard Nixon was President of the United States. That was back in 1971. Now, some will say: Wait a minute, didn't we just recently pass something for teachers and firefighters and police officers and municipal employees? Yes, we did. We did pass that, but we did not enhance it because we didn't pay for it. In essence what that does, being unpaid for, is further hurt the Social Security program by about \$98 billion.

President Trump has got a proposal. His proposal is to do away with taxes for people on Social Security. We have had that proposal in a bill for more than 10 years. The difference is we pay for it so that the trust fund stays intact, Mr. Speaker. The President does not, so what that would mean is if it were to pass unpaid for, that by 2030, there would be a 36 percent hit on everyone's Social Security.

In other words, 2 years after President Trump is out of office, the Social Security fund would be hurt by 36 percent. What does that mean? To the listeners out there and to you, Mr. Speaker, what it means is that is a 36 percent cut in their benefits.

The average benefit for Social Security for a male is \$18,000 and for a female, it is \$14,000. In 2030, do you think they could stand a 36 percent cut for that? The last time Congress enhanced Social Security for its constituents was 1971.

Now, some might say: No, wait a minute, in 1983 didn't Tip O'Neill and Ronald Reagan enhance Social Security? Yes, they did. They worked out a deal.

□ 1030

Mr. Speaker, they worked out a deal to prolong the length of Social Security. They did so by raising the age, which sounds logical, doesn't it, until you realize that for every year you raise the age, that is a 7 percent cut in benefits.

Proposals by the Republican Study Committee to raise the age to 70, for all of the C-SPAN viewers and listeners out there, that would mean a 21 percent cut in their benefits. As I said, that Social Security pension benefit for 40 percent of Americans is the only thing that they have.

That is why this Congress has to take action and do something constructive

for all Social Security recipients. As has been expressed by President Biden, there is a pretty simple solution staring us right in the face. Everybody ought to pay into Social Security. Billionaires and millionaires shouldn't be exempt from paying into Social Security. Some pay nothing. Others are done paying by January 1. Working-class America has to pay throughout. Vote for Social Security.

#### RECOGNIZING PRESIDENTIAL CITIZENS MEDAL RECIPIENT PAULA WALLACE

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievement of Paula Wallace, who was awarded the Presidential Citizens Medal this month.

Paula Wallace dreamed of a school that would transform how we think about public education. By establishing the esteemed Savannah College of Art and Design and serving as its president, Ms. Wallace has fulfilled this dream and guided thousands of students into creative industries.

The Presidential Citizens Medal was awarded to 20 recipients who performed exemplary deeds of service for their country or fellow citizens. Recipients of the Presidential Citizens Medal are characterized by their common decency and commitment to serving others, which Ms. Wallace has demonstrated by being a lifelong educator and trailblazer of the arts.

Ms. Wallace was selected to be among the distinguished group honored at the White House because her dedication and vision have made our Nation and Georgia's First Congressional District better.

We congratulate Ms. Wallace on this honorable achievement and recognition for all of her hard work. On a personal note, we thank her for everything she has done for my hometown of Savannah, Georgia. I continue to say that SCAD transformed Savannah, Georgia.

#### HONORING REVEREND WAYNE RACZ

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Reverend Wayne Racz whose retirement marks the culmination of over 25 years of faithful service in the ministry.

Throughout his career, Reverend Racz has been a guiding light in the United Methodist Church, serving congregations across south Georgia.

Most recently, he served as pastor at St. Simons Island United Methodist Church and St. Luke in Savannah where he strengthened their mission and built meaningful connections within their communities.

In addition to his role as pastor, Reverend Racz served in leadership positions within the United Methodist Church's connectional ministries, leaving an unforgettable impact on its missions and outreach.

His 9 years at Epworth stand out as a testament to his devotion, during which he touched countless lives and expanded God's kingdom.

As he retires to spend more time with his family and friends, we extend our heartfelt gratitude for his remarkable service. While he steps away from his former roles, his legacy will endure as an ambassador of faith and compassion.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE MIGHTY EIGHTH AIR FORCE

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievement of the National Museum of the Mighty Eighth Air Force which has been named best museum in Georgia Business Journal's 2024 Best of Georgia awards.

The museum exists to educate visitors about the courage, character, valor, and patriotism of the brave individuals who fought in the largest air armada in history, the Eighth Air Force.

The museum preserves the stories of these individuals using exhibits, archival material, and artifacts including a fully restored B-17 Flying Fortress and an immersive simulated bombing experience.

The Georgia Business Journal conducts the Best of Georgia awards every year, allowing the public to vote for their favorite organizations across a variety of industries in the State.

In 2024, the people of Georgia selected the Museum of the Mighty Eighth Air Force to be awarded this prestigious honor to celebrate its excellence and recognize its dedication to preserving the history and legacy of the Eighth Air Force.

Selected out of over 30 contenders, the award recognizes the museum's significant role in education, preservation, and community engagement.

Congratulations to the National Museum of the Mighty Eighth Air on this honorable achievement.

#### DELIVERING AMERICA'S MANDATE

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

Mr. MANN. Mr. Speaker, with the inauguration of Donald J. Trump, it is a new day in America. On November 5, 2024, 77 million Kansans and Americans gave Washington, D.C., a mandate to restore commonsense solutions to the Nation's Capital and to get our country back on track. We heard America loud and clear and look forward to delivering on that mandate.

Our constitutional rights are not up for grabs. Sadly, our rights are under relentless attack from the ever-growing Federal Government. The right to life, to bear arms, and even the freedom of speech have become top targets for radical activists. Americans are not interested in sacrificing our freedoms, and I will never stop fighting to uphold and defend these rights.

With President Trump back in the White House and Republican majorities in the House and Senate, Americans' rights are safe and protected. I will bring more Kansas values and commonsense solutions to our Nation's Capital.

Gone are the days of the Biden administration's burdensome regulations that handcuffed Kansans across the Big First District. From their Green New Deal regulatory agenda to their refusal to work with congressional Republicans to pass commonsense legislation, it seemed that Washington Democrats were more interested in scoring political points than actually helping Americans.

The Biden administration's failed policies ushered 16 million illegal immigrants into the country with no proper vetting or background checks. They spent billions of hard-earned taxpayer dollars trying to implement an electric vehicle mandate that the majority of Americans are not interested in. They oversaw the catastrophic withdrawal from Afghanistan with no remorse for its failures.

There is a reason that President Trump and a Republican Congress are trusted more on issues like border security, the economy, and lowering crime. I will work day in and day out to advance President Trump's agenda and commonsense solutions which reflect our Kansas values in the Nation's Capital, not an out-of-touch agenda that picks winners and losers.

I hear and agree with Kansans when they say Congress needs to get our fiscal House in order and make this government efficient again. Today, our national debt exceeds \$36 trillion. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to realize that our current rate of Federal spending is unsustainable.

If the entire country decided to pitch in and tackle our debt today, every American household would need to contribute almost \$273,000 to bring our balance to zero. Compare that price tag with the average mortgage in the United States, which is about \$245,000. This level of spending is not normal. We must get serious about reducing Federal spending and putting taxpayer dollars in places where we can see a return.

As a Member of the Congressional Delivering Outstanding Government Efficiency Caucus, or DOGE, I will work with President Trump to eliminate wasteful spending and roll back burdensome, overreaching regulations that have made life harder for everyday Americans. The Federal Government should make life easier for Americans or get out of the way, period.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, we need to restore the American Dream. As a fifth-generation Kansan, I take the American Dream seriously. For five generations, my family has farmed, fed cattle, and been involved in our western Kansas community.

Today, the American Dream feels more out of reach than it ever has. By making the Trump tax cuts permanent,

though, Congress has an opportunity to usher in a new era of economic prosperity and growth for the country.

If Congress fails to extend those tax cuts, Kansans could see a tax hike of \$2,000 next January. That is the last thing we need after navigating 4 years of record levels of inflation.

Congress must return to helping Americans thrive and stop playing political games with their livelihoods. Our government of, by, and for the people has a duty to help Americans succeed, not make life harder.

The agriculture community alone faces so much uncertainty as it works to feed, fuel, and clothe the world. They, too, had a mandate and told us to stop holding them hostage to political games and deliver a 5-year farm bill that provides certainty.

I will work with anyone to pass a fiscally conservative 5-year farm bill that gives our farmers, ranchers, and agriculture producers the certainty they deserve.

I look forward to working with President Trump to delivering on this mandate in the 119th Congress. I do not serve in Congress to be a caretaker in the slow demise of America. I serve to fight to make it a country that we can all be proud of, while ensuring that our brightest days are yet to come.

#### RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 39 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

#### AFTER RECESS

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

#### PRAYER

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

Teach us to know that, You, O Lord, are our God. You are faithful to us, keeping covenant with us. Your mercy and loving kindness rests on those who love You and who keep Your commandments from one generation to the next.

On this day, may we, in our generation, be faithful to this covenant. While it seems an easy task to love You, Your commandment demands that we love You with all our heart, soul, and mind.

Open our hearts that we would show our loyalty to You by loving others with Your great love. Plumb the depths of our souls and attend to all that we fear and desire so that we, in response and faith, will commit ourselves to work with others to eliminate hatred and to grow together in compassion.

Search our minds that we would know what is of You and what is of our own deception by bringing every thought into obedience with Your will. Receive the best and the worst in us, the weakness and the strength in us, the despair and the hope in us, and show Your compassion that we may reveal Your steadfast love that You give to all of us.

In Your eternal name, we pray.  
Amen.

### THE JOURNAL

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

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

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. MCGOVERN led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

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

### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

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

### INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

(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 ahead of International Holocaust Remembrance Day to honor the memory of those who were murdered during the Holocaust.

In 2005, the United Nations designated January 27, the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz, as the International Holocaust Remembrance Day.

The systematic government-sponsored persecution and murder of 6 million Jews by the Nazi regime and its collaborators is one of the darkest chapters in history and will always be a scar on humanity.

We honor the resilience of survivors, and we rededicate ourselves to uphold the sacred promise of: Never again.

We promise to always remember those who lost their lives and those who saved them, those who stood in the face of such evil and refused to turn a blind eye.

Mr. Speaker, may we always remember and always pledge: Never again.

### END HUNGER NOW—TRUMP AGENDA

(Mr. MCGOVERN asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, earlier this week, President Trump took the oath of office flanked by the richest people in the world. His inauguration guests are reported to be worth over \$1.3 trillion.

At the same time, the Republican let-them-eat-cake agenda is pushing to take money out of the pockets of hard-working Americans. These proposals—and you can't make this stuff up—that Republicans have been floating at Mar-a-Lago would slash the food budgets of 40 million hungry families by a third.

These are the people who claim that they care about food prices, the ones who want to make it harder for low-income school districts to serve free meals to kids, all so they can give tax breaks to the billionaire ruling class.

News flash for the President and Republicans in Congress: You cannot make America healthier if you take away people's healthcare and make it impossible to buy nutritious food.

Billionaires do not need help, Mr. Speaker. I beg you, drop these proposals. Work with Democrats to improve programs that help regular people get by, and stop making hunger worse in this country.

### CONGRATULATING SPOTSWOOD HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS' CROSS COUNTRY TEAM

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

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the outstanding achievement of the Spotswood High School girls' cross country team, who won the VHSL Class 3 State championship in Blacksburg last November.

This incredible accomplishment caps years of hard work. In the last three seasons, the Blazers placed fourth, third, and finally runners-up. They took home the trophy this year with three athletes finishing in the top 10: Marika Dickel, Ashland Dickel, and Hayley Mancini. These all-star honorees were joined by their teammates: Carla Argueta-Romero, Reyna Dickel, Peyton Joyner, Anna Lowe, Marykate Miller, and Lillian Myers.

The team combined scored a total of 49 points for first place. They were led by assistant coach, Margene Dobbins, and head coach, Sue Rinker. Coach Rinker's expertise and consistent leadership earned her the well-deserved Coach of the Year Award from MileStat.

I congratulate the Spotswood Blazers girls' cross country State champions. The victory reflects not only the talent and determination of each runner, but the dedication and support of their coaches, families, and the entire community.

### HONORING ROSE MARIE SICKLER

(Mr. KENNEDY of New York asked and was given permission to address

the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life of Rose Marie Sickler of Clarence Center, New York, who passed away on December 3, 2024.

Born on July 19, 1948, to Joseph and Lillian LaBuda, Rose grew up in the town of Tonawanda, attended Cardinal O'Hara High School, Medaille College and earned her master's in elementary education from Buffalo State College.

For 30 years, Rose served as a beloved kindergarten teacher in the Depew Central School District. She dedicated her career to shaping the lives of hundreds of students with her joyful heart, innovative programs like the annual Penguin Hop, and her deep commitment to nurturing young minds.

A devoted wife to Charles for over 50 years, a loving mother to Dr. James Sickler and Dr. Thomas Sickler, and a steadfast supporter of numerous charitable causes, Rose's kindness and selflessness knew no bounds. Rose faced her final battle with cancer with grace and courage, leaving behind a legacy of love, compassion, and inspiration for all who knew her.

May she rest in peace, and may her family find comfort in the memories of her life.

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY ANDREW

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

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to wish my best bud and my nephew a happy 15th birthday. Today is the actual day. Happy birthday, Andrew. I hope you have a wonderful day.

### NATIONAL MENTORSHIP MONTH

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

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, January is National Mentorship Month. It is the perfect time to highlight the transformative work of the Epsilon Sigma Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated in Rocky Mount, North Carolina, with their Alpha Academy Leadership Development Program, which serves male students from Edgecombe, Nash, Halifax, and Wilson Counties.

They are empowering middle and high school students in eastern North Carolina through three core pillars: leadership, mentorship, and scholarship.

Since its inception, the Alpha Academy has impacted over 200 young men, continuously shifting life narratives and opening doors to a brighter future. These young men have engaged in impactful local and global service projects from turkey drives and

Socktober; impacting areas such as Haiti and as far as Tanzania.

Mr. Speaker, during National Mentorship Month, we celebrate the Alpha Academy.

#### PROMISES MADE PROMISES KEPT

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, this week, President Donald Trump became the 47th President of the United States. He has immediately fulfilled his promises made promises kept on behalf of the American people with executive orders restoring common sense.

Led by the President, Speaker MIKE JOHNSON, and Senate Majority Leader, JOHN THUNE, Republicans are delivering an opportunity and a freedom agenda by putting America first again by working to cut taxes and ensure Americans keep more money in their pockets by creating jobs, secure the border to make American families safe again, unleash all-of-the-above-energy for American energy independence, and to provide for peace through strength with the American military.

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

Americans appreciate the people of Venezuela standing up to the Maduro dictatorship.

#### REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM

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

Mr. MIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because it is the 52nd anniversary of the Roe v. Wade decision and reproductive freedom, and the lives and well-being of countless women in this country are under attack.

We are 1 week into the Trump administration, and House Republicans are already introducing draconian legislation to strip away the reproductive rights of women.

This legislation will exacerbate the growing crisis in reproductive healthcare, driving OB-GYN doctors out of the profession, and endangering the health of women. This cannot stand.

As the father of a 12-year-old daughter, I refuse to let her grow up in a world where she has fewer freedoms than the generations that came before her. That is why I am proud to announce that I have joined the House Pro-Choice Caucus.

As a California State Senator, I led legislation to protect and expand reproductive rights and abortion access, and I am proud to take up this fight in Congress.

Every person deserves the autonomy to make their own healthcare decisions, and we must continue to do everything we can to restore reproductive freedom and move our country forward. Women, not politicians in Washington, D.C., should be making their decisions on when, whether, and how to start a family.

□ 1215

Mr. MOORE of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise with a heart full of appreciation and gratitude as I say goodbye to many of the communities in Alabama's Second Congressional District that I have had the privilege of representing over the years.

On the plains of southeast Alabama is the city of Troy. Nestled on the northern outskirts of Montgomery is beautiful Wetumpka. At the end of the 118th Congress, I said goodbye to both of my beloved district offices in those cities.

As I reflect on my time serving south Alabama, it is not only the legislative victories and achievements that come to mind, but our constituent services and successes.

The generosity and warm welcome from the cities of Troy and Wetumpka, Mayor Jason Reeves and Mayor Jerry Willis, have allowed me and my team to grow and work diligently for the citizens of Alabama's Second Congressional District to achieve many victories.

To my staff who have helped me every step of the way, particularly to Bill Harris and Joan Cox who staffed those offices, I thank them. Their hard work and passion for public service have allowed benefits, dollars, and recognition to be restored to our citizens.

To the people of Alabama's Second, I am forever grateful for the trust they have placed in me and the successes we achieved together.

My commitment to serving Alabama remains steadfast. I will continue to carry the friendships and warmth of these communities with me into Alabama's First Congressional District. I thank them once again for their kindness and their unwavering support. It has been an honor to serve them.

May God continue to bless Alabama's Second Congressional District, the State of Alabama, and the United States of America.

#### ELECTING MEMBERS TO CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Republican Conference, I send to the desk a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 54

*Resolved*, That the following named Members be, and are hereby, elected to the following standing committees of the House of Representatives:

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET: Mr. Norman, Mr. McClintock, Mr. Grothman, Mr. Smucker, Mr. Carter of Georgia, Mr. Cline, Mr. Bergman, Mr. Roy, Mr. Stutzman, Mr. Moore of Utah, Mr. Estes, Mr. Brecheen, Mr. Obernolte, Mr. Carey, Mr. Edwards, Mr. Clyde, Mrs. Houchin, Mr. McDowell, Mr. Gill of Texas, Mr. Moore of North Carolina.

COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION: Mr. Steil, Chair, Mr. Loudermilk, Mr. Griffith, Mr. Murphy, Mrs. Bice, Mr. Carey, Ms. Lee of Florida, Mrs. Miller of Illinois.

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### ELECTING MEMBERS TO CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. AGUILAR. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Democratic Caucus, I offer a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 55

*Resolved*, That the following named Members be, and are hereby, elected to the following standing committees of the House of Representatives:

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET: Mr. Doggett, Mr. Scott of Virginia, Mr. Peters of California, Mr. Panetta, Mrs. Watson Coleman, Ms. Plaskett, Ms. Escobar, Ms. Omar, Ms. Balint, Ms. Kaptur, Ms. Jayapal, Mr. Tonko, Mr. McGarvey, Mr. Amo.

COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION: Mr. Morelle, Ms. Sewell, Mrs. Torres of California, Ms. Johnson of Texas.

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES: Ms. Velázquez, Mrs. Dingell, Mr. Soto, Ms. Brownley.

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM: Ms. Pressley, Ms. Tlaib.

Mr. AGUILAR (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to 15 U.S.C. 1024(a), and the order of the House of January 3, 2025, of the following Members on the part of the House to the Joint Economic Committee:

Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Arizona  
Mr. BEYER, Virginia



PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 471, FIX OUR FORESTS ACT, AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF S. 5, LAKEN RILEY ACT

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 53 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 53

*Resolved*, That at any time after adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 471) to expedite under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and improve forest management activities on National Forest System lands, on public lands under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management, and on Tribal lands to return resilience to overgrown, fire-prone forested lands, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Natural Resources or their respective designees. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. The bill shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. No amendment to the bill shall be in order except those printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against such amendments are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit.

SEC. 2. Upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (S. 5) to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to take into custody aliens who have been charged in the United States with theft, and for other purposes. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The bill shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and on any amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary or their respective designees; and (2) one motion to commit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Georgia is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate

only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, last night the Rules Committee met and reported a rule, House Resolution 53, providing for consideration of two measures, the first of which is H.R. 471, the Fix Our Forests Act, to be considered under a structured rule.

The rule provides for 1 hour of debate, equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking member of the Committee on Natural Resources, or their respective designees, provides for one motion to recommit, and makes two amendments in order.

Additionally, the rule provides for consideration of S. 5, the Laken Riley Act, under a closed rule. The rule provides for 1 hour of debate, equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking member of the Committee on the Judiciary or their respective designees, and provides for one motion to recommit.

Mr. Speaker, we are here today to debate a rule on two timely pieces of legislation, beginning with H.R. 471, the bipartisan Fix Our Forests Act.

Mr. Speaker, according to the U.S. Forest Service, more than 1 billion acres of forest land are at risk of wildfire. Further, nearly one-fifth of all land overseen by the Federal Government is at high or very high risk of wildfire.

This didn't happen overnight. It is the result of the buildup of bureaucratic red tape, burdensome regulations, and frivolous legislation that have prevented forest management activities like thinning, prescribed burning, and mechanical treatment.

What we are left with are dangerous wildfires occurring at record levels and intensities. It doesn't have to be this way, though, Mr. Speaker.

The Fix Our Forests Act takes the proper steps toward restoring forest health, increasing resiliency to catastrophic wildfires, and protecting communities. It does so by reforming NEPA to expedite environmental reviews, reducing frivolous lawsuits, and increasing the pace and scale of forest restoration projects.

Additionally, H.R. 471 promotes Federal, State, Tribal, and local collaboration through the creation of a new fire-shed center. It will provide agencies

with new technologies and other critical tools which allow a quicker response to wildfires and the ability to implement the most vital forest management projects immediately.

As we are unfortunately seeing more frequently, active forest management techniques and a focus on forest health are needed now more than ever. This bipartisan product is a step in the right direction.

Mr. Speaker, the rule also provides for the consideration of S. 5, the Laken Riley Act, another bipartisan piece of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, Laken Riley was murdered in my home State of Georgia in February of 2024 by a Venezuelan man who was illegally present in the United States. He previously crossed our southern border in September of 2022, where he was paroled and released for further processing.

Between arriving here and committing his heinous act, the individual was arrested in New York and then again in Georgia for stealing from a Walmart. At the time of Laken Riley's murder, there was a bench warrant out for his arrest for failing to show up in court.

Mr. Speaker, S. 5, the Laken Riley Act, as amended, requires the Department of Homeland Security to issue a detainer for any individual inadmissible to the United States who is charged with, is arrested for, convicted of, admits to having committed, or admits to committing acts which constitute the essential elements of any burglary, theft, larceny, shoplifting, assault of a law enforcement officer, or any crime that results in death or serious bodily injury to another person.

Additionally, the bill grants the attorney general of a State the power to hold future administrations accountable by providing standing to bring civil action against Federal officials for the failure to enforce immigration statutes, including mandatory detention, individual parole authority, and visa sanctions.

I commend my colleague from Georgia, MIKE COLLINS, for his work on this legislation. I send my condolences to Laken Riley's family.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to passing this rule. I look forward to passing this bill in the House for the third time and sending it to President Trump's desk.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me the customary 30 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, Republicans are bringing up a rule for two bills that will be debated on the floor this week. I look forward to that debate.

I feel compelled to focus on this majority's screwed-up priorities which now include handing a get-out-of-free card to KKK members, Proud Boys, and other criminals who violently beat cops within an inch of their lives on January 6, 2021.



I thought this election was about lowering costs. What the hell happened? I thought it was about securing the border. I thought it was about making sure that our communities are safe, not whatever the hell these pardons are. These pardons are sick. They are offensive. They are un-American.

I don't ever want to hear about law and order from the Republican side again, Mr. Speaker, when Republicans are letting criminals back on the streets, criminals who beat cops and tried to overthrow our government.

There were 1,500 criminals, including over 600, who were charged with violently assaulting police officers. I am here to talk about that on the floor because I think it is disgusting. I think it is a disgrace.

The people Trump let out broke through windows, beat up cops, and desecrated this beautiful symbol of our country, a building, by the way, that terrorists tried to destroy on September 11, 2001. They couldn't get here because they were stopped by the courageous people onboard flight 93.

The crowd that Donald Trump sent here breached the building, and they attacked it in a way that had never been done. It was a horrible, awful thing that happened that day.

I was in this Chamber. I was in this room. I was in your chair, Mr. Speaker. I took over for Speaker PELOSI when she was evacuated. I was one of the last people off the floor. I exited through those doors.

I saw the faces of the rioters smashing windows to try to get at us. They wanted to kill people, kill police, kill us. I saw the walls they covered with feces. I saw them use flagpoles to beat police officers.

I saw the fear in the eyes of my Republican colleagues as they cowered that day. I saw the bravery of law enforcement that protected us.

Mr. Speaker, how the hell do the Republicans walk into this place every day? How does the majority look the police officers in the eye? How does the other side do it, knowing the people who tried to kill them will walk free, thanks to Donald Trump?

These were brave officers who tried to hold the line against a violent mob. They were outnumbered, and they were overwhelmed because Donald Trump refused to lift a finger to help. The people he sent were not peaceful protestors. They were criminals, violent, angry, vicious people. They beat cops into the ground, leaving them bruised and battered.

Donald Trump let them out of jail, and now he calls them heroes. He wants to invite them to the White House. We even had colleagues who went to a D.C. jail to celebrate their release and complained they weren't being let out fast enough.

This is unbelievable. This is an insult to every police officer in this country. It is an insult to the families of the people who died because of what happened and an insult to the millions of

Americans who believe in law and order, democracy, and decency.

□ 1230

Trump is abandoning the blue. He could have chosen to let out only the nonviolent offenders, but he let out people who beat the cops. That tells you all that you need to know.

I think my Republican colleagues owe it to us during this debate, the first time we are debating on the floor since the pardons, to come down and explain themselves. They owe America an explanation because the people I am talking to think those pardons are shameful, disgusting, and wrong. Mr. Speaker, I will wait for an answer, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, as the gentleman knows, we are here to discuss H.R. 471 and S. 5.

I yield 3 minutes to my colleague from Texas (Mr. ROY).

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, we are here to debate the rule. The rule that we have adopted will take up important legislation ensuring our forests are no longer such that they are going to catch fire, as we are seeing happen in California, and, importantly, to deal with the Laken Riley Act.

This is the bill we passed off the House floor last year. It was rejected by the Democrat-led Senate. They refused to move it. We moved it last week here on the House floor and sent it over to this Senate, now a Republican Senate, after the voters spoke. The Senate amended it, made it, I believe, better, and sent it to the House, and now that amended bill is on the floor of the United States House of Representatives.

Let's remember what we are talking about. This bill is named after Laken Riley. My friend from Georgia just discussed the facts involving the unfortunate death of Laken Riley at the hands of someone here illegally, someone here who had committed crimes.

I had as my guest this weekend at the inauguration a woman named Alex is Nungaray, a wonderful woman from Houston, Texas, whose 13-year-old little girl was murdered by people released into our country last year by the Biden administration.

Fortunately, those policies are ending under President Trump, but here is the truth: Never again should any American, any Texan, any Georgian, have to deal with what was thrust upon them by the Biden administration in terms of the damage, despair, death, destruction, murders, and rapes that were perpetrated against the people we represent.

This legislation would take a giant step forward to ensure that we can stop any future administration that is not just refusing to enforce Federal law but is actually abusing Federal law to endanger our people, our citizens who we represent.

This legislation would simply say that we must detain some of the worst people who are here illegally and en-

sure that they are not released. We are talking about serious bodily injury. We are talking about things that result in death, assaulting police officers. That is all in this legislation.

In addition, in this legislation is an important provision that I was proud to introduce with my friend DAN BISHOP from North Carolina in the SUE Act to ensure that attorneys general can sue the Federal Government when the Federal Government is failing to do its job.

Imagine the ability of Texas, North Carolina, or Georgia, for my colleagues to be able to say: Do you know what? Enough.

The Federal Government does not get to ignore its fundamental duty under the Constitution to defend its citizens, and the attorneys general of States ought to be able to stop the Federal Government when it is endangering our people. This law would do that.

This law would honor the memory of Laken Riley. It would honor the memory of Jocelyn Nungaray. It would honor the memory of the countless Americans who have lost their loved ones and have been dealing with the scourge of illegal immigration, which is endangering our people. I proudly support it, and I proudly support this rule.

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

Mr. Speaker, I think it takes a lot of nerve to come down here and talk to us about law and order when the gentleman who just spoke was at the D.C. jail celebrating the release of people who attacked and beat cops here in this Capitol, who almost killed them. Some died as a result of their injuries.

I know my Republican friends don't want to defend these pardons because what the President did was indefensible. He couldn't release these people who attacked our police officers quick enough. He couldn't release them quick enough.

The Speaker of this House was asked about January 6, about January 6 defendants like Daniel Rodriguez, who pled guilty to viciously injuring a police officer with a weapon. The Speaker said: "It is not my place. It is the President's sole decision, and he made a decision, so I stand with him on it."

It is not your place? It is not your place? Mr. Speaker, it literally is your place. It is your place.

Mr. Speaker, you preside over this House. You hire the Sergeant at Arms. You oversee the captain of the Capitol Police force. If it isn't your place, then who the hell's place is it?

I have a radical idea. How about you stand with the officers who were beaten and bloodied protecting you rather than stand with a reality TV wannabe dictator?

If your response to the question about the pardons of people who attacked and injured the officers that you oversee and are responsible for is "it is not my place," my question to you is this: Who do you work for? Do

you think you work for President Trump?

I would suggest you do some soul searching, and while you are at it, maybe reread the United States Constitution because you don't work for Donald Trump. You are the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and it damn sure is your place to have an opinion on the people who beat the officers who protect you and this institution having no consequences for beating men and women who protect this country.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DESJARLAIS). Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President and to direct their remarks to the Chair.

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. HURD).

Mr. HURD of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman WESTERMAN for his commonsense piece of legislation that we are discussing this afternoon.

This is a new day in America. The days of forestry mismanagement are coming to an end. For far too long, our national forests and the communities that surround them have been at the mercy of unelected Federal bureaucrats who have become beholden to misguided environmental policies.

My district in Colorado is home to 6 of the State's 11 national forests. We have witnessed the destructive force of poor forestry management firsthand. The Multiple-Use Sustained-Yield Act of 1960 mandates that national forests be managed for multiple use. This includes outdoor recreation and timber management.

Washington, D.C., has turned our national forests into national parks by bringing timber management to a standstill and setting the stage for the terrible disasters like those we have seen in California. We can no longer afford to ignore the safety and well-being of our communities.

The Fix Our Forests Act lets the Forest Service do its job to restore forest health, increase wildfire resiliency, and protect communities like those in Colorado's Third District.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be an original cosponsor of this legislation, and I ask my colleagues to vote "yes" on the rule and on final passage.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, will anybody on that side come down and defend these pardons, which are indefensible?

In any event, Mr. Speaker, I am going to urge that we defeat the previous question, and I will offer an amendment to the rule to make in order amendment No. 1 to provide a permanent pay fix for Federal wildland firefighters. We tried to get this made in order in the Rules Committee, but the Republicans said no to better benefits and a pay raise for the people who are fighting these fires.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to insert the text of my amend-

ment into the RECORD, along with any extraneous material, immediately prior to the vote on the previous question.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. HUFFMAN) to discuss this proposal.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I associate myself with Mr. MCGOVERN's remarks condemning the unconscionable silence we hear across the aisle in the wake of these pardons of violent criminals, seditionist thugs who should never be pardoned or celebrated. Yet, that is exactly what is happening even here in the building that they desecrated.

Turning to the bill at hand, one thing I hope we can agree on, which is clearly missing from this bill, is a permanent pay raise for Federal wildland firefighters. These brave men and women put everything on the line. They deserve to be paid fair wages for the long hours, dedication, and sacrifice they are putting out.

The good news is that under that Democratic leadership, Congress approved a pay raise in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. The bad news is the authority to continue paying Federal wildland firefighters the wages they deserve is about to run out because of partisan politics.

Thanks to Republicans, the entire Federal Government is operating under a continuing resolution, a short-term patch that will expire March 23.

Good luck hiring a Federal firefighter right now, being underpaid to start with and having a looming pay cut because of partisan politics just weeks away.

Fixing this should be an unequivocal bipartisan priority, and we have an opportunity to do it right now. That is why two of my Democratic colleagues filed amendments to address these issues. Unfortunately, the Rules Committee is refusing to allow a vote on the amendments from Representative NEGUSE and Representative LEE. That is a shame.

A permanent pay raise is not merely a matter of fairness. It is a recognition of the invaluable service these front-line heroes provide. It is an investment in their future, ensuring they can provide for their families and have peace of mind knowing their sacrifices are valued.

Instead of rushing this so-called Fix Our Forests Act to the floor to exploit a disaster in Los Angeles, we should be working together to address a real problem and doing right by our wildland firefighters.

In a few moments, Republicans will be moving the previous question to end debate on the rule. I urge my colleagues to vote against the previous question because doing so, voting no, will allow Mr. NEGUSE's Tim's Act to

be brought forward instead of the Fix Our Forests Act, ensuring that Federal wildland firefighters are getting the pay and benefits they deserve.

That is the bill we should be considering instead of a bill that rolls back our environmental laws and does nothing to help Los Angeles.

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I, too, am concerned about some of the pardons that were issued. I can't fathom what was going through President Biden's mind when he pardoned his family members and any of his political allies this past week. It is something that I think does merit much more discussion on how someone just gives family members and political allies a blanket pardon when they had not yet been charged for the crimes they had committed.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to my colleague from Michigan (Mr. WALBERG).

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the rule and the underlying bill, the Fix Our Forests Act.

Mr. Speaker, first and foremost, I express my sincere condolences to the families who have lost loved ones, homes, and history in the tragic fires in southern California. Our hearts break for them, and our prayers continue to be with them.

Today, we have an opportunity to help mitigate future forest fires and protect not only homes and communities but critical wildlife habitat.

Proper forest management can, in fact, help prevent forest fires. If we follow the science, as this legislation does, we can identify the top areas of concern and take action to address those fire sheds.

This bipartisan legislation will empower States and local, Tribal, and private partners to do critical wildfire prevention activities necessary to prevent the tragic fires we have just seen recently and in recent years. I also note that the legislation does not waive a single environmental law.

Mr. Speaker, I am a conservationist. Coming from the Great Lakes, the State of Michigan, I know the importance of clean air and clean water. What this bill does is streamline fragmented Federal programs and makes the existing tools more flexible and efficient.

By passing this legislation, we can help protect millions of acres from the threat of wildfires, save lives and livelihoods and history, and protect wildlife habitat for generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman WESTERMAN for his leadership on this critical legislation, and I urge support for the rule and the underlying bill.

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

The gentleman from Georgia just changed topics so quickly back to Biden that I have whiplash. I think I need a neck brace to be able to follow his logic here.

Spare me your comparisons of Biden pardoning his family and Trump pardoning violent criminals who attacked police officers on January 6.

Do you know what? You can be against both of those actions, but they are not the same and shouldn't even be mentioned in the same conversation.

□ 1245

Let me tell you about the people whom you continue to want to defend and who have been pardoned.

Here are some of the convicted felons that Trump set free on Monday:

Steve Cappuccio, convicted of six felonies, including assaulting a police officer. He ripped off Metro Police Officer Daniel Hodges' gas mask. At one point during the assault he said: How do you like me now, mother f'er?

He was pardoned by Donald Trump.

David Dempsey, sentenced to 20 years. He stomped on police officers' heads, struck an officer in the head with a metal crutch, and attacked police with pepper spray and broken pieces of furniture. He also attacked a fellow rioter who was trying to disarm him, and he has a demonstrated history of political violence.

He was pardoned by Donald Trump.

Enrique Tarrío, sentenced to 22 years. He is a former national leader of the Proud Boys, a domestic terrorist far-right militia. He was found guilty of seditious conspiracy. He helped plan the January 6 attack and made sure it was violent.

He was pardoned by Donald Trump.

Guy Reffitt, sentenced to 7 years and 3 months. He brought a gun, zip ties, body armor, and a helmet to the Capitol, presumably to try to take hostages in an attempt to keep Trump in office after he lost.

He was pardoned by Donald Trump.

Daniel Joseph "DJ" Rodriguez, sentenced to over 12 years. He repeatedly tased Officer Mike Fanone, shocking him in the neck multiple times and causing him to lose consciousness and have a heart attack.

He was pardoned by Donald Trump.

Patrick McCaughy III, sentenced to 90 months. He assaulted police, beat their faces and bodies with riot shields and batons that he stole from them.

He was pardoned by Donald Trump.

Peter Francis Stager, sentenced to 4 years and 4 months. He pled guilty to assaulting an officer with a deadly weapon. He is on video declaring: "Every single one of those Capitol law enforcement officers, death is the remedy." Those were his words: That is the only remedy they get.

He was pardoned by Donald Trump.

Julian Khater, sentenced to 6 years, attacked Officer Brian Sicknick with pepper spray. Officer Sicknick died the next day after suffering two strokes.

Edward "Jake" Lang was on trial for 11 charges, including swinging a baseball bat at officers. In addition to his January 6 charges, he began organizing a nationwide network of armed militias in all 50 States.

He was pardoned by Donald Trump.

Mr. Speaker, the criminals pardoned were not tourists. They were not peaceful. They were violent criminals.

Here is just one example: Daniel Ball's case was dismissed today, and he was released from jail.

Why was he in jail?

He was being held in pretrial detention because of what a judge described as "some of the most violent and serious offenses of any of the charges being brought against participants in the January 6 events." That includes hurling an explosive device into the lower west terrace tunnel of the Capitol, the scene of some of the most egregious violence against police that day.

Some officers suffered from hearing loss for months.

Get this, Mr. Speaker: Mr. Ball has already been arrested again on Federal gun charges, and he was already a two-time convicted felon for domestic violence battery by strangulation and resisting law enforcement with violence.

Yes, he was already arrested again. This is whom the President pardoned. This is why my Republican friends are silent. It is because this is indefensible.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to insert in the RECORD a Politico article titled: "Trump freed a January 6 defendant charged with assaulting police. DOJ had him arrested again on a gun charge."

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

There was no objection.

[From the POLITICO, Jan. 22, 2025]

TRUMP FREED A JAN. 6 DEFENDANT CHARGED WITH ASSAULTING POLICE. DOJ HAD HIM ARRESTED AGAIN ON A GUN CHARGE

(By KYLE CHENEY)

A Jan. 6 defendant whose felony assault charges were dismissed a day earlier was arrested Wednesday on federal gun charges that have been pending for nearly two years in Florida.

Daniel Ball, one of the hundreds charged with violence on Jan. 6, 2021, aimed at police, was among the members of the mob whose charges were dismissed at the behest of President Donald Trump. Trump on Monday pardoned more than 1,000 people who stormed the Capitol that day and ordered the Justice Department to drop hundreds of pending cases.

Ball was being held in pretrial detention in Washington, D.C., because of what a magistrate judge described as "some of the most violent and serious offenses of any of the charges being brought against participants in the January 6 events."

Among them, Ball is charged with hurling an "explosive device" into the packed Lower West Terrace tunnel of the Capitol, the scene of some of the most egregious violence against police that day.

"The explosion allegedly disoriented officers and caused hearing loss—which for some of the officers lasted months," Magistrate Judge Robin Meriweather noted. "Defendant also allegedly threw a large piece of wood into the line of officers protecting the Capitol."

Ball's charges were dismissed by U.S. District Judge Rudolph Contreras on Tuesday after Trump's directive.

But Ball's charges for being a felon in possession of a firearm remained pending and unconnected to his Jan. 6 case. According to that indictment, Ball has previously been convicted of domestic violence battery by strangulation in June 2017, resisting law en-

forcement with violence and battery of a law enforcement officer in October 2021.

It's unclear if U.S. marshals executed the arrest warrant on Ball prior to his release on the Jan. 6 charges. However, it's the first docketed federal criminal case in Washington since Trump's inauguration.

Mr. MCGOVERN. All these people were pardoned, and not a word from the other side.

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

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I don't have a whole number, the total number, but how many murderers had their sentences commuted by then-President Joe Biden?

Do you know? How many was it?

Let's see, Biden commuted the sentences for 2,500 drug offenders and clemency for 37 of the 40 people on death row, 1 of whom shot two FBI agents, if I am not mistaken.

So you are pretty quick to point the finger at the gentleman who was the 45th and now the 47th President of the United States. I would suggest to you that Donald Trump is the President of the United States today and sitting in the White House today because your policies are so bad because you put illegal immigrants and their rights above the rights of American citizens.

So, again, Biden commuted a lot of sentences for a lot of drug offenders and a lot of people who committed murder. So I don't think you should be pointing the finger at what the 47th President of the United States did when the 46th President of the United States is the one who let people who shot FBI agents out.

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

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

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

Mr. Speaker, the best we get from the gentleman is whataboutism. He can criticize President Biden, but he can't bring himself to criticize President Trump. He is afraid, and that is the problem.

All my Republican friends are in fear that if they question anything that this guy does that somehow they themselves will be punished.

However, he didn't even get his facts right on the Peltier issue. The former U.S. Attorney who prosecuted Mr. Peltier wrote in a letter to President Biden: "The prosecution and continued incarceration of Mr. Peltier was and is unjust."

He also said: "I believe that a grant of executive clemency would serve the best interest of justice and the best interest of our country."

Again, this is coming from the man who prosecuted him.

He also said that we were not able to prove that Mr. Peltier personally committed any of the offenses that happened on the Pine Ridge Reservation.

Contrast that, Mr. Speaker, with the Nation's seeing the criminals that Trump pardoned assault cops on live TV.

Please, I ask my friends across the aisle: Find me one prosecutor of one of the cop beaters whom Trump pardoned who regret their conviction.

Which one of Trump's pardoned criminals have already served nearly 50 years in prison?

By the way, Peltier is 80 years old, and he is dying. He was not pardoned, by the way. The gentleman is wrong on that. His sentence was commuted so he could die at home with an ankle bracelet on. This was done only after faith and human rights leaders like the Dalai Lama, Nelson Mandela, and Pope Francis begged for release for years.

So to say that this is remotely the same is a joke.

Why can't my Republican friends just say that what Trump did by pardoning vicious, violent criminals was wrong?

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ), who is a member of the Rules Committee.

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, we should absolutely hold immigrants accountable when they commit a crime, especially when it is against a law enforcement officer. However, there are already existing laws for the detention and deportation of immigrants who commit violent crimes.

What we are talking about today is that we must hold convicted felons accountable for attacking our very own Capitol Police. In this very building, January 6 insurrectionists brutally attacked our Capitol Police and other law enforcement officers. More than 140 cops suffered injuries and went to the hospital. Five police officers died. President Trump just pardoned the violent thugs who were convicted of those attacks. It is "shameless," "sin verguenza," as we say in Spanish. If Republicans were truly concerned about attacks on law enforcement, they would denounce those pardons.

We just heard about the violence that was inflicted and about the violent offenders who committed them. I am asking my Republican colleagues to also keep in mind the faces and the names of those who were brutally attacked.

When the majority walked into this building and they walked past those Capitol Police who are protecting them today, do they tell them: Good morning?

They should also tell them: I am sorry. I am sorry that my President pardoned the people who beat you. I am sorry, and I denounce those attacks because I honor you.

However, they do not seem to have the courage to say I am sorry to those police officers.

It is hypocrisy to say that they care about law enforcement if they don't denounce those pardons.

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentlewoman from New Mexico.

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Those violent criminals whom Trump described as peaceful and loving are being released into our communities. We have seen the videos of the attacks, the shouts, and the pounding of Officer Fanone, and so many others, and their cries for help. It was on video. Americans remember it.

I ask my colleagues to remember it and to see those videos. The convicted attackers were not peaceful.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to denounce the pardons and to vote against this rule.

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, this rule is about the Laken Riley Act and the Fix Our Forests Act. I hope people vote for it, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, not a word about what happened in this place on January 6. They just can't bring themselves to do it.

Mr. Speaker, I have a question, and that is: Why won't you install the plaque honoring the brave members of law enforcement who protected us on January 6?

A lot of my colleagues don't know this, but Congress actually passed a law, Public Law 117-103, on requiring the plaque to be installed on the west front of the Capitol before March 15, 2023.

So for 21 months now, almost 2 years, this Speaker has refused to honor the Capitol Police and other law enforcement by installing the plaque that we all voted for.

I know it exists, Mr. Speaker. I have actually seen photos of it, so I know it exists. I have seen photos.

Why the delay?

Why won't you put it up, Mr. Speaker?

I think I know why. It is because Republicans don't want to honor the police who were hurt and who died after that attack.

Maybe the gentleman from Georgia can explain why the plaque is yet to be installed. I won't hold my breath, but instead let me read the plaque, Mr. Speaker, so Speaker JOHNSON and others know what it says.

It says: "On behalf of a grateful Congress, this plaque honors the extraordinary individuals who bravely protected and defended this symbol of democracy on January 6, 2021. Their heroism will never be forgotten."

Because Republicans will not, I want to take a moment to thank all the agencies that are listed on this plaque who are being disrespected by this leadership by refusing to honor them.

I want to say thank you to: the United States Capitol Police. I also want to thank the Metropolitan Police Department of the District of Columbia; Arlington County Police Department in Virginia; Fairfax County Po-

lice Department in Virginia; Maryland Department of State Police; Metro Transit Police Department; Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority, Montgomery County Department of Police in Maryland; New Jersey State Police; Prince George's County Police Department in Maryland; Prince William County Police Department in Virginia; Virginia State Police; Bureau of Alcohol, Firearms, and Explosives; Department of Health and Human Services; Department of Homeland Security; Federal Bureau of Investigation; National Guard Bureau; Pentagon Force Protection Agency; United States Marshals Service; United States Park Police; and United States Secret Service.

I say thank you to all of the officers from all of those agencies who were here that day to protect our country and to protect all of us. I appreciate you, and you should know that a lot of Americans have your back, even if this President and the Republicans do not.

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

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I, too, want to thank all of the law enforcement and first responders who protect this country on a daily basis, and, Mr. Speaker, we know the polls show that a majority of them voted for Donald Trump.

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I would just say to the gentleman that to say what he just said but not reference what happened that day and not acknowledge the pain that has caused so many families and so many people whom we work with every day to protect us, I have to say that is a little bit much.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. SCANLON), who is a distinguished member of the Rules Committee.

□ 1300

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, it is disappointing but unsurprising that House Republicans have made it their top priority in their new Congress to pass a bill, H.R. 28, designed to generate headlines rather than solve actual problems.

Mr. Speaker, I have spoken on the serious flaws in this bill several times, including last night in the Rules Committee, but it is worth noting that since the House last considered this bill, it has been altered with an increasingly ironic amendment.

The amendment added mandatory imprisonment for people accused of assaulting a law enforcement officer. I say this amendment is ironic because yesterday, just hours after taking the oath of office, President Trump granted mass pardons for over 1,200 January 6 MAGA rioters who had been convicted. President Trump also ordered the dismissal of cases of hundreds more, including hundreds who assaulted police officers with bats, poles,

bear spray, explosives, and other weapons.

Over 140 officers were hurt that day, with injuries including crushed spinal disks, traumatic brain injuries, heart attacks, and strokes, while they bravely defended the Capitol and those who work here. Some lost their lives or became permanently disabled after sustaining injuries and horrific trauma at the hands of fellow citizens during the MAGA attack on January 6, 2021.

In issuing those pardons, President Trump put the Presidential seal of approval on political violence, so long as it supports him, and even if it is directed against law enforcement.

Just to be clear, there was no case-by-case review of these convictions. This is a blanket pardon. We are already seeing the fruits of that incredibly dangerous act of pardoning the people who attacked the Constitution, this Capitol, and the police officers and people within it.

Among those attackers are dangerous felons who are not chastened or remorseful or reformed. They feel emboldened. One of them, Daniel Charles Ball, has just been rearrested, one day after his January 6 case was dismissed, on new weapons charges.

Another, the infamous MAGA supporter known as the QAnon Shaman, tweeted Monday: I got a pardon baby. Thank you, President Trump. Now I am going to buy some motha f'ing guns.

These pardons show an utter disrespect for law enforcement, our criminal justice system, and the rule of law. They have been rightly condemned by the International Association of Chiefs of Police and the Fraternal Order of Police, among other police organizations, but virtually every House Republican has turned their backs on our police and cowered in silence rather than denounce the shameful decision to put those criminals back on our streets.

Mr. Speaker, I continue to oppose this rule and this bill.

I seek unanimous consent to include in the RECORD the Joint International Association of Chiefs of Police and The Fraternal Order of Police Statement on the Recent Presidential Pardons dated January 21, 2025.

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

There was no objection.

#### JOINT IACP-FOP STATEMENT ON THE RECENT PRESIDENTIAL PARDONS

The International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) and the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) have had long standing and positive relationships with both President Trump and President Biden and have greatly appreciated their support of the policing profession. However, the IACP and FOP are deeply discouraged by the recent pardons and commutations granted by both the Biden and Trump Administrations to individuals convicted of killing or assaulting law enforcement officers. The IACP and FOP firmly believe that those convicted of such crimes should serve their full sentences.

Crimes against law enforcement are not just attacks on individuals or public safety—

they are attacks on society and undermine the rule of law. Allowing those convicted of these crimes to be released early diminishes accountability and devalues the sacrifices made by courageous law enforcement officers and their families.

When perpetrators of crimes, especially serious crimes, are not held fully accountable, it sends a dangerous message that the consequences for attacking law enforcement are not severe, potentially emboldening others to commit similar acts of violence.

The IACP and FOP call on policymakers, judicial authorities, and community leaders to ensure that justice is upheld by enforcing full sentences, especially in cases involving violence against law enforcement. This approach reaffirms our commitment to the rule of law, public safety, and the protection of those who risk their lives for our communities.

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Massachusetts has 5 minutes remaining.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to include in the RECORD an article from The Wall Street Journal today entitled: "Trump Pardons the Jan. 6 Cop Beaters."

The editorial reads: "Law and order? Back the blue? What happened to that GOP?"

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

There was no objection.

[From the Wall Street Journal, Jan. 21, 2025]

TRUMP PARDONS THE JAN. 6 COP BEATERS—  
LAW AND ORDER? BACK THE BLUE? WHAT HAPPENED TO THAT GOP?

(By The Editorial Board)

Republicans are busy denouncing President Biden's pre-emptive pardons for his family and political allies, and deservedly so. But then it's a shame you don't hear many, if any, ruing President Trump's proclamation to pardon unconditionally nearly all of the people who rioted at the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021. This includes those convicted of bludgeoning, chemical spraying, and electroshocking police to try to keep Mr. Trump in power. Now he's springing them from prison.

This is a rotten message from a President about political violence done on his behalf, and it's a bait and switch. Asked about Jan. 6 pardons in late November, Mr. Trump projected caution. "I'm going to do case-by-case, and if they were nonviolent, I think they've been greatly punished," he said. "We're going to look at each individual case."

Taking cues from the boss, last week Vice President JD Vance drew a clear line: "If you committed violence on that day, obviously you shouldn't be pardoned."

So much for that. The President's clemency proclamation commutes prison sentences to time served for 14 named people, including prominent leaders of the Proud Boys and Oath Keepers, who were organized and ready for violence. Then Mr. Trump tries to wipe Jan. 6 clean, with "a full, complete and unconditional pardon to all other individuals." The conceit is that there are hundreds of polite Trump supporters who ended up in the wrong place that day and have since rotted in jail.

Out of roughly 1,600 cases filed by the feds, more than a third included accusations of "assaulting, resisting, or impeding law enforcement." The U.S. Attorney's office said it declined "hundreds" of prosecutions against people whose only offense was entering restricted grounds near the Capitol. Of the 1,100 sentences handed down by this year, more than a third didn't involve prison time. The rioters who did get jail often were charged with brutal violence, including:

Daniel Joseph "DJ" Rodriguez, sentenced to 151 months, who can be seen on video, federal prosecutors said, deploying an "electroshock weapon" against a policeman who was dragged out of the defensive line, by "plunging it into the officer's neck." The night before, he promised in a MAGA chat group: "There will be blood."

William Lewis, given 37 months, "sprayed streams of Wasp and Hornet Killer spray at multiple police officers on four distinct occasions," forcing several to flee the line and "seek treatment for their eyes."

Isreal James Easterday, 30 months, blasted a cop "in the face with pepper spray at point-blank range," after which the officer "collapsed and temporarily lost consciousness, which enabled another rioter to steal his baton."

Thomas Andrew Casselman, 40 months, hit multiple officers "near their faces" with pepper spray. His later internet searches included, "The statute of limitations for assault on a police officer."

Curtis Davis, 24 months, punched two police officers in the head. That night he filmed a video of his fist, in which he bragged: "Them knuckles right there, from one of those m—faces at the Capitol."

Ronald Colton McAbee, 70 months, hit a cop while wearing "reinforced brass knuckle gloves," and he held one down on the ground as "other rioters assailed the officer for over 20 seconds," causing a concussion.

Michael Joseph Foy, 40 months, brought a hockey stick with a TRUMP 2020 flag attached, which he swung "over his head and downward at police officers as if he were chopping wood."

There are more like this, which everyone understood on Jan. 6 and shortly afterward. "There is nothing patriotic about what is occurring on Capitol Hill," one GOP official tweeted. "This is 3rd world style anti-American anarchy." That was Marco Rubio, now Mr. Trump's Secretary of State. He was right. What happened that day is a stain on Mr. Trump's legacy. By setting free the cop beaters, the President adds another.

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

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman thanking, in general, our law enforcement officials, but it is troubling that he can't bring himself to address what happened that day. My Republican friends are afraid to debate and to discuss what happened on that day. It is so disappointing in so many ways.

Mr. Speaker, January 6 was not a tourist day. It was a horrific attack on the police who protect our country. I saw with my own eyes the officers with blood on their faces, battered and bruised from fighting off a violent mob. So many of them had to go to the hospital to get stitches and to get medical care. They were severely wounded.

I will never forget the smell of tear gas or the horror on people's faces as we were rushed out of this Chamber. I watched from the Speaker's chair as

Republicans cowered and hid for their lives that day, letting the Capitol Police run to the front lines to protect them.

On Monday, Republicans let out the violent political extremists who did all of this. Republicans let them back out onto the streets.

Trump called them patriots. He called them hostages. There is nothing patriotic about beating police officers with flagpoles, Mr. Speaker.

The patriots were the law enforcement officers who protected this institution. There is nothing patriotic about the KKK, the Oath Keepers, or the Proud Boys. Trump pardoned them.

There is nothing patriotic about viciously assaulting police officers. There is nothing patriotic about bashing heads and breaking into the Capitol Building because of a deranged fantasy about overthrowing the government. There is nothing patriotic about any of that, but Donald Trump doesn't care. He pardoned them because he only cares about himself.

Mr. Speaker, where is your outrage over any of this? Where is your spine? To be silent after these pardons is terrible, and it speaks for itself.

As for me, I stand with the police officers who were here that day. I stand with the officers who were trying to maintain law and order. I stand with the people who are disgusted that Donald Trump is opening the doors and letting out the criminals who attacked them.

I don't hear a single Republican brave enough to come to this floor and condemn these pardons. I don't hear a single one. It is cowardice. It is hypocrisy. They are rewarding political violence and setting the stage for much, much worse things to come.

My colleagues heard Representative SCANLON. Some of them are bragging about how they are going out to buy more guns. What is that about? Violent, dangerous people who beat cops, who tried to kill Members of this body, and who tried to kill our staff were let back out onto the streets by Donald Trump.

It is a disgrace. The Speaker should be ashamed. The Speaker owns this now. The Speaker knows that, and the law enforcement officers of this country know it, too. They are watching, and they will remember.

There is a great conservative, Edmund Burke, who once said that all that it takes for evil to triumph is for good men and women to do nothing, to be silent.

Well, I, for one, am not going to be silent. We are going to continue to talk about this until we get it right in this country and this Chamber.

I can't speak for my friends on the other side of the aisle, but if today is any indication, Republicans are just hoping and praying that it goes away and that everybody forgets. We will never forget what happened here on January 6. The American people won't ever forget.

The American people did not vote for this. They did not vote to let these violent criminals back onto the streets.

Mr. Speaker, I urge a "no" vote, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

Mr. Speaker, this vote is on the rule to advance H.R. 471, the Fix Our Forests Act; and S. 5, the Laken Riley Act, regardless of what you have listened to if you have been watching this over the last hour.

This week, the House has the ability to advance significant legislation in the House of Representatives. That is our job.

The Fix Our Forests Act can mark a return to active forest management and return resilience to overgrown, fire-prone forested lands, and I would be willing to bet that that piece of legislation probably passes in a bipartisan manner.

The Laken Riley Act will ensure that criminals who illegally cross our borders and endanger our communities are detained and deported while also giving States the ability to bring civil action against any Federal official in the future should they refuse to enforce our country's immigration laws and put American citizens at risk by refusing to do so.

Again, I thank the law enforcement officers, the Capitol Police specifically, and all those who take care of us on a daily basis.

I send my condolences to Laken Riley's family.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to voting "yes" on this bill and sending it to President Trump's desk for his signature. I urge my colleagues to join me in voting "yes" on the previous question, "yes" on the rule, and then I hope Members will vote "yes" on the legislation. The material previously referred to by Mr. MCGOVERN is as follows:

AN AMENDMENT TO H. RES. 53 OFFERED BY  
MR. MCGOVERN OF MASSACHUSETTS

At the end of the resolution, add the following:

SEC. 3. Notwithstanding any other provision of this resolution, the amendment specified in section 4 shall be in order as though printed as the last amendment of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution if offered by Representative Lee of Nevada or a designee. That amendment shall be debatable for 10 minutes equally divided and controlled by the proponent and opponent.

SEC. 4. The amendment referred to in section 3 is as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert:

#### **TITLE V—RATES OF PAY FOR WILDLAND FIREFIGHTERS**

##### **SEC. 501. SPECIAL BASE RATES OF PAY FOR WILDLAND FIREFIGHTERS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter III of chapter 53 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 5332 the following:

"§5332a. Special base rates of pay for wildland firefighters

"(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

"(1) the term 'firefighter' means an employee who—

"(A) is a firefighter within the meaning of section 8331 (21) or section 8401(14);

"(B) in the case of an employee who holds a supervisory or administrative position and is subject to subchapter III of chapter 83, but who does not qualify to be considered a firefighter within the meaning of section 8331 (21), would otherwise qualify if the employee had transferred directly to that position after serving as a firefighter within the meaning of that section;

"(C) in the case of an employee who holds a supervisory or administrative position and is subject to chapter 84, but who does not qualify to be considered a firefighter within the meaning of section 8401(14), would otherwise qualify if the employee had transferred directly to that position after performing duties described in section 8401(14)(A) for at least 3 years; or

"(D) in the case of an employee who is not subject to subchapter III of chapter 83 or chapter 84, holds a position that the Office of Personnel Management determines would satisfy subparagraph (A), (B), or (C) if the employee were subject to subchapter III of chapter 83 or chapter 84;

"(2) the term 'General Schedule base rate' means an annual rate of basic pay established under section 5332 before any additions, such as a locality-based comparability payment under section 5304 or 5304a or a special rate supplement under section 5305;

"(3) the term 'special base rate' means an annual rate of basic pay payable to a wildland firefighter, before any additions or reductions, that replaces the General Schedule base rate otherwise applicable to the wildland firefighter and that is administered in the same manner as a General Schedule base rate; and

"(4) the term 'wildland firefighter' means a firefighter—

"(A) who is employed by the Forest Service or the Department of the Interior; and

"(B) the duties of the position of whom primarily relate to fires occurring in forests, range lands, or other wildlands, as opposed to structural fires.

"(b) SPECIAL BASE RATES OF PAY.—

"(1) ENTITLEMENT TO SPECIAL RATE.—Notwithstanding section 5332, a wildland firefighter is entitled to a special base rate at grades 1 through 15, which shall—

"(A) replace the otherwise applicable General Schedule base rate for the wildland firefighter;

"(B) be basic pay for all purposes, including the purpose of computing a locality-based comparability payment under section 5304 or 5304a; and

"(C) be computed as described in paragraph (2) and adjusted at the time of adjustments in the General Schedule.

"(2) COMPUTATION.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—The special base rate for a wildland firefighter shall be derived by increasing the otherwise applicable General Schedule base rate for the wildland firefighter by the following applicable percentage for the grade of the wildland firefighter and rounding the result to the nearest whole dollar:

"(i) For GS-1, 42 percent.

"(ii) For GS-2, 39 percent.

"(iii) For GS-3, 36 percent.

"(iv) For GS-4, 33 percent.

"(v) For GS-5, 30 percent.

"(vi) For GS-6, 27 percent.

"(vii) For GS-7, 24 percent.

"(viii) For GS-8, 21 percent.

"(ix) For GS-9, 18 percent.

"(x) For GS-10, 15 percent.

"(xi) For GS-11, 12 percent.

"(xii) For GS-12, 9 percent.

"(xiii) For GS-13, 6 percent.

"(xiv) For GS-14, 3 percent.

"(xv) For GS-15, 1.5 percent.



“(B) HOURLY, DAILY, WEEKLY, OR BIWEEKLY RATES.—When the special base rate with respect to a wildland firefighter is expressed as an hourly, daily, weekly, or biweekly rate, the special base rate shall be computed from the appropriate annual rate of basic pay derived under subparagraph (A) in accordance with the rules under section 5504(b).”

“(b) AMENDMENT TO PREVAILING RATE DETERMINATIONS.—Section 5343 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(g) (1) For a prevailing rate employee described in section 5342(a)(2)(A) who is a wildland firefighter, as defined in section 5332a(a), the Secretary of Agriculture or the Secretary of the Interior (as applicable) shall increase the wage rates of that employee by an amount (determined at the sole and exclusive discretion of the applicable Secretary after consultation with the other Secretary) that is generally consistent with the percentage increases given to wildland firefighters in the General Schedule under section 5332a.

“(2) An increased wage rate under paragraph (1) shall be basic pay for the same purposes as the wage rate otherwise established under this section.

“(3) An increase under this subsection may not cause the wage rate of an employee to increase to a rate that would produce an annualized rate in excess of the annual rate for level IV of the Executive Schedule.”

“(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for subchapter III of chapter 53 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 5332 the following:

“5332a. Special base rates of pay for wildland firefighters.”

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on the first day of the first applicable pay period beginning on or after October 1, 2025, or the date of enactment of this Act, whichever is later.

(e) APPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT AND JOBS ACT.—Notwithstanding section 40803(d)(4)(B) of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (16 U.S.C. 6592(d)(4)(B)) and authority provided under the headings “WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT—FOREST SERVICE” and “WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT—DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR” in fiscal years 2024 and 2025, the salary increase in such section and under such headings shall not apply to the positions described in such section 40803(d)(4)(B) for service performed on or after the effective date described in subsection (d) of this section.

#### SEC. 502. WILDLAND FIRE INCIDENT RESPONSE PREMIUM PAY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter V of chapter 55 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 5545b the following:

##### “§5545c. Incident response premium pay for employees engaged in wildland firefighting

“(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—  
“(1) the term ‘appropriate committees of Congress’ means—

“(A) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives;

“(B) the Committee on Oversight and Accountability of the House of Representatives;

“(C) the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives;

“(D) the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives;

“(E) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;

“(F) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate;

“(G) the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate; and

“(H) the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate;

“(2) the term ‘covered employee’ means an employee of the Forest Service or the Department of the Interior who is—

“(A) a wildland firefighter, as defined in section 5332a(a); or

“(B) certified by the applicable agency to perform wildland fire incident-related duties during the period that employee is deployed to respond to a qualifying incident;

“(3) the term ‘incident response premium pay’ means pay to which a covered employee is entitled under subsection (c);

“(4) the term ‘prescribed fire incident’ means a wildland fire originating from a planned ignition in accordance with applicable laws, policies, and regulations to meet specific objectives;

“(5) the term ‘qualifying incident’—

“(A) means—

“(i) a wildfire incident, a prescribed fire incident, or a severity incident; or

“(ii) an incident that the Secretary of Agriculture or the Secretary of the Interior determines is similar in nature to an incident described in clause (i); and

“(B) does not include an initial response incident that is contained within 36 hours; and

“(6) the term ‘severity incident’ means an incident in which a covered employee is prepositioned in an area in which conditions indicate there is a high risk of wildfires.

“(b) ELIGIBILITY.—A covered employee is eligible for incident response premium pay under this section if—

“(1) the covered employee is deployed to respond to a qualifying incident; and

“(2) the deployment described in paragraph (1) is—

“(A) outside of the official duty station of the covered employee; or

“(B) within the official duty station of the covered employee and the covered employee is assigned to an incident-adjacent fire camp or other designated field location.

“(c) ENTITLEMENT TO INCIDENT RESPONSE PREMIUM PAY.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—A covered employee who satisfies the conditions under subsection (b) is entitled to premium pay for the period in which the covered employee is deployed to respond to the applicable qualifying incident.

“(2) COMPUTATION.—

“(A) FORMULA.—Subject to subparagraphs (B) and (C), premium pay under paragraph (1) shall be paid to a covered employee at a daily rate of 450 percent of the hourly rate of basic pay of the covered employee for each day that the covered employee satisfies the requirements under subsection (b), rounded to the nearest whole cent

“(B) LIMITATION.—Premium pay under this subsection may not be paid.

“(i) with respect to a covered employee for whom the annual rate of basic pay is greater than that for step 10 of GS-10, at a daily rate that exceeds the daily rate established under subparagraph (A) for step 10 of GS-10; or

“(ii) to a covered employee in a total amount that exceeds \$9,000 in any calendar year.

“(C) ADJUSTMENTS.—

“(i) ASSESSMENT.—The Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior shall assess the difference between the average total amount of compensation that was paid to covered employees, by grade, in fiscal years 2023 and 2024.

“(ii) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date that is 1 year after the effective date of this section, the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior shall jointly publish a report on the results of the assessment conducted under clause (i).

“(iii) ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS.—After publishing the report required under clause (ii),

the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the Director of the Office of Personnel Management, may, in the sole and exclusive discretion of the Secretaries acting jointly, administratively adjust the amount of premium pay paid under this subsection (or take other administrative action) to ensure that the average annual amount of total compensation paid to covered employees, by grade, is more consistent with such amount that was paid to those employees in fiscal year 2023.

“(iv) CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION.—Not later than 3 days after an adjustment made, or other administrative action taken, under clause (iii) becomes final, the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior shall jointly submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a notification regarding that adjustment or other administrative action, as applicable.

“(d) TREATMENT OF INCIDENT RESPONSE PREMIUM PAY.—Incident response premium pay under this section—

“(1) is not considered part of the basic pay of a covered employee for any purpose;

“(2) may not be considered in determining a covered employee’s lump-sum payment for accumulated and accrued annual leave under section 5551 or section 5552;

“(3) may not be used in determining pay under section 8114 (relating to compensation for work injuries);

“(4) may not be considered in determining pay for hours of paid leave or other paid time off during which the premium pay is not payable; and

“(5) shall be disregarded in determining the minimum wage and overtime pay to which a covered employee is entitled under the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 201 et seq.).”

“(b) AMENDMENTS TO PREMIUM PAY PROVISIONS.—Subchapter V of chapter 55 of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in section 5544—

“(A) by amending the section heading to read as follows: “Wage-board overtime, Sunday rates, and other premium pay”; and

“(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(d) A prevailing rate employee described in section 5342(a)(2)(A) shall receive incident response premium pay under the same terms and conditions that apply to a covered employee under section 5545c if that employee—

“(1) is employed by the Forest Service or the Department of the Interior; and

“(2) (A) is a wildland firefighter, as defined in section 5332a(a); or

“(B) is certified by the applicable agency to perform wildland fire incident-related duties during the period the employee is deployed to respond to a qualifying incident (as defined in section 5545c(a)).”; and

“(2) in section 5547(a), in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by inserting “5545c,” after “5545a.”

“(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—The table of sections for subchapter V of chapter 55 of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

“(1) by amending the item relating to section 5544 to read as follows:

“5544. Wage-board overtime, Sunday rates, and other premium pay.”;

“and (2) by inserting after the item relating to section 5545b the following:

“5545c. Incident response premium pay for employees engaged in wildland firefighting.”

“(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on the first day of the first applicable pay period beginning on or after October 1, 2025, or the date of enactment of this Act, whichever is later.

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT from Georgia.  
Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance



of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.

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

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

### RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 9 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1330

### AFTER RECESS

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

### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

Votes will be taken in the following order:

Ordering the previous question on H. Res. 53; and

Adoption of H. Res. 53, if ordered.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, the remaining electronic vote will be conducted as a 5-minute vote.

### PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 471, FIX OUR FORESTS ACT, AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF S. 5, LAKEN RILEY ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on ordering the previous question on the resolution (H. Res. 53) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 471) to expedite under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and improve forest management activities on National Forest System lands, on public lands under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management, and on Tribal lands to return resiliency to overgrown, fire-prone forested lands, and for other purposes, and providing for consideration of the bill (S. 5) to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to take into custody aliens who have been charged in the United States with theft, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 214, nays 204, not voting 15, as follows:

[Roll No. 20]  
YEAS—214

Aderholt	Gonzales, Tony	Miller (WV)
Alford	Gooden	Miller-Meeks
Allen	Gosar	Mills
Amodei (NV)	Graves	Moolenaar
Arrington	Green (TN)	Moore (AL)
Babin	Greene (GA)	Moore (NC)
Baird	Griffith	Moore (UT)
Balderson	Grothman	Moore (WV)
Barr	Guest	Moran
Barrett	Guthrie	Murphy
Baumgartner	Hageman	Nehls
Bean (FL)	Hamadeh (AZ)	Newhouse
Begich	Haridopolos	Norman
Bentz	Harrigan	Nunn (IA)
Bergman	Harris (MD)	Obernolte
Bice	Harris (NC)	Ogles
Biggs (AZ)	Harshbarger	Onder
Biggs (SC)	Hern (OK)	Owens
Bilirakis	Higgins (LA)	Palmer
Boebert	Hill (AR)	Perry
Bost	Hinson	Pfleger
Brecheen	Houchin	Reschenthaler
Bresnahan	Hudson	Rogers (AL)
Buchanan	Huizenga	Rogers (KY)
Burchett	Hunt	Rose
Burlison	Hurd (CO)	Rouzer
Calvert	Issa	Roy
Cammack	Jack	Rulli
Carey	Jackson (TX)	Rutherford
Carter (GA)	James	Salazar
Carter (TX)	Johnson (LA)	Scalise
Ciscomani	Johnson (SD)	Schmidt
Cline	Jordan	Schweikert
Cloud	Joyce (OH)	Scott, Austin
Clyde	Joyce (PA)	Self
Cole	Kean	Sessions
Collins	Kelly (MS)	Shreve
Comer	Kelly (PA)	Simpson
Crane	Kennedy (UT)	Smith (MO)
Crank	Kiggans (VA)	Smith (NE)
Crawford	Kiley (CA)	Smith (NJ)
Crenshaw	Kim	Smucker
Davidson	Knott	Spartz
De La Cruz	Kustoff	Staubert
DesJarlais	LaHood	Stefanik
Diaz-Balart	LaLota	Steil
Donalds	LaMalfa	Steube
Downing	Langworthy	Strong
Dunn (FL)	Latta	Stutzman
Edwards	Lee (FL)	Taylor
Ellzey	Letlow	Tenney
Emmer	Loudermilk	Thompson (PA)
Estes	Lucas	Tiffany
Evans (CO)	Luna	Timmons
Ezell	Luttrell	Turner (OH)
Fallon	Mace	Valadao
Fedorchak	Mackenzie	Van Drew
Feenstra	Malliotakis	Van Dwyne
Finstad	Maloy	Van Orden
Fischbach	Mann	Wagner
Fitzgerald	Massie	Walberg
Fleischmann	Mast	Weber (TX)
Flood	McCaul	Webster (FL)
Fong	McClain	Westerman
Fox	McClintock	Wied
Franklin, Scott	McCormick	Wilson (SC)
Fry	McDowell	Wittman
Fulcher	McGuire	Womack
Garbarino	Messmer	Yakym
Gill (TX)	Meuser	Zinke
Gimenez	Miller (IL)	
Goldman (TX)	Miller (OH)	

NAYS—204

Adams	Bonamici	Castor (FL)
Aguilar	Boyle (PA)	Castro (TX)
Amo	Brown	Cherfilus-
Ansari	Brownley	McCormick
Auchincloss	Budzinski	Chu
Balint	Bynum	Cisneros
Barragán	Carbajal	Clark (MA)
Beatty	Carson	Clarke (NY)
Bell	Carter (LA)	Cleaver
Bera	Casas	Clyburn
Beyer	Case	Cohen
Bishop	Casten	Conaway

Connolly	Keating	Ramirez
Costa	Kelly (IL)	Randall
Courtney	Kennedy (NY)	Raskin
Craig	Khanna	Rivas
Crockett	Krishnamoorthi	Ross
Crow	Landman	Ruiz
Cuellar	Larsen (WA)	Ryan
Davids (KS)	Larson (CT)	Salinas
Davis (IL)	Latimer	Sánchez
Davis (NC)	Lee (NV)	Scanlon
Dean (PA)	Lee (PA)	Schakowsky
DeGette	Leger Fernandez	Scholten
DeLauro	Levin	Schrier
DelBene	Liccardo	Scott (VA)
Deluzio	Lieu	Scott, David
DeSaulnier	Lofgren	Sewell
Dexter	Lynch	Sherman
Doggett	Magaziner	Sherrill
Elfreth	Mannion	Simon
Escobar	Matsui	Smith (WA)
Espallat	McBath	Sorensen
Evans (PA)	McBride	Soto
Fields	McClain Delaney	Stansbury
Figures	McClellan	Stanton
Fletcher	McCollum	Stevens
Foster	McDonald Rivet	Strickland
Foushee	McGarvey	Subramanyam
Frankel, Lois	McGovern	Suozi
Friedman	McIver	Swalwell
Frost	Meeks	Sykes
Garcia (CA)	Menendez	Takano
Garcia (IL)	Meng	Thanedar
Garcia (TX)	Mfume	Thompson (CA)
Gillen	Min	Thompson (MS)
Golden (ME)	Moore (WI)	Titus
Goldman (NY)	Morelle	Tlaib
Gomez	Morrison	Tokuda
Gonzalez, V.	Moskowitz	Tonko
Goodlander	Moulton	Torres (CA)
Gray	Mullin	Torres (NY)
Green, Al (TX)	Nadler	Trahan
Harder (CA)	Neal	Tran
Hayes	Neguse	Turner (TX)
Himes	Norcross	Underwood
Horsford	Ocasio-Cortez	Vargas
Houlahan	Olshewski	Vasquez
Hoyer	Omar	Veasey
Hoyle (OR)	Pallone	Velázquez
Huffman	Panetta	Vindman
Ivey	Pappas	Wasserman
Jackson (IL)	Perez	Schultz
Jacobs	Peters	Waters
Jeffries	Pingree	Watson Coleman
Johnson (GA)	Pocan	Whitesides
Johnson (TX)	Pou	Williams (GA)
Kamlager-Dove	Pressley	Wilson (FL)
Kaptur	Quigley	

### NOT VOTING—15

Bacon	Gottheimer	Pelosi
Correa	Grijalva	Pettersen
Dingell	Jayapal	Riley (NY)
Fitzpatrick	Lawler	Schneider
Garamendi	Mrvan	Williams (TX)

□ 1356

Ms. ROSS, Mrs. FOUSHEE, Messrs. RASKIN, and KRISHNAMOORTHY changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Mr. PALMER changed his vote from “nay” to “yea.”

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

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

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

### RECORDED VOTE

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 213, noes 204, not voting 16, as follows:

[Roll No. 21]

AYES—213

Aderholt	Gonzales, Tony	Miller (OH)
Alford	Gooden	Miller (WV)
Allen	Gosar	Miller-Meeks
Amodei (NV)	Graves	Mills
Arrington	Green (TN)	Moolenaar
Babin	Greene (GA)	Moore (AL)
Baird	Griffith	Moore (NC)
Balderson	Grothman	Moore (UT)
Barr	Guest	Moore (WV)
Barrett	Guthrie	Moran
Bean (FL)	Hageman	Murphy
Begich	Hamadeh (AZ)	Nehls
Bentz	Haridopolos	Newhouse
Bergman	Harrigan	Norman
Bice	Harris (MD)	Nunn (IA)
Biggs (AZ)	Harris (NC)	Obenolte
Biggs (SC)	Harshbarger	Ogles
Bilirakis	Hern (OK)	Onder
Boebert	Higgins (LA)	Owens
Bost	Hill (AR)	Palmer
Brecheen	Hinson	Perry
Bresnahan	Houchin	Pfluger
Buchanan	Hudson	Reschenthaler
Burchett	Huizenga	Rogers (AL)
Burlison	Hunt	Rogers (KY)
Calvert	Hurd (CO)	Rose
Cammack	Issa	Rouzer
Carey	Jack	Roy
Carter (GA)	Jackson (TX)	Rulli
Carter (TX)	James	Rutherford
Ciscomani	Johnson (LA)	Salazar
Cline	Johnson (SD)	Scalise
Cloud	Jordan	Schmidt
Clyde	Joyce (OH)	Schweikert
Cole	Joyce (PA)	Scott, Austin
Collins	Kean	Self
Comer	Kelly (MS)	Sessions
Crane	Kelly (PA)	Shreve
Crank	Kennedy (UT)	Simpson
Crawford	Kiggans (VA)	Smith (MO)
Crenshaw	Kiley (CA)	Smith (NE)
Davidson	Kim	Smith (NJ)
De La Cruz	Knott	Smucker
DesJarlais	Kustoff	Spartz
Diaz-Balart	LaHood	Stauber
Donalds	LaLota	Stefanik
Downing	LaMalfa	Steil
Dunn (FL)	Langworthy	Steube
Edwards	Latta	Strong
Ellzey	Lee (FL)	Stutzman
Emmer	Letlow	Taylor
Estes	Loudermilk	Tenney
Evans (CO)	Lucas	Thompson (PA)
Ezell	Luna	Tiffany
Fallon	Luttrell	Timmons
Fedorchak	Mace	Turner (OH)
Feenstra	Mackenzie	Valadao
Finstad	Malliotakis	Van Drew
Fischbach	Maloy	Van Dyne
Fitzgerald	Mann	Van Orden
Fleischmann	Massie	Wagner
Flood	Mast	Walberg
Fong	McCaul	Weber (TX)
Foxx	McClain	Webster (FL)
Franklin, Scott	McClintock	Westerman
Fry	McCormick	Wied
Fulcher	McDowell	Wilson (SC)
Garbarino	McGuire	Wittman
Gill (TX)	Messmer	Womack
Gimenez	Meuser	Yakym
Goldman (TX)	Miller (IL)	Zinke

NOES—204

Adams	Casten	Dean (PA)
Aguilar	Castor (FL)	DeGette
Amo	Castro (TX)	DeLauro
Ansari	Cherfilus-	DelBene
Auchincloss	McCormick	Deluzio
Balint	Chu	DeSaulnier
Barragan	Cisneros	Dexter
Beatty	Clark (MA)	Doggett
Bell	Clarke (NY)	Elfreth
Bera	Cleaver	Escobar
Beyer	Clyburn	Espallat
Bishop	Cohen	Evans (PA)
Bonamici	Conaway	Fields
Boyle (PA)	Connolly	Figures
Brown	Costa	Fletcher
Brownley	Courtney	Foster
Budzinski	Craig	Foushee
Bynum	Crockett	Frankel, Lois
Carbajal	Crow	Friedman
Carson	Cuellar	Frost
Carter (LA)	Davids (KS)	Garcia (CA)
Casar	Davis (IL)	Garcia (IL)
Case	Davis (NC)	Garcia (TX)

Gillen	McClain Delaney	Scholten
Golden (ME)	McClellan	Schrier
Goldman (NY)	McCollum	Scott (VA)
Gomez	McDonald Rivet	Scott, David
Gonzalez, V.	McGarvey	Sewell
Goodlander	McGovern	Sherman
Gray	McIver	Sherrill
Green, Al (TX)	Meeks	Simon
Harder (CA)	Menendez	Smith (WA)
Hayes	Meng	Sorensen
Himes	Mfume	Soto
Horsford	Min	Stansbury
Houlihan	Moore (WI)	Stanton
Hoyer	Morelle	Stevens
Hoyle (OR)	Morrison	Strickland
Huffman	Moskowitz	Subramanyam
Ivey	Moulton	Suozzi
Jackson (IL)	Mullin	Swalwell
Jacobs	Nadler	Sykes
Jeffries	Neal	Takano
Johnson (GA)	Neguse	Thanedar
Johnson (TX)	Norcross	Thompson (CA)
Kamlager-Dove	Ocasio-Cortez	Thompson (MS)
Kaptur	Olzewski	Titus
Keating	Omar	Tlaib
Kelly (IL)	Pallone	Tokuda
Kennedy (NY)	Panetta	Tonko
Khanna	Pappas	Torres (CA)
Krishnamoorthi	Perez	Torres (NY)
Landsman	Peters	Trahan
Larsen (WA)	Pingree	Tran
Larson (CT)	Pocan	Turner (TX)
Latimer	Pou	Underwood
Lee (NV)	Pressley	Vargas
Lee (PA)	Quigley	Vasquez
Leger Fernandez	Ramirez	Veasey
Levin	Randall	Velázquez
Liccardo	Raskin	Vindman
Lieu	Rivas	Wasserman
Lofgren	Ross	Schultz
Lynch	Ruiz	Waters
Magaziner	Ryan	Watson Coleman
Mannion	Salinas	Whitesides
Matsui	Sánchez	Williams (GA)
McBath	Scanlon	Wilson (FL)
McBride	Schakowsky	

NOT VOTING—16

Bacon	Gottheimer	Pettersen
Baumgartner	Grijalva	Riley (NY)
Correa	Jayapal	Schneider
Dingell	Lawler	Williams (TX)
Fitzpatrick	Mrvan	
Garamendi	Pelosi	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1404

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. GOTTHEIMER. Mr. Speaker, I missed the following votes, but had I been present, I would have voted: NAY on Roll Call No. 20 and NAY on Roll Call No. 21.

## LAKEN RILEY ACT

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 53, I call up the bill (S. 5) to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to take into custody aliens who have been charged in the United States with theft, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 53, the bill is considered read.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 5

*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 “Laken Riley Act”.

## SEC. 2. DETENTION OF CERTAIN ALIENS WHO COMMIT THEFT.

Section 236(c) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1226(c)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) in subparagraph (C), by striking “or”;

(B) in subparagraph (D), by striking the comma at the end and inserting “, or”;

(C) by inserting after subparagraph (D) the following:

(E)(i) is inadmissible under paragraph

(6)(A), (6)(C), or (7) of section 212(a); and

“(ii) is charged with, is arrested for, is convicted of, admits having committed, or admits committing acts which constitute the essential elements of any burglary, theft, larceny, shoplifting, or assault of a law enforcement officer offense, or any crime that results in death or serious bodily injury to another person.”;

(2) by redesignating paragraph (2) as paragraph (4); and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

“(2) DEFINITION.—For purposes of paragraph (1)(E), the terms ‘burglary’, ‘theft’, ‘larceny’, ‘shoplifting’, ‘assault of a law enforcement officer’, and ‘serious bodily injury’ have the meanings given such terms in the jurisdiction in which the acts occurred.”

“(3) DETAINER.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall issue a detainer for an alien described in paragraph (1)(E) and, if the alien is not otherwise detained by Federal, State, or local officials, shall effectively and expeditiously take custody of the alien.”.

## SEC. 3. ENFORCEMENT BY ATTORNEY GENERAL OF A STATE.

(a) INSPECTION OF APPLICANTS FOR ADMISSION.—Section 235(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1225(b)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (4); and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following:

“(3) ENFORCEMENT BY ATTORNEY GENERAL OF A STATE.—The attorney general of a State, or other authorized State officer, alleging a violation of the detention and removal requirements under paragraph (1) or (2) that harms such State or its residents shall have standing to bring an action against the Secretary of Homeland Security on behalf of such State or the residents of such State in an appropriate district court of the United States to obtain appropriate injunctive relief. The court shall advance on the docket and expedite the disposition of a civil action filed under this paragraph to the greatest extent practicable. For purposes of this paragraph, a State or its residents shall be considered to have been harmed if the State or its residents experience harm, including financial harm in excess of \$100.”.

(b) APPREHENSION AND DETENTION OF ALIENS.—Section 236 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1226), as amended by this Act, is further amended—

(1) in subsection (e)—

(A) by striking “or release”;

(B) by striking “grant, revocation, or denial” and insert “revocation or denial”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(f) ENFORCEMENT BY ATTORNEY GENERAL OF A STATE.—The attorney general of a State, or other authorized State officer, alleging an action or decision by the Attorney General or Secretary of Homeland Security under this section to release any alien or grant bond or parole to any alien that harms such State or its residents shall have standing to bring an action against the Attorney General or Secretary of Homeland Security

on behalf of such State or the residents of such State in an appropriate district court of the United States to obtain appropriate injunctive relief. The court shall advance on the docket and expedite the disposition of a civil action filed under this subsection to the greatest extent practicable. For purposes of this subsection, a State or its residents shall be considered to have been harmed if the State or its residents experience harm, including financial harm in excess of \$100.”

(c) PENALTIES.—Section 243 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1253) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(e) ENFORCEMENT BY ATTORNEY GENERAL OF A STATE.—The attorney general of a State, or other authorized State officer, alleging a violation of the requirement to discontinue granting visas to citizens, subjects, nationals, and residents as described in subsection (d) that harms such State or its residents shall have standing to bring an action against the Secretary of State on behalf of such State or the residents of such State in an appropriate district court of the United States to obtain appropriate injunctive relief. The court shall advance on the docket and expedite the disposition of a civil action filed under this subsection to the greatest extent practicable. For purposes of this subsection, a State or its residents shall be considered to have been harmed if the State or its residents experience harm, including financial harm in excess of \$100.”

(d) CERTAIN CLASSES OF ALIENS.—Section 212(d)(5) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(d)(5)) is amended—

(1) by striking “Attorney General” each place such term appears and inserting “Secretary of Homeland Security”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(C) The attorney general of a State, or other authorized State officer, alleging a violation of the limitation under subparagraph (A) that parole solely be granted on a case-by-case basis and solely for urgent humanitarian reasons or a significant public benefit, that harms such State or its residents shall have standing to bring an action against the Secretary of Homeland Security on behalf of such State or the residents of such State in an appropriate district court of the United States to obtain appropriate injunctive relief. The court shall advance on the docket and expedite the disposition of a civil action filed under this subparagraph to the greatest extent practicable. For purposes of this subparagraph, a State or its residents shall be considered to have been harmed if the State or its residents experience harm, including financial harm in excess of \$100.”

(e) DETENTION.—Section 241(a)(2) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1231(a)(2)) is amended—

(1) by striking “During the removal period,” and inserting the following:

“(A) IN GENERAL.—During the removal period,”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(B) ENFORCEMENT BY ATTORNEY GENERAL OF A STATE.—The attorney general of a State, or other authorized State officer, alleging a violation of the detention requirement under subparagraph (A) that harms such State or its residents shall have standing to bring an action against the Secretary of Homeland Security on behalf of such State or the residents of such State in an appropriate district court of the United States to obtain appropriate injunctive relief. The court shall advance on the docket and expedite the disposition of a civil action filed under this subparagraph to the greatest extent practicable. For purposes of this subparagraph, a State or its residents shall be considered to have been harmed if the State or its residents experience harm, including financial harm in excess of \$100.”

(f) LIMIT ON INJUNCTIVE RELIEF.—Section 242(f) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1252(f)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(3) CERTAIN ACTIONS.—Paragraph (1) shall not apply to an action brought pursuant to section 235(b)(3), subsections (e) or (f) of section 236, or section 241(a)(2)(B).”

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

The gentleman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RASKIN) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK).

#### GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, S. 5 bears the name of Laken Riley, murdered by one of the 8 million illegal aliens that Joe Biden and his Democratic supporters deliberately allowed into our country over these last 4 years.

In Laken's case, the murderer was paroled into this country through a shocking abuse of that power. He was repeatedly arrested for theft and other crimes in sanctuary jurisdictions and each time released back onto our streets. Just months before he murdered Laken, he was arrested for theft, but ICE couldn't take him into custody because of the Biden-Harris administration's policies that shielded such monsters from arrest and deportation.

This measure, first introduced by Representative MIKE COLLINS, would require ICE detention for illegal aliens who are charged with, arrested for, or convicted of any burglary, theft, larceny, or shoplifting offense.

The Democrats have argued that the mere accusation of committing a crime should not be grounds for detention and that shoplifting is no big deal. They ignore the fact that every illegal alien is currently required to be detained by current law throughout the pendency of their asylum claims.

The Democrats have thumbed their noses at this law for the past 4 years. Their excuse is that they were prioritizing detaining more dangerous offenders. This bill does exactly that, yet they still oppose it.

□ 1415

During his first term, President Trump proved that the President, on his own authority, can secure our borders. President Biden proved that a President who is determined to make a

mockery of our immigration laws can willfully open our borders to the most violent criminals, terrorists, gangs, and cartels on this planet and then use the Democrats' sanctuary laws to protect them.

This national nightmare ended at noon on Monday, but what of future Presidents? This bill ensures that what happened to Laken Riley cannot happen again should another Joe Biden disgrace the Presidency.

Our Senate colleagues have added to the Laken Riley Act parts of Sarah's Law, introduced by Representative RANDY FEENSTRA and Senator JONI ERNST, to mandate detention for illegal aliens who commit any offense that involves death or serious bodily injury.

Sarah's Law was named after Sarah Root. On January 31, 2016, as Sarah drove home after celebrating her college graduation, an illegal alien, who was street racing while drunk, slammed into her SUV, snapping Sarah's spine and fracturing her skull. Sarah died 4 days later, on February 4.

Within hours of her death, a judge set the illegal's bond at \$50,000 because no detainer was filed despite a desperate request by local police to do so.

The administration defended this dereliction of duty because the illegal alien had not been convicted of a criminal charge and, therefore, was not an “enforcement priority.”

S. 5 closes this loophole by requiring detention for illegal aliens, like Sarah Root's killer, who are arrested for, charged with, admitted to, or convicted of any crime that resulted in someone's death or serious bodily injury.

In addition, this bill includes elements of Representative JEFF VAN DREW's Detain and Deport Illegal Aliens Who Assault Cops Act, which passed the House last year and applies the same mandate for those who assault law enforcement officials.

This bill would also allow States to bring a civil action against derelict Federal officers who refuse to enforce immigration law. This was first introduced by Representatives DAN BISHOP and CHIP ROY in the SUE for Immigration Enforcement Act. That bill also passed the House twice as part of the Laken Riley Act. That bill was also killed by Senate Democrats last year.

Whether it is sober reflection or perhaps the sobering results of the November election, a handful of Democrats in both the House and the Senate have now come over to support this law. We welcome them. We wish them well in convincing the majority of their party that they need to change course, if not for the good of our country, then at least for the good of themselves. We will take their support any way we can get it.

I have every confidence that President Trump will end this scourge upon our Nation during the next 4 years. This law, and the others that will follow it, will ensure that no future President will be able to unleash upon our country what Joe Biden and his Democratic supporters did.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to S. 5.

We have all these fine speeches and all these fancy parties with billionaires and Congressmen in tuxedos; all these executive orders for Big Oil and tech brologarchs; all these complete and unconditional pardons for Proud Boys, Oath Keepers, and violent extremists who chanted “Hang Mike Pence” and smashed, swarmed, and wounded our police officers in this building with steel poles, baseball bats, American flags, Confederate battle flags, and bear mace—all this sound and fury on day one and week one, but nothing to bring down grocery prices; nothing to bring down the cost of rent, as they promised; nothing to improve our healthcare system or build on our success in the last Congress in reducing prescription drug prices; nothing to get health insurance coverage for millions of people who don’t have it; nothing to bring down the cost of housing or build new housing; nothing to combat the nightmare of climate change, other than the full-scale retreat of withdrawing from the Paris climate accord; nothing to address the real problems faced by the American people.

Today, they want to change the subject from the indelible and shocking public safety disaster of the President releasing hundreds of convicted felons, specifically violent, cop-beating felons caught on tape in the act, whom he had incited on January 6, 2021, back into the population with no plan for protecting the American people or the public safety.

What do they want to talk about today in their wisdom? Public safety and immigration. Great. Let’s do it.

This bill does nothing to address the major problems we face in the immigration system or to secure the American border, nor does it do anything to address the major problems we face in public safety, such as the central and overriding problem of out-of-control gun violence, which takes tens of thousands of American citizens’ lives every year and is the leading cause of death among American citizen children up to the age of 18.

Mr. Speaker, it may surprise a lot of Americans, but we actually know how to solve these problems, how to make substantial progress on both immigration and public safety. The roadblock is that the majority completely lacks the political will to do it.

Why? Well, the Republicans are divided between two extreme positions: the big business tech oligarchs who bankroll their party and who love cheap foreign labor under the current regime, and the inflamed, nativist, MAGA element who want to shut down all immigration, including legal immigration, and believe in rightwing conspiracy theories like the racist great replacement theory.

Congress could pass bipartisan, comprehensive immigration reform this week. Senate Republicans and Democrats reached a powerful and painstaking compromise with President Biden last year to fortify our border with more border agents and more enforcement, more detection technology, more asylum judges, and more funding, but President Trump told House Republicans to tank this popular bipartisan agreement, to sink it.

He didn’t want a bipartisan border solution to improve things in the real world. He wanted a permanent border crisis to run against on TV.

Not doing anything means that Trump doesn’t offend his big business supporters who want cheap foreign labor under the current regime, but it allows him to pander indefinitely to his MAGA base with nativist rhetoric and tiny, little messaging bills that move a few words around but don’t fundamentally change anything.

We should add to the tough border measures already negotiated last Congress a meaningful pathway to citizenship proposed for Dreamers, TPS holders, and other law-abiding, productive immigrants.

If we move from demagoguery to deliberation, we can flesh this out, and we can make immigration work for America, a nation built on immigrants.

We have huge job shortages in agriculture, manufacturing, retail, seafood, nursing, hospitals, and many other areas. We should not be plunging America into chaos to deport millions of people when we already need millions of new people to work here.

If the GOP plan of deporting 12 million people were really to happen, it would plunge us into another Trump economic crisis like the last one under COVID-19 but maybe even cause a depression this time.

The vast majority of Americans know what common sense dictates. We must make it a lot harder for people to get into our country illegally, but we must make it a lot easier for people to get into our country lawfully.

Today, only 2 percent of people seeking admission lawfully are admitted, and Donald Trump, in his first administration, crippled legal immigration into the country. He banned many legal immigrants unable to prove that they have high incomes. He banned immigrants from 13 specific countries. He banned most visa applicants and most skilled temporary workers, deeming them an economic threat. We must reform our system consistent with our values as a nation.

Similarly, when it comes to public safety, we could arrive at a common-sense, bipartisan agenda right now to make our communities a lot safer if we were serious about it.

Let’s take the central problem of gun violence, for example, which now takes more than 48,000 American lives a year and is the leading cause of death for children and young people in America up to the age of 18.

Gun violence costs us, costs America, an astonishing \$557 billion a year, Mr. Speaker, more than half a trillion dollars a year because of gun violence.

Mass shootings with an AR-15 or other assault weapons have become a terrifying feature of gun violence in America, although they account for just over 1 percent of the tens of thousands of lives we lose generally to gun violence, with old-fashioned handgun homicides, suicides, and accidents continuing to cause the vast majority of deaths.

Here are some policies that the vast majority of Americans support that we could pass this week if they would allow us to do it, Mr. Speaker.

Congress could close the loopholes in the Brady legislation, like the internet loophole and the private gun show loophole. We could pass universal violent criminal background checks on all gun purchases, something supported by upward of 90 percent of the American people, vast majorities of people of both political parties, independents, conservatives, liberals, gun owners, and non-gun owners. Almost everybody supports it.

We could pass a military-style assault weapons ban, which more than 60 percent of Americans support. We could crack down on the proliferating danger of ghost guns. We could expand red flag laws nationwide.

Alas, our colleagues refuse to do any of it because their well-advertised compassion for the American victims of violent crimes committed by undocumented aliens, which they base their entire argument on and which we all share, apparently does not extend to the far larger class of American victims of violent gun crimes committed by other American citizens, even though we have not just 48,000 Americans killed every year but 115,000 American citizens wounded and maimed trying to survive this gun violence debacle handed to us by the NRA and their followers in Congress.

They argue that the Second Amendment prevents all these commonsense gun safety measures, even though the Supreme Court has repeatedly upheld them, including an assault weapon ban, criminal background checks on gun buyers, and so on.

When a white supremacist gunman bearing an AR-15 assassinates dozens of American citizen schoolchildren in Connecticut or Florida, dozens of citizen and noncitizen Walmart shoppers in El Paso, Texas, supermarket shoppers in Buffalo, worshippers at the Mother Emanuel Church in Charleston, South Carolina, or worshippers at the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, our colleagues extend only thoughts and prayers. They say nothing can be done. Alas, there is just evil in the world, and the Second Amendment keeps them from acting. We just have to accept this as the inescapable human price and sacrifice paid for the Second Amendment, even though that is not what the Supreme Court says.

At least today shows they think something can be done to stop violent crime in America. Will they take their newfound sense of moral outrage and compassion and apply it not just in one case but to the tens of thousands of victims of gun violence in America? America is waiting for an answer.

What is the majority proposing today? S. 5 is a bill to subject to mandatory detention not just undocumented people who have been convicted of theft, shoplifting, and other criminal offenses, which has been the law supported unanimously by both parties since 1996, but people who have been simply charged with such offenses or arrested for such offenses, even if the charges are dropped or even if they are never filed in the first place.

It is an odd way to fix the border because it has nothing to do with the border, and it is an extremely attenuated and constitutionally dubious way to protect public safety.

The vast majority of serious crimes committed in America are committed by American citizens, not aliens, and the vast majority of aliens don't commit crimes at all.

□ 1430

However, this bill doesn't even focus on the culpable class of undocumented immigrants who commit crimes. That the law already does. It focuses on those who are arrested even if they are never charged or those who are charged with crimes even if they are never convicted or even if their charges are dropped.

A young person in DACA who is with a group of friends when one of them is arrested for shoplifting and then all the kids get charged will be subject to mandatory detention and deportation even if the child was not shoplifting and the charges are dropped.

The bill is likely to pass, no doubt, because of the profound sympathy we all share for the parents and family of Laken Riley who have suffered an unthinkable, totally shocking, and profoundly unnecessary trauma. This should not be a partisan issue, and it should not be demagogued for partisan purposes.

Nevertheless, when we get serious about comprehensive threats to public safety in our immigration system, we will have to address the mass crises staring us in the face, like the gun violence epidemic, which takes the lives of tens of thousands of American citizens every year at the hands overwhelmingly of U.S. citizen gunmen.

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

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, the so-called bipartisan legislation that the gentleman refers to would have made it impossible for President Trump to have taken the actions he has just taken to secure our border until illegal immigration exceeded 4,000 entries a day. That is why it collapsed in the Senate and it was ultimately disavowed by its own author.

The gentleman is correct to lament the terrible violence in our Nation, especially in our dangerous Democratic cities. So here is a modest proposal: Take the criminals off the streets, like Laken Riley's killer, which is exactly what this bill does.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. YAKYM).

Mr. YAKYM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Laken Riley Act.

The Biden-Harris administration was marked by failure and corruption, but the failure that sits head and shoulders above all others was their open-border policy. Almost immediately after President Biden was sworn in, America was overrun by a massive, unprecedented surge in illegal immigrants.

The chart next to me shows just how dramatically President Biden failed compared to his predecessors, over double the southern border crossings of any President since 2001. This border chaos was ignored for all 4 years of the Biden-Harris administration. It was downplayed as seasonal or written off as mere ebbs and flows.

Mr. Speaker, find me somewhere on this chart where the surge was only seasonal. Show me where it ebbed or flowed.

Illegal immigrants continued streaming across President Biden's open border in droves because they knew they would face no consequences from an administration that was more focused on inventing new rhetorical flourishes to paper over this very real crisis. They were more content to wish it away rather than actually do something about it.

President Biden's failure at the border had impacts across America. Every town was a border town. Once sleepy places were suddenly forced to contend with sex trafficking, drug trafficking, child labor, infectious diseases, petty theft, and, yes, even rape and murder.

Cartels got rich, and small towns in my district were left scrambling for money and resources. This chaos was a choice made every single day of Joe Biden's Presidency.

No more, Mr. Speaker. Monday marked a new era. President Trump has already taken more decisive action in 48 hours than President Biden took in 4 years.

Mr. Speaker, let's send this bill to President Trump's desk. I urge my colleagues to vote for sanity and common sense. I urge them to vote "yes."

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from New York (Mr. ESPAILLAT).

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to S. 5. I rise in opposition to S. 5 because the bill is redundant. In fact, the provisions in this bill to penalize those who have committed violent crimes are already included in the penal code. So this legislation is redundant.

What it does do, in fact, is it would force ICE to treat minor offenses as

violent ones. That includes, of course, a child caught stealing a candy bar from Walmart, someone who jumps the turnstile in a New York City subway or takes a box of cornflakes because they otherwise have no way to make ends meet.

It also sends a chilling effect out there amongst law-abiding families and workers who are too frightened to show up to their shifts at farms, hospitals, businesses, and schools across the country.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is redundant, and, frankly, the Laken Riley family should not be subject to the political theater that is about to happen here today.

In fact, we should be looking at this issue to fix the problems of both the border, but also to regularize Dreamers, farmworkers, and keep families whole. At the end of the day, Dreamers are productive. They contribute to our society. Farmers need their workers, and we need their workers. Families need to stay together because families that are divided are weak families, and that makes a weak nation.

So this is a redundant bill.

While they are targeting the immigrant communities for stealing a candy bar, the folks from January 6, get this, Mr. Speaker, were released. Felons were released and sent out to our communities.

Today, I think of Officer Daniel Hodge whose gas mask was ripped off his face as he was punched in the face and was stuck in between two doors. America saw the film. America saw the video of him crying for help.

Today, we will continue to fight for sanity and against any political theater that happens here on our floor.

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. FEENSTRA), who is the author of Sarah's Law that is incorporated into this bill.

Mr. FEENSTRA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Laken Riley Act which includes my bill, Sarah's Law, as an amendment.

In the early morning hours of January 31, 2016, Michelle and Scott Root received the call that every parent never wants to hear: their daughter, Sarah, had been killed in a car accident. What is worse is that Sarah was murdered by an illegal immigrant who was driving while drunk three times over the legal limit.

However, instead of answering for his crimes, the illegal immigrant posted bail, was released from jail, and fled our country never to be seen again.

This egregious loophole in Federal law must be closed so that victims like Sarah Root can receive justice and so that criminals can do the hard time they deserve.

That is why I, alongside Senator JONI ERNST, introduced Sarah's Law to ensure that any illegal immigrant who injures or kills an American citizen is swiftly detained and punished to the fullest extent of the law. As a father of

four, I can't fathom the pain the Root family feels to this day. It is truly heartbreaking.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation to deliver justice for Sarah and her family. I look forward to President Trump signing this bill into law so that illegal immigrants who break our laws are held accountable for their crimes. This must be done.

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Florida (Mr. FROST).

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I oppose this bill for many reasons, but I really want to get to the heart of the problem for me. On day one, President Trump started his project to deport thousands of our neighbors, even legal immigrants, asylum seekers, and people who were born here in the United States. The Laken Riley Act is another piece of that tragic project.

Laken Riley's death is a tragedy. She should be alive today, and I am glad that that killer is facing accountability, as should anyone who harms an innocent person.

However, we have to be really clear about the bill in front of us. This bill does not make our communities safer. It gives this extreme President the authority to do something that actually most Americans don't agree with. Changing our laws so that any immigrant is detained if they are accused, not convicted, of a crime undermines due process.

This bill requires the government to detain people who pose no risk to our communities. It is a shameful bill that will result in the violent detention of innocent people and children.

Many are going to regret enabling Trump's brutal agenda, and the question is when.

When abusive boyfriends trap women in violent relationships by threatening to falsely accuse them of a crime, will you think back to this day?

When ICE raids kids' classrooms or goes into the Sunday school service to lock up some classmates, will you feel shame then?

When there are no more resources because we have been prioritizing looking at promising young DACA students and rounding them up for no reason, will you regret voting for this bill then?

Our country has failed to ensure that every American has the resources they need to live a good life. It is because of the greedy and richest 1 percent of corporations and spineless politicians that you don't have healthcare, that you need multiple jobs, that your check isn't big enough for those bills, and that you can't afford to rent or to buy.

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

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. FROST. It is not the fault of our fellow Americans who might be undocumented. The solution here is not

violence. On its face, this is an evil bill meant to empower a violent man who is not interested in solving the problems of working people but interested in power. It seems that any bill that gives him power he and his party will ruthlessly pursue, but not I.

Mr. Speaker, I urge a "no" vote on this bill.

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

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I remind the gentleman that current law already requires every illegal immigrant to be detained. That law is simply not being enforced. This bill says that if that illegal alien who is supposed to be in custody anyway is arrested for other crimes, then they really have to be taken off the streets.

If this bill had been law, then Laken Riley would be alive today.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. VAN DREW).

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, these are not prepared notes, but I wanted to address a few of the things that the ranking member, Congressman RASKIN, mentioned. It seems to me that from what I hear on the other side is everything but really dealing with and focusing on what this bill says and what it does.

I want to talk about inflation which, by the way, was created on that other side, food prices and energy and utilities, all of it. I want to talk about all that.

I want to talk about gun violence. I am willing to debate gun violence for hours and discuss the issue, but definitely even on that issue, we don't want to speak about the liberal policies that exist in so many urban areas where we let out violent criminals over and over and over again and change very often felonies to misdemeanors.

Mr. Speaker, if you want to know about gun violence, that is what gun violence does. That is what gun violence is created by, so much that is happening there. Their answer would be to put more gun laws in place that inflict more regulation upon honest, good gun owners who don't ever do anything to anybody. It would be to impinge on Second Amendment rights. Nevertheless, I don't want to talk about that.

I want to talk about this act because I know we are on the right side of this. Laken Riley was killed while going for a jog. That is the issue. An innocent woman who never did anything harmful to anybody in her life, who wanted to be a nurse, who wanted to help other people, and who couldn't even get the last damn telephone call from her mother, was murdered.

Then I hear from the ranking member: Well, the vast majority of illegals don't commit crimes.

My God, I hope not, because we have got close to 10 million of them, as best as we can tell. There are hundreds who

are on the terror watch list and thousands who have committed crimes. That is where the problems really do exist, and that is unacceptable.

The previous administration has recklessly abused the mass parole policies. It has flooded our Nation with illegal immigrants. It never should have happened, and it impinges and hurts the security of the American people. I am here to represent, and we are here to represent the American people.

□ 1445

Across the country, we heard about the woman that was set on fire in New York City. What was the first thing that the city of New York did with its liberal policies? They refused to honor ICE's detainer request for the man responsible for setting another human being on fire.

Our immigration laws have to be upheld. Failure to do so is why Laken Riley is not alive today. It is why Washington State Trooper Christopher Gadd's family will never see him. His children and his wife will never know him anymore. He is gone.

It is why, when Laken Riley struggled for almost a half hour, when she was beaten, when she was disfigured, when her head and skull was crushed, that we can't bring her back. We can't bring her life back.

I don't want to hear about all this other political stuff. I don't think the American people do. They want an answer.

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

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to see that the Senate adopted the amendment that we wanted, which was to put into the bill the legislation that we had to detain and deport illegal aliens who assault cops. They have broken the law once, and now we are saying: My God, if you do it again, no, you are going to be detained, and you are going to be deported. A lot of Democrats are going to vote for it.

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ).

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I want the American people to know, with eyes wide open, what is inside this bill. We stand here just 2 days after President Trump gave unconditional pardons to violent criminals who attacked our Nation's Capitol on January 6, and these are the people who want us to believe that they are trying to keep criminals off the streets, when they are opening the floodgates.

I want the American people to know what is in this bill because, in the guise and in the wake of tragedy, we are seeing a fundamental erosion of our civil rights in this bill. If a person is so much as accused of a crime or if someone wants to point a finger and accuse



someone of shoplifting, they will be rounded up and put into a private detention camp and sent out for deportation without a day in court, without a moment to assert their rights, and without a moment to assert the privilege of innocence until proven guilty.

Without being found guilty of a crime, they will be rounded up. What is inside this bill is a fundamental suspension of a core American value, and that is why I rise to oppose it.

If you are a Dreamer, all someone has to do is point a finger, and you will be rounded up. We have seen moments like these happen before in the USA PATRIOT Act, in the wake of the travesty of 9/11, a fundamental suspension of America's civil liberties, that is what we are seeing here today.

Mr. Speaker, my colleagues may wonder why so many of our friends across the aisle, who care so deeply about the rule of law, happen to be so desperate to pass this bill after they are unleashing people who attacked police officers here in this Capitol and who are now free to roam our streets, who are publicly saying now that they want to get a gun. Suddenly, these folks care about public safety? I don't think so.

Look no further than the \$83 billion price tag of this bill. They know that it can't be paid for. They know that the capacity is not there.

Do you know what will be there? Private prison companies are going to get flooded with money, who give this money, no doubt. I want folks at home to look at which Members of Congress are invested in private prison companies, who receive this kind of money, and look at the votes on this bill.

It is atrocious that people are lining their pockets with private prison profits in the name of a horrific tragedy on the victim of a crime. It is shameful. It is absolutely shameful.

Mr. Speaker, I will conclude with this: In a few months, there are Members of Congress who voted for this bill who are going to pretend that they didn't know about all the bad things that are going to happen because of it.

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

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentlewoman from New York.

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ. Mr. Speaker, when a private prison camp opens in your town and they say they didn't know this was going to happen, know that they did and that they voted for it.

When a Dreamer has disappeared from your classroom and when the President of the United States destroys what is left of the Constitution as he has announced in his attack on birthright citizenship, they will all say: We didn't know this was coming.

I want the American people to know that they did. This vote represents it.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Georgia (Ms. GREENE).

Ms. GREENE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I certainly hope we do open as many prisons as possible to round up as many illegal aliens who have invaded our country and those who are breaking our laws; killing our citizens, women and children; and causing complete havoc across our great land.

Mr. Speaker, I support the Laken Riley Act. I support the Laken Riley Act because Laken Riley should be alive today, and she would be alive today if it hadn't been for the Democrats and the Biden administration who ripped our border open and allowed this illegal alien monster to come into our country.

Then, in the State of New York, when this monster was arrested for committing crimes, the Democrat-led State of New York let him go. That is how he came down to Georgia and murdered our Laken Riley.

This is a bill that cannot get passed soon enough, and I am so thankful that the American people overwhelmingly voted for Donald Trump so that we can sign this bill into law. It can't happen fast enough. Thank God.

Listening to my colleagues, the Democrats on the other side of the aisle, complain and whine and defend illegal aliens who break the law the minute they cross our border is pathetic. The American people are so sick and tired of it. They cannot believe what our country has gone through. It is enough. It is absolutely enough.

Democrats will go on and on to defend anyone who is not American because of their America-last policies. My colleagues on the other side of the aisle talk about tax dollars used. Our tax dollars should be used for defending Americans.

Members want to talk about spending a lot of money? Spending a lot of money should happen for American causes, American purposes, and Americans' security.

Laken Riley is a young woman who should be living her American Dream, and she had the right to do it. People who come across our border illegally are not Americans, and they do not have rights here.

That is exactly why, anytime they break a law and anytime they cross into our country, they should be rounded up and shipped out as fast as possible. If we need to build more prisons, then we will do it because the American people will support it.

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. RAMIREZ).

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Congressman for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, it is hard to keep myself composed when I hear people speak their hypocrisies that actually generate profits for them when they talk the way they do and then also use the word "God" somehow in their speech.

Let me say this: We cannot realize justice by engaging in grave injustice. We cannot achieve safety by putting millions in harm's way. We cannot

honor our ideals that we talk so much about in this place by undermining civil rights.

Preemptively jailing people is not accountability. It is inhumanity. Mandatory, indefinite detention based not on charges or convictions, but on accusations, that is the tool of dictators, not democracies.

Let me be clear that Laken Riley's death is a tragedy, and we have work to do to protect women and make our communities safer. We should be bringing bills like Break the Cycle of Violence Act to the floor. We could perhaps have a discharge petition and do it right now.

Let's remember that undocumented immigrants didn't make college unaffordable. They didn't destroy our environment. They didn't deny insurance claims. They didn't raise our rents.

Scapegoating immigrants just deflects the accountability from the corporations and from the billionaires and bosses profiting from everyday American hardships. That is what this is all about. It is about ending due process so that they can profit.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to vote "no."

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. ONDER).

Mr. ONDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of S. 5, the Laken Riley Act.

First, I point out that my Democratic colleagues are all exercised about the pardons of Donald Trump of January 6 protesters, but they said not a word when President Biden commuted the sentences of 37 cold-blooded murderers on death row in our Federal prisons.

This bill is the Senate amended version of Representative COLLINS' bill that passed this Chamber earlier this month. It is named after Laken Riley, the 22-year-old Georgia nursing student who was brutally murdered by a criminal illegal alien, another casualty of the Biden-Harris, Democratic, open-border policies.

This bill adds burglary, theft, and larceny to a list of crimes for which it would be mandatory that illegal alien criminals be deported. The Senate also added to this act a very important provision that adds assault of a law enforcement officer or causing bodily injury to another person.

The Laken Riley Act, when signed by President Trump, will begin the long and hard work of protecting Americans from the more than 10 million illegal aliens who were enabled by Biden's open-border policies.

On January 7, I was very encouraged to see 48 of our Democratic colleagues in this Chamber vote for the common-sense protections that Americans support in the Laken Riley Act. Yesterday, 12 Senate Democrats joined all the Republicans in supporting this commonsense measure.

Mr. Speaker, deporting criminal illegal aliens should not be a partisan bill.



I hope our Democratic colleagues will side with us on this issue to protect Americans and put Americans first.

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. TLAIB).

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is so shameful that the first bill of the new Congress will put a target on the backs of millions of our neighbors. These are neighbors who worked so hard and who build up our communities. It is also going to increase militarization of our neighborhoods.

As someone who grew up in southwest Detroit, where you will find 20 different ethnicities, people from all over the world, who came together, you should see how beautifully diverse it is. They built up communities and neighborhoods. They are an integral part of our neighborhoods.

One of the things that I have been seeing over and over again on social media already, Mr. Speaker, is literally militarization of Border Patrol, officials everywhere, just people scared and petrified because that is what is exactly happening because this promotes racial profiling.

The bill blatantly violates due process. These have literally been allegations and charges, not actual convictions. You all act like if somebody is undocumented they can't be deported. They can. As a former immigration attorney, I know that for a fact.

You are making this up so you can literally allow people to be profiled and discriminated against.

Blame them for the cost of eggs? Is that what we are doing here? We are blaming them because you guys can't put corporate greed to the side? That is a disease, and that is killing our economy. People can't afford housing. You think it is because of our immigrant neighbors?

No. If you truly care about fixing our immigration system, you would go fix it so that U.S. citizens married to undocumented spouses can actually adjust their status when we have mixed statuses because we have ignored and vilified immigrants for 30 years.

Enough is enough.

It will separate families. It would lead again to continued discrimination. It is shameful that my colleagues are giving in to racist fear-mongering at the first opportunity to pass legislation, to scapegoat our immigrant neighbors and fuel hate in our communities.

I know what is going to happen. It won't just be undocumented. It will be people like my mother who will get stopped and profiled. Does she have to carry her U.S. passport around? Are we asking people now to have documentation? That is what you want to turn our neighborhoods into, is militarization?

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

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentlewoman from Michigan.

Ms. TLAIB. I just ask all of you to truly understand what this will do to our communities.

Mr. Speaker, I urge our colleagues to please vote "no" on this divisive bill. It is so important to understand what you are going to turn our communities and our neighborhoods into. We can't allow that to continue to happen.

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

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS). He is the author of the Laken Riley Act in the House, representing her hometown and her grieving family.

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

Mr. Speaker, I will take a minute to talk a little bit about the journey of this bill. When this tragedy happened and we took a look at what possibly could be done to make sure that this doesn't happen again, I talked with the family and asked them if we could put Laken Riley's name on it.

□ 1500

Their response was: Congressman, if there is anything that Congress can do to make sure that this doesn't happen to another family, then please put her name on it and get this thing passed.

Mr. Speaker, and that we did. Thirty-seven Democrats with all Republicans in the House passed that bill in the 118th Congress. We sent it over to the Senate and where so many of the other good bills went, it fell into the black hole of the Senate never to be seen again.

I had another discussion with the family later and told them where the bill was sitting and what was going on. I told them that I can never let it go. I just couldn't let this go because Laken fought with every ounce in her body to stay alive that day. I vowed I would fight with every ounce I had to make sure that we protected families across this country, and that we did.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the family for allowing us to do that. I also thank my colleagues for sticking in here and voting with us, not just the Republicans but the Democrats, people on the other side of the aisle and not just in the House, it went through the Senate. We had Senate Democrats that went with this bill, as well.

This is a good bill. It is a common-sense, law enforcement bill. It simply states that for minor-level crime local law enforcement can contact ICE to get these people detained, processed, and deported. These people, these criminals that come across and inflict violence on American families, they just get more and more emboldened.

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

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentleman from Georgia.

Mr. COLLINS. They commit larger and more heinous crimes, and that is

exactly what happened here in the Laken Riley murder.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all of my colleagues to get this passed today. Let's get this done. I will leave you with one other thought, too. I have always heard a saying that there is nothing with any meaningful legislation that happens up here in this town until the American people demand it, and by God, they are demanding this get passed and we get these criminals out of our country.

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

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good colleague from California for leading this charge and being that strong voice.

Mr. Speaker, we seem to have a common California problem on a lot of issues. I will remind people that California is a sanctuary State and some of the first sanctuary cities emanated from California leading to this problem.

Governor Gavin Newsom and the rest of the State is actually defying Federal law on enforcing borders and turning over criminal illegal aliens when they capture them and detain them. Lives are being lost because of that.

Let me go back in time a little bit so they are not forgotten.

Jamie Shaw, II, a 17-year-old high school student and a promising athlete was shot and killed in March 2008 near his home in Los Angeles. His assailant, an undocumented immigrant or illegal alien, whatever you want to call it, was a member of the 18th Street Gang and had been released from jail just a day before this shooting.

Later, he was finally convicted in 2012 and sentenced to death, then commuted by Gavin Newsom.

Shaw's death led to increasing scrutiny of these policies and hopefully results here today.

Let me remind you of Kate Steinle. That one gripped the Nation as well. She was killed on a pier in San Francisco when an illegal immigrant, who shouldn't have been there, got ahold of a gun and discharged it and shot poor Kate Steinle. This man was acquitted of murder and manslaughter and only put away on a felon in possession of a firearm. This became a focal point in discussions of sanctuary cities, as well.

We have an opportunity here to not have this happen again and again. We know well, unfortunately, the story of Laken Riley because that is fresher in our minds. We can't go back and forget about people like Jamie Shaw, whose father I met who was grieving at the time and is still grieving now; Kate Steinle, and so many other names that we are not naming here yet today. We need to do better.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PALMER). The gentleman from Maryland has 6 minutes remaining.

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

Mr. Speaker, I am sorry that Representative COLLINS has left. I was just presented with a tweet that he sent out about the New Jersey-born Episcopalian Bishop Mariann Budde, who performed a service as part of the inaugural ceremonies. Apparently, he was not pleased with what she had to say, and he wrote, "The person giving this sermon should be added to the deportation list."

I would have asked him whether he was serious about that. Of course, the Episcopalian Bishop is a U.S. citizen, but, of course, that is very much in the spirit of the times. It reminds me of the period of the Alien and Sedition Acts in 1798 when there was an effort to use the Alien and Sedition Acts, which have been invoked recently by the new President, in order to persecute the political opponents of the administration as well as to chase down and kick out of the country all of the dangerous French immigrants who were spreading revolutionary propaganda in the country. A friend of Jefferson's wrote to him, John Taylor, to say how exhausted he was by all of the political fighting and the demonizing of immigrants and the attempt to shut the borders down and to attack political opponents as enemies of the State, and so on.

Jefferson wrote in this beautiful letter back—you should check it out online, if you can. It is a letter to John Taylor. In it he counseled patience.

He said:

A little patience, and the reign of witches shall pass over, their spells dissolve and the people, recovering their true sight, recover the true principles of their government.

In the meantime, we are suffering all of the horrors and indignities of the hysteria. If the game runs against us at home sometimes, as inevitably it will, then we must have patience because this is a game where principles are at stake.

Our colleagues have spoken up for nothing other than due process. The idea that the bipartisan compromise that has been cemented and lost since 1996 should stand, saying that we want the immediate detention and deportation of undocumented people who actually commit crimes. In an effort to drive a wedge in this body, they now say they want to move from people who have been convicted of crimes, which obviously accords completely with common sense, to people who have just been accused or charged with crimes, even if the charges are dropped even for offenses as small as shoplifting.

In any event, we don't claim somehow that one side or the other is morally righteous and the other is morally wrong. We are trying to have a public policy debate. In the role of public emotion in public policy debates, Mr. Speaker, is an interesting thing. Some people think it is enough to show up and say, there has been a terrible event. There has been a sickening murder or rape, therefore, you must pass

our bill without even reading the bill, without even looking to see what is in the bill. Does it make sense as a matter of public policy?

If that were the standard they actually believed in, they would be voting for all of the gun safety legislation they have been rejecting, because every time there is a massacre, whether it is in Connecticut or Florida or Texas or Illinois or any of our communities, we come in and we say, we want what the American people want in public opinion polls: a universal, violent criminal background check. We want a ban on military-style assault weapons.

There is no reason 18 year olds should be bearing AR-15s and showing up in classrooms and churches and synagogues with weapons of mass destruction. If it were enough just to appeal to emotion, they would be voting with us, but, no, they say that conflicts with their public policy understanding.

Well, at the very least you would think they would have the burden of telling us what they do support, but we never hear anything. You don't hear a peep out of them about gun violence because the second amendment, as they misinterpret it, is sacrosanct as well as their NRA support and contributions. That is what they bow down to is the National Rifle Association when it comes to this policy debate because they won't advance anything that conflicts with the NRA, even if the Supreme Court says it is perfectly fine.

We had a ban on assault weapons for a decade. It was perfectly constitutional. We have the Brady act. We have a violent criminal background check, but even though expanding it to make it universal would save hundreds or thousands of American citizen lives every year, they won't touch it.

Don't invoke emotion selectively and say everybody has got to go along with what you are saying without even analyzing the policy implications and the constitutional implications if you are not willing to put anything on the table to reduce the sickening death toll for gun violence in America. There is nothing in the world that approaches what we have got here. It is 25 times higher than the EU countries, dozens of times higher than Japan, Canada, U.K., you name it. Yet, they pretend as if there is no problem and they seize on an opportunistic bill like this to try to drive a wedge within our Congress and within our people.

I hope they do better when we get to the second week of this new administration than freeing violent criminal felons who stormed this Capitol and attacked our police officers than bringing forward a bill like this to try to cover up for their complicity with that sickening violence against our constitutional order.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California has 7 minutes remaining.

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

First, in response to my friend, I would say after the last 4 years in which the Democrats brought the full force of the government to intimidate social platforms, to shut down dissenting opinions, and stifle public debate, I would be a little more careful about invoking the Alien and Sedition Acts.

The gentleman offers us gun control as an antidote; we offer criminal control. Get the criminals off the streets, which is exactly what this bill does. I am sure that he must be very upset that Mr. Biden pardoned his son for gun crimes.

Mr. Speaker, to my Democratic colleagues who have joined Republicans to pass this bill into law, I thank them for standing up to the woke left of their party. That is a hard thing to do, especially when it exposes them to their insults and epithets and threats of political retribution. To the others, I ask how many more laws with names attached to them do we need to pass before you take this crisis seriously.

How many American citizens must die at the hands of illegal aliens before we all agree that these tragedies are fully preventable? Must the name of my child or their child be the one attached to an H.R. number or an S. number before Democrats can vote "yes" on these commonsense bills?

The fine point of the matter comes down to this: If this bill had been law, Jocelyn Nungaray, Sarah Root, Rachel Moran, Laken Riley, and many, many more such victims would be alive today because their killers would have been taken into custody. Under President Trump, they never would have been allowed into our country in the first place.

Mr. Speaker, I ask for adoption of this measure, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Pursuant to House Resolution 53, the previous question is ordered on the bill.

The question is on the third reading of the bill.

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

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

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

## RECESS

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

declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 14 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1630

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MURPHY) at 4 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

Votes will be taken in the following order:

The motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 165;

and

Passage of S. 5.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, the remaining electronic vote will be conducted as a 5-minute vote.

#### WOUNDED KNEE MASSACRE MEMORIAL AND SACRED SITE ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 165) to direct the Secretary of the Interior to complete all actions necessary for certain land to be held in restricted fee status by the Oglala Sioux Tribe and Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 416, nays 0, not voting 17, as follows:

[Roll No. 22]

YEAS—416

Adams	Beyer	Casar
Aderholt	Bice	Case
Aguilar	Biggs (AZ)	Casten
Alford	Biggs (SC)	Castor (FL)
Allen	Bilirakis	Castro (TX)
Amo	Bishop	Cherfilus-
Amodei (NV)	Bonamici	McCormick
Ansari	Bost	Chu
Arrington	Boyle (PA)	Ciscomani
Auchincloss	Brecheen	Cisneros
Babin	Bresnahan	Clark (MA)
Bacon	Brown	Clarke (NY)
Baird	Brownley	Cleaver
Balderson	Buchanan	Cline
Balint	Budzinski	Cloud
Barr	Burchett	Clyburn
Barrett	Burlison	Clyde
Baumgartner	Bynum	Cohen
Bean (FL)	Calvert	Cole
Beatty	Cammack	Collins
Begich	Carbajal	Comer
Bell	Carey	Conaway
Bentz	Carter (GA)	Connolly
Bera	Carter (LA)	Costa
Bergman	Carter (TX)	Courtney

Craig	Houchin	Min
Crane	Houlahan	Moolenaar
Crank	Hoyer	Moore (AL)
Crawford	Hoyle (OR)	Moore (NC)
Crenshaw	Hudson	Moore (UT)
Crockett	Huffman	Moore (WI)
Crow	Huizenga	Moore (WV)
Cuellar	Hunt	Moran
Davids (KS)	Hurd (CO)	Morelle
Davidson	Issa	Morrison
Davis (IL)	Ivey	Moskowitz
Davis (NC)	Jack	Moulton
De La Cruz	Jackson (IL)	Mullin
Dean (PA)	Jackson (TX)	Murphy
DeGette	Jacobs	Nadler
DeLauro	James	Neal
DelBene	Jeffries	Neguse
Deluzio	Johnson (GA)	Nehls
DeSaulnier	Johnson (LA)	Newhouse
DesJarlais	Johnson (SD)	Norcross
Dexter	Johnson (TX)	Norman
Diaz-Balart	Jordan	Nunn (IA)
Doggett	Joyce (OH)	Obornolte
Donalds	Joyce (PA)	Ocasio-Cortez
Downing	Kamlager-Dove	Ogles
Dunn (FL)	Kaptur	Olzewski
Edwards	Kean	Omar
Elfreth	Keating	Onder
Ellzey	Kelly (IL)	Owens
Emmer	Kelly (MS)	Pallone
Escobar	Kelly (PA)	Palmer
Espallat	Kennedy (NY)	Panetta
Estes	Kennedy (UT)	Pappas
Evans (CO)	Khanna	Perez
Evans (PA)	Kiggans (VA)	Perry
Ezell	Kiley (CA)	Peters
Fallon	Kim	Pfleger
Fedorchak	Knott	Pingree
Feenstra	Krishnamoorthi	Pocan
Fields	Kustoff	Pou
Figures	LaHood	Pressley
Finstad	LaLota	Quigley
Fischbach	LaMalfa	Ramirez
Fitzgerald	Landsman	Randall
Fitzpatrick	Langworthy	Raskin
Fleischmann	Larsen (WA)	Reschenthaler
Fletcher	Larson (CT)	Rivas
Flood	Latimer	Rogers (AL)
Fong	Latta	Rogers (KY)
Foster	Lawler	Rose
Foushee	Lee (FL)	Ross
Fox	Lee (NV)	Rouzer
Frankel, Lois	Lee (PA)	Roy
Franklin, Scott	Leger Fernandez	Ruiz
Friedman	Letlow	Rulli
Frost	Levin	Rutherford
Fry	Liccardo	Ryan
Fulcher	Lieu	Salazar
Garbarino	Lofgren	Salinas
Garcia (CA)	Loudermillk	Sanchez
Garcia (IL)	Lucas	Scalise
Garcia (TX)	Luna	Scanlon
Gill (TX)	Luttrell	Schakowsky
Gillen	Lynch	Schmidt
Gimenez	Mace	Scholten
Golden (ME)	Mackenzie	Schrier
Goldman (NY)	Magaziner	Schweikert
Goldman (TX)	Malliotakis	Scott (VA)
Gomez	Maloy	Scott, Austin
Gonzales, Tony	Mann	Scott, David
Gonzalez, V.	Mannion	Self
Gooden	Massie	Sessions
Goodlander	Mast	Sewell
Gosar	Matsui	Sherman
Gottheimer	McBath	Sherrill
Graves	McBride	Shreve
Gray	McCaul	Simon
Green (TN)	McClain	Simpson
Green, Al (TX)	McClain Delaney	Smith (MO)
Greene (GA)	McClellan	Smith (NE)
Griffith	McClintock	Smith (NJ)
Grothman	McCollum	Smith (WA)
Guest	McCormick	Smucker
Guthrie	McDonald Rivet	Sorensen
Hageman	McDowell	Soto
Hamadeh (AZ)	McGarvey	Spartz
Harder (CA)	McGovern	Stansbury
Haridopolos	McGuire	Stanton
Harrigan	McIver	Staubert
Harris (MD)	Menendez	Stefanik
Harris (NC)	Meng	Steil
Harshbarger	Messmer	Steube
Hayes	Meuser	Stevens
Hern (OK)	Mfume	Strickland
Higgins (LA)	Miller (IL)	Strong
Hill (AR)	Miller (OH)	Stutzman
Himes	Miller (WV)	Subramanyam
Hinson	Miller-Meeks	Suozi
Horsford	Mills	Swalwell

Sykes	Trahan	Wasserman
Takano	Tran	Schultz
Taylor	Turner (OH)	Watson Coleman
Tenney	Turner (TX)	Weber (TX)
Thanedar	Underwood	Webster (FL)
Thompson (CA)	Valadao	Westerman
Thompson (MS)	Van Drew	Wied
Thompson (PA)	Van Duyne	Williams (GA)
Tiffany	Van Orden	Wilson (FL)
Timmons	Vargas	Wilson (SC)
Titus	Vasquez	Wittman
Tlaib	Veasey	Womack
Tokuda	Velázquez	Yakym
Tonko	Vindman	Zinke
Torres (CA)	Wagner	
Torres (NY)	Walberg	

#### NOT VOTING—17

Barragán	Grijalva	Riley (NY)
Boebert	Jayapal	Schneider
Carson	Meeks	Waters
Correa	Mrvan	Whitesides
Dingell	Pelosi	Williams (TX)
Garamendi	Pettersen	

□ 1655

Ms. SIMON changed her vote from “nay” to “yea.”

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 22.

#### LAKEN RILEY ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on passage of the bill (S. 5) to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to take into custody aliens who have been charged in the United States with theft, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 263, nays 156, not voting 14, as follows:

[Roll No. 23]

YEAS—263

Aderholt	Burchett	Diaz-Balart
Alford	Burlison	Donalds
Allen	Bynum	Downing
Amodei (NV)	Calvert	Dunn (FL)
Arrington	Cammack	Edwards
Babin	Carey	Ellzey
Bacon	Carter (GA)	Emmer
Baird	Carter (TX)	Estes
Balderson	Ciscomani	Evans (CO)
Barr	Cline	Ezell
Barrett	Cloud	Fallon
Baumgartner	Clyde	Fedorchak
Bean (FL)	Cole	Feenstra
Begich	Collins	Figures
Bentz	Comer	Finstad
Bergman	Costa	Fischbach
Bice	Courtney	Fitzgerald
Biggs (AZ)	Craig	Fitzpatrick
Biggs (SC)	Crane	Fleischmann
Bilirakis	Crank	Flood
Bishop	Crawford	Fong
Boebert	Crenshaw	Fox
Bost	Cuellar	Franklin, Scott
Boyle (PA)	Davids (KS)	Fry
Brecheen	Davidson	Fulcher
Bresnahan	Davis (NC)	Garbarino
Buchanan	De La Cruz	Gill (TX)
Budzinski	DesJarlais	Gillen

Gimenez	Latta	Rogers (KY)	Peters	Schakowsky	Tokuda
Golden (ME)	Lawler	Rose	Pingree	Scott (VA)	Tonko
Goldman (TX)	Lee (FL)	Rouzer	Pocan	Scott, David	Torres (CA)
Gonzales, Tony	Lee (NV)	Roy	Pou	Sherman	Trahan
Gonzalez, V.	Letlow	Rulli	Pressley	Sherrill	Turner (TX)
Gooden	Levin	Rutherford	Quigley	Simon	Underwood
Goodlander	Loudermilk	Salazar	Ramirez	Smith (WA)	Vargas
Gosar	Lucas	Scalise	Randall	Soto	Vasquez
Gottheimer	Luna	Schmidt	Raskin	Stansbury	Veasey
Graves	Luttrell	Scholten	Rivas	Stevens	Velázquez
Gray	Lynch	Schrier	Ross	Strickland	Wasserman
Green (TN)	Mace	Schweikert	Ruiz	Swalwell	Schultz
Greene (GA)	Mackenzie	Scott, Austin	Ryan	Takano	Watson Coleman
Griffith	Malliotakis	Self	Salinas	Thompson (CA)	Williams (GA)
Grothman	Maloy	Sessions	Sánchez	Thompson (MS)	Wilson (FL)
Guest	Mann	Sewell	Scanlon	Tlaib	
Guthrie	Mannion	Shreve			
Hageman	Massie	Simpson			
Hamadeh (AZ)	Mast	Smith (MO)	Correa	Mrvan	Thanedar
Harder (CA)	McBath	Smith (NE)	Dingell	Pelosi	Waters
Haridopolos	McCaull	Smith (NJ)	Garamendi	Pettersen	Whitesides
Harrigan	McClain	Smucker	Grijalva	Riley (NY)	Williams (TX)
Harris (MD)	McClain Delaney	Sorensen	Jayapal	Schneider	
Harris (NC)	McClintock	Spartz			
Harshbarger	McCormick	Stanton			
Hayes	McDonald Rivet	Stauber			
Hern (OK)	McDowell	Stefanik			
Higgins (LA)	McGuire	Steil			
Hill (AR)	Messmer	Steube			
Hinson	Meuser	Strong			
Horsford	Miller (IL)	Stutzman			
Houchin	Miller (OH)	Subramanyam			
Hudson	Miller (WV)	Suozzi			
Huizenga	Miller-Meeks	Sykes			
Hunt	Mills	Taylor			
Hurd (CO)	Min	Tenney			
Issa	Moolenaar	Thompson (PA)			
Jack	Moore (AL)	Tiffany			
Jackson (TX)	Moore (NC)	Timmons			
James	Moore (UT)	Titus			
Johnson (LA)	Moore (WV)	Torres (NY)			
Johnson (SD)	Moran	Tran			
Jordan	Morelle	Turner (OH)			
Joyce (OH)	Moskowitz	Valadao			
Joyce (PA)	Murphy	Van Drew			
Kaptur	Nehls	Van Dyne			
Kean	Newhouse	Van Orden			
Kelly (MS)	Norman	Vindman			
Kelly (PA)	Nunn (IA)	Wagner			
Kennedy (UT)	Obernohte	Walberg			
Kiggans (VA)	Ogles	Weber (TX)			
Kiley (CA)	Onder	Webster (FL)			
Kim	Owens	Westerman			
Knott	Palmer	Wied			
Kustoff	Pappas	Wilson (SC)			
LaHood	Perez	Wittman			
LaLota	Perry	Womack			
LaMalfa	Pfluger	Yakym			
Landsman	Reschenthaler	Zinke			
Langworthy	Rogers (AL)				

## NOT VOTING—14

## ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BOST) (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1701

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, due to the death of my beloved wife of 41 years, Patty Williams, I was unable to be in D.C. and vote today. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 23.

Mr. THANEDAR. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 23.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I missed votes today due to a medical emergency, a hemorrhage in my eye, that required me to travel back to Illinois to seek urgent medical attention. Had I been present, I would have voted: NAY on Roll Call No. 20, NO on Roll Call No. 21, YEA on Roll Call No. 22, and NAY on Roll Call No. 23.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. RILEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent in the House chamber today due to illness. On January 18, 2025, I was seen in the emergency room and subsequently admitted for treatment of influenza and pneumonia. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 20, NO on Roll Call No. 21, YEA on Roll Call No. 22, and YEA on Roll Call No. 23.

## HONORING AL MAGNATTA

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

Mr. LAWLER. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to celebrate an extraordinary milestone in the life of Alfred “Al” Magnatta, who will turn 100 years old on January 27.

Al’s legacy is one of unwavering dedication and service to his country and community, a true embodiment of the American spirit.

Al served as a B-17 aerial gunner in the United States Army’s 8th Air Force Division during World War II, completing 25 missions while stationed in England.

Returning home in 1946, Al joined the Congers Fire Department and rose through the ranks, serving as chief from 1960 to 1962 and later as Rockland County deputy fire coordinator, a role he held for over six decades.

Over 79 years of continuous service, Al has responded to countless emergencies, from the 80-hour freight train fire in 1974 to drills at Indian Point and more. His leadership, commitment, and resilience have been instrumental in shaping fire safety standards across Rockland County and New York State.

At 100 years young, Al remains the Congers Fire Department’s oldest active member, continuing to respond to calls and serve his community.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Al Magnatta, a hero, a leader, and an inspiration to us all. I wish Al a happy birthday.

## DISMANTLING OFFICE OF GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION

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

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, last year, I was so proud to be one of the people to help lead an effort to create the first-ever White House Office of Gun Violence Prevention.

Since its establishment in 2023, this office has helped reduce gun violence by 20 percent and delivered the lowest violent crime rate in over 50 years.

The office wasn’t about politics. It was about saving lives and even had bipartisan support from Members in this Chamber.

On day two of the Trump administration, something happened. That progress was recklessly dismantled by President Donald Trump. Just today, one day after the office was shut down, students were shot at a high school in Nashville, and one was killed.

While lives are stolen daily by gun violence, this administration is busy signing executive orders that have nothing to do with helping working families and keeping our communities safe.

After every mass shooting, the cries of grieving families begged us to do something over the last 4 years, and we did, by making this office. Here we are again, though, forced to abandon the efforts that have saved lives.

Leaders on both sides of the aisle need to come together to pass common-sense gun reform, and we can’t stop fighting until we have another Office of Gun Violence Prevention.

□ 1715

## SALT EQUITY

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

Mr. LALOTA. Mr. Speaker, my constituents need more SALT, and Congress must deliver it in this year’s

## NAYS—156

Adams	DeGette	Kelly (IL)
Aguilar	DeLauro	Kennedy (NY)
Amo	DelBene	Khanna
Ansari	Deluzio	Krishnamoorthi
Auchincloss	DeSaulnier	Larsen (WA)
Balint	Dexter	Larson (CT)
Barragán	Doggett	Latimer
Beatty	Elfreth	Lee (PA)
Bell	Escobar	Leger Fernandez
Bera	Espallat	Liccardo
Beyer	Evans (PA)	Lieu
Bonamici	Fields	Lofgren
Brown	Fletcher	Magaziner
Brownley	Foster	Matsui
Carbajal	Foushee	McBride
Carson	Frankel, Lois	McClellan
Carter (LA)	Friedman	McCollum
Casas	Frost	McGarvey
Case	Garcia (CA)	McGovern
Casten	Garcia (IL)	McIver
Castor (FL)	Garcia (TX)	Meeks
Castro (TX)	Goldman (NY)	Menendez
Cherfilus-	Gomez	Meng
McCormick	Green, Al (TX)	Mfume
Chu	Himes	Moore (WI)
Cisneros	Houlihan	Morrison
Clark (MA)	Hoyer	Moulton
Clarke (NY)	Hoyle (OR)	Mullin
Cleaver	Huffman	Nadler
Clyburn	Ivey	Neal
Cohen	Jackson (IL)	Neguse
Conaway	Jacobs	Norcross
Connolly	Jeffries	Ocasio-Cortez
Crockett	Johnson (GA)	Olszewski
Crow	Johnson (TX)	Omar
Davis (IL)	Kamlager-Dove	Pallone
Dean (PA)	Keating	Panetta

budget. The State and local tax deduction is the number one Federal tax issue for Long Islanders. It protects taxpayers from being taxed twice on the same income and ensures fairness in our tax system.

My Democrat colleagues claim SALT relief is a handout for the wealthy. Nothing could be further from the truth. My district has one of the highest costs of living in the Nation where what is considered a high income elsewhere barely covers expenses.

My Republican colleagues argue SALT relief subsidizes bloated State budgets, but the facts don't lie. States like New York, New Jersey, and California send billions more to Washington than we get back.

Meanwhile, States like Kentucky and South Carolina and dozens of other red States receive much more than what they contribute. We Long Islanders aren't asking for any special treatment, we just want our fair share.

A higher SALT cap means tax fairness. It means economic equity, and it means relief for hardworking families. Let's get it done.

#### COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF DR. HAROLD BAILEY

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

Ms. STANSBURY. Mr. Speaker, today I stand to honor and remember the life and the legacy of Dr. Harold Bailey. As president of the NAACP Albuquerque Chapter and a leader across New Mexico, he was a pillar in the community, mentor, a father, someone who mentored countless generations of individuals who have transformed the fabric of our life in New Mexico.

His work on civil rights and early education will be remembered for generations. As we remember Dr. Bailey, let us commit ourselves to upholding the values that he championed: equality, compassion, and an unwavering dedication to improving the lives of others.

May Dr. Bailey's spirit continue to guide us as we strive for a better future for all Americans and for all New Mexicans.

#### HONORING MASTER SERGEANT LINDA FAYE JULIAN

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

Mr. BURCHETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Master Sergeant Linda Faye Julian. Sergeant Julian enlisted in the Tennessee Air National Guard in 1975 and attended dental specialist school at Kessler Air Force Base.

She deployed in support of many operations and exercises with the 134th Air Refueling Wing. Sergeant Julian served her country with distinction during Operation Desert Storm and Desert Shield.

In 1987, she was selected as the Air National Guard Outstanding Medical Corps Airman of the Year. She was a great mentor to many young airmen who went on to have very distinguished careers in the medical clinic and the Air Guard, and she retired in 2002 after her distinguished career of 27 years.

She didn't stop giving when she retired. Sergeant Julian continued to serve her community through the Junior Service League in Blount County. She is passionately involved in charitable causes, including Toys for Tots and Meals on Wheels programs.

She touched countless lives with her kindness. She was proud of her three children and three grandchildren and was always happy to be surrounded by her loved ones.

Mr. Speaker, Sergeant Julian loved her country and her community. It is my honor to recognize Master Sergeant Linda Faye Julian as Tennessee's Second District January 2025 Veteran of the Year.

#### HONORING DR. E. LAVONIA ALLISON

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

Mrs. FOUSHEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. E. Lavonia Allison, a fierce civil rights activist, accomplished educator, and esteemed political leader.

As a lifelong resident of Durham, North Carolina, Dr. Allison's impact was profound and multifaceted. From her time serving as first vice chair of the Durham County Democratic Party to her leadership as chair of the Durham Committee on the Affairs of Black People, she worked tirelessly to uplift the African-American community and ensure that their voices were heard and represented in local politics.

She was quite literally the personification of Ella Baker. Her steadfast focus on civic engagement in the City of Durham has been a catalyst for over 60 years, connecting our civil rights past to our hopeful present through the power of the ballot box.

Her lessons will echo across the campus of North Carolina Central University and the State for years to come, and her legacy will live through the life of young people that she trained and mentored throughout her dynamic life.

Mr. Speaker, I will miss her as a trusted adviser and supportive colleague and a dear friend. I offer my heartfelt condolences to her family, loved ones, and the entire community during this difficult time.

#### RECOGNIZING JEFF BARKER

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor

the retirement of Mr. Jeff Barker, marking the conclusion of a truly remarkable career.

For over 40 years, Mr. Barker dedicated his life to leadership, compassion, and service. He spent 20 years at Gilman Paper Company, which was once the largest privately-owned paper company in America and a cornerstone employer in Camden County. After the mill transitioned ownership, he continued his distinguished career as executive vice President.

Following the paper mill's closure in 2002, Mr. Barker was selected as the first president and CEO of the St. Mary's United Methodist Church Foundation. Under his leadership, the foundation expanded its mission to serve southeast Georgia, the Nation, and the world.

It has promoted global Methodism, supported evangelical ministries, and partnered in international relief efforts. For 24 years, Mr. Barker brought hope and opportunity to vulnerable populations in his community and across the globe. His life's works left a legacy, both locally and internationally.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Mr. Barker and offer our best wishes to him and his family as he embarks on a well-earned retirement.

#### WILDFIRES

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

Mr. TURNER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, during my 8 years as Mayor of Houston, I faced seven federally declared disasters. I thank this House for your support.

Texas has experienced more billion-dollar disasters since 1980 than any other State in the Union. Hurricane Harvey in 2017 and Winter Storm Uri in February of 2021 cost us billions.

I am grateful to the White House under the leadership, at the time, of Presidents Trump and Biden and bipartisan Members of Congress for the billions of dollars sent to Houston and Texas without any preconditions.

Disasters affect Democrats and Republicans and every socioeconomic group. People lose their homes, their furniture, their cars, their pets, and many lose their lives. These disasters affect them physically and mentally.

For many families with limited means, and especially those with children, they do not know how they are going to move forward. The support of Congress gives them hope, resources, lightens their burden, and renews their faith their country will be there for them in their moment of need.

Mr. Speaker, I pray we will be there for the people of California as Congress was there for Texas without condition and for others that may face disasters in the future. Mr. Speaker, that is who we are.

## STANDING UP FOR LIFE

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, today marks 52 years since that fateful Roe v. Wade decision, a decision that has tragically ended countless unborn lives. The Supreme Court, not too long ago, did find that it was unconstitutionally put in place, not legislated, but done by the stroke of a pen at a court.

This week, thousands of people across the country are coming together in Washington for the March for Life, showing their unwavering commitment to standing up for the unborn and pushing for a culture that values and protects life.

Every life is precious. It is our duty to defend those who can't speak for themselves, even though there are those that would say it is just a clump of cells. Well, those clumps of cells always, always, every time develop into a human, not a puppy, not a waffle, always a human. For people to try and deny that science is ridiculous.

That is why I am honored to receive the A+ rating by the Susan B. Anthony Pro-Life Scorecard for the 118th Congress, a recognition of my own dedication, but that of so many of my colleagues, as well, that we all back each other up on.

Protecting life doesn't stop there. We need to make sure that mothers have the information they need and the support they need so they can make informed decisions, rather than glossed over by abortionists.

#### JEEP STELLANTIS' REINVESTMENT IN AMERICA

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I can hear the cheers rising in Toledo, Ohio, the 100-year legacy home of Jeep, of Jeep Wrangler, Jeep Gladiator. And I can hear the cheers coming from Shawn Fain, the President of the United Autoworkers Nationwide; and regionally, Bruce Baumhower, the Local 12 president; Dave Green, the regional leader of Region 2B; and Tony Totty, the president of Local 14.

This afternoon, Chairman John Elkann from Jeep Stellantis announced plans by Jeep Stellantis to reinvest in industrial America. In Toledo, Ohio, they will invest in order to produce—and I am reading directly from his remarks—taking, “product actions for Jeep Wrangler and Jeep Gladiator in our Toledo assembly complex, and more components critical to our production in the Toledo machining plant.”

This means jobs, living-wage jobs, jobs with retirement benefits, jobs in the middle class. He also announced in

Belvidere, Illinois; Detroit, Michigan; and Kokomo, Indiana similar investments.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the leaders of Jeep Stellantis and their union workers for keeping their word to America's workers. God bless them, and God bless America.

## HITTING THE GROUND RUNNING

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KENNEDY of Utah). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. MOORE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

## GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the topic of this Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, with President Trump officially in the White House and the inauguration festivities behind us, House Republicans are hitting the ground running this week on critical bills to protect the most vulnerable among us and to respond to the devastating wildfires ravaging throughout southern California.

Just to capture what just happened maybe 30 minutes ago, in the House of Representatives, we just passed the final version of the Laken Riley Act, which is commonsense, immigration border security protocols that put the lives of Americans first.

It is so commonsense, I am going to highlight: There are two people, and primarily probably just one, that made this so we couldn't do this a year and a half ago when it should have been done in the 118th Congress.

We just had over a dozen Democrats in the Senate vote for this bill. We had numerous Democrats in the House also support this bill. What is the difference today versus 6, 8 months ago when we tried to pass this? It is Senator SCHUMER.

Senator SCHUMER, as the leader of the Senate, would not allow for this bill to come up. He told those 12 Democrats in the Senate, I am not going to give you a chance to actually vote for sensible border security about the life lost of a Georgian because of absolutely insane border falter from President Biden.

CHUCK SCHUMER basically said to a big portion of his Democratic Senators: I am not going to give you a chance to vote on something sensible. The House sent it over to us. We are not going to vote on it.

One change was made. Senator JOHN THUNE was put in the leadership position where he, with Republican Senators, decided to bring this to the floor, and a dozen or so Senators came on board from the Democrat side and voted for something sensible.

I wish the American people would truly understand that that is why elections are so important. That is why you put conservative leadership over in the Senate coupled with what we are doing in the House to provide sensible legislation, not extreme legislation like when it gets highlighted.

□ 1730

Mr. Speaker, it is literally going to make a positive impact, and that is just the second day. President Trump now has something to sign and show the American people that he hears us and he is ready to go and move about this.

I commend the bipartisan group of individuals from the Democratic Party in the House and the Senate that were willing to sort of buck the trend and say let's do this. I am very excited about that. I make that point. Obviously, I am a little frustrated it took so much time. It should have been brought up under Senator CHUCK SCHUMER when he was the majority leader. That is clearly not the way he is going to govern.

Who knows if President Trump would have signed it. If the Senate leaders are going to push, you can sometimes get something across the finish line in the White House, even in an opposing White House.

We got that done today. This week we are focusing on Congresswoman WAGNER's Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act, another very commonsense piece of legislation that protects the fundamental right to life by ensuring that babies who survive an attempted abortion receive the same medical care health providers would have administered to a fetus born at the same age.

If a baby survives an abortion, this bill says to that physician they have to administer the same healthcare treatments that they would in any other labor situation. This legislation also requires that healthcare providers transport the child to the hospital and report abortion violations to law enforcement.

As southern California continues to struggle with devastating wildfires, House Republicans are also supporting Chairman WESTERMAN's Fix Our Forests Act which enhances resiliency after wildfires and reduces regulatory burdens that hinder active forest management.

I am grateful to my colleagues for joining me this evening to discuss these necessary pieces of legislation. I gladly yield to my colleague from Wisconsin (Mr. VAN ORDEN).

Mr. VAN ORDEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Utah for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I look at this issue from a different perspective. I was a combat medic in the United States Navy SEALs teams for over two decades. If I had encountered an enemy combatant that was injured on the battlefield, and I have, if I did not render medical aid

to the best of my ability, up to and including to the detriment of my own troops, I would be subject to prosecution.

When we talk about the most innocent amongst us, unborn children, who survive the most traumatic circumstances imaginable, an attempted abortion, when we say as a body that we will not render medical aid to that human child, we are less of a people.

Unfortunately, tomorrow we are going to hear many of my Democrat colleagues say that this bill is to restrict a woman's right to have an abortion. That is a lie. We are going to hear many of my Democrat colleagues say that this is vindictive. That is a lie. We are going to hear many of my Democrat colleagues say that Republicans want to burden women who find themselves in a place where they feel like they must abort their unborn human child. That is a lie. Enough.

This is about the sanctity of human life, the dignity of a child, and our ability as a nation and as a body to express humanity to someone who has done nothing wrong, not to themselves, not to our culture, not to our society.

I implore my Democrat colleagues to look at the life of a human child that has survived possibly the most traumatic circumstance, an attempted abortion, and think of that child as someone that is a child of God, that is the apex of creation because that is exactly what that child is. They deserve all of the respect that we can possibly give them because they are our children.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Wisconsin for his passion. It is always appreciated.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the good gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA).

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to hearing more of his perspective on what is ravaging through his State. Our hearts go out to those affected. As we hear many conversations about the California wildfires, we constantly hear that concern for the human element of this and a sincere desire to find improvements in how we can support them now and address this going forward.

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding the time. I appreciate it a lot.

If viewers watch this channel a whole lot, they might see me on the floor talking about forestry and water, whether it is California or the whole West. I know it greatly affects my colleague from Utah, too. The forest fires and lack of forest management is appalling.

Why do we have to suffer this year after year when we know what actually works? When the Forest Services should be doing its job and treating more acres in a timeline that is much more rapid, when we want to say increase the pace and scale of doing so. It just doesn't happen.

We know they face lawsuits all the time. At some point we have to beat

the lawsuits, let them come, but get the work done. Be bold. Be strong. Take them on. At some point it has got to be proven that what we are doing is the right thing, even though there is a liberal judge in San Francisco or somewhere that is trying to say that we have to restudy once again for a salamander or something like that.

When we have the kind of destruction that we see time and time again in our forests, especially in the Western States, then we will just keep suffering it. There is no reason for that. We have been working on the Fix Our Forests Act this week. My colleague and chairman of the Committee on Natural Resources, Mr. WESTERMAN, has been working a long time on this. It is a very practical bipartisan plan to tackle the wildfire crisis and finally start managing the forest correctly. We see the destruction.

One fire in my district called the Dixie fire 3 years ago was a million acres. Several other fires were in the six-digit number such as the North Complex. The Camp fire was several hundred thousand acres but also took 85 lives in the town of Paradise.

What we see is the destruction in Los Angeles. It is unspeakable what is going on down there. Unfortunately, I have already lived that in 3½ communities of mine in the North State that were almost completely lost in fires the last few years.

It is heartbreaking, and it is mostly avoidable. We are going to have fires. They are going to happen. If we have managed lands, it is much easier to put fire out and control it.

When we look at the picture here, a managed forest is a better forest. It is better for the forest health itself. It is better for the wildlife in it. It is much easier to control fire and put fire out with the way fires behave. When we see this managed forest here on the far side of the poster, this is thin. This is how forest used to look 120 years ago.

We have let them fill in too much because we have had the stance of putting out all fires or at least we did for a while. The forest became built up like this. It is very dense. It is hard for the wildlife to even get through there. The old standard was could a cowboy ride a horse through there like the first explorers who came to the West. They can't now.

This is a tinderbox. Trees compete for very limited water supply, especially in a drought period. When they compete for limited water, it harms the tree. The tree struggles, and then it becomes weak. It becomes susceptible to insects waiting to take advantage. They know a weak tree.

A tree's self-defense mechanism is the sap that it produces when it is healthy. When that sap is there, if a borer tries to bore into that tree, the sap tends to push that insect out. It works pretty well. If the tree is weak, it doesn't make as much of that sap. The tree gets killed over time.

There is an area in eastern-central California, east of Fresno. We have

gone camping up there before. This area all looks green. If we look at that area, about every other tree is gray. If lightning ever hits that, if something happens there, it will be yet the next fire. They keep happening.

The Park fire that happened in Chico, California, near my home, 400,000 acres. It blew from that area east of Chico all the way up to basically right near Lassen Volcanic National Park. We can't get used to these six-digit numbers for fires. The amount of resources it takes, the amount of firefighters, and the amount of people who put themselves in a dangerous way to do this is unnecessary.

Let's defeat these environmental lawsuits. Let's defeat these naysayers because this makes sense here. This doesn't. We keep losing this. We see the issue. Let's take southern California since that is the topic right now and for good reason. We have to manage these grasslands and these brushlands that are around. They are not forested per se. That is a little farther east of L.A. and those areas. It is the same thing. If this brush is managed, then they have a better chance, when the Santa Ana winds come up every year, of being able to control or stop the fire. It won't be perfect every time, but it gives them a fighting chance.

They had been doing it. For some reason this year they suspended that work. There were budget cuts. What are they spending the money on? That has been a hot topic of giving California money and yet it seems they are not helping themselves.

That is my home State, and I have been frustrated for a long time. They spend a lot of money on a lot of other things. They want more Federal money. They are still wasting money on the high-speed rail. They want to give more money to illegal immigration and benefits for that. The State is trying to set aside \$50 million to fight Trump. What is that all about?

They want to ask for money here and say we are putting conditions on them. They are not acting properly. They not acting in a way that is responsible when they should be focused on things that are keeping the public safe. The water supply that ran out in the area by the Pacific Palisades didn't need to run out. Maybe they should upgrade their fire hydrant systems with larger lines that can hold more water at a time, but they are not doing that.

The lake that was nearby was empty for almost a full year. When we see the work that needs to be done not getting done, what is everyone supposed to do? What are the other 49 States supposed to say? Oh, keep doing what they are doing; we will give them money. All the complaining around here is about conditions.

When you don't do that, this is what you get. We have seen it in vivid colors and coverage here. Thankfully, the wind had subsided somewhat in southern California. They are getting their water around it somewhat, but the



wind can come back. Who knows what it will hit next.

When we talk about what we need to do in the Fix Our Forests Act, we need to pass this legislation. I can't believe the arguments on that side of the aisle against it. It doesn't make any sense because we need to manage these lands.

The Federal Government is in charge through the Forest Service of 193 million acres. Their ambitious goal is to treat 2 million per year. That is 1 percent per year. If we do the math, that takes 100 years to get over all that. Although this is the city situation, it doesn't look that much different when I was in my home district next to a town named Canyon Dam which had that same orange glow 5 minutes before the town of Canyon Dam disappeared. There is no reason for this.

The Fix Our Forests Act would be a very important step in managing forests in a way that is successful. In only 2 days, President Trump has been leading the charge on the executive orders. He is not playing around with the climate change game. He is not playing all that. Instead, he wants to move toward water supply for California, move toward forest management. We will be working with him on that more. He gets it.

This is him in Paradise, California, saying: Why aren't they managing these lands? Governor Newsom stands there empty-handed 6 years later after that fire with empty promises and with very little land having been managed the way it should.

□ 1745

I am really glad we have President Trump, who understands this and is going to do everything he can to help. We will help supply him the legislation, such as the Fix Our Forests Act with the things it does.

Particularly, it expands the clearance zone for hazardous trees around power lines, a bill I have been carrying personally as one of the fires in my district, known as the Carr fire, was caused by that, as were two others, the power lines and things.

It directs the Forest Service to expand the use of livestock grazing. There is a concept. We know it works, and it works all through the West. They try to shut that down and say you don't get the permit for that, that it might affect the species. It actually has been found to help species when the cattle keep the noxious weeds and such down.

They have made it more and more difficult to keep those grazing permits and grazing abilities there, including a very heinous one going on in a northern California park right now where they are kicking the growers and the cattle people off the land after many years.

We are also talking about looking at having a Western headquarters for the Forest Service instead of in Washington, D.C. They need to be based where the forests mostly are, where the

problem usually is. The idea is to migrate the Department of the Interior, the Department of Agriculture, USDA. Why don't we put them where the issue is, especially the Forest Service? That is an idea that is in this bill, as well.

It will take advantage of local expertise, people who actually know and live with the conditions. They know the wind patterns and what things look like, instead of a fire team maybe coming from somewhere else and maybe not making the right call on how they should treat the area.

The Fix Our Forests Act is a giant step in the right direction. I support it wholeheartedly and ask my colleagues to jump in on it to have it be a bipartisan effort. There is nothing wrong with this bill. Let's do it.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I will quickly touch on it, as well. I anticipate there will be some clear bipartisan support on this. If we are looking at it through a lens of common sense, we should get an abundance of it.

I reflect back to Monday when President Trump, during his inaugural address, said we will be the party of common sense. It is something that I want to sincerely communicate as I wrap up here.

There are a lot of games that get played in Washington. There are a minority and a majority and a lot of back and forth that goes on. I have experienced both. I have experienced it all, from the White House switching, the Senate switching back and forth, and the House going back and forth.

There are a lot of games. There are a lot of times that the majority will put in a bill that has some poison pills in it for the minority, and it becomes an entire messaging bill, a party-line exercise.

I was subject to it for my first term. Not every bill from the majority was like that. I joined on, in a very bipartisan way, sometimes not even from the majority of my side.

You have to look at the policy. I have seen a sincere effort from us not to go down the poison pill route, just to get them to say they are going to vote against it and then we go out there in the public world and use it for campaign purposes.

This Fix Our Forests Act is such a sincere, commonsense approach from Chairman WESTERMAN, who is a forester by trade. He has delved into this issue. He knows more about it than virtually anybody here in Congress. He can dive in and talk about how we can protect, preserve, and enhance our forest health, while also protecting our communities, by putting the type of forest breaks in there, controlled burns, things like that that have proven to be very successful.

My State goes through this all the time. We have seen devastation happen, and we have learned from it. That is all we are asking to do in this moment, is to take a look.

Honestly, I hope it ends up being a net positive. With all the destruction

and the sadness that has gone on and the devastation in California right now, I hope it has captured the attention in all 50 of our States to recognize there are better ways to do this and that it is not a partisan exercise.

That is what we are trying to accomplish this week with Chairman WESTERMAN's Fix Our Forests Act, a commonsense bill that works to prevent destructive wildfires, improve emergency response by providing new tools and advanced technology, and cut burdensome regulations and hinder active forest management.

I have served under Chairman WESTERMAN on the Natural Resources Committee. He leads with a really sensible approach to solving problems. It is something we absolutely need more of back here.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues tonight for being here to help share the message of what we are trying to accomplish this week.

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

#### CELEBRATING ACHIEVEMENTS IN TEXAS' SIXTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ELLZEY) for 30 minutes.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ELLZEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of this Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. ELLZEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a deep sense of pride and gratitude for the people of this great Nation and the incredible achievements of my constituents in the Sixth Congressional District of Texas.

Our country is rich with individuals who embody the values of service, dedication, and unity. Today, I have the honor of celebrating some of those remarkable people.

The United States is home to the most generous people on Earth. We are home to the most productive people on the planet who worship freely and then volunteer their remaining time to help others in need.

Our Nation is a beacon of compassion and hope for the rest of the world. We are blessed with heroes who save lives daily, not only our police officers and firefighters but also our teachers, medical professionals, construction workers, and so many others.

Acts of heroism happen in our country every day by folks who want to see others succeed, our country grow, and our communities thrive.

These quiet acts of courage and service often go unnoticed, but they are the

foundation of what makes us who we are. They are what make our Nation strong, resilient, and caring.

Though the media may have you believe otherwise, Washington, D.C., is not an exception to this commonality in our country. Here, too, acts of courage and patriotism happen every day. These remarkable people span across political lines, demonstrating that bipartisanship is not only alive but thriving.

I am fortunate to work alongside dedicated public servants on both sides of the aisle, all united by a shared goal of improving the lives of the citizens we represent and advancing the well-being of our great Nation.

Growing up, you never know how things are going to impact you and how some act of courage, big or small, will shake you. This speech that I give every once in a while is a direct result of such an act.

When I was a kid growing up in Perryton, in the Texas Panhandle, 7 miles from the Oklahoma border, that other country, on Sunday, we would all go to church. Without fail, our pastor would start off every Sunday service with what he called joys and concerns. During this, he would highlight some of the remarkable things that members of the church are doing and some of their accomplishments. He would also take this time to bring up the prayer requests that members of our congregation needed.

Since I have been in Congress, I have given my own version of joys and concerns. Looking back now, I am sure he never knew that, because of his simple choice to recognize people in our congregation, I would bring that tradition to the Halls of the Nation's Capitol.

I want to begin my joys by congratulating some outstanding individuals for their achievements.

Mollie McCalister of the Cherokee County Sheriff's Office received the Hero Award for her lifesaving efforts as a 911 operator. Her quick thinking and composure in a high-pressure situation allowed her to gather critical information and guide emergency responders effectively, ultimately saving a woman's life.

I recognize Julio Ambris of Midlothian High School for his heroic, lifesaving CPR actions. Julio demonstrated remarkable courage and presence of mind, applying his training to save a life during a critical emergency.

I recognize Officer Clint Valley—who I know very well since my daughter goes to this school—of Midlothian Heritage High School for performing lifesaving measures on a choking victim. Officer Valley's swift response and professionalism averted a tragedy and highlighted the value of quick action and outstanding training.

I recognize Captains Jared Ussery and Lance Wilkinson and Firefighters Jorge Guerrero and Justin Slovak of Red Oak Fire-Rescue for their Unit Citation and Medal of Valor awards dur-

ing the Smokehouse Creek wildfire, not in our district. Their heroic actions under extreme conditions protected lives and property, showcasing their dedication and bravery.

I recognize Lindsey Batchelor, principal of Neches High School, and Cory Hines, the superintendent of Neches ISD, for achieving National Blue Ribbon School status for Neches High School. Their leadership and dedication to fostering an exceptional learning environment have elevated the district to national recognition.

I recognize Anely Sandoval and Emiliano Tavera of Jacksonville High School for their service project of repainting iconic tomato statues in Jacksonville. Their initiative and hard work have preserved a beloved community symbol and inspired civil pride.

I recognize Officer Donald Nguyen, Officer Jennifer Thurman, and Officer Bourget for receiving Mothers Against Drunk Driving awards for their dedication to keeping our roads safe. Their efforts have made a measurable impact in reducing impaired driving and protecting lives.

I recognize Nikki Chaffin for exceptional work as a recipient of the Heroes for Children award. Nikki's dedication to supporting students and teachers in Elkhart ISD has enriched the community and fostered a nurturing educational environment.

I recognize Vicki and Stephen Braly for their 100 years of service through Bralys ACE Hardware in Palestine. Their family business is a cornerstone of the community, providing essential services and a legacy of excellence.

I recognize Robbie Griffin and Cason's Flowers for 100 years of dedicated service in Corsicana. Their longstanding commitment to quality and community engagement has made them a cherished institution.

I recognize Suzanne King and the Alvarado Lions Club for their 85 years of service to the community. Their efforts in addressing local needs and empowering residents exemplify the spirit of service.

I recognize Steve Black of Fairfield High School for his induction into the Agricultural Teachers Association of Texas 2024 Hall of Fame. Steve's passion for agricultural education has inspired countless students and shaped the future of Texas agriculture.

I recognize Battalion Chief Gary Myers and Scott Smith on their retirements from Waxahachie Fire-Rescue and Midlothian Fire Department, respectively, after decades of service to those communities. Their leadership and dedication have left an enduring impact on their departments and communities with years of lifesaving.

I recognize Tommie Eberhart of the Ellis County Sheriff's Office and Morris Steward of the Navarro County Sheriff's Office for their retirements after long and impactful law enforcement careers. Their unwavering commitment to public safety has made their communities safer and stronger.

I recognize Jennifer Johnson and her organization, Brave Like Ellie, for their incredible work supporting families battling pediatric cancer. Jennifer's compassion and dedication provide hope and support during life's most challenging moments.

I recognize Flo Torres of Mansfield ISD for her leadership in the Toys for Tots campaign, recognized as Region 5 Campaign of the Year. Her efforts have brought joy and relief to countless children and families during the holiday season.

I recognize James Smith and David Albright for their contributions to mentorship through the Mentors Care program. Their guidance and encouragement have transformed lives and opened doors to brighter futures.

I recognize Dr. Darrell Brown, superintendent of Hillsboro ISD, and Patrick Harvell, principal of Hillsboro Junior High School, for their leadership in earning Hillsboro Junior High School recognition as a 2024 National Blue Ribbon School. Their vision and commitment to academic excellence have created opportunities for students to thrive.

Richard Clark, a Vietnam veteran—I welcome him home—celebrates his 85th birthday this January. His service and sacrifice have exemplified the courage and honor of our veterans.

Ray Knowles, a Navy veteran of Korea and Vietnam, turns 91 this month. His legacy of service continues to inspire those around him.

James Purdy, a Vietnam Air Force veteran, is marking his 82nd birthday this January. His contributions to our Nation's defense will never be forgotten.

John Murphy, an Air Force veteran of Vietnam and the Cold War, is celebrating his 85th birthday this month. His dedication to our country is a testament to his enduring spirit and love of country.

Jerry Davis, an Air Force Vietnam veteran, turns 86 years old this month. His service and resilience continue to inspire.

Joe Waller, an Army veteran of the Cold War, celebrates his 95th birthday this month. Happy birthday to Joe. His remarkable life of service reminds us of the strength and commitment of our veterans.

I also wish to congratulate the following students on their academy nominations for the class of 2029. It is extremely important to me. This is a job that I don't ask anybody's permission. We get to select the best and brightest our Nation and communities have to offer. As a graduate of the Naval Academy, this is a role I take very, very seriously. Merit is what counts.

□ 1800

Nominated to the United States Naval Academy are:

Paul Geary of Bishop Dunne High School;

Tristan Russell of Mansfield Legacy High School;

Maximus Stalker of Abbott High School;

Sebastian Parker-Villegas of Mansfield High School; and

Bradford Webster of Randolph-Macon Academy of Ennis.

Nominated to the Air Force Academy are:

Tanner Connel of Fort Worth Christian School;

Cooper Davis of Midlothian Heritage High School;

Isaac Freeman of Midlothian Heritage High School;

Kaitlyn Maxson of Mansfield Lake Ridge High School;

Nathan Sisson of Acellus Academy of Jacksonville; and

Elijah Thayer of Maypearl High School.

Nominated to the United States Military Academy at West Point are:

Ryder Havard of Arlington Martin High School;

Madelyn Hickey of Burleson Centennial High School;

Noah Sparks of Alvarado High School; and

Dylan Sturgell of Ennis High School. Go Navy, beat Army.

I have the hardest working staff on the Hill, and over the last several years they have been instrumental in helping me represent the Sixth Congressional District of Texas. Today, many of my staff reached new milestones in their professional careers, and I want to share it with all the folks back home.

Madison Newsom of Mansfield has been promoted to director of operations.

Grace Dunlap has been promoted to general counsel.

Owen Dankworth has been promoted to legislative director.

Don Barber has been promoted to executive director of the For Country Caucus.

While this is both sad and exciting for me, Georgette, she goes by George, Mbengue will be leaving this office this fall and will attend law school at the University of Maryland, Baltimore. I congratulate George. She has done a wonderful job for us. We will miss her, but we will see her again.

As every Member knows, this job is impossible without great staff. So I sincerely thank them for all of the work and dedication they have shown me, our district, and this country.

Just like back in church in Perryton, after the joys would come concerns, and there was never a shortage because, as we all know, as He says in Matthew 18:20: "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, I am there among them."

So I would like to ask all those in this Chamber and who watch this online to keep these and all Americans in your prayers:

Amy from Arlington is asking for strength and healing as her father undergoes treatment for cancer.

David from Mansfield is filled with hope as his wife recovers from a recent surgery. May her journey to wellness continue smoothly.

Jessica from Corsicana requests comfort and resilience for her son, who faces a challenging road to recovery after an accident.

Robert from Waxahachie seeks peace and patience as his mother bravely battles Alzheimer's disease.

Emily from Red Oak asks for encouragement and support for her daughter, who is navigating significant mental health challenges.

Michael from Midlothian remains hopeful as his newborn son fights for strength in the NICU.

Lisa from Hillsboro is thankful for every step forward as her husband recovers from a heart attack. May his progress continue steadily.

John from Alvarado hopes for healing and guidance for his sister, recently diagnosed with a chronic illness.

Sophia from Palestine prays for her family as they grieve the loss of a cherished loved one, seeking comfort and unity during this difficult time.

Andrew from Grandview asks for successful outcomes and a smooth recovery as his brother prepares for a critical surgery.

I would also like to take a moment to honor Bobby Eugene Osborne, whose obituary reminds us of his contributions and the legacy he leaves behind.

Bobby Eugene Osborne passed away peacefully at his home surrounded by close friends, whom he called family, on the evening of Friday, November 15, 2024, in Waxahachie, Texas.

Bob was born on February 25, 1924, in Elmo, Texas, to Michie and Bessie Mae Osborne. The family moved to Dallas and later to Waco in 1934 where his father took a job building the VA hospital. Bobby attended Waco High School until being drafted shortly after his birthday in 1943. He joined the war effort before completing his senior year. He proudly chose the Navy, taking the oath of office on March 12, 1943.

Bob served his country aboard the USS *Chester*, CA-27, a heavy cruiser of the Fifth Battle Cruiser Division, as a hot shell man for one of the 5-inch guns. He fought in the battles of Tarawa, Saipan, and Iwo Jima, among others. Bob spent a total of 28 months in active sea duty. After the war, Bob signed on for extra duty to sail the USS *Chester* from California to her reserve position in Philadelphia, navigating the Panama Canal in the process.

Three months after returning home from the military, Bob gave Ida Loudale Vinson a ride on his motorcycle outside of a local bowling alley. He was a man of my own heart. The two were married a few months later on December 20, 1947. They shared 62 years of marriage before Dale's passing in 2009. Their beautiful union created two magnificent children: David Lance Osborne and Darlene Dale Osborne.

He had a long career with Otis Elevator working as a mechanic in Waco, San Antonio, and Lubbock before retiring in 1983. While in San Antonio, he helped build the Hemisphere Tower

where he was the main elevator mechanic. He lived in Alaska for a couple of years where he worked on the pipeline. He and Dale moved to Waxahachie in 1984 where he opened Bob's Machine Shop & Welding.

Bob had no shortage of adventures in his 100 years of life. He pulled his travel trailer across the frozen highways of Alaska in temperatures of negative 78 degrees. He raced and did acrobatic tricks on his motorcycle in his younger days, drove dirt bikes in the mountains of Colorado, and continued to ride up through his late nineties. He even served as a search and rescue diver in waters around San Antonio.

As adventurous a spirit as he may have been, he was a loyal and genuine man. That was evidenced through his 62-year marriage with Dale and his commitment to his shipmates through USS *Chester* reunions. Mr. Speaker, you could always find him at local cafes or biker hangouts around town where everyone knew his name.

Bob was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Lou Dale; son, Lance; daughter, Darlene; brothers, Bill, Don, and Tex; and sisters, Betty Sue and Rose.

He is survived by his partner in crime and loyal friend, Dan Cepak; granddaughter and caregiver, Jenny Fuller; and faithful friends, Jason Roy and Chase Colwell. He is survived also by his grandson, Kelly Schubach; great-granddaughter, Amanda Schubach; great-grandsons, Cody Schubach and Corey Schubach, all of San Antonio; and his two great-great-grandsons, Finn Schubach and Nick Schubach.

He is also survived by many, too numerous to list, close friends and family.

May Bobby's memory be a blessing.

I would also like to extend our prayers and support to the families impacted by the devastating fires in California. These fires have upended lives, destroyed homes, and tested the resilience of countless communities.

Let us lift up those who are mourning, those who are rebuilding, and the brave first responders working tirelessly to protect lives and property. May they find strength, comfort, and hope in the face of adversity.

Lastly, with great sadness, I want to take a minute to honor the life of Patty Jung Williams. Patty was a remarkable woman not just for her many accomplishments but for the heart and soul she put into everything she did. From running a successful business to giving back to her community, Patty's hard work and kindness made a real difference to those back home and those in this Chamber.

As we pray for Congressman ROGER WILLIAMS her husband; their children, Jaclyn and Sabrina; and the whole family, I ask the good Lord to wrap them in His loving arms and give them peace in this difficult time. Patty's legacy of love, faith, and service will live on in all of us.

Each of these individuals and organizations exemplifies the best of our

community, service, leadership, and dedication. Their achievements are milestones that deserve to be celebrated.

As I bring this to a close, I would like for us to remember that our country's greatness lies in the strength of its people. Together, through unity, perseverance, and faith, we can continue to overcome challenges and build a brighter future.

As we embark on a new Congress and new Presidency, may we all strive to honor and support one another in the spirit of community, service, and unity that our Founders fought so hard to preserve. May we remember to keep our faith in God and our hope in man. It is going to come out okay.

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

## PUBLICATION OF COMMITTEE RULES

### RULES OF THE COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES FOR THE 119TH CONGRESS

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES,  
Washington, DC, January 22, 2025.

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to clause 2(a)(2) of House rule XI, the Committee on Armed Services adopted its rules for the 119th Congress on January 15, 2025, and I submit them now for publication in the Congressional Record.

Sincerely,

MIKE ROGERS,  
Chairman.

#### RULE 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

(a) The Rules of the House of Representatives are the rules of the Committee on Armed Services (hereinafter referred to in these rules as the "Committee") and its subcommittees so far as applicable.

(b) Pursuant to clause 2(a)(2) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee's rules shall be publicly available in electronic form and published in the Congressional Record not later than 60 days after the chair of the committee is elected in each odd-numbered year.

#### RULE 2. FULL COMMITTEE MEETING DATE

(a) The Committee shall meet every Wednesday at 10:00 a.m., when the House of Representatives is in session, and at such other times as may be fixed by the Chair of the Committee (hereinafter referred to as the "Chair"), or by written request of members of the Committee pursuant to clause 2(c) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

(b) A Wednesday meeting of the Committee may be dispensed with by the Chair, but such action may be reversed by a written request of a majority of the members of the Committee.

#### RULE 3. SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING DATES

Each subcommittee is authorized to meet, hold hearings, receive evidence, and report to the Committee on all matters referred to it. Insofar as possible, meetings of the Committee and its subcommittees shall not conflict. A subcommittee Chair shall set meeting dates after consultation with the Chair, other subcommittee chairs, and the ranking minority member of the subcommittee with a view toward avoiding, whenever possible, simultaneous scheduling of Committee and subcommittee meetings or hearings.

#### RULE 4. JURISDICTION AND MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEE AND SUBCOMMITTEES

##### (a) Jurisdiction

(1) The Committee retains jurisdiction of all subjects listed in clause 1(c) and clause 3(b) of rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives and retains exclusive jurisdiction for: defense policy generally, ongoing military operations, the organization and reform of the Department of Defense and the Department of Energy, counter-drug programs, humanitarian assistance activities of the Department of Defense, acquisition and industrial base policy, technology transfer and export controls, joint interoperability, detainee affairs and policy, and force protection policy. While subcommittees are provided jurisdictional responsibilities in subparagraph (a)(2) and are required to conduct oversight in their respective jurisdictions, pursuant to clause 2(b)(2) of rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee retains the right to exercise oversight and legislative jurisdiction over all subjects within its purview under rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

(2) The Committee shall be organized to consist of seven standing subcommittees with the following jurisdictions:

Subcommittee on Tactical Air and Land Forces: Army programs and accounts related to aircraft, ground equipment, missiles, ammunition, and other procurement; Marine Corps programs and accounts related to ground and amphibious equipment, fighter aircraft, helicopters, air-launched weapons, and ammunition; Air Force programs and accounts related to fighter, training, reconnaissance and surveillance, and electronic warfare aircraft, helicopters, air-launched weapons, ground equipment, and ammunition; Navy programs and accounts related to fighter, training, and electronic warfare aircraft, helicopters, and air-launched weapons; tactical air and missile defense programs and accounts; chemical agent and munition destruction programs and accounts; and National Guard and Reserve equipment programs and accounts.

Subcommittee on Military Personnel: Department of Defense policy and programs and accounts related to military personnel and their families, Reserve Component integration and employment, military health care, military education, dependent schools, POW/MIA issues, Morale, Welfare and Recreation, commissaries, cemeteries under the jurisdiction of the Department of Defense, the Uniform Code of Military Justice, military retirement issues, and the and the policies, hiring, and management authorities of the civilian and contract workforce of the Department of Defense.

Subcommittee on Readiness: Department of Defense policy and programs and accounts related to military readiness, training, logistics and maintenance, military construction, organic industrial base, environment, military installations and real property management, family housing, base realignments and closures, and energy.

Subcommittee on Seapower and Projection Forces: Navy and Marine Corps acquisition programs and accounts related to shipbuilding and conversion, reconnaissance and surveillance, tanker, and airlift aircraft, ship and submarine-launched weapons, ammunition, and other procurements; Air Force programs and accounts related to bomber, tanker, and airlift aircraft; Army programs and accounts related to waterborne vessels; and Maritime policy and programs and accounts under the jurisdiction of the Committee as delineated in paragraphs 5 and 9 of clause 1(c) of rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

Subcommittee on Strategic Forces: Department of Defense and Department of En-

ergy policy related to strategic deterrence, strategic stability, nuclear weapons, strategic and nuclear arms control, non-proliferation, nuclear safety, missile defense, and space; Department of Defense programs and accounts related to nuclear weapons, strategic missiles, nuclear command and control systems, Department of Defense intelligence space, space systems and services of the military departments, and intermediate and long-range missile defense systems; and Department of Energy national security programs and accounts.

Subcommittee on Intelligence and Special Operations: Department of Defense policy and programs and accounts related to military intelligence, national intelligence, countering weapons of mass destruction, counter-proliferation, counter-terrorism, other sensitive military operations, special operations forces, information operations policy and military information support operations, and security cooperation.

Subcommittee on Cyber, Information Technologies, and Innovation: Department of Defense policy related to the acquisition of computer software, the electromagnetic spectrum, and electromagnetic warfare; and Department of Defense policy and programs and accounts related to artificial intelligence, cyber security, cyber operations, cyber forces, information technology, and science and technology (including defense-wide programs and accounts related to research, development, testing, and evaluation, except for those defense-wide programs and accounts related to research, development, testing, and evaluation of missile defense systems).

(3) Definitions—For the purposes of subparagraph (a)(2):

(A) The phrase "programs and accounts" means acquisition and modernization programs, sustainment planning during program development, and related funding lines for procurement, advanced development, advanced component development and prototypes, systems development, sustainment planning, and demonstration.

(B) The term "policy" means statutes, regulations, directives, and other institutional guidance.

(C) The phrase "science and technology" means science and technology programs and related funding lines for basic research, applied research, and non-acquisition program advanced development.

##### (b) Membership of the Subcommittees

(1) Subcommittee memberships shall be filled in accordance with the rules of the majority party's conference and the minority party's caucus, respectively.

(2) The Chair of the Committee and the Ranking Minority Member thereof (hereinafter referred to as the "Ranking Minority Member") may sit as ex officio members of all subcommittees. Ex officio members shall not vote in subcommittee hearings or meetings or be taken into consideration for the purpose of determining the ratio of the subcommittees or establishing a quorum at subcommittee hearings or meetings.

(3) A member of the Committee who is not a member of a particular subcommittee may sit with the subcommittee and participate during any of its hearings but shall not have authority to vote, cannot be counted for the purpose of achieving a quorum, and cannot raise a point of order at the hearing.

#### RULE 5. COMMITTEE PANELS AND TASK FORCES

##### (a) Committee Panels

(1) The Chair may designate a panel of the Committee consisting of members of the Committee to inquire into and take testimony on a matter or matters that fall within the jurisdiction of more than one subcommittee and to report to the Committee.

(2) No panel appointed by the Chair shall continue in existence for more than six months after the appointment. A panel so appointed may, upon the expiration of six months, be reappointed by the Chair for a period of time which is not to exceed six months.

(3) Consistent with the party ratios established by the majority party, all majority members of the panels shall be appointed by the Chair, and all minority members shall be appointed by the Ranking Minority Member. The Chair shall choose one of the majority members so appointed who does not currently chair another subcommittee of the Committee to serve as Chair of the panel. The Ranking Minority Member shall similarly choose the ranking minority member of the panel.

(4) No panel shall have legislative jurisdiction.

(b) Committee and Subcommittee Task Forces

(1) The Chair may designate a task force to inquire into and take testimony on a matter that falls within the jurisdiction of the Committee or subcommittee, respectively. The Chair and the Ranking Minority Member shall each appoint an equal number of members to the task force. The Chair shall choose one of the members so appointed, who does not currently chair another subcommittee of the Committee, to serve as Chair of the task force. The Ranking Minority Member shall similarly appoint the ranking minority member of the task force.

(2) No task force appointed by the Chair shall continue in existence for more than three months. A task force may only be reappointed for an additional three months with the written concurrence of the Chair and the Ranking Minority Member.

(3) No task force shall have legislative jurisdiction.

#### RULE 6. REFERENCE AND CONSIDERATION OF LEGISLATION

(a) The Chair shall refer legislation and other matters to the appropriate subcommittee or to the full Committee.

(b) Legislation shall be taken up for a hearing or markup only when called by the Chair or the Chair of a subcommittee, as appropriate, or by a majority of the Committee or subcommittee, as appropriate.

(c) The Chair, with approval of a majority vote of a quorum of the Committee, shall have authority to discharge a subcommittee from consideration of any measure or matter referred thereto and have such measure or matter considered by the Committee.

(d) Reports and recommendations of a subcommittee may not be considered by the Committee until after the intervention of three calendar days from the time the report is approved by the subcommittee and available to the members of the Committee, except that this rule may be waived by a majority vote of a quorum of the Committee.

(e) The Chair, in consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, shall establish criteria for recommending legislation and other matters to be considered by the House of Representatives, pursuant to clause 1 of rule XV of the Rules of the House of Representatives. Such criteria shall not conflict with the Rules of the House of Representatives and other applicable rules.

#### RULE 7. PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF HEARINGS AND MEETINGS

(a) Pursuant to clause 2(g)(3) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Chair, or the Chair of any subcommittee, panel, or task force, shall make a public announcement of the date, place, and subject matter of any hearing or meeting for the transaction of business before that body at least one week before the commencement of

a hearing and at least three calendar days (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, or legal holidays except when the House is in session on such a day) before the commencement of a meeting. However, if the Chair, with the concurrence of the Ranking Minority Member, or the Chair of any subcommittee, panel, or task force, with the concurrence of the respective ranking minority member, determines that there is good cause to begin the hearing or meeting sooner, or if the Committee, subcommittee, panel, or task force so determines by majority vote, a quorum being present for the transaction of business, such Chair shall make the announcement at the earliest possible date. Any announcement made under this rule shall be promptly published in the Daily Digest, and promptly made publicly available in electronic form.

(b) At least 24 hours prior to the commencement of a meeting for the markup of legislation, or at the time of an announcement under paragraph (a) made within 24 hours before such meeting, the Chair, or the Chair of any subcommittee, panel, or task force shall cause the text of such measure or matter to be made publicly available in electronic form as provided in clause 2(g)(4) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

#### RULE 8. BROADCASTING OF COMMITTEE HEARINGS AND MEETINGS

(a) Pursuant to clause 2(e)(5) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee shall, to the maximum extent practicable, provide audio and video coverage of each hearing or meeting for the transaction of business in a manner that allows the public to easily listen to and view the proceedings. The Committee shall maintain the recordings of such coverage in a manner that is easily accessible to the public.

(b) Clause 4 of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives shall apply to the Committee.

#### RULE 9. MEETINGS AND HEARINGS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

(a) Each hearing and meeting for the transaction of business, including the markup of legislation, conducted by the Committee, or any subcommittee, panel, or task force, to the extent that the respective body is authorized to conduct markups, shall be open to the public except when the Committee, subcommittee, panel, or task force in open session and with a majority being present, determines by record vote that all or part of the remainder of that hearing or meeting on that day shall be in executive session because disclosure of testimony, evidence, or other matters to be considered would endanger the national security, would compromise sensitive law enforcement information, or would violate any law or rule of the House of Representatives. Notwithstanding the requirements of the preceding sentence, a majority of those present, there being in attendance no fewer than two members of the Committee, subcommittee, panel, or task force may vote to close a hearing or meeting for the sole purpose of discussing whether testimony or evidence to be received would endanger the national security, would compromise sensitive law enforcement information, or would violate any law or rule of the House of Representatives. If the decision is to proceed in executive session, the vote must be by record vote and in open session, a majority of the Committee, subcommittee, panel, or task force being present.

(b) Whenever it is asserted by a member of the Committee, subcommittee, panel, or task force that the evidence or testimony at a hearing may tend to defame, degrade, or incriminate any person, or it is asserted by a witness that the evidence or testimony

that the witness would give at a hearing may tend to defame, degrade, or incriminate the witness, notwithstanding the requirements of paragraph (a) and the provisions of clause 2(g)(2)(A) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives and in accordance with the provisions of clause 2(g)(2)(B) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, such evidence or testimony shall be presented in executive session, if by a majority vote of those present, there being in attendance no fewer than two members of the Committee, subcommittee, panel, or task force, the Committee, subcommittee, panel, or task force determines that such evidence may tend to defame, degrade, or incriminate any person. A majority of those present, there being in attendance no fewer than two members of the Committee, subcommittee, panel, or task force may also vote to close the hearing or meeting for the sole purpose of discussing whether evidence or testimony to be received would tend to defame, degrade, or incriminate any person. The Committee, subcommittee, panel, or task force shall proceed to receive such testimony in open session only if the Committee, subcommittee, panel, or task force, a majority being present, determines that such evidence or testimony will not tend to defame, degrade, or incriminate any person.

(c) Notwithstanding the foregoing, and with the approval of the Chair, each member of the Committee may designate by letter to the Chair, one member of that member's personal staff, and an alternate, which may include fellows, with Top Secret security clearance to attend hearings of the Committee, or that member's subcommittee(s), panel(s), or task force(s) (excluding briefings or meetings held under the provisions of committee rule 9(a)), which have been closed under the provisions of rule 9(a) above for national security purposes for the taking of testimony. The attendance of such a staff member or fellow at such hearings is subject to the approval of the Committee, subcommittee, panel, or task force as dictated by national security requirements at that time. The attainment of any required security clearances is the responsibility of individual members of the Committee.

(d) Pursuant to clause 2(g)(2) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, no Member, Delegate, or Resident Commissioner may be excluded from nonparticipatory attendance at any hearing of the Committee or a subcommittee, unless the House of Representatives shall by majority vote authorize the Committee or subcommittee, for purposes of a particular series of hearings on a particular article of legislation or on a particular subject of investigation, to close its hearings to Members, Delegates, and the Resident Commissioner by the same procedures designated in this rule for closing hearings to the public.

(e) The Committee or the subcommittee may vote, by the same procedure, to meet in executive session for up to five additional consecutive days of hearings.

#### RULE 10. QUORUM

(a) For purposes of taking testimony and receiving evidence, two members shall constitute a quorum.

(b) One-third of the members of the Committee or subcommittee shall constitute a quorum for taking any action, with the following exceptions, in which case a majority of the Committee or subcommittee shall constitute a quorum:

- (1) Reporting a measure or recommendation;
- (2) Closing Committee or subcommittee meetings and hearings to the public;
- (3) Authorizing the issuance of subpoenas;
- (4) Authorizing the use of executive session material; and

(5) Voting to proceed in open session after voting to close to discuss whether evidence or testimony to be received would tend to defame, degrade, or incriminate any person.

(c) No measure or recommendation shall be reported to the House of Representatives unless a majority of the Committee is actually present.

#### RULE 11. THE FIVE-MINUTE RULE

(a) Subject to rule 15, the time any one member may address the Committee, subcommittee, panel, or task force on any measure or matter under consideration shall not exceed five minutes and then only when the member has been recognized by the Chair or subcommittee Chair, as appropriate, except that this time limit may be exceeded by unanimous consent. Any member, upon request, shall be recognized for not more than five minutes to address the Committee or subcommittee on behalf of an amendment which the member has offered to any pending bill or resolution. The five-minute limitation shall not apply to the Chair and the Ranking Minority Member or the Chair and the ranking minority member of a subcommittee, panel, or task force.

(b)(1) Members who are present at a hearing of the Committee, subcommittee, panel, or task force when a hearing is originally convened shall be recognized by the Chair or subcommittee, panel, or task force Chair, as appropriate, in order of seniority. Those members arriving subsequently shall be recognized in order of their arrival. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Chair and the Ranking Minority Member or the Chair and the ranking minority member of a subcommittee, panel, or task force, as appropriate, will take precedence upon their arrival. In recognizing members to question witnesses in this fashion, the Chair shall take into consideration the ratio of the majority to minority members present and shall establish the order of recognition for questioning in such a manner as not to disadvantage the members of either party.

(2) Pursuant to rule 4 and subject to rule 15, a member of the Committee who is not a member of a subcommittee, panel, or task force may be recognized by a subcommittee, panel, or task force Chair in order of their arrival and after all present subcommittee, panel, or task force members have been recognized.

(3) The Chair of the Committee or the Chair of a subcommittee, panel, or task force, with the concurrence of the respective ranking minority member, may depart with the regular order for questioning which is specified in paragraphs (a) and (b) of this rule provided that such a decision is announced prior to the hearing or prior to the opening statements of the witnesses and that any such departure applies equally to the majority and the minority.

(c) No person other than a Member, Delegate, or Resident Commissioner of Congress and committee staff may be seated in or behind the dais area during Committee, subcommittee, panel, or task force hearings and meetings.

#### RULE 12. POWER TO SIT AND ACT; SUBPOENA POWER

(a) For the purpose of carrying out any of its functions and duties under rules X and XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee and any subcommittee is authorized (subject to subparagraph (b)(1) of this paragraph):

(1) to sit and act at such times and places within the United States, whether the House is in session, has recessed, or has adjourned, and to hold hearings, and

(2) to require by subpoena, or otherwise, the attendance and testimony of such witnesses, including by deposition, and the pro-

duction of such books, records, correspondence, memorandums, papers and documents, including, but not limited to, those in electronic form, as it considers necessary.

(b)(1) A subpoena may be authorized and issued by the Committee, or any subcommittee with the concurrence of the Chair and after consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, under subparagraph (a)(2) in the conduct of any investigation, or series of investigations or activities, only when authorized by a majority of the members voting, a majority of the Committee or subcommittee being present. Authorized subpoenas shall be signed only by the Chair, or by any member designated by the Committee.

(2) Pursuant to clause 2(m) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, compliance with any subpoena issued by the Committee or any subcommittee under subparagraph (a)(2) may be enforced only as authorized or directed by the House of Representatives.

(c) For depositions ordered pursuant to subparagraph (a)(2), such depositions shall be conducted in a manner consistent with House Rules and regulations.

#### RULE 13. WITNESS STATEMENTS

(a) Any prepared statement to be presented by a witness to the Committee or a subcommittee, panel, or task force shall be submitted to the Committee, subcommittee, panel, or task force at least 48 hours in advance of presentation and shall be distributed to all members of the Committee, subcommittee, panel, or task force as soon as practicable but not less than 24 hours in advance of presentation. A copy of any such prepared statement shall also be submitted to the Committee in electronic form. If a prepared statement contains national security information bearing a classification of Confidential or higher, the statement shall be made available in the Committee rooms to all members of the Committee, subcommittee, panel, or task force as soon as practicable but not less than 24 hours in advance of presentation; however, no such statement shall be removed from the Committee offices. The requirement of this rule may be waived by a majority vote of the Committee, subcommittee, panel, or task force, a quorum being present. In cases where a witness does not submit a statement by the time required under this rule, the Chair, with the concurrence of the Ranking Minority Member, or the Chair of a subcommittee, panel, or task force, as appropriate, with the concurrence of the respective ranking minority member, may elect to exclude the witness from the hearing.

(b) The Committee and each subcommittee, panel, or task force shall require each witness who is to appear before it to file with the Committee in advance of his or her appearance a written statement of the proposed testimony and to limit the oral presentation at such appearance to a brief summary of the submitted written statement.

(c) Pursuant to clause 2(g)(5) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, written witness statements, with appropriate redactions to protect the privacy of the witness, shall be made publicly available in electronic form 24 hours before the witness appears to the extent practicable, but not later than one day after the witness appears.

#### RULE 14. ADMINISTERING OATHS TO WITNESSES

(a) The Chair, or any member designated by the Chair, may administer oaths to any witness.

(b) Witnesses, when sworn, shall subscribe to the following oath:

“Do you solemnly swear (or affirm) that the testimony you will give before this Com-

mittee (or subcommittee, panel, or task force) in the matters now under consideration will be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?”

#### RULE 15. QUESTIONING OF WITNESSES

(a) When a witness is before the Committee or a subcommittee, panel, or task force, members of the Committee, subcommittee, panel, or task force may put questions to the witness only when recognized by the Chair, subcommittee, panel, or task force Chair, as appropriate, for that purpose according to rule 11 of the Committee.

(b) Members of the Committee, subcommittee, panel, or task force who so desire shall have not more than five minutes to question each witness or panel of witnesses, the responses of the witness or witnesses being included in the five-minute period, until such time as each member has had an opportunity to question each witness or panel of witnesses. Thereafter, additional rounds for questioning witnesses by members are within the discretion of the Chair or the subcommittee, panel, or task force Chair, as appropriate.

(c) Questions put to witnesses before the Committee, subcommittee, panel, or task force shall be pertinent to the measure or matter that may be before the Committee, subcommittee, panel, or task force for consideration.

#### RULE 16. PUBLICATION OF COMMITTEE HEARINGS AND MARKUPS

The transcripts of those hearings conducted by the Committee, subcommittee, panel, or task force will be published officially in substantially verbatim form, with the material requested for the record inserted at that place requested, or at the end of the record, as appropriate. The transcripts of markups conducted by the Committee or any subcommittee may be published officially in verbatim form. Any requests to correct any errors, other than those in transcription, will be appended to the record, and the appropriate place where the change is requested will be footnoted. Any transcript published under this rule shall include the results of record votes conducted in the session covered by the transcript and shall also include materials that have been submitted for the record and are covered under rule 19. The handling and safekeeping of these materials shall fully satisfy the requirements of rule 20. No transcript of an executive session conducted under rule 9 shall be published under this rule.

#### RULE 17. VOTING AND ROLLCALLS

(a) Voting on a measure or matter may be by record vote (including a vote by electronic device under such regulations as the Chair may prescribe, in consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, and in accordance with applicable House Rules and regulations), division vote, voice vote, or unanimous consent.

(b) A record vote shall be ordered upon the request of one-fifth of those members present.

(c) No vote by any member of the Committee or a subcommittee with respect to any measure or matter shall be cast by proxy.

(d) In the event of a vote or votes, when a member is in attendance at any other committee, subcommittee, or conference committee meeting during that time, the necessary absence of that member shall be so noted in the record vote record, upon timely notification to the Chair by that member.

(e) The Chair, with the concurrence of the Ranking Minority Member, or the Chair of a subcommittee, as appropriate, with the concurrence of the respective ranking minority member or the most senior minority member



who is present at the time, may elect to postpone requested record votes until such time or point at a markup as is mutually decided. When proceedings resume on a postponed question, notwithstanding any intervening order for the previous question, the underlying proposition shall remain subject to further debate or amendment to the same extent as when the question was postponed.

#### RULE 18. COMMITTEE REPORTS

(a) If, at the time of approval of any measure or matter by the Committee, any member of the Committee gives timely notice of intention to file supplemental, minority, additional or dissenting views, all members shall be entitled to not less than two calendar days (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays except when the House is in session on such days) in which to file such written and signed views (including in electronic form) with the Staff Director of the Committee, or the Staff Director's designee. All such views so filed by one or more members of the Committee shall be included within, and shall be a part of, the report filed by the Committee with respect to that measure or matter.

(b) With respect to each record vote on a motion to report any measure or matter, and on any amendment offered to the measure or matter, the total number of votes cast for and against, the names of those voting for and against, and a brief description of the question, shall be included in the Committee report on the measure or matter.

(c) Not later than 24 hours after the adoption of any amendment or 48 hours after the disposition or withdrawal of any other amendment to a measure or matter considered by the Committee, the Chair shall cause the text of each such amendment to be made publicly available in electronic form as provided in clause 2(e)(6) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

#### RULE 19. PUBLIC INSPECTION OF COMMITTEE ROLLCALLS

The result of each record vote in any meeting of the Committee shall be made publicly available in electronic form within 48 hours of such record vote pursuant to clause 2(e)(1)(B)(i) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives. Information so available shall include a description of the amendment, motion, order, or other proposition and the name of each member voting for and each member voting against such amendment, motion, order, or proposition and the names of those members present but not voting.

#### RULE 20. PROTECTION OF NATIONAL SECURITY AND OTHER INFORMATION

(a) Except as provided in clause 2(g) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, all national security information bearing a classification of Confidential or higher which has been received by the Committee or a subcommittee shall be deemed to have been received in executive session and shall be given appropriate safekeeping.

(b) The Chair shall, with the approval of a majority of the Committee, establish such procedures as in his judgment may be necessary to prevent the unauthorized disclosure of any national security information that is received which is classified as Confidential or higher. Such procedures shall, however, ensure access to this information by any member of the Committee or any other Member, Delegate, or Resident Commissioner of the House of Representatives, staff of the Committee, or staff designated under rule 9(c) who have the appropriate security clearances and the need to know, who has requested the opportunity to review such material.

(c) The Chair shall, in consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, establish

such procedures as in his judgment may be necessary to prevent the unauthorized disclosure of any proprietary information that is received by the Committee, subcommittee, panel, or task force. Such procedures shall be consistent with the Rules of the House of Representatives and applicable law.

#### RULE 21. COMMITTEE STAFFING

The staffing of the Committee, the standing subcommittees, and any panel or task force designated by the Chair shall be subject to the Rules of the House of Representatives.

#### RULE 22. COMMITTEE RECORDS

The records of the Committee at the National Archives and Records Administration shall be made available for public use in accordance with rule VII of the Rules of the House of Representatives. The Chair shall notify the Ranking Minority Member of any decision, pursuant to clause 3(b)(3) or clause 4(b) of rule VII, to withhold a record otherwise available, and the matter shall be presented to the Committee for a determination on the written request of any member of the Committee.

#### RULE 23. HEARING PROCEDURES

Clause 2(k) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives shall apply to the Committee.

#### RULE 24. COMMITTEE ACTIVITY REPORTS

Not later than January 2nd of each odd-numbered year the Committee shall submit to the House a report on its activities, pursuant to clause 1(d) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

### ADJOURNMENT

Mr. ELLZEY. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 6 o'clock and 9 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, January 23, 2025, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

### EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

EC-70. A letter from the Senior Congressional Liaison, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, transmitting the Bureau's final rule — Defining Larger Participants of a Market for General-Use Digital Consumer Payment Applications [Docket No.: CFBP-2023-0053] (RIN: 3170-AB17) received January 8, 2025, 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-71. A letter from the General Counsel, Office of the General Counsel, Federal Housing Finance Agency, transmitting the Agency's Major final rule — Unsecured Credit Limits for Federal Home Loan Banks (RIN: 2590-AB41) received January 15, 2025, 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-72. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Administration's Report to Congress on Community Crisis Response Partnerships, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 290bb-37(d)(2); July 1, 1944, ch. 373, title V, Sec. 520F (as amended by Public Law 117-328, div. FF, title I, Sec. 1122(a)); (136 Stat. 5651); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-73. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; Washington; Olympic Region Clean Air Agency; Recreational Fires [EPA-R10-OAR-2024-0430, FRL-12243-02-R10] received January 8, 2025, 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-74. A letter from the Acting Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's Fourth Clean School Bus Program's Report to Congress for FY 2024, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 16091(b)(8); Public Law 109-58, Sec. 741(b)(8)(A) (as amended by Public Law 117-58, Sec. 71101); (135 Stat. 1324); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-75. A letter from the Acting Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's 2023 Update to the 7th Drinking Water Infrastructure Needs Survey and Assessment Lead Service Line Information: Addendum to the EPA's Report to Congress, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 300j-12; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-76. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Implementing Statutory Addition of Certain Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) to Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) Beginning with Reporting year 2025 [EPA-HQ-OPPT-2024-0044; FRL-9427-2.01-OCSP] (RIN: 2070-AL23) received January 8, 2025, 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-77. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Review of Final Rule Reclassification of Major Sources as Area Sources Under Section 112 of the Clean Air Act; Correction [EPA-HQ-OAR-2023-0330; FRL-4908.3-02-OAR] received January 8, 2025, 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-78. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — National Volatile Organic Compound Emission Standards for Aerosol Coatings Amendments [EPA-HQ-OAR-2006-0971; FRL-7966-03-OAR] (RIN: 2060-AU94) received January 8, 2025, 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-79. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants: National Perchloroethylene Air Emission Standards for Dry Cleaning Facilities Technology Review [EPA-HQ-OAR-2005-0155; FRL-8391-01-OAR] (RIN: 2060-AV44) received January 8, 2025, 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-80. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Fuels Regulatory Streamlining Amendments [EPA-HQ-OAR-2024-0143; FRL-8513-01-OAR] (RIN: 2060-AV26) received January 8, 2025, 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-81. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; Arizona; Maricopa County Air Quality Department



[EPA-R09-OAR-2022-0607; FRL-10024-03-R9] received January 8, 2025, 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-82. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Revisions; California; Feather River Air Quality Management District [EPA-R09-OAR-2023-0649; FRL-11647-02-R9] received January 8, 2025, 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-83. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — State Implementation Plan Submittal Deadlines and Implementation Requirements for Reclassified Nonattainment Areas Under the Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards [EPA-HQ-OAR-2024-0333; FRL-11817-02-OAR] (RIN: 2060-AW25) received January 8, 2025, 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-84. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's direct final rule — Excess Emissions During Periods of Startup, Shutdown, and Malfunction; Partial Withdrawals of Findings of Failure To Submit State Implementation Plan (SIP) [EPA-HQ-OAR-2021-0863; EPA-R03-OAR-2023-0179; FRL-12161-03-OAR] (RIN: 2060-AW38) received January 8, 2025, 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-85. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; Montana; Missoula, Montana, Air Rule Revisions [EPA-R08-OAR-2023-0472; FRL-12252-02-R8] received January 8, 2025, 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-86. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; Montana; Missoula, Montana Oxygenated Fuels Program Removal, Carbon Monoxide, Limited Maintenance Plan [EPA-R08-OAR-2023-0473; FRL-12257-02-R8] received January 8, 2025, 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-87. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Revisions; Arizona; Maricopa County Air Quality Department [EPA-R09-OAR-2024-0349; FRL-12130-02-R9] received January 8, 2025, 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-88. A letter from the Deputy Director of Congressional Affairs, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's interim final rule — Framework for Artificial Intelligence Diffusion [Docket No.: 250107-0007] (RIN: 0694-AJ90) received January 15, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-89. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Department Notification Number: DDTC-24-075; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-90. A letter from the Deputy General Counsel for Operations, Department of Hous-

ing and Urban Development, transmitting a notification of a vacancy, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-277, Sec. 151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

EC-91. A letter from the Legal Advisor, Office of the Intellectual Property Enforcement Coordinator, transmitting a notification of a vacancy, nomination, action on nomination, and change in previously submitted reported information, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-277, Sec. 151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

EC-92. A letter from the Acting Deputy Director, Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Papahānaumokuākea National Marine Sanctuary; Final Regulations [Docket No.: 240213-0047] (RIN: 0648-BL33) received January 15, 2025, 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-93. A letter from the Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting legislative proposals to improve prosecution of hate crimes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-94. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Civil Monetary Penalty Inflation Adjustment [FRL-5906-9-01-OECA] received January 8, 2025, 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-95. A letter from the Acting Director, Workforce Policy and Innovation, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Department's interim final rule — Appeal Procedures for Recoupment of Awards, Bonuses, or Relocation Expenses Awarded or Approved for all Employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs [Docket ID: OPM-2025-0003] (RIN: 3206-AO71) received January 15, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-96. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Elder Justice Coordinating Council 2020-2022 Report to Congress, pursuant to Title XX of the Social Security Act; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

EC-97. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting a report titled "The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' COVID-19 Public Health Emergency Response", pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 1320b-5(f); Public Law 107-188, Sec. 143(a); (116 Stat. 629); jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

EC-98. A letter from the Inspector General, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting a data snapshot titled "Total Medicare Part B Spending on Lab Tests Decreased in 2023, Driven in Part by Less Spending on COVID-19 Tests" (OEI-09-24-00350), pursuant to Public Law 113-93; jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

## PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey (for himself, Mrs. HARSHBARGER, Ms. FOXX, Mrs. HINSON, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr.

BALDERSON, Mr. BEAN of Florida, Mr. BERGMAN, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. BOST, Mr. BRECHEN, Mr. CARTER of Texas, Mr. CISCOMANI, Mr. CLOUD, Mr. CLYDE, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. ELLZEY, Mr. FALLON, Mr. FEENSTRA, Mr. FITZGERALD, Mr. FLOOD, Mr. FONG, Mr. FULCHER, Mr. GREEN of Tennessee, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. GUEST, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. HARIDOPOLIS, Mr. HARRIS of Maryland, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mr. HILL of Arkansas, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. JACKSON of Texas, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. LATTI, Ms. LEE of Florida, Mr. LOUDERMILK, Mr. MANN, Mr. MCCORMICK, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. MORAN, Mr. OGLES, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. SHREVE, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. STRONG, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Ms. VAN DUYN, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. WOMACK, Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida, Mr. GRIFFITH, Mr. TURNER of Ohio, Mr. FRY, Mr. EZELL, and Mr. TIMMONS):

H.R. 7. A bill to prohibit taxpayer funded abortions; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, and Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ADERHOLT (for himself, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. CLOUD, Mr. ELLZEY, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. STRONG, Mr. MOORE of West Virginia, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. MOORE of North Carolina, Mr. GREEN of Tennessee, and Mrs. HINSON):

H.R. 599. A bill to prohibit Federal funding of Planned Parenthood Federation of America; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. ARRINGTON (for himself, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. ESTES, and Mr. STEUBE):

H.R. 600. A bill to prohibit the use of funds to seek membership in the World Health Organization or to provide assessed or voluntary contributions to the World Health Organization; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. ARRINGTON (for himself and Mr. BISHOP):

H.R. 601. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reduce the rate of tax on estates, gifts, and generation-skipping transfers; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BURCHETT (for himself, Mr. KENNEDY of New York, Mrs. LUNA, Mr. MOSKOWITZ, Ms. MACE, and Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina):

H.R. 602. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to ensure that sexual assault nurse examiners are employed at certain Department of Veterans Affairs medical facilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. CASTEN:

H.R. 603. A bill to direct the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to improve interregional electricity transfer capability between immediately adjacent transmission planning regions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CASTEN:

H.R. 604. A bill to require Transmission Organizations to allow bids from aggregators of certain retail customers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. COSTA (for himself, Mr. VALADAO, Ms. PETERSEN, Ms. STANSBURY, and Ms. PEREZ):

H.R. 605. A bill to amend the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 to reauthorize and improve the Water Source Protection Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources, 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. CRANE:

H.R. 606. A bill to nullify Public Land Order No. 7923, withdrawing certain land in San Juan County, New Mexico, from mineral entry; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. CRENSHAW (for himself, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Ms. VAN DUYN, and Mr. VAN ORDEN):

H.R. 607. A bill to provide procedures for appealing certain Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives rulings or determinations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. DOGGETT (for himself, Mr. BISHOP, Mr. CASAR, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. CUELLAR, Ms. ESCOBAR, Mr. FIGURES, Mrs. FLETCHER, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Mrs. MCBATH, Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Ms. SEWELL, Mr. SOTO, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. TURNER of Texas, Mr. VEASEY, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. RASKIN):

H.R. 608. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to provide for a demonstration project under the Medicaid program for political subdivisions of States to provide medical assistance for the expansion population under such program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. DOGGETT (for himself, Ms. ADAMS, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. CARSON, Mr. CASAR, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Ms. CHU, Mr. COHEN, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. DEGETTE, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. DELUZIO, Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. ESCOBAR, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. FIELDS, Mr. FROST, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. HUFFMAN, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Mr. LEVIN, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. NORTON, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. POCAN, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Ms. SALINAS, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. TONKO, Mr. TURNER of Texas, Mr. VEASEY, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, and Ms. WILSON of Florida):

H.R. 609. A bill to amend the Social Security Act and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to include net investment income tax imposed in the Federal Hospital Insurance Trust Fund and to modify the net investment income tax; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. DOGGETT (for himself, Mr. BISHOP, Mr. CARSON, Mr. CASAR, Mr. CASTEN, Ms. CHU, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. COHEN, Ms. DELAURO, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mrs. FLETCHER, Mr. GARAMENDI, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Ms. NORTON, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. TONKO, Mr. VEASEY, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, and Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois):

H.R. 610. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for certain reforms with respect to medicare supplemental health insurance policies; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. EDWARDS:

H.R. 611. A bill to provide a civil remedy for individuals harmed by sanctuary jurisdiction policies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, and Financial 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. ESCOBAR (for herself, Ms. NORTON, Mr. BISHOP, Mr. CARSON, Mr. TONKO, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. CASTEN, Mrs. BEATTY, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. SHERRILL, Mr. SWALLOW, Ms. BROWN, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Mrs. SYKES, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mrs. TORRES of California, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. BYNUM, Mr. FROST, Mrs. FLETCHER, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mrs. HAYES, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. POCAN, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. BONAMICI, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Mr. COHEN, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. MCCLELLAN, Mr. MORELLE, Ms. BROWNLEY, Ms. STANSBURY, Mr. KEATING, Ms. ANSARI, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ, Mr. PANETTA, Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK, Mr. PETERS, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. LIEU, Mr. THANEDAR, Ms. ADAMS, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, and Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ):

H.R. 612. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize grants to health care providers to enhance the physical and cyber security of their facilities, personnel, and patients; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. FULCHER:

H.R. 613. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to require the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives to establish an administrative relief process for individuals whose applications for transfer and registration of a firearm were denied, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GOTTHEIMER:

H.R. 614. A bill to direct the Consumer Product Safety Commission to develop and

implement a public awareness campaign with respect to grill safety, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. GOTTHEIMER:

H.R. 615. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish a refundable tax credit for individuals for amounts paid for gas and electricity for primary residences; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GOTTHEIMER:

H.R. 616. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to double the dollar limitation for the energy efficient home improvement credit with respect to heat pumps, heat pump water heaters, biomass stoves, and boilers; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. HARSHBARGER (for herself and Ms. BARRAGÁN):

H.R. 617. A bill to amend the Visit America Act to promote music tourism, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. HORSFORD (for himself and Ms. LEE of Nevada):

H.R. 618. A bill to amend the Apex Project, Nevada Land Transfer and Authorization Act of 1989 to include the City of North Las Vegas and the Apex Industrial Park Owners Association, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. HUFFMAN:

H.R. 619. A bill to extend Federal recognition to the Nor Rel Muk Wintu Nation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. JACKSON of Texas (for himself, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas, Mr. MOYLAN, Mr. ZINKE, Mr. ESTES, Mr. FINSTAD, Mrs. HINSON, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. COSTA, Mr. FALLON, Mr. MESSMER, Mr. ROSE, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. NEWHOUSE, and Mr. CRAWFORD):

H.R. 620. A bill to amend the Defense Production Act of 1950 to prevent harm and disruption to the United States agriculture industry by protecting against foreign influence over agriculture production and supply chains, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services, 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 Mr. JOYCE of Ohio (for himself, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. SCHRIER, Ms. TENNEY, and Mr. NEGUSE):

H.R. 621. A bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to authorize the use of grant amounts for providing training and resources for first responders on the use of containment devices to prevent secondary exposure to fentanyl and other potentially lethal substances, and purchasing such containment devices for use by first responders; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. KELLY of Mississippi:

H.R. 622. A bill to amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to increase funding for the conservation stewardship program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. LAHOOD (for himself, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. HARDER of California, Mr. COSTA, Mr. BALDERSON, and Mr. CUELLAR):

H.R. 623. A bill to direct the Secretary of Transportation to modify certain regulations relating to the requirements for commercial driver's license testing and commercial learner's permit holders, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. MANN (for himself, Mr. CLYDE, Mr. FINSTAD, Mr. DOWNING, Mr. OGLES, Mr. FEENSTRA, Mr. TIFFANY, Mr. SCHMIDT, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. ESTES, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. ROSE, Mr. COLLINS, Mr. McDOWELL, Mrs. BIGGS of South Carolina, Mr. SELF, Mr. ELLZEY, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. BIGGS of Arizona, and Mr. JACKSON of Texas):

H.R. 624. A bill to reform the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. McCAUL (for himself and Mr. RUIZ):

H.R. 625. A bill to clarify where court may be held for certain district courts in Texas and California; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. NEWHOUSE (for himself, Mr. BAUMGARTNER, Mr. FULCHER, and Mr. BENTZ):

H.R. 626. A bill to provide for operations of the Federal Columbia River Power System pursuant to a certain operation plan for a specified period of time, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. NORMAN (for himself, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. FULCHER, and Mr. SELF):

H.R. 627. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act and Public Health Service Act to improve the reporting of abortion data to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. OBERNOLTE (for himself and Ms. DELBENE):

H.R. 628. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to eliminate consideration of the income of organ recipients in providing reimbursement of expenses to donating individuals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. OGLES (for himself, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, Mr. BOST, Mr. CLINE, Mr. BRECHEEN, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. CRANE, Mr. GREEN of Tennessee, Mr. CLYDE, Mr. BIGGS of Arizona, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, and Ms. BOEBERT):

H.R. 629. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit chemical abortions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. OMAR (for herself, Mr. CARSON, Mr. CASAR, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Ms. CHU, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. EVANS of Pennsylvania, Mrs. FOUSHEE, Mr. GARCIA of Illinois, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. JACOBS, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mrs. MCIVER, Ms. MENG, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. NORTON, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. POCAN, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Ms. SCANLON, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. SIMON, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. STANSBURY, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. TLAI, Ms. TOKUDA, Mr. VARGAS, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, and Ms. CLARKE of New York):

H.R. 630. A bill to repeal the Alien Enemies Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. PFLUGER (for himself, Mr. GOLDEN of Maine, Mr. CLINE, Mr.

EZELL, Mr. RULLI, Mr. BABIN, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. MOORE of West Virginia, Mr. COLLINS, and Mr. BERGMAN):

H.R. 631. A bill to amend the definitions of firearm silencer and firearm muffler in section 921 of title 18, United States Code, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. ROY (for himself, Mr. FEENSTRA, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. DAVIDSON, Mr. CLINE, Mr. BOST, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. HARRIS of Maryland, Mr. GUEST, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. OGLES, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. DOWNING, Mr. GILL of Texas, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, and Mr. BIGGS of Arizona):

H.R. 632. A bill to prohibit the award of Federal funds to an institution of higher education that hosts or is affiliated with a student-based service site that provides abortion drugs or abortions to students of the institution or to employees of the institution or site, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

By Ms. SALAZAR (for herself, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Mr. PFLUGER, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. BUCHANAN, and Ms. PLASKETT):

H.R. 633. A bill to require covered platforms to remove nonconsensual intimate visual depictions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. SIMPSON (for himself and Mr. FULCHER):

H.R. 634. A bill to amend title 28, United States Code, to provide for the appointment of additional Federal circuit judges, to divide the Ninth Judicial Circuit of the United States into two judicial circuits, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. STANSBURY (for herself, Mr. HUFFMAN, Ms. NORTON, Mr. COSTA, Mr. HORSFORD, Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ, and Mr. NEGUSE):

H.R. 635. A bill to amend the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 to increase Tribal access to water conservation and efficiency grants, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. TENNEY:

H.R. 636. A bill to amend section 248 of title 18, United States Code, to provide adequate penalties and remedies for attacks on facilities providing counseling about abortion alternatives and attacks on places of religious worship; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. TORRES of California (for herself and Mr. FITZPATRICK):

H.R. 637. A bill to require the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to review and make certain revisions to the Standard Occupational Classification System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

By Mr. TORRES of New York:

H.R. 638. A bill to require owners of covered federally assisted rental dwelling units to install temperature sensors in such units, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. VAN DREW:

H.R. 639. A bill to prohibit group health plans, health insurance issuers, and Federal health care programs from applying prior authorization requirements, utilization management techniques, and medical necessity reviews; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, 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, Mr. CAREY, Mr. LAHOOD, and Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia):

H.R. 640. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the excise taxes on taxable chemicals and taxable substances; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. FULCHER:

H.J. Res. 26. 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 "Greenhouse Gas Emissions Standards for Heavy-Duty Vehicles-Phase 3"; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. HARSHBARGER (for herself and Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS):

H.J. Res. 27. 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 "Trichloroethylene (TCE); Regulation Under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA)"; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota (for himself, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. ESTES, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. BALDERSON, Mr. DUNN of Florida, Ms. FOXX, Mr. ROSE, Mr. BACON, Mr. BIGGS of Arizona, Ms. VAN DUYNE, Mr. FEENSTRA, Mr. HARRIGAN, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mrs. CAMMACK, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. FINSTAD, Mr. FULCHER, Ms. HAGEMAN, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. ZINKE, Mr. YAKYM, Mr. GUEST, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mrs. FISCHBACH, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mr. MORAN, Mr. BUCHANAN, Ms. LETLOW, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Mrs. HOUGHIN, Mr. FRY, Mr. EZELL, Mr. OGLES, Mr. CISCOMANI, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. FITZGERALD, Mr. JACKSON of Texas, Mr. MANN, Mr. ISSA, Ms. SALAZAR, Mr. AMODEI of Nevada, Mrs. HARSHBARGER, Mr. PERRY, Mr. HUIZENGA, Ms. DE LA CRUZ, Mr. TIMMONS, Mr. ALFORD, Mr. MASSIE, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, Mr. FLOOD, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. GARBARINO, Mr. DONALDS, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mrs. BICE, Mr. LALOTA, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. HILL of Arkansas, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. LAWLER, Mr. MILLER of Ohio, and Mr. SCHMIDT):

H.J. Res. 28. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to require that the Supreme Court of the United States be composed of nine justices; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia:

H. Res. 54. A resolution electing Members to certain standing committees of the House of Representatives; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. AGUILAR:

H. Res. 55. A resolution electing Members to certain standing committees of the House of Representatives; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. CLYDE (for himself, Mr. FEENSTRA, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. SELF, Mr. BIGGS of Arizona, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. GROTHMAN, Ms. BOEBERT, Mr. BRECHEEN, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. OGLES, Mr. DONALDS, and Mr. NORMAN):

H. Res. 56. A resolution memorializing the unborn by lowering the United States flag to half-staff on the 22d day of January each

year; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

### CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submittal regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey:

H.R. 7.

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

Article 1 Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. ADERHOLT:

H.R. 599.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 and Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. ARRINGTON:

H.R. 600.

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

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. ARRINGTON:

H.R. 601.

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

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. BURCHETT:

H.R. 602.

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

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. CASTEN:

H.R. 603.

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

Article 1, Section 8, clause 3 of the Constitution

By Mr. CASTEN:

H.R. 604.

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

Article 1, Section 8, clause 3 of the Constitution

By Mr. COSTA:

H.R. 605.

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

Art. 1, Sec. 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. CRANE:

H.R. 606.

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

Clause 2 of section 3 of Article IV of the Constitution.

By Mr. CRENSHAW:

H.R. 607.

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

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. DOGGETT:

H.R. 608.

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

Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. DOGGETT:

H.R. 609.

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

Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. DOGGETT:

H.R. 610.

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

Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. EDWARDS:

H.R. 611.

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

Article 1, Section 9, Clause 7

“No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law; and a regular Statement and Account of the Receipts and Expenditures of all public Money shall be published from time to time.”

By Ms. ESCOBAR:

H.R. 612.

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

THE U.S. CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE 1, SECTION 8: POWERS OF CONGRESS

CLAUSE 18

The Congress shall have power . . . To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all other powers vested by this Constitution in the government of the United States, or in any department or officer thereof.

By Mr. FULCHER:

H.R. 613.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 allows Congress to make all laws “which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution” any of Congress’ enumerated powers, including Congress’ powers over appropriations.

By Mr. GOTTHEIMER:

H.R. 614.

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

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. GOTTHEIMER:

H.R. 615.

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

Article 1 Section 8

By Mr. GOTTHEIMER:

H.R. 616.

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

Article 1 Section 8

By Mrs. HARSHBARGER:

H.R. 617.

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

Article 1, Section 8, clause 3 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. HORSFORD:

H.R. 618.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution of the United States

By Mr. HUFFMAN:

H.R. 619.

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

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. JACKSON of Texas:

H.R. 620.

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

Article 1 Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. JOYCE of Ohio:

H.R. 621.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. KELLY of Mississippi:

H.R. 622.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. LAHOOD:

H.R. 623.

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

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 of Officer thereof.”

By Mr. MANN:

H.R. 624.

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

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following—Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. McCAUL:

H.R. 625.

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

Article 1 Section 8

Amends Title 28, United States Code, to authorize holding court in College Station, Texas and El Centro, California.

By Mr. NEWHOUSE:

H.R. 626.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

By Mr. NORMAN:

H.R. 627.

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

Section 8, Article 1 of the Constitution

By Mr. OBERNOLTE:

H.R. 628.

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

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. OGLES:

H.R. 629.

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

Article 1, Section VIII of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. OMAR:

H.R. 630.

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

Art 1 Sec 8

By Mr. PFLUGER:

H.R. 631.

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

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. ROY:

H.R. 632.

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

Article 1, Section 8

By Ms. SALAZAR:

H.R. 633.

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

Article I Section 8 Clause 18

By Mr. SIMPSON:

H.R. 634.

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

Article 1, section 8 of the United States Constitution, specifically clause 9.

By Ms. STANSBURY:

H.R. 635.

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

Clause 3 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution

By Ms. TENNEY:

H.R. 636.

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

Article I

By Mrs. TORRES of California:

H.R. 637.

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

According to Article 1: Section 8: Clause 18: of the United States Constitution, seen below, this bill falls within the Constitutional Authority of the United States Congress.

Article 1: Section 8: Clause 18: 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

By Mr. TORRES of New York:

H.R. 638.

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

Article 1, Section 8.

By Mr. VAN DREW:

H.R. 639.

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

Article 1 Sec. 8

By Ms. VAN DUYNE:

H.R. 640.

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

Article 1 Sec. 8

By Mr. FULCHER:

H.J. Res. 26.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 allows Congress to make all laws "which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution" any of Congress' enumerated powers, including Congress's powers over appropriations.

By Mrs. HARSHBARGER:

H.J. Res. 27.

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

Article 1 section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota:

H.J. Res. 28.

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

Article V of the Constitution of the United States

#### ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

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

H.R. 21: Ms. MALOY, Mr. WIED, Mr. CISCOMANI, Mr. HARIDOPOLOS, Mr. MESSMER, Mr. COMER, Mr. JOYCE of Ohio, and Mr. FLOOD.

H.R. 22: Mr. DOWNING and Mr. MURPHY.

H.R. 26: Mr. GILL of Texas and Mr. GOLDMAN of Texas.

H.R. 27: Mr. SCOTT Franklin of Florida, Mr. BAUMGARTNER, and Mr. RYAN.

H.R. 31: Mr. STAUBER.

H.R. 34: Mr. DONALDS.

H.R. 38: Mr. VALADAO.

H.R. 51: Mr. CONAWAY.

H.R. 137: Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas and Mr. DOWNING.

H.R. 140: Mr. EDWARDS.

H.R. 151: Mr. FRY, Mr. CLINE, Mr. SCOTT Franklin of Florida, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. EZELL, Mr. HARRIS of North Carolina, Mr. FALLON, Mr. DUNN of Florida, Mr. BABIN, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. COLE, Ms. TENNEY, and Mr. BAUMGARTNER.

H.R. 162: Mr. VAN DREW.

H.R. 174: Mr. STAUBER and Mr. OWENS.

H.R. 175: Mr. STAUBER.

H.R. 176: Mr. STAUBER and Mr. OWENS.

H.R. 210: Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, and Mr. THOMPSON of California.

H.R. 211: Mr. MCGARVEY, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. TOKUDA, Ms. ESCOBAR, and Ms. HOYLE of Oregon.

H.R. 212: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.

H.R. 219: Mrs. MCIVER, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. CASE, Ms. TOKUDA, AND Ms. HOYLE OF OREGON.

H.R. 220: Ms. HOYLE of Oregon, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Mrs. MCCLAIN DELANEY.

H.R. 221: Mrs. BIGGS of South Carolina and Ms. HAGEMAN.

H.R. 234: Mr. STAUBER.

H.R. 247: Ms. OMAR.

H.R. 260: Mr. VAN ORDEN.

H.R. 262: Mr. GUEST.

H.R. 271: Mr. LAHOOD.

H.R. 272: Ms. VAN DUYNE.

H.R. 273: Mr. WALBERG, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. OWENS, Mrs. BICE, and Mr. ROSE.

H.R. 276: Mr. LANGWORTHY.

H.R. 283: Mr. WIED, Mr. LANGWORTHY, and Mr. WEBSTER of Florida.

H.R. 309: Mr. YAKYM, Ms. PETTERSEN, and Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.

H.R. 313: Mr. GOLDMAN of Texas and Mr. MORAN.

H.R. 323: Mr. LATIMER.

H.R. 345: Mrs. KIM and Mr. COSTA.

H.R. 351: Mr. GOTTHEIMER and Mr. VAN DREW.

H.R. 352: Mr. GOTTHEIMER and Mr. VAN DREW.

H.R. 358: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.

H.R. 361: Mr. HARIDOPOLOS.

H.R. 377: Mr. GREEN of Tennessee.

H.R. 378: Mr. YAKYM and Ms. MALLIOTAKIS.

H.R. 396: Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Mr. NUNN of Iowa, Ms. KAPTUR, and Ms. MCBRIDE.

H.R. 397: Mr. NADLER and Mr. LATIMER.

H.R. 401: Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida.

H.R. 404: Mr. SCHMIDT, Mr. GREEN of Tennessee, and Mr. ZINKE.

H.R. 417: Mr. GREEN of Tennessee and Mrs. LUNA.

H.R. 419: Mr. GREEN of Tennessee.

H.R. 424: Mr. GILL of Texas, Mr. CARTER of Texas, Ms. VAN DUYNE, Mr. ELLZEY, Mr. BABIN, and Ms. DE LA CRUZ.

H.R. 425: Mr. SELF, Mr. OBERNOLTE, Mr. CRANK, Mr. FALLON, and Mr. FRY.

H.R. 438: Ms. MALLIOTAKIS.

H.R. 439: Ms. LEE of Nevada.

H.R. 450: Mr. BABIN.

H.R. 452: Mr. NEGUSE.

H.R. 465: Mr. BIGGS of Arizona.

H.R. 471: Mr. MESSMER, Mr. KENNEDY of Utah, and Mr. HILL of Arkansas.

H.R. 478: Mr. DOWNING, Mr. LOUDERMILK, Ms. DE LA CRUZ, Mr. CLINE, and Mr. ELLZEY.

H.R. 482: Mr. TIMMONS and Mr. FINSTAD.

H.R. 485: Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. VEASEY, and Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia.

H.R. 486: Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN and Mrs. BEATTY.

H.R. 491: Ms. NORTON, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. NEGUSE, Mr. DELUZIO, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H.R. 492: Ms. NORTON, Mr. SORESENSEN, and Ms. ELFRETH.

H.R. 493: Ms. DELBENE.

H.R. 503: Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia.

H.R. 506: Mr. RUTHERFORD.

H.R. 511: Mr. VAN ORDEN.

H.R. 516: Mr. MOOLENAAR.

H.R. 519: Ms. HAGEMAN.

H.R. 523: Mrs. FISCHBACH.

H.R. 530: Mr. CRENSHAW and Mr. NEGUSE.

H.R. 535: Mr. CASE.

H.R. 536: Mr. RYAN.

H.R. 539: Mr. ZINKE, Ms. OMAR, and Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.

H.R. 551: Mr. SESSIONS.

H.R. 553: Ms. ELFRETH.

H.R. 562: Mr. NORCROSS.

H.R. 563: Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Ms. VAN DUYNE, and Mrs. BIGGS of South Carolina.

H.R. 574: Mr. SMUCKER.

H.R. 578: Mr. OWENS and Mr. RUTHERFORD.

H.R. 585: Mr. NEGUSE.

H.R. 597: Mr. YAKYM.

H.J. Res. 24: Mr. LOUDERMILK.

H. Res. 23: Mr. SWALWELL, Ms. OMAR, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. CASTEN, Mr. STANTON, Mr. TONKO, Mr. TORRES of New York, Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK, Ms. SEWELL, Ms. VELAIZQUEZ, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. FIGURES, Ms. MCBRIDE, and Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.

H. Res. 24: Mrs. HARSHBARGER.

H. Res. 25: Mrs. HARSHBARGER.

H. Res. 33: Mrs. MCCLAIN DELANEY.

H. Res. 50: Mr. CARTER of Texas and Mr. BURCHETT.

H. Res. 52: Ms. RANDALL.



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 119<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 171

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22, 2025

No. 13

## Senate

The Senate met at 11 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, who restores the soul and gives light in the midst of decay, empower our Senators to do Your will. Be to them a faithful guide on the challenging road they travel.

Lord, teach them to find contentment in striving to please You and provide them with Your powerful companionship. As tomorrow's difficulties loom large, remind them that You can move mountains and create opportunities. Blaze the trail ahead for our lawmakers with Your might and wisdom, for You are our shelter and hope. Keep them from flinching before the unknown ways that spread before them, and give them Your peace.

We pray in Your Holy Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore 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.

### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

#### BORN-ALIVE ABORTION SURVIVORS PROTECTION ACT—MOTION TO PROCEED—Resumed

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will re-

sume consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 6, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant executive clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 4, S. 6, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit a health care practitioner from failing to exercise the proper degree of care in the case of a child who survives an abortion or attempted abortion.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SHEEHY). The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask to speak in morning business.

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

#### 52ND ANNIVERSARY OF ROE V. WADE

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, in early February 1972, when abortion was not the issue it is today and probably after California had changed its abortion laws under then-Governor Reagan, the Iowa Legislature considered repealing Iowa's law about abortion. I cast my first vote in that assembly. That year, our abortion law stayed in place on a vote of 44 to 44. Then, 1 year later, everything changed.

Today marks the 52nd anniversary of Roe v. Wade. I invite my colleagues to a moment of silence and somber reflection to honor the millions of lives quietly lost to abortion since 1973.

(Moment of silence.)

I also invite my colleagues to share my heartfelt hope in this new era we are in following the 2022 Dobbs v. Jackson Supreme Court decision. Since then, we have witnessed the American people, in their respective States, re-empowered to protect lives in the womb.

These young lives are precious, vulnerable, and equal in worth to each of our own who are here today and millions throughout this country.

I recall with joy the moments that I learned that I was a father, a grandfather, and now a great-grandfather. I am amazed at how technology has changed over time to reveal the hu-

manity of the unborn ever more clearly.

Through ultrasound imaging, I saw my grandchildren and great-grandchildren in the early stages of their development. These ultrasound photos show how similar these little ones are to you and to me. Their hands and feet were tiny, yet indistinguishable from mine. We are all part of the same human family.

I look forward to working with my colleagues in the 119th Congress to continue to support mothers, babies, and families through commonsense legislation.

#### IOWA LEGISLATURE

Mr. President, I would like to proudly say that, 10 days ago, I had the opportunity to see a great-granddaughter, Reagan Grassley, open the Iowa legislative session. Her father, Pat Grassley, is the speaker of the Iowa House.

I have had a chance, in his 6 years of being speaker, to see Reagan Grassley, now only a freshman at Dike-New Hartford High School, give the opening prayer at each one of those opening sessions.

And I would like to repeat for my colleagues her prayer:

Heavenly Father, we gather today with hearts full of gratitude and hope as we celebrate the commencement of the 91st General Assembly of the Iowa Legislature. We thank You for the trust placed in these new and returning lawmakers by the people of Iowa.

Lord, we ask for Your wisdom to be upon each legislator. Grant them clear thinking in their decisions, clarity in their thoughts, and integrity in their actions. May they be guided by the principles of justice, compassion, and truth as they navigate the difficulties of lawmaking.

Bless them with the courage to uphold what is right, even when it is not easy. Gift them with patience and perseverance to address the pressing issues of our time.

We also pray for their families, that they find support and strength in each other as they share in the sacrifices and challenges that come with public service.

Lord, let this assembly be an inspiration of good governance, where every decision made

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



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reflects a commitment to the welfare of all Iowans, now and for generations to come.

In Your name, we pray.  
Amen.

So you can see why I am proud of that granddaughter doing that from sixth grade now to a freshman in high school.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The majority leader is recognized.

BORN-ALIVE ABORTION SURVIVORS PROTECTION  
ACT

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, later today, the Senate will proceed to a vote on whether to move to the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act.

It is a simple bill. It simply states that a baby born alive after an attempted abortion must be given the same protection and medical care that any other newborn baby would be given. That is it. A baby born alive after an attempted abortion must be given the same protection and medical care that any other newborn baby would be given.

This shouldn't be a controversial bill. We should all be able to agree that a baby born alive after an attempted abortion must be protected. And yet I fully expect that, later today, my Democratic colleagues will vote no on this legislation.

They will vote against protection for a living, breathing newborn baby simply because that child has been born alive after an attempted abortion.

Now, why are they going to vote like that? After all, I think most Democrats would still claim to oppose infanticide, even if the moral line, at times, appears to be slipping. Yet Democrats are going to vote against legislation to provide appropriate medical care to living, breathing newborn children.

I am sure they will offer some vague justifications for their opposition, like keeping the decision between a woman and her doctor, even when the decision we are talking about is denying a child appropriate medical care.

But I think it is safe to say that what it all boils down to is this: Democrats will oppose legislation to provide appropriate medical care to newborn children who survive abortions because they are afraid.

They are afraid if they recognize the humanity of a living, breathing born baby in an abortion clinic, they might end up pointing to the humanity of the unborn baby in the abortion clinic. That is what this boils down to. Democrats are afraid that by recognizing the humanity of the newly born child, they will inadvertently point to the humanity of the unborn child.

I do understand where they are coming from. After all, once you recognize the humanity of the newly born baby, it gets a little harder to say that that child wasn't human just a few minutes ago simply because he or she wasn't yet born.

So because there is nothing more important to Democrats than abortion, they will vote against legislation to provide appropriate medical care to babies born alive in an abortion clinic, just in case such a law ends up jeopardizing their cherished "right" to an abortion.

I think this should make Democrats—frankly, it should make all of us—think.

When the supposed right to kill unborn babies starts motivating you to vote against protections for born babies, perhaps you should start questioning the whole abortion project, because if there is one thing the controversy over this bill demonstrates, it is this: Once you start denying the humanity of some groups of human beings, once you start saying some human beings' lives aren't worth as much as other human beings' lives, you jeopardize respect for all human lives.

And so we now find ourselves at a point where nearly 50 percent of the U.S. Senate is unable to clearly state the humanity and value of the born child, where nearly 50 percent of the U.S. Senate is going to vote against protection not just for unborn children but for born babies as well.

I have to say, this is a disturbing place that we have gotten to, and I hope—I sincerely hope—it will lead us to reflect on what a lack of respect for unborn children's lives has cost us.

Mr. President, we are better than this.

We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness.

I pray for a day when we fully live up to that promise and when the right to life of every human being, born and unborn, is respected.

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.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Democratic leader is recognized.

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, well, Donald Trump made a lot of promises on what he would get done on day one. Well, today is day three of Donald Trump's Presidency. Nothing Donald Trump has done will help lower grocery prices. Nothing Donald Trump has done will lower prescription drug costs. Instead, President Trump's biggest ac-

complishment to date has been to issue unconditional pardons to 1,500 lawless rioters who attacked police officers and invaded the Capitol.

Why on Earth is the President already spending so much time focused on the past, focused on his grievances, instead of focused on costs and jobs and improving healthcare for the American people? The American people have to wonder, how on Earth will pardoning January 6 rioters help me pay for food at the grocery store, help me get a lower cost for buying a home, or help me save more money for my retirement? How on Earth will Americans feel safer if the President rewards lawbreakers who assault police officers by setting these criminals free?

So much for focusing on lowering prices.

Pardoning lawless rioters is not what the American people signed up for when they voted for Donald Trump. They wanted the President to get to work quickly on issues that impact them—costs, safety, healthcare.

The first 3 days of Donald Trump's "golden age" has been golden for everyone but working Americans. It is a golden age for big corporations. It is a golden age for pharmaceutical companies. It is a golden age for polluters. It is a golden age for lawlessness. It is not—not—a golden age for hard-working Americans who want their costs reduced.

CABINET NOMINATIONS

Mr. President, on nominations, yesterday, I met with President Trump's nominee to serve as Director of OMB, Russell Vought. I walked into my meeting with Mr. Vought, of course, skeptical. Then I walked out of the meeting even more deeply troubled. Of all the extremists President Trump could have picked for OMB, he picked the godfather of the ultraright.

Mr. Vought's goal is clear and simple: He wants to dismantle the social safety net and starve America with the most radical budget cuts in living memory. In the past, he has called for gutting Social Security, gutting Medicare and Medicaid. He wants to eliminate the Department of Education. He has proposed cuts to disability payments for retired veterans. He wants to cut SNAP benefits, raise drug prices—all in the name of an ultraright, extremist ideology that prioritizes the needs for the wealthy few. They want to cut the daylights out of everything else so they can give tax cuts to the very wealthiest in our society, who are doing quite well.

When I asked him which parts of Project 2025 he disagreed with, he was unable to give me a single answer.

I am also deeply worried that Mr. Vought will disobey the law when it comes to following through on congressional spending. President Trump has already begun issuing Executive orders that jeopardize billions upon billions in bipartisan infrastructure projects across the country. They say this is

temporary, but we all know how Washington works—temporary trial balloons turn into permanent anchors.

Congress has already approved these investments. President Biden has signed them into law. These projects help red States and blue States and support families, help parents raise kids, and lead to stronger communities.

If Donald Trump does, in fact, freeze these funds now so he can resume them and take credit down the line, people's jobs and livelihoods would be at risk. Mr. Vought, I fear, would only enable this unlawful behavior. In fact, Vought is one of the leading proponents of impoundment of funds, which should be frightening not only to those who represent blue States but also those who represent red States where so many of the investments are going.

Mr. Vought is testifying right now before the Senate Committee on the Budget. It is important that we build a record about the deeply harmful plans he has for the country. It is an opportunity for Americans to see for themselves how truly radical President Trump's second term could well be.

#### BORN-ALIVE ABORTION SURVIVORS PROTECTION ACT

Mr. President, under President Trump, it will be a golden age for the anti-choice—the extreme anti-choice—movement. The bill we are voting on today, the Republicans' so-called Born-Alive bill, is as pernicious as they come. It attacks women's healthcare using false narratives and outright fearmongering, and it adds more legal risk for doctors on something that is already illegal.

So much of the hard right's anti-choice agenda is pushed, frankly, by people who have little or no understanding of what women go through when they are pregnant.

The situation targeted by this bill is one of the most heartbreaking moments a woman could ever encounter—the agonizing choice of having to end care when serious and rare complications arise in pregnancy. It is moments like this where we should support women and doctors most, not use them as political football, as this bill does so heartlessly.

Remember when Republicans claimed they would leave the issue of choice to the States? Remember that? That is out the window. This bill is a metaphor for what is to come: an emboldened, extremist anti-choice resurgence far, far further to the right than the American people are.

Here is a message to my Republican colleagues: Today would be a great day for Senate Republicans to do something lowering the cost of groceries instead of attacking women's reproductive care. It would be a great day for Senate Republicans to do something to make prescription drugs more affordable. It would be a great day for Republicans to help do something to help Americans trying to buy a home.

Instead of lowering costs, Senate Republicans are putting their energy into

controlling women's healthcare. This is not what the American people signed up for.

#### ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Mr. President, finally, on AI, yesterday, a group of AI and tech companies announced their pledge to invest as much as \$500 billion to ramp up our Nation's AI and data center infrastructure. Of course, if AI becomes one of the central technologies of our lives, as is expected, we must build the capacity to support that demand, no question about it. But already President Trump is tying himself into knots and talking out of both sides of his mouth. On the one hand, he goes on about how we need more power, we need more electricity to meet the demands of AI, and then on the other hand, he spent his first day in office proposing Executive orders that cut clean energy investments, halting wind and solar and putting those jobs at risk.

These AI data centers will depend on more clean energy production and transmission, and cutting clean energy will cut a good chunk of the new energy that is about to come on board. So for President Trump to cut clean energy investments is tantamount to cutting AI's potential. One hand doesn't seem to know what the other hand is doing.

If President Trump wants to help AI's growth instead of hurt it, he should revoke his promise to kill the clean energy jobs we are going to need to support America's energy needs.

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. BARRASSO. 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 whip.

#### CABINET NOMINATIONS

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, yesterday, I had a chance to meet with President Trump at the White House. I shared with him that his nominees are receiving strong support here in the U.S. Senate, and I assured President Trump that Republicans in the Senate are committed to working around the clock to confirm his nominees.

To put this into perspective, yesterday, President Trump invited several of us to travel with him later this week. He is going to be going to North Carolina, as well as Los Angeles, to see the impact of the disasters and the devastation in both places. Well, we thanked him for the invitation and told him that we have pressing responsibilities right here on the floor of the U.S. Senate, because we are prepared to work late into the night and long weekends if Democrats choose to deliberately delay the votes on his Cabinet, as it appears they are doing right now. So that is exactly what we are planning to do—continue to work to get

these individuals, who are strong and tough, confirmed by the U.S. Senate.

Last night, what we saw here in this body was Democrats decided to stall the confirmation of John Ratcliffe. Mr. Ratcliffe is President Trump's nominee to be Director of the Central Intelligence Agency. The nomination is supported completely—bipartisan. Actually, his specific nomination was voted 14 in favor to only 3 against in the committee, the Intelligence Committee of the U.S. Senate. But last night, here in this body, Democrats chose last-minute obstruction. They are just going to slow it down anyway, even though he has been supported out of the Intelligence Committee, bipartisan, 14 to 3. What they are doing is shameful. Our world is far too dangerous to delay confirming the head of the CIA.

So I hope my Democrat colleagues don't have plans for the weekend because I guarantee you the Senate is going to be here in Washington voting to confirm President Trump's nominees. So get ready for some long nights, long hours, day after day after day. We are going to be here Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday, if we have to. We are ready to work around the clock, and we mean it.

That is what Americans voted for. According to a recent FOX poll, 78 percent of Americans say Democrats should work with President Trump.

The American people elected President Trump to change Washington, to get the country back on track. They voted for common sense, and President Trump is a commonsense President.

President Trump has proposed an agenda that is popular. It is optimistic, and it is unifying. And he has chosen a strong team to work with him.

President Trump has built, I would say, a Cabinet that is not business as usual. His nominees are motivated. They are qualified, and they are committed to Americans' safety and prosperity.

They are going to work aggressively—aggressively—to address the challenges of high prices, of open borders, of crime, and of what we have seen in the last administration, which was an America-last energy policy. Oh, they are ready to go after the burdensome regulations that face people all across the country.

You know, hours after President Trump was sworn in, Senators voted unanimously to confirm Marco Rubio to be Secretary of State.

This week, we have more nominees to consider. And, as the Senate exercises our constitutional duty, we should remember a few facts: First, let's compare this to President Obama, who had seven Cabinet nominees confirmed on his very first day in office.

Second, the current Democrat leader at that podium moved quickly to confirm President Biden's nominees, and he said that swift confirmation votes, he said, are "traditional for a new President."

Third, Democrats are actually supporting many of President Trump's nominees in the committees. That proves that—well, it proves what we already know: that these nominees, in addition to being bold, have bipartisan support.

All but two Democrats voted with every Republican to support Kristi Noem after her hearings in the Homeland Security Committee. She has been nominated by President Trump to be the Secretary of Homeland Security. Her vote was 13 to 2.

Several Democrats also voted to support Scott Bessent, who is President Trump's nominee to be Secretary of the Treasury.

Let me remind my colleagues what Democrats have said about President Trump's nominees.

Senator TAMMY BALDWIN of Wisconsin introduced Sean Duffy for his hearing when he was nominated by the President to be the Secretary of Transportation. What Senator BALDWIN said was a glowing comment. She said Sean Duffy "is the right guy to help deliver for Wisconsin families, businesses, and workers."

Our colleague JOHN HICKENLOOPER of Colorado introduced Chris Wright at the hearing to be Secretary of Energy. Senator HICKENLOOPER said this: Mr. Wright is "a scientist who has invested his life around energy."

Senator MARK KELLY of Arizona said Lee Zeldin is "a qualified candidate to lead the Environmental Protection Agency."

Senator MARTIN HEINRICH of New Mexico said Doug Burgum, current Governor of North Dakota, is "a talented nominee" to lead the Department of the Interior.

I think we should pay attention to those comments. Democrats know that President Trump's nominees are ready to get on the job and are qualified to do the work.

Yes, the Senate should give advice and consent. That is an obligation we have. But disgruntled Democrats should not use the Senate's constitutional power as an excuse to delay and deny.

Americans want results. That is what they voted for in November. They did not vote for resistance. They want to get this country back on track.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic whip.

#### NOMINATION OF KASHYAP PATEL

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, yesterday, I met with Kash Patel, President Trump's nominee to serve as Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

We all know the FBI. It plays a critical role in keeping America safe from terrorism, violent crime, and other threats. The person who is in charge of our Nation's leading law enforcement organization, the FBI, should be someone who is nonpartisan, solid, reliable, with a demonstrated skill in law enforcement.

We were reminded of this on 9/11, that the FBI is the leading Agency

that we, in America, rely on to keep us safe. The 30,000 professionals at the FBI have the skills and resources to do the job. They deserve a leader who understands the gravity of their mission.

After meeting with Kash Patel, I have grave concerns about his fitness for the role of FBI Director. Mr. Patel has neither the experience, the temperament, nor the judgment to lead the Federal Bureau of Investigation. He is a staunch political loyalist who has repeatedly peddled false conspiracy theories and threatened to retaliate against those who have slighted him personally and politically.

Start with January 6. I was here in the Senate that day. I will always be grateful to the U.S. Capitol Police and DC police officers who defended everyone who works in this building from an angry mob that was egged on by President Trump. You have seen the videos. You know what I am talking about. But Kash Patel, the man who claims he should lead the FBI, actually says the FBI "was planning January 6 for a year"—"planning January 6," the FBI.

And he posted on social media: "Jan. 6 never an insurrection." Then he said: "Cowards in uniform" exposed.

Let me say those words again: "Cowards in uniform." That is what Mr. Patel said. I asked him about that statement in my office yesterday. He couldn't explain it. Who were these so-called cowards in uniform when the mob stormed the Capitol Building on January 6? Who were these people? Were they the Capitol Hill police and the DC police Officers who literally risked their lives to protect us and the Vice President?

In light of the deaths and serious injuries they faced, Mr. Patel should not even suggest the possibility that these were cowardly acts. These were acts of bravery and courage. Many of them risked their lives for us, as they do every single day.

To the people who have gathered in the balcony here to observe the Senate in session, to the thousands of visitors to this building, look around you. Quietly standing guard are men and women in uniform, Capitol Hill police, who are ready to step in and protect you if necessary. On January 6, they did it at a great cost.

So what are Mr. Patel's plans for the FBI, who he said was actually planning January 6? He said he wants to "shut down the F.B.I. Hoover Building on Day 1 and reopen it the next day as a museum of the 'deep state.'"

And he said:

We're going to come after the people in the media. . . . We're going to come after you, whether it's criminally or civilly. . . . we're putting you all on notice.

This is the man who wants to head up the FBI, and I am quoting exactly what he said.

He has even published an enemies list of 60 people whom he calls "government gangsters." It is in writing. The playbook is there. The list of all 60 names is spelled out in detail.

Who is included on this list of people that would be his enemies, the so-called government gangsters? Well, members of both political parties that Mr. Patel has identified, including former Trump administration officials, like Defense Secretary Esper.

And then there is Bob Mueller. Bob Mueller is an extraordinary man, a patriot, a Republican, who has been called on repeatedly to serve this country, and he has done so willingly.

He enlisted in the Marine Corps out of college. When one of his dear friends was killed in Vietnam, he decided that he had to serve and had to fight too. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps as a lieutenant and received a Bronze Star and a Purple Heart.

Even after he was injured and received a Purple Heart, he returned to battle. He is an extraordinary person.

I came to know him a few days after 9/11, when I reached out to see if there was anything I could do to help the FBI and its new leader, Mr. Mueller. We struck up a friendship and a relationship over the years. I respected him so much.

What does Mr. Kash Patel think of Bob Mueller, this man who served our country in so many different ways? He calls him an "utter swamp creature."

And then there is Paul Ryan, former Congressman from the State of Wisconsin, former Republican Speaker of the House. I count him as a friend—not a close friend but a casual friend, someone I like. We didn't have a lot in common when it came to politics, but I thought he was a good public servant, and he served our country well.

What does Kash Patel, who wants to head up the FBI, say in his book, in writing, about Paul Ryan? "Total failure and a coward"—Paul Ryan, "total failure and a coward."

Then there is GEN Mark Milley, who is Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. He served our country in so many different capacities. He led our troops in battle and distinguished himself time and time again. What does Kash Patel say of GEN Mark Milley, who served under President Trump's leadership? He calls him the "kraken of the swamp"—the "kraken of the swamp."

Does this sound like the resume of a person who should lead the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the world's preeminent criminal investigation Agency?

And I asked him a practical question as well: There are 30,000 people in law enforcement in the FBI. What do you think is the morale of that group after President Trump's pardons the other night of the people who were involved in the January 6 violence?

Well, Mr. Patel went on to tell me that he didn't, in any way, approve of violence against law enforcement officers.

And I asked him: Will you say that publicly, that you don't think they should have been pardoned if they were guilty of violence against police officers?

He said he would have to take it up the chain of command.

#### PRESIDENTIAL PARDONS

Mr. President, let me say, for a moment, we should reflect on these pardons and the people who received them. I want to make sure I put these details in the RECORD, without any question of their veracity.

Some of the people convicted of violence, on January 6, here in the U.S. Capitol Building, who received full, complete, and unconditional pardons from President Trump, the day he was sworn in: David Dempsey, convicted of repeatedly assaulting police officers with pepper spray, a metal crutch, and wooden and metal poles. "For over one hour, defendant David Dempsey viciously assaulted and injured police officers," Federal prosecutors charged.

Metropolitan Police Department Detective Nguyen testified that after Dempsey pepper sprayed him, he was knocked down, and "I thought that's, you know, where I'm going to die. And in my head, you know, I am thinking about my family at that point before anything else."

Dempsey was sentenced to 20 years in prison. He received a full, complete, and unconditional pardon from President Trump Monday night.

Julian Khater pleaded guilty to pepper spraying Capitol Police Officer Brian Sicknick in the face. Later that night, Sicknick collapsed and was rushed to the hospital. He died the following day.

According to the Washington, DC, medical examiner, Sicknick's death was due to "natural causes"—two strokes—but "all that transpired played a role in his condition."

Sicknick's mother Gladys spoke at Khater's sentencing hearing:

Lawlessness, misplaced loyalty to a deranged autocratic ideal, and hate killed my son. And I hope you are haunted by your crimes behind bars. Whatever jail time you receive is not enough in my eyes.

He was sentenced to 6 years in prison and received a full, complete, and unconditional pardon Monday night.

Christian Matthew Manley pleaded guilty to assaulting police with two cans of bear spray and throwing empty canisters at officers. Manley then threw a metal rod at officers. Federal Judge Tanya Chutkan told Manley, at his sentencing hearing, that "there has to be an understanding that participating, taking up arms against law enforcement, taking up arms to basically try and overthrow the government, is going to be met with severe punishment."

Manley was sentenced to more than 4 years in prison. He received a full, complete, and unconditional pardon from Donald Trump Monday night.

Patrick Edward McCaughey III was convicted of using a police riot shield to "crush" Metropolitan Police Officer Daniel Hodges in a metal door frame, leaving Hodges trapped, bleeding, and crying for help. "If I was there much longer being assaulted in such a way, I

knew it was very likely I wouldn't be able to maintain my consciousness," Hodges testified. "Your actions on January 6 were some of the most egregious crimes that were committed that day," Federal Judge Trevor McFadden told McCaughey before sentencing him to 7 years in prison.

Mr. McCaughey received a full, complete and unconditional pardon from Donald Trump on Monday.

Ryan Nichols pleaded guilty to pepper spraying police officers and urging rioters through bullhorn to storm the building. "This is not a peaceful protest," he yelled, according to prosecutors. "If you have a weapon, you need to get your weapon." Later that night, Nichols recorded a video of himself calling for a second American Revolution and stating: "If you want to know where Ryan Nichols stands, Ryan Nichols stands for violence."

Nichols was sentenced to more than 5 years in prison and received a full, complete, and unconditional pardon from the President Monday night.

Christopher Quaglin was convicted at trial of "viciously assaulting police officers for hours," according to Federal prosecutors. "On at least a dozen occasions, Quaglin stood face-to-face with officers as he screamed at them, pushed with outstretched arms, punched, swatted, and slapped officers; pushed bike racks into officers; and even choked one officer to the ground," prosecutors stated. Quaglin was sentenced to more than 12 years in prison.

He received a full, unconditional, and complete pardon from Donald Trump on Monday night.

Daniel Rodriguez pleaded guilty to using a stun gun and "plunging it" multiple times into Police Officer Michael Fanone's neck, in the words of prosecutors, leading Fanone to scream out in pain. "During those moments, I remember thinking there was a very good chance that I would be torn apart or be shot to death with my own weapon," Fanone testified to Congress. Rodriguez was sentenced to more than 12 years in prison.

Daniel Rodriguez was given a full, complete, and unconditional pardon from Donald Trump.

Peter Schwartz was convicted of stealing pepper spray from police officers, distributing the canisters to other rioters and "indiscriminately" spraying law enforcement, according to prosecutors. Court documents from the Justice Department described him as "a welder by trade and a felon who has racked up numerous convictions from drugs, weapons, and violence over the last three decades."

The day after the riot, he allegedly posted on Facebook: "What happened yesterday was the opening of a war." He was referring to January 6. "I was there and whether people would acknowledge it or not we are now at war." Schwartz was sentenced to more than 14 years in prison.

He received a full, unconditional and complete pardon by the President on Monday night.

These are the instances that I wanted to highlight. For those who suggest these are just casual tourists to the Capitol, they should read the details of the attacks these individuals made on police officers who stood to guard us, the Vice President, and any visitors to the Capitol that day. They risked their lives for us and the pardons from the White House are impossible to explain under those circumstances.

I raised those with Kash Patel. I said: You want to be the head of the largest Federal law enforcement Agency, the Federal Bureau of Investigation. What do you think those pardons are doing to the morale of police officers across the country?

He said he did not condone violence against police officers.

I wanted to make sure I made that clear for the record. I said: Would you say anything publicly about that? He said: I have to take it up the chain of command before I would say anything public.

In 1976, Congress passed a law limiting the FBI Director to a single term of 10 years, intended to insulate this position from political influence. But President Trump repeatedly tried to bend the FBI Director to his political agenda. He fired his first FBI Director, Jim Comey. He forced out his second FBI Director, Chris Wray, when he refused to do his bidding.

Now President Trump has nominated a proven loyalist in Kash Patel. In a 2019 meeting, Patel reportedly told President Trump, in the Oval Office, he wanted to expand his portfolio to ensure White House personnel were "completely loyal to the administration."

Loyalty of police officers on a political basis is not the basis for sound judgment when it comes to law enforcement. We find loyal police officers in the countries with autocratic rulers throughout our history. We don't want that in the United States.

Mr. Patel's political grievances make him a favorite of the MAGA world. But they have not prepared him to work night and day to keep America safe from violent crime, drug trafficking, terrorism, and other threats. Mr. Patel's endless list of political grievances, well-documented threats of retribution are disqualifying; and they are spelled out in graphic detail in his own book, which I have read.

The FBI is a critical Agency keeping America safe. Mr. Patel is not the person for this life-and-death assignment. I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum. The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. RICKETTS). The clerk will call the roll. The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### LAKEN RILEY ACT

Mrs. BRITT. Mr. President, this week marks a new start for the U.S. Congress. After a yearlong battle over the

Laken Riley Act, this week, we decided to put the security of the American people first and take the next step toward ending an era of open border policies. We passed the bill.

It is impossible to overstate just how great an achievement it is that we came together to send the Laken Riley Act to the President's desk. For decades, it has been almost impossible for our government to agree on solutions for the problems at our border and within our country. The Laken Riley Act represents perhaps the most significant immigration enforcement bill to reach the President's desk since 1996. It is a significant first step to protect American families and to honor Laken Riley's life and legacy. It ensures that no family will have to endure the heartbreak that Laken's family has had to endure.

With our Republican majorities in both the House and the Senate, Congress is back to working for the American people once again. The American people made their voices heard on November 5, and they told this city that they would no longer tolerate a government that ignored our border crisis; that they would no longer put up with open borders, unsafe streets, and soft-on-crime policies. Congress listened, and we have delivered, but we are not finished yet.

Monday, Inauguration Day, marked the start of a new American golden age. With President Trump back in office and with our majorities ready to work with him, we are headed toward creating a safer, more secure, incredible country. The Laken Riley Act is no doubt a step in that direction.

Now is the time to turn the page from the last 4 years, to think about what we can do together to turn the will of the American people into action, to do the things a government is meant to do: provide security for its people, ensure its streets are safe, and enforce the rule of law.

It is also a time of remembrance. It is a time to think about the light Laken Riley shone on all of those around her, the example she set for how to live one's faith and make a positive impact in the world. I am so proud that we came together in this body to honor her and the profound impact she had on everyone who knew her.

To Allyson and John Phillips, Laken's mother and stepfather, thank you for the courage you have shown in advocating for this bill and for Laken's legacy. We are all eternally amazed by your grace and strength in the face of tragedy. You, like Laken, are so incredibly inspiring, and as you so humbly said about the passage of this bill, all the glory to God.

I would again like to thank Representative MIKE COLLINS, who has spearheaded it to House passage not once but twice, and I look forward to its third and final passage today in the House.

I would also like to thank Leader THUNE, who, in his very first month as

leader, took a difficult issue and moved it gracefully through the U.S. Senate.

And a big thank-you to the rest of my colleagues here in this body and the ones in the House for coming together, for putting partisan differences aside to find common ground to actually achieve a result, and for showing the American people that they can trust their elected Representatives to listen, to understand, and to do the right thing.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

#### NOMINATION OF JOHN RATCLIFFE

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I want to address some concerns that my Republican colleagues have raised about my decision to insist on a 1-day debate on the nomination of John Ratcliffe to be the Director of the CIA. Plain and simple, I think we should take some time—1 day—to consider one of the most important, sensitive national security posts in this new administration. I do not think it makes sense to ram through Mr. Ratcliffe's nomination with only 120 minutes of debate, as was the suggestion last night.

Many people here have raised serious concerns about his qualifications. For instance, during his short tenure as Director of National Intelligence, Mr. Ratcliffe showed a very troubling propensity to play politics with sensitive intelligence. Most notoriously, just 1 month before the 2020 election, on the day of the debate between Donald Trump and Joe Biden, Mr. Ratcliffe chose to declassify a cherry-picked CIA memo from 4 years earlier that outlined Russian claims that Hillary Clinton had approved a plan to tie Trump to Russia's hack of the DNC so that Trump could use that in the debate. These were unverified Russian intelligence claims. Mr. Ratcliffe's decision went against explicit warnings by CIA personnel that its release would put in jeopardy CIA sources, methods, and personnel, but he did it anyway on the day of the debate, a month before the election, because its release would help Donald Trump's reelection campaign.

Now, it is true that during this day of debate we are having before we vote likely tomorrow, Senators may not be coming to the floor to give lengthy speeches on Mr. Ratcliffe's nomination, but this debate time—this day—gives all of my colleagues the time to carefully review the record and consider whether Mr. Ratcliffe is qualified. Maybe members of the Senate Intelligence Committee have had the time to do a full study, but the full Senate has not. So it is not too much to ask, given the very real concerns about this nominee's politicization of intelligence, for us to take a day—not a week, not 2 weeks; a day—for Senators to take the time to consider the record.

But I want to make a broader point. I hear Republicans claiming that my decision to ask for 1 day of debate on a controversial nominee to lead the CIA somehow compromises our national se-

curity, so let me say this: Spare me. Two days ago, President Donald Trump pardoned 1,500 rioters—including the most violent rioters—who stormed this building 4 years ago, brutally beat law enforcement over the head with poles, tried to crush the heads of Capitol Police officers, and walked around here with zip ties, looking to do God knows what to any Democratic Congressmen or Senators they found. They assembled a gallows and a noose outside the Capitol to chants of "Hang Mike Pence." All of my Republican colleagues were here when a Capitol Police officer burst through that door to rush us to safety before the mob attacked us.

Republicans all of a sudden claim that law and order is a priority and we have to rush through nominees, and yet they stand by a President who just threw law and order out the window by pardoning not some of the rioters but all of them.

Political violence in this country just became mainstream. It is now a fact of life in America. If you commit an act of horrific violence in the name of the President of the United States, that President will make sure you get away with it. That is fundamentally un-American, and it makes this country less safe.

Let me guarantee you, a 1-day delay, a 1-day debate on the confirmation of the CIA Director does no damage to our Nation's security compared to the decision to pardon every single January 6 rioter charged and convicted of crimes and let out of jail—some of the most violent rioters. Just to hammer home the point, if you don't believe me, let me explain to you who Donald Trump let out of jail yesterday.

This is David Dempsey. He gave an interview in front of the gallows that had been built and fitted with a noose. He said he was at the Capitol that day, January 6, because NANCY PELOSI, James Comey, the Obamas, and the Clintons "need to hang."

At the Capitol, he climbed to the front of the mob and immediately began attacking law enforcement officers who were trying to protect us. He used his hands, his feet, flag poles, crutches, broken pieces of furniture, and anything else he could find as a weapon to attack police officers.

At around 4 p.m. that day, Dempsey pepper-sprayed DC detective Phuson Nguyen as another rioter yanked off the detective's gas mask. The spray burned Detective Nguyen's lungs, throat, and eyes. It left him gasping for breath, fearing that he might lose consciousness and be overwhelmed by the mob.

Moments later, because Dempsey wasn't done, he hit Sergeant Jason Mastony over the head with a metal crutch. He struck him with so much force that it cracked the shield of his gas mask, causing Sergeant Mastony to collapse as his ears started ringing.

Dempsey wasn't done, though. He was thorough. He was vicious. He kept

going. He sprayed chemical agents at officers. He stomped on their heads. He hit them repeatedly with metal and wooden poles.

Dempsey's violence reached such extremes that at one point, he actually attacked another rioter who was trying to stop him.

He was sentenced by a jury of his peers to significant jail time for his litany of brutal attacks, as anyone in this country would.

He walked out of jail last night, in the middle of his sentence because Donald Trump pardoned him.

That is DJ Rodriguez. He didn't make any bones about what he was coming to the Capitol to do.

The night before the insurrection, DJ Rodriguez posted on Telegram "There will be blood. Welcome to the revolution."

For weeks, he and members of his violent rightwing group had been organizing and planning what they were going to do. He encouraged members of the group to "get a large knife," told them where they could buy bear spray. He said he "highly recommended" to wear goggles without breath holes and told them where they could get an axe handle. He was preparing for war.

He began, you know, rather innocently, just spraying a fire extinguisher at a line of officers. When that didn't work, he found a long wooden pole to attack the officers.

He wasn't done. After 37 minutes of repeated, frantic attempts to breach the Capitol, he finally got to the mouth of the tunnel in the Lower West Terrace. He grabbed an officer—by the neck—and dragged him into the mob. He takes a Taser and tases the officer in the head. The officer screams in pain, recoils from the shock, and jerks back his head.

Rodriguez isn't done because he wants this guy dead. He strikes him again directly in the neck. The officer yells out. But it is over. The officer collapses, unconscious. And another officer has to drag his lifeless body away from the mob. The officer suffered a heart attack. His law enforcement career is over.

Later that day, Rodriguez went to those gallows, took a picture, and posted "No Democrats unfortunately."

After being convicted of beating a police officer by a jury of his peers, DJ Rodriguez was pardoned by Donald Trump.

This is Thomas Webster. He traveled to DC ready for battle with a bullet-proof vest. He carried a large metal flag pole with him to the riot at the Capitol. He led the charge against the police line. He spent 8 minutes elbowing his way through the crowd so he could be at the front of the mob. He used that pole to repeatedly attack police officers. He slammed it so hard the metal pole broke in half. So then he just charged directly at one officer, tackling him to the ground. He grabbed the officer by the helmet, dragged him, and pinned him to the ground. As Web-

ster tried to rip off the officer's gas mask, the officer began to struggle for breath because he was being choked by the chin strap. And as he gasped for air, Webster held him down on the ground, and other rioters kicked him repeatedly.

After that, Webster was so fired up he posted a live video. He pleaded "Send more patriots. We need some help."

He was convicted of all six counts in his indictment, including assaulting a police officer, like anybody would be in this country if they did what Thomas Webster did.

He walked out of jail in the middle of his sentence Monday night, pardoned by Donald Trump.

So here is the message: If you beat up a police officer in this country, you are going to jail for a long time, with one exception: You don't go to jail if you beat the hell out of a police officer in the service of Donald Trump. If you are engaged in violence to further Donald Trump's political career, then you face no consequences.

What happened this week is that political violence got mainstreamed in America. There are still a lot of radical dangerous people out there in this world, and they now know that if they carry out violence in the name of Donald Trump, if they beat up police officers, if they attack Democratic officials and they are doing it to support Donald Trump, they are likely immune.

That puts this Nation's security in jeopardy. That puts our lives in jeopardy. And I am just going to say it: It puts Democrats' lives in jeopardy in particular. Remember, DJ Rodriguez went to the gallows and said "No Democrats here unfortunately."

Where is the broad righteous indignation from my Republican colleagues about that? Yes, a few of my Republican colleagues have criticized the pardons—I am thankful to them—but it is a minority. It is a small handful. Most Senate Republicans are silent.

The wholesale endorsement of political violence is a grave national security threat to this Nation. Having a 1-day debate on the nomination of a CIA Director is not.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SHEEHY). Without objection, it is so ordered.

NOMINATION OF ROBERT F. KENNEDY, JR.

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, you might think that the person nominated to lead our Nation's top health department, an Agency with a budget of over \$2 trillion and responsible for running everything from Medicare to vaccine trials—you might think that that per-

son would at least be interested in, if not experienced in, curing diseases and promoting public health; that they would be someone who follows science and works to build the public's trust in it.

Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., is none of those things.

For the first time ever, we might have a Health Secretary who has actively fueled disease outbreaks. He has literally made a career out of lying about the safety of basic vaccines. And it is not an exaggeration to say lives will be lost if he is confirmed. He has cost lives pretending to be a public health expert before, and he will do it again at scale if he becomes the next Health Secretary.

This is not just some random dude with his buddies, kicking around weird ideas just for the hell of it. He is a Kennedy, with an enormous fortune, parachuting into countries to tell lies and stop people from taking lifesaving vaccines.

In 2019, he flew to Samoa to discourage people from taking the measles vaccine, deepening a hesitancy that was already building. And it did work. Vaccination rates for eligible 1-year-olds—1-year-olds—fell below 33 percent, and just 5 months later, Samoa found itself in the middle of a measles outbreak. So 5,000 people got the measles; 83 people died—79 of them, kids. And 83 kids died because RFK, Jr., decided to leave the east coast of the continental United States and fly clear across the Pacific to Samoa to tell people not to take the measles vaccine.

This is the nominee for the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

In addition to spreading baseless lies about vaccines, he has also regularly spouted all kinds of deranged ideas, including—this is a direct quote—that COVID was "targeted to attack Caucasians and Black people. The people who are most immune are Ashkenazi Jews and Chinese." He also claimed without any evidence that antidepressants are to blame for mass shootings and that chemicals in our water are turning our kids gay.

I don't know why this guy is going to get a single vote. This isn't just somebody who has like a different view than me on mandatory COVID vaccinations. There is a lot of room for reasonable people to disagree about the conduct of the government—State, Federal, county—as it relates to the COVID vaccine and the COVID response. In a global pandemic, people—all of them, all of them in every State—everybody was trying their best. And there are a lot of lessons to be learned, including a kind of close call about whether mandatory vaccinations in the context of COVID as it was on the down slope even worked. But we are not talking about that; we are talking about measles, mumps, rubella, polio.

His plans to remake the Department of Health and Human Services are equally terrifying. He wants to revoke



approvals for the polio and hep B vaccines for children and roll back guidance on other vital vaccines. There is a reason that we haven't had to think about these awful, painful diseases in a long, long time, and it is because we vaccinated our way out of outbreaks.

He has also vowed to fire hundreds of Federal health researchers and scientists and stop all research into infectious diseases and vaccine development because "[w]e're going to give infectious disease a break for about eight years."

"We're going to give infectious disease a break for about eight years."

This is as dangerous of a decision as the U.S. Senate could possibly take. You would honestly not put him in charge of a local clinic, let alone the country's entire health system.

Look, I get it. I come from Hawaii. A lot of my constituents hear his critique of our food system and agree. Our food system is broken, and people are getting sick because of it. We have subsidized the wrong things for so long that you can find an unhealthy meal faster and cheaper than a healthy one. Ultraprocessed foods are everywhere, and healthy and hearty meals are harder to come by, and that has to change. But we don't have to bring measles and mumps back in order to fix our food system. We don't have to bring back the horrors of polio in the name of cleansing our diet.

There are a lot of people in the Senate, including my dear friend Senator CORY BOOKER, who work really hard to solve this problem with the seriousness and the thoughtfulness that it deserves, to rein in factory farms, to empower family farmers, to make healthy food more readily available and affordable. We have to do all of that, but we don't have to purchase with this idea that our food system is broken the idea that the only way we can fix our food system is if we bring polio back, if we bring measles back, if we bring mumps back, if we bring rubella back.

The medical profession at its best is about helping people, and I think about doctors like my dad, Dr. Irv Schatz, aboard a hospital ship, the *SS Hope*, providing free medical care to people across Latin America. So many like him put their lives and their careers on hold to travel far and wide to care for the less fortunate—helping kids with cleft palates, distributing mosquito nets, delivering babies, treating and preventing diseases. It is hard and unglamorous and unselfish work. It is God's work.

So it takes a special kind of person to do the exact opposite, to do what this man did, which is fly around the planet to cause disease—to fly around the planet to cause disease.

So, yes, this is a question of character and competence, but it is also a question of life and death and who we want in charge making decisions when lives are on the line. And it is our job here in the Senate to make damn sure that we protect the public health.

I could not urge more strongly a "no" vote on this unqualified nominee.

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

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

#### PRO-LIFE MOVEMENT

Mr. RICKETTS. Mr. President, the pro-life movement is about love, compassion, dignity, and respect. Nebraska is a pro-life State, and Nebraska has been a leader in the pro-life movement.

In 2010, Nebraska was the first State to pass a law with regard to pain-capable fetuses and, effectively, made it so that you had a 20-week prohibition on abortion protecting those babies after 20 weeks because they can feel pain.

Last year, Nebraska, again, showed the Nation what we can do with the pro-life movement. We were the first State to pass a pro-life ballot initiative. And while doing that, we were able to prevent the pro-abortion lobby from passing a really heinous pro-abortion ballot issue. The pro-abortion forces ballot initiative would have essentially enshrined in our Constitution not only the right to abortion but would have allowed abortion up until, essentially, the moment of birth. It was incredibly radical.

I am very proud of our State. The people of Nebraska took our current law and kept that on the ballot and defeated the pro-abortion's very radical ballot issue.

We have the opportunity here in the Senate to be able to continue to uphold the dignity of unborn children. There are a couple of bills I want to talk about. They both have the word "abortion" in them, but they are really not about abortion. They are about that love and compassion, that dignity and respect.

The first is the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Act. In 2002, Congress passed bipartisan legislation that said that children who survive an abortion are to be treated as people under the law. Now, to me, that seems a little crazy that we had to do that, but we actually passed that. It seemed common sense that if you are born, you are a person and protected under our laws here in the United States. Sadly, that is not the case.

In that 2002 law, it didn't say that the child had to receive care. So what we have seen in the abortion industry is that when there is a botched abortion, that baby oftentimes will just be born alive but then left to die of exposure. It is absolutely barbaric, absolutely heinous. And that is what the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act does. It requires medical treatment to be given to those babies, so if a baby girl is born in a botched abortion attempt, that baby girl gets

the medical attention it needs so that she can survive and grow up.

You may say this sounds ridiculous. Why wouldn't that happen? Well, as I said, it does happen in the abortion industry.

Melissa Ohden's mother was pressured into trying to have an abortion at a hospital in Sioux City, IA. Melissa was born alive. And thank goodness there was a nurse there who then took her to the NICU so she could get the medical attention so that she could survive and grow up to be the woman she is today. Melissa was later adopted and has contributed to our country.

That is part of what we in the pro-life movement need to do is make sure we are defending the rights of these babies.

We have another opportunity as well. And, again, the name of the bill has "abortion" in it, but it is not about abortion; it is about protecting the dignity of unborn children. In this case, it is unborn children who are killed in that abortion.

Just a few years ago, the remains of over 2,000 aborted babies were discovered in a home in Indiana. Many Americans were shocked to find out that children who are aborted are often just disposed of. Their remains are treated like medical waste. That is just absolutely fundamentally wrong. These babies deserve the dignity that every other person has.

And so, in a few days, I am going to introduce the Dignity for Aborted Children Act. What my bill will do is require the abortion industry to treat with dignity and respect the remains of these aborted children; that they will get the same dignity and respect as any human being who dies.

Finally, I want to recognize that we have the March for Life coming up on Friday. I want to say thank you to all of the marchers who are going to be here to be able to demonstrate our movement's commitment to love, compassion, dignity, and respect.

Your advocacy plays a critical role in making sure that we help save the lives of all of these unborn babies.

When we talk about the most vulnerable, who could be more vulnerable than a baby who hasn't been born yet, and we can't hear that little girl's or little boy's voice yet? These marchers will be here to be that voice for those little babies.

So thank you for the work you are doing to be able to continue to get our message out about love and compassion, dignity and respect.

We need to remind all of our fellow citizens that these little babies deserve the same protections that we all have as citizens of the United States. It is about extending basic human rights to some of the most vulnerable among us. I appreciate the work that all of these pro-life advocates will be doing to be able to help carry our message out this weekend.

Working together, we can defend life and empower women.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, 52 years ago today, *Roe v. Wade* was decided by the U.S. Supreme Court. Approximately 1 year before that, I was a member of the Iowa Legislature, and that legislature attempted to repeal Iowa's law of decades old. That vote in the house of representatives was 44 to 44, so obviously that bill was not adopted, and our ban on abortion continued for a year until *Roe v. Wade*. I was one of those 44 who voted to retain the law that had been on the books for a long period of time. Well, there has been a lot of history since then. We are still fighting this issue.

This bill before the U.S. Senate now is a very important bill to express what life in the womb is all about.

Dr. Willard Cates, the director of abortion surveillance at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in 1981, referred to the survival of a baby after an attempted abortion as the "dreaded complication." Now, I happen to call that "dreaded complication" a miracle.

While it may be a troubling truth for some people to hear that, there are babies who survive attempted abortions. In 2024, the American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology analyzed almost 14,000 late-term abortions and found that over 11 percent resulted in live births. However, because we lack reliable Federal and State abortion data, we don't know the number of babies who survive an attempted abortion and are born alive each year in the United States.

When an abortion results in the live birth of a child, that child should be entitled to quality healthcare under the law. Tragically, that isn't always the case.

During my time in Congress, I have heard a number of stories from abortion survivors regarding their health struggles and the lack of care they received following failed abortions.

Melissa Ohden, for example, was born alive in 1977 and was left to die in a bucket of formaldehyde in a utility closet before being saved by two nurses. She is an advocate for children who come into this world the same way she did. Her message for moms considering abortion is this:

There is hope for you and your child even after an attempted abortion. You aren't alone.

While children born alive are already recognized as persons under the law, there is not a Federal law on the books to penalize abortionists who actively kill or passively deny care to babies who survive abortions. These precious babies deserve justice. That is why I have joined my colleagues in introducing the legislation that we have entitled the "Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act."

This legislation requires that any child born alive following an attempted abortion receive the same level of care as any other newborn who is born alive

at the same stage of development. It doesn't and should not matter if a child is born in a hospital, in a maternity ward, or in an abortion clinic. In any case, this is a baby, and that reality ought to convict each of us in our hearts and move us to compassion and to action. Our bill would bring justice for babies who survive abortions and are born into this world.

Under our current legal system, human lives viewed as unwanted are treated as dispensable. No matter what each of us may think about abortion, we must speak and vote with unity to protect children outside of the womb.

In Congress, my colleagues and I have reached across the aisle to protect children in many other contexts, and I ask my colleagues to do the same here.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Mississippi.

Mrs. HYDE-SMITH. Mr. President, this is an incredibly special week for pro-life Americans. We have welcomed back a life-affirming administration with the second inauguration of President Donald Trump.

Both Chambers of Congress are united in our pursuit of commonsense legislation to protect the most vulnerable Americans among us with a vote on the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act.

This Friday, we will join thousands of pro-life Americans who will faithfully participate in the 52nd annual March for Life in our Nation's Capital. The National March for Life always reminds us of why we continue to fight for stronger protections for our unborn children and for their mothers. Thankfully, the march also serves as a bright reminder of the progress we have made as a movement.

Now, thanks to efforts led by my fellow Mississippians in the Governor's Office, the Attorney General's Office, and in the State legislature, we live in the Dobbs era. The entire process that brought us to this historical overturning of *Roe v. Wade* almost 3 years ago began with the introduction of a bill in the Mississippi State Legislature called the Gestational Age Act. My dear friend Representative Becky Currie is responsible for introducing this legislation, which turned out to be a catalyst for such great change in our Nation.

(The remarks of Mrs. HYDE-SMITH pertaining to the introduction of S. Res. 30 are printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mrs. HYDE-SMITH. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. TILLIS). The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I want to start by thanking my friend and colleague Senator LANKFORD from Oklahoma in organizing a colloquy here recognizing the importance of protecting the lives of the unborn and to bring us together today to make a statement about the importance of standing up for the right to life.

I look forward to joining my constituents back in Texas on Saturday, later this week, at the Texas Rally for Life, where I will be honored to speak.

It is no mistake that the Declaration of Independence recognizes the importance of the right to life. Life and liberty are among the unalienable rights that have been guaranteed by our Constitution but, more importantly, by our Creator.

Now, 3 years have passed since the Supreme Court struck down *Roe v. Wade*, which was judge-made law, drawing an arbitrary line at when abortions would be available or when they would not be available, and excluding any kind of participation from the American people, across this great land of ours of 330-plus million people, about what they thought.

This decision returned the authority where it should have been in the first place, until the Supreme Court ruled in *Roe v. Wade*, back to the States, because now the elected officials in the various States are going to be accountable to their constituents at where that line is drawn.

All the States and, thus, all the American people, through their elected representatives and their State legislatures, have an opportunity to weigh in. And I know that this can be a controversial topic. It is fraught with emotion and strong feelings. But it is important to point out that, notwithstanding where you think the line ought to be drawn at when an abortion should be available in America, it is the Democratic Party that is extreme and out of touch with the American people on this issue.

Our Democratic colleagues have made clear that they support abortion on demand—anytime, anywhere, anyplace—funded by the taxpayer, even, up until the moment of birth and, in some instances, even after birth.

This week, we will vote on the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act, which would guarantee certain basic medical care to children who are born as a result of an unsuccessful abortion. In other words, if they are born alive, are they left to die or are they given the basic medical care that any infant would be given?

My Democratic colleagues are on record for saying they think medical care is a basic human right. I heard the Senator from Vermont this morning, in the Budget hearing, talking about a fundamental right to healthcare. Well, now we are about to see whether they will vote to deny basic medical care to infants who survive abortions. If there is a basic right to healthcare in this country, will it be afforded to the most vulnerable of our citizens—children born alive as a result of an unsuccessful abortion—or not?

It has been said before by many great minds that civilizations should be measured by the way we treat our most vulnerable members. It is hard for me to imagine anyone more vulnerable than an infant who has been born, who

isn't wanted by his or her parents. To deny protection to these helpless newborns amounts to infanticide, and it is a tragedy that this is legal in our country.

If America is to be truly great, we should, without question, be willing to, at least, provide basic medical care to these innocent children.

I would hope our Democratic colleagues would examine their conscience and realize that there are more important things than politics in this world. In the end, we all have to live with our own consciences, and I would hope they would join us in voting for this legislation to protect the right to life for these, our most vulnerable citizens.

**THE PRESIDING OFFICER.** The Senator from Oklahoma.

**Mr. LANKFORD.** Mr. President, for the past 45 minutes or so, my colleagues have come to this floor to be able to talk about a bill that is coming soon that we will actually vote on at the bottom of this hour. It is a bill we have talked about for several years. It has been debated some. It is about what happens if a child survives a botched abortion.

Now, I am going to talk about it a little bit. I have got some other colleagues who are going to step in, in a moment. Then I am going to talk a little bit more about this because this seems to be an incredibly misunderstood issue.

It is interesting. We most often talk about a botched medical procedure—that if there is a botched medical procedure, someone dies. This is literally the opposite—that there was a botched medical procedure, and someone lives. The whole debate is, that botched medical procedure that was supposed to take the life of a child ends up actually delivering that child, and now you have a living, breathing child crying on the table, fully viable. The question is, What do we do now?

Yesterday, my Democratic colleagues spent an hour on the floor saying that child should die. I disagree.

In all of our conversations about abortion—and we have various opinions in this room, and, quite frankly, across the country. We have various opinions about when is a child a child. Some people believe a child is a child when they have unique DNA that is different than the mom, different than the dad. Conception has occurred; cell division has happened. That is, quite frankly, how science defines life, as unique, replicating cell division. Some people believe that is a child.

Some people say: Well, it is not a child until there is a heartbeat.

Some people would say: Well, it is not a child until there is actually a developed nervous system.

Some people would say: It is not a child until the Roe standard, that I hear very often—that it is a viable child that could survive outside the womb, which is about 21 weeks of gestation.

And I have a lot of my colleagues who will say: Well, I want to go back to the Roe standard.

But I have yet to have a colleague come to me and say: I am OK with abortion after delivery.

That is what we are talking about in this.

Now, it is an incredibly small group that we are discussing here. But if we are talking about a common-ground issue, why wouldn't this be a common-ground issue?

Earlier this week, we found a common-ground issue on the issue that is very contentious in this body about immigration. We have had a wide variety of opinions about how we do enforcement for immigration, but we found an area to say: If a person has crossed the border, committed multiple crimes in the United States, they should be detained.

We found bipartisan agreement on that. We don't agree on everything, but we, at least, agreed on that one.

You realize, that is the first bill like that that we have passed in decades—that has actually passed. It is going to be signed by the President. We are making law on that issue where we found simple common ground on a small, niche issue related to immigration.

Well, this is a small, niche issue on a very contentious issue about abortion—what do we do when a child is actually delivered, instead of destroyed in the womb, that is a viable child?

Now, some of my Democratic colleagues have said this never happens. Well, I would love to introduce you to a friend of mine named Melissa Ohden. When Melissa Ohden's mom was 19 years old, she was compelled by her family to have an abortion. She had an abortion—her mom did—and delivered that child. The child was delivered, and then, literally, the baby was set aside into the medical waste of that procedure at the hospital.

The nurse then, a few minutes later, as she was cleaning up after the procedure, noticed the medical waste was crying and was breathing. So the nurse literally scooped up this child and took the child from that room to the emergency room, where she survived.

Folks, early on, said she would be blind or she would have a major heart condition; she would have everything else. I wish you could meet Melissa. She is amazing. She is fully healthy.

In fact, it was years later that she learned her adopted mom had adopted her because her birth mom literally didn't know she still existed. Her birth mom was never told that, actually, that abortion “didn't work.” That child survived.

They have since reconnected, Melissa and her birth mom—her birth mom, with deep regret, thinking about this beautiful child in front of her, that that life was almost destroyed. In fact, it was planned to be destroyed.

Listen, this is not just an academic issue. This is real. Again, it is rare, but

the question is: What do we do in those rare situations? How do we track this? How do we engage on it?

I would ask any American: If there is a child lying on the table in an operating room, crying, what do we do then? I don't know many Americans who would say: Kill it.

But here is what happens. In a botched abortion in America right now, when a child is actually delivered rather than destroyed in the womb, when literally there was a medical mistake that didn't take the life of the child but instead delivered that child into life—when that occurs, the current practice is everyone kind of backs away and allows the child to die on the table by exposure because it is against American law in every single State to take the life of a child. But if everybody just steps back and watches the child die, that is OK.

My Democratic colleagues came to the floor yesterday and said: This is already illegal. Why are we even discussing this? This is already illegal. You can't have infanticide in America.

And I would say that is correct; it is already illegal to do infanticide. But what is still allowed is a tiny, little loophole that if an abortion was botched, everyone can just back away and watch the child die; they do not have to give that child medical care.

That is quite a loophole, and it is painful for me to even have to have this conversation in a nation like ours. Of all the things that we could talk about right now, why do we even have to discuss what to do with a child on a table in an operating room, crying? Why is this even a conversation?

So we are bringing a bill to the floor today to be able to fix this. This is a bill we talked about multiple times in this body, but it should be the absolute, easiest common-ground piece to face. Which of us, standing in that operating room, would look at a crying child and would say: Ignore it. If we wouldn't say it there, we shouldn't say that here.

So I will be back in a few moments, Mr. President. I have other colleagues who want to be able to speak to this issue, but I have some facts and myth that I want to do side by side with some of my Democratic colleagues who came to be able to share their perspective on this, and I want to be able to lay some things side by side to say what this bill actually does, not what the myth is and what is actually being told about it.

In the meantime, I would encourage Members of this body to be able to look up my friend Melissa Ohden. Look her up online if you want to, see her beautiful picture, and read her story for yourself, because she is not the only one with that same story. She is just one of many that has that story. Just not many are willing to be able to step out and speak knowing that their life was intended to be taken, though today, they are still smiling and talking about the value of every single life.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The senior Senator from Louisiana.

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, the bill we are discussing today should be really straightforward. A child who survives a failed abortion attempt should receive lifesaving medical care. We are talking about not an abstraction; we are talking about a living, breathing person—a little girl or a little boy—who comes into the world after a failed abortion. And they shouldn't just be put to the side and allowed to die. They deserve the care that they need to survive.

Imagine if it was a week later and they were going home from the hospital and there was a car wreck. You would rush them to the hospital. You would do everything to help that child survive.

Once that child is born, it should be straightforward: We should be helping the child survive. And there is no difference in the value and dignity of a child—of a person—as to whether or not they were originally wanted or not. Once they are born, they have that natural right, which we all have, that is discussed in our Declaration of Independence: our right to life, to liberty.

I am a physician, and I was trained to take the best care of a patient regardless of the circumstances that brought them before me. And it may have been someone that society didn't particularly care for. It didn't matter. That is my patient. I am going to do everything I possibly can to help that patient survive and to thrive. That should be the ethic, and we should enshrine it into law.

But, Mr. President, I am a little struck. My Democratic colleagues offer a variety of excuses to justify opposing this bill. This is kind of like an inconvenient truth. Botched abortions happen.

Now, my Democratic colleagues refuse to acknowledge that infanticide—withholding care to a baby who is born alive—is horrific and wrong, but we do know that failed abortions occur. The Senate HELP Committee—Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions—heard powerful testimony last year from Melissa Ohden. Melissa survived an abortion and would have been left to die if not for a courageous NICU nurse—a neonatal intensive care unit nurse. A life that could have been wasted now is used to advocate for those who do not have a voice.

Innocent children should not have to hope that there is a NICU nurse like Melissa's who will do everything possible to save their life.

Mr. President, this is a vote in support of basic human decency. Every child deserves to have a chance to live. And I urge my colleagues, if you believe in prayer, pray on that. If you don't believe in prayer, look at the Declaration of Independence. We are endowed with the natural right of life and of liberty. Reflect on that. Support this bill.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that after I speak, Senator MURRAY speak, and then the Senator from Oklahoma.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, first, I want to thank Senator MURRAY, a great champion of women's health, for adding her eloquence and expertise to the debate. When it comes to the issue of choice, women's rights, women's health, there is no greater spokesperson than she. So I thank her. We will hear from her shortly.

Now, today's vote on the Senate Republicans' so-called Born-Alive bill makes one thing very clear: Under President Trump, it will be a golden age but for the extreme anti-choice movement. The bill is the very definition of pernicious. It attacks women's healthcare using false narratives and outright fear-mongering, and it adds more legal risks for doctors on something that is already illegal.

So much of the hard-right's anti-choice agenda is pushed, frankly, by people who have little to no understanding of what women go through when they are pregnant. The scenario targeted by this bill is one of the most heartbreaking moments that a woman could ever encounter: the agonizing choice of having to end care when serious and rare complications arise in pregnancy. And at that moment of agony, this bill cruelly substitutes the judgment of qualified medical professionals and the wishes of millions of families and allows the ultraright ideology to dictate what they do.

Women should be supported and trusted when faced with serious pregnancy complications. This is when male politicians should step up and support women, not use them as political footballs, as this bill so heartlessly does.

And, if anything, this bill is a metaphor for what is to come: an emboldened extremist, anti-choice resurgence, further to the right than the American people are, even than most Republicans are.

Remember when Republicans said this issue would be left to the States. Both President Trump and our Republican colleagues said: Don't worry; we are going to leave this to the States.

That is not what this bill does. It doesn't leave it to the States. And I think that we are going to see this over and over again where promises made during the campaign are just broken. This one: 2 days after Donald Trump is inaugurated as President, it is no longer left to the States. And any promise that people made that we are going to leave things to the women and their doctors, that is out the window with this bill. And again, we are going to see that repeated over and over again—not left to the States, imposed by some politicians here in Washington

on women across America, and not respecting the rights of women and their doctors and their families.

Here is my message to my Republican colleagues: Instead of attacking reproductive care, today would be a great day for Senate Republicans to do something to lower the cost of groceries or prescription drugs or helping Americans buy a home. It would also be a great day for Senate Republicans to trust women and leave their healthcare choices up to them, but they are not doing that.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, earlier this week, we lost a friend and a champion for reproductive rights: Cecile Richards. She helped countless women and changed the conversation around women's health and abortion.

And I know, if she were here, she would say: The fight continues.

And that is very clear given what Republicans are choosing to focus on today. Of all the bills that we could be voting on—lowering healthcare costs, expanding childcare, helping our families—it is an absolute disgrace that Republicans are spending their very first week in power attacking women, criminalizing doctors, and lying about abortion.

I am not going to let anyone perpetuate disgusting lies about people who have abortions and the providers who care for them. This is not how abortion works. Republicans know it.

All babies are already protected under the law, regardless of the circumstance of their birth. Doctors already have a legal obligation to provide appropriate medical care, and we already know this sham bill from Republicans is not going anywhere. We have been here before.

The last time we voted down this bill, I actually spoke about something Republicans refuse to acknowledge in this debate: the struggles—the struggles of a pregnant woman who has received tragic news that her baby had a fatal medical condition and would not be able to survive and who are able to make the choice that was right for their family.

But now, here we are, already hearing stories of women who were denied that choice now by extreme Republican abortion bans.

Can you imagine what it is like to go for months pregnant with a baby that you know will not survive and getting questions and comments like: Oh, is this your first child? Are you excited?

Do you know what it is like to be that woman and fight back tears as you try to decide whether to nod politely somehow or explain that, actually, your world is falling apart—I can't imagine that, but it happens—and all the while you know you have to go through this against your will because some politician decided that they knew better than you and your family and your doctor.

Now, Republicans have a bill today to take that issue nationwide. That is what we are voting on. That is their top priority now that Trump is in office. Shame on them.

I urge my colleagues to vote against this bill.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, in just a few moments, this body will vote on a bill that actually doesn't limit abortion at all. It doesn't slow down one abortion. It doesn't stop one woman from choosing to have an abortion. It doesn't have a nationwide ban on abortion. In fact, this is a bill about what happens after an abortion.

What is unique about this bill is it is asking a pretty simple question that seems like it would be a common ground issue for us, if there is, in this case, a medical mistake that didn't take a life, we normally think about a medical mistake that takes a life. But in this case, if there was a medical mistake that actually protected a life, what happens?

This doesn't limit one single abortion in America, though many people in this body know me well enough to know I would love to protect more children in America. This bill just asks a simple question: If an abortion is botched and the child is delivered instead of destroyed in the womb and the child is alive and viable on the table, what happens next?

Current medical practice is everyone in the room just backs away, and you allow the child to die on the table. I don't think that is what most Americans would want. I think most Americans would say: Hey, I have got boundaries on the issue of abortion and definitely fully born is a boundary.

Now, it has been interesting, I have listened to the debate yesterday and today from my Democratic colleagues, many of them friends, we have a real disagreement on this. This is not extreme—as I have heard it described, an extreme, rightwing proposal about abortion.

I just don't think if I pulled 100 people off the street and said: Hey, if a child is alive and screaming on the table after birth, what do you think we should do? I bet 100 out of 100 of them would say we should probably give them medical care. I just don't think that is extreme or out of the main thought in America.

I think that is just who Americans are. We are compassionate people; that when we see a baby and look in their face, we don't say ignore them; we say let's provide some care.

I have heard some of my colleagues say that we should respect the rights of women in this. By the way, I think one of those women should be that little girl that is born who is lying on the table right there crying. I think she should get some compassion and respect as well because a decision is being made at this point about what to do. And it is not a theory.

Several of my colleagues yesterday have used terms during this debate like this is "myth-based fearmongering." That was my favorite one. "Republicans are talking about stories that do not happen" was also expressed by another one of my colleagues.

This one was just a little more blunt. One of my colleagues just came to the floor and said: "Republicans are lying." Well, here is what really happened. Let me give you a status. This doesn't happen very often at all. Thankfully, this is rare, but the CDC does some tracking, and there are, quite frankly, only eight States in America that actually keep track of this; that if there is a botched abortion, the child is actually delivered fully alive. There are only eight States that do it. Most States say don't. In fact, what is interesting is we tried to be able to track which States actually keep track of this and have some kind of instruction of what to do on healthcare on it. A few States do; many States don't. In fact, some States, like Minnesota, literally voted recently: We used to track reporting, but we don't even want to know anymore if this occurs. Don't tell us if it occurs.

Of the few States, just 8, that actually track this, over a several-year period, there were 277 cases like this where a child was actually delivered and was alive after a botched abortion.

Now, again, that is not many, but we know from eight States in that short time period, that that is occurring.

So, again, I go back to the basic question: What do we want to do about that? Do we want to just ignore that or do we have a thought about what should happen to that child?

Some of my colleagues have said this only occurs if there is a pregnancy complication and the child was already going to die or there was a fatal medical condition that was actually occurring. Well, actually, that is not true in this bill. This bill is about a viable child that was delivered late term that is now on the table alive.

I have also heard that this is going to have this massive overreach for doctors; that they are going to be oppressed, and they are going to be afraid to practice on this.

Actually, the bill is pretty clear on this. This still gives the doctor the ability to use his or her professional judgment in the care that would normally be provided to a child that is born. That is it.

The doctor may look at it and say: This child is not going to make it. That is still a professional judgment that is there or they may have a professional judgment that the child will make it. And as I have mentioned on this floor before, there are adults walking around today that survived an abortion, like Melissa Ohden and other folks that I know personally.

So this is not something that just never occurs. So it doesn't limit abortion. It doesn't restrict doctors. It ac-

tually does happen—contrary to what some of my colleagues have said that this never happens, it actually does happen on this.

I have had colleagues that have said: Infanticide is already illegal. This is unnecessary so let's move on. This is unnecessary. Except we have also established the issue that, yes, taking the life of that child on the table, literally once that child is on the table crying, they can't reach down and take the life of that child. That is Kermit Gosnell, horrific stuff. But just allowing them to slowly die, that is still protected. So that is not there.

One of my colleagues came to this floor and made this statement:

At the center of this debate is whether we believe in the premise from the Declaration of Independence that all are created equal, that freedom belongs to everyone, and that women deserve to be treated as equal citizens.

I actually couldn't agree more with my colleague because that same Declaration of Independence, right next to that statement about everyone being created equal, also includes a simple little comment that says:

Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.

And our question on this particular bill is, when that child is born and she is crying on the table, does she have the opportunity for life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness or not? That is all this bill does. This bill should be a simple process to say this is not who we are as Americans.

As Americans, we respect the opportunity for life for that child that is fully delivered, and then we determine what we are going to do.

Just because a baby can't defend herself, doesn't mean she is disposable. It means she is vulnerable, and that means we as a nation should determine what we are going to do with the life of the most vulnerable.

I encourage a "yes" vote on this. This should be a bipartisan conversation where we speak from this body for those who cannot speak for themselves.

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 senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

#### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 4, S. 6, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit a health care practitioner from failing to exercise the proper degree of care in the case of a child who survives an abortion or attempted abortion.

John Thune, Steve Daines, John Kennedy, Jim Justice, James E. Risch, Tim Sheehy, Mike Crapo, Deb Fischer, Tommy Tuberville, Rick Scott of Florida, Pete Ricketts, Katie Britt, Ted Budd, Roger F. Wicker, Mike Rounds, Roger Marshall, Eric Schmitt.

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 motion to proceed to S. 6, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit a health care practitioner from failing to exercise the proper degree of care in the case of a child who survives an abortion or attempted abortion, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. HAGERTY).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. HAGERTY) would have voted "yea."

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 52, nays 47, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 11 Leg.]

#### YEAS—52

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

#### NAYS—47

Alsobrooks	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Baldwin	Hirono	Sanders
Bennet	Kaine	Schatz
Blumenthal	Kelly	Schiff
Blunt Rochester	Kim	Schumer
Booker	King	Shaheen
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Slotkin
Coons	Lujan	Smith
Cortez Masto	Markey	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Merkley	Warner
Durbin	Murphy	Warnock
Fetterman	Murray	Warren
Galleo	Ossoff	Welch
Gillibrand	Padilla	Whitehouse
Hassan	Peters	Wyden
Heinrich	Reed	

#### NOT VOTING—1

Hagerty

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BANKS). On this vote, the yeas are 52, the nays are 47.

Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn not having voted in the affirmative, the motion is rejected.

The motion was rejected.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

#### NOMINATION OF PETER HEGSETH

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, I rise as a member of the Armed Services Committee to discuss the nomination of Pete Hegseth to be our Nation's Secretary of Defense.

Let me make two preliminary comments.

First, my philosophy about voting on nominees is to give deference to the

President who has been elected, who has a mandate that carries with it a mandate to assemble a leadership team in executive positions, and so I always begin, with any President, Democrat or Republican, with a beginning standpoint that they should be able to assemble a team unless there are significant challenges with a nominee.

Second, I do want to say that as part of the work I have done in examining this nominee, I did review his military record, and I express my respect for the military record. Pete Hegseth's service in the military, in my review of those Pentagon records, suggested that he served in a very honorable way, and I want to acknowledge that.

Yet I rise to oppose the nomination and urge my colleagues to oppose it or at least take the time to really understand the gravity of the behavioral challenges that have been demonstrated by Mr. Hegseth during his career. I have multiple problems with this nominee for this position, and this position, Secretary of Defense, is the position that I view and many Virginians view as the most important Cabinet post. Let me review the reasons for my opposition.

First, Mr. Hegseth's record is one of erratic, unprofessional, and troubling behavior.

Mr. Hegseth was married twice before he was married to his current wife, his third wife. In the first two marriages, there were allegations in both of serious and multiple infidelities. I asked him at the hearing, when he appeared before us, whether he took an oath of fidelity to his spouses, and of course he did, in the same way that a Secretary of Defense will take an oath to uphold the Constitution of the United States, but the evidence that was before us, the public record that was before us, is very, very troubling.

In Mr. Hegseth's first marriage, there were public reports that he was unfaithful to his wife at least five different times with multiple other people. He never rebutted that, and because he wouldn't meet with members of the committee on the Democratic side, we didn't get a chance to talk about that in a closed setting, which would have been most important.

In his second marriage, he was married and, while married, fathered a child by a woman who would become his third wife in August of 2017. So he was still married to wife No. 2 and cheated on her with the woman who would bear his child and become wife No. 3. But in a very shocking way, to me, within 2 months after the birth of this child, he was at a Republican political event at a hotel in Monterey, CA, and he cheated on both his second wife and the mother of his newborn in an incident that led to a sexual assault criminal investigation.

This behavior—look, people are people, and people make mistakes, but a first marriage breaking up over serial infidelity and then a second marriage also bedeviled by serial infidelity is

something that has to call up questions about an individual's judgment.

Mr. Hegseth has been the leader of two nonprofit organizations that are veterans service organizations. In one of the organizations, Concerned Veterans for America, during the time he was the CEO, an employee of the organization wrote a scathing report about Mr. Hegseth's creating a toxic work culture in this environment where impairment by alcohol was not only exhibited by him but tolerated in others and where there was a significant creation of a toxic work environment for women employees.

The committee members have had access to a report that was not done because he was nominated for Secretary of Defense; this was a report that was done by employees and given to the leaders of this organization at the time—now nearly 10 years ago—with about 35 names of employees and individuals in the organization with knowledge of the facts and recitation of event after event after event where people were treated unfairly. Women were made to feel that they were second class in the organization, and alcohol abuse was common at workplace events.

I referenced a sexual assault claim in Monterey, and I will call it an undisclosed sexual assault claim because Mr. Hegseth never told the Trump transition team about this event when he was being considered and vetted to be Secretary of Defense.

Again, he is married to wife 2. He has now fathered a child by a woman, being unfaithful in that wedding, and within 2 months after fathering a child, he goes to an event in Monterey, CA, gets a woman at the event into his hotel room, and has sex with her. She claims she was drugged and raped and filed a criminal complaint about it with local law enforcement within days after the event. He admits the event. He says it was consensual—not a sexual assault, rape, but consensual—but he acknowledges that it occurred.

What then happened is that the survivor went to local law enforcement and filed a sexual assault claim. The claim was investigated over a period of time. The prosecutor ultimately decided not to pursue criminal charges against Mr. Hegseth, but there was a civil claim as well that later led to a settlement with the victim, a payment of cash to the victim, and the entrance into a nondisclosure agreement with the victim.

None of this was disclosed to the Trump team as they were examining Mr. Hegseth to be Secretary of Defense. He didn't disclose the event. He didn't disclose the criminal sexual assault claim. He didn't disclose the fact of an investigation. He didn't disclose the civil claim. He didn't disclose the settlement. He didn't disclose the cash payment. He didn't disclose the nondisclosure agreement. He hid all of it from the Trump transition team.

When I asked him why, he didn't really have an answer, and I told him:



I know the reason why. You were worried that if you told them about this, they would not nominate you to be Secretary of Defense.

The relationship between a Secretary of Defense and a President is a very important relationship that demands complete candor. There is always some challenge. There is always something at the Pentagon that might be going wrong. Mr. Hegseth demonstrated at a very critical moment that he would not let the President-elect know about this fact because he wanted to advance himself and he worried that if he was candid, it would cause problems for him.

I don't want a Secretary of Defense who is unwilling to be candid with the Commander in Chief, and he has already demonstrated grave reason to doubt whether he will be candid by his refusing to disclose the reality of this sexual assault allegation in Monterey.

An affidavit was filed yesterday by one Danielle Hegseth, the former sister-in-law of the nominee, revealing publicly facts suggesting spousal abuse in Mr. Hegseth's second marriage. I don't know Danielle Hegseth. I haven't talked to her. I was not aware of that allegation. But it didn't surprise anyone on the committee who had reviewed the record. Why not? Because there are already facts in the record raising this very question. In fact, I asked Mr. Hegseth about it at the Armed Services Committee.

During his second divorce, his own mother wrote him a letter saying essentially: You are a serial abuser of women, including your own two wives, and you need to look in the mirror, get some help, and figure this out. His mother even used the phrase "neither X nor Y"—the names of the first two wives—"deserved the treatment they have received at your hand."

All of the committee members had access to that before the hearing—all of them. What an extraordinary letter—your mother writing you a letter saying you are a serial abuser of women who needs to look in the mirror and get help and saying that the two wives that you have abused do not deserve the treatment they have received at your hand.

So the allegation from Danielle Hegseth yesterday in reporting her observations of Mr. Hegseth's behavior and in particular the abuse of her sister-in-law have to be given some credence by this committee, and we have to avoid a rush that we may regret.

I found it very unusual that when I asked Mr. Hegseth at the hearing if a sexual assault would be disqualifying to be Secretary of Defense, he would not agree with me; if spousal abuse would be disqualifying to be Secretary of Defense, he would not agree with me; if being impaired by alcohol while on the job would be disqualifying to be Secretary of Defense, he would not agree with me. These are not hard questions. They are clearly disqualifying behaviors, and the fact that he

would not agree that they were disqualifying behaviors suggested to me, as I was watching that testimony, that they evinced a little bit of a guilty conscience. Why would I want to agree if I have concerns about my own behavior?

What has been Mr. Hegseth's response to allegations of infidelity, demonstrating poor judgment, the creation of a toxic work culture, alcohol impairment while at work, this undisclosed sexual assault claim, and the allegations of spousal abuse? What has his response been? His response has been twofold: complete denial—complete denial—with the exception of acknowledging that, yes, he did cheat on his wife and the mother of a newborn child in Monterey, CA, in September 2017. He has denied everything else even though the record is replete with specific instances at specific times with specific individuals attesting to these behaviors.

His other defense is to claim that all of this—all of it—is an anonymous smear—an anonymous smear. Let me tell my colleagues: This is anything but anonymous. When your own mother writes you a letter saying you are a serial abuser of women, including your two wives, and they don't deserve the treatment they have received at your hand, that is not anonymous.

The report of the whistleblower at the Concerned Veterans for America organization a decade ago is anything but anonymous. The report listed—I counted them—incidents involving 36 named individuals who had been either participating in, victimized by, witnessing, or aware of the incidents described in the document.

This is not anonymous. Danielle Hegseth's public affidavit is not anonymous.

The one thing that I will acknowledge that is in the anonymous space is this: the number of individuals who have come forth and shared with me and other members of the committee their own firsthand knowledge of similar events but said you can't use my name because I am so afraid. I am afraid of what Mr. Hegseth would do. I am afraid of what the President might do.

I had someone say to me, when I said you needn't be afraid: That is easy for you to say. That is easy for you to say. If the building, the U.S. Capitol, where you work, could be attacked by people when it was well fortified and secure, what chance would I have if someone didn't like the fact that I publicly criticized this nominee?

So, yes, there are some who are speaking to us who are asking for anonymity and that, if they have asked for it, they should be provided it. But there are many who have spoken either directly via affidavit or in records that are available to all committee members and all Senators who are anything but anonymous.

I would urge my colleagues and not just the Armed Services Committee members to go and read the documents

that are available to you. Before you cast your vote, set your feet in stone about a nominee, you should see these documents.

I want to go back to one point that I made that I think is telling, and that is Mr. Hegseth's refusal to disclose these facts to the Trump transition team. It is one thing to not disclose them to the committee; it is one thing to refuse to meet with the committee—I will get to that in a second—but when the President-elect, who is going to be the Commander in Chief, is vetting you for the most important Cabinet position in the United States and you know you have been charged with a sexual assault that led to a criminal investigation, a civil settlement, a cash payment, and non-disclosure agreement, and you choose not to reveal it to the President, in my view, that, in and of itself, should be disqualifying. The level of disrespect that that shows for the President-elect, in my view, should be disqualifying.

Let me conclude with a couple of other points. The main point is the pattern of behavior, which should make anyone wary to vote for Mr. Hegseth for Secretary of Defense. But there are a couple of other points I want to mention.

Mr. Hegseth, I think, sort of, set a very unfortunate precedent. I have been on the Armed Services Committee. I have sat side by side with my colleague Senator KING on that committee since we came to the Senate in January of 2013. I have now participated in confirmation hearings for about five Secretaries of Defense, both Democratic and Republican nominees. Mr. Hegseth is the only one who refused to meet with Democratic members of the committee, save for the chairman, JACK REED. He met with the Republican committee members. But all of us were trying to set meetings with him, as has been our norm, so that we could talk to him about these issues and ask him questions privately in our office. Some of these matters are, frankly, probably better for private discussion than public discussion. But he stiff-armed every one of us except for JACK REED.

In some ways, maybe it is not a surprise. This is an individual who has written books and articles where he said Democrats are evil; Democrats are the adversary. But if you are nominated to be Secretary of Defense of the Pentagon, it is a nonpolitical military. It is a civilian military that should not be politicized. And if you begin the job by saying I needn't even sit down and pay the respective a meeting with Democratic Senators, what about Democrats who serve in the military or Independents or Libertarians, or people who don't share Mr. Hegseth's party affiliation?

What does it say to the men and women who work for our military when he wouldn't even pay the respect paid by every predecessor when they would meet with Senators of both parties before the hearing?

I was very disturbed the other day when we had a committee hearing to forward Mr. Hegseth's nomination, and the Republican majority asked for a waiver to forward it faster than rules allow. That waiver can be granted if the committee votes to do so. One of my colleagues, Senator WARNER, said to the Republicans: Wait, you are asking us to waive normal rules. We don't want to waive normal rules to speed this along. He wouldn't even meet with us.

I thought that was a pretty compelling argument. I understand if Mr. Hegseth has no respect for the Senators in this body who are Democrats, that is one thing, but I would expect my Senate colleagues to have some respect for us.

I have served with members of this committee on the Republican side. Some have been there the entire 12 years I have been there. I didn't think they would tolerate a nominee stiff-arming me.

If there was a Democratic nominee for Secretary of Defense who refused to meet with Republican members of the committee, I would raise heck about that publicly in the committee and threaten to block the nominee until he met with the Republican members of the committee. I know Senator KING would do the same thing.

Democrats would do the same thing. We would not tolerate a nominee stiff-arming one side of the dais and refusing to meet with us. We wouldn't tolerate it.

I was shocked that my Republican colleagues, in a closed meeting 2 days ago, demonstrated that they are just fine with that.

This is my favorite committee in the Senate. We work very cooperatively in a bipartisan way. And that my Republican colleagues are perfectly fine with us being disrespected because we happen to be Democrats, who our citizens elected us to serve in the U.S. Senate, is very, very shocking to me.

One other point that I want to bring up. I have revealed much material that is in the record and that other Senators can view for themselves. But I have to say, in looking at the investigation record, which was compiled largely by the FBI, it was very, very weak.

The FBI went out to do an investigation of Mr. Hegseth. The report was made available to the chair and the ranking member, not to the members of the committee. We haven't seen the report. But we have been able to ask questions of the chair and ranking about it.

The allegations that I have walked through, which are largely public record, the FBI didn't even interview the wives. Even after a mother's letter had said that you are a serial abuser of women, including your two wives, the FBI did not even go out and interview the wives.

Why not? I mean, was it an investigation or just like a box-checking exercise?

A number of us, when we heard that, we sort of raised hell about it; like, if you are going to do an investigation, talk to the people who know the nominee the best, then the two wives are people you ought to talk to.

We embarrassed the FBI. So after the fact, they went out and did a very cursory discussion with one of the wives. Again, I have not seen that material. I have not been allowed to see it. That should, itself, shock my colleagues and the public. But I have confirmed, in speaking about it with the ranking and chair, that the interview with the wife was very cursory and covered one set of topics but left many of the questions that I have raised here completely unanswered and unaddressed.

A nominee to be Secretary of Defense is going to have enormous power over the physical safety of Americans and over peace, war, and diplomacy in the world. Aren't we, as Senators, exercising our advice and consent role, entitled to a background investigation that is meaningful, that is searching, and that is comprehensive? Are we supposed to just be given some half work product and say: OK, that is great. Let's just rush to confirm somebody?

We shouldn't be confirming a person on an insufficient background check if they didn't have all of these acknowledged problems that are part of the public record. But when they are part of the public record, when the FBI finds out that, wow, you didn't tell the transition team about the sexual assault claim, the investigation should be thorough, not mediocre and cursory.

So I am going to conclude and just say this may not be the last time I appear on the floor to speak on this nomination, but, for now, my request of my colleagues is a simple one: Why rush? Why rush? Why would we rush to put through a nomination for a position of this importance that is frayed with so much baggage and so much evidence of glaring character and judgment errors?

Do we want to have egg on our face? Do we want to rush and have this blow up later? Do we want to rush and have other witnesses come out, as Danielle Hegseth did yesterday? Is that what the Senate's advice and consent process, mandated by the Constitution for a very important reason, has come to—a cursory investigation that doesn't get to the underlying facts, even when they are sitting right out there before us, and we are going to rush to confirm someone? For what reason?

So, as I sit down, I will just conclude with that question: Why rush this? Let's take the time. And when we cast a vote on confirmation, cast it with the confidence that we have complete information about the man who has been nominated to be our Secretary of Defense.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

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

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

TIKTOK

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about TikTok, which I think all people here know that we have been having a lot of attention about—a lot of debate, a lot of discussion, and a lot of action by the Supreme Court. But now I think people are getting a little clouded on the path forward.

I want to be clear that, last year, the U.S. Congress passed a law requiring ByteDance to sell TikTok. The law requires that sale to shut down all government back doors by the Chinese or attempts by them to influence the algorithms that could affect U.S. citizens or the U.S. military. It requires that sale to end the Chinese Government's influence over TikTok's content recommendation algorithms. This law also requires that data sharing with the Chinese Government must end.

I was glad to see that the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia and the U.S. Supreme Court unanimously upheld that law. Why? Because we asked them whether Congress had the ability to act in this national interest and to pass this law, and they upheld it.

Congress and the courts acted for a reason—to address real national security threats to our country and to the American people.

When President Trump issued his 2020 Executive order, he recognized that TikTok collected vast amounts of data on U.S. citizens.

A House resolution, H. Res. 1051, introduced by the leadership of the House Select Committee on China and Congressman GALLAGHER and Congressman KRISHNAMOORTHY sets out the threat citing from the U.S. Government agencies and from U.S. Government officials.

It points out that in 2020, the Department of Commerce found out that China is building a massive database of American personal information to understand who to target for espionage. And that is of particular concern for us when it is about U.S. military personnel—where they might be, what they might be doing.

It also found that ByteDance had very close ties to the Chinese Government. And in December of 2022, the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Chris Wray, stated that TikTok's data repository on Americans was in the hands of the Chinese Government. Director Wray testified that China could use TikTok for the influence and operations to control software that could compromise Americans' personal devices.

The Commander of U.S. Cyber Command and the Director of the National Security Agency testified that one-third of the adult population receives their news from TikTok and one-sixth of American children use it every day. He added that TikTok provides a national platform for information operations and for surveillance.

In further information, the Director of the CIA, William Burns, indicated that ByteDance can use the private data of American TikTok users to shape TikTok content to suit the interests of the Chinese Government. Now, this was most important as it related to a 2023 Rutgers University report which found that TikTok amplifies and demotes content based on the interests of the Chinese Government.

No surprise. If you could have influence, you demote or promote whatever you want to promote.

The Rutgers report found—oh, surprisingly—that the issues of Hong Kong and Tiananmen Square didn't quite have the same level of oomph on TikTok as they did on Instagram, meaning that those posts about those subjects were somehow not as voluminous. It found foreign policy issues disfavored by China and Russia also had fewer hashtags on TikTok—issues such as a pro-Ukraine stance or a pro-Israel stance. In fact, in one instance, there were 8,000 times more Tiananmen Square hashtags on Instagram than on TikTok.

So if this was all supposed to be about just generous posting by individuals and posting content, why would one platform have, even with the volume of the different platforms, 8,000 times more hashtags? Well, I am sure the Chinese Government doesn't like to talk about Tiananmen Square. I am pretty sure they don't like to talk about the Uighurs, genocide, or other issues.

There were 750 times more pro-Ukraine hashtags on Instagram than on TikTok.

The Deputy National Security Adviser also pointed out that ByteDance has used TikTok to surveil U.S. journalists to identify and retaliate against potential sources. Now, this is a concern to us in the United States. We wouldn't let the Chinese Government own ABC or NBC. Why are we allowing them to influence a source of information about news, particularly when they are retaliating against journalists?

Studies from Cornell University and the University of Vermont found that TikTok promotes a toxic diet culture among teens and young adults, including pro-anorexia content. I can't think of anything more disgusting: identifying teens—which you can see in the Rutgers report that if the teen is identified as at all concerned about these issues, the next thing they do is get a massive amount of data thrown onto them about being pro-anorexia, which, again, is just promoting younger people having less faith in themselves and their body image.

Both the U.S. House and the U.S. Senate received classified briefings on this national security threat and what we should do moving forward. Prominent leaders on both sides of the aisle have called out this threat, indicating we need to do something to move forward.

One colleague, Senator COTTON, of the Senate Intelligence Committee, has been quite clear and said on the floor last week:

TikTok harvests a vast trove of user data, including name, age, email, address, phone number, credit card number, facial features, voiceprints, keystrokes, photos, videos, and viewing habits. This data can make users susceptible to manipulation and even blackmail, not only today, but also years from now when users may have become influential persons in the military, the intelligence community, business, media and other walks of life.

I agree with Senator COTTON. This is an issue where this kind of collection of information on U.S. citizens drives opportunities for people to manipulate, particularly in the area of the military.

So Senators and Members of Congress want to work with President Trump as he tries to end what is Chinese overinfluence on such an important national security threat.

The good news is the technology is advancing and particularly advancing very rapidly right now. We are starting to see technology that I hope is finally giving us the ability to take some of this control back with algorithms ourselves—as individuals, as U.S. citizens. Maybe you have heard the buzz around agentic AI. Here is what it means in plain language. We now will control the algorithms that billionaires or foreign governments have been using to control us. Agentic AI lets us turn the tables on them.

We will now use AI to take in massive amounts of information from the internet, from all sources, and then apply filters that we want to see, that we choose for ourselves, so that we only get the information we want to see and not what somebody else wants to do with our information.

So I hope the President, as he is considering these issues, will look at this software solution. I don't know that a joint venture with the Chinese is going to rectify this issue about the algorithms. They can't continue to own and influence this process. But U.S. innovation and U.S. ownership can drive us forward and can drive a better experience for our young people.

Believe me, this is an issue about young people. Our youngest citizens of America shouldn't be the source of information—targeted at them—to undermine them, to basically create insecurities in them, and to promote ideas that we do not believe in the United States.

So I hope that the President and I hope our colleagues here will encourage us to resolve this issue. We have given every tool possible. Now, it is time to get this into the hands of U.S. innovators and move forward.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SCHMITT). Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### CABINET NOMINATIONS

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, it didn't take long. Democrats have already begun stalling President Trump's nominees, and it doesn't seem to matter who it is. Right now, the Senator from Connecticut is holding up a vote on John Ratcliffe, who was nominated for Director of the Central Intelligence Agency. The Intelligence Committee favorably reported Mr. Ratcliffe's nomination on a bipartisan vote—14 to 3.

In a joint statement with Chairman COTTON, the Democrat vice chair of the Intelligence Committee said this:

Our world is far too dangerous for any delay in having a Senate-confirmed leader in charge of the CIA. We urge expeditious consideration of this important nomination.

Now, that, again, is from the Democrat vice chair of the Senate Intelligence Committee, urging “expeditious consideration of this important nomination.”

This is the Director of the CIA, the Central Intelligence Agency—a key national security position. Mr. Ratcliffe is a qualified nominee. He was Director of National Intelligence in the first Trump administration—the quarterback for all 18 elements of the intelligence community. In the House of Representatives, he served on the Intelligence Committee, and he was chairman of the Cybersecurity Subcommittee on the Homeland Security Committee. He has been vetted by the Intelligence Committee, and he will likely receive bipartisan support on the floor, as he did in the committee.

The Senator from Connecticut wants to unnecessarily delay this vote. He says Senators need time for a full, real debate. Well, where are they? Why are we not debating? Nothing has been stopping any of our Democrat colleagues from coming down to the floor to debate and make any concerns that they have known to the Senate and to the American people. At least one Senator has already taken advantage of that opportunity.

The Senator from Connecticut also says that Senators need more time to review the nominee's record. Well, Mr. Ratcliffe's nomination was announced 2 months ago. Was that long enough? His hearing was a week ago. There has been plenty of time to review his record. It is time to vote. This is just an unnecessary delay that makes this country less safe.

Democrats and Republicans agree that this is an important job. We agree that Mr. Ratcliffe is qualified. But a handful of Democrats wants to play politics with this nominee. I have to say I honestly don't know what that accomplishes for them, but I do know this: It makes this country less safe. It is time to vote.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

## EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 5.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion to proceed.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Scott Bessent, of South Carolina, to be Secretary of the Treasury.

## CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. THUNE. 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. 5, Scott Bessent, of South Carolina, to be Secretary of the Treasury.

John Thune, John Kennedy, Deb Fischer, Kevin Cramer, Ashley Moody, Rick Scott of Florida, Tommy Tuberville, Marsha Blackburn, Jim Justice, Ted Budd, Roger Marshall, David McCormick, Mike Crapo, John Boozman, John Barrasso, Jon Husted, Bill Hagerty.

## LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to resume legislative session.

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

## MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

## REMEMBERING DR. NANCY LEFTENANT-COLON

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, on January 8, Dr. Nancy Leftenant-Colon, one of the original Tuskegee Airmen, and the first Black woman to serve in the U.S. Army Nurse Corps after its desegregation, passed away at the age of 104 in Amityville, NY.

Known affectionately by those who loved her as “Lefty,” Dr. Leftenant-Colon always dreamed of being a nurse. Her family came to New York from South Carolina during the Great Migration with virtually nothing in their pockets. But they worked hard to

make a living that provided Nancy and her siblings with opportunity.

Dr. Leftenant-Colon graduated in 1941 from New York’s Lincoln School of Nursing in the Bronx, the first school in the country to train Black women to become nurses. But when she tried to sign up for the Armed Forces, she was told that the military was not accepting Black nurses.

Nevertheless, Dr. Leftenant-Colon persevered. In January 1945, she volunteered and was accepted into the Army Nurse Corps as a Reservist. She was given the rank of second lieutenant, and her first assignment was to Lowell General Hospital, Fort Devens, MA, where she treated wounded soldiers of World War II. In 1946, Dr. Leftenant-Colon was assigned to the 332nd Station Medical Group, Lockbourne Army Air Base—now Rickenbacker Air Force Base—in Ohio. There, she teamed up with legendary flight surgeon and Tuskegee Airman Vance H. Marchbanks, Jr., where once they delivered and saved the life of a premature baby girl nobody thought would survive.

Dr. Leftenant-Colon made history becoming the first Black woman integrated into the regular Army Nurse Corps. She was assigned at Lockbourne Army Air Field when President Harry Truman issued Executive Order 9981, abolishing segregation in the U.S. military.

In July 1948, Leftenant-Colon was granted regular status in the Army Nurse Corps. Four years later, she became a flight nurse with the U.S. Air Force. It was in the Air Force that she married Reserve Captain Bayard Colon, who passed away in 1972.

From 1953–1955, Major Leftenant-Colon was a flight nurse with the 6481st Medical Air Evacuation Group, Tachikawa, Japan. During this time, she set up hospital wards in Japan and in active war zones. She was credited with saving many lives during the wars. She had to wait five years for her certification as a flight nurse. Major Leftenant-Colon went on to an assignment as a flight nurse, evacuating French Legionnaires from the Dien Bien Pu Province, Vietnam. She was aboard the first medical evacuation flight into the defeated French outpost in Dien Bien Phu. Her final assignment was to McGuire Air Force Base, NJ, where Major Leftenant-Colon retired as chief nurse in 1965.

Upon her retirement, Major Leftenant-Colon returned home, to her alma mater, Amityville High School, as the school nurse. She held that position for 13 years. In 2018, Amityville High School authorities announced that a new media center was being constructed to commemorate the life and military service of Major Leftenant-Colon.

Dr. Nancy Leftenant-Colon was a great American, and an outstanding, committed U.S. Army nurse who overcame unfair barriers and prejudice to help change the course of history.

Here on the floor of the U.S. Senate, I extend my sincerest condolences to the family of Dr. Leftenant-Colon. We grieve for her passing. And we share in her family’s enormous pride at everything that was accomplished by this great New Yorker and great American.

## CUBA

Mr. WELCH. Mr. President, in his last week in office, President Biden removed Cuba from the list of State Sponsors of Terrorism, a designation imposed by former Secretary of State Mike Pompeo in the final days of the first Trump administration. That designation has caused, directly and indirectly, great hardship for the Cuban people who are currently experiencing the worst poverty in a generation. At the same time, the designation, and the other sanctions imposed by the United States, have achieved none of the intended goals. Cuba remains a one-party state where political dissent is not tolerated.

President Biden rightly determined there is no evidence that Cuba sponsors international terrorism. That has been true for many years, and his decision was long overdue. But the reaction of those who have supported the terrorism designation was predictable. When asked if Cuba is a sponsor of terrorism, now-Secretary of State Rubio answered, “Without question.”

If the facts and the law supported that claim, I would agree. But the State Sponsor of Terrorism designation has become a transparently political determination, not one based on the facts or the law.

Under the law, countries determined by the Secretary of State to have “repeatedly provided support for acts of international terrorism” are designated as state sponsors. There is no ambiguity. The law explicitly refers to “international terrorism.” But even those who claim Cuba belongs on the list of state sponsors have failed to produce any evidence that it supports acts of international terrorism. Instead, they cite Cuba’s harboring of American fugitives from justice, none of whom were charged or convicted of international terrorism. They cite Cuba’s support for the Maduro government in Venezuela, which has not been designated as a State Sponsor of Terrorism. And they cite the role that Cuba has played, like Norway, as a facilitator of negotiations between the FARC and, more recently, the ELN and the Colombian Government, which has called for Cuba to be removed from the list.

There is plenty to dislike about the Cuban Government. It represses dissidents and mismanages its economy. It consistently blames the U.S. for its own failures. But there is plenty of blame to go around, and our policy of sanctions, isolation, and hostility has unquestionably contributed to the daily hardships suffered by the Cuban people.

It is therefore very disappointing that President Trump, in an executive order on his first day in office, redesignated Cuba as a State Sponsor of Terrorism. He was once again pressured to do so, as he was during his first term, by the same vocal minority who believe that by making the lives of the Cuban people as miserable as possible they will topple the government.

By doing so President Trump has made a mockery of the list of states that do sponsor international terrorism, like Iran and North Korea. It is not a list of pariah countries. It is not a list of countries whose governments violate human rights. Under the law, it is not even a list of countries that support domestic terrorism. Cuba does not belong on the list of State Sponsors of Terrorism, and by relisting Cuba, the President has ignored the law.

#### JUAN LOPEZ

Mr. WELCH. Mr. President, 4 months ago I made a statement about the murder of Honduran indigenous environmental defender and anti-corruption activist Juan Lopez, on September 14, 2024, who at that time was the latest victim of an ongoing epidemic of vigilante violence in that country.

As I mentioned then, my office, like others in Congress, had received reports of recurring threats, attacks, arbitrary arrests, and assassinations of members of the Guapinol, Tocoa, and other communities in the Bajo Aguan region of Honduras. The crimes were intended to silence those who opposed the Los Pinares open-pit iron oxide mine and the Ecotek Thermoelectric Project in an indigenous reserve which threaten their livelihoods and the region's environment, and who challenged the companies and corrupt officials who profit from those projects.

Mr. Lopez, a winner of the Letelier-Moffitt Human Rights Award in 2019, had been a victim of wrongful imprisonment, false prosecution, and had spoken out against corrupt officials in Tocoa.

His assassination was the latest in a pattern of similar killings that have not resulted in justice. Of the six other assassinations of members of the Guapinol water defenders, no one has been prosecuted or punished, nor for the murders of scores of other social activists, journalists, and human rights defenders in Honduras.

Last September, I urged the following steps to be taken immediately: Convene an international commission of experts to support the Honduran prosecutor's investigation, to ensure the investigation is credible, thorough, and impartial; Provide protection for human rights defenders at risk in the Bajo Aguan region; and investigate the abuses and corruption denounced by Juan Lopez and the pattern of violence against the Guapinol defenders.

In the months since Mr. Lopez was killed, the Honduran Government has said that it detained three people who

were responsible. That is encouraging. But government officials believe that the person who ordered the killing is still at large. Also, according to press reports, Honduran prosecutors formally accused company leaders and local government officials connected to the mine of illegally exploiting resources, abusing authority, and "environmental crimes" for mining in the indigenous reserve. Yet people living in the area say the mining hasn't stopped.

After the assassination in May 2016 of Berta Caceres, another Honduran indigenous leader who led protests against the construction of a hydroelectric dam and won the prestigious Goldman Environmental Prize, international pressure pushed the Honduran Government to arrest and prosecute one of the top officials of the construction company. But he is challenging his conviction, and it is widely believed that there may be others who were responsible and have not been charged.

Before and after her election in 2021, Honduran President Xiomara Castro pledged to combat corruption and impunity, including partnering with the United Nations to establish an international commission for this purpose. Her term ends in November 2025, when a new President will be elected in Honduras, yet there has been minimal progress toward establishing the promised commission. Corruption and impunity remain deeply entrenched in the Honduran public and private sectors.

Not only do those of us who care about justice in Honduras want to see all those responsible for the murders of Berta Caceres, Juan Lopez, and the other land and water defenders prosecuted and punished, we also want to be able to support a new Honduran commission against corruption and impunity. That would be a crucial, tangible way for President Castro to demonstrate that she not only replaced Juan Orlando Hernandez, her predecessor who was sentenced to 45 years in a U.S. prison for cocaine and weapons trafficking, but she also dismantled the criminal enterprise that enriched him, his brother, and their cronies. Otherwise, the Honduran people will continue to suffer from the spiraling poverty and violence and bear the costs and consequences of the complicity of yet another corrupt government in undermining the rule of law.

As I said last September, the people of the Bajo Aguan should not have to live in fear that powerful companies and corrupt officials will steal their land, pollute their rivers, and murder courageous leaders like Juan Lopez and Berta Caceres for peacefully defending the natural resources that are rightfully theirs.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### RECOGNIZING THE 2025 ARKANSAS AGRICULTURE HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate the newest inductees into the Arkansas Agriculture Hall of Fame for their efforts to carry on the Natural State's deep-rooted farming culture and the leadership each has demonstrated in their respective communities.

Arkansas' outsized impact on American agriculture is well-documented. That prominent role is largely the result of the hard work and expertise among our farmers, ranchers, and foresters, as well as entrepreneurs, scientists, educators, and all those who power our State's largest industry. Their dedication has continued to strengthen Arkansas agriculture even amid the tremendous challenges facing rural America and farming communities across the country right now.

This year's inductees represent individuals who support the agriculture community in different capacities.

Aubrey Blackmon of Houston, AR, grew his farm from one cow and calf to over 350 cattle at its peak. He has been involved with the Arkansas Cattlemen's Association for over 50 years and is known as the cattlemen's historian. After receiving the association's lifetime achievement award in 2023, it was renamed the "Aubrey Blackmon Lifetime Service Achievement Award."

Carl Brothers from Stuttgart has made significant contributions to Arkansas' rice production industry, including through policy efforts to create USDA marketing loans for rice farmers. His leadership at Riceland Foods over five decades helped it grow into the world's largest rice miller.

Over the course of three decades, Chuck Culver of Fayetteville served with the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture and championed research to bolster farmers' ability to produce a safe, affordable, and abundant food supply. Culver also helped lead the establishment of the Dale Bumpers National Rice Research Center, as well as the Arkansas Children's Nutrition Center in Little Rock and the National Agricultural Law Center in Fayetteville.

Mike Freeze of Little Rock has been a longtime champion of the aquaculture industry. Keo Fish Farms has been a catalyst for innovation in the industry under Mike's direction. He has advocated for fish farmers before the U.S. House of Representatives Agriculture Committee and served as president of the Arkansas chapter of the American Fisheries Society. Freeze was also appointed to the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission and went on to serve as its chairman.

Albion, AR, resident Jack Reaper was a World War II veteran who built a diverse and commercially successful farming operation that included broilers and eggs, as well as beef cattle and

dairy heifers. Having started with 24 acres of corn and cotton, by the end of his life, Reaper was widely acknowledged for his novel approach to farming in the Ozark Mountain foothills.

Rison native Frank Wilson and his two brothers started Wilson Brothers Lumber in 1982 and saw it become an industry-leading operation. He would go on to develop critical software programs designed to assist producers with keeping forest management and financial records. Wilson also has helped raise \$11 million for Arkansas Children's Hospital and built multiple local businesses while holding over 17,000 acres of south Arkansas timberland.

On behalf of all Arkansans, I congratulate these deserving individuals for their long-lasting contributions that have improved Arkansas agriculture. Our State remains among the top agriculturally because of them and everything they represent. We are very proud of their achievements, and I am pleased to join the Arkansas Agriculture Hall of Fame in recognizing and honoring these leaders.●

#### REMEMBERING JERRY ATKINSON

●Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. President, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor and commemorate the extraordinary life of Jerry Atkinson, who sadly passed away in California, while visiting his grandkids, on December 24, 2024. A proud Illinoisian, his insurance business, and dedication to helping others supported many Illinois families plan and secure their futures.

Born to Bill and Aileen Atkinson on November 28, 1955, Jerry grew up in Westchester, IL. In Westchester, he forged and maintained lifelong friendships that meant the world to him. Some of his fondest childhood memories include George's Standard Service baseball team, games of Off-The-Wall, and all things baseball. He loved sports and was a loyal Bears and White Sox fan.

Jerry had a huge heart and was blessed with great empathy for others. He faced adversity in his own life and was always willing to help anyone and would literally give the shirt off his back to a person in need.

Jerry led a successful agency in the western suburbs, where he gave many Illinois families access to affordable coverage.

Jerry met his loving wife of 43 years, Dawn, at work. They started dating and got married on April 4, 1981, at Christ the King Catholic Parish in Lombard. Soon after, they welcomed their children Kevin and Leah into the world. Jerry's heart expanded even more with the births of his grandchildren Silas and Sage.

He was always grateful for his family's strong, loving bond. He is survived by Dawn; Kevin and Leah, with spouse Jeff; Silas and Sage; siblings Mary Lynn Cali and Bill Atkinson with spouses Phil and Sandy, Dan Atkinson

with spouse Mary Ann, and John Atkinson with spouse Bonnie; 11 nieces and nephews; and many great nieces and nephews.

Jerry's passing at the age of 69 marks the end of a life filled with love, passion, and dedication. His legacy lives on through his children, grandchildren, and the countless lives he touched.

I ask my colleagues in the Senate to join me in honoring the life and legacy of Jerry Atkinson for his unwavering love for his family and his lifelong commitment to service. His story is one of love and compassion that we can all strive towards.●

#### RECOGNIZING HOPE WOMEN'S CENTER

●Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Hope Women's Center in Newton, KS, for their efforts in declaring January 22, 2025, as the Sanctity of Human Life Day and Respect for Life Day in Harvey County, KS.

Hope Women's Center has long been a leader in promoting the sanctity of life, as they have worked tirelessly to support expectant mothers, providing them with necessary resources, care, and education. Their commitment to protecting and caring for those in need reflects the core values that strengthen our communities, the State of Kansas, and our Nation.

As an OB/GYN and a lifelong advocate for life, I delivered over 5,000 babies, witnessing the beauty of life with every birth. There is no greater moment than handing a newborn to their mother for the first time. I remain committed to protecting life at all stages, including the unborn, the expectant mother, and the new mother. Through my experiences in starting and supervising multiple family planning clinics, I believe we must ensure access to prenatal care, nutrition, and childcare, as well as attend to the social challenges a mother faces. I am proud to support legislation that addresses these points, and I look forward to working with my Senate colleagues on legislative solutions that ensure life is protected at all stages in the future.

Our Founding Fathers understood that the protection of life is the very cornerstone of our Nation. In declaring that all men are created equal, endowed with the unalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, they affirmed the importance of defending life, from conception to natural death. It is our moral duty to ensure that life is cherished and safeguarded, as this principle serves as the moral foundation of America and should be a guiding beacon for the world.

I now ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing January 22, 2025, as the Sanctity of Human Life Day and Respect for Life Day in Harvey County, KS, as well as in thanking Hope Women's Center for all the great work they are accomplishing.●

#### REMEMBERING TAYLOR ELIZABETH LONG FISHEL

●Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the life of Taylor Elizabeth Long Fishel who passed away on December 23, 2024, at the young age of 31. Taylor was born in Tallahassee, FL, where she graduated from Leon High School and Florida State University. Taylor was a caring friend, wife, and mother who is survived by her husband Howell and their sons Lewis and James. Taylor is also survived by her parents and other family members. Today we acknowledge the wonderful impact she made on all those who knew her.●

#### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Ms. Kelly, one of his secretaries.

#### EXECUTIVE MESSAGE REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate a message from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The message received today is printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

#### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:04 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 186. An act to authorize the National Medal of Honor Museum Foundation to establish a commemorative work on the National Mall to honor the extraordinary acts of valor, selfless service, and sacrifice displayed by Medal of Honor recipients.

H.R. 187. An act to provide for the standardization, consolidation, and publication of data relating to public outdoor recreational use of Federal waterways among Federal land and water management agencies, and for other purposes.

H.R. 197. An act to provide for a land exchange in the Chippewa National Forest, Minnesota, and for other purposes.

H.R. 204. An act to require that the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior submit accurate reports regarding hazardous fuels reduction activities, and for other purposes.

H.R. 207. An act to direct the Secretary of Commerce to establish a task force regarding shark depredation, and for other purposes.

#### MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 186. An act to authorize the National Medal of Honor Museum Foundation to establish a commemorative work on the National Mall to honor the extraordinary acts



of valor, selfless service, and sacrifice displayed by Medal of Honor recipients; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 187. An act to provide for the standardization, consolidation, and publication of data relating to public outdoor recreational use of Federal waterways among Federal land and water management agencies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 197. An act to provide for a land exchange in the Chippewa National Forest, Minnesota, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

H.R. 204. An act to require that the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior submit accurate reports regarding hazardous fuels reduction activities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 207. An act to direct the Secretary of Commerce to establish a task force regarding shark depredation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

### EXECUTIVE REPORT OF COMMITTEE

The following executive report of a nomination was submitted:

By Mr. CRUZ for the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

\*Sean Duffy, of Wisconsin, to be Secretary of Transportation.

\*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. COTTON (for himself, Mr. CRAMER, and Mrs. BRITT):

S. 176. A bill to direct the President to take such actions as may be necessary to prohibit the purchase of public or private real estate located in the United States by citizens and entities of the People's Republic of China, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. ERNST (for herself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. DAINES, Mr. WICKER, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. SHEEHY, Mr. THUNE, Mr. RISCH, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. BANKS, Mr. HAWLEY, and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

S. 177. A bill to prohibit Federal funding of Planned Parenthood Federation of America; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. ERNST (for herself, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. DAINES, Mr. CRAMER, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. RISCH, Mr. HAWLEY, and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

S. 178. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act and the Public Health Service Act to improve the reporting of abortion data to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. TUBERVILLE (for himself, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. MARSHALL, Mrs.

BRITT, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. SCHMITT, Mr. SHEEHY, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. HOEVEN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. DAINES, Mrs. FISCHER, and Ms. LUMMIS):

S. 179. A bill to amend the Defense Production Act of 1950 to prevent harm and disruption to the United States agriculture industry by protecting against foreign influence over agriculture production and supply chains, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 180. A bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to authorize the use of grant amounts for providing training and resources for first responders on the use of containment devices to prevent secondary exposure to fentanyl and other potentially lethal substances, and purchasing such containment devices for use by first responders; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. RISCH (for himself, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. SHEEHY, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, and Ms. LUMMIS):

S. 181. A bill to require agencies submit zero-based budgets; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. RISCH (for himself, Mr. DAINES, Mr. SHEEHY, Mr. CRAPO, Ms. LUMMIS, and Mr. BARRASSO):

S. 182. A bill to provide for operations of the Federal Columbia River Power System pursuant to a certain operation plan for a specified period of time, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. MORAN (for himself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 183. A bill to authorize major medical facility projects for the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2025, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. JOHNSON (for himself, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. RISCH, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. CRAPO, and Mr. SANDERS):

S. 184. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to define the term natural cheese; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. TILLIS (for himself, Mr. GRAHAM, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. SHEEHY, Mr. ROUNDS, and Mr. BUDD):

S. 185. A bill to provide a civil remedy for individuals harmed by sanctuary jurisdiction policies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WICKER (for himself, Mr. LANKFORD, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. BANKS, Mr. BARRASSO, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. BUDD, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. CURTIS, Mr. DAINES, Ms. ERNST, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. JUSTICE, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. LEE, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. MORAN, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. SCHMITT, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. SHEEHY, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. THUNE, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. TUBERVILLE, and Mr. YOUNG):

S. 186. A bill to prohibit taxpayer funded abortions; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LANKFORD (for himself, Mr. DAINES, Mr. BARRASSO, Mrs. BLACK-

BURN, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. MARSHALL, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. RISCH, and Mr. BOOZMAN):

S. 187. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently allow a tax deduction at the time an investment in qualified property is made; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. PAUL (for himself, Mr. LEE, Mr. SCHMITT, and Ms. LUMMIS):

S. 188. A bill to prohibit Federal employees and contractors from directing online platforms to censor any speech that is protected by the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. ROSEN (for herself and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

S. 189. A bill to amend the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act to expand the capacity of junior or community colleges and area career and technical education schools to conduct training services, education, and outreach activities for careers in the residential construction industry; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 190. A bill to enhance the operations of the North Pacific Research Board; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. LUMMIS (for herself and Mr. KELLY):

S. 191. A bill to require the Secretary of Transportation to modify certain regulations relating to the requirements for commercial driver's license testing and commercial learner's permit holders, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. WARREN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WELCH, Mr. SANDERS, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 192. A bill to restrict the first-use strike of nuclear weapons; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. SANDERS, and Ms. WARREN):

S. 193. A bill to repeal the Alien Enemies Act; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself and Ms. CORTEZ MASTO):

S. 194. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for an election to expense certain qualified sound recording costs otherwise chargeable to capital account; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself and Mr. HICKENLOOPER):

S. 195. A bill to amend the Visit America Act to promote music tourism, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself and Mr. LUJAN):

S. 196. A bill to improve online ticket sales and protect consumers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. BUDD, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. TUBERVILLE, and Mr. COTTON):

S. 197. A bill to require the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States to review any purchase or lease of real estate near a military installation or military airspace in the United States by a foreign person connected to or subsidized by the Russian Federation, the People's Republic of China, the Islamic Republic of Iran, or the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and

for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. COTTON (for himself, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. BUDD, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. CRUZ, and Mr. SCHMITT):

S. 198. A bill to impose sanctions with respect to the system of compensation of the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Palestinian Authority that supports acts of terrorism; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

#### SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mrs. HYDE-SMITH (for herself, Mr. WICKER, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. LEE, and Mr. BANKS):

S. Res. 30. A resolution honoring Mississippi's Gestational Age Act; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

#### ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 25

At the request of Mr. VAN HOLLEN, the names of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) and the Senator from Maryland (Ms. ALSOBROOKS) were added as cosponsors of S. 25, a bill to impose an assessment related to fossil fuel emissions, to establish the Polluter Pay Climate Fund, and for other purposes.

S. 50

At the request of Ms. ERNST, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. SCHMITT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 50, a bill to prohibit the intentional hindering of immigration, border, and customs controls, and for other purposes.

S. 53

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mrs. BRITT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 53, a bill to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to fingerprint noncitizen minors entering the United States who are suspected of being victims of human trafficking, to require the Secretary to publicly disclose the number of such minors who are fingerprinted by U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officials and the number of child traffickers who are apprehended by CBP, to impose criminal penalties on noncitizen adults who use unrelated minors to gain entry into the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 82

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 82, a bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to address telework for Federal employees, and for other purposes.

S. 93

At the request of Mr. SULLIVAN, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 93, a bill to amend the Harmful

Algal Blooms and Hypoxia Research and Control Act of 1998 to address harmful algal blooms, and for other purposes.

S. 112

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 112, a bill to amend section 235(b)(2)(C) of the Immigration and Nationality Act to require the implementation of the Migrant Protection Protocols.

S. 115

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 115, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to establish a criminal penalty for unauthorized access to Department of Defense facilities.

S. 124

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 124, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for disciplinary procedures for supervisors and managers at the Department of Veterans Affairs and to modify the procedures of personnel actions against employees of the Department, and for other purposes.

S. 134

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 134, a bill to place limitations on excepting positions from the competitive service, and for other purposes.

S. 137

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 137, a bill to amend title 41, United States Code, to prohibit the Federal Government from entering into contracts with an entity that discriminates against firearm or ammunition industries, and for other purposes.

S. 145

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 145, a bill to require the resignation of Ansarallah as a foreign terrorist organization.

S. 164

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 164, a bill to amend chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, to provide for en bloc consideration in resolutions of disapproval for "midnight rules", and for other purposes.

#### SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 30—HONORING MISSISSIPPI'S GESTATIONAL AGE ACT

Mrs. HYDE-SMITH (for herself, Mr. WICKER, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. MARSHALL,

Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. LEE, and Mr. BANKS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 30

Whereas, on January 15, 2018, Mississippi State Representative Becky Currie of Brookhaven, Mississippi introduced the Gestational Age Act to protect unborn children from elective abortion after 15 weeks gestation;

Whereas, on March 19, 2018, the Gestational Age Act was passed by the Mississippi State Legislature, approved by Mississippi Governor Phil Bryant, and enacted into law;

Whereas, in May 2021, the United States Supreme Court agreed to review *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health*, 597 U.S. 215 (2022), a challenge to the constitutionality of the Gestational Age Act, where the question before the Court was whether all pre-viability prohibitions on elective abortion are unconstitutional; and

Whereas, on June 24, 2022, the United States Supreme Court issued its historical decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health*, holding that "the Constitution does not confer a right to abortion. *Roe* and *Casey* must be overruled, and the authority to regulate abortion must be returned to the people and their elected representatives." Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) expresses profound gratitude to Mississippi State Representative Becky Currie for introducing the catalyst that ultimately brought about the historical victory of overturning *Roe v. Wade*, 410 U.S. 113 (1973) and *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*, 503 U.S. 833 (1992); and

(2) honors life-affirming States across the country that have enacted laws aimed to value and protect the inherent dignity of every mother and unborn child.

Mrs. HYDE-SMITH. Mr. President, I would like to enter into the RECORD a resolution honoring Representative Becky Currie in this role in history that she plays.

Today, I am introducing a Senate resolution honoring the Mississippi Gestational Age Act:

Whereas, on January 15, 2018, Mississippi State Representative Becky Currie of Brookhaven, Mississippi introduced the Gestational Age Act to protect unborn children from elective abortion after 15 weeks gestation;

Whereas, on March 19, 2018, the Gestational Age Act was passed by the Mississippi State Legislature, approved by Mississippi Governor Phil Bryant, and enacted into law;

Whereas, in May 2021, the United States Supreme Court agreed to review *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health* . . . a challenge to the constitutionality of the Gestational Age Act, where the question before the Court was whether all pre-viability prohibitions on elective abortion are unconstitutional; and

Whereas, on June 24, 2022, the United States Supreme Court issued its historical decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health*, holding that "the Constitution does not confer a right to abortion. *Roe* and *Casey* must be overruled, and the authority to regulate abortion must be returned to the people and their elected representatives." Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) expresses profound gratitude to Mississippi State Representative Becky Currie for introducing the catalyst that ultimately brought about the historical victory of overturning *Roe v. Wade* . . . and *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*; and

(2) honors life-affirming States across the country that have enacted laws aimed to value and protect the inherent dignity of every mother and unborn child.

#### AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, I have one request for a committee to meet during today's session of the Senate. It has the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committee is authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND  
TRANSPORTATION

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, January 22, 2025, at 2 p.m., to hold an executive session.

#### PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the following interns be granted floor privileges until May 30, 2025: Hinson Peed and Madeline Becker.

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

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Jermaine Jackson, Julia Burnell, Steven Ramdilal, and Tracy Fasolino, who are fellows in my office, be granted floor privileges for the duration of their assignments to my office.

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

#### ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, JANUARY 23, 2025

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on Thursday, January 23; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and 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.

#### ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. THUNE. 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 4:57 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, January 23, 2025, at 10 a.m.

#### NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

##### DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

MICHAEL BOREN, OF IDAHO, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE FOR NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT, VICE HOMER L. WILKES, RESIGNED.

##### DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

STEVEN BRADBURY, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION, VICE POLLY ELLEN TROTTEMBERG, RESIGNED.

##### SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

WILLIAM BRIGGS, OF TEXAS, TO BE DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR OF THE SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION, VICE DILAWAR SYED, RESIGNED.

##### DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

JAMES DANLY, OF TENNESSEE, TO BE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF ENERGY, VICE DAVID TURK, RESIGNED.

##### DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

RICHARD FORDYCE, OF MISSOURI, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE FOR FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION, VICE ROBERT FARRELL BONNIE, RESIGNED.

##### ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

DAVID FOTOUHI, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, VICE JANET GARVIN MCCABE.

##### DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

KENNETH KIES, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY, VICE LILY LAWRENCE BATCHELDER.

##### EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

MICHAEL KRATSIOS, OF SOUTH CAROLINA, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY, VICE ARATI PRABHAKAR.

##### DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

PAUL LAWRENCE, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS, VICE TANYA J. BRADSHAW, RESIGNED.

##### DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

KATHARINE MACGREGOR, OF FLORIDA, TO BE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR, VICE TOMMY P. BEAUDREAU, RESIGNED.

##### SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

CASEY MULLIGAN, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE CHIEF COUNSEL FOR ADVOCACY, SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION, VICE DARRYL L. DEPRIEST, RESIGNED.

##### FEDERAL HOUSING FINANCE AGENCY

WILLIAM PULTE, OF FLORIDA, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE FEDERAL HOUSING FINANCE AGENCY FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS, VICE SANDRA L. THOMPSON.

##### DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

PENNY SCHWINN, OF TENNESSEE, TO BE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF EDUCATION, VICE CYNTHIA MINETTE MARTEN, RESIGNED.

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

## TRIBUTE TO LOUISVILLE METRO COUNCILMAN ROBIN ENGEL

### HON. MORGAN MCGARVEY

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 22, 2025*

Mr. MCGARVEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Louisville Metro Councilman Robin Engel in honor of his extraordinary leadership, commitment to public service, and transformative contributions to the communities of Fern Creek and Jeffersonton.

As a founding member of the Louisville Metro Council, his dedication since his initial election in 2002 and subsequent re-elections in 2004, 2008, 2012, 2016, and 2020 has been pivotal in shaping and enhancing his district and Louisville Metro as a whole.

Councilman Engel's leadership has been exemplified through his service as Republican Caucus Chair and as Chair and Vice Chair on numerous committees, including Public Works, Appropriations, Parks/Libraries/Zoo & Arts, and Labor & Economic Development. His steadfast commitment to improving his community has driven progress in key areas, demonstrating his unwavering dedication to public service.

His efforts have brought substantial investments to the Fern Creek area, including hundreds of millions in retail and business development, a \$127 million investment into Fern Creek Park, Charlie Vettiner Park, and the creation of Broad Run Park. Councilman Engel has also played a critical role in securing \$15 million for the new Fern Creek Library and advancing infrastructure improvements such as the \$60 million Fern Valley Road & Hurstbourne Parkway extension and Bardstown Road expansion.

Councilman Engel's commitment to transparency and accountability is evident in his sponsorship of Checkbook Louisville, ushering in a new standard for government openness. Furthermore, his advocacy for the Miracle League of Louisville has removed barriers for children with mental and physical disabilities, allowing them to experience the joy of baseball and leaving an enduring legacy of inclusion and opportunity.

Mr. Speaker, Councilman Engel's visionary leadership and tireless dedication have enriched the lives of his constituents and contributed meaningfully to the growth and prosperity of Kentucky. I ask that the House of Representatives join me in expressing our profound gratitude for his leadership, vision, and service, and we wish him well in his future endeavors.

## RECOGNIZING THE LEADERS ADVANCING AND HELPING COMMUNITIES 42ND GALA

### HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 22, 2025*

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, today the 12th Congressional District recognizes the incredible work of Leaders Advancing and Helping Communities (LAHC), an organization serving Southeast Michigan for over four decades. Founded in 1982 as the Lebanese American Heritage Center, LAHC has recognized gaps in services for new immigrants and underrepresented populations. The organization grew into a trusted provider of essential resources, ranging from emergency assistance to behavioral health programs.

LAHC empowers residents through workforce training and ESL programs, while their prevention specialists equip youth, middle and high schoolers, through their Youth Leadership Bridge to College Program, and Substance Use Prevention Assistance programs, with the skills to navigate challenges constructively. Welcoming all members of the community, regardless of their background, LAHC provides support to nearly 56,000 people annually. We celebrate LAHC's 42nd Annual Awards Gala, honoring their 42 years of service to Southeast Michigan.

Please join me in recognizing LAHC's profound impact as we commend their leadership in advancing education, workforce development, public health, and social services.

## RECOGNIZING THE CITY OF TROY, ALABAMA

### HON. BARRY MOORE

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 22, 2025*

Mr. MOORE of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise with a heart full of appreciation and gratitude for one of the many incredible communities I have had the privilege of representing. At the end of the 118th Congress, I said goodbye to one of my beloved district offices located on the plains of Southeast Alabama in the City of Troy.

As I reflect on my time serving south Alabama, it is not only the legislative victories and achievements that come to mind, but our constituent services and successes. The generosity and warm welcome from the City of Troy and Mayor Jason Reeves have allowed my team to grow aid work diligently for the citizens of Alabama's Second Congressional District to achieve these triumphs.

I thank my staff who have helped me every step of the way. Their hard work and passion for public service have allowed benefits, dollars, and recognition to be restored to our citizens. I am forever grateful to the people of

Troy for the trust they placed in me and the success we achieved.

My commitment to serving the people of Alabama remains steadfast. I will continue to carry the friendships and the warmth of this community with me.

I thank them once again for their kindness, and unwavering support. It has been an honor to serve them. May God continue to bless Alabama's Second Congressional District, the state of Alabama, and the United States of America.

## RECOGNIZING TERESA COX

### HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 22, 2025*

Mr. SWALWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Teresa Cox in recognition of her service on the Fremont City Council, which concluded on Tuesday, December 10, 2024.

The daughter of teachers, Teresa received a Bachelor of Science in Nuclear Engineering from Northwestern University, becoming the first African-American woman to do so in the Nation. She returned to school to receive her Master of Business Administration from the University of Rochester.

Teresa began her public service in Fremont as a member of the Economic Development Advisory Commission. During her eight years on the commission, she served as chair and spearheaded a mission to China to strengthen international economic ties.

Continuing to break glass ceilings, Teresa was the first African-American elected to the Ohlone Community College Board of Trustees in 2008, where she served for 12 years as vice chair. As a trustee, she worked to secure a multimillion-dollar bond passage to improve campus infrastructure, championed diversity through campus celebrations, and fought for the advancement of women and minorities in leadership roles.

In 2020, Teresa made history again the first African-American to serve on Fremont's City Council as a councilmember for the sixth district. There, Teresa supported affordable housing projects, led community clean-ups, and sponsored four National Night Out events. She was also appointed to the U.S. Department of Commerce California District Export Council on Small and Minority Women-Owned Businesses under the Obama Administration with reappointments under Presidents Trump and Biden.

Teresa's years of support for public education and economic development have been critical to Fremont's success. As she enters this new chapter, I join the community in wishing Teresa well-deserved rest, relaxation, and quality time with her children, David and Jacqueline.

● 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.

HONORING THE LIFE OF SHIRLEY  
KENNETH JONES

**HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 22, 2025*

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the life of Shirley Kenneth Jones, a cherished member of our community who sadly passed away on January 3, 2025. Shirley was an extraordinary individual whose life exemplified the values of hard work, service and compassion.

Shirley was a passionate member of the Mattaponi Baptist Church and served in many positions at the church. He was an avid carpenter and built the home when he and his loving wife of 36 years, Roberta Seward Jones, lived. Shirley was active with the Ruritans, the Mattaponi Crime Solvers, raised money for veterans in need of support, and the King and Queen County Republican Party. Shirley loved all his animals and raised peacocks on his property. Shirley's commitment to the local community left an indelible mark on our district and beyond.

Shirley will be remembered not only for his accomplishments but also his kindness, humility, and unwavering dedication to family, friends, and neighbors. Shirley's efforts as an advocate for community programs have left a legacy that will continue to inspire generations to come.

In addition to Shirley's professional achievements, he was deeply devoted to his family. He is survived by his children, grandchildren and a host of great-grandchildren, great-great-grandchildren, nieces, and nephews.

As we remember Shirley Kenneth Jones today, let us honor his life by carrying forward Shirley's values and aspirations. Shirley's memory will forever remain in the hearts of those who knew and loved him.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in extending our deepest condolences to Shirley's family, friends, and all who were touched by his remarkable life. May they find comfort in knowing that Shirley's legacy will live on in the lives he impacted.

HONORING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY  
OF NORTH OF THE JAMES

**HON. JENNIFER L. MCCLELLAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 22, 2025*

Ms. MCCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor North of the James magazine, a distinguished publication that has been a cornerstone of the Richmond, Virginia, community for over three decades. Established in November 1994 as Northside magazine by founders Charles McGuigan, Joany Flick, and Ellen Zagorin, the magazine has consistently delivered in-depth profiles, features, and reviews celebrating the vibrant culture and history of the areas north of the James River.

From its inception, North of the James has been committed to authentic storytelling, forgoing canned content in favor of narratives that resonate with its readers. This dedication to quality journalism has earned the magazine

numerous accolades from the Virginia Press Association for excellence in writing, photography, and design.

The magazine's unwavering support for local businesses and nonprofit organizations has significantly contributed to the economic and social fabric of the Richmond metro area. By highlighting the endeavors of these longstanding establishments, North of the James has played an instrumental role in fostering a more equitable and prosperous community.

Throughout its history, the magazine has adapted to changing times, including a temporary shift to an online-only format during the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure the safety of its readers and staff. Despite these unforeseen obstacles, North of the James has maintained a reputation as a trusted source of information for its loyal readers.

As North of the James celebrates its 30th anniversary, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the magazine's enduring legacy and invaluable contributions to the Richmond community. May it continue to inform, engage, and inspire for many years.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. RICK W. ALLEN**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 22, 2025*

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote on January 21, 2025. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 18 and YEA on Roll Call No. 19.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 22, 2025*

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, due to travel restrictions related to my pregnancy, I was unable to travel to D.C. to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 18 and YEA on Roll Call No. 19.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT  
OF WAYNE COUNTY COMMISSIONER  
ABDUL "AL" HAIDOUS

**HON. RASHIDA TLAIB**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 22, 2025*

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, today the 12th Congressional District recognizes and celebrates Wayne County Commissioner Abdul "Al" Haidous for his more than 40 years of public service to the City of Wayne and Wayne County and congratulates him on his retirement.

Born in Lebanon, Al came to the City of Wayne five decades ago and made a name for himself in the community running Al's Friendly Market with the help of his wife, Mary, for 35 years. As the first Arab American mayor in Wayne County, his leadership paved the way for future leaders and was an inspiration to so many.

In 2014, he was elected to the Wayne County Commission. For 14 years, he served our residents with dedication and resilience, always focusing on bringing people together. I thank Commissioner Haidous for his decades of public service. His legacy will continue to inspire our community in the years to come. Please join me in recognizing Commissioner Al Haidous as we wish him well in his retirement.

TRIBUTE TO NATHALIE DUPREE

**HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 22, 2025*

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an award-winning cookbook author, television personality, and culinary pioneer. Nathalie Dupree, known as the "Queen of Southern Cooking," passed away on January 13, 2025, in Raleigh, North Carolina. Nathalie leaves behind an indelible legacy, having elevated Southern cuisine to the national stage.

Born in Hamilton, New Jersey, on December 23, 1939, Nathalie spent her formative years in Virginia, where she developed an early interest in politics, becoming the youngest precinct captain for John F. Kennedy's presidential campaign in 1960. Her journey into the culinary world began in the kitchen of a college co-op house. Though her first attempt at cooking was far from perfect, Nathalie's determination led her to Le Cordon Bleu in London, where she honed her craft. Her career flourished as she combined French techniques with the flavors of Southern cooking, opening a restaurant in Social Circle, Georgia. Nathalie's recipes were rooted in precision and accessibility. Soon, she was teaching hundreds of students each year as the director of the South's first participation cooking school at Rich's department store in Atlanta.

Nathalie's television debut in 1985 with PBS's *New Southern Cooking* was a watershed moment for Southern food. Her signature humor, relatable teaching style, and occasional on-screen blunders endeared her to viewers Nationwide. The companion cookbook to the series has been reprinted more than 25 times, a testament to its enduring value for home cooks. Over her career, Nathalie authored 15 cookbooks, including *Mastering the Art of Southern Cooking*, which earned her one of three James Beard Foundation Awards.

In the early 2000s, Nathalie and her husband, historian Jack Bass, moved to Charleston, South Carolina. For nearly two decades, their King Street home became a vibrant gathering place for visiting dignitaries, authors, and politicians, who came to enjoy not just Nathalie's cooking but also her warmth and hospitality.

Beyond her culinary creations, Nathalie was a tireless mentor, advocating for women in the culinary arts. She provided internships and guidance to a generation of chefs, lovingly referring to them as her "chickens." Nathalie co-founded the International Association of Culinary Professionals, alongside legends such as Julia Child and Jacques Pépin. She also served as the founding chairperson of the Charleston Wine + Food Festival and as a founding board member of the Southern

Foodways Alliance. In 2010, Nathalie extended her advocacy efforts into politics, running as write-in candidate for a U.S. Senate seat in South Carolina.

Nathalie's accolades are numerous and well-deserved: the Craig Claiborne Lifetime Achievement Award from the Southern Foodways Alliance, Grande Dame honors from Les Dames d'Escoffier, the Woman of the Year award from the Maître Cuisiniers de France, and recognition by the James Beard Foundation as part of its Who's Who in Food and Beverage in America. Yet her contributions went far beyond awards. Nathalie had an extraordinary ability to bring people together—whether around the dinner table, in classrooms, or on television screens—fostering a spirit of community that will endure for generations.

Nathalie was a devoted wife, mother, sister, and grandmother. She is survived by her loving husband, Jack Bass; their children, Audrey, Ken, David, and Liz; and her grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and our colleagues join me in recognizing the extraordinary life of a good friend, Nathalie Dupree. She was not just a chef or author—she was a mentor, an innovator, and an ambassador for Southern hospitality and cuisine. As we celebrate her life, let us remember her guiding principle: to foster community and uplift one another. May her legacy continue to inspire cooks and creators everywhere.

#### THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONCEALED CARRY RECIPROCITY ACT

#### HON. CHUCK EDWARDS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 22, 2025

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following newsletter to give an update to my constituents on the Constitutional Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act.

DEAR FRIEND: H.R. 38, the Constitutional Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act, that I'm co-sponsoring fixes a disjointed system in which a law-abiding citizen who holds a concealed carry permit in one state can become a criminal for simply crossing states lines with a firearm without having a concealed carry permit from the second state.

The Second Amendment doesn't stop at state lines and this bipartisan bill is a commonsense solution to make sure that a concealed carry license or permit from one state is valid in all 50 states, protecting your constitutional rights as well as the right to self-defense across states lines.

With President Trump declaring that he would sign a concealed carry reciprocity bill if such a bill reached his desk, the Constitutional Concealed Carry Reciprocity could be signed into law soon.

This bill is a huge win for the American people, and know that I'll continue to defend the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding gun owners across our mountains and Nation.

With my warmest regards,  
CHUCK EDWARDS,  
Member of Congress.

#### CONGRATULATING SAVANNAH/HILTON HEAD INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

#### HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 22, 2025

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Savannah/Hilton Head International Airport, which has been recognized as the No. 1 airport in the U.S. by the Condé Nast Traveler Readers' Choice awards.

This is the fifth consecutive year that the airport has been awarded this incredible honor, recognizing the effort staff puts forth to ensure a great travel experience.

In addition to outstanding customer service, the Reader's Choice Awards recognized the airport's unique southern charm and intimate, inviting atmosphere.

This prestigious recognition is awarded based on feedback from over 500,000 survey respondents and is known as one of the longest running and most respected awards in the travel industry.

The airport was recognized alongside distinguished restaurants, hotels, and resorts located all over the world.

The repeated acknowledgement of the airport demonstrates its commitment to world-class service and providing passengers with enjoyable travel experiences.

I congratulate the team at the Savannah/Hilton Head International Airport on this exceptional honor and continued excellence.

#### CELEBRATING THE HONOREES OF THE AREA AGENCY ON AGING OF BROWARD COUNTY 43RD ANNUAL INSTALLATION DINNER

#### HON. JARED MOSKOWITZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 22, 2025

Mr. MOSKOWITZ. Mr. Speaker, I, along with Representative WASSERMAN SCHULTZ and Representative CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK, rise today to recognize the Area Agency on Aging of Broward County (AAABC) and the celebration of their 43rd Annual Installation Dinner honoring four distinguished members of the community.

For over four decades, the AAABC continues to be a pillar of support and advocacy for older adults, ensuring that they receive vital resources and services to enhance their quality of life. We are proud to recognize the following honorees for their exemplary service to the senior community.

This event celebrates and honors outstanding contributions of individuals, organizations and municipalities whose advocacy has made a profound difference in the lives of older adults. Among the honorees are:

Andrea Buscada, the director of Broward County Elderly and Veterans Services, as Project Leader of the Year for her commitment to serving our senior and veteran populations.

Dr. Naushira Pandya, Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Geriatrics at Nova Southeastern University (NSU) as the Volunteer of the Year for her impactful work in geriatric healthcare and education.

Senator Nan Rich, Broward County Commissioner and former State Senator, as Community Champion of the Year for her outstanding leadership for over 25 years in the community, working as a champion for seniors and the disabled community. Her impactful work has advanced policies that protect and empower older adults in our community.

Senior Proof, a home safety modification company for their innovative efforts to support aging in place and create safer living environments for seniors.

City of Oakland Park and the City of Miramar for their Fair Share Milestone commitment to creating age-friendly communities and supporting local senior programs.

As the AAABC celebrates this milestone, they are commended for their unwavering dedication to improving the lives of Broward County's aging population. Together we would also like to thank the CEO, Charlotte Mather-Taylor for her leadership of the agency with a mission to enhancing the quality of life for older adults. Charlotte along with her team are committed to ensuring that all seniors in Broward County receive the dignity, respect, and care they deserve.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize the AAABC and the honorees of the 43rd Annual Installation Dinner. We ask our colleagues to join us in congratulating them on this significant occasion and wishing them continued success.

#### RECOGNIZING THE CITY OF WETUMPKA, ALABAMA

#### HON. BARRY MOORE

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 22, 2025

Mr. MOORE of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise with a heart full of appreciation and gratitude for one of the many incredible communities I have had the privilege of representing. At the end of the 118th Congress, I said goodbye to one of my beloved district offices nestled on the northern outskirts of Montgomery in beautiful Wetumpka, Alabama.

As I reflect on my time serving south Alabama, it is not only the legislative victories and achievements that come to mind, but our constituent services and successes. The generosity and warm welcome from the City of Wetumpka, and Mayor Jerry Willis, have allowed my team to grow and work diligently for the citizens of Alabama's Second Congressional District to achieve these triumphs.

I thank my staff who have helped me every step of the way. Their hard work and passion for public service have allowed benefits, dollars, and recognition to be restored to our citizens. I am forever grateful to the people of Wetumpka for the trust they placed in me and the success we achieved.

My commitment to serving the people of Alabama remains steadfast. I will continue to carry the friendships and the warmth of this community with me.

I thank them once again for their kindness, and unwavering support. It has been an honor to serve them. May God continue to bless Alabama's Second Congressional District, the state of Alabama, and the United States of America.



# HONORING MAJOR MANSFIELD FOR HIS OUTSTANDING CON- TRIBUTIONS

## HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 22, 2025*

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the extraordinary achievements and contributions of Major Mansfield, a cherished member of our community and a native son to the Commonwealth of Virginia. Through Major's exceptional dedication and unwavering commitment to service and community, he has made an indelible impact on the lives of countless individuals.

Major has devoted his energies to the Mechanicsville Tea Party (MTP) since the organization was founded in 2004 and served in all leadership positions on the MTP. With Major's direct participation in our cherished electoral process, he assisted individuals seeking public office and once elected, Major would hold them accountable to the U.S. Constitution. When it comes to elections, Major held that all citizens have a duty to actively participate in their government. This included voting, holding office, and engaging in public discourse. Major understands this active involvement as essential to safeguarding liberty and preventing tyranny.

In his private life, Major worked for Mars Candy for twenty-five years and Campbell's Soup for ten years. Major never missed a day of work. He played college football at the University of Richmond and rebuilt two churches. Major graduated Army Ranger School and was in the Army Reserves for seven years. Major leaves a lasting impression on everyone who has had the privilege of working with or knowing him. His efforts exemplify the very best of what it means to be a citizen of the Virginia Commonwealth and this great Nation.

Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to recognize Major Mansfield for his lifetime of service and dedication. His legacy serves as an inspiration to all of us and a reminder of the profound difference one person can make in the lives of others. On behalf of the people of Virginia's First District, I extend my deepest gratitude and admiration to Major Mansfield and wish he and his family continued success in all future endeavors.

# OPPOSITION TO H.R. 30, PRE- VENTING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN BY ILLEGAL ALIENS ACT

## HON. VAL T. HOYLE

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 22, 2025*

Ms. HOYLE of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, last week, I voted no on H.R. 30, the so-called "Preventing Violence Against Women By Illegal Aliens Act."

Let me be clear: none of us are interested in protecting domestic abusers or predators. We all want to keep our communities safe from those who seek to inflict harm on vulnerable people.

H.R. 30 does nothing to strengthen existing law and risks putting survivors at greater risk.

In reality, this bill is more about House Republican messaging than providing meaningful

solutions to keep our communities safe. Current law already ensures that perpetrators of these heinous crimes can be swiftly deported if they are here illegally and bars them from reentering the United States.

Worse, it makes it easier to deport survivors who have acted in self-defense or who have been falsely accused by their abusers. The violent predators who commit these crimes know how to use the law to further victimize their targets.

I have heard horrific stories from law enforcement about women who are threatened with deportation if they report rape or torture, with their children being held hostage as leverage. An immigrant here legally on a student visa who fights back against her abusive boyfriend, or a hardworking mother lawfully present on a work visa who defends herself and her children against a violent partner, could face deportation if their abuser reports them ahead of their testimony. Predators will lie. Victims need protection. H.R. 30 hands criminals the ultimate tool of coercion to silence survivors—fear of deportation.

Some simple, common-sense proposals could have strengthened the bill, including offering greater protections to victims or providing law enforcement with additional tools to prosecute offenders. Unfortunately, these were not included.

If my colleagues across the aisle truly wanted to protect women, this bill would expand funding for victim services and ensure survivors could testify without the threat of deportation. It also would have given law enforcement more resources to get violent criminals out of our communities and out of country. But they didn't do that because this bill is not about keeping women safe. It is instead a performative political stunt to further an anti-immigrant agenda.

And let's not forget that 172 House Republicans, including this bill's sponsor, previously voted no on legislation to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), which included expansions of aid and services to support survivors of domestic violence and sexual abuse. VAWA had been strongly bipartisan because it meaningfully protected vulnerable women.

We must do everything in our power to protect survivors and hold perpetrators accountable. We owe survivors real solutions—not fear, not cruelty, and not empty posturing. For these reasons, I voted NO.

I remain committed to working with my colleagues to pass legislation that will genuinely protect survivors, hold abusers accountable and make our communities safer for everyone.

# RECOGNIZING THE 80TH ANNIVER- SARY OF THE BETA OMICRON ZETA CHAPTER OF ZETA PHI BETA SORORITY

## HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 22, 2025*

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, today the 12th Congressional District recognizes and celebrates the 80th anniversary of the Beta Omicron Zeta Chapter, also known as the Detroit Chapter, of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., as a pillar of service, scholarship, and sisterhood in

our community. Founded in 1945, under the leadership of Dr. Mary Watson Stewart, this chapter holds the distinction of being Michigan's first graduate chapter of Zeta Phi Beta. For over eight decades, the Beta Omicron Zeta Chapter has established itself as a force for positive change through strong communal partnerships and leading critical initiatives like the Stork's Nest Program to address infant mortality, and the award-winning Zetas Helping Others Excel program.

Their mentorship of young women through STEAM education and their invaluable scholarships have directly impacted countless lives. The chapter's community dedication has garnered accolades from Michigan and Detroit leaders, demonstrating the lasting impact of their mission of uplifting others. I thank the Beta Omicron Zeta Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., for their unwavering commitment to Finer Womanhood, Service, and advancing equity in Detroit and beyond.

# HONORING CLAUDINE BROWN

## HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 22, 2025*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Mrs. Claudine Brown. Mrs. Brown exemplified what can be achieved through hard work, dedication, and a genuine desire to make her community a better place.

Claudine Ferguson was born in Holmes County, Mississippi, on July 22, 1931, to Mr. Walter Ferguson and Mrs. Willie Mae Ferguson. She was the eldest of seven children and grew up with a strong sense of responsibility and commitment to her family. She received her primary education at public schools in Jackson and Greenwood, Mississippi, and furthered her education at Mississippi Valley State University and Draughton's Business School.

Claudine Ferguson was married to the late Mr. Josh Brown for thirty-seven years and later to the late Mr. Jimmie Owens. She was the mother of seven children and emphasized the importance of hard work and education. All of her children went on to earn college degrees.

In 1950, Mr. and Mrs. Brown purchased property in the Browning community, an area she grew to love and was determined to improve. In 1974, Mrs. Brown organized the Browning Progressive Civic League to enhance the Browning community. The League's accomplishments included paving roads, upgrading utilities, and restoring an artesian well that provided water for the entire area.

The impact of Mrs. Brown extended beyond the Browning community. In 1980, she became the first African American woman to serve on the Leflore County School Board, a position she held for more than two decades.

In 1983, Mrs. Brown was elected as the first Black Tax Assessor/Collector in Leflore County, Mississippi. She has also received numerous awards and recognitions, including:

Community Service Award (Greenwood Voters League), Citizen of the Year (Zeta Phi Beta Sorority), Outstanding Service to the Browning Community Award (Morning Star M.B. Church), Community Service Award

(Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority), Citizen of the Year (Omega Psi Phi Fraternity).

In recognition of her community work, the Rising Sun Elementary School in Greenwood, Mississippi, was renamed the Claudine F. Brown Elementary School in 1994.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life, legacy, and service of Mrs. Claudine Brown for her civic contributions and her unwavering love for her neighbors and community.

#### THANKING VALERIE ARKIN

#### HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 22, 2025*

Mr. SWALWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Valerie Arkin, a tireless public servant, in commemoration of her tenure on the Pleasanton City Council, which concluded on Tuesday, December 17, 2024.

Valerie obtained a Bachelor of Science in Health Science from California State University, Northridge, and later returned to school to get a Master of Business Administration from California Lutheran University.

After moving to Pleasanton in 1993, Valerie quickly became involved in local campaigns and in Pleasanton public schools, which all three of her children attended.

In 2006, Valerie began her journey of public service when she became a Pleasanton Library Commissioner until 2014. In 2008, Valerie was elected to the Pleasanton Unified School District Board of Trustees, where she served as the Board President and advocated for fiscal responsibility until 2020.

Valerie was elected to the Pleasanton City Council in 2020, representing the constituents of the second district. During her tenure, she served on the City-School District Liaison

Committee along with 11 different other local and regional committees, all while playing an active role in the League of California Cities' Environmental Policy Committee.

Outside her elected roles, Valerie remained an active volunteer with local nonprofits and served on the board of the Pleasanton Cultural Arts Council.

Valerie's over 30 years of support for local initiatives, public education, and advocacy among stakeholders have been a critical factor in the development of the community. As she enters this new chapter, I join her friends and colleagues in wishing Valerie well-deserved rest, relaxation, and quality time with her husband, Brian.

#### SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, January 23, 2025 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

#### MEETINGS SCHEDULED

##### JANUARY 28

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine defense innovation and acquisition reform.

SD-G50

10 a.m.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine the Panama Canal and its impact on U.S. trade and national security, focusing on fees and foreign influence.

SR-253

10:30 a.m.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the VA's Community Care Program.

SR-418

2:30 p.m.

Select Committee on Intelligence

To receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters.

SH-219

##### JANUARY 29

9 a.m.

Committee on the Judiciary

Business meeting to consider the nomination of Pamela Bondi, of Florida, to be Attorney General, Department of Justice.

SH-216

10 a.m.

Committee on Finance

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., of California, to be Secretary of Health and Human Services.

SD-215

3:30 p.m.

Special Committee on Aging

To hold hearings to examine making Washington work for seniors, focusing on fighting to end inflation and achieve fiscal sanity.

SD-106

# Daily Digest

## Senate

### Chamber Action

#### *Routine Proceedings, pages S283–S304*

**Measures Introduced:** Twenty-three bills and one resolution were introduced, as follows: S. 176–198, and S. Res. 30. **Pages S302–03**

#### **Measures Considered:**

**Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act:** Senate continued consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 6, to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit a health care practitioner from failing to exercise the proper degree of care in the case of a child who survives an abortion or attempted abortion. **Pages S283–99**

During consideration of this measure today, Senate also took the following action:

By 52 yeas to 47 nays (Vote No. 11), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn, not having voted in the affirmative, Senate rejected the motion to close further debate on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill. **Page S295**

**Bessent Nomination—Cloture:** Senate began consideration of the nomination of Scott Bessent, of South Carolina, to be Secretary of the Treasury. **Page S299**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Kristi Noem, of South Dakota, to be Secretary of Homeland Security. **Page S299**

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 S299**

**Nominations Received:** Senate received the following nominations:

Michael Boren, of Idaho, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Natural Resources and Environment.

Steven Bradbury, of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary of Transportation.

William Briggs, of Texas, to be Deputy Administrator of the Small Business Administration.

James Danly, of Tennessee, to be Deputy Secretary of Energy.

Richard Fordyce, of Missouri, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Farm Production and Conservation.

David Fotouhi, of Virginia, to be Deputy Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

Kenneth Kies, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury.

Michael Kratsios, of South Carolina, to be Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy.

Paul Lawrence, of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

Katharine MacGregor, of Florida, to be Deputy Secretary of the Interior.

Casey Mulligan, of Illinois, to be Chief Counsel for Advocacy, Small Business Administration.

William Pulte, of Florida, to be Director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency for a term of five years.

Penny Schwinn, of Tennessee, to be Deputy Secretary of Education. **Page S304**

**Messages from the House:** **Page S301**

**Measures Referred:** **Page S301**

**Executive Reports of Committees:** **Page S302**

**Additional Cosponsors:** **Page S303**

**Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:** **Pages S303–04**

**Additional Statements:** **Pages S300–01**

**Authorities for Committees to Meet:** **Page S304**

**Privileges of the Floor:** **Page S304**

**Record Votes:** One record vote was taken today. (Total—11) **Page S295**

**Adjournment:** Senate convened at 11 a.m. and adjourned at 4:57 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Thursday, January 23, 2025. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S304.)

## Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

### NOMINATION

*Committee on the Budget:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nomination of Russell Vought, of Virginia, to be Director of the Office of Manage-

ment and Budget, after the nominee testified and answered questions in his own behalf.

### BUSINESS MEETING

*Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:* Committee ordered favorably reported the nomination of Sean Duffy, of Wisconsin, to be Secretary of Transportation.

# House of Representatives

## Chamber Action

**Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced:** 41 public bills, H.R. 7, 599–640; and 5 resolutions, H.J. Res. 27–28; and H. Res. 54–56, were introduced.

Pages H297–300

**Additional Cosponsors:**

Page H301

**Reports Filed:** There were no reports filed today.

**Speaker:** Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Moran to act as Speaker pro tempore for today.

Page H261

**Recess:** The House recessed at 10:39 a.m. and reconvened at 12 p.m.

Page H265

**Committee Elections:** The House agreed to H. Res. 54, electing Members to certain standing committees of the House of Representatives.

Page H267

**Committee Elections:** The House agreed to H. Res. 55, electing Members to certain standing committees of the House of Representatives.

Page H267

**Joint Economic Committee—Appointment:** The Chair announced the Speaker's appointment of the following Members on the part of the House to the Joint Economic Committee: Representatives Schweikert and Beyer.

Page H267

**Recess:** The House recessed at 1:09 p.m. and reconvened at 1:30 p.m.

Page H276

**Recess:** The House recessed at 3:14 p.m. and reconvened at 4:30 p.m.

Pages H284–85

**Suspension—Proceedings Resumed:** The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measure. Consideration began Tuesday, January 21st.

*Directing the Secretary of the Interior to complete all actions necessary for certain land to be held in restricted fee status by the Oglala Sioux Tribe and Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe:* H.R. 165, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to complete all actions necessary for certain land to be held in re-

stricted fee status by the Oglala Sioux Tribe and Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, by a  $\frac{2}{3}$  yeas-and-nays vote of 416 yeas with none voting "nay", Roll No. 22.

Page H285

**Laken Riley Act:** The House passed S. 5, to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to take into custody aliens who have been charged in the United States with theft, by a yeas-and-nays vote of 263 yeas to 156 nays, Roll No. 23.

Pages H268–76

H. Res. 53, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 471) and (S. 5) was agreed to by a recorded vote of 213 yeas to 204 nays, Roll No. 21, after the previous question was ordered by a yeas-and-nays vote of 214 yeas to 204 nays, Roll No. 20.

Pages H276–77

**Quorum Calls—Votes:** Three yeas-and-nays votes and one recorded vote developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H276, H277, H285–86.

**Adjournment:** The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 6:09 p.m.

## Committee Meetings

**A DECADE LATER: ASSESSING THE LEGACY AND IMPACT OF THE FRANK R. LAUTENBERG CHEMICAL SAFETY FOR THE 21ST CENTURY ACT**

*Committee on Energy and Commerce:* Subcommittee on Environment held a hearing entitled "A Decade Later: Assessing the Legacy and Impact of the Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act". Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

### ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

*Committee on Financial Services:* Full Committee held an organizational meeting. The Committee adopted its Rules for the 119th Congress, as amended. The Committee adopted its Authorization and Oversight Plan, Member Naming Resolutions, and Resolution

Establishing the Task Force on Monetary Policy, Treasury Market Resilience, and Economic Prosperity, without amendment.

#### ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

*Committee on Foreign Affairs:* Full Committee held an organizational meeting. The Committee adopted its Rules, Oversight Plan, and Committee Staff List for the 119th Congress.

#### ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

*Committee on Homeland Security:* Full Committee held an organizational meeting. The Committee adopted its Rules and Staff Hiring Resolution for the 119th Congress.

#### UNCONSTRAINED ACTORS: ASSESSING GLOBAL CYBER THREATS TO THE HOMELAND

*Committee on Homeland Security:* Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Unconstrained Actors: Assessing Global Cyber Threats to the Homeland”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

#### RESTORING IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT IN AMERICA

*Committee on the Judiciary:* Subcommittee on Immigration Integrity, Security, and Enforcement held a hearing entitled “Restoring Immigration Enforcement in America”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

#### ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

*Committee on Natural Resources:* Full Committee held an organizational meeting. The Committee adopted its Rules for the 119th Congress, without amendment. The Committee Staff Resolution was agreed to.

#### ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

*Committee on Small Business:* Full Committee held an organizational meeting. The Committee adopted its Rules, Subcommittee Chairs, and Authorization and Oversight Plan for the 119th Congress.

#### BUSINESS MEETING

*Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure:* Full Committee held a business meeting on Amending Rule VII of the Rules of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure for the 119th Congress, due to Subcommittee ratio changes; and approval of Subcommittee rosters. The Committee adopted its Rules of the 119th Congress, as amended. The Committee adopted its Subcommittee Chairs and Ranking Members and Subcommittee Rosters.

#### AMERICA BUILDS: HIGHWAYS TO MOVE PEOPLE AND FREIGHT

*Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure:* Subcommittee on Highways and Transit held a hearing entitled “America Builds: Highways to Move People and Freight”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

#### RESTORING FOCUS: PUTTING VETERANS FIRST IN COMMUNITY CARE

*Committee on Veterans' Affairs:* Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Restoring Focus: Putting Veterans First in Community Care”. Testimony was heard from Paul McKenna, Sergeant Major (Retired), U.S. Marine Corps; William Dooley, Master Sergeant (Retired), U.S. Army; and public witnesses.

#### MEMBER DAY HEARING ON MATTERS WITHIN THE COMMITTEE'S TAX JURISDICTION

*Committee on Ways and Means:* Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Member Day Hearing on Matters Within the Committee's Tax Jurisdiction”. Testimony was heard from Chairman Thompson of Pennsylvania, and Representatives Baird, Barr, Barrett, Bice, Carter of Georgia, Cleaver, Clyde, Crawford, Davidson, DeLauro, Downing, Dunn of Florida, Edwards, Fedorchak, Finstad, Fong, Garbarino, Gillen, Greene of Georgia, Haridopolos, Hernández, Hinson, Houchin, Hunt, James, Kennedy of Utah, Kiggans of Virginia, Kiley of California, Kim, LaLota, Lawler, Mackenzie, Maloy, McCormick, McGovern, Meuser, Miller-Meeks, Moore of West Virginia, Moore of North Carolina, Nunn of Iowa, Owens, Pou, Radewagen, Scholten, Austin Scott of Georgia, Self, Stauber, Strong, Sykes, Timmons, Titus, Van Drew, Van Orden, and Wied.

### Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

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#### COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THURSDAY, JANUARY 23, 2025

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

##### Senate

*Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry:* to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Brooke Rollins, of Texas, to be Secretary of Agriculture, 10 a.m., SD-106.

*Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:* business meeting to consider committee rules and procedures, subcommittee organization and jurisdiction for the 119th Congress, and the nomination of Eric Turner, of Texas, to be Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, 10 a.m., SD-538.

*Committee on Energy and Natural Resources*: business meeting to consider Amendment of Rule 6(b) of the Committee Rules to establish the reporting quorum, an original resolution to provide for the funding of the Committee for the 119th Congress, and the nominations of Douglas Burgum, of North Dakota, to be Secretary of the Interior, and Christopher Wright, of Colorado, to be Secretary of Energy, 9:30 a.m., SD-366.

*Committee on Environment and Public Works*: business meeting to consider the nomination of Lee Zeldin, of New York, to be Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, 9:15 a.m., SD-406.

*Committee on Veterans' Affairs*: business meeting to consider the nomination of Douglas Collins, of Georgia, to be Secretary of Veterans Affairs, 9 a.m., SR-418.

### House

*Committee on Appropriations*, Full Committee, organizational meeting, 10 a.m., 2359 Rayburn.

*Committee on Energy and Commerce*, Subcommittee on Communications and Technology, hearing entitled

"Strengthening American Leadership in Wireless Technology", 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

*Committee on House Administration*, Full Committee, organizational meeting, 10 a.m., 1310 Longworth.

*Committee on Natural Resources*, Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Fisheries, hearing on H.R. 231, the "Colorado River Basin System Conservation Extension Act of 2025"; H.R. 261, the "Undersea Cable Protection Act of 2025"; H.R. 331, to amend the Aquifer Recharge Flexibility Act to clarify a provision relating to conveyances for aquifer recharge purposes; and legislation on the WaterSMART Access for Tribes Act, 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

*Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure*, Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials, hearing entitled "America Builds: Examining America's Freight and Passenger Rail Network", 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

*Committee on Veterans' Affairs*, Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs, hearing entitled "Correcting VA's Violations of Veterans' Due Process and Second Amendment Rights", 1:15 p.m., 360 Cannon.



*Next Meeting of the SENATE*

10 a.m., Thursday, January 23

*Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES*

10 a.m., Thursday, January 23

## Senate Chamber

**Program for Thursday:** Senate will be in a period of morning business.

At approximately 11 a.m., Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of John Ratcliffe, of Texas, to be Director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

If cloture is invoked, there will be up to 2 hours of debate followed by a vote on confirmation of the nomination of John Ratcliffe. Following disposition of the nomination, Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Peter Hegseth, of Tennessee, to be Secretary of Defense.

## House Chamber

**Program for Thursday:** Consideration of H.R. 471—Fix Our Forests Act.

## Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

## HOUSE

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# Congressional Record

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