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No. 23

House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BEGICH).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
February 4, 2025.

I hereby appoint the Honorable NICHOLAS J. BEGICH, III 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 1:50 p.m.

AMERICAN ENERGY INDEPENDENCE

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

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, throughout the last years, the Biden administration waged war on our domestic energy sector, raising prices for each and every American.

This week, House Republicans will vote on the Protecting American Energy Production Act to ensure that States keep control of hydraulic

fracking and that our energy resources continue to flow.

Following President Trump's flurry of executive orders to secure our domestic energy production, my colleagues and I in the House will continue to unleash American energy so that we can lower prices, attain energy independence, and create good-paying jobs for Americans.

HONORING WINELL ZAITZ FARM

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Winell Zaitz Farm for being recognized as one of Pennsylvania's Century Farms.

The Zaitz Farm, purchased in 1875, spans 129 acres and is now being passed down to the family's fifth generation. Carol and her family continue to farm the land, which includes a historic farmhouse built before the Civil War and a barn from 1880.

On behalf of everyone in Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District, I congratulate Carol Winell Zaitz and her entire family on their family farm's designation as a Century Farm. I thank them for their enduring commitment to one of our State's most vital industries, and that is agriculture.

HONORING PRESBYTERIAN VILLAGE'S CENTENNIAL

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Presbyterian Village in Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania, which is celebrating its 100th anniversary.

Founded as a Presbyterian home, doors were opened in 1925 to 22 women and quickly expanded over the following decades to include men, women, and couples.

Having treated residents at this facility, I have seen the dedication of the entire staff who ensure accessibility to the services and the resources that are essential in our seniors' lives.

Always showing our fellow community members love and respect, I congratulate the Presbyterian Village for

a century of commitment to the Blair County community.

FBI DESERVES OUR SUPPORT

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

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, it is evident to me that 2 weeks into the new administration, we no longer have a Congress and that we no longer take care that laws be faithfully executed.

We passed a law that says TikTok must either be sold or be shut down, but that doesn't matter. It will not be shut down. The Constitution of the United States says that birthright citizenship is a fundamental constitutional right, but that doesn't matter. Apparently, it is not.

We have happily given up the power of the purse. USAID is a legally established organization, whatever you may think of it. We have given up the power of the purse.

Mr. Speaker, what we cannot give up in this institution is our obligation to keep the American people safe, safe from terrorism, safe from gang violence, safe from fentanyl. What concerns me as the ranking member of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, much of what I am seeing out there is the attack, the purge of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the FBI, which Americans know is the premier law enforcement agency on this planet. Thousands of FBI agents go to work every single day, going after fentanyl dealers, going after violent crime, uncovering terrorist plots. I tell you this as a person who represents a district that was badly hurt on 9/11.

It is now part of the catechism of the Republican Party in the House and the Senate that the FBI is a corrupt and evil organization that must be turned on its head and that people who have dedicated their lives to the service of keeping Americans safe must be fired.

□ 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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Mr. Speaker, the list is unbelievable: Executive Assistant Director Tim Dunham, 22 years of service; EAD Bobby Wells, 21 years of service; EAD Mike Nordwall, 22 years of dedicated service; Jackie Maguire, 24 years of dedicated service; Ryan Young—I could go on for my full 5 minutes of senior people who have been told that they must either resign from the FBI or be fired.

We hear that the FBI is being told that anyone who worked on the January 6 prosecutions, when this building was attacked and 140 police officers were assaulted, that they must be on a list, undoubtedly for retribution.

What does the FBI actually do? In June of 2024, the FBI arrested several people with suspected ISIS ties; October 2024, the FBI arrested an Afghan national for plotting a terrorist attack in the name of ISIS on election day. This goes on and on. The FBI investigated the assassination attempt on President Trump. Every day, all day, FBI agents are out there keeping us safe.

Why this attack on the FBI? I heard my colleague, JIM JORDAN, just this weekend on Fox News once again promoting the conspiracy theory that the FBI was somehow involved in the attack on this Capitol on January 6. That is false.

Yes, there were 26 confidential human sources. These are people who know drug dealers and terrorists that the FBI talks to. Not one of them was authorized to break any law or to participate in January 6. There were no undercover FBI agents here in the Capitol on January 6. Yet, this continues because Donald Trump insists that that conspiracy theory animated rage against the FBI.

I am the ranking member of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, and we can get away with a lot of foolish things in this institution, but keep up the attacks on the FBI, keep it up, because there will be terrorist attacks. There will be an increase in drug deaths. There will be an increase in violent crime, and I promise you, Mr. Speaker, I will stand right here to hold those accountable for the attack on this storied American institution and the carnage it will visit on the American people if this keeps up.

The FBI deserves our support. They are not perfect, but they go to work every single day to keep our people safe. It is time for the majority in this Chamber to stop their attacks on these patriotic Americans.

HONORING GROUNDHOG DAY

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Groundhog Day, a special tradition spearheaded in my district and celebrated not just nationwide but world-

wide, having folks who attended from over 120 different countries and every State in the Nation.

This past Sunday, February 2, I was proud to join over 50,000 people, families from across the country, as we eagerly waited to see if spring was on the way or if 6 more weeks of winter awaited. Each year, in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania, crowds gather at Gobbler's Knob on the night of February 1 awaiting the appearance of our famed weather predictor, Punxsutawney Phil.

I recognize and thank one of the hardest-working, most reliable job producers in my district, Phil himself. Year after year, his dedication to forecasting the end of winter brings joy not just to the Pennsylvania 15th Congressional District but to people across the country.

For more than 130 years, this beloved tradition, rooted in Pennsylvania's strong German heritage, has captured our imagination. As the legend goes, if Phil sees his shadow, we are in for 6 more weeks of winter. If not, spring is right around the corner.

The excitement begins the night before, as visitors gather to wake Phil with chants of his name in the early morning hours of February 2. When our esteemed seer of seers emerges, the Punxsutawney Groundhog Club Inner Circle President interprets Phil's forecast and shares the news with the eager crowd. Despite some naysayers who suggest replacing Phil with an animatronic groundhog, a gold coin, or even worse, a cake, he remains a cherished figure.

Phil actually has a condominium, so to speak, in the Punxsutawney Library where he lives with his wife, Phyllis, and their two children, now teenagers, who were born earlier this year.

I believe in creating jobs, not eliminating them, and that includes our most famous furry forecaster. I will always stand up for the hardworking men and women, and, yes, rodents, of Pennsylvania's 15th Congressional District.

Beyond the fun and folklore, Groundhog Day is an event that brings people together, strengthens community spirit, and serves as an economic boost for the region. It is a celebration of tradition and a source of great pride.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Phil for sharing his wisdom and bringing smiles to so many. However, standing on stage with the inner circle and looking out over the 50,000 people when he announced 6 more weeks of winter, maybe people weren't smiling quite as much this year.

ELIMINATING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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

Mr. KHANNA. Mr. Speaker, NBC News is reporting that President Trump plans to eliminate the Department of Education with an executive order. This is an assault on every

young American who went to public school like me.

This is an assault on every American family who has someone who is disabled and needs the IDEA program to provide education. This is an assault on every neighborhood in America that has a public school that gets title I funding. This is an assault on every child who gets school lunches in America.

This is an assault on our public teachers across this country. This is an assault on every American who has gotten any Federal financial aid to go to vocational school or to go to public college or to get an education like I did.

The President does not have the Constitutional authority to do this. It is cruelty. It is taking away the bedrock of education in this country.

Thomas Jefferson said that you can't have a democracy without an educated citizenry. What built America, what made us exceptional, is that we allowed Americans to go and finish high school before World War II while the Europeans didn't. Mr. Speaker, America had a record of 80 percent high school graduations compared to 20 and 30 percent in the European nations.

President Trump wants to take all of that away, snatching money from our public schools, snatching money from our teachers, and snatching money from our families who have kids who need the help.

Mr. Speaker, we need to rise up and oppose this blatantly unconstitutional executive order. We need to stand up for public education in America.

□ 1215

OPPOSING TARIFFS ON FOOD PRODUCTS

Mr. KHANNA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to oppose Donald Trump's reckless tariffs on food products.

I am for strategic tariffs to protect our strategic industries in steel, aluminum, and semiconductors and our national champions.

We know, from Hamilton to Paul Krugman, that tariffs work for infant industries and important national industries, but who thinks we need tariffs for Corona beer? Who thinks we need tariffs for vegetables?

Here is what we get from Mexico. We get 85 percent of our strawberries from Mexico. Donald Trump put a 25 percent tariff on it. We get 86 percent of our tomatoes from Mexico. Donald Trump put a 25 percent tariff on it. We get 69 percent of vegetable imports from Mexico. We get 90 percent of our avocados from Mexico. Donald Trump put a 25 percent tariff on it.

So much for lowering grocery prices, Mr. Trump. You want Americans to pay 25 percent more for their avocados, for their strawberries, for their beer. In what world does this economic nonsense make any logical sense?

Then, you caved to the President of Mexico, President Sheinbaum and caved to Prime Minister Trudeau because you saw the stock market dip.

How about you stop paying attention to the stock market and start paying attention to people's grocery bills?

We are in dangerous times where we have a President who could impose these tariffs on food at any moment. That is why retailers are already raising prices. They don't believe Trump in terms of a 30-day pause. They are raising the prices on all of these food products today.

We need to be very clear, Mr. Trump: Learn Economics 101. Stop raising grocery prices for ordinary Americans.

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

SUPPORTING DEI

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

Mr. CISNEROS. Mr. Speaker, I originally came to the floor today because I was dismayed by the President's continued assault on diversity, equity, and inclusion.

The Department of Defense, the State Department, and countless other agencies have been instructed to no longer recognize Black History Month as part of a broad order to pause all activities and events related to "special observances." It is because the President is trying to scrub our government and our country of its history and its diversity.

Our diversity is our power, and the President is threatened by that power. That is why he wants our country and our government to fit his narrow-minded view of what it should be like.

We know who President Trump is. Barely coded racist rhetoric is his standard practice. The disgusting comments the President made, blaming the tragic crash at Reagan National Airport on DEI, were just the latest example. It is sickening, inflammatory, and pathetic.

We should all be clear-eyed about what the President is doing. While the President has picked up right where he left off with his racist and xenophobic attacks, it is part of a broader mission by him and shadow president Elon Musk to dismantle and destroy our government.

Since last Friday, Elon's acolytes, none of whom are government employees and by all appearances have no understanding of how our government even works, have been installed and have taken over at the State Department, the U.S. Treasury, the Office of Personnel Management, the General Services Administration, and the U.S. Agency for International Development.

Here is what they have done. They have downloaded the most sensitive personal information of millions of Americans to private servers. They have taken possession of all financial and personal information of everyone who does business with the Federal

Government. They are taking control of security systems, personnel files, and intelligence reports that pertain to thousands upon thousands of U.S. Government workers operating overseas, many of whom are in classified roles.

This is all to say that we are witnessing a coup of our government. Without any legal authority, robber baron Elon Musk has embedded himself in our government, unlawfully obtained information that affects millions of Americans, and tasked himself with carrying out President Trump's grievances against his political enemies, not to mention the President has already fired over a dozen January 6 Federal prosecutors, begun to scrutinize the perceived loyalty of thousands of rank-and-file FBI agents, and invalidated the contracts of thousands of government employees.

Again, we are witnessing the power grab of two men who idolize dictators and who are now playing at being one.

This is a coup. The American people will not stand for this. They will not. I have heard from my constituents who have called my office, expressing their outrage at the criminality and corruption. I plan to do everything I can at every opportunity to call out the President and Elon Musk for what they are doing.

I ask my Republican colleagues to actively examine what is going on, to sincerely ask themselves if this is acceptable. Throughout our country's history, our government has served to assist the people in their times of need, to act in service of the common good, and to work for the people. The President and Elon Musk are trying to make a mockery of that purpose. They are actively perverting that purpose to make the government act as a tool of retribution and to work against the people, specifically against their political enemies.

That is not why I serve.

Service and leadership are not about bending government to your own personal will. It is about civic duty and public service. It is about good people doing the right thing.

I ask my Republican colleagues if they really think the President and Elon Musk are doing the right thing. It is time for the people of this House to speak up.

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

ENHANCE SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about Social Security, the Nation's number one antipoverty program for the elderly and the Nation's number one antipoverty program for children.

Every Member of this 435-person body is impacted by Social Security. It

might surprise you, Mr. Speaker, that Social Security has not been enhanced in over 50 years.

For what purpose is Mr. Trump's latest proposal, and that of Elon Musk, to acquire all the data and information on the more than 70 million Social Security recipients and Medicare and Medicaid recipients?

Americans should be outraged. Clearly, one would hope that people in this body are outraged enough to speak up on behalf of their citizens. Why? More than 10,000 baby boomers a day become eligible for Social Security. More than 70 million people across this Nation receive Social Security, a governmental insurance program that has never missed a payment. Yet, Congress hasn't enhanced the program in over 50 years.

God help us, but Mr. Musk has plans for Social Security and Medicare. They have been charged with cutting \$2 trillion out of the budget. The three largest items in the Federal budget are Social Security, Medicare, and defense. Where is Mr. Musk going with this, and why does he need the data and information on every American citizen and more than 70 million Social Security recipients?

I hope that you, Mr. Speaker, are mentioning this to your constituents in your district. You have over 115,000 people who get pensions from Social Security; 88,000 retirees; 10,000-plus disabled workers, most of them veterans; 5,486 widows; 2,509 spouses; and 8,000 children.

Mr. Speaker, what most Members don't realize is that this is the number one economic development plan for every single congressional district. Why? Every district, on average, gets \$2 million a month from Social Security because it goes directly to those constituents, Mr. Speaker, who I just named.

Where do they spend that money, Mr. Speaker? Right back in their own districts, right back at the local pharmacy, at the grocery store, on heating and cooling their homes, and on putting gas in their tanks.

This is what the American people are facing.

When are people in this body going to have the guts to stand up and take a vote for their constituents, people who haven't seen a benefit enhancement in more than 50 years?

Do we think the cost of living has changed a little? Is it okay that 5 million of our fellow Americans get checks below the poverty level, having paid into a system all their lives? Is it okay that most of them are women because they have spent less time in the workforce while taking care of their children? When they were in the workforce, they were earning less.

Rise up, America. Rise up, Mr. Speaker. Join us in saying: Let's have a vote. Let's send what our constituents need. We haven't done the job in more than 50 years. Now is the time to act.

Mr. Trump says that he is going to make sure he eliminates taxes on Social Security. That is another major problem. Of course, we have that in a bill that is before this body. The difference is we pay for it. Mr. Musk and Mr. Trump don't want to pay for it because what they want to do with that money is provide another tax break for the wealthy on the backs of everyday working Americans who have done this throughout their lifetimes.

Mr. Speaker, I hope everybody in this Chamber finds some spine, stands up, and takes a vote on Social Security.

COMING TO CROSSROADS OF A CONSTITUTIONAL CRISIS

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

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise because we are at the crossroads of a constitutional crisis.

While I represent and fight for tens of thousands of Federal workers and contractors in my district, this affects every single American.

There is a Treasury takeover. Every man, woman, and child's most personal information is in the hands of people who have no real vetting or formal role in our government. They have control of the Federal Government's payment systems. They can now decide which programs, projects, and contractors get funded. That is unconstitutional.

Federal agencies authorized by Congress are being cut without any input from Congress. That is unconstitutional.

All Federal spending was frozen with little warning to Americans. That is unconstitutional.

The Federal workforce is being intimidated and decimated before our eyes, which is illegal.

We are damaging our country in a way that could take years, if not decades, to recover.

Cutting USAID undermines our standing in the world and keeps us less safe. Cutting funding for agencies and nonprofits that feed kids or run essential services will make us less healthy and less secure. Firing Federal workers and contractors will lead to a brain drain in our government and hurt every single function of our government.

This is not rightsizing or downsizing of government. This is dumb-sizing of government. How do I know this? I know these Federal workers and contractors personally. I see them at the grocery store, farmers market, and school drop-off. They take an oath to our country to keep our government running and, most importantly, keep us safe. They often take lower salaries out of a sense of duty to their Federal citizens.

They don't care who is President. Why? Federal food safety should not stop because of who is President. Disaster relief should not stop because of

who is President. Veterans' benefits should not stop because of who is President.

Federal workers make America work. They make America great.

At a townhall last night in my district, these Federal workers shared their stories. Their stories were frightening and should alarm all Americans. We had one constituent who is a nuclear scientist. We can't get rid of a nuclear scientist and expect to replace that expertise ever again.

This is a constitutional crisis. What are we going to do about it? That is what the people want to know.

There must be real oversight and accountability for this administration, especially when there are dangerous incursions into Congress' powers and independence as a legislative branch. We must introduce legislation, hold hearings, speak out, and do everything possible to make sure that this stops.

I am introducing legislation to protect Federal workers, prevent unnecessary agency relocations, and stop unconstitutional actions that undermine our democracy and the separation of powers.

If citizens are listening at home, they should know that their voice matters. When people spoke up about the Federal freeze, they backed down. Our constituents should speak out, use their voice, and push back because the time for action is now. Join me.

□ 1230

TARIFFS AND TRADE

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, the people of northwest Ohio and the Great Lakes region, which is heavily industrial and agricultural, overwhelmingly oppose the Trump administration's ill-conceived trade war with Canada, Ohio's top fair trade partner and our largest fair trade partner.

Apparently there is a plan for a 1-month pause with this tariff relationship with Canada, but remember, Canada has been critical to the automotive industry, the lumber industry, the oil industry, the truck industry, every single industry you can think of, and now we are not sure what is going to happen in 1 month.

There is an old expression that says don't break what doesn't need fixing. There is another stronger adage that says don't shoot yourself in the foot.

The administration's imposition of tariffs across our Great Lakes region adds up to a big lollapalooza-sized mistake. It will cause prices to rise, unemployment to increase, and act as a throttle to economic progress across our Great Lakes region. Rising tariffs will put a brake on our region's economy and strong, two-way trade partnership. They put a 25 percent tariff at the northern border, right, but with China it is 10 percent. That is 25 per-

cent among free traders and 10 percent on those that don't exercise in a manner that creates free trade.

Indeed, the U.S.-Canadian trade partnership is the strongest economic growth engine in our part of the American continent. With meager help from Washington, except for President Eisenhower's investment in our region after World War II, our region's economic growth has been hard-fought, especially recently.

Far too often, firms here have been disinvested and traded away by Wall Street, Big Tech, and Washington bigwigs who don't understand our region's free market struggle. All those billionaires simply love shipping our jobs to penny-wage nations, and I am truly surprised President Trump has joined them.

Great Lakes region economic growth across the U.S.-Canadian border has been hard-fought, not exploitative. Middle-class jobs have grown here, albeit far too slowly, and tariffs will cause a downdraft on economic growth, rising prices, and lost jobs.

The investor class has been shipping out our jobs everywhere in the world. Growing jobs in our mid-continent freshwater economy requires cooperation, not upending U.S.-Canadian relationships that have taken decades to build in both our nations. Frankly, both coasts have made it harder for us to ship through the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway. This is wrong. We should be allowed to compete fairly. Let the President go to that thought.

Our Nation should stand for free trade among free people. Imposing tariffs on North American companies that are struggling to meet penny-wage global competition is driving our economy backwards.

President Trump should study the trade numbers. Data from the U.S. Census Bureau shows that of the United States' top 15 trading partners, Canada is the fourth smallest contributor to the U.S. trade deficit compared to countries like China, Mexico, and Vietnam, each of whom engage in unfair and exploitative labor practices.

Focus on the nations with whom we have mammoth trade deficits, like China. Don't hurt North America. Rethink the administration's costly, unnecessary burden on our Great Lakes region which the President carried. The President should be helping us, not hurting us.

As a result of Trump's tariffs, the prices and costs of doing business already are rising. Layoffs will occur. You will see more foreign cars flood into our country as China will increase shipments of its low-wage produced goods.

Across our Great Lakes States of Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Wisconsin, Illinois, New York, and Minnesota, let our people remember President Trump's ill-conceived tariff edict. President Trump is driving up costs in our trusted two-way U.S.-Canada trade relationship. Our Great

Lakes coastal economy, the heart of industrial and agricultural America from Duluth to Toledo to Buffalo, doesn't need this stress and lurch into reverse.

Canada is our Nation's largest fair trading partner and Ohio's biggest trading partner. Our region will work with any President and Prime Minister to reinvest in our Nation's industrial and agricultural base. Why not focus tariffs on China where the trade gap is enormous and there is no fair trade, or Mexico where the wages and the gap of wages is horrendous compared to our country? Why pick on the middle-class and hard-laboring people of the Great Lakes?

We live in a fair market economy. We should. Rising tariffs will only cripple economic growth here, and the Trump administration has just shot itself in the foot again. Our Nation's trade gaps need to be fixed with far too many unfair penny-wage nations and exploitative trade relationships.

Don't pick on our part of the country. Don't break what doesn't need fixing.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 36 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

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

You are the Lord. There is no other. On this day, may we appreciate that all that surrounds us is of Your making. All that lives and breathes finds its life in You.

May we look for the ways You call us to participate in Your creative work in the world, to desire to be laborers in Your vineyard, stewards of the bounty You have generously bestowed on us.

May we dedicate ourselves to give our best efforts to reveal the creative reality of Your peace, Your justice, and Your love around the globe and in our communities.

So, in our appreciation for what You have done, our participation in what You are doing, and our dedication to what You in Your grace plan will do, may we prove faithful this day.

In Your sovereign name, we pray.
Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's pro-

ceedings 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 South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

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

RECOGNIZING WORLD CANCER 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 to recognize World Cancer Day.

Today, on World Cancer Day, we unite to raise awareness, show support, and reaffirm our commitment to the fight against cancer.

This disease knows no boundaries. It touches every community, every family, and too many lives, including my own.

Today is not just about recognizing the challenge but strengthening our resolve. It is about honoring the fighters, survivors, and those that we have lost. It is about supporting researchers, doctors, caregivers, and advocates who work tirelessly to improve treatments, find cures, and bring hope.

Cancer may be a formidable opponent, but we are not powerless. Early detection, better treatments, and continuous advancements are saving lives. Awareness leads to action, and action leads to progress.

Whether it is through fundraising, supporting a loved one, or promoting healthy lifestyles, each of us has a role to play.

Mr. Speaker, let's commit to stand together as we move closer to a world where cancer is no longer a devastating diagnosis but a challenge that we overcome.

PROTECTING AMERICAN TAXPAYERS' SENSITIVE INFORMATION

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

Ms. ANSARI. Mr. Speaker, day after day, Donald Trump is abusing power, breaking the law, and tearing apart our Constitution.

Trump has handed over the government to Elon Musk, an unelected billionaire who does not care about the American people.

Trump has given Musk and his cronies extensive access to confidential,

personal information across all Federal agencies, including the Treasury. The Treasury makes 1.5 billion payments a year to taxpayers, businesses, and seniors, everything from Social Security benefits to tax refunds, Medicare, and Medicaid.

Musk now has access to Americans' confidential tax refund information, which includes their names, Social Security numbers, and home addresses.

That is why I am headed to Treasury this evening to stand up for Arizonans' privacy and to stand up for our democracy.

As a member of the House Oversight Committee, we are calling out this breach of law, privacy, and national security on behalf of the American people.

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

TRUMP TACKLES FENTANYL

(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, Donald Trump has been President only 2 weeks, and he is delivering on his Promises Made, Promises Kept on behalf of the American people. I know firsthand of his courage, as I led the House delegation for the opening of the American Embassy in 2018 in Jerusalem.

The failed policies of Biden-Harris have left American families in danger of illegal aliens bringing in lethal drugs, including fentanyl.

Yesterday, President Trump announced a deal that the Mexican Government will deploy thousands of Mexican troops to the border. Canada is implementing new protective commitments. House Republicans are taking action, voting on the HALT Fentanyl Act, led by Congressmen MORGAN GRIF-FITH and BOB LATTA.

Sadly, the regime in Tehran is defiant, having sent assassins to murder Donald Trump as war criminal Putin has ignored peace initiatives with record rocket attacks on civilians in Ukraine, and Putin state television has shamefully broadcast nude pictures of America's First Lady, Melania Trump, who is so beloved.

In conclusion, God bless our troops as the global war on terrorism continues. Trump is reinstituting existing laws to protect American families with peace through strength.

PROTECTING TREASURY PAYMENT SYSTEM

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

Mr. MIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because Elon Musk, an unelected billionaire, is repeatedly and blatantly

breaking the law, including by usurping the legislative and appropriations authority expressly reserved to Congress.

Musk has claimed powers that even the President himself does not hold, including the authority to “delete” agencies created and funded by this body.

Among other things, he has gained control over the Treasury’s payment system, the mechanism for processing all payments made by the Federal Government.

Musk promised to cut \$2 trillion from the Federal budget. The entire domestic discretionary budget is only \$917 billion, which means the only way Musk can achieve this promise is through massive cuts to Social Security and Medicare.

Musk now has the ability to shut off Social Security and Medicare payments with the flip of a switch. Controlling our payment systems also gives Elon Musk access to the personal information of every American who has ever received a Social Security, tax refund, or other government payment. Why does he need this information? What safeguards are there against abuse? We don’t know.

This cannot stand. We in Congress must act, enforce the law, and uphold the Constitution.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

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

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, January 30, 2025.

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on January 30, 2025, at 3:24 p.m.:

Appointments:
United States Senate Caucus on International Narcotics Control
With best wishes, I am,
Sincerely,

KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,
Clerk.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

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

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, February 4, 2025.

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on February 4, 2025, at 1:28 p.m.:

Appointment:
Public Interest Declassification Board
With best wishes, I am,
Sincerely,

KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,
Clerk.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE STRATEGIC COMPETITION BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker’s appointment pursuant to section 4(a) of House Resolution 5, 119th Congress, and the order of the House of January 3, 2025, of the following Members to the Select Committee on the Strategic Competition between the United States and the Chinese Communist Party:

Mr. MOOLENAAR, Michigan, Chairman
Mr. WITTMAN, Virginia
Mr. BARR, Kentucky
Mr. NEWHOUSE, Washington
Mr. LAHOOD, Illinois
Mr. DUNN, Florida
Mr. JOHNSON, South Dakota
Mrs. HINSON, Iowa
Mr. GIMENEZ, Florida
Mr. BILIRAKIS, Florida
Mrs. KIM, California
Mr. MORAN, Texas
Mr. NUNN, Iowa

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 2 o’clock and 9 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1601

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. BICE) at 4 o’clock and 1 minute p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

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

9/11 MEMORIAL AND MUSEUM ACT

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 835) to provide a one-time grant for the operation, security, and maintenance of the National September 11 Memorial & Museum at the World Trade Center to commemorate the events, and honor the victims, of

the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 835

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 “9/11 Memorial and Museum Act”.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) NATIONAL SEPTEMBER 11 MEMORIAL & MUSEUM.—The term “National September 11 Memorial & Museum” means the National September 11 Memorial & Museum at the World Trade Center Foundation, Inc., established to commemorate the events of, and honor the victims of, the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001, at the site of such attacks.

(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible entity” means the official organization, as in existence on the date of enactment of this Act, that—

(A) operates the National September 11 Memorial & Museum; and

(B) is an organization described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of such Code.

(3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Homeland Security.

SEC. 3. ONE-TIME GRANT FOR NATIONAL SEPTEMBER 11 MEMORIAL & MUSEUM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability of appropriations made in advance for such purpose to the Office of the Secretary and Executive Management of the Department of Homeland Security, the Secretary shall award to the eligible entity a grant in an amount determined by the Secretary subject to subsection (c), to be used by such entity solely for the purposes described in subsection (b), if upon review of the application submitted pursuant to subsection (d), the Secretary makes a determination pursuant to subsection (e) that such entity satisfies the criteria required under subsection (f).

(b) PURPOSE.—The one-time grant awarded under subsection (a) shall be used by the eligible entity for the operation, security, and maintenance of the National September 11 Memorial & Museum.

(c) GRANT AMOUNT.—The one-time grant under this section may not be for less than \$5,000,000 or more than \$10,000,000.

(d) APPLICATION.—To be considered for an award of the one-time grant under this section, the eligible entity shall submit to the Secretary an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require.

(e) REVIEW; DEADLINE FOR AWARD.—If the Secretary, after review of the application from the eligible entity, determines that the eligible entity satisfies the criteria under subsection (f), the Secretary shall award the one-time grant to the eligible entity, not later than 90 days after the date of receipt by the Secretary of the completed application submitted by such entity.

(f) CRITERIA.—In determining the amount of the one-time grant consistent with subsection (c), the Secretary shall consider the following:

(1) The needs of the eligible entity, and ability and commitment of such eligible entity to use grant funds, with respect to ensuring the security and safety of visitors at the National September 11 Memorial & Museum.

(2) The number of visitors to the National September 11 Memorial & Museum who would benefit.

(3) The ability and commitment of the eligible entity to use grant funds to—

(A) preserve the facilities and grounds of the National September 11 Memorial & Museum; and

(B) educate future generations.

(4) The ability and commitment of the eligible entity to use grant funds to increase the numbers of economically disadvantaged visitors to the National September 11 Memorial & Museum.

(g) **CONDITION ON RECEIPT OF GRANT.**—As a condition on receipt of a grant under this section, the eligible entity shall—

(1) provide for—

(A) free admission to all facilities and museums associated with the National September 11 Memorial & Museum for active and retired members of the Armed Forces, individuals who were registered first responders to the attacks of September 11, 2001, and family members of victims of such attacks; and

(B) dedicated free admission hours for the general public at least once a week; and

(2) allow for annual Federal audits of the financial statements of such entity, including revenues associated with ticket sales, charitable donations, grants, and all expenditures on salaries and operations, which shall be subject to review by the Secretary and made available to the public.

(h) **REPORTS.**—Not later than 90 days after the end of each fiscal year for which the recipient obligates or expends funds made available to the recipient pursuant to this section, the recipient shall submit to the Committees on Natural Resources and Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committees on Energy and Natural Resources and Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report that includes, for the fiscal year covered by the report, each of the following:

(1) Information relating to the amount of grant funds obligated or expended for the preceding fiscal year.

(2) Information relating to any purposes for which such funds were obligated or expended.

(3) Any other information the Secretary may require to effectively administer the one-time grant program under this section, as determined by the Secretary, if not later than the last day of the fiscal year the Secretary notified such entity of such requested information.

(i) **NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS AUTHORIZED.**—No additional funds are authorized to carry out the requirements of this section, and the activities authorized by this section are subject to the availability of appropriations made in advance for such purposes.

The **SPEAKER pro tempore.** Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) and the gentlewoman from Arizona (Ms. ANSARI) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 835, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

I rise in support of Representative LALOTA's bipartisan bill, the 9/11 Me-

morial and Museum Act. This important legislation honors the victims of the horrendous 9/11 attacks by providing a one-time grant to assist with security costs for the 9/11 Memorial & Museum.

Located in Lower Manhattan, the National September 11 Memorial & Museum occupies the former World Trade Center site. This unique facility serves as the principal tribute of remembrance and honor to the nearly 3,000 people killed in the terrorist attacks at the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001, and February 26, 1993.

A prominent feature of the museum is an art installation with the quote "No Day Shall Erase You From the Memory of Time." These words are much more than a quote. They are a solemn promise from each and every American that we will never forget and will not allow our future Americans to forget the tragic events of 9/11.

More than 23 years after these horrific attacks, we still remember the innocent men, women, and children who perished on that September morning. We know that time has not erased the scars, both visible and invisible, carried by the survivors, families of victims, and all who watched those horrific attacks unfold.

Representative LALOTA's legislation will help ensure that the memories of those we lost on 9/11 remain eternal by providing a one-time grant of between \$5 million and \$10 million to assist with security costs for the 9/11 Memorial & Museum.

As the location of one of the most high-profile terrorist attacks in American history, the museum shoulders more than \$1 million per month in security costs to protect visitors and the exhibits throughout the museum.

This grant, which would come from Department of Homeland Security's existing appropriations, will help reduce the burden of those significant security costs.

I thank Representative LALOTA for his efforts to advance this legislation. As a native New Yorker and veteran of the global war on terrorism, he has a profound respect and understanding for what it means to never forget the events of September 11, 2001. His bill would help the 9/11 Memorial & Museum continue operations, fund safety measures, and provide free admission for military veterans, first responders, and victims' families.

H.R. 835 passed the House unanimously in the 118th Congress, and I urge my colleagues to support it again today.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise in support of the 9/11 Memorial and Museum Act.

September 11 remains a horrific, indelible moment etched in our Nation's history. We will forever strive to honor the innocent lives lost and reckon with the sacrifices of so many.

That is why House Democrats have stepped up time and time again to support the ongoing management needs of the national September 11 Memorial & Museum in New York City.

Located at Ground Zero, this site is the principal tribute of remembrance to honor the lives lost on this tragic day, as well as the lives lost in the 1993 World Trade Center bombing. It is a hallowed ground and deserves our support. Over the years, Congress has provided significant financial support to the nonprofit organization that operates it.

This bill continues that tradition by calling on Congress to authorize the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security to provide a one-time grant for security, operation, and maintenance of the grounds.

I say "calling on" because one big caveat is that the bill does not actually create this grant program. Due to the Freedom Caucus' budget protocols, the bill instead clarifies at the end that the grant program shall not be authorized until subsequent legislation authorizes it and that, of course, it will not be funded until a third bill passes to appropriate the money.

Those are the fiscal gymnastics necessary to comply with Republican spending protocols. Yes, even the 9/11 Memorial gets only lip service and window dressing. To be crystal clear, this bill doesn't do anything at all.

Of course, even if Congress some day passes a bill to authorize the grant envisioned here and then passes a third bill to appropriate the money for this grant, we have seen in recent days that some Republicans believe that congressional appropriations are completely optional.

Republicans in the White House are illegally stopping vital funding that Congress has ordered to be spent, and their friends in Congress are defending them. The chairman of the House Appropriations Committee said last week that all the bills in his jurisdiction that Congress passes are actually not laws.

If we ever do create this grant, I hope no one in New York makes any enemies in this administration because apparently the administration thinks it can just ignore Congress and block the money.

Madam Speaker, I want to be clear that my criticisms are not aimed at the sponsor of this bill. He is doing everything he can to advocate for the museum under the unreasonable constraints of the Freedom Caucus and the administration. I commend his efforts.

Finally, I note that the 9/11 Museum has faced criticism from local community members since its opening for some of its content. We continue to encourage the museum's management to engage with stakeholders to ensure that the site is welcoming and representative for all. Perhaps it is something we can address in the multiple pieces of future legislation that will be necessary to actually make this grant a reality.

I wish we were here today to actually do something to support and improve the 9/11 Memorial & Museum, but unfortunately, that is not the case. On balance, this bill doesn't do any harm either. It attempts to bring attention to a very important effort. I will be voting for it, but I am disappointed that this is where things are.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. LALOTA), the lead sponsor of the bill.

Mr. LALOTA. Madam Speaker, I thank the chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee for yielding and for supporting this bill but most importantly for supporting the 9/11 families.

Madam Speaker, September 11, 2001, was not just a day of immense loss, it was a day that changed our Nation forever.

Nearly 3,000 innocent lives were taken from us in an act of unimaginable evil. First responders, driven by duty and selflessness, rushed into danger, and many never returned. Families were shattered, communities forever altered, and the scars of that day remain with us even now.

From that darkness came an incredible light, the resilience of the American spirit. We vowed on that fateful Tuesday morning never to forget and promised to honor the victims and the heroes that gave everything in the face of terror.

Today, we have a chance to uphold that promise. The 9/11 Memorial & Museum stands as a sacred place, a place of reflection, education, and unity. It is where generations can learn about the courage and sacrifice that defines us as a nation. It tells us the stories of firefighters who climbed up while others ran down, the passengers on flight 93 who fought back, and everyday Americans who became heroes.

However, the 9/11 Memorial & Museum remains a top target for terrorists and faces financial challenges stemming from the COVID-19 shutdown that threatens its ability to keep up its essential work.

My bill, the 9/11 Memorial and Museum Act directs the Department of Homeland Security to award a one-time grant to the National September 11 Memorial & Museum for the security, operation, and maintenance of its facilities and grounds.

As a condition of receiving this grant, the museum must provide free admission for active and retired members of the Armed Forces, individuals who were registered first responders to the 9/11 terrorist attacks, and the family members and victims of the attacks.

It also provides for dedicated free admission hours for the general public at least once a week and allows for annual Federal audits of the 9/11 Memorial & Museum's financial statements.

This ought not to be a partisan issue. This is about honoring our history,

protecting our legacy, and teaching future generations the lessons of 9/11.

We must not let the memory of that day fade. We cannot allow the heroism, the sacrifice, and the unity that followed be forgotten.

Supporting this bill means standing with the families of the fallen, with our first responders, and with every American who still carries the weight of that day on their hearts.

I urge my colleagues to join me in ensuring that we keep our promise. Let's pass the 9/11 Memorial and Museum Act and uphold our commitment to the American people.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time. I am prepared to close, and I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. ANSARI. Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, H.R. 835 ensures that the hallowed grounds on which the 9/11 Memorial & Museum are located remain a place of remembrance and honor for families, first responders, and Americans from across our great Nation.

I urge the adoption of the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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, H.R. 835.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ALASKA NATIVE SETTLEMENT TRUST ELIGIBILITY ACT

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 42) to amend the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act to exclude certain payments to aged, blind, or disabled Alaska Natives or descendants of Alaska Natives from being used to determine eligibility for certain programs, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 42

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 "Alaska Native Settlement Trust Eligibility Act".

SEC. 2. ELIGIBILITY FOR CERTAIN PROGRAMS.

Section 29(c) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1626(c)) is amended, in the undesignated matter following paragraph (3), by striking subparagraph (E) and inserting the following:

"(E) an interest in a Settlement Trust and, for the 5-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of the Alaska Native Settlement Trust Eligibility Act, an amount distributed from or benefit provided by a Settlement Trust to a Native or descendant of a Native who is an aged, blind, or disabled in-

dividual (as defined in section 1614(a) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1382c(a)))."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) and the gentlewoman from Arizona (Ms. ANSARI) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to add extraneous material on H.R. 42, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, H.R. 42 would exclude the amounts distributed or benefits provided from the Alaska Native corporation, or the ANC, settlement trusts to Alaska Natives who are blind, disabled, 65 years or older, or their descendants, when determining eligibility for means-tested Federal benefits.

Federal means-tested benefits include programs such as Supplemental Security Income, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, and Federal housing benefits.

In 1988, Congress amended the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, or ANCSA, to exclude the first \$2,000 any Alaska Native individual receives from an ANC when determining eligibility for means-tested Federal benefits.

Additionally, the 1988 amendments authorized ANCs to establish settlement trusts to distribute benefits to Alaska Native beneficiaries.

Yet, benefits from settlement trusts were not excluded when determining recipient eligibility for government assistance programs, as with the first \$2,000 of other benefits Alaska Natives can receive from ANCs.

□ 1615

ANCs have brought forward concerns with this discrepancy and the impact it has on Alaska Natives, particularly those who are aged, blind, or disabled. Often these individuals are placed in the position of choosing between accepting the settlement trust income or qualifying for government assistance programs.

H.R. 42 would address this oversight and exclude the amounts for benefits distributed to aged, blind, or disabled Alaska Natives from settlement trusts when determining eligibility for means-tested Federal benefits.

I thank the sponsor of this legislation, our freshman Member from Alaska, Mr. BEGICH, for his leadership in addressing this important issue and for introducing this bill on the first day of the 119th Congress so it could quickly be brought to the floor for consideration.

Madam Speaker, I support the bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. ANSARI. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I rise in support of Representative BEGICH's H.R. 42, the Alaska Native Settlement Trust Eligibility Act.

Congress passed the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act in 1971 to address land claims in the State of Alaska. Per an agreement, Alaska Native corporations were established, and the Federal Government transferred to them 44 million acres and \$962.5 million in compensation funds.

However, when an individual receives a distribution from an Alaska Native settlement trust, part of this law requires that the Federal Government include that distribution when determining the person's eligibility for various governmental programs such as for housing and supplemental income and nutritional assistance.

H.R. 42 would amend the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act to exclude from that calculation any such distributions provided to aged, blind, or disabled Alaska Natives.

These are critical services that support the livelihoods of some of the most vulnerable Alaska Natives. Over the years, the failure to address this issue has often forced Alaska Natives to choose between receiving the settlement trust fund benefits they are entitled to or qualifying for need-based Federal benefits. H.R. 42 would solve this problem, which is great news.

I will remind my colleagues, though, that this bill of course, doesn't remove the risk that this administration will try to illegally freeze or pause anyone's Federal benefits. Moreover, this bill will be of small comfort if Republicans make good on their promises to cut need-based Federal programs to pay for their billionaire tax breaks. These aren't hypotheticals. The House Republican Study Committee's budget proposal last fall called for cutting SNAP, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, by about 22 percent, for example.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, but I also urge them to oppose the lawlessness we have been seeing in the administration and to oppose cuts to programs that help the most vulnerable people in our communities. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH), who is the lead sponsor of this bill.

Mr. BEGICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill, H.R. 42, the Alaska Native Settlement Trust Eligibility Act. This legislation makes a simple but necessary fix to Federal law, ensuring that certain benefits distributed through Alaska Native corporation settlement trusts do not unreasonably disqualify vulnerable Alaskans from receiving assistance.

For decades, Alaska Native corporations have provided vital support to

their shareholders, including through settlement trusts, an essential tool Congress authorized in 1988 to deliver benefits in a structured, perpetual way. However, due to an oversight in the law, payments from these trusts are counted as income when determining eligibility for Federal programs like Supplemental Security Income, SNAP, and housing assistance.

That means visually impaired and disabled Alaska Natives and elders are forced to make an impossible choice: accept the benefits from their settlement trusts or maintain their access to critical assistance.

By ensuring that these benefits are not counted as income, H.R. 42 aligns settlement trust distributions with other Alaska Native benefits already excluded from eligibility calculations. It upholds the original intent of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act and protects the most vulnerable in need in our Alaska Native communities.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan, commonsense legislation. Let's ensure that no one has to choose between their critical assistance and their well-being.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time. I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. ANSARI. Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, again, this legislation would ensure that amounts distributed or benefits provided from Alaska Native corporation settlement trusts to Alaska Natives who are blind, disabled, or elders aged 65 and older, or their descendants, are excluded when determining eligibility for means-tested Federal benefits.

Again, Madam Speaker, I thank Mr. BEGICH for his work on an important issue for Alaska Natives, I urge the adoption of the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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, H.R. 42.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ALASKA NATIVE VILLAGE MUNICIPAL LANDS RESTORATION ACT OF 2025

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 43) to amend the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act to provide that Village Corporations shall not be required to convey land in trust to the State of Alaska for the estab-

lishment of Municipal Corporations, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 43

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 "Alaska Native Village Municipal Lands Restoration Act of 2025".

SEC. 2. REVERSION OF CERTAIN LAND CONVEYED IN TRUST TO THE STATE OF ALASKA.

Section 14(c) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1613(c)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through (5) as subparagraphs (A) through (E), respectively, and indenting appropriately;

(2) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A) (as so redesignated), by striking "(c) Each patent" and inserting the following:

"(c) CONVEYANCE OF CERTAIN LAND BY VILLAGE CORPORATION.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Each patent";

(3) in paragraph (1) (as so designated), in the undesignated matter following subparagraph (E) (as so redesignated), in the first sentence—

(A) by striking "section 14(c) of this Act" and inserting "this subsection"; and

(B) by striking "There is authorized" and inserting the following:

"(2) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized";

(4) in paragraph (2)(A) (as so redesignated), in the second sentence, by striking "The Secretary" and inserting the following:

"(B) FORM OF FUNDING.—The Secretary"; and

(5) in paragraph (1) (as so designated)—

(A) in each of subparagraphs (A) and (B) (as so redesignated)—

(i) by striking "the" the first place it appears and inserting "The"; and

(ii) by striking the semicolon at the end and inserting a period;

(B) in subparagraph (D) (as so redesignated), by striking "the" the first place it appears and inserting "The";

(C) by striking "existed as of" in subparagraph (D) (as so redesignated) and all that follows through "for" in subparagraph (E) (as so redesignated) and inserting the following: "existed as of December 18, 1971.

"(E) For"; and

(D) in subparagraph (C) (as so redesignated)—

(i) by striking the semicolon at the end and inserting a period;

(ii) by striking "in trust: *Provided, however,* That the word" and all that follows through "sentence," and inserting the following: "in trust.

"(II) DEFINITION OF SALE.—For purposes of subclause (I), the term 'sale'";

(iii) by striking "one thousand two hundred and eighty acres: *Provided further,* That any net" and inserting the following: "1,280 acres.

"(iii) NET REVENUES.—

"(I) IN GENERAL.—Any net";

(iv) by striking "community needs: *Provided,* That the" and inserting the following: "community needs.

"(ii) MINIMUM ACREAGE.—The";

(v) by striking "(C) the Village Corporation" and inserting the following:

"(C) CONVEYANCE TO MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OR THE STATE IN TRUST.—

"(i) IN GENERAL.—The Village Corporation"; and

(vi) by adding at the end the following:

"(iv) CASES IN WHICH CONVEYANCE SHALL NOT BE REQUIRED.—

“(I) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this subparagraph, if a Village Corporation, prior to the date of enactment of the Alaska Native Village Municipal Lands Restoration Act of 2025, conveyed to the State in trust all or a portion of the acreage of land required to be conveyed under this subparagraph for the establishment of a Municipal Corporation in the future, and a Municipal Corporation has not been established as of that date of enactment, on formal resolution by the Village Corporation and the residents of the Native village requesting dissolution of the trust, the trust shall be dissolved and title to the land shall revert to the Village Corporation, subject to subclause (III).

“(II) ADDITIONAL LAND.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this subparagraph, as of the date of enactment of the Alaska Native Village Municipal Lands Restoration Act of 2025, a Village Corporation shall not be required to convey any additional land in trust under this subparagraph for the establishment of a Municipal Corporation in the future.

“(III) REQUIREMENTS.—In accordance with subsection (g)—

“(aa) the reversion of land to a Village Corporation pursuant to subclause (I) shall be subject to—

“(AA) valid existing rights created by the applicable trust; and

“(BB) any existing easements, rights-of-way necessary for public roadway access, or rights-of-way for access of holders of valid existing rights; and

“(bb) the Village Corporation shall assume the obligations of the applicable trust with respect to any lease or other use agreement applicable to the land on reversion of the land to the Village Corporation pursuant to subclause (I).”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) and the gentlewoman from Arizona (Ms. ANSARI) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to add extraneous material on H.R. 43, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

H.R. 43, the Alaska Native Village Municipal Lands Restoration Act of 2025, would amend the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, or ANCSA, and to return lands back to Alaska Native Village Corporations that are currently held in trust by the State of Alaska for future municipalities.

ANCSA was enacted to settle aboriginal land claims of Alaska Natives, and in doing so Alaska Native corporations were created to receive land and disburse payments to Alaska Natives.

ANCSA required Alaska Native Village Corporations that received land to convey some land to an existing municipality. If no municipality existed, the land was conveyed to the State of

Alaska to be held in trust for a future municipality.

Over the past 53 years, only eight Village Corporations have seen a municipality created, with the most recent municipality created in 1995. This leaves 11,500 acres throughout 83 villages unable to be developed because it must be held in trust by Alaska in perpetuity for the unlikely creation of a municipality.

H.R. 43 would end this requirement for Village Corporations to reconvey lands for a potential municipality and return land already conveyed under this provision to Village Corporations. If returned, Village Corporations anticipate developing this land for housing, community buildings, and other economic development projects.

There is widespread support for H.R. 43 within the State of Alaska.

The Alaska State Senate unanimously passed S.J. Res. 13 on May 9, 2024, which encouraged the enactment of Federal legislation to return the reconveyed lands to Alaska Native Village Corporations. Alaska Governor Mike Dunleavy is also supportive of the legislative fix that H.R. 43 would provide.

Again, Madam Speaker, I thank the sponsor of this legislation, Mr. BEGICH, for his work to introduce this bill on the first day of the 119th Congress so that we could bring it to the floor quickly. I appreciate his diligence and swift work on behalf of Alaska, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of Representative BEGICH's H.R. 43, the Alaska Native Village Municipal Lands Restoration Act of 2025.

Under current law, when an Alaska Native Village Corporation receives land pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, then the Village Corporation must convey certain lands to its municipal government. If none exists, then the law requires them to convey the land to the State of Alaska to be held in trust for when a municipality is established in the future.

The problem is that in many remote Alaska Native communities, it is unlikely that a municipal government will ever be formed, which means the land being held in trust won't ever be used for its intended purpose.

In fact, since the passage of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act in 1971, 101 Village Corporations have had lands held in trust by the State but only 8 of those villages have incorporated into a municipality, and none have done so since 1995.

This bill would remove the requirement that Alaska Native Village Corporations convey land in trust to the State of Alaska for the hypothetical establishment of Municipal Corporations, and it would allow the Village Corporations to have the State of Alaska reconvey such lands back to them.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, which will

allow communities themselves to make decisions about how best to utilize their own lands. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH), who is the lead sponsor of the bill.

Mr. BEGICH. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 43, the Alaska Native Village Municipal Lands Restoration Act. This bill corrects a decades-old oversight in the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act to ensure Alaska Native communities can fully use their own land.

In 1971, ANCSA granted fee simple land ownership to Alaska Natives, resolving historic land claims and enabling statehood land entitlements. However, section 14(c)(3) required Native Village Corporations to transfer land to the State of Alaska to be held in trust for future municipalities. More than 50 years later, only 8 of 101 affected villages have incorporated, leaving 11,500 acres in 83 villages frozen in bureaucratic limbo.

H.R. 43 eliminates this outdated requirement and returns these lands to Village Corporations, allowing for housing, economic development, and community expansion. This bill restores self-determination, ensuring Alaska Natives, not government bureaucracy, decide how to use their own land.

This legislation has broad support, as was mentioned, including from the Alaska Governor and State Legislature, and was unanimously passed by the Senate in the last Congress. I urge my colleagues to support this common-sense fix and allow these lands to be used by their owners to support their own communities.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time. I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. ANSARI. Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, again, this legislation would amend ANCSA to return the land in question to impacted Alaska Native Village Corporations and eliminate the unnecessary land conveyance requirement in the statute.

I thank Mr. BEGICH for his leadership and working on this important issue for his constituents in Alaska.

Madam Speaker, I urge adoption of H.R. 43, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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, H.R. 43.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam 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 motion will be postponed.

EASTERN BAND OF CHEROKEE HISTORIC LANDS REACQUISITION ACT

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 226) to take certain Federal lands in Tennessee into trust for the benefit of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 226

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 “Eastern Band of Cherokee Historic Lands Reacquisition Act”.

SEC. 2. LAND TAKEN INTO TRUST FOR THE EASTERN BAND OF CHEROKEE INDIANS.

(a) LANDS INTO TRUST.—Subject to such rights of record as may be vested in third parties to rights-of-way or other easements or rights-of-record for roads, utilities, or other purposes, the following Federal lands managed by the Tennessee Valley Authority and located on or above the 820-foot (MSL) contour elevation in Monroe County, Tennessee, on the shores of Tellico Reservoir, are declared to be held in trust by the United States for the use and benefit of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians:

(1) SEQUOYAH MUSEUM PROPERTY.—Approximately 46.0 acres of land generally depicted as “Sequoyah Museum”, “Parcel 1”, and “Parcel 2” on the map titled “Eastern Band of Cherokee Historic Lands Reacquisition Map 1” and dated April 30, 2015.

(2) SUPPORT PROPERTY.—Approximately 11.9 acres of land generally depicted as “Support Parcel” on the map titled “Eastern Band of Cherokee Historic Lands Reacquisition Map 2” and dated April 30, 2015.

(3) CHOTA MEMORIAL PROPERTY AND TANASI MEMORIAL PROPERTY.—Approximately 18.2 acres of land generally depicted as “Chota Memorial 1” and “Tanasi Memorial” on the map titled “Eastern Band of Cherokee Historic Lands Reacquisition Map 3” and dated April 30, 2015, and including the Chota Memorial and all land within a circle with a radius of 86 feet measured from the center of the Chota Memorial without regard to the elevation of the land within the circle.

(b) PROPERTY ON LANDS.—In addition to the land taken into trust by subsection (a), the improvements on and appurtenances thereto, including memorials, are and shall remain the property of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians.

(c) REVISED MAPS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of a land transaction made pursuant to this section, the Tennessee Valley Authority, after consultation with the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians and the Secretary of the Interior, shall submit revised maps that depict the land taken into trust under this section, including any corrections made to the maps described in this section to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate.

(d) CONTOUR ELEVATION CLARIFICATION.—The contour elevations referred to in this Act are based on MSL Datum as established

by the NGS Southeastern Supplementary Adjustment of 1936 (NGVD29).

(e) CONDITIONS.—The lands taken into trust under this section shall be subject to the conditions described in section 5.

SEC. 3. PERMANENT EASEMENTS TAKEN INTO TRUST FOR THE EASTERN BAND OF CHEROKEE INDIANS.

(a) PERMANENT EASEMENTS.—The following permanent easements for land below the 820-foot (MSL) contour elevation for the following Federal lands in Monroe County, Tennessee, on the shores of Tellico Reservoir, are declared to be held in trust by the United States for the benefit of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians:

(1) CHOTA PENINSULA.—Approximately 8.5 acres of land generally depicted as “Chota Memorial 2” on the map titled “Eastern Band of Cherokee Historic Lands Reacquisition Map 3” and dated April 30, 2015.

(2) CHOTA-TANASI TRAIL.—Approximately 11.4 acres of land generally depicted as “Chota-Tanasi Trail” on the map titled “Eastern Band of Cherokee Historic Lands Reacquisition Map 3” and dated April 30, 2015.

(b) REVISED MAPS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of a land transaction made pursuant to this section, the Tennessee Valley Authority, after consultation with the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians and the Secretary of the Interior, shall submit to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate revised maps that depict the lands subject to easements taken into trust under this section, including any corrections necessary to the maps described in this section.

(c) CONDITIONS.—The lands subject to easements taken into trust under this section shall be subject to the use rights and conditions described in section 5.

SEC. 4. TRUST ADMINISTRATION AND PURPOSES.

(a) APPLICABLE LAWS.—Except as described in section 5, the lands subject to this Act shall be administered under the laws and regulations generally applicable to lands and interests in lands held in trust on behalf of Indian tribes.

(b) USE OF LAND.—Except the lands described in section 2(a)(2), the lands subject to this Act shall be used principally for memorializing and interpreting the history and culture of Indians and recreational activities, including management, operation, and conduct of programs of and for—

(1) the Sequoyah birthplace memorial and museum;

(2) the memorials to Chota and Tanasi as former capitals of the Cherokees;

(3) the memorial and place of reinterment for remains of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians and other Cherokee tribes, including those transferred to the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians and other Cherokee tribes and those human remains and cultural items transferred by the Tennessee Valley Authority to those Cherokee tribes under the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (25 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.); and

(4) interpreting the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail.

(c) USE OF SUPPORT PROPERTY.—The land described in section 2(a)(2) shall be used principally for the support of lands subject to this Act and the programs offered by the Tribe relating to such lands and their purposes including—

(1) classrooms and conference rooms;

(2) cultural interpretation and education programs;

(3) temporary housing of guests participating in such programs or the management of the properties and programs; and

(4) headquarters offices and support space for the trust properties and programs.

(d) LAND USE.—The principal purposes of the use of the land described in section 3(a)—

(1) paragraph (1), shall be for a recreational trail from the general vicinity of the parking lot to the area of the Chota Memorial and beyond to the southern portion of the peninsula, including interpretive signs, benches, and other compatible improvements; and

(2) paragraph (2), shall be for a recreational trail between the Chota and Tanasi Memorials, including interpretive signs, benches, and other compatible improvements.

SEC. 5. USE RIGHTS, CONDITIONS.

(a) FLOODING OF LAND AND ROADS.—The Tennessee Valley Authority may temporarily and intermittently flood the lands subject to this Act that lie below the 824-foot (MSL) contour elevation and the road access to such lands that lie below the 824-foot (MSL) contour elevation.

(b) FACILITIES AND STRUCTURES.—The Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians may construct, own, operate, and maintain—

(1) water use facilities and nonhabitable structures, facilities, and improvements not subject to serious damage if temporarily flooded on the land adjoining the Tellico Reservoir side of the lands subject to this Act that lie between the 815-foot and 820-foot (MSL) contour elevations, but only after having received written consent from the Tennessee Valley Authority and subject to the terms of such approval; and

(2) water use facilities between the 815-foot (MSL) contour elevations on the Tellico Reservoir side of the lands subject to this Act and the adjacent waters of Tellico Reservoir and in and on such waters after having received written consent from the Tennessee Valley Authority and subject to the terms of such approval, but may not construct, own, operate, or maintain other nonhabitable structures, facilities, and improvements on such lands.

(c) INGRESS AND EGRESS.—The Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians may use the lands subject to this Act and Tellico Reservoir for ingress and egress to and from such land and the waters of the Tellico Reservoir and to and from all structures, facilities, and improvements maintained in, on, or over such land or waters.

(d) RIVER CONTROL AND DEVELOPMENT.—The use rights under this section may not be exercised so as to interfere in any way with the Tennessee Valley Authority’s statutory program for river control and development.

(e) TVA AUTHORITIES.—Nothing in this Act shall be construed to affect the right of the Tennessee Valley Authority to—

(1) draw down Tellico Reservoir;

(2) fluctuate the water level thereof as may be necessary for its management of the Reservoir; or

(3) permanently flood lands adjacent to lands subject to this Act that lie below the 815-foot (MSL) contour elevation.

(f) RIGHT OF ENTRY.—The lands subject to this Act shall be subject to a reasonable right of entry by the personnel of the Tennessee Valley Authority and agents of the Tennessee Valley Authority operating in their official capacities as necessary for purposes of carrying out the Tennessee Valley Authority’s statutory program for river control and development.

(g) ENTRY ONTO LAND.—To the extent that the Tennessee Valley Authority’s operations on the lands subject to this Act do not unreasonably interfere with the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians’ maintenance of an appropriate setting for the memorialization of Cherokee history or culture on the lands and its operations on the lands, the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians shall allow the Tennessee Valley Authority to enter the lands to clear, ditch, dredge, and drain said lands

and apply larvicides and chemicals thereon or to conduct bank protection work and erect structures necessary in the promotion and furtherance of public health, flood control, and navigation.

(h) **LOSS OF HYDROPOWER CAPACITY.**—All future development of the lands subject to this Act shall be subject to compensation to the Tennessee Valley Authority for loss of hydropower capacity as provided in the Tennessee Valley Authority Flood Control Storage Loss Guideline, unless agreed to otherwise by the Tennessee Valley Authority.

(i) **PROTECTION FROM LIABILITY.**—The United States shall not be liable for any loss or damage resulting from—

(1) the temporary and intermittent flooding of lands subject to this Act;

(2) the permanent flooding of adjacent lands as provided in this section;

(3) wave action in Tellico Reservoir; or

(4) fluctuation of water levels for purposes of managing Tellico Reservoir.

(j) **CONTINUING RESPONSIBILITIES.**—The Tennessee Valley Authority shall—

(1) retain sole and exclusive Federal responsibility and liability to fund and implement any environmental remediation requirements that are required under applicable Federal or State law for any land or interest in land to be taken into trust under this Act, as well as the assessments under paragraph (2) to identify the type and quantity of any potential hazardous substances on the lands;

(2) prior to the acquisition in trust, carry out an assessment and notify the Secretary of the Interior and the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians whether any hazardous substances were stored on the lands and, if so, whether those substances—

(A) were stored for 1 year or more on the lands;

(B) were known to have been released on the lands; or

(C) were known to have been disposed of on the lands; and

(3) if the assessment under paragraph (2) shows that hazardous substances were stored, released, or disposed of on the lands, include in its notice under paragraph (2) to the Secretary of the Interior and the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians—

(A) the type and quantity of such hazardous substances;

(B) the time at which such storage, release, or disposal took place on the lands; and

(C) a description of any remedial actions, if any, taken on the lands.

SEC. 6. LANDS SUBJECT TO THE ACT.

For the purposes of this Act, the term “lands subject to this Act” means lands and interests in lands (including easements) taken into trust for the benefit of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians pursuant to or under this Act.

SEC. 7. GAMING PROHIBITION.

No class II or class III gaming, as defined in the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (25 U.S.C. 2701 et seq.), shall be conducted on lands subject to this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) and the gentlewoman from Arizona (Ms. ANSARI) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members be given 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 226, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 226, the Eastern Band of Cherokee Historic Lands Reacquisition Act, introduced by my friend from Tennessee, Congressman FLEISCHMANN.

H.R. 226 places approximately 96 acres of Tennessee Valley Authority land and permanent easements along the shores of the Little Tennessee River and Tellico Reservoir in Monroe County, Tennessee, into trust for the benefit of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians.

These areas include the Sequoyah Birthplace Museum, the Chota Memorial, the Tanasi Memorial, and lands to support these properties and cultural programs.

The parcels placed into trust under the bill will be used to memorialize and interpret the history of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians.

The Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians is one of three federally recognized Cherokee Tribes. Their ancestral homeland includes substantial parts of seven eastern States, including Tennessee, and the 57,000-acre Qualla Boundary Cherokee Indian Reservation in North Carolina.

In 1979 after the TVA completed the Tellico Dam, the Tribe approached the TVA about lands that were historically significant to the Tribe and impacted by the dam. In 1984 and 1986, the Tribe and the TVA reached an informal agreement that allowed the Tribe to manage two easements, including the Sequoyah Birthplace Museum.

H.R. 226 helps this cause by transferring approximately 76 acres of historically significant lands from the TVA to the U.S. Government to be held in trust for the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians.

It also creates two permanent easements over TVA property, held in trust for the Tribe, to create recreational trails between the sites.

□ 1630

This legislation will give the Eastern Band greater control over the historic homelands and the opportunity to memorialize the history and culture of the Cherokee people.

Pursuant to the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, gaming will be prohibited on the land. The bill also ensures that the TVA will be able to continue its river control and development activities to power the Tennessee Valley region.

Madam Speaker, I urge adoption of the measure and commend the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. FLEISCHMANN) for his continued work on this important legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Historic Lands Reacquisition Act introduced by Representative FLEISCHMANN of Tennessee.

This bill would place specified lands and easements in Monroe County, Tennessee, into trust for the benefit of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. These lands include the Sequoyah Museum, the Chota Memorial, the Tanasi Memorial, and land that supports these properties and the Tribe's cultural programs.

The Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, one of three federally recognized Cherokee Tribes and the only federally recognized Tribe in North Carolina, has ancestral homelands spanning across seven Eastern States, including Tennessee.

In 1979, the construction of the Tellico Dam by the Tennessee Valley Authority, or TVA, flooded large portions of the Tribe's ancestral lands along the Little Tennessee River, submerging sacred sites and archeological remains. Among the losses were the historic Overhill Cherokee towns, which served as the Cherokee capitals during the 1700s.

While the Eastern Band can never reclaim the land and sacred sites lost to flooding, other historically significant locations in the region remain in need of protection and preservation.

This bill would address this critical need by transferring approximately 76 acres of culturally significant lands from the TVA to the U.S. Government to be held in trust for the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians.

The bill would also establish two permanent easements over TVA property to be held in trust for the Tribe, facilitating the creation of recreational trails that will be between these important sites.

Passing this legislation would grant the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians greater control over their historic homelands, enabling them to preserve and honor their rich history and culture. It would represent an essential step toward safeguarding these culturally significant sites for future generations.

I do remind my colleagues, though, that these kinds of land arrangements don't happen by magic when we pass a bill like this one. Even if this bill becomes law, we will need actual staffing in the executive branch to carry it out. Unfortunately, in the past week, we have already seen basic government functions halted or put at risk from reckless orders to freeze spending, fire or place government workers on administrative leave, and more. These orders are, in many cases, unconstitutional and illegal.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote “yes” on this bill, but I also urge them to join Democrats in calling for an end to the paralyzing chaos we have been seeing from the White House.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. FLEISCHMANN), the lead sponsor of the bill.

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 226, the Eastern Band of Cherokee Historic Lands Reacquisition Act. I thank the chairman and the ranking member for their kind words in support of this bill.

Madam Speaker, this legislation has passed this House four times and must pass again today. It needs to go to the United States Senate, and it needs to go to President Trump's desk for signature.

It has been far too long. The Eastern Band of Cherokee have been waiting and had a lot of promises made to them over the years, which have been broken.

This is a great bill for America, and it is a great bill that will honor our wonderful Eastern Band of Cherokee. In my home State, the great State of Tennessee, it takes its name from Tanasi, a historic Overhill Cherokee settlement in present-day Monroe County, Tennessee, in the Third District of Tennessee, which I am privileged to represent.

Tanasi served as the Cherokee capital as early as 1721. Unfortunately, due to misguided Federal policies, the Cherokee were forced from their homes in Tennessee and surrounding States. This tragic period in American history led to the Trail of Tears, a journey in which 15,000 Cherokees were forcibly marched to the Indian territory.

My bill returns important historic sites back to the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, the Tribal Nation comprised of descendants of those Cherokees who resisted removal in the Great Smoky Mountains and escaped the Trail of Tears.

It is on these same lands where the Eastern Band of Cherokees have, for decades, honored the birthplace of Sequoyah, whose likeness we all in this House have the opportunity to pass as we make our way from the rotunda in our Capitol to the House floor.

Let me be clear. My bill, the Eastern Band of Cherokee Historic Lands Reacquisition Act, is limited and targeted. It restores 76.1 acres of federally owned Tennessee Valley Authority land to the Eastern Band of Cherokees and will grant two permanent easements over TVA property to be held in trust for the Tribe to create recreational trails between the sites.

Madam Speaker, this is about honoring history and keeping our promises. I strongly urge Members of both Chambers to understand the importance of the Cherokee Tribal land preservation and support H.R. 226 so it may be brought to President Trump's desk promptly.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time. I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. ANSARI. Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the legisla-

tion, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, H.R. 226 is a commonsense bill that facilitates greater control for the Eastern Band of Cherokee over their sacred and historic homelands in Tennessee. It ensures the protection of their timeless heritage, culture, and tradition and allows them to memorialize the history and culture of the Cherokee people.

This Tribe has worked with the Tennessee Valley Authority for over three decades on this issue, and this legislation is long overdue.

I will echo the words of my colleague, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. FLEISCHMANN), and say that the Senate needs to take this bill up and act on it when we pass it again.

Madam Speaker, I thank Mr. FLEISCHMANN for his leadership on the matter. I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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, H.R. 226.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

NUTRIA ERADICATION AND CONTROL REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2025

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 776) to reauthorize the Nutria Eradication and Control Act of 2003.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 776

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 "Nutria Eradication and Control Reauthorization Act of 2025".

SEC. 2. REAUTHORIZATION OF NUTRIA ERADICATION AND CONTROL ACT OF 2003.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3(e) of the Nutria Eradication and Control Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 8102(e)) is amended by striking "2025" and inserting "2030".

(b) TECHNICAL CORRECTION.—Section 3(a) of the Nutria Eradication and Control Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 8102(a)) is amended by striking "Secretary)," and inserting "'Secretary)'".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) and the gentlewoman from Arizona (Ms. ANSARI) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to re-

visé and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 776, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of Representative HARDER's legislation, which would reauthorize the nutria eradication program at existing funding levels through 2030.

This bill is identical to the one passed in the House during the last week of the 118th Congress. Unfortunately, it failed to receive a vote in the Senate. I am glad to have the opportunity to speak again in support of this important legislation.

Nutria are invasive rodents native to South America that were imported to the United States in 1899 for fur production. Since then, the nutria population has exploded in places like northern California, Oregon, and the Louisiana bayous, as well as the Chesapeake Bay and Eastern Shore ecosystems.

These rodents eat, dig, and trample healthy wetland habitats, causing significant erosion and habitat damage to native ecosystems.

When this legislation was first enacted in 2003, an estimated 70 percent of the Chesapeake Bay's marshlands had already been destroyed by nutria. Due to the aid of this program, nutria eradication efforts have been very successful.

For example, in Maryland, they have been declared eradicated. In Louisiana, where more than 432,000 acres were damaged or destroyed by nutria from 2002 to 2021, over 5 million nutria have been taken. Passing the legislation would allow these successful efforts to continue.

I thank Representative VALADAO for co-leading this legislation, which will benefit California's Central Valley in its work to eradicate nutria.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 776, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of this bill, which would reauthorize the Nutria Eradication and Control Act through fiscal year 2030, to ensure that Maryland, Louisiana, and California can manage and eradicate this destructive, invasive species.

Nutria are an invasive species of large, semiaquatic rodents found in coastal wetlands along the Gulf of Mexico, the East Coast, California, and other wetland areas within the United States.

Nutria were initially introduced into the United States in the 1930s for fur production. However, their rapid breeding and destructive tendencies toward native wetland vegetation have led to extensive erosion, displacement of native species, breached levees, and the

introduction of diseases and parasites that threaten humans, livestock, and pets.

These actions pose severe threats to our national wetlands, which are essential habitats for waterfowl and other wildlife and act as buffers for extreme weather events.

According to estimates, if measures had not been adopted to control and eradicate nutria in Maryland's Chesapeake Bay, nutria could have destroyed 17 percent of the bay's marshes in just a few years.

In 2003, the Nutria Eradication and Control Act authorized the Secretary of the Interior to provide financial assistance to Maryland and Louisiana for a program to eradicate or control nutria and restore marshland damaged by nutria.

In 2020, Congress passed Representative HARDER's bill to amend the Nutria Eradication and Control Act to include California, which faced a rapidly expanding breeding population of nutria in the San Joaquin Valley and adjacent areas. That bill also gave the Secretary of the Interior discretion to provide funding to States adversely affected by growing nutria populations through fiscal year 2025. This bill before us today would extend that authority to fiscal year 2030.

The Nutria Eradication and Control Act has significantly reduced nutria populations in all three States. In Maryland, nutria were entirely eradicated from Chesapeake Bay in 2022. In California, captures peaked in 2020 and have been steadily declining, but they are not yet fully eradicated.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill so this important work can continue, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I commend Representative HARDER for his bipartisan work and his hard work to bring this important bill to the floor.

Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time. I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. ANSARI. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. HARDER), the sponsor of the bill.

Mr. HARDER of California. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of my bill, the Nutria Eradication and Control Reauthorization Act of 2025, because communities in California and across the country are in a war right now against these giant swamp rats.

My bill would reauthorize funding to strengthen eradication efforts for the invasive swamp rats, nutria, which are destroying our levees, harming local farmland, and infecting our very drinking water.

These 40-pound monsters are larger than the average dog. They eat 25 percent of their body weight every day and can reproduce 200 offspring every single year.

In 2023 alone, 78 percent of the nutria found in California were in newly in-

festated areas, threatening our entire way of life. The only way to stop their spreading invasion is to support local eradication and control efforts.

In 2020, I was proud to work with President Trump to bring nutria eradication funding to California for the first time ever. Now, the funding is set to expire at the end of this fiscal year, right when we need it most. This comes at a time when our district is at a breaking point with nutria control efforts.

Last year, more than 1,300 nutria were captured in California, which is a record-breaking year for takings in the State.

We must reauthorize the Nutria Eradication and Control Act of 2003 to ensure States like California, Louisiana, and Florida are able to effectively curb the spread of this swamp rat once and for all.

We know that following wildlife management techniques to control and eradicate nutria is effective. For instance, the Chesapeake Bay region successfully eradicated nutria from their communities in 2018 after almost two decades of infestation.

We can't afford to let our foot off of the gas in California now. It is up to us to reauthorize this program to ensure that nutria is not only eradicated in the Chesapeake Bay region but in the United States.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to pass my bill to stop this infestation from poisoning our waterways and damaging our communities. I also want to take the time to thank my colleague, Mr. VALADAO, for his tireless support of this legislation.

□ 1645

Ms. ANSARI. Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, H.R. 776 would reauthorize a program that has proven very effective in protecting our country's vital wetlands and marshes from destructive invasive species. While great work has been accomplished in controlling these invasive pests, or swamp rats, as my colleague called them, continuing the nutria eradication program is crucial to ensuring our native species of plants and animals can recover.

Madam Speaker, I note that if gators and Cajuns can't eradicate these things from south Louisiana, we know our friends in the Central Valley need help, as well. I thank my colleagues for their diligent work on this bill, and I urge all Members to support this common-sense, bipartisan legislation.

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

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, H.R. 776.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam 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 motion will be postponed.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 4 o'clock and 46 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WEBER of Texas) at 6 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:

Motions to suspend the rules and pass:

H.R. 43, and

H.R. 776.

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.

ALASKA NATIVE VILLAGE MUNICIPAL LANDS RESTORATION ACT OF 2025

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. 43) to amend the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act to provide that Village Corporations shall not be required to convey land in trust to the State of Alaska for the establishment of Municipal Corporations, 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 412, nays 1, not voting 20, as follows:

[Roll No. 28]

YEAS—412

Adams	Arrington	Barragán
Aderholt	Auchincloss	Barrett
Aguilar	Babin	Baumgartner
Alford	Bacon	Bean (FL)
Allen	Baird	Beatty
Amo	Balderson	Begich
Amodei (NV)	Balint	Bell
Ansari	Barr	Bentz

Bera
Bergman
Beyer
Bice
Biggs (AZ)
Biggs (SC)
Bilirakis
Bishop
Boebert
Bonamici
Bost
Boyle (PA)
Brecheen
Bresnahan
Brown
Brownley
Buchanan
Budzinski
Burchett
Burlison
Bynum
Calvert
Cammack
Carbajal
Carey
Carson
Carter (GA)
Carter (LA)
Carter (TX)
Casar
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Cherfilus-
McCormick
Chu
Ciscomani
Cisneros
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Cline
Cloud
Clyburn
Clyde
Cohen
Cole
Collins
Comer
Conaway
Connolly
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crane
Crank
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crockett
Crow
Cuellar
Davids (KS)
Davidson
Davis (IL)
Davis (NC)
De La Cruz
Dean (PA)
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Deluzio
DesJarlais
Dexter
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Donalds
Downing
Dunn (FL)
Edwards
Elfreth
Ellzey
Emmer
Escobar
Espallat
Estes
Evans (CO)
Evans (PA)
Ezell
Fallon
Fedorchak
Feenstra
Fields
Figures
Finstad
Fischbach
Fitzpatrick

Fleischmann
Fletcher
Flood
Fong
Foster
Foushee
Foxy
Frankel, Lois
Franklin, Scott
Friedman
Frost
Fry
Fulcher
Garamendi
Garbarino
Garcia (CA)
Garcia (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Gill (TX)
Gillen
Gimenez
Golden (ME)
Goldman (NY)
Goldman (TX)
Gomez
Gonzales, Tony
Gooden
Goodlander
Gosar
Gray
Green (TN)
Green, Al (TX)
Greene (GA)
Griffith
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hageman
Hamadeh (AZ)
Harder (CA)
Haridopolos
Harrigan
Harris (MD)
Harris (NC)
Harshbarger
Hayes
Hern (OK)
Hill (AR)
Himes
Hinson
Horsford
Hoyer
Hoyle (OR)
Hudson
Huffman
Huizenga
Hunt
Hurd (CO)
Issa
Ivey
Jack
Jackson (IL)
Jackson (TX)
Jacobs
James
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (SD)
Johnson (TX)
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Kamlager-Dove
Kaptur
Kean
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy (NY)
Kennedy (UT)
Khanna
Kiggans (VA)
Kiley (CA)
Kim
Knott
Krishnamoorthi
LaHood
LaLota
LaMalfa
Landsman
Langworthy
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latimer
Latta
Lawler
Lee (FL)

Lee (NV)
Lee (PA)
Leger Fernandez
Letlow
Levin
Liccardo
Lieu
Loudermilk
Lucas
Luna
Luttrell
Lynch
Mace
Mackenzie
Magaziner
Malliotakis
Maloy
Mann
Mannion
Massie
Mast
Matsui
McBath
McBride
McCaul
McClain
McClain Delaney
McClellan
McClintock
McCollum
McCormick
McDonald Rivet
McDowell
McGarvey
McGovern
McGuire
McIver
Meeks
Menendez
Meng
Messmer
Meuser
Miller (IL)
Miller (OH)
Miller-Meeks
Mills
Min
Moolenaar
Moore (AL)
Moore (NC)
Moore (UT)
Moore (WI)
Moore (WV)
Moran
Morelle
Morrison
Moskowitz
Moulton
Mrvan
Nadler
Neal
Neguse
Newhouse
Norcross
Norman
Nunn (IA)
Oberholte
Ocasio-Cortez
Ogles
Olszewski
Omar
Onder
Owens
Pallone
Palmer
Panetta
Pappas
Pelosi
Perez
Perry
Peters
Pfluger
Pingree
Pocan
Pou
Pressley
Quigley
Ramirez
Randall
Raskin
Reschenthaler
Riley (NY)
Rivas
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Ross
Rouzer
Roy

Ruiz
Rulli
Rutherford
Ryan
Salazar
Salinas
Sánchez
Scalise
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schmidt
Schneider
Scholten
Schrier
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Self
Sessions
Sewell
Sherman
Sherrill
Shreve
Simon
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Smucker
Sorensen

Soto
Spartz
Stansbury
Stanton
Staubert
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Stevens
Strickland
Strong
Stutzman
Subramanyam
Suozi
Swallow
Sykes
Takano
Taylor
Tenney
Thanedar
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Titus
Tlaib
Tokuda
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)

Trahan
Tran
Turner (TX)
Underwood
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Dwyne
Van Orden
Vargas
Vasquez
Veasey
Velázquez
Vindman
Wagner
Walberg
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Westerman
Whitesides
Wied
Williams (GA)
Williams (TX)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Yakym
Zinke

NAYS—1

Lofgren

NOT VOTING—20

DeSaulnier
Fitzgerald
Gonzalez, V.
Gottheimer
Graves
Grijalva
Higgins (LA)

Houchin
Houlahan
Jayapal
Kustoff
Mfume
Miller (WV)
Mullin

Murphy
Nehls
Pettersen
Simpson
Turner (OH)
Wilson (FL)

□ 1856

Mr. FIGURES changed his 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.

MOMENT OF SILENCE IN REMEMBRANCE OF VICTIMS OF FLIGHT 5342

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

Mr. ESTES. Mr. Speaker, tonight we are gathered on the House floor to honor the men and women who tragically lost their lives on January 29. Together, we represent the districts and States impacted by the heartbreaking crash of Flight 5342 and a United States Army Black Hawk helicopter.

American Eagle Flight 5342 left my hometown of Wichita, Kansas, at 5:22 p.m. with 60 passengers and 4 crew members on board. They were young skaters, a rural Kansas couple, a college student, a group of friends returning from an annual hunting trip, and so many others who were taking a routine flight from the Air Capital to our Nation's Capital.

Their lives came to a tragic end within view of the DCA runway when a collision occurred with a Black Hawk helicopter over the Potomac River. As we know, all 64 passengers and 3 Army soldiers perished.

As we mourn the loss of these 67 individuals, there are truly no words to adequately describe the heartbreak we feel. We grieve with the families and friends they left behind and pray for those in our districts who are still in shock at the loss of their loved ones. Together, we commit to finding answers and to working to ensure another tragedy like this doesn't happen again.

In homes, churches, and community gatherings across the country, Americans have paused to honor the 67 souls who perished last week. Tonight, on this first meeting of the full House since the tragedy, we will do the same.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House observe a moment of silence to remember the lives lost and the families and friends left behind.

The SPEAKER. The Chair asks all Members in the Chamber, as well as Members and staff throughout the Capitol, to please rise for a moment of silence.

NUTRIA ERADICATION AND CONTROL REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2025

The SPEAKER. 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. 776) to reauthorize the Nutria Eradication and Control Act of 2003, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 361, nays 56, not voting 16, as follows:

[Roll No. 29]

YEAS—361

Adams
Aderholt
Aguilar
Alford
Allen
Amo
Amodei (NV)
Ansari
Auchincloss
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Balint
Barr
Barragán
Barrett
Baumgartner
Beatty
Begich
Bell
Bentz
Bera
Bergman
Beyer
Bice
Bilirakis
Bishop
Bonamici
Bost
Boyle (PA)
Bresnahan
Brown
Brownley
Buchanan
Budzinski

Bynum
Calvert
Cammack
Carbajal
Carey
Carson
Carter (GA)
Carter (LA)
Carter (TX)
Casar
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Cherfilus-
McCormick
Chu
Ciscomani
Cisneros
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Cole
Collins
Comer
Conaway
Connolly
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crawford
Crenshaw

Crockett
Crow
Cuellar
Davids (KS)
Davis (IL)
Davis (NC)
De La Cruz
Dean (PA)
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Deluzio
DesJarlais
Dexter
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Donalds
Dunn (FL)
Edwards
Elfreth
Ellzey
Emmer
Escobar
Espallat
Evans (CO)
Evans (PA)
Ezell
Fedorchak
Feenstra
Fields
Figures
Finstad
Fischbach
Fitzpatrick

Fleischmann	Levin	Rutherford
Fletcher	Liccardo	Ryan
Flood	Lieu	Salazar
Fong	Lofgren	Salinas
Foster	Loudermilk	Sánchez
Foushee	Lucas	Scalise
Frankel, Lois	Luttrell	Scanlon
Friedman	Lynch	Schakowsky
Frost	Mace	Schneider
Garamendi	MacKenzie	Scholten
Garbarino	Magaziner	Schrier
Garcia (CA)	Malliotakis	Schweikert
Garcia (IL)	Maloy	Scott (VA)
Garcia (TX)	Mannion	Scott, Austin
Gillen	Mast	Scott, David
Gimenez	Matsui	Sessions
Golden (ME)	McBath	Sewell
Goldman (NY)	McBride	Sherman
Gomez	McCaul	Sherrill
Gonzales, Tony	McClain	Shreve
Goodlander	McClain Delaney	Simon
Gray	McClellan	Smith (MO)
Green, Al (TX)	McClintock	Smith (NE)
Griffith	McCollum	Smith (NJ)
Grothman	McDonald Rivet	Smith (WA)
Guest	McDowell	Smucker
Guthrie	McGarvey	Sorensen
Hamadeh (AZ)	McGovern	Soto
Harder (CA)	McIver	Stansbury
Haridopolos	Meeks	Stanton
Harris (MD)	Menendez	Stauber
Hayes	Meng	Stefanik
Hern (OK)	Messmer	Steil
Hill (AR)	Meuser	Stevens
Himes	Miller (OH)	Strickland
Hinson	Miller-Meeks	Strong
Horsford	Mills	Stutzman
Houchin	Min	Subramanyam
Hoyer	Moolenaar	Suozi
Hoyle (OR)	Moore (NC)	Swalwell
Hudson	Moore (UT)	Sykes
Huffman	Moore (WI)	Takano
Huizenga	Moran	Taylor
Hunt	Morelle	Tenney
Hurd (CO)	Morrison	Thandard
Issa	Moskowitz	Thompson (CA)
Ivey	Moulton	Thompson (MS)
Jack	Mrvan	Thompson (PA)
Jackson (IL)	Murphy	Timmons
Jacobs	Nadler	Titus
James	Neal	Tlaib
Jeffries	Neguse	Tokuda
Johnson (GA)	Newhouse	Tonko
Johnson (LA)	Norcross	Torres (CA)
Johnson (SD)	Nunn (IA)	Torres (NY)
Johnson (TX)	Obernolte	Trahan
Joyce (OH)	Ocasio-Cortez	Tran
Kamlager-Dove	Olzewski	Turner (TX)
Kaptur	Omar	Underwood
Kean	Owens	Valadao
Keating	Pallone	Van Drew
Kelly (IL)	Palmer	Van Duyn
Kelly (MS)	Panetta	Van Orden
Kelly (PA)	Pappas	Vargas
Kennedy (NY)	Pelosi	Vasquez
Khanna	Perez	Veasey
Kiggans (VA)	Peters	Velázquez
Kiley (CA)	Pfleger	Vindman
Kim	Pingree	Wagner
Krishnamoorthi	Pocan	Walberg
Kustoff	Pou	Wasserman
LaHood	Pressley	Schultz
LaLota	Quigley	Waters
LaMalfa	Ramirez	Watson Coleman
Landsman	Randall	Weber (TX)
Langworthy	Raskin	Webster (FL)
Larsen (WA)	Reschenthaler	Westerman
Larson (CT)	Riley (NY)	Whitesides
Latimer	Rivas	Wied
Latta	Rogers (AL)	Williams (GA)
Lawler	Rogers (KY)	Williams (TX)
Lee (FL)	Rose	Wilson (SC)
Lee (NV)	Ross	Wittman
Lee (PA)	Rouzer	Womack
Leger Fernandez	Ruiz	Yakym
Letlow	Rulli	Zinke

NAYS—56

Arrington	Clyde	Gill (TX)
Babin	Crane	Goldman (TX)
Bean (FL)	Crank	Gooden
Biggs (AZ)	Davidson	Gosar
Biggs (SC)	Downing	Green (TN)
Boebert	Estes	Greene (GA)
Brecheen	Fallon	Hageman
Burchett	Fox	Harrigan
Burlison	Franklin, Scott	Harris (NC)
Cline	Fry	Harshbarger
Cloud	Fulcher	Jackson (TX)

Jordan	McGuire	Perry
Joyce (PA)	Miller (IL)	Roy
Kennedy (UT)	Miller (WV)	Schmidt
Knott	Moore (AL)	Self
Luna	Moore (WV)	Spartz
Mann	Norman	Steube
Massie	Ogles	Tiffany
McCormick	Onder	

NOT VOTING—16

DeSaulnier	Higgins (LA)	Pettersen
Fitzgerald	Houlahan	Simpson
Gonzalez, V.	Jayapal	Turner (OH)
Gottheimer	Mfume	Wilson (FL)
Graves	Mullin	
Grijalva	Nehls	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE
 The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WEBER of Texas) (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1906

Messrs. FALLON, BABIN, and Mrs. BIGGS of South Carolina changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

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.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I was unable to vote today as I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 28, H.R. 43, Alaska Native Village Municipal Lands Restoration Act of 2025 and YEA on Roll Call No. 29, H.R. 776, Nutria Eradication and Control Reauthorization Act of 2025.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I missed a series of votes today. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 28 and YEA on Roll Call No. 29.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. GOTTHEIMER. Mr. Speaker, I missed the following votes, but had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 28 and YEA on Roll Call No. 29.

CONGRATULATING DR. JOHN W. WELLS

(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 extend my heartfelt congratulations to Dr. John W. Wells on his appointment as the 24th president of Young Harris College.

This marks a very significant moment in the history of the institution and its promising future. Dr. Wells' selection is a testament to his leadership, vision, and dedication to higher education.

He is no stranger to Young Harris College, having previously served as provost and interim president during a pivotal period of transformation. His contribution during that time laid the foundation for significant growth, and his return marks the beginning of an exciting new chapter for the institution.

With over 30 years of experience in higher education, Dr. Wells has consistently demonstrated excellence in leadership. At Emory & Henry College,

he led record enrollment and fundraising efforts. He oversaw the transition of athletics to NCAA Division II and guided the institution toward achieving university status, showcasing his ability to drive meaningful progress.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Wells' vision, passion, and leadership will undoubtedly guide Young Harris to even greater achievements.

HONORING ROSA LOUISE MCCAULEY PARKS

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

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Rosa Louise McCauley Parks today on her birthday. Her brave refusal to give up her seat ignited the civil rights movement and strengthened our democracy.

In 2005, I led Ohio to become the first State to recognize December 1 as Rosa Parks Day, passing unanimously in a bipartisan vote and signed by then-Governor Robert Taft.

Nearly 20 years later, this legacy inspires thousands to carry forward her justice. To honor her, I proudly introduce the Rosa Parks Commemorative Coin Act, directing the United States Mint to issue a coin in her name.

Mr. Speaker, more than 60 Members have signed as original sponsors, so I urge my colleagues to all do the same. This American hero—no, this American shero—deserves this recognition.

HONORING ANN RECTOR WEIGEL

(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 today to honor the incredible life of Mrs. Ann Rector Weigel, who passed away peacefully on December 17 at the age of 81.

She was born in Knoxville in 1943. She lived her life as a pillar of her church and her community where she met her loving husband, Billy, with whom she shared 56 wonderful years of marriage.

As a lifelong resident, Ann touched countless lives through her teaching career and her years of service as a member of Alpha Omicron Pi Sorority at University of Tennessee, Nine O'clock Cotillion, Junior League, and Sequoyah Presbyterian Church.

Ann's love for her family knew no bounds. She cherished every moment, from attending field trips to celebrating milestones, and she found joy in the small things in life, like preparing her famous Sunday brunch every weekend.

She will forever be remembered for the light and love she brought into the lives of those who knew her. She is survived by her husband, a dear friend of my mine and my family's; their children; and grandchildren. She will be missed greatly by the community.

□ 1915

PROTECTING DATA AND PRIVATE INFORMATION OF AMERICANS

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

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I want my neighbors back home to know that, like you, I am angry and I am furious about the constitutional crisis caused by the Trump administration.

They are handing over our data and private information to people who should not have access to it. They are firing patriotic civil servants. They are purging FBI agents, and they are trying to eliminate agencies like the USAID. All of this is unconstitutional.

We must protect the American people and our allies from this coup. To the Republicans in this House, it is time for you to stand up and speak out. You know what is wrong. You know this will jeopardize the lives of your own constituents, as well as mine. Yet you do nothing.

Lawsuits have been filed. We are introducing bills. We are taking action to keep Americans safe and support our Constitution. We need you at home to stay mad, talk to your neighbors, and organize against what they are doing.

This is not what the American people voted for. This is your government, and that is what Democrats are fighting to restore.

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

RECOGNIZING THE DEDICATED SERVICE OF EDDIE MARTIN

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

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an exceptional central Arkansan, Eddie Martin, for his dedicated service to Habitat for Humanity.

At last year's Gratitude Gathering, Eddie was honored for his tireless efforts to support Habitat's mission of providing affordable housing to families in need.

Over the years, Eddie has exemplified service, and his creative ideas and hard work have raised over \$350,000 for the organization in central Arkansas.

When faced with the challenges of the pandemic, Eddie helped organize zoom fundraisers and other creative events like a pickleball tournament and BAGGO, Brats N' Blues to make sure that Habitat's work continued to benefit lives across our community.

On behalf of all central Arkansans, I thank Eddie for his generosity, ingenuity, and service. Our community is better off because of Eddie Martin and his efforts.

INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE ALLIANCE

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

Mr. CASTEN. Mr. Speaker, the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance defines anti-Semitism, in part, as using symbols and images associated with anti-Semitism and denying the intentionality of the genocide of the Jewish people by Nazi Germany.

Here is Elon Musk, giving Nazi salutes, supporting the neo-Nazi party in Germany, and telling them that Germany has "too much after focus on past guilt."

This weekend, Mr. Musk was given access to U.S. citizens' personal data and the disbursement of Federal resources, allowing him to decide which Americans are able to access Federal programs like SNAP, Social Security, and Medicaid.

Let me be very clear. Putting anti-Semites in charge of the allocation of government resources and personnel does not end well for any of us. Fascism survives only so long as the evil at the top is supported by cowards down below who are willing to look the other way in exchange for some proximity to power.

Is the Republican Party going to stand up against anti-Semites and stand up for American people, or will they sit in silent, cowardly complicity with the evil of their leaders?

The world is watching us, Mr. Speaker.

RECOGNIZING C.J. GARDNER-JOHNSON AND JAWAAN TAYLOR

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

Mr. HARIDOPOLOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great pride to recognize two remarkable athletes in our community, C.J. Gardner-Johnson of the Philadelphia Eagles and Jawaan Taylor of the Kansas City Chiefs, who are facing off this weekend in Super Bowl LIX.

These two extraordinary athletes, who are actually cousins, started their journeys at Cocoa High School and continued their football years at the University of Florida. They are now making their hometown proud as we watch them take opposite sides of the field in the biggest game of the year.

Their story is one of hard work, perseverance, and excellence, values that define Brevard County. This year continues a remarkable condition as it marks the fifth consecutive year that Brevard County has been represented in the Super Bowl, proving that our community is the home to some of the best athletes in the country.

To Jawaan, Go Chiefs.

To C.J., Go Birds.

Good luck to both of them. Their hometown is always behind them.

Go Tigers.

MOURNING LOSS OF FIGURE SKATERS ON AMERICAN AIRLINES FLIGHT 5342

(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, as with our colleagues, I rise tonight with a heavy heart as we mourn the devastating loss of 67 lives in the recent tragic plane crash over the Potomac.

Among those lost were members of America's finest figure skating communities. Each of these talented Americans, both coaches and America's rising Olympic stars, sparkled just like the blades on the skates that they commanded.

Skating is a difficult sport that is not just about competition but about artistry, perseverance, and pure love of command of the ice. It is my favorite sport. Figure skating has always held a special place in my heart, a sport that demands both strength and grace, a balance of discipline and freedom.

Those that we lost embodied these American qualities, pouring their hearts into every performance, every lesson, and every moment on the ice. Their absence leaves a void in America that cannot be filled easily, not just in the sport but in the lives of those who loved them. We grieve together. We hold their families and loved ones in our hearts. We remember their joy, dedication, and passion they brought to people across our world.

May we honor them by cherishing the beauty of their sport, by donating to the organizations that have been devastated by their loss, and by ensuring that those who take to the skies do so safely.

HONORING ANNASUE ROCHA, BENJAMIN JEFFERY, CORPORAL PAUL VANDENBURG, AND PATROLMAN ETHAN PASTERNAK

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

Mr. YAKYM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the victims of the tragedy that unfolded in Elkhart, Indiana, last week. What should have been a normal evening of shopping at Martin's Supermarket quickly turned into a nightmare. Tragically, 19-year-old cashier Annasue Rocha and a bystander, Benjamin Jeffery, were both killed.

Annasue was a kind and caring person who was just starting off in life. Benjamin was always willing to step up and help his community when it needed him. Our community will never forget Annasue or Benjamin.

I also want to recognize and thank the Elkhart Police Department for their heroic efforts. Corporal Paul Vandenburg and Patrolman Ethan Pasternak were both wounded when they

ran into harm's way to protect innocent shoppers.

Our prayers continue to be with the victims and their families after last weekend's devastation. Elkhart, Indiana, is known as the City with a Heart. Although our hearts are broken, we know that our community is resilient and will come back from this tragedy even stronger.

AMERICA IS UNDER ATTACK

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, in this House, Democrats and Republicans came together, as they appropriately should, to remember the victims of the plane crash last week.

We should also come together and remind our President that we don't know what the cause of it was, and it certainly wasn't DEI. DEI has never caused deaths in this country's history. Never. We need to come together and remember we were all on this floor when it was invaded on January 6 by insurrectionists.

I don't think one of my colleagues on the other side has questioned the pardons given to all the January 6 insurrectionists who tried to take over this government, nor have they stood up to a President and his aide, private citizen Elon Musk, who are doing unconstitutional duties to take over government branches, which they don't have the right to do, that only Congress can pass bills to change. Only Congress can cut out spending under Article I. They can try to change the Constitution on birthright citizenships, but only Congress can begin a constitutional amendment.

We need to stand up for America. America is under attack as much as it was on January 6.

God bless America, and I hope we continue to exist as a democracy.

AMERICA'S ENERGY INDEPENDENCE

(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, America's energy independence is vital for our national security and economic prosperity. Hydroelectric power plays a crucial role in that energy grid. It provides nearly a third of our Nation's renewable electricity and is one of the cleanest, most reliable energy sources available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Instead of expanding this proven resource, we are watching it get torn down, including four dams in my district on the Klamath River. They are gone now. Hydroelectric power was paid for and is CO₂-free, if we are worried about CO₂. It is a beautiful thing, and they are gone because of some environment ruling.

Removal of these dams took out a significant hydropower source and re-

duced clean energy production, further limiting our ability to strengthen the grid. They are even targeting more of them, including one called Lake Pillsbury in Mendocino, as well as some Snake River dams up in Washington.

We are going to take all of this hydropower at the same time as they want to expand the use of electricity for automobiles, take out gas stoves and have more electric stoves. It is just one thing after another to stretch the grid, and we are taking it out.

The policies do not make a lot of sense. We need to have streamlined permitting so we can have more power plants like this and keep the ones we have. We need to renew the permits we have so we can keep them around. Instead, after the removal of the dams, we get dead fish.

LOWERING COSTS TO AMERICANS

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

Mr. OLSZEWSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to remind this body that the American people elected all of us with one clear mandate, which was to lower costs.

We are now 32 days into this session of Congress. Sadly, we have not held a single vote, not even a committee hearing on legislation to lower costs for so many who are struggling at the grocery store and at the gas station. While we waste our time on partisan bills that do nothing to lower costs, Americans continue to struggle.

My constituents will see me and this tracker often until House leadership brings to this floor bills to vote on and pass that lower the cost of living for our families.

To that end, I have proudly added my name to a suite of bills that help achieve this commonsense goal, bills that strengthen and modernize the child and earned income tax credits, improve paid leave, and more.

These are the kinds of bills that should be bipartisan, and they should be our focus. Let's roll up our sleeves, and let's get to work.

□ 1930

GRAMMY AWARDS

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

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. Mr. Speaker, unlike Donald Trump, I have no bacon or beef with Canada, but as an Angeleno I do have beef with a certain someone from The Six.

That beef officially ended at the Grammys in my district on Saturday night. Kendrick Lamar put the final nail in "Certified Lover Boy's" coffin when he took home the first-ever Grammy for a diss track proving once and for all they "Not Like Us."

Kendrick took home one, two, three, four, five Grammys in 2025. That is not a minor feat.

Kendrick wasn't the only one making Black history this February. Beyonce finally won Album of the Year after I expressed my grief about her being snubbed from this podium last year.

She became the first Black woman to take home the award this century and the first Black artist ever to win Best Country Album.

Last Sunday was for the Grammys. This Sunday is for the Super Bowl where K. Dot will pop out and show what L.A. is all about once again.

I won't be rooting for the Chiefs or the Eagles, but I won't turn the TV off for Kendrick either.

STANDING WITH THE TRANS COMMUNITY

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

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, in the past 2 weeks, a series of executive actions have directly targeted the LGBTQ+ community, attacking fundamental rights, fueling division, and ignoring reality.

LGBTQ+ people, including trans individuals, are part of every community. They serve in Congress, lead businesses, defend our Nation, and care for others as doctors, first responders, and educators. Like everyone, they deserve dignity, respect, and protection under the law.

Many of these executive actions violate the Constitution and Federal law. They will face fierce opposition, but their immediate harm is undeniable: threatening jobs and essential healthcare, restricting access to accurate identification, weakening non-discrimination protections, and exposing individuals to greater harassment simply for being who they are.

I stand with the trans community in New York-20 and beyond. I will fight these actions with everything I have because equality, dignity, and justice are nonnegotiable.

HONORING JAMES CAHOON

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

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise with a heavy heart to honor the remarkable life of Columbia Mayor James Cahoon.

Mayor Cahoon's dedication to our Nation began with his service to the United States Army. His commitment to education was evident as principal and assistant superintendent of Tyrrell County Schools where he shaped countless young lives.

As the head deacon and beloved Sunday schoolteacher at Soundside Original Free Will Baptist Church, he embodied the spirit of love.

For more than 8 years, Mayor Cahoon devoted himself to serving the residents of Columbia. His unwavering compassion and advocacy for his community left a lasting impact that will not be forgotten.

I feel fortunate to have known Mayor Cahoon and witness the warmth and dedication he brought to those around him.

We will miss him.

My deepest condolences go out to his family and the town of Columbia.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 7 o'clock and 32 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, February 5, 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-277. A letter from the Administrator, Dairy Program, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Milk in the Northeast and Other Marketing Areas; Uniform Pricing Formula Provisions [Doc. No.: AMS-DA-23-0031] received January 29, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Agriculture.

EC-278. A letter from the Administrator, Dairy Program, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Plant Records To Include Grade Label Butterfat Testing [Doc. No.: AMS-DA-22-0064] (RIN: 0581-AE20) received January 24, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Agriculture.

EC-279. A letter from the Administrator, Packers and Stockyards Division, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Poultry Grower Payment Systems and Capital Improvement Systems [Doc. No.: AMS-FTPP-22-0046] (RIN: 0581-AE18) received January 29, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Agriculture.

EC-280. A letter from the Acting Secretary, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's Report to Congress titled "The Impact of Inflation on Retirement Savings", pursuant to Sec. 347 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023, Division T — SECURE 2.0 Act of 2022 (H.R. 2617); to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

EC-281. A letter from the Attorney, Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting the Commission's Major final rule — Certificates of Compliance [CPSC Docket No.: 2013-0017] received January 24, 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-282. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's final rule —

Energy Conservation Program: Test Procedure for General Service Lamps [EERE-2024-BT-TP-0010] (RIN: 1904-AB99) received January 30, 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-283. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation, and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's final rule — Energy Conservation Program: Test Procedures for Residential and Commercial Clothes Washers and Consumer Clothes Dryers [EERE-2024-BT-TP-0009] (RIN: 1904-AF68) received January 30, 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-284. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation, and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's final rule — Energy Conservation Program: Test Procedure for Compressors [EERE-2022-BT-TP-0019] (RIN: 1904-AF08) received January 30, 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-285. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Delay of Effective Date for 4 Final Regulations Published by the Environmental Protection Agency between November 29, 2024 and December 31, 2024 [FRL-12583-01-OA] received January 27, 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-286. A letter from the Regulations Writer, Office of Legislation and Congressional Affairs, Social Security Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary final rule — Further Extension of the Flexibility in Evaluating "Close Proximity of Time" to Evaluate Ongoing Changes in Healthcare [Docket No.: SSA-2024-0056] (RIN: 0960-AI93) received January 24, 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-287. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Lebanon that was declared in Executive Order 13441 of August 1, 2007, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 401(c); (90 Stat. 1257) and 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); Public Law 95-223, Sec. 204(c); (91 Stat. 1627); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-288. A letter from the Executive Assistant, Washington Support Office, National Park Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Visitor Experience Improvements Authority Contracts [NPS-WASO-39268; PPWOBSADC0; PPMVSCSIY.Y00000] (RIN: 1024-AE47) received January 27, 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-289. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Chief Counsel, Federal Railroad Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Accident/Incident Investigation Policy for Gathering Information and Consulting with Stakeholders [Docket No.: FRA-2024-0034] (RIN: 2130-AC98) received January 22, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-290. A letter from the Federal Register Liaison, Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule —

Standards of Fill for Wine and Distilled Spirits [Docket No.: TTB-2022-0004; T.D. TTB-200; Re: Notice Nos.: 210 and 210A] (RIN: 1513-AC86) received January 24, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

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

Mr. Griffith: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 93. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 27) to amend the Controlled Substances Act with respect to the scheduling of fentanyl-related substances, and for other purposes (Rept. 119-2). Referred to the House Calendar.

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. GOSAR (for himself, Ms. BOEBERT, Mr. COLLINS, Ms. HAGEMAN, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. NEHLS, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. TIFFANY, and Mr. BIGGS of Arizona):

H.R. 908. A bill to amend section 230 of the Communications Act of 1934 (commonly referred to as the Communications Decency Act) to stop censorship, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. WAGNER (for herself, Mr. SCHMIDT, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. MORAN, Mr. COSTA, and Mrs. BICE):

H.R. 909. A bill to temporarily provide additional deposits into the Crime Victims Fund; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. KIM (for herself and Mr. GREEN of Texas):

H.R. 910. A bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to pursue more equitable treatment of Taiwan at the international financial institutions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. FITZPATRICK (for himself and Mr. SUOZZI):

H.R. 911. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to establish Patriot Day as a Federal holiday; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. OBERNOLTE (for himself and Mrs. DINGELL):

H.R. 912. A bill to amend title V of the Public Health Service Act to secure the suicide prevention lifeline from cybersecurity incidents, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. OBERNOLTE:

H.R. 913. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to approve a rehabilitation program for a certain veterans with service-connected disabilities that include the pursuit of non-degree flight training programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. HARDER of California (for himself and Mr. VAN ORDEN):

H.R. 914. A bill to amend the Tariff Act of 1930 to provide that required country-of-origin labeling for any agricultural product packaged in a can shall be on the front label or top of such can, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. ALFORD (for himself and Ms. LEE of Nevada):

H.R. 915. A bill to authorize small business loans to finance access to modern business software, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business.

By Mrs. BEATTY (for herself, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. AMO, Mr. BELL, Mr. BISHOP, Ms. BROWN, Ms. BROWNLEY, Ms. BYNUM, Mr. CARSON, Mr. CASTEN, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. CONAWAY, Ms. CROCKETT, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mr. FIELDS, Mr. FIGURES, Mrs. FOUSHEE, Mr. FROST, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. HORSFORD, Mr. IVEY, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. KENNEDY of New York, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Mr. LYNCH, Mrs. MCBATH, Ms. McCLELLAN, Mrs. McIVER, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. NEGUSE, Ms. NORTON, Ms. PLASKETT, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. SEWELL, Ms. SIMON, Ms. STRICKLAND, Ms. STEVENS, Mrs. SYKES, Mr. THANEDAR, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. TURNER of Texas, Ms. UNDERWOOD, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. VEASEY, Ms. WATERS, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, and Ms. PRESSLEY):

H.R. 916. A bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint commemorative coins in recognition of the life and legacy of Rosa Parks; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. BROWNLEY:

H.R. 917. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the exclusion from gross income of discharge of qualified principal residence indebtedness; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. BROWNLEY:

H.R. 918. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the deduction for mortgage insurance premiums; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BUCHANAN (for himself and Mr. PANETTA):

H.R. 919. A bill to codify Internal Revenue Service guidance relating to treatment of certain services and items for chronic conditions as meeting the preventive care deductible safe harbor for purposes of high deductible health plans in connection with health savings accounts; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BUCHANAN (for himself and Mr. PAPPAS):

H.R. 920. A bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to list fentanyl-related substances as schedule I controlled substances, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BURCHETT (for himself, Mr. MOSKOWITZ, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. ROSE, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. MRVAN, Mr. COSTA, Mr. LAWLER, Mr. CARSON, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. ZINKE, and Mr. NEAL):

H.R. 921. A bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Master Sergeant Roderick "Roddie" Edmonds in recognition of his heroic actions during World War II; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. CASTEN (for himself, Ms. MENG, Ms. STANSBURY, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK,

Ms. NORTON, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. SHERRILL, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. TORRES of New York, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mrs. McIVER, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. TONKO, Ms. JAYAPAL, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. TOKUDA, Mrs. HAYES, Mrs. MCBATH, Ms. CROCKETT, Ms. BUDZINSKI, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, and Mr. GARCIA of Illinois):

H.R. 922. A bill to provide targeted funding for States and other eligible entities through the Social Services Block Grant program to increase the availability of menstrual products for individuals with limited access to such products; 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. CASTRO of Texas (for himself, Ms. ESCOBAR, Mr. FROST, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Ms. NORTON, Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. CASAR, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. GARCIA of Illinois, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. MAGAZINER, Mr. AUCHINCLOSS, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. CARBAJAL, and Mr. VARGAS):

H.R. 923. A bill to prohibit the importation, sale, manufacture, transfer, or possession of .50 caliber rifles, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. CHU (for herself, Mr. NADLER, Mr. BEYER, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. OMAR, Mr. CARSON, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. COSTA, Ms. JAYAPAL, Ms. NORTON, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. SWALWELL, Ms. DELBENE, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. MENG, Mr. MORELLE, Mr. CASTEN, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Mr. TONKO, Mr. HUFFMAN, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Mrs. McIVER, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Ms. UNDERWOOD, Mr. POCAN, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Mr. SOTO, Ms. TITUS, Mr. TURNER of Texas, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. GARCIA of California, Mr. EVANS of Pennsylvania, Ms. BALINT, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. THANEDAR, Mr. PETERS, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. GARCIA of Illinois, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. CROCKETT, Ms. STRICKLAND, Ms. TOKUDA, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. DEGETTE, Ms. DELAULO, Ms. PINGREE, Mrs. FLETCHER, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. STANTON, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. GOMEZ, Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. PALLONE, Ms. McCLELLAN, Mr. AMO, Mr. BERA, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mrs. HAYES, Ms. SCHRIER, Mr. COHEN, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. ANSARI, Mr. SUBRAMANYAM, Ms. HOYLE of Oregon, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. WATERS, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, and Ms. ESCOBAR):

H.R. 924. A bill to transfer and limit Executive Branch authority to suspend or restrict the entry of a class of aliens; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to

the Committees on Foreign Affairs, Homeland Security, and Intelligence (Permanent Select), 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. CLOUD (for himself, Ms. TENNEY, Ms. HAGEMAN, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. FITZGERALD, Mr. NEHLS, Mr. FINSTAD, Mr. OWENS, Mr. ELLZEY, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. COLLINS, Mr. STRONG, Mr. TIMMONS, Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mr. OGLES, Mr. ROY, Mr. CLYDE, Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida, Mrs. HARSHBARGER, Mrs. LUNA, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. GUEST, Mrs. HINSON, Ms. LEE of Florida, Mr. ROSE, Mr. HARRIS of North Carolina, Mr. FRY, Mr. GILL of Texas, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. STUTZMAN, Mr. MCGUIRE, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. PALMER, Mr. BRECHEEN, Mr. ZINKE, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. BURLISON, Ms. BOEBERT, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. CRANK, Mr. KENNEDY of Utah, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. ADERHOLT, and Mr. FLOOD):

H.R. 925. A bill to ensure equal protection of the law, to prevent racism in the Federal Government, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, Education and Workforce, Armed Services, Foreign Affairs, Financial Services, Energy and Commerce, Transportation and Infrastructure, and Intelligence (Permanent Select), 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. COHEN (for himself, Mr. AMO, Mr. CARSON, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. DOGETT, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mrs. McIVER, Ms. NORTON, Mr. RASKIN, and Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi):

H.R. 926. A bill to conduct a special resource study of Fort Pillow Historic State Park in Henning, Tennessee, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. CRENSHAW:

H.R. 927. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to prohibit institutions of higher education from requiring ideological oaths or similar statements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

By Mr. DELUZIO (for himself, Mr. LALOTA, Mr. RULLI, and Mr. GARAMENDI):

H.R. 928. A bill to enhance safety requirements for trains transporting hazardous materials, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. DINGELL (for herself, Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia, Ms. McCLELLAN, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, and Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY):

H.R. 929. A bill to reauthorize the Dr. Lorna Breen Health Care Provider Protection Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. DOGETT (for himself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. ANSARI, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. BEYER, Mr. BISHOP,

Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. CARSON, Mr. CASAR, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Ms. CHU, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. COHEN, Ms. CROCKETT, Mr. CROW, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mrs. MCCLAIN DELANEY, Ms. DELAURO, Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. ESCOBAR, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ, Mr. FIELDS, Mrs. FLETCHER, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. GOLDEN of Maine, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mrs. HAYES, Ms. HOYLE of Oregon, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. MAGAZINER, Mrs. MCBATH, Ms. MENG, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. NORCROSS, Ms. NORTON, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Mr. PANETTA, Ms. PINGREE, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Mr. RASKIN, Ms. SALINAS, Ms. SANCHEZ, Ms. SCANLON, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. SHERRILL, Mr. SOTO, Mrs. SYKES, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. TITUS, Mr. TONKO, Mrs. TRAHAN, Mr. TURNER of Texas, Mr. VEASEY, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. WATERS, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, and Ms. WILSON of Florida):

H.R. 930. A bill to amend titles II and XVIII of the Social Security Act to eliminate the disability insurance benefits waiting period for individuals with disabilities, and for other purposes; 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. DOWNING (for himself and Mr. ZINKE):

H.R. 931. A bill to allow certain Federal minerals to be mined consistent with the Bull Mountains Mining Plan Modification, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. FITZPATRICK (for himself and Mr. DELUZIO):

H.R. 932. A bill to amend titles 38 and 5, United States Code, to ensure that certain employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs are subject to the same removal, demotion, and suspension policies as other employees of the Federal Government, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, 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 Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida (for himself, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mrs. CAMMACK, Mr. SOTO, Ms. LEE of Florida, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. BEAN of Florida, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. FROST, Mr. GIMENEZ, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Ms. SALAZAR, Mr. MILLS, Mr. MOSKOWITZ, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK, Mr. DUNN of Florida, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. STEUBE, Mr. HARIDOPOLOS, Mr. DONALDS, Mrs. LUNA, and Mr. MAST):

H.R. 933. A bill to modify the minimum required weight of orange juice soluble solids; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. FRY (for himself, Ms. HAGEMAN, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, and Mr. BIGGS of Arizona):

H.R. 934. A bill to direct the Secretary of Defense to submit a report about the effects on national security of the surveillance conducted by the People's Republic of China via the high-altitude surveillance balloon shot down in the airspace of the United States in February 2023, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. GARBARINO (for himself, Ms. SCHRIER, Mr. VALADAO, and Ms. CRAIG):

H.R. 935. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for a health care workforce innovation program; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. GREEN of Tennessee (for himself and Mr. BRECHEEN):

H.R. 936. A bill to amend title XI of the Social Security Act to provide for State approval and implementation of specified waivers under the Medicaid program; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. GROTHMAN (for himself and Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota):

H.R. 937. A bill to limit the authority of the Secretary of Education to propose or issue regulations and executive actions; to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

By Mr. HARRIS of North Carolina (for himself and Mr. OWENS):

H.R. 938. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to restrict contracts with foreign countries of concern and foreign entities of concern; to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

By Mr. HERN of Oklahoma (for himself, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, and Mrs. HINSON):

H.R. 939. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permit kindergarten through grade 12 educational expenses to be paid from a 529 account; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. HILL of Arkansas (for himself, Mr. MEUSER, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. HUIZENGA, Mr. TIMMONS, Mr. MOORE of North Carolina, and Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas):

H.R. 940. A bill to amend the Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council Act of 1978 to improve the examination of depository institutions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. HILL of Arkansas (for himself, Mr. MEUSER, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. HUIZENGA, Mr. TIMMONS, Mr. MOORE of North Carolina, and Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas):

H.R. 941. A bill to amend the Equal Credit Opportunity Act to provide for an effective date and a temporary safe harbor for compliance with certain small business lending data collection rules, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. HOULAHAN (for herself, Mr. BACON, Mr. OBERNOLTE, Mr. COSTA, Mr. MOYLAN, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. MCCORMICK, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. SALAZAR, Ms. TITUS, Ms. DE LA CRUZ, Mr. COHEN, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Ms. BUDZINSKI, Mr. NUNN of Iowa, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mrs. KIM, Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. LAWLER, and Mr. DELUZIO):

H.R. 942. A bill to amend the Energy Policy and Conservation Act to prohibit the export or sale of petroleum products from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve to certain entities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. JACKSON of Texas (for himself, Mr. BABIN, Mr. BACON, Mrs. BIGGS of South Carolina, Ms. BOEBERT, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. CLINE, Mr. COLLINS, Mr. CRENSHAW, Ms. DE LA CRUZ, Mr. DONALDS, Mr. DOWNING,

Mr. EDWARDS, Mr. ELLZEY, Mr. FALLON, Mr. FEENSTRA, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. GOODEN, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. HARIDOPOLOS, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. ISSA, Mr. LAMALFA, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. PFLUGER, Mr. ROSE, Mr. RULLI, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. STEUBE, Ms. TENNEY, Ms. VAN DUYN, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. BIGGS of Arizona, Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida, and Mr. STAUBER):

H.R. 943. A bill to ban the imposition of any State or local liability insurance, tax, or user fee requirement for firearm or ammunition ownership or commerce; 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 Ms. JAYAPAL (for herself, Ms. ANSARI, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. CASAR, Mr. CASTEN, Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK, Ms. CHU, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. CROCKETT, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ, Mr. LIEU, Ms. LOFGREN, Ms. MCBRIDE, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mrs. MCIVER, Ms. MENG, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. NADLER, Ms. NORTON, Mr. POCAN, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Ms. SCANLON, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. STANSBURY, Mr. SWALLOW, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. TOKUDA, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Mr. RASKIN, Ms. PRESSLEY, and Mr. GOLDMAN of New York):

H.R. 944. A bill to clarify the rights of certain persons who are held or detained at a port of entry or at any facility overseen by U.S. Customs and Border Protection; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia (for himself, Ms. ANSARI, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. BEYER, Ms. BROWN, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mr. CARSON, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. COSTA, Mr. CRAWFORD, Ms. CROCKETT, Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. DOGETT, Mr. FIELDS, Mr. FROST, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Ms. NORTON, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. JACOBS, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Mrs. MCBATH, Ms. MCCLELLAN, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mrs. MCIVER, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. MOSKOWITZ, Mr. NEAL, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Mrs. SCHOLTEN, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Ms. SEWELL, Ms. STEVENS, Ms. STRICKLAND, Mr. SWALLOW, Mr. THANADAR, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. TLAIB, Mr. TONKO, Mrs. TORRES of California, Mr. TURNER of Texas, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mrs. SYKES, and Mr. VARGAS):

H.R. 945. A bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the Freedom Riders, collectively, in recognition of their unique contribution to Civil Rights, which inspired a revolutionary movement for equality in interstate travel; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on House Administration, 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 Pennsylvania (for himself, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mr. HERN of Oklahoma, Mr. PETERS, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Mr. KEATING, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. THANEDAR, Mr. BILLIRAKIS, and Mr. GOTTHEIMER):

H.R. 946. A bill to amend title XI of the Social Security Act to expand and clarify the exclusion for orphan drugs under the Drug Price Negotiation Program; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. KEATING (for himself and Mr. FITZPATRICK):

H.R. 947. A bill to prohibit the United States Government from recognizing the Russian Federations claim of sovereignty over any portion of the sovereign territory of Ukraine, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. KILEY of California:

H.R. 948. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a refundable credit against tax for wildfire mitigation expenditures; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. KUSTOFF:

H.R. 949. A bill to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate a segment of the Hatchie River in the State of Tennessee for study for potential addition to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. LANDSMAN (for himself and Mrs. HARSHBARGER):

H.R. 950. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to establish pharmacy benefit manager reporting requirements with respect to prescription drug plans and MA-PD plans under Medicare part D; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. MALLIOTAKIS (for herself, Mr. HILL of Arkansas, and Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN):

H.R. 951. A bill To require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the continual recognition of the Nation's semiquincentennial by honoring over 250 years of Americans' service and sacrifice; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. MATSUI:

H.R. 952. A bill to convey the reversionary interest of the United States in certain land in Sacramento, California; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia (for herself, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. BERA, Mr. LAHOOD, and Mr. BEYER):

H.R. 953. A bill to advance United States long-term trade competitiveness and economic leadership in the Indo-Pacific region; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MOOLENAAR:

H.R. 954. A bill to amend the Scholarships for Opportunity and Results Act with respect to certain funding, testing, and evaluation

requirements and to permanently authorize an appropriation for such Act; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. MOORE of Utah (for himself, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. VALADAO, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. MOOLENAAR, and Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina):

H.R. 955. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reform health provisions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. NEWHOUSE (for himself, Mr. ELLZEY, Mr. CARBAJAL, and Mr. VASQUEZ):

H.R. 956. A bill to amend the Wildfire Suppression Aircraft Transfer Act of 1996 to reauthorize the sale by the Department of Defense of aircraft and parts for wildfire suppression purposes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committees on Armed Services, and 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. NORCROSS (for himself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. POCAN, and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia):

H.R. 957. A bill to provide for civil monetary penalties for violations of mental health parity requirements; to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

By Mr. NUNN of Iowa (for himself and Mr. CLEAVER):

H.R. 958. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize funding for grants and contracts for primary care training and enhancement, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. OMAR (for herself, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. CASAR, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Mr. GRUJALVA, Ms. JACOBS, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. POCAN, Ms. SANCHEZ, and Mr. MCGOVERN):

H.R. 959. A bill to establish in the Department of State the Office to Monitor and Combat Islamophobia, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. PINGREE (for herself and Mr. MOORE of Utah):

H.R. 960. A bill to amend chapter 62 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States to modify the requirements for a garment to be considered water resistant; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. ROY (for himself and Mr. CRANE):

H.R. 961. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a pilot program to provide veteran health savings accounts to allow veterans to receive primary care furnished under non-Department direct primary care service arrangements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. ROY:

H.R. 962. A bill to prohibit the Secretary of Veterans Affairs from transmitting certain information to the Department of Justice for use by the national instant criminal background check system; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. RYAN:

H.R. 963. A bill to require expedited consideration of a bill that addresses the insolvency of the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund or the Federal Disability Insurance Trust Fund in the case that either trust fund becomes insolvent; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of

such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. SEWELL (for herself, Ms. OMAR, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. FIGURES, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mrs. MCBATH, Ms. STRICKLAND, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. AMO, Ms. BROWN, Ms. BYNUM, Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK, Mr. CLEAVER, Ms. CROCKETT, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mr. EVANS of Pennsylvania, Mrs. FOUSHEE, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. HORSFORD, Mr. IVEY, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Ms. MCCLELLAN, Mrs. MCIVER, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. NORTON, Ms. PLASKETT, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mrs. SYKES, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. TORRES of New York, Mr. VEASEY, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. ANSARI, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. COHEN, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Mr. LANDSMAN, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. NADLER, Mr. NEAL, Mr. POCAN, Mr. QUIGLEY, Ms. ROSS, Ms. SHERRILL, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. SALINAS, and Ms. BROWNLEY):

H.R. 964. A bill to amend section 6103 of title 5, United States Code, to establish Rosa Parks Day as a Federal holiday, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. SHERMAN (for himself, Ms. DE LA CRUZ, Mr. LIEU, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mrs. BROWNLEY, Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK, Ms. BUDZINSKI, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. MEUSER, and Mr. BACON):

H.R. 965. A bill to amend section 3(b)(4) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 to exclude certain disability benefits from income for the purposes of determining eligibility for the supported housing program under section 8(o)(19), and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. STEUBE:

H.R. 966. A bill to prohibit the Secretary of Veterans Affairs from denying a veteran benefits administered by the Secretary by reason of the veteran participating in a State-approved marijuana program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. STEUBE:

H.R. 967. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to allow individuals who are entitled to Post-9/11 educational assistance to use such assistance to repay Federal student loans; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. STEUBE:

H.R. 968. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to eliminate the time limitation for the use of entitlement by certain veterans under the Post-9/11 Educational Assistance Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. STEUBE:

H.R. 969. A bill to impose sanctions on persons engaging in transactions in Afghanistan rare earth minerals; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. STRICKLAND (for herself and Mr. SELF):

H.R. 970. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to periodically review the automatic maximum coverage under the Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance program and the Veterans' Group Life Insurance program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mrs. SYKES (for herself, Mr. RULLI, Mrs. BEATTY, Ms. BROWN, Ms. KAPTUR, and Mr. LANDSMAN):

H.R. 971. A bill to enhance safety requirements for trains transporting hazardous materials, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. TITUS:

H.R. 972. A bill to amend the Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area Act to adjust the boundary of the Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. TORRES of New York (for himself, Mr. GARBARINO, Ms. CLARKE of New York, and Mr. LANGWORTHY):

H.R. 973. A bill to establish consumer standards for lithium-ion batteries; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. VAN DUYNE (for herself, Mr. MEUSER, Mr. BEAN of Florida, and Mr. SCHMIDT):

H.R. 974. A bill to require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to ensure that the small business regulatory budget for a small business concern in a fiscal year is not greater than 0, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business.

By Mr. VARGAS (for himself and Mr. HUIZENGA):

H.R. 975. A bill to amend the Federal Credit Union Act to modify the frequency of board of directors meetings, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas (for himself, Mr. HUIZENGA, Mr. FLOOD, Mr. MEUSER, Mrs. WAGNER, Ms. DE LA CRUZ, Mr. NUNN of Iowa, Mr. DOWNING, Mr. DONALDS, Mr. HARIDOPOLIS, Mr. LUCAS, Mr. GARBARINO, Mr. FINSTAD, Mr. MOORE of North Carolina, Mr. BARR, Mr. COLLINS, Mr. DAVIDSON, Mr. KUSTOFF, Mr. BERGMAN, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. OGLES, Mr. EZELL, Mr. YAKYM, Mr. JACKSON of Texas, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. LOUDERMILK, Mr. GILL of Texas, Mr. TAYLOR, and Ms. VAN DUYNE):

H.R. 976. A bill to repeal the small business loan data collection requirements under the Equal Credit Opportunity Act; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. FULCHER:

H.J. Res. 33. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Federal Communications Commission relating to "Addressing the Homework Gap Through the E-Rate Program"; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. HARSHBARGER (for herself and Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS):

H.J. Res. 34. 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. PFLUGER (for himself, Mr. ARRINGTON, Mr. BALDERSON, Mr. EVANS of Colorado, Mr. CAREY, Mr. RULLI, Mr. PALMER, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. LATTA, Mr.

LANGWORTHY, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, and Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS):

H.J. Res. 35. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to "Waste Emissions Charge for Petroleum and Natural Gas Systems: Procedures for Facilitating Compliance, Including Netting and Exemptions"; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. ARRINGTON:

H. Res. 91. A resolution providing amounts for the expenses of the Committee on the Budget in the One Hundred Nineteenth Congress; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. CRAWFORD (for himself and Mr. HIMES):

H. Res. 92. A resolution providing amounts for the expenses of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence in the One Hundred Nineteenth Congress; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Ms. BONAMICI (for herself, Mrs. MCIVER, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. GRIMALVA, Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Ms. SIMON, Mr. DOGGETT, Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Ms. SEWELL, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mrs. TRAHAN, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Ms. SCANLON, Ms. TITUS, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Mr. FIELDS, Mr. POCAN, Mr. PETERS, Mr. KENNEDY of New York, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Ms. ANSARI, Mr. COURTNEY, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Ms. BUDZINSKI, Mr. MULLIN, Ms. ESCOBAR, Mr. THANEDAR, Mr. RASKIN, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. MOULTON, Mrs. MCBATH, Mr. DELUZIO, Mr. NADLER, Mr. OLSZEWSKI, Mr. SOTO, Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. STANSBURY, Mr. CASAR, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. ROSS, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mrs. FLETCHER, Ms. DEXTER, Ms. BYNUM, Mr. STANTON, Ms. SALINAS, Ms. HOYLE of Oregon, Ms. CRAIG, Mr. MANNION, Ms. STEVENS, Ms. McDONALD RIVET, Mrs. HAYES, and Ms. MCCOLLUM):

H. Res. 94. A resolution expressing support for the Nation's local public K-12 schools and condemning any actions that would defund public education or weaken or dismantle the Department of Education; to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

By Ms. ADAMS (for herself, Ms. BROWN, Mr. IVEY, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. TLAIB, Mrs. FOUSHEE, Ms. ROSS, Ms. NORTON, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mr. VEASEY, and Mrs. MCIVER):

H. Res. 95. A resolution recognizing the significance of the Greensboro Four sit-in during Black History Month; to the Committee on Education and Workforce, 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. BABIN (for himself and Mr. LOFGREN):

H. Res. 96. A resolution providing amounts for the expenses of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology in the One Hundred Nineteenth Congress; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas:

H. Res. 97. A resolution expressing support for the designation of the week beginning

February 3, 2025, as "National Tribal Colleges and Universities Week"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mrs. DINGELL (for herself and Mr. JAMES):

H. Res. 98. A resolution expressing support for the designation of February 4, 2025, as "National Cancer Prevention Day"; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. FITZPATRICK (for himself and Mrs. DINGELL):

H. Res. 99. A resolution raising awareness and encouraging the prevention of stalking by designating January 2025 as "National Stalking Awareness Month"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. FOSTER (for himself, Mr. BEYER, Mr. GARAMENDI, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. NADLER, Ms. NORTON, Mr. QUIGLEY, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. CASTEN, and Ms. TITUS):

H. Res. 100. A resolution expressing support for the continued value of arms control agreements and negotiated constraints on Russian and Chinese strategic nuclear forces; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mrs. FOUSHEE:

H. Res. 101. A resolution expressing support for the designation of February 4, 2025, as "Transit Equity Day"; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. GREEN of Tennessee (for himself and Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi):

H. Res. 102. A resolution providing amounts for the expenses of the Committee on Homeland Security in the One Hundred Nineteenth Congress; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. HILL of Arkansas:

H. Res. 103. A resolution providing amounts for the expenses of the Committee on Financial Services in the One Hundred Nineteenth Congress; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. MOOLENAAR:

H. Res. 104. A resolution providing amounts for the expenses of the Select Committee on the Strategic Competition Between the United States and the Chinese Communist Party in the One Hundred Nineteenth Congress; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. MOSKOWITZ (for himself and Mr. LAWLOR):

H. Res. 105. A resolution affirming the threats to world stability from a nuclear weapons-capable Islamic Republic of Iran; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. TENNEY (for herself, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Ms. NORTON, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. COHEN, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina):

H. Res. 106. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the United Nations Security Council should immediately impose an arms embargo against the military of Burma; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. GOSAR:

H.R. 908.

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

Article I, Section 8
By Mrs. WAGNER:
H.R. 909.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8
By Mrs. KIM:
H.R. 910.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.
By Mr. FITZPATRICK:
H.R. 911.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1 Section 8 Clause 18
By Mr. OBERNOLTE:
H.R. 912.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8
By Mr. OBERNOLTE:
H.R. 913.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Section 5 of Article 1 of the Constitution
By Mr. HARDER of California:
H.R. 914.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution
By Mr. ALFORD:
H.R. 915.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 "The Congress shall have power to . . . provide for the . . . general welfare of the United States; . . ."
By Mrs. BEATTY:
H.R. 916.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution
By Ms. BROWNLEY:
H.R. 917.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Amendment XVI
By Ms. BROWNLEY:
H.R. 918.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Amendment XVI
By Mr. BUCHANAN:
H.R. 919.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, section 8
By Mr. BUCHANAN:
H.R. 920.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, section 8
By Mr. BURCHETT:
H.R. 921.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8
By Mr. CASTEN:
H.R. 922.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I Section 8 Clause 18 of the US Constitution.
By Mr. CASTRO of Texas:
H.R. 923.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Constitutional Authority—Necessary and Proper Clause. (Art. 1 Sec. 8, Clause 18) THE U.S. CONSTITUTION ARTICLE I SECTION 8. POWER OF CONGRESS CLAUSE 18.
By Ms. CHU:
H.R. 924.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 3 (Commerce Clause)
By Mr. CLOUD:
H.R. 925.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution
By Mr. COHEN:
H.R. 926.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 3
By Mr. CRENSHAW:
H.R. 927.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1
Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3
Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18
By Mr. DELUZZIO:
H.R. 928.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18
By Mrs. DINGELL:
H.R. 929.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
The Constitutional authority of Congress to enact this legislation is provided by Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.
By Mr. DOGGETT:
H.R. 930.
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. DOWNING:
H.R. 931.
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. FITZPATRICK:
H.R. 932.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18
By Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida:
H.R. 933.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Congress is granted the authority to introduce and enact this legislation pursuant to Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.
By Mr. FRY:
H.R. 934.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, of the United States Constitution
By Mr. GARBARINO:
H.R. 935.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8
By Mr. GREEN of Tennessee:
H.R. 936.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution
By Mr. GROTHMAN:
H.R. 937.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution
By Mr. HARRIS of North Carolina:
H.R. 938.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8
By Mr. HERN of Oklahoma:
H.R. 939.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8
By Mr. HILL of Arkansas:
H.R. 940.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution
By Mr. HILL of Arkansas:
H.R. 941.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution
By Ms. HOULAHAN:
H.R. 942.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, of the U.S. Constitution
By Mr. JACKSON of Texas:
H.R. 943.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1 Section 8 of the United States Constitution.
By Ms. JAYAPAL:
H.R. 944.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, clause 4 provides Congress with the power to establish a "uniform rule of Naturalization."
By Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia:
H.R. 945.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
U.S. Constitution, Article 1, Section 8
By Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania:
H.R. 946.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution
By Mr. KEATING:
H.R. 947.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8
By Mr. KILEY of California:
H.R. 948.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8
By Mr. KUSTOFF:
H.R. 949.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Under Article I, Section 8, the Necessary and Proper Clause. Congress shall have the power to make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing powers and all Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department of Officer thereof.
By Mr. LANDSMAN:
H.R. 950.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section VIII of the U.S. Constitution
By Ms. MALLIOTAKIS:
H.R. 951.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18
By Ms. MATSUI:
H.R. 952.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution Article IV, Section 3, clause 2
By Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia:
H.R. 953.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8
By Mr. MOOLENAAR:
H.R. 954.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 17: The Congress shall have Power To exercise exclusive Legislation in all Cases whatsoever, over such District (not exceeding ten Miles square) as may, by Cession of particular States, and the Acceptance of Congress, become the Seat of Government of the United States, and to exercise like Authority over all Places purchased by the Consent of the

By Mr. MOORE of Utah:

H.R. 955.

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

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. NEWHOUSE:

H.R. 956.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 17 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. NORCROSS:

H.R. 957.

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

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. NUNN of Iowa:

H.R. 958.

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

Article 1, Section 1 of the United States Constitution, providing "All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives."

By Ms. OMAR:

H.R. 959.

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

Art I, Sec 8

By Ms. PINGREE:

H.R. 960.

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

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. ROY:

H.R. 961.

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

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. ROY:

H.R. 962.

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

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. RYAN:

H.R. 963.

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

Article 1

By Ms. SEWELL:

H.R. 964.

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

This bill would designate Rosa Parks Day as a Federal Holiday.

By Mr. SHERMAN:

H.R. 965.

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

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is Clause 3 of Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution; and Clause 18 of Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution

By Mr. STEUBE:

H.R. 966.

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

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. STEUBE:

H.R. 967.

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

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. STEUBE:

H.R. 968.

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

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. STEUBE:

H.R. 969.

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

Article 1, Section 8

By Ms. STRICKLAND:

H.R. 970.

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

Article I, Section 8

By Mrs. SYKES:

H.R. 971.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18.

By Ms. TITUS:

H.R. 972.

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

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. TORRES of New York:

H.R. 973.

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

Article 1, Section 8.

By Ms. VAN DUYNE:

H.R. 974.

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

Article 1 Sec. 8

By Mr. VARGAS:

H.R. 975.

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

(1) 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, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas:

H.R. 976.

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

Article 1 Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. FULCHER:

H.J. Res. 33.

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 Mrs. HARSHBARGER:

H.J. Res. 34.

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

Article 1 section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. PFLUGER:

H.J. Res. 35.

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

Article I Section 8

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

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

H.R. 22: Mr. RESCENTHALER and Mr. LOUDERMILK.

H.R. 25: Mr. HARRIS of North Carolina.

H.R. 26: Mr. MEUSER, Mr. LANGWORTHY, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. HARIDOPOLOS, Mr. RULLI, and Ms. FEDORCHAK.

H.R. 27: Mr. LAWLER, Mr. HILL of Arkansas, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Ms. GILLEN, Mr. MOORE of

West Virginia, Mr. HARIDOPOLOS, Mr. MESSMER, Ms. FEDORCHAK, Mr. GOLDMAN of Texas, and Mr. BARR.

H.R. 35: Mr. HARIDOPOLOS.

H.R. 38: Mr. KENNEDY of Utah.

H.R. 45: Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia.

H.R. 51: Mr. OLSZEWSKI and Mr. MANNION.

H.R. 71: Mr. RULLI and Mr. VAN DREW.

H.R. 75: Mr. VAN DREW.

H.R. 139: Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. DAVIDSON, Ms. SALAZAR, Mr. MEUSER, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mrs. BICE, and Mr. BURLISON.

H.R. 175: Ms. MACE, Mr. EDWARDS, Mr. BIGGS of Arizona, Mr. YAKYM, Mr. TIFFANY, and Mr. VAN DREW.

H.R. 210: Mr. LIEU.

H.R. 211: Mr. THANEDAR, Ms. MORRISON, Mr. LIEU, and Ms. SALINAS.

H.R. 219: Mr. LIEU.

H.R. 220: Mr. THANEDAR, Ms. MORRISON, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, and Mr. LIEU.

H.R. 221: Mr. PERRY.

H.R. 251: Mr. CASE, Mr. BIGGS of Arizona, and Mrs. WAGNER.

H.R. 254: Mr. HARRIS of Maryland.

H.R. 269: Mr. STANTON.

H.R. 274: Mr. STUTZMAN.

H.R. 289: Ms. PINGREE.

H.R. 295: Mr. HARDER of California and Ms. PINGREE.

H.R. 307: Mr. BERGMAN.

H.R. 309: Mrs. MCCLAIN DELANEY.

H.R. 313: Mr. CRENSHAW and Mr. RULLI.

H.R. 318: Mr. HARRIS of North Carolina and Mr. GOLDMAN of Texas.

H.R. 323: Mr. KENNEDY of New York.

H.R. 330: Mr. BALDERSON.

H.R. 332: Mr. STEUBE.

H.R. 345: Mr. EDWARDS and Mrs. SYKES.

H.R. 379: Mr. YAKYM.

H.R. 400: Mr. FLOOD.

H.R. 401: Mr. OWENS.

H.R. 403: Ms. KAMLAGE-DOVE.

H.R. 404: Mr. JACKSON of Texas.

H.R. 406: Mr. MEUSER.

H.R. 407: Mr. MULLIN, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. PETTERSEN, Mr. LANDSMAN, Ms. BYNUM, Ms. BUDZINSKI, Mr. STANTON, Mrs. FOUSHEE, Mr. CARSON, and Ms. STRICKLAND.

H.R. 417: Mr. PERRY.

H.R. 419: Mr. DONALDS.

H.R. 425: Mr. STEUBE.

H.R. 431: Mr. WESTERMAN.

H.R. 433: Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Ms. BARRAGAN, Mrs. FOUSHEE, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, and Ms. TLAIB.

H.R. 438: Mr. VAN DREW.

H.R. 439: Mr. VAN DREW.

H.R. 440: Mr. BILIRAKIS.

H.R. 451: Mr. SELF and Mr. MORAN.

H.R. 452: Mrs. MCCLAIN DELANEY.

H.R. 465: Mr. COLLINS.

H.R. 478: Mr. DUNN of Florida, Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas, Mr. FLOOD, Mr. PALMER, and Mr. DONALDS.

H.R. 484: Ms. SCANLON and Mr. THANEDAR.

H.R. 485: Mr. DONALDS.

H.R. 486: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina and Mr. OLSZEWSKI.

H.R. 496: Mrs. LUNA.

H.R. 502: Mr. FLOOD.

H.R. 511: Mr. YAKYM and Mr. GOSAR.

H.R. 534: Ms. VAN DUYNE.

H.R. 539: Mr. HILL of Arkansas, Mr. GOLDMAN of Texas, Ms. MCBRIDE, Mr. FINSTAD, Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. HARIDOPOLOS, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. YAKYM, and Mr. GOSAR.

H.R. 562: Mrs. RADEWAGEN.

H.R. 569: Mr. HARRIS of Maryland, Ms. GREENE of Georgia, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. FRY, and Mr. DOWNING.

H.R. 573: Mr. EDWARDS.

H.R. 597: Mr. ELLZEY.

H.R. 599: Mr. MCDOWELL.

H.R. 608: Mr. FROST and Mr. DESAULNIER.

H.R. 609: Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi and Mr. DESAULNIER.

H.R. 610: Mrs. MCCLAIN DELANEY.

H.R. 612: Mrs. MCCLAIN DELANEY, Mr. GOMEZ, Mrs. McIVER, Mr. GARCIA of California, Ms. BALINT, Ms. MENG, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, and Ms. TOKUDA.

H.R. 617: Mr. DOGGETT and Mr. CASE.

H.R. 620: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.

H.R. 630: Ms. BALINT, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, and Mr. FROST.

H.R. 643: Mr. GILL of Texas.

H.R. 645: Mr. PERRY and Mr. JACKSON of Texas.

H.R. 649: Mr. ALLEN, Ms. LETLOW, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. RULLI, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. BENTZ, and Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.

H.R. 654: Mr. MEUSER, Mr. TIMMONS, and Mr. MOORE of North Carolina.

H.R. 664: Ms. PINGREE and Mr. HUFFMAN.

H.R. 679: Mr. SELF.

H.R. 682: Mr. HARRIS of North Carolina.

H.R. 694: Mr. DIAZ-BALART.

H.R. 695: Mr. VAN DREW.

H.R. 697: Mr. PERRY, Mr. BURLISON, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Ms. BOEBERT, and Mr. GILL of Texas.

H.R. 698: Mr. DONALDS.

H.R. 703: Mr. OGLES, Mr. OBERNOLTE, Ms. LEE of Florida, Mr. ROSE, Mr. TURNER of Ohio, Mr. SELF, Mr. MESSMER, Mr. WOMACK, Mr. PALMER, Mr. WESTERMAN, and Mr. FLOOD.

H.R. 710: Mr. FLOOD.

H.R. 736: Mr. STUTZMAN, Ms. DE LA CRUZ, and Mr. BARR.

H.R. 740: Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. MURPHY, and Mr. VAN ORDEN.

H.R. 756: Mr. WEBER of Texas and Mr. SCHMIDT.

H.R. 768: Mr. THANEDAR.

H.R. 777: Mr. TAKANO, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, and Ms. STANSBURY.

H.R. 786: Mr. SCHNEIDER and Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.

H.R. 795: Mr. HARRIS of North Carolina.

H.R. 796: Mr. HARRIS of North Carolina.

H.R. 797: Mr. HARRIS of North Carolina.

H.R. 798: Mr. HARRIS of North Carolina.

H.R. 799: Mr. HARRIS of North Carolina.

H.R. 801: Mr. CISCOMANI, Mr. THANEDAR,

Mr. CAREY, Mrs. BICE, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, and Mr. GARBARINO.

H.R. 802: Mr. NEGUSE.

H.R. 812: Mr. THANEDAR.

H.R. 816: Mr. HARIDOPOLOS and Ms. TENNEY.

H.R. 821: Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. OWENS, and

Mr. HARDER of California.

H.R. 830: Mr. CROW, Ms. HOULAHAN, Mr.

FIGURES, Ms. CRAIG, Ms. McCLELLAN, Ms. BUDZINSKI, Mr. OLSZEWSKI, and Mr. PETERS.

H.R. 833: Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania, Mrs. HINSON, and Mr. TURNER of Ohio.

H.R. 834: Mr. DONALDS.

H.R. 835: Mr. LANGWORTHY, Mr. VALADAO, and Mr. FLEISCHMANN.

H.R. 836: Mr. HARDER of California, Mr. AMODEI of Nevada, Mr. NEWHOUSE, and Mr. WHITESIDES.

H.R. 840: Mr. ROY.

H.R. 846: Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. TURNER of Texas, Ms. HOYLE of Oregon, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. SCANLON, and Mr. MOULTON.

H.R. 850: Mr. BIGGS of Arizona.

H.R. 854: Mr. LIEU and Ms. OMAR.

H.R. 867: Mr. JACK, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. HARIDOPOLOS, Mr. STAUBER, and Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.

H.R. 871: Mr. KENNEDY of Utah and Mr. GILL of Texas.

H.R. 879: Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. CASE, Mr. CAREY, Mr. BISHOP, Mr. MORELLE, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK, and Ms. PETERSEN.

H.R. 880: Mr. MEUSER, Mr. VEASEY, and Mr. KELLY of Mississippi.

H.R. 885: Mr. GILL of Texas, Mr. CARTER of Texas, Mr. TIFFANY, Mr. STAUBER, and Mr. FULCHER.

H.R. 897: Mr. BEYER.

H.R. 898: Mr. NEGUSE.

H.R. 899: Mr. TAYLOR, Mr. GILL of Texas, and Mr. STEUBE.

H.R. 903: Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. COSTA, and Mr. NEGUSE.

H.J. Res. 12: Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. COMER, Mr. MESSMER, Ms. BOEBERT, and Mr. LAWLER.

H.J. Res. 25: Mr. CRANK.

H.J. Res. 28: Mr. NORMAN.

H. Res. 16: Mr. GOTTHEIMER and Ms. PETERSEN.

H. Res. 23: Mr. TURNER of Texas, Mr. CISNEROS, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. STEVENS, Ms. ESCOBAR, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Mr. CARBAJAL, Ms. CRAIG, Ms. DEXTER, Ms. CHU, Ms. PINGREE, and Mrs. MCCLAIN DELANEY.

H. Res. 45: Ms. BYNUM and Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN.

H. Res. 47: Ms. MACE.

H. Res. 48: Mr. CASE, Mr. MEEKS, Mrs. MCCLAIN DELANEY, and Mr. FOSTER.

H. Res. 60: Ms. ROSS.

H. Res. 61: Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Mrs. McIVER, Ms. POU, Mr. CASE, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. TONKO, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. NORTON, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ.

H. Res. 68: Mr. LIEU, Ms. MORRISON, Mr. NEGUSE, and Mr. ESPAILLAT.

H. Res. 69: Mr. BACON.

H. Res. 70: Mr. NEGUSE, Ms. ANSARI, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Ms. TITUS, Mr. BACON, Mr. CARSON, Mr. LANDSMAN, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. SWALWELL, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. STANTON, Mr. FOSTER, Mrs. RAMIREZ, and Ms. DELBENE.

H. Res. 74: Mr. DIAZ-BALART.

H. Res. 76: Mr. HARIDOPOLOS.

H. Res. 77: Ms. MENG.

H. Res. 81: Mr. FIELDS and Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia.



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WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2025

No. 23

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 Lord God, in whose life we find our life, today hold our Senators within Your providential hands. Lord, guide them when they feel perplexed and empower them with faith to meet every obstacle. Infuse them with courage and keep them close to You.

As they seek to represent You, fill them with Your peace. Do for them what they cannot accomplish in their own strength. Give them a new delight for mundane matters, a new patience with difficult people, and a new zest for unfinished details. Let Your spirit rule in their lives.

We pray in Your merciful 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 PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SHEEHY). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Pamela Bondi, of Florida, to be Attorney General.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The President pro tempore.

CABINET NOMINATIONS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I come to the floor to speak about the nominee for Secretary of Veterans Affairs that we will be voting on in a couple of hours.

I have long considered myself a friend of veterans. The men and women who have put themselves in harm's way to serve our country, they deserve our full support, and they have mine. Too often, I hear from veterans in Iowa that the Department of Veterans Affairs makes it difficult for them to access healthcare and the services that we honor them with because they have defended our country.

Whether this is expecting them to drive an unnecessary distance for their initial disability exam or making it more difficult to seek the care that they choose outside of the VA system, our veterans deserve much better. The VA needs to do better, which brings me to former Representative Doug Collins, President Trump's nominee to be Secretary of Veterans Affairs. Representative Collins, a veteran himself, recognizes the challenges veterans face with the VA.

During his time in the House of Representatives, he was a supporter of giving veterans the choice on where to seek healthcare. He and I agree that the VA needs to do better by our veterans and taxpayers alike.

This became more obvious to the public last year when the VA misled

Congress by claiming the Department was going to face a shortfall in funding but, in fact, ended the fiscal year with a surplus—can you believe this?—in the billions.

When I heard about this alleged shortfall, I joined my colleagues, led by the junior Senator from Alaska, to work to bring more transparency to the VA budget process. As I shared with Representative Collins, I will continue to do so.

When we first met in my office, I gave Representative Collins my advice that I give to every nominee coming to the office because these people come before the committee, and one of the questions they are asked: Will you answer our letters? And they all say yes. But we know, as a matter of fact, that doesn't happen as often as it should.

So I suggested to him that maybe instead of saying "yes," he say "maybe" so he wouldn't turn out to be a liar ever, unlike the former Secretary of VA who did not feel the need to respond to even a bipartisan letter that I sent in October of 2024, alongside three of my colleagues, before that Secretary departed from his post. Now, Representative Collins understands the importance of being accountable and forthcoming to Congress because he has been a Member of Congress.

So I thank Representative Collins for his service to our country, and I will look forward to voting positively on his nomination.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The majority leader is recognized.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, later today, the Senate will vote on the

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



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nomination of Pam Bondi to serve as Attorney General. Ms. Bondi is an experienced prosecutor who has earned a reputation as a tenacious lawyer who is tough on crime.

In her 18 years as a State prosecutor in Florida's Hillsborough County, Ms. Bondi worked with law enforcement, visited crime scenes, and spent countless hours in the courtroom.

Those who know Ms. Bondi have spoken of her toughness and her skill as a prosecutor. They have also spoken of her character, of her willingness to work with anyone to solve a problem, and of her deep commitment to the victims of crime and their families.

In 2011, Pam Bondi became Florida's first female attorney general. At that time, so-called pill mills were a major problem in the State and a major contributor to the opioid crisis.

On the campaign trail, Ms. Bondi would hear heartbreaking stories of addiction and loss, and families would give her photos of the loved ones lost to the scourge of drugs. As attorney general, she filled her office with those photos and got to work.

She worked with the Florida Legislature to pass a bill to crack down on the pill mills, which our colleague, then-Governor RICK SCOTT signed into law.

And that was just the start. She tracked issues like human trafficking, and she worked with her counterparts in other States, regardless of party and politics. She also worked to keep politics out of the important work of enforcing the law in Florida, something she is committed to doing at the Department of Justice if she is confirmed.

In recent years, many Americans have lost faith in the Justice Department. They have seen Federal prosecutors go after pro-life activists while attacks against churches have gone unprosecuted.

There was Attorney General Garland's infamous memo targeting parents who attended school board meetings and another infamous FBI memo suggesting traditional Catholics could be violent extremists.

The American people should be able to trust that the Department of Justice is not targeting Americans based on their political opinions or religious beliefs. Pam Bondi has promised to get the Department back to its core mission: prosecuting crime and protecting Americans from threats to their safety and their freedoms. And I look forward to confirming her later today.

The Senate will also soon vote on the nomination of Scott Turner to be Secretary of Housing and Urban Development. This is an important role. Our country is facing a housing crisis affecting big cities, rural areas, Tribal lands—literally, every part of our country. Higher construction costs and burdensome regulations have made homebuilding challenging. And what homes are on the market are too pricey for many Americans. Many parts of the country have homelessness challenges. Too many distressed communities are

struggling to turn their fortunes around. And despite a windfall of additional funding for HUD, these problems are, in many cases, getting worse.

Fortunately, President Trump has nominated someone to lead Housing and Urban Development who knows a thing or two about overcoming adversity. Scott Turner grew up in Plano and Richardson, TX, in challenging circumstances, but he was determined to achieve the American Dream.

At age 10, he told his mother he would play professional football. With a lot of determination and hard work, he graduated from the University of Illinois and was drafted to play in the NFL. In the 2003 offseason, a time he could have used to take a break, this NFL athlete was interning in a congressional office.

And since he hung up his cleats, Scott Turner has spent his time working to make a difference. That has included founding an organization to help children in poverty, serving as a Texas State legislator, and helping to lead the White House Opportunity and Revitalization Council during the first Trump administration.

The 2017 Republican tax relief legislation did a lot to help revitalize the economy. One of the things it did was create the Opportunity Zone Program championed by our colleague Senator TIM SCOTT. It was Scott Turner who oversaw this program for the White House, visiting opportunity zones across the country in an effort to revitalize America's distressed communities. And I am confident he will bring that same concern for distressed areas to his work as Secretary.

President Trump has made it clear that we are going to be building things in America again. One of those things we are going to be building is communities. It is a big job, but Scott Turner has the grit, the determination, and passion to get it done, and I look forward to working with him on this important mission.

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.

DEPARTMENT OF GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, yesterday, Elon Musk took issues to my warning that DOGE is operating in many ways like a shadow government. Here is what I said.

I said:

DOGE is not a real government agency.

DOGE has no authority to make spending decisions.

DOGE has no authority to shut programs down or ignore federal law.

DOGE's conduct cannot be allowed to stand.

Congress must take action to restore the rule of law.

His response? Here is what Musk said:

Hysterical reactions like this is how you know that @DOGE is doing work that really matters.

This is the one shot . . . American people have to defeat BUREAUCracy . . . and restore DEMOCracy. . . .

Give me a break. Nothing screams democracy like having a secret squad of company men pull off a hostile takeover of America's Social Security and tax information in the dead of night.

That is democracy? No openness? No hearings? No discussion? No hearing the other side? From a small group of limited people who have limited backgrounds, who probably don't even know about the programs they are cutting and how they actually work.

Whatever DOGE is doing, it is certainly not—not—what democracy looks like or has ever looked like in the grand history of this country, because democracy does not work in the shadows. Democracy does not skirt the rule of law. Democracy does not shun accountability and restraint, does not run away from transparency but welcomes it, and does not give privilege to the needs and even the ideas of a small group of ultrawealthy people at the expense of working people.

They are the only people who seem to be in the room to make the decisions. Working-class Americans are excluded—are excluded.

Now, reform is a worthy cause to seek—no question about it. Everyone agrees and everyone should agree that we should find ways to improve the effectiveness; we should find ways to improve the efficiency of government. But do you know what history shows? When it is done in the dark of night by a very limited group of people of limited experience, it never works. When ideas are not brought into conflict, when people have different views, when there is not debate, when there is not openness, when there is not transparency, things always get messed up. It leads to very bad results. Yet that is just what DOGE is doing. They know better than everybody else. Certainly, they are entitled to have their viewpoint—certainly—but to just do things in the dark of night, to just fire people without even talking to them—what they do, what their needs are—makes no sense and, again, is going to lead to bad results.

We should talk about reform, but we should talk about it in the way it has always been done in America—in the Halls of Congress, in the public forums of the people's government. That is what the Founding Fathers wanted. If the Founding Fathers were to be like DOGE, a small group of them would get together and just dictate what should have been done in America. It didn't. They set up a Congress. They set up debate.

The American people—mark my words—the American people will not

stand for an unelected, secret group to run rampant through the executive branch.

Being innovative is good. But, Mr. Musk, this isn't a tech startup. These are public institutions that deal with things like Social Security and Medicare and national defense and provide for the well-being of the American people, and the American people have a right to be part of that debate—part of that debate.

The elections occurred, and one viewpoint got a few more votes than the other. But that doesn't mean we throw out democracy. That doesn't mean what has been done for centuries in this country should just go out the window and be substituted by a small group of people who think they know a lot more than the wisdom of the American people.

So that is why, this week, Leader JEFFRIES and I will join together to push legislation to prevent unlawful meddling in the Treasury Department's payment systems, to prevent everyone's records from being made available to a small group of people who can look at them at will when this has always been kept secret and always been protected—your tax returns and your payment systems and things like that. It affects average Americans. And who knows—next they will say: Let's slash all of this stuff. That is what they seem to want to do in their \$2.5 trillion desire to cut government.

We must protect people's Social Security payments, their Medicare payments, and their tax refunds from any possible tampering by DOGE or any other unauthorized entity. That is why Leader JEFFRIES and I will join together to push this legislation.

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.

NOMINATION OF PAMELA BONDI

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, the Justice Department needs a leader—a leader who has the qualifications, the experience, the determination, and the moral clarity to keep our Nation safe. Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi is that leader. She has my vote and my vocal support.

The Attorney General is America's top prosecutor. The role should be filled by an experienced prosecutor. Attorney General Bondi has prosecution experience—a lot of it. She spent almost 30 years as a criminal prosecutor and then a State attorney general. She has more trial experience than any modern-day U.S. attorney general. Attorney General Bondi is the most experienced career criminal prosecutor ever to be America's chief law enforcement officer. She is ready to lead on day one.

In Florida, Attorney General Bondi prosecuted a range of violent crimes and criminals. She locked up the worst of the worst for the worst offenses. Her signature achievements were in fighting illegal drugs and in fighting human trafficking.

When she first became Florida's attorney general in 2011, the State was overrun with things known as pill mills. They were operations that were running to sell opioids. Pam shut them down. She locked up the drug dealers. She pushed for stronger laws, and she stopped the spread of synthetic opioids. Under her leadership, Florida led the fight against this deadly epidemic.

Attorney General Bondi also protected victims of human trafficking in Florida. She pledged to make human trafficking an area for her to combat. It was a top priority at her justice department in Florida. She is a fierce advocate for safety, and she is a skilled leader.

The Department of Justice is a huge Agency. It controls 40 separate organizations. It employs more than 115,000 people. It oversees all 94 U.S. attorneys across the country. Leading the DOJ is an enormous undertaking. Pam Bondi is up to the challenge.

The Florida Attorney General's Office is one of the largest in the Nation. It handles a broad scope of civil and criminal investigations, just like the U.S. Department of Justice. She led that office effectively and efficiently, and she will do the same thing now as Attorney General.

She has received overwhelming support from all across the country. More than 100 former senior DOJ officials wrote a letter to the Judiciary Committee in support of Pam Bondi. Here is what they said about her track record: It shows "the no-nonsense, law and order, pro-law enforcement approach she will bring to the Department of Justice." The Fraternal Order of Police also urged the Senate to confirm Pam Bondi. This is an organization of more than 377,000 members of law enforcement. She has also earned the support of Second Amendment advocates.

U.S. Attorney General Pam Bondi will stand in stark contrast to the prior administration's Justice Department. The previous administration gave us two tiers of justice. It labeled parents as "domestic terrorists" when they attended school board meetings. It brought charges against pro-life protesters, then threw them in prison. It worked with leftwing judges and prosecutors to try to throw President Trump in jail. That is what we had in the last administration. This doesn't even begin to get into the Russiagate hoax or covering up for Hunter Biden. In those cases, we saw rogue Federal agents try to subvert the democratic process.

At her hearing before the Judiciary Committee, Attorney General Bondi promised a different path. Instead of playing politics, Pam Bondi pledged to

enforce the law fairly, fully, and faithfully. She said in her opening statement that she will return the Department of Justice to its "core mission of keeping Americans safe and vigorously"—vigorously—"enforcing the law."

Her commitment to the Constitution, to public safety, and equal justice under the law is exactly what our Nation needs today. The partisan, politicalized, and polarizing prosecutions are now over. Pam Bondi will usher in a new era of safety, of sanity, and of justice. She has my vote to be the U.S. Attorney General.

NOMINATION OF DOUGLAS COLLINS

Mr. President, on another matter, today, the Senate is going to confirm former Congressman Doug Collins. Congressman Collins is the nominee to be the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

Caring for our veterans is a top priority for President Trump and Republicans. As Abraham Lincoln famously said, our Nation has a duty to "care for him who shall have born the battle." That is why I am glad that President Trump has nominated Congressman Collins. Congressman Collins knows what it means to be a veteran because he is a veteran, as are you, Mr. President. He deployed to Iraq as a military chaplain. He visited wounded servicemembers in the hospital. He prayed for them. He comforted them.

In Congress, Congressman Collins continued to serve our veterans. He received bipartisan support from the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee. The vote was 18 in favor and only 1 opposed. Looking at his record, it is obvious why. Congressman Collins will improve veterans' access to care, not get in the way.

He will also address the alarming rate of veterans' suicide and homelessness. As he told the committee:

We will not stop until we succeed on behalf of the men and women who have worn the uniform.

Congressman Doug Collins will pursue his mission with duty and with devotion. He has my full support.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CURTIS). The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

NOMINATION OF ROBERT F. KENNEDY, JR.

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, I would like to make a statement regarding my vote in committee on behalf of Robert F. Kennedy to be the Secretary of HHS.

First, I thank everyone who has contacted me over the last few days. Almost all have been respectful and seek the best for our country. I have been contacted by text, by phone, and by email. If I didn't respond to anyone, it was not to be rude; it is just that I was

getting hundreds of messages a day personally and thousands through the office, and I just physically could not.

Believe it or not, of these hundreds of people calling me and contacting me however they did, many of them disagree with each other diametrically. Three dimensionally, they disagreed. But the unifying factor is that they all desire the best for our country, even though they differ from each other so much. And maybe that kind of frames my feelings about this nomination.

For context, before entering politics, before ever thinking about running for political office, I practiced medicine for 30 years in a public hospital for the uninsured, caring for those who otherwise would not have been able to afford the access to the care that I provided them.

After seeing patients die from vaccine-preventable diseases, I dedicated much of my time to vaccine research and immunization programs, personally witnessing the safety monitoring and the effectiveness of immunization. Put simply, vaccines save lives.

This is the context that informed me when considering RFK as the nominee to be Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services.

It was a decision I studied exhaustively and I took very seriously. And as I said I would, I spoke with Mr. Kennedy not once but multiple times over the weekend, including this morning. We had in-depth conversations about the medical literature and about the science behind the safety of vaccines. He referred me to studies and to people. I reviewed them and spoke to those whom he mentioned I should speak to.

The most notable opponents of Mr. Kennedy were pediatricians on the frontlines of our children's health who regularly have to combat misinformation, combating vaccine skepticism with correct information—correct information that comes from their education, their training, and experience as physicians. They are aware of the falling vaccine rates and the inevitability of increasing hospitalizations and deaths of children from vaccine-preventable diseases. They are aware that children are now contracting diseases that they would not have contracted if the child was vaccinated.

I heard from others impassioned about the need to address chemicals in our food and a belief that we are victims of large impersonal forces maximizing profits while sacrificing their health. And there is evidence for that. Although, food safety is principally a USDA concern, I strongly agree that this is an issue society must address.

Other RFK supporters are concerned regarding environmental risks. They fear these risks are being ignored by authorities. Mr. Kennedy's history of environmental activism motivates their support. I pointed out that the Environmental Protection Agency monitors this, not the Department of Health and Human Services. But they still feel that he can make a difference.

So as I looked how to resolve this, I returned to where I began. Would it be possible to have Mr. Kennedy collaborate in helping public health agencies re-earn the trust of the American people?

Regarding vaccines, Mr. Kennedy has been insistent that he just wants good science and to ensure safety. But on this topic, the science is good. The science is credible. Vaccines save lives. They are safe. They do not cause autism. There are multiple studies that show this. They are a crucial part of our Nation's public health response.

But as someone who has discussed immunization with thousands of people, I do recognize that many mothers need reassurance that the vaccine their child is receiving is necessary, effective, and most of all, safe.

While I am aligned with Mr. Kennedy as regards ultraprocessed food, reforming NIH, and taking on chronic disease, once more, it leaves vaccines.

Mr. Kennedy and the administration reached out seeking to reassure me regarding their commitment to protecting the public health benefit of vaccination. To this end, Mr. Kennedy and the administration committed that he and I would have an unprecedentedly close collaborative working relationship if he is confirmed. We will meet or speak multiple times a month. This collaboration will allow us to work well together and, therefore, to be more effective.

Mr. Kennedy has asked for my input into hiring decisions at HHS beyond Senate-confirmed positions. This aspect of the collaboration will allow us to represent all sides of those folks who were contacting me over this past weekend.

He has also committed that he would work within current vaccine approval and safety monitoring systems and not establish parallel systems.

If confirmed, he will maintain the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices recommendations without changes. CDC will not remove statements on their website pointing out that vaccines do not cause autism.

Mr. Kennedy and the administration also committed that this administration will not use the subversive techniques used under the Biden administration, like sue and settle, to change policies enacted by Congress without first going through Congress.

Mr. Kennedy and the administration committed to a strong role of Congress. Aside from he and I meeting regularly, he will come before the HELP Committee on a quarterly basis, if requested. He committed that the HELP Committee chair, whether it is me or someone else, may choose a representative on any board or commission formed to review vaccine safety.

If he is confirmed, HHS will provide a 30-day notice to the HELP Committee if the Agency seeks to make changes to any of our Federal vaccine safety mon-

itoring programs, and the HELP Committee will have the option to call a hearing to further review.

These commitments, and my expectation that we could have a great working relationship to make America healthy again, is the basis of my support. He will be the Secretary, but I believe he will also be a partner in working for this end.

If Mr. Kennedy is confirmed, I will use my authority as chairman of the Senate committee with oversight of HHS to rebuff any attempts to remove the public's access to lifesaving vaccines without ironclad, causational, scientific evidence that can be accepted and defended before the mainstream scientific community and before Congress.

I will watch carefully for any effort to wrongfully sow public fear about vaccines through confusing references of coincidence and anecdote. But my support is built on assurances that this will not have to be a concern and that he and I could work together to build an agenda to make America healthy again.

We need a leader at HHS who will guide President Trump's agenda to make America healthy again.

Based on Mr. Kennedy's assurances on vaccines and his platform to positively influence Americans' health, it is my consideration that he will get this done.

As I said, it has been a long and tense process. But I have assessed it, as I would assess a patient as a physician. Ultimately restoring trust in our public health institution is too important, and I think Mr. Kennedy can help get that done.

As chairman of the Senate committee with oversight authority of his position, I will do my best to make sure that that is what we accomplish.

I want Mr. Kennedy to succeed in making America healthy again. His success will be tied to the health of our Nation. He has the opportunity to address the most pertinent issues affecting Americans' health.

We also need to reform institutions like the FDA and NIH, and those, as already has been indicated, are my priorities as chairman of the HELP Committee. I look forward to his support in accomplishing this. If confirmed, I look forward to working together with Mr. Kennedy to achieve President Trump's mission of improving the health of all Americans.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

NOMINATION OF DOUGLAS COLLINS

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I am here this morning—now, this afternoon—because, in just a few moments, we will be asked to make a decision as to whether or not Congressman Doug Collins should be confirmed as the next Secretary of Veterans Affairs. I am speaking today to encourage my colleagues to make that happen.

I believe caring for the men and women who have served our Nation in

uniform, for the loved ones they leave behind, and for their families is one of our Nation's most sacred obligations. We owe those who served all that they are entitled to and perhaps more.

I remember making a commitment when I was in high school to express my gratitude and respect for those in uniform. I never envisioned being a U.S. Senator and, now, the chairman of the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, where our responsibilities are greater than just respect and gratitude. That is certainly important, but now we are here to make certain that all the promises we made to those who serve are kept.

I want a VA Secretary who understands the VA's mission. I want a Secretary who will put veterans first. I want a Secretary who recognizes the VA's importance in serving veterans and contributing to a safe and successful future for our Nation. The success they had in uniform, I want them to have that success as a veteran, as a civilian, as a citizen.

Congressman Collins is that person. Through his own service, which continues in the Air Force Reserve, Congressman Collins knows firsthand service in the uniform, and he knows the benefits and challenges that veterans face and the challenges their families face.

In his testimony before the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, he demonstrated significant understanding of the policies he will be expected to administer at the Department of Veterans Affairs and proved to me and to others that he is prepared to lead the VA into the future.

He is committed to working closely with Members of Congress and certainly the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs and to make sure that our input is understood, taken into account, and, hopefully, implemented. His nomination was reported out of the committee in an overwhelmingly bipartisan manner. On a rollcall vote, the vote was 18 to 1.

I am thankful for Congressman Collins' interest in serving in this capacity. I ask my colleagues to support his nomination, and I look forward to working with him to improve the lives of veterans, caregivers, survivors, and military families.

I yield the floor, but before I do, I ask that the vote scheduled at 12:15 occur immediately.

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

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Douglas Collins, of Georgia, to be Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

VOTE ON COLLINS NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Collins nomination?

Mr. MORAN. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 77, nays 23, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 32 Ex.]

YEAS—77

Banks	Grassley	Mullin
Barrasso	Hagerty	Murkowski
Bennet	Hassan	Ossoff
Blackburn	Hawley	Paul
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Peters
Boozman	Hickenlooper	Ricketts
Britt	Hoeven	Risch
Budd	Husted	Rosen
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Rounds
Cassidy	Johnson	Sanders
Collins	Justice	Schiff
Cornyn	Kaine	Schmitt
Cortez Masto	Kelly	Scott (FL)
Cotton	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cramer	King	Shaheen
Crapo	Klobuchar	Sheehy
Cruz	Lankford	Slotkin
Curtis	Lee	Sullivan
Daines	Lujan	Thune
Durbin	Lummis	Tillis
Ernst	Marshall	Tuberville
Fetterman	McConnell	Warnock
Fischer	McCormick	Welch
Gallago	Moody	Wicker
Gillibrand	Moran	Young
Graham	Moreno	

NAYS—23

Alsobrooks	Kim	Schumer
Baldwin	Markey	Smith
Blunt Rochester	Merkley	Van Hollen
Booker	Murphy	Warner
Cantwell	Murray	Warren
Coons	Padilla	Whitehouse
Duckworth	Reed	Wyden
Hirono	Schatz	

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 1:10 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mrs. BRITT).

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

TRUMP EXECUTIVE ORDERS

Mr. KAINE. Madam President, I rise to talk a little bit about what I am hearing from constituents in the Commonwealth, in the last week, and then, in particular, to direct a message to Federal employees. There are about 140,000 people who live in Virginia who work for the Federal Government.

It was a week ago yesterday—Monday morning—when I was attending a fairly standard annual celebration by the Fredericksburg Chamber of Com-

merce and the local United Way to open up seasonal tax preparation. It is called the VITA Program: Volunteers in Tax Assistance. Organizations all around the country train volunteers to help low- and moderate-income people do their taxes, and it was just the kickoff of this 21st annual event in the Fredericksburg area to help folks. And it was an opportunity to thank volunteers and to see those early-bird tax filers who were there the first day to try to get their taxes done.

Someone came up to me and told me that they were a veteran and that they had tried to log onto the VA portal that day to get a medical appointment and were shut out of the portal. Someone else heard the person telling me that story. The Fredericksburg area, about 50 miles south of DC, is very heavily populated with veterans. Others started to share their experience.

It just so happens that we have just constructed, at the cost of \$370 million, a new veterans clinic in Fredericksburg that is scheduled to open on February 28. Someone heard this discussion and said: Oh, we hear the grand opening is going to be delayed because of a Federal hiring freeze imposed by this administration.

That conversation at this otherwise good-news event started what has become a cascade of concerns that I have heard expressed by Virginians: Head Start programs not getting their monthly funding; universities that are midstream on Federal research projects being told that a funding freeze would prohibit them from drawing down dollars, thus jeopardizing the jobs of the researchers; numerous Federal employees who have been told that they are being reclassified from professional civil service to political appointee, where their future depends upon their loyalty to a person rather than their service of their fellow Americans.

I was at church on Sunday. I go to a church that has a high percentage of Congolese refugees who are here under humanitarian visas or refugee status. Many of them are worried about the possibility of deportations because they happen to live in families where there might be mixed status: some citizens, some green card holders, some refugees, others who are not documented. A Sunday school teacher at my church came up and told me that, at the Saturday religious instruction program that he holds at a nearby Catholic school, because there are a number of Latino immigrant families in that program, the attendance is down because families and kids are worried about ICE raids and deportations.

Yesterday, I had two interactions with Virginians, one with local government officials and NGO CEOs—folks running domestic violence shelters, homeless programs, free clinics, et cetera—in the Richmond area, where I live, and then a second meeting with the Virginia School Boards Association—elected school board members

from all around the Commonwealth of Virginia—that was taking place in Alexandria, VA. And, in each instance, I heard again and again the story of fear, confusion: Are our funds being cut off? Can we say anything about it? We are set up in such a way that we have served underserved populations. Are we allowed to do that now?

And, finally, Madam President, this morning, I came into work and I had an email from one of the largest federally qualified health centers in Virginia, located in the Hampton Roads—1.6 million people in the southeast portion of our State; Virginia Beach, Norfolk, Hampton, Portsmouth, Chesapeake, these communities—and they said: Look, we are the healthcare safety net of first resort for a lot of low- and moderate-income people, and we have done this for years, and we receive Federal funding. In fact, Federal funding for most of our FQHCs is about 20 to 25 percent of their budget.

They tend to get paid the last day of the month. Yesterday was the 3rd of February. They indicated they had not received their January payment and, when they were reaching out to determine whether they would receive the January payment—or the February payment, for that matter—they wouldn't even be given the courtesy of an answer.

There is grave, grave concern about the numerous efforts that this administration has taken with respect to Federal employees and with respect to the funding freeze. The funding freeze that was announced last week was partially retracted by the administration. It has been partially and temporarily enjoined in now multiple court cases. But as the email from this morning indicated, organizations that should be receiving funds, if the funding freeze is in fact enjoined, are still not receiving them.

Obviously, we have got a lot of work to do to get to the bottom of this. The administration has not shared with any of us what their plans are. The analogy that I have used is it is like somebody has taken a jigsaw puzzle and dumped the pieces upside down on a table in front of me. All I am seeing is the cardboard backside. I don't have the box with the picture on it.

Every time I talk to a constituent, a Federal employee, somebody who works at a domestic violence shelter, a mayor, I can turn over a piece of the puzzle based upon what they are telling me, and as I turn it over, I can start to assemble what is in fact happening. And we need to do more to assemble it.

I just want to pledge to Virginians: I will be doing all I can to make sure you are protected.

But what I want to do now is read a letter that I have written and that I am posting today on my website and disseminating publicly, specifically to Federal workers. It is a letter that tries to honor them and give them a pep talk and also direct them to resources that they can access in case they are concerned.

And, once again, Madam President, 140,000 of these workers live in my Commonwealth.

Dear Federal Workers:

As you are all too aware, we are in a dark time. The Trump administration has made plain that it wants to kick you around—by blocking your ability to administer federal resources, censoring your free speech, locking you out of your workplaces, demonizing you in the press, and sending you ominous, and at times threatening, messages. These actions are shameful and harmful not only to you, but to Americans across the country that you serve.

But especially in the darkest of times, we must stay focused on finding our guiding lights. I hope you will let the call to service that you answered when you first swore your oaths as federal employees serve as that light.

My advice to you today is simple, even if it's not easy: Don't give up. Keep serving everyday folks.

You are here because of your expertise. You are here because of your patriotism. You are here because you know the value in dedicating your life to serving your fellow Americans.

America needs you—that has never been clearer than in the wake of [the administration's] Federal funding freeze last week. I heard from folks in every corner of Virginia about the invaluable support they receive from Federal workers like you.

Across the country, Americans are counting on you to deliver crucial services—from inspecting our food to make sure it's safe, to protecting our national security. From administering Social Security benefits, to staffing air traffic control towers, to supporting our allies around the world and keeping the influence of China, Iran, and Russia at bay.

I know it has been—and will continue to be—tough. Donald Trump and his cronies are determined to do anything they can to knock you off course. They've even dangled a phony buyout in your face. But make no mistake: that buyout is a trap. Donald Trump has no authority to offer you a resignation buyout. Don't trust a guy with a long history of stiffing contractors by taking him up on a sham deal that he won't follow through on.

You aren't alone. I'm going to be here with you, every day, working alongside you in service.

I want to share with you some specific ways in which I want to be a resource to you. On my website, kaine.senate.gov, I am collecting stories from federal workers about what you are experiencing. Under no circumstances will I publicly share any information you send me without your consent. You can also choose to submit your [information] anonymously if you prefer.

I will also be updating my webpage with information that may be helpful to you, including summaries of your rights, recourse you can seek if you believe you are being illegally terminated, and answers to other frequently asked questions my office is receiving.

Please know, that I'm going to do everything I can to stand up for you—just like you're standing up for [and serving] the American people. Thank you for [all that you do].

With that, Madam President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. CANTWELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

U.S. TRADE

Ms. CANTWELL. Madam President, I come to the floor to talk about export strategies, collaboration, and American principles.

Madam President, no one likes to be left behind. I know somewhere people think there is this, "I win, you lose," mentality. But what happened to "let's grow the pie" instead of just hoarding a few pieces that are left. Growth, not contraction, is the right solution.

The world is more connected, not necessarily just because of globalization. We are now more connected because of technology, and nothing we are doing is going to stop that. The speed of information is empowering anyone with an internet connection aided by the brain of an AI app to get answers and ideas hundreds of times faster than ever before.

Do we need new principles for the information age? Rules the world and we should strive to adhere to? I definitely agree that the answer is yes.

But, Madam President, I thought we were for capitalism.

Yes, capitalism in the information age needs better rules so markets aren't distorted because markets need to be properly policed and they aren't right now. And I believe that the U.S. should aggressively define the rules in the information age.

I believe in a technology NATO—a model of key democracies and key sophisticated technology countries, defining the rules of the information age and telling anybody who wants to follow that, we will give you a discount on our technology, instead of those who are advocating to buy from people who have a government backdoor. Or even in today's analogy, where you allow somebody to have a government backdoor to your technology.

Madam President, capitalism is still the largest, smartest export America wants to export. We want open markets, and we want more people to sell to 95 percent of consumers who live outside the United States.

Now, it is clear not all the world community is down with capitalism, especially places like China or North Korea. But that doesn't mean that we shouldn't continue to advocate for it.

What has U.S. advocacy for capitalism done to grow and stabilize the world? I would say immeasurable, immeasurable, immeasurable progress. In fact, the period from the end of World War II to the early 1970s is considered one of the greatest eras of economic expansion in world history. In the U.S., gross domestic product increased from \$228 billion to just under \$1.7 trillion in 1975. So whether it was Germany, Japan, South Korea—we have brought about a world economy because the shiny American dream was worth chasing. So whether

it was setting market rules, growing exports, investing in innovation—this is the poster child of what the United States of America has been about. It has not been a story about contraction; it has been a story about growth.

The impacts of the U.S. economy can't be ignored, but to out compete our adversaries, we need coalitions, not go-it-alone strategies.

Why do we fear this if we think our principles are correct? But somehow, the current administration thinks that we have been hurt more than we have been helped in this global equation, and they want us to believe that somehow there is a win-win situation on tariffs that they can deliver on.

The American people are demanding leadership here in Washington. They want us to work together. They want us to have the best interest of the country at hand. My guess is they think that on a global basis, too. I know my farmers do. Farmers, always the big potential loser in a trade war, want us to work out better economic opportunities for their future. But there are those in this administration who think we can close our borders, chill trade with tariffs, and somehow make time stand still.

Well, I got news for people, the information age has blown a hole in that theory, even if there was justification for the time stand still theory before the information age. You just cannot drop anchor in the middle of this storm. You need to get to a stable harbor and create an opportunity for the future. And trade, Madam President, not only grows economic opportunity, it helps change culture, and there are some cultures that are worth affecting.

It is better to have a job than be attracted to join a terrorist organization. It is better to create economic stability than fueling poverty and migration. And tariffs are a distortion of markets. Tariffs mean we disagree. It very rarely means the disagreement will be resolved quickly. It usually means people will retaliate, and the escalation of that retaliation will hurt consumers so much so that eventually someone will blink.

The payers in this dispute, though, are never the government leaders. No, it is the workers who lose their job. It is the family that pay higher costs. It is the community that loses their economic activity and tax revenue. And that is why it is so important in this day and age that we talk more about the three Cs: collaboration, coalitions, and capacity building.

Capacity building gives us the ability to accelerate innovation. Trust me, one thing I know about traveling in my State—I am sure it is true in other places, too—innovation is not only in the DNA of Americans, it is the history of our country. Whether electricity, aviation, or the internet, credit goes to the United States of America for innovation and inventing future economic opportunities, not just for us, but for the entire world.

But now, we are in an innovation race defined by AI and quantum. And according to the World Economic Forum, the U.S. generative AI may increase gross domestic product between \$2 and \$4 trillion per decade. Boston Consulting estimates that quantum computing could generate \$850 billion in annual revenue by 2040.

So are we going to focus on those things? Winning the races? Or are we going to allow a contraction that hurts everyone?

Obviously, going all in on AI and quantum can help ensure that our country maintains both economic and military advantages, but we definitely have to collaborate with like-minded nations who also want to grow AI and set the rules, if you want to beat China's ultimate Belt and Road Initiative—DeepSeek.

So what do we do about the domestic impacts of trade? Well, I can tell you some sure don't's right away. You don't abolish the Trade Adjustment Assistance Program, designed to protect impacted workers from trade, which is what has happened with the other side of the aisle. We need to be intentionally upskilling workers to help them in impacted sectors. I have met and talked to so many Americans. They are smart, talented, hard-working, striving, and they only ask for one thing: opportunity.

If you bet on them, they will do the rest. I often think of two major shifts in workforce policy in the United States. World War II, where we didn't have a workforce, and the women showed up in the factories and delivered production. And when the men returned from World War II, and everybody wondered what the economy of the future would be, and we gave them the GI Bill, and they created it.

So we don't cut workforce training. We invest in 2-year skill training programs at our high schools. We make sure that we turn to apprenticeships. We return to the skilling of the jobs that are needed today. You also don't cut export programs like the State Trade Expansion Program (STEP) or the Export-Import Bank.

But what do you do? Well, let's go back to those three Cs: collaboration, coalition building, and capacity building.

We will bring more high-wage manufacturing jobs back to the United States, fostering the investment landscape by continuing on the path of the CHIPS and Science Act and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, those have put real investments in the United States of America and have started us on the path towards growing the middle class again. But we need to continue to invest in science.

We need a robust R&D tax policy for inventors and manufacturers, and we need to help our manufacturers with capital investment, equipment modernizations, to help them with their factories. I have seen this in places like Madison, ME, or Longview, WA, where

we helped revitalize a longstanding paper industry into new opportunities for the future.

So how do we deal with China? Well, they aren't playing by the rules. They are manipulating and flooding markets, but I guarantee you that just a fear of China is not the answer, and solutions like collaboration and coalition building are critical, particularly in the information age. China does have the largest gross domestic product, about 19 percent of global GDP.

In the global economy, the U.S. represents about 15 percent. But if the United States works to create markets with like-minded partners like Japan, Europe, and the UK and builds a coalition of like-minded democracies grounded in the rule of law, we can flip the script and have a market representing 34 percent of global GDP.

And if we take the next step and expand coalitions to include partners like Canada, South Korea, Australia, New Zealand, and India, then we are looking at a market that, instead of China's 19 percent accounts for almost half, 47 percent of global GDP.

So why aren't we focusing on that economic opportunity? A lot of people say, Well, that is not the America of today, but I am pretty sure Ben Franklin, about the time he was focusing on electricity, also went to France and helped to build a coalition essential for the founding and continuation of our country. So don't tell me it is not in our DNA to do this. There is so much more we could and should do working with our allies.

Obviously, I mentioned a few—research and development in artificial intelligence, commercializing quantum, scaling, safe, affordable fusion technology. And there are many Members of Congress who were working on these bipartisan ideas. But we have to remain competitive, and we cannot allow this debate about tariffs to take us off our historical course as a nation.

As I mentioned, we mapped out how to get investment in the United States of America, and now, we need to follow that with the training and skilling of American workers. As the AFL-CIO President Liz Shuler and Microsoft President Brad Smith at a recent meeting in Seattle agreed, we need to train and skill 500,000 electricians for the United States. Why can't we here agree and accelerate that? I am not even sure we can agree on the acceleration of air traffic controllers, and we have every reason to get that done.

Last week, I spoke about additional investments the United States needs to make in Panama, Latin America, and others to link and modernize bilateral agreements that help us counter China. And as I mentioned, I believe in an aggressive EXIM Bank investment to counter China's Belt and Road Initiative.

Free trade agreements are a way for us, not tariffs, to gain the leverage we want. South Asia could play an important role in this coalition building,

particularly in the Indo-Pacific region. But I want us to go further. I want us to understand that U.S.-led negotiations in a Middle East free trade agreement to build on the momentum of a cease-fire in Gaza could further stabilize that region, along with making investments in other programs. It is tragic that the administration fails to understand the important role USAID plays in global capacity building.

How will we know that strategy works? Well, I suggest we will know when we are growing the middle class in the United States of America again. The bills we have passed in investing and allowing us to innovate faster are on their way to doing that. Let us not have a trade war disrupt that and dismantle what has been history after history lesson of economic success of this Nation, fighting for open markets, capital opportunities, and investing in the ingenuity of America.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BANKS). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

CHANGE OF VOTE

Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, on roll-call vote 26, I voted nay. It was my intention to vote aye.

I ask unanimous consent that I be permitted to change my vote since it will not affect the outcome.

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

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

NOMINATION OF PAMELA BONDI

Mr. SCHMITT. Mr. President, I stand here to amplify my support that I was able to give in the Judiciary Committee of Pam Bondi, who will hopefully, in a few short hours here, be confirmed as the next Attorney General of the United States of America.

I want to thank, before I do that, the leadership and the hard work of Leader THUNE and Senate Majority Whip BARRASSO in this entire confirmation process, working at a clip that I think is responsible and one that honors the mandate that President Trump got to shake things up here in Washington, DC.

I think what you saw in November was a dynamic where people weren't particularly happy with what was going on in this town. They voted for reform. President Trump is putting together a team of reformers. Look no further for an ideal place for that reform than the Department of Justice.

Before I get there, I do want to point out on a personal note that when Presi-

dent Trump announced that he was supporting Pam Bondi, I think I had said to somebody that this was a home run. Many of us in this Chamber are often outdone by Senator GRAHAM. He described it as a "grand slam touchdown, hole in one, ace, hat trick, slam dunk, Olympic gold medal pick." And he was right.

I have known Pam Bondi for years from the AG world. That was my job before I had this job. I was attorney general of Missouri. Pam was always known as a leader and somebody who has this really rare combination of a steel backbone and a heart of gold. She is in it for the right reasons. She cares about the rule of law.

She started her career from humble beginnings in a small town in Florida. She wanted to be a prosecutor. We heard it in her testimony in the Judiciary Committee, that that was her goal. It was to be a prosecutor. She spent hours and years in those courtrooms prosecuting the bad guys. She later became the attorney general of one of our bigger States.

As I mentioned, she was a leader. She defended the Constitution. She took on the opioid epidemic. She was relentless in taking on human trafficking and is somebody, I think, that everybody can look up to, not just from a personal perspective and her personal story but also in the way that she took on her job and had accolades from both sides of the aisle. There was actually somebody in the Senate committee, who was on the other side of the aisle in Florida, who ran for attorney general at the same time Pam Bondi was running for attorney general and testified to her character.

There is just no question that she is supremely qualified for this job, and we are really going to need somebody as the Attorney General to lead the Department of Justice who has that kind of integrity, who believes in the Constitution, and believes in individual rights and getting that Department back to where it always should have been, which is fighting crime.

Sadly, over the last 4 years, we have seen a Department of Justice gone astray—one that has made headlines, of course, for going after parents who showed up to school board meetings, under the auspices of the PATRIOT Act, treating moms and dads as terrorists who went to a school board open-forum meeting and had concerns about things like critical race theory or forced masking.

The full weight of the Federal Government honed in on parents and Catholics, who were treated the same way because they were traditional Catholics, literally setting up informant networks in an effort to spy on them because of their religious affiliation.

I am not talking about the Soviet Union in the 1980s. I am talking about the United States of America in 2021.

What Merrick Garland did to this Agency and the Department of Justice is a tragedy.

Kash Patel, hopefully, will move out of the Judiciary Committee here soon and be the next leader of the FBI and restore integrity to that Agency as well. But, of course, the Department of Justice that Pam Bondi, hopefully, in a few short hours, will be confirmed and then sworn in to lead, will restore integrity.

In addition to going after Catholics and in addition to going after families who showed up to school board meetings, the very coordinated effort of lawfare by the past administration to take out their chief political rival under the moniker of "show me the man, and I will show you the crime" can't be dismissed. They are not going to want to talk about that, but the effort to financially ruin President Trump, to literally throw him in jail for the rest of his life, deserves the scorn of the history books.

Joe Biden gave a speech in the fall of 2022 calling half of America a threat to democracy; that President Trump would never make it back to the Oval Office. And guess what happened: A series of zombie cases—with, at best, novel legal theories—was resurrected.

In New York, the No. 3 person at DOJ left the Department of Justice to join the DA's office in New York. Why would that person want to do that? Well, guess what. President Trump was prosecuted in a Manhattan courtroom not long after that.

In State cases, the No. 2 person in the DA's office in Atlanta was coordinating with the White House Counsel's Office on the prosecution of President Trump in Georgia.

And then Jack Smith—Jack Smith—was brought in, who was notorious among legal circles for being overzealous with overprosecutions, overcharging—was brought in specifically to take out President Trump. And it was only the Supreme Court, ultimately, that prevented that.

But this was all a scheme devised by the Biden administration to make sure President Trump never got back into office. Well, guess what. He stared it all down, and he won. And we have a real opportunity now to have a level set.

I don't think it is right that we have people pursued because of their politics from a criminal perspective. Nothing was out of bounds in the last 4 years by the Biden administration and Merrick Garland.

So Pam Bondi is just the kind of person to come in to restore integrity, to make sure that our Department of Justice is fighting on behalf of the American people and not in an attempt, ironically, to undermine our Republic, the accusation—the very accusation—that was leveled at Joe Biden's political opponent.

With that, I look forward to voting yes on Pam Bondi and having a real leader, somebody we can look up to, to lead that very important Department of Justice.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic whip.

TRUMP EXECUTIVE ORDERS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, last week, I came to the floor to talk about the chaos that has been created by the announced proposed freeze on Federal funding and loans. I want to share a few stories about what I have seen and heard since I spoke on the floor last week.

Sharpsburg is near my home town of Springfield, IL. It has a water system in Christian County. It is in phase 3 of construction of a rural water project. It contains 18 miles of pipeline providing water to 50 new rural customers. The work is underway. The project is nearly complete, and it will be in jeopardy if there is a freeze permitted to take effect.

What does it mean? It means that these 50 homes and families will be without clean, safe, and affordable water. That is unacceptable.

The freeze also means that scientists at universities across the State are worried about their jobs and research. Parents of children with disabilities are worried about losing resources for their kids. Adults are worried about losing access to healthcare and social services.

Since then, not one but two judges have issued temporary restraining orders blocking President Trump's measure. As of yesterday evening, that pause has been extended.

But let me remind you: This freeze is unconstitutional. The Constitution gives the power to Congress, not to the President—the power of the purse—and the President has no legal authority to withhold funding that was signed into law for Americans on a bipartisan basis.

In the 1970s, former President Nixon tried to impound or withhold funding appropriated by Congress, and, in response, Congress passed the Impoundment Control Act of 1974, or the ICA. The ICA is still the law of the land, and it prohibits Presidents from withholding funds unless Congress approves the decision through outlined procedures.

But consider this: The current administration, apparently, does not care. The President and his people are ignoring the law, creating chaos in hopes that amidst the confusion, some part of his power grab will stick. He is testing the limits of how much he can chip away at our system of checks and balances.

There are reports that unelected Elon Musk and his "government efficiency team" now have access to the payment systems of the U.S. Treasury, which is essentially the checkbook of the entire Federal Government. Elon Musk tweeted to say he is planning to cut \$4 billion in Federal spending every single day from now to September 30—\$4 billion a day.

I am appalled to see so many of my Senate Republican colleagues falling in line as President Trump and Mr. Musk

attempt to strip Congress of our constitutional authorities and cause this kind of pain to our constituents. I am disappointed to see so many of my Republican colleagues vote to advance the nomination of President Trump's pick to run the Office of Management and Budget, Russell Vought. If this funding stunt is any indication, he is not fit to run that office.

The damage from the freeze extends beyond our shores. Bipartisan, congressionally appropriated funds to provide lifesaving humanitarian aid and freedom in places like Venezuela, Iran, and North Korea have been ground to a halt. For example, programs like PEPFAR, started by President George W. Bush—and I give him credit for that—with the support of the evangelical community and its partner, the Global Fund, have dramatically curtailed the AIDS epidemic ravaging parts of the world. The program has saved more than 25 million lives. It has been so effective that some have forgotten just how devastating AIDS happened to be in that part of the world, killing more than 2 million a year globally and leaving 14 million—14 million—orphans in sub-Saharan Africa.

Further, USAID clean water and sanitation programs have provided more than 70 million people with first-time sustainable access to clean water in the last decade—programs that have a 6-to-1 return in dollars saved in health, economic, and educational returns.

Low-cost vaccination programs eradicated smallpox and almost eradicated polio from the face of the Earth—something that was unimaginable just a generation ago. Food grown by American farmers helps save millions of lives when war and natural disasters strike. Gutting such programs puts innocent lives and American influence across the globe at risk. It is senseless, counterproductive, ill-informed, and increases the likelihood of costlier interventions that don't respect borders, including pandemics, war, and failed states.

The United States cannot and should not stand alone in the world. We are a global leader, and we have an obligation to continue to act like it.

But over the weekend, in what sounded like a dystopian story from an otherworldly dictatorship, the Trump administration and Elon Musk tried to shutter the U.S. Agency for International Development without congressional approval. Try to imagine that disgraceful scene, as one of the world's richest men gleefully guts programs for some of the world's poorest people.

And don't be fooled—this isn't about reform, and the U.S. budget deficit won't be solved by gutting USAID. The foreign assistance budget is only 1 percent of our Federal spending—a small, powerful investment that is not only the right thing to do but the smart thing to do to prevent conflict and famine and failed states as well as to build alliances and friends around the

world. Gutting such programs is a betrayal of American values.

Already, nations like China sense a strategic opportunity under President Trump. When these programs go away, the Chinese will step in.

Are Republicans going to roll over and cede congressional power on these bipartisan programs? I sincerely hope not.

There is a lot at stake in the first few weeks of this new administration. I want to give the President a chance to show his values, but so far, I have to tell you, there is a lot of disappointment. This temporary freeze hurt a lot of innocent people, and this notion now of shutting down USAID—I can't imagine Elon Musk would have it on his conscience that so many helpless people would lose the basics of life for his budget plan. He wasn't elected to anything, and I think we should return to the Constitution, which still guides us today and should.

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

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

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, today, we find ourselves in a pivotal moment in American history, and millions of Americans, by their actions or lack of action, will determine the future of our country for decades.

In my view, the Trump administration is moving this country very aggressively into an oligarchic form of society where extraordinary power rests in the hands of a small number of unelected multibillionaires. The Trump administration is moving this country very aggressively into an authoritarian society, where the rule of law and our Constitution are being ignored and undermined in order to give more power to the White House and the billionaires who now control our government. The Trump administration is moving this country very rapidly toward a kleptocracy, where the function of government is not to serve the needs of ordinary people but to enrich those who are in power.

Mr. President, I think that today is a very good day to recall what one of our great Presidents said at Gettysburg in November of 1863. Looking out at a battlefield where thousands of Union soldiers had just sacrificed their lives in the defense of freedom and the ending of slavery, Abraham Lincoln famously stated:

The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did—

The soldiers did—

here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us—

The great task remaining before us.

—that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion—that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain—

And this is how he concluded—

That this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom—and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

“Government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth”—I fear very much that under President Trump we are not seeing a “government of the people, by the people, for the people,” but rather a government of the billionaire class, by the billionaire class, and for the billionaire class.

And what is really interesting is that none of this is happening behind closed doors. It is not being done in secret. It is right out there for everybody to see.

Several weeks ago, Donald Trump was inaugurated for a second term as President. Standing right behind him were the three richest men in America: Elon Musk, Jeff Bezos, and Mark Zuckerberg.

Combined, these three men are worth \$920 billion. These three men own more wealth than the bottom half of American society, 170 million people—three guys, 170 million people. And I should point out—and this should tell you exactly where we are going as a nation—these three men, the wealthiest three in America, have become some \$232 billion richer since Trump was elected, a few weeks ago—three guys, \$232 billion richer since Trump was elected.

This is how an oligarchic system works. Elon Musk, the wealthiest person in the world and now a key part of the Trump administration, spent over \$277 million to get Trump elected. In other words, within a corrupt campaign finance system, which allows billionaires to spend as much as they want, he helped buy the election for Mr. Trump.

Jeff Bezos and Mark Zuckerberg, the second and third wealthiest people in our country, both kicked a million dollars each into Trump's inauguration fund. And let us remember that Mr. Bezos who, among other things, owns the Washington Post, rescinded the endorsement of that paper for Kamala Harris just before the election.

Mr. Bezos was showing early on that he was willing to bend the knee for Donald Trump. Mark Zuckerberg, the founder and CEO of Meta, which owns Facebook and Instagram, agreed to settle a lawsuit with Trump for \$25 million.

These three multibillionaires are working with Trump for one very simple reason: They understand that Trump's policies are designed to make the very wealthiest people in this country even richer.

Since Trump's election, Mr. Musk has become \$154 billion richer—not bad in a couple of weeks' time. He earned a great investment. He only spent a cou-

ple of hundred million on the election, and now he is \$154 billion richer.

Mr. Bezos has become \$35 billion richer, and Mr. Zuckerberg has become \$43 billion richer.

I am concerned not only about the growing movement toward oligarchy in this country, but I am deeply worried that, under the leadership of President Trump, we are moving rapidly toward authoritarianism.

All over this country, people are alarmed and shocked by what they have seen in the last several weeks.

Just a few examples—just a few: Last week, President Trump attempted to suspend all Federal grants and loans, in direct violation of the U.S. Constitution and Federal law.

As every third grader in America knows—or I hope knows—the power of the purse in the United States belongs to Congress, not the President. Yes, the President can recommend legislation to Congress. The President can veto legislation Congress has passed. But he does not have the power to unilaterally terminate funding and legislation that has been passed by the U.S. Congress. That is a dangerous and blatantly unconstitutional act.

And I should add that Trump's blocking of Federal funding would have had a horrific impact on millions of Americans who utilize programs like Medicaid, Head Start, community health centers, Meals on Wheels, homeless veterans programs, and many, many other initiatives. Tens of millions of Americans, including some of the most vulnerable in our country, were impacted by that decision.

But that is not all.

A few days ago, Trump fired 17 inspectors general, independent government watchdogs that were created by Congress in the wake of the Watergate scandal to prevent the abuse of power by the executive branch.

Last week, President Trump fired a member of the National Labor Relations Board, and in so doing, effectively neutered the only Federal Agency in America with the authority to hold corporations accountable for illegal union busting and to protect the constitutional right of millions of workers who want to join unions in order to earn better wages, working conditions, and benefits. Not only is that move blatantly illegal, it is exactly what Elon Musk, the owner of Tesla, and Jeff Bezos, the owner of Amazon, have been fighting for months. They don't like unions, and what Mr. Trump has given them is the opportunity to make it much, much harder for workers to organize in their companies.

President Trump also illegally fired members of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, the only independent Commission in our country that protects workers against discrimination in the workforce.

Further, and what should upset every American—no matter whether you are conservative, moderate, or progres-

sive—is that, in direct violation of the Constitution and Federal law, Trump is intimidating the media, with lawsuits against ABC, CBS, Meta, and the Des Moines Register. His FCC is now threatening to investigate PBS and NPR. What Trump is essentially saying to every media outlet in America: If you say or do anything that is critical of me, that displeases me, you may be subject to a lawsuit or a Federal investigation.

If that is not a direct attack on the First Amendment, on the U.S. Constitution, and on free speech in our country, I don't know what is.

But that is not all.

Elon Musk and his unelected minions at DOGE have forced out officials at the Treasury Department and illegally shut down USAID, a program which, among other things, helps feed and provide medical help to starving and desperate children all over the world.

Presidents, much less unelected billionaires, do not have the unilateral right to shut down Federal Agencies established by Congress.

And when we talk about the very dangerous movement toward authoritarianism that we are seeing in this country now, let us not forget Trump's pardoning of the January 6 insurrectionists who injured 174 police officers right here, right outside this floor. Even worse, not only did he pardon those people, but Trump is undermining the FBI by actually investigating the agents there who helped bring these violent criminals to justice. Imagine that, pardoning the people who broke the law and investigating the people who upheld the law. That is not what America is supposed to be about.

And under Trump we are rapidly moving toward a kleptocracy as well. Just before the President was inaugurated, he and his wife launched their own cryptocurrency coins, giving them the potential to earn many billions of dollars.

If Wall Street CEOs tried to bribe the President with a bag full of money, that would be illegal; that is against the law. But now they don't have to do that. Today, if a multibillionaire or the head of a foreign country wants to curry favor with the President, all they have to do is buy his cryptocurrency coins; and when they do that, they are directly enriching Mr. Trump.

So the question that millions of Americans are asking is, given the move toward oligarchy, given the move toward authoritarianism, given the movement toward kleptocracy, where do we go from here? What should we, as Americans, be doing?

Let me tell you what I think and what most Americans think; and that is, instead of moving toward an economy which is designed to benefit the very richest people in our country, we have got to create an economy and a government that works for all of us, not just for Mr. Musk or Mr. Bezos or Mr. Zuckerberg.

At a time of massive wealth and income inequality, we have never had more income and wealth inequality than we have had right now. It is beyond stupidity to provide more tax breaks to the very richest people in our country and then to pay for those tax breaks by cutting back on Medicaid and other programs desperately needed by working families all across this country. That is what we should not be doing.

But let me take a moment to tell you what we should be doing. At a time when 85 million Americans are uninsured or underinsured in our broken healthcare system, we have got to do what every other major country on Earth does, and that is guarantee healthcare to all people as a human right, not a privilege. That is what we have got to do.

At a time when one out of four Americans cannot afford the outrageously high prices that the pharmaceutical industry charges, we have got to end the absurdity of the American people paying by far the highest prices in the world for prescription drugs. We have got to cut the cost of medicine in this country in half, making it comparable with what the rest of the world is paying.

The Federal minimum wage today is \$7.25 an hour. That is a starvation wage. While 60 percent of our people—60 percent of Americans—live paycheck to paycheck, we must raise that minimum wage to a living wage, at least \$17 an hour. If you work 40 hours a week in the richest country on Earth, you should not be living in poverty.

Mr. Musk and Mr. Bezos want to make it harder for workers to join unions. Well, we have got to do exactly the opposite: Make it easier for workers to join unions by passing the PRO Act.

At a time when we need the best educated workforce in the world, we need to have the best public schools in the world, and, among other things, that means we need to substantially raise teachers' salaries. We need to attract the best and the brightest young people into education, and we do that, among other things, by making sure that no teacher in America earns less than \$60,000 a year. We also radically reform our broken childcare system so the little kids in this country get the quality care they need and the workers there are adequately compensated.

All over this country, from Vermont to L.A., we have a major housing crisis, and it is not just the 800,000 Americans who are homeless; it is millions of working families who are spending 40, 50, or 60 percent of their limited incomes on housing.

Instead of spending almost \$1 trillion a year on a wasteful and bloated Pentagon budget, we have to build millions of units of low-income and affordable housing. When we do that, we put large numbers of American workers to work at good-paying, union jobs.

I have heard time and again from Mr. Trump's supporters that the President

won the election and he has been given this huge mandate—just an overwhelming mandate—to do whatever he wants. Well, no President has the right to move us to oligarchy or authoritarianism or kleptocracy. But more important, let's not forget that while Trump did win this election, he actually received 4 million fewer votes than Biden did in 2020 when Biden won the election.

So here we are. Where do we go? What do we do? I think now is the time for the American people to come together, to not allow those who want to divide us up by the color of our skin or our sexual orientation or where we were born—that is what they want to do. They want to divide us up. Now is the time for us to come together like never before and make certain we do not move toward oligarchy, make certain we do not move toward authoritarianism or a kleptocracy.

Most important, in the richest country in the history of the world, we must understand that we have the capability of providing a decent life for all of our people. We can do that when we stand together and we don't let folks divide us.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MORENO). The Senator from Iowa.

NOMINATION OF PAMELA BONDI

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, in a few minutes—probably shortly, I should say—we will vote to confirm Pam Bondi as the Attorney General of the United States. Before we do, I would like to speak in support of her nomination and, in doing that, urge my colleagues to vote for her, hopefully in a bipartisan way like we did for Garland under the Biden administration.

Ms. Bondi has been nominated to one of the most important offices in our country, and she has shown that she is up to that task. Her impressive record and presentation at her hearing are proof that she is ready to take the helm of the Justice Department.

Ms. Bondi made history in 2010 as the first woman elected to be Florida's attorney general. She held this role for 8 years after she was comfortably re-elected by the people of Florida to that second term. Eight years of service as attorney general of the third largest State in this Union is excellent preparation for the role of Attorney General of the United States.

As Florida's attorney general, Ms. Bondi was a member of the Florida cabinet, its chief legal officer, and led a very large agency. She handled many issues at the State level that she will be handling at the Federal level, and by all accounts, she has handled those jobs expertly.

As attorney general, Ms. Bondi didn't shy away from hard work or complicated problems. She engaged in an aggressive campaign to eliminate pill mills, took a leading role in securing a \$3¼ billion settlement following the Deepwater Horizon oilspill, and eliminated the backlog of rape kits. She also

stood for law and order and sought justice for victims of violent criminals. Her record shows that she is highly qualified to be Attorney General of the United States.

During her confirmation hearing, Ms. Bondi answered questions for more than 5 hours. What we learned during her hearing reinforced what we knew from her existing record as attorney general of Florida: She is a tough, fair, career prosecutor who built her reputation by enforcing the rule of law—pretty simple.

We also heard from witnesses who praised Ms. Bondi's character, fairness, and willingness to work with members of both parties to solve the problems in Florida, and we are sure she is going to work the same way as Attorney General of the United States.

What did we hear from these witnesses? We heard from an elected Democrat who never voted for President Trump. He said Ms. Bondi was fair, tethered to the rule of law, and could work with both Democrats and Republicans to serve the American people.

We heard from Florida's statewide prosecutor, who praised her competence running the legal department, as I have said, of the third largest State in the Union.

We heard from a Florida sheriff, who testified about her commitment to law and order and to her partnership with law enforcement to keep Floridians safe.

These witnesses have worked with Ms. Bondi for decades, and they all vouch for her capability and character.

Ms. Bondi's nomination has also received a flood of support from all across America. I have a group of people here that have expressed their view through letters to the committee. Law enforcement groups representing more than 650,000 officers wrote to urge us to support Ms. Bondi's nomination. A few of these groups include the National Association of Police Organizations, the Fraternal Order of Police, the National Sheriffs' Association, Major County Sheriffs, National Narcotic Officers' Associations, the International Association of Chiefs of Police, and still some others. This support is a testament to Ms. Bondi's history of backing the blue.

We should all be backing the blue. I just met with some law enforcement people just before coming over here, and I tell every one of them, I am not for defunding the police, and thank you for keeping the peace.

We have also received letters of support from more than 100 former senior Department of Justice officials, scores of former U.S. attorneys, dozens of State attorneys general, women's rights groups, Second Amendment groups, and, of course, others.

Between her record, her presentation in committee, and the support she has received from across the country, I am convinced that Ms. Bondi is the right choice.

When confirmed, Ms. Bondi will take the helm of what we all know is a turbulent time and also a Justice Department infected with political decision making and its leaders refusing to acknowledge that reality; in other words, political decision making at least on the seventh floor of the Hoover Building overtaking the major role of the FBI, and the FBI is part of the Justice Department. They aren't putting first things first.

Here are a few examples of political decision making and infection in the Department: Crossfire Hurricane; secondly, the Justice Department's targeting my staff—yes, that is right, my investigative staff—who at the time was investigating, at my direction, the government's abuse in Crossfire Hurricane; thirdly, coverup of the Hunter Biden laptop story and sweetheart plea deals offered by the Department of Justice to Hunter Biden; fourth, the FBI's inappropriate briefing to me and Senator JOHNSON during our Biden family investigation that was later leaked, and nothing is supposed to be leaked from what we call the SCIF; fifth, Special Counsel Jack Smith's lawfare operation—in other words, trying to put now-President Trump in jail; sixth, the targeting of traditional Catholics, concerned parents, and abortion protesters as security threats; and, seventh, the coordination of censorship of political speeches.

I don't have an eighth, ninth, tenth, eleventh, and twelfth, but they exist. I am not going to take your time on that.

All of these things that I mentioned, plus things I haven't mentioned, are very serious breaches of the public trust, and we can't tolerate that sort of breach.

I am confident Ms. Bondi will not tolerate that breach, and I am looking forward to working with her to shed sunlight on these abuses. And sunlight, as some Supreme Court Justice said, is the best attack against—oh, my gosh, I forgot exactly what it was. But sunshine coming in will really solve a lot of problems. This is the way I put it.

I say we need more transparency in government, and transparency brings accountability. I have already released new FBI records, in fact, just last week, with Senator JOHNSON that show even more political bias within the Justice Department and the FBI. These records prove that former FBI Special Agent in Charge Thibault, a known anti-Trump agent, authored the initial language for what ultimately became Jack Smith's Federal case against Trump regarding the 2020 Presidential election. That case was code-named "Arctic Frost." I don't know where they get the name "Arctic Frost," but that is what the case was called.

These records that we released last week showed a scheme in place between the Justice Department and FBI officials to get Trump. I had to rely on brave whistleblowers to uncover the truth because I was stonewalled by the

Justice Department and the FBI, and I was stonewalled even after they promised, at their own confirmation hearing, that they would answer the letters that Congressmen wrote them.

We never got any answers. In fact, there are 58 questions, in the last 4 years, that I have written to the FBI on my investigations that I have not gotten answers to.

So if you wonder why I am so passionate about Pam Bondi, I am confident that she is going to take a different approach and when she says "yes" for answering her letters, it will be yes, instead of what the other people should have said as the answer to that question, which is "maybe."

As the recent terrorist attacks in New Orleans and around the world have shown, we are faced with very serious threats to our national security. The President needs his team in place to protect our country, and the American people deserve a secure homeland and borders, safe streets, and orderly markets. We need to swiftly confirm a capable and serious Attorney General to get to work.

I am disappointed that none of my Democratic colleagues on the Judiciary Committee voted for Ms. Bondi in committee. I hope it will be different when we get to the full Senate. We had a bipartisan vote, as I have said previously, for Attorney General Garland. Maybe, in hindsight, we shouldn't have had, but we did.

There is no doubt that Ms. Bondi is highly qualified. In committee, several of my Democratic colleagues even acknowledged as much. She is qualified for the job. She represents mainstream views shared by at least the 77 million Americans who voted for change on November 5. This should earn her the same bipartisan support this body gave Attorney General Garland. That is the third time I have said that.

If my colleagues will not cross the aisle to vote for this qualified nominee, they will show that Senate Democrats are intent on opposing President Trump's Cabinet picks for purely partisan reasons, even at the same time they admit how fully qualified she is to do the job.

So ending now, I say once again, I proudly support Ms. Bondi. I look forward to confirming her. She is ready and able to serve our country well and I know she will work with President Trump to restore faith in the Justice Department. I urge all of my colleagues to join me in confirming Ms. Bondi.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

TARIFFS

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I am happy to be on the floor this afternoon with my colleague from New England, Senator WELCH from Vermont. We are neighboring States that have been spooning for a very long time. But we are here today to talk about a very serious issue, and that is the tariffs that

President Trump is talking about imposing on goods from Canada and Mexico and the impact that will have on Americans.

On Saturday, President Trump announced a 25-percent tariff, which would be a tax on imported goods from Canada and Mexico; and a 10-percent tariff, which would amount to a tax on imported energy from Canada and on all goods for China—so 10 percent on all goods for China and 10 percent on energy for Canada.

He has also threatened universal tariffs on all countries. Thankfully, the tariffs that he announced on Canada and Mexico appear to have been delayed for a month, but the tariff taxes on China are now in effect. Even though many of these tariff taxes were delayed, they are still scheduled to go into effect next month, and they have created unnecessary panic and uncertainty among businesses and families across the country and in New Hampshire.

I want to point out in the beginning, very clearly, that it is not foreign countries who pay these tariff taxes. It is Americans who pay these tariff taxes. These are tariff taxes on imported goods, meaning that the person or company who is importing the good will be footing the bill. And these costs will be passed on to American consumers and businesses.

You don't have to take my word for it. Best Buy's CEO said:

The vast majority of that tariff will probably be passed on to the consumer as a price increase.

And Walmart's CFO said:

There will probably be cases where prices will go up for consumers.

Columbia Sportswear's CEO said about tariffs:

We're set to raise prices. . . . [and] it's going to be very, very difficult to keep products affordable.

If we look at the cost of just the tariff taxes that were originally announced on Saturday, those would raise costs for the average American household by more than \$1,200 a year. If we get into a trade war, with increasingly high tariffs on both sides—and that is what appears could be happening with China—those costs will go up even more.

President Trump campaigned on a promise to lower prices for everything. The tariffs that he is talking about would have the exact opposite effect.

I am glad the administration and the President listened to reason. He delayed the start of these tariffs. But I hope we don't have to be back here in a few weeks making this case again.

I want to make sure that people understand what these tariff taxes will do and highlight some of the areas where Americans would be directly affected.

First is energy. America imports more oil and gas from Canada than any other product. In New Hampshire, more than half of the gas in people's cars comes from Canada. These tariff taxes would make gas prices go up, and they

could even lead to supply shortages because refinery and delivery infrastructure just doesn't turn on a dime.

President Trump's new 10 percent tariff tax on energy from Canada would also directly raise the cost of keeping warm for Granite Staters during the coldest months of this year. In New Hampshire, our No. 1 import from Canada is heating oil, and nearly a quarter of a million households in New Hampshire—that is about 40 percent of our households; more than Vermont, I think—rely on fuel oil to heat their homes. We are the second highest State in the Nation, next to Maine, that relies on No. 2 heating oil to heat our homes. Another 100,000 Granite Staters rely on propane, and about 30,000 homes use wood.

So that is about 60 percent of New Hampshire that relies on delivered fuel to stay warm. Much of that is coming from Canada. The average home in New Hampshire on heating oil uses about 600 gallons in a winter. And for older, draftier homes—and, sadly, we have a lot of those in New Hampshire, those who are further up north—families may be using upward of 1,000 gallons a winter. And with temperatures dipping as low as 20 below zero in the State in recent weeks, heating oil is a real necessity.

My constituents are already getting notices. I don't know, Senator WELCH, if the same is true of your constituents, but I bet it is. They are saying those notices tell them their costs are going to go up if these tariffs go into effect.

On Sunday, I heard from Derek in Sandwich, NH, who received a letter from his heating supplier, Irving Oil, that informed him that his bill for heating oil would be going up.

The letter stated:

As you may be aware, the U.S. Government has announced a new tariff on imports from Canada, including the heating oil or propane that Irving Energy delivers to you.

The letter went on to describe that the tariff costs will be added to the price that he pays, even though he already has a contract.

Derek wrote to me:

I will now have less to spend locally. My local businesses will suffer through lost business and increased costs. Then their suppliers and employees will suffer.

It is a real hardship.

On Inauguration Day, this year, heating oil cost an average of \$3.93 a gallon in New Hampshire. Tacking an ill-advised 10-percent tariff tax on heating oil from Canada could mean about \$150 to \$250 more for many in New Hampshire just to keep warm through the winter. And while for Elon Musk and his billionaire friends and the billionaire friends of the President \$150 to \$250 may not sound like a lot in a winter, there are a lot of people in New Hampshire for whom \$150 to \$250 is the difference between staying warm and being cold in the winter.

Let me also be clear: We don't use gas and heating oil from Canada be-

cause we don't produce it here in the United States. We do it because it makes logistical and economic sense, because in New England, we are at the end of the pipelines that are coming from Texas and the South.

The United States produces more oil than any other country in the history of the world. That was true during the last 3 years of the first Trump administration. It was true for the last four years of the Biden administration. But for New Hampshire, the St. John refinery in Canada simply provides us the closest, lowest cost supply. And, by the way, that refinery sources as much as half of its crude oil from the United States. So it is helping oil producers in the United States send their oil to the refinery, and we get it back in New Hampshire and New England.

President Trump campaigned on cutting energy prices in half. Reckless tariffs on Canada and Mexico would make those prices higher, not lower. New Hampshire families shouldn't be punished for what the Wall Street Journal has just called "The Dumbest Trade War in History."

That is not all. These tariff taxes will affect groceries because the United States imports 38 percent of our fresh vegetables, 60 percent of our fresh fruit, and more than 99 percent of the coffee that we drink. If we take all these together, Americans could be seeing an extra \$200 a year on their grocery bills because of the Trump tariff tax. That doesn't include the longer term impact of taxes on farm equipment or fertilizer. America imports about 85 percent of the potash fertilizer we use, and much of that comes from Canada.

We already have record-high prices for coffee and eggs—if you can find eggs. Some groceries stores are sold out. One of the things that just happened in the last week is that because of the stop-work order that President Trump put on our services that we provide overseas to track bird flu, we are no longer tracking the bird flu that has helped drive up the cost of eggs. So it could get worse, and we are not even going to know about it until we see those prices reflected at the grocery store.

Any new 25 percent tariff tax on these imports would make our food more expensive at a time when families are already stretching and straining their household budgets.

Tariffs sometimes get talked about as a way to support American manufacturers, but that also misses the mark. Half of the products the United States imports are either raw materials or intermediate components, and that means the parts we make into cars or electronics. All of these inputs would get more expensive for American manufacturers, which is only going to make it harder for them to compete internationally.

One of the messages I hear regularly from businesses is that uncertainty is one of the hardest things for them to

deal with. One example of this is a call I got 2 weeks ago from a small business owner in New Hampshire who sells specialized agricultural equipment both in the United States and overseas. This is a family business with five employees. His father founded it 50 years ago. He reached out specifically because he is worried about what tariffs on the components he buys from Canada could do to his business. For the specialized equipment that he needs, there aren't a lot of manufacturers out there. So he reached out to my office asking if he was going to have to pay \$5,000 more in costs for each of the machines he sells.

He took over this business just a couple of years ago, and he has been working to invest to modernize it and expand. Now he has to worry about whether he can try to grow the business, whether he might face new foreign competition, or even if he can pay out bonuses or give raises to his employees. He can't even be certain what kind of pricing schedule he should send out for the year because his costs could go up \$5,000 next month.

Last week, I heard from another small business, Granite State Packing. It is a startup meat processing company that is only 2 years old. They started just 2 years ago, and they already have 10 employees.

Last year, they actually got \$1.6 million in a grant from USDA to expand their operations. That is going to allow them to double their workforce. In order to expand, they placed an order for \$500,000 in new equipment because the specialized equipment they use isn't made in the United States.

Now, depending on how and when these tariffs go into effect and when their equipment might get delivered, they could be looking at a bill—an increased bill—for \$125,000. That is going to affect whether they can follow through on the expansion, whether they can actually add the staff they want to add, and they don't have any way of knowing if they are going to face an unexpected \$125,000 bill because President Trump and this administration haven't made up their minds what they are going to do about these tariffs.

Over the weekend, I had another business owner from C&J Bus Lines. They run a great bus line from the seacoast of New Hampshire to Boston. The owner told me that they have ordered seven buses from Quebec, new buses. They are made in Quebec. These tariffs would add \$150,000 to the cost of each bus. Between that and the higher fuel costs they would pay, they could be looking at \$1.3 million more in added costs this year because of the Trump tariff tax.

No small business can easily just absorb a 25-percent price increase, nor can they plan on how to grow their business and keep providing good-paying jobs with this kind of uncertainty.

Make no mistake, I am glad the administration delayed these tariffs. I hope they understand how this action

would affect America's small businesses and the impact this would have on the economy.

Let me finally just talk about the housing impacts because New Hampshire has an affordable housing crisis. These tariffs would make that worse.

Lumber makes up about 15 percent of the cost of building a house, and a lot of building materials, in addition to lumber, are imported. The National Association of Homebuilders wrote in part that "imposing additional tariffs on these imports will . . . ultimately be passed on to home buyers in the form of increased housing prices." That means that this 25 percent tariff tax would directly add to the cost of building a home at a time when too many Granite Staters and too many Americans across the country already can't afford housing.

We shouldn't pretend that American tariffs are going to go unanswered. Other countries are going to retaliate. Getting into a tit-for-tat trade war is not going to help working Americans pay their bills.

Families across New Hampshire and America are worried about the high cost of housing, about the cost of groceries, and about what it costs to heat their homes. Business owners are similarly worried about costs or unexpected expenses. I am hearing regularly from them about the impact of the uncertainty on their ability to grow their businesses because of these tariffs.

President Trump promised during his campaign to "lower the price of everything," but instead of doing something to lower costs, what he is doing now, what his administration is doing, is planning to add a 25-percent tariff tax to countless imports from Canada and Mexico, and they have already added a 10-percent tariff tax on goods coming in from China.

Again, while this was delayed at the last minute, this would raise costs for everything from groceries, to housing, to energy. It would disproportionately hit lower income families.

I am glad for the delay—I don't want people to misunderstand that—but how is a business or a family supposed to plan when they don't know if important costs like gas or heating or groceries are going to spike any day?

I want to finish by reading a quote here. The quote says:

Tariffs are inflationary and would strengthen the dollar—hardly a good starting point for a US industrial renaissance.

That is a quote from Scott Bessent, the new Treasury Secretary who just got confirmed, when he wrote to his investors just a year ago. I happen to agree with what he said then, but unfortunately the administration he just joined seems to be willing to risk more inflation.

These sweeping tariff tax increases would hurt American families, businesses, and workers. I am glad the taxes on goods from Canada and Mexico were delayed. I hope this administration can provide everyone with cer-

tainty that they won't go into effect next month.

I yield to my colleague from Vermont.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. WELCH. Mr. President, everything my colleague, the senior Senator from New Hampshire, said about New Hampshire and about how people are really struggling to pay their bills, the cost of rent, the cost of housing, home heating fuel in the winter, which has been brutal, groceries—that is totally the same situation for families in Vermont, and it is around the country. I can't add, really, to the recitation of the practical consequences that this has on businesses and on Vermont families beyond what Senator SHAHEEN said.

But it really mystifies Vermonters. People come up to me, and they say, "PETER, seriously, this is going to increase our grocery prices. This is going to mean lumber is more expensive. This is going to mean home heating fuel"—and we rely on Canadian gas probably more than you do—but also home heating fuel. "This is going to raise our prices." And that 150 bucks to 200 bucks you are talking about—that is real money.

They just are mystified that we would, through the President, increase their monthly bills. And for what reason?

You know, I want to talk a little bit about that. New Hampshire and Vermont—we mostly get along, but we are rivals in hockey and other things. But we both have incredibly close relationships with Canada. They are our friends. We have a library in Derby, VT, that is half in Vermont and half in Canada, and our kids are going back and forth to play hockey. That is just on a very personal level, the affection that we have for Canada and they have for us. They come down and ski on our mountains. They come down and visit, and we go up there.

There is an element of "PETER, what is going on? National security is the reason you are doing this? Is there a threat from Canada to our national security? We know there isn't."

So this is an arbitrary decision that is made by the President, in my view, abusing authority that Congress gave him to use tariffs if there is, in fact, a national security threat, which all of us in a commonsense way would think might be something from a military threat or it might be from the coercive economic policies we face from China. There is a legitimate case there for national security. But Canada has been in the trenches with us in every war we have had. They have been by our side. They are our friends.

You know, that is another thing people say: PETER, you don't treat your friends this way. You just don't do that.

So I had a concern about what the impact was on Vermont, and instead of me speculating about it, what we did is

invited some Vermonters who had businesses and some Vermont families to come and tell us what is going to happen if we have these tariffs. Let me tell you some of what they said.

We met in Saint Albans, which is a few miles from the Canadian border. I asked these businesses: Just tell us what happens.

First of all, there was nobody from these businesses who said that the cost of this tariff would not be passed on to the consumer, all right? Common sense. It is like somehow, if there is a 25-percent increase in cost, the business can just eat it, when we know, especially our small businesses, they are operating on the margin. They are doing every single thing they can to make their product competitive and affordable for the people they are serving. These are really, really good people who are totally committed to the communities they are in. Every one of them said that whatever the cost of the tariff is, that is going to be passed on to the consumer—not that they like to do that, but they have to pay their own bills. It is just reality.

The second thing they talked about was the uncertainty that occurs for businesses. One business was talking about how, when these tariffs go in—by the way, we have some history with this from the last Trump administration. There was supposedly a tariff, but if you knew the back entrance into the White House and could make a connection with somebody who had influence, you could get an exemption. So you get this terrible situation—which is not going to be available, by the way, for our Vermont fuel dealers or our Vermont homebuilders. If you knew somebody, you somehow got out of the tariff. And there was no guidance about how these tariffs would have been rolled out, so there was an enormous opportunity for special treatment to be given.

But even then, there is the complexity of this. For instance, one manufacturer was talking about if you got a certain kind of aluminum, it was subject to the tariff, but if you got an ever so slightly different definition of aluminum, you wouldn't be subject to the tariff. So you have a whole production process that has been using aluminum A that would be subject to a tariff, and if you go to aluminum B—if you can find it—it won't be subject to a tariff. If you got a square panel, it would be subject; if it was rectangular, it wouldn't. I mean, this is truly bizarre because there is no common sense in this at all.

So I keep asking the question: Why? Why are we doing this? Why are we inflicting this complexity on our businesses? Why are we inflicting this cost on our consumers and on our businesses? And there is no justification for it at all.

So let me go through some of the stories:

Garret Hirschak at Manufacturing Solutions—they do precision machining.

They are a manufacturer. That is what we want. And there are no margins on it. They work with sheet metal and cardboard. He said these tariffs create a whole burden to determine what is tariffed—the type or shape of aluminum—and he is bracing to respond to whatever chaos comes next.

This company has been in business for 29 years, and it employs 275 people. That is a big deal in our State of Vermont—a big deal. Why mess with him? Why?

Rock Gaulin at H2O Innovation—they make—we have better maple syrup than New Hampshire, I am sorry to say, and definitely better than Canada. They make the equipment that is used in maple syrup production, and this is going to increase their costs and threaten jobs.

And it really does threaten jobs, OK. And then, if you lose a market, by the way, then it is hard to get it back. So this company that might face this huge increase in the cost of aluminum to manufacture its product could lose market share and not be able to claw their way back.

Mike Tetreault from Poulin Grain: Poulin Grain is a great Franklin County, family-run—actually Northeast Kingdom, too—family-run grain dealer. They have been around for generations. And they have kept—they are a huge contribution to keeping our dairy farms going. They import organic grain, a huge market in Vermont. Their products are heavy to transport—think of corn and canola and oats—so they need to buy nearby, and they buy from Canada. And importantly, it is 30 to 40 percent of what they buy. And these tariffs could cost them about \$10 million.

And it is just like the fuel dealers. They have got a contract, but they honor their customers. They can't eat \$10 million. It just can't be done.

So the Poulin family is really worried about the costs rising for farmers, who are on the thinnest of thin margins. And nobody works harder than our dairy farmers. That is hard work. But it is so important to us in the State of Vermont, that we give them every chance to succeed when they are facing tough odds every day.

And why in the world would an act of the President of the United States add to the burden these dairy farmers already face when they are trying to hang on? It just doesn't make any sense to me.

Mike also said something that is really important: The unknown and uncertainty is very difficult.

There seems to be a point of view in the Trump administration—the President, I will be candid—that he thinks chaos is a good negotiating tool. I will leave it to others to decide their view on that, but if the chaos creates this uncertainty for the Poulin Grain Company, for the dairy farmers in Franklin County, for a family that is hoping they can build a house and they thought they had a price, for a family

that is struggling to pay for groceries at the end of the month, that uncertainty is really an infliction of distress. It is unfair.

And to create uncertainty in everyday people who are trying to live in their community, do a good job for the people that they serve; families that are trying to make their contribution in the community and keep the well-being of their family together, and they are on a tight margin—it is cruel to inflict unnecessary uncertainty.

The people from Vermont, the people from New Hampshire—and I think this is true around the country—they are OK with facing hard and grim circumstances, and they will grit their way through it. And they will take care of their kids, and they will take care of their community. They will be generous.

But—you know what—when the hardship that is something they have to deal with is a hardship that has been arbitrarily inflicted upon them by authorities or powers in Washington—in this case, the President—and, in my view, totally improper invocation of so-called national security with our biggest ally, Canada, then they start to wonder. That makes the burden even more and more difficult.

So another person was there, Sarah Mearhoff, who was a representative of the General Contractors of Vermont. And they do all the building. They have been incredible with the infrastructure challenges we have had after Tropical Storm Irene—that was a while ago—and then the floods that we had in July of 2023 and then again in July of 2024.

The cost of raw materials is already very expensive. And she quoted one of her members—Kevin Moyer from Vermont Frames—saying:

Tariffs have always been bad for everyone. As a business owner who buys a lot of timber from Canada, I'm very worried about the impact of tariffs on my company. I cannot absorb those costs, and will have to push them through to my clients in the form of price increases, which will make my company less competitive versus other construction techniques like conventional framing.

So I keep asking myself: Why are we doing this to folks who are so essential to the well-being of the communities that we represent?

And, by the way, you have got two border State Senators here. And we have a lot in common, but everything we have said applies to similar businesses in every single State in the country. So this is not a Republican or Democrat deal. These tariffs are going to cost our families—our families that the Presiding Officer represents, that the senior Senator from New Hampshire represents, and that I represent—it is going to cost them more money. And for what? What are we getting in return?

So I, too, am very relieved, actually, on behalf of the people of Vermont and the people in New Hampshire and the people of this country, that there has been a temporary pause in these tar-

iffs, but the uncertainty goes on. There will be no more justification 30 days from now to impose these tariff taxes on Vermonters and on New Hampshireites than there is today. And today, there is no justification. In 30 days, there will be no justification.

And I would call on the President to get real in accepting the consequences to everyday families, to small businesses. These aren't billionaires. These are really hard-working people in Vermont and in New Hampshire, and they just, rightly, don't understand this.

So, yes, it is good the tariffs have been suspended. It is really bad that they were ever threatened to be imposed. They will never do any good when there is a bogus reason—so-called national security—and a real abuse of that authority by the President, to invoke that with respect to our closest ally and neighbor in the trenches with our soldiers in every war we have been in.

So I just urge President Trump to do the right thing here. He can be tough. He can pursue his policies. But the first principle that every one of us in public office should respect is that we do no harm to the people we represent by the policies we advocate.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

USAID

Mr. WELCH. Mr. President, over the past 2 weeks, political operatives in the administration of President Trump and Elon Musk have shown the American people and the world that they plan to destroy as much of the professional workforce in the executive Agencies as they can get away with.

Whether it is illegal—and it is—or unconstitutional—and it is—is of no concern. Inspectors general and career civil servants who have served the American people for decades—some for their entire professional lives—are being summarily removed without any due process at all—due process they are legally entitled to.

They are being replaced with Musk-approved partisans who have little, if any, government experience or little, if any, substantive knowledge. They do have a qualification, and that is total loyalty to the President.

On top of Mr. Musk's list of Agencies to eliminate in the United States is the U.S. Agency for International Development, or USAID, as we know it. That has been the subject of a ferocious attack by Mr. Musk.

That Agency is one that not many Americans know about but which fulfills a vital mission. It has a relatively small budget—less than 1 percent of the total Federal budget—and it has a large responsibility to support humanitarian, economic development, and governance programs in more than 100 countries.

Whatever "savings" Elon Musk might obtain from cutting USAID would have no appreciable impact in

offsetting Mr. Trump's huge tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans. It wouldn't even amount to a rounding error. And the manner in which this has been done I find extremely disturbing.

Mr. Musk—and, by the way, for all his brilliance, he has no government experience himself—he called USAID a “criminal organization.” Dozens of USAID's dedicated senior officials, including the Office of the General Counsel, were purged. That has not happened before. That has not happened before in this country. And over the weekend, Musk called USAID “evil” and a “viper's nest of radical-left marxists who hate America.”

Others in the administration have accused USAID personnel of insubordination and acting against American interests without producing any evidence to back that up, reminiscent of the McCarthy era: Make the accusation, destroy the reputation, and move on. That is a serious question, and we should—each of us—be asking the implications of this language.

I find Mr. Musk's accusations appalling. I know they are factually baseless, and, frankly, I find them despicable. It is also curious because, in 2022, his company Starlink received millions of dollars from USAID for Starlink's operation in Ukraine, not to mention the incredible amount of taxpayer subsidies that helped Tesla become the major company that it is. Mr. Musk—he is a billionaire, as we know—has no reluctance to take taxpayer funds from USAID. None. He took money from USAID. It was a good organization when the money was coming to him to help us in Ukraine, but now he is calling it a criminal organization.

And I doubt that he knows what 99 percent of USAID employees do or the positive impact they have on the lives of people around the world and on U.S. national security—the obligation all of us have as Members of the U.S. Senate. I wonder if he has ever met or has ever spoken to anyone who works at any of the 60 overseas missions or seen with his own eyes what USAID does in countries like Indonesia, Ethiopia, Haiti, Mozambique, Ghana, or Guatemala, just to name a few, where the lives of countless people really do benefit from USAID.

And being billionaires, President Trump and Elon Musk may not be aware that fully 1 billion people in the world live on less than \$1 a day. They may not be aware that the lives of hundreds of millions of people, especially children, are threatened by diseases that can be prevented or cured with drugs that cost only a few pennies.

Or maybe Mr. Musk is not aware that the life of every American is threatened by the spread of infectious diseases. We saw that with COVID, and there is other diseases out there where what we do elsewhere protects the health and safety of people right here at home.

Or maybe Mr. Musk isn't concerned that the Earth's tropical forests and

endangered species are being decimated by illegal miners, loggers, and wildlife traffickers, who are often in collusion with local police and transnational criminal organizations, to feed, by the way, China's insatiable demand for minerals, timber, and wildlife—consequences to the environment be damned. USAID works with local governments and organizations to protect forests in South and Central America, central Africa, and in Indonesia, and to train wildlife rangers to combat poaching and trafficking.

It may make absolutely no difference to Mr. Musk, as it clearly doesn't to President Trump, that the rising acidity of the oceans and plastic pollution are destroying what remains of the world's coral reefs and marine species at the bottom of the food chain, due to the burning of fossil fuels. And USAID works to protect marine ecosystems and support reduction of fossil fuels, carbon emissions, and reduced plastic waste.

Government corruption, repression, and impunity may not be a priority in other countries for President Trump and Elon Musk to take on, even though they are major causes of the poverty in the world, political instability and violence, narcotics trafficking and migration in our own hemisphere. So what happens in these countries makes a difference in what happens here, especially with respect to immigration.

And these are just a few of the many complex global problems that USAID personnel work to address every day—every single day—partnering with foreign governments and thousands of nongovernmental organizations. Those are real people; they are doing real work, even though they aren't CEOs. They are doing their best to address poverty, environmental degradation, corruption in governance.

It is affecting nongovernmental organizations, contractors, and institutions of higher education in Vermont, this attack on USAID. These are Vermont organizations that have a long history of implementing USAID humanitarian and development programs. I will mention a few. World Learning, Tetra Tech/ARD, Resonance, and the Vermont Afghan Alliance are examples; they are being decimated as a result of this order.

Suddenly, out of the blue, without even an hour's notice, these organizations and others were forced to shut down programs and lay off staff with no idea of what comes next. Many of their employees are working overseas where they are stranded without even the ability to have funds to pay for flights home. That is how sudden it was. And unlike Mr. Musk, they don't have their own private jets.

This sends a message to the people of those countries that the United States can't be relied on; it is pretty cruel to create that uncertainty, that confusion, and then that desperation.

The U.S. Agency for International Development, like any Federal Agency,

is not perfect, and any time there is talk of reform coming from your side of the aisle or ours, I am all ears, because anything we can do to make what we have work better, we all have an obligation to do our part.

But USAID was established by an act of Congress more than 25 years ago, and constitutionally, no President and no unelected billionaire can unlawfully shut a congressionally authorized Agency down. There is no authority to do that, and we shouldn't stand by and essentially abdicate our article I authority and cede the capacity to a President to pick and choose among Agencies, legally authorized by the Congress, as to whether he will destroy it or continue it.

You know, some folks have said that shutting down USAID is part of the President's plan to reduce the national debt; it isn't. You know, I think the President cares a lot less about the national debt—it went up by more than \$7 trillion to pay for tax cuts, and eliminating the USAID would make no dent in that at all.

Some have said that we need to better align USAID's programs with the policies of the State Department. That is something that is worth discussing, and I would have some confidence in Secretary Rubio taking a serious look at how that can be done.

But that is already being done, by and large. Diplomacy is the job of the State Department. It is not the same as development, which is what the USAID does. And you don't shut an Agency down, freeze billions of dollars in authorized programs, silence or remove entirely the senior staff, and lock thousands of employees out of their offices. I mean, this is unbelievable. They locked the door, so people show up for work and they can't get in. And you do that without any notice before having any discussion. This is the difference between disruption, that can be good, and destruction, which is terrible.

And I believe that it is our job as Senators to speak up in defense of the civil service, the foreign service, their families, USAID's autonomy, and the foreign assistance programs that Republicans and Democrats have strongly supported for generations, programs that have been the building blocks of U.S. security partnerships and alliances around the world that we depend on to prevent conflict, respond to humanitarian disasters, and by the way, create markets for U.S. exports and counter the malign influence of our adversaries.

As my colleague, the senior Senator from South Carolina, has said year after year when speaking about USAID:

Soft power is a critical component of defending America and our values.

He has been a consistent defender of USAID's workforce and budget, as have many other Republican Members of Congress, leaders of the U.S. business community, and senior military officers who understand that diplomacy

and development are as important to preventing conflict as the threat of military force and a strong military, which we support.

It wasn't long ago that Secretary Rubio—then our colleague Senator Rubio—praised USAID's work in global health, in aiding victims of natural disasters, in supporting Venezuelans who were persecuted by that dreadful Maduro. Until Elon Musk decided that it is "time for [USAID] to die"—really said that, "time for [USAID] to die"—USAID previously had always received bipartisan support.

This is no time for the Congress of the United States, the U.S. Senate, to stand by passively while an Agency that plays a unique, indispensable role in protecting the interests and the influence, the security and the reputation of the United States around the world is decapitated and dismantled. Those responsible for this self-inflicted disaster have no respect for the law, no respect for the will of Congress, and no respect for the thousands of truly patriotic public servants who have devoted their lives to defending the interests of the United States and presenting a positive face of America in some of the world's most dangerous places.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CURTIS). The Senator from Nevada.

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

Ms. ROSEN. Mr. President, it has now been more than 2 weeks since President Donald Trump took the oath of office, and there have been virtually no actions—virtually no actions—to lower costs at the grocery store.

On the campaign trail, Donald Trump made promises, over and over, that he would address rising costs. In fact, he said, "On day one, we will end inflation and make America affordable again." On day one.

And he said, "When I win, I will immediately bring prices down, starting on day one."

Well, way past day one, it is now day 16 of his Presidency, and so far, the Trump administration has failed to meet the President's own goal and promise to hard-working families.

Just look what it costs to buy milk, bread, and eggs. When Nevadans are going to the grocery store, many are seeing empty shelves where the eggs are supposed to be. And the eggs people do find, well, they cost an arm and a leg.

So just look at this picture here from Reno, NV, a grocery store there, empty shelves, that is where the eggs would be. And meanwhile, the Trump administration is doing nothing to help fix this or stop corporations from jacking up the prices. Instead, President Trump has been cozying up to billionaire CEOs and taking actions that will hurt families and drive prices up and up. Trump's first actions were to push through a whirlwind of Executive orders, including to roll back actions to lower prescription drug prices.

So I want to repeat that. One of President Trump's first actions was to stop efforts to lower your prescription drug costs. And just this past weekend, President Trump announced reckless tariffs on Mexico and Canada. This is essentially a new tax on hard-working families for products from these two countries—our biggest trading partners, by the way.

While he has promised to delay his tax on Canadian and Mexican goods for a month, ultimately these tariffs will hurt our economy. Canada is Nevada's biggest export partner. They provide us with chicken, with grain, sugar, and livestock. And the impact of these tariffs, well, they don't just stop at the grocery store shelves; they will also increase what you pay at the fuel pump. They will increase the price of construction materials, making housing even more expensive.

And so I ask everyone in this Chamber, I ask everyone across the Nation: How does that help you? How does that help you? How does it help lower costs? How does it help provide financial relief for families? How does it make your paycheck go farther? How does it put more money in your pocket? It doesn't.

President Trump, he is now even saying that inflation is no longer his No. 1 issue. He has flipped on his promise to you. He has flipped on his promise to you. And the fact is as Americans work hard every day, Nevada families, the finest families in our Nation, they work hard every day, and many are struggling to get by because prices have skyrocketed over the last few years.

It is why I have been taking action to lower costs for families and reduce their financial burden to give folks some much-needed breathing room, to make their paycheck go even farther. I am working to lower housing costs by investing in our construction workers to increase our housing supply. I helped lead the charge, last year, against the proposed Kroger-Albertsons megamerger that would have let grocery stores jack up prices even higher than they already are.

And there are steps we in Congress can take and have been taking to tackle inflation.

I urge the President to take this issue seriously and tackle it head on, and I am willing to work with him and work with anyone else if it means lowering costs for hard-working families.

But we need to get going right now. So I urge my colleagues, Democrats and Republicans, to come together and prioritize solving kitchen-table issues, instead of pushing extreme wedge issues. It is what the American people need us to do for them. That is what the American people are counting on us to do for them. We need to get busy and do that.

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

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

NOMINATION OF PAMELA BONDI

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, shortly, Senate Republicans will confirm the nomination of Pam Bondi to serve as Attorney General and lead the Department of Justice in the new administration.

Yesterday, I came to the Senate floor to discuss the Trump administration's decision to purge Department of Justice officials and warned that Ms. Bondi's record suggests that she will aid in this effort to pack the Department of Justice with loyalists seeking retribution against President Trump's political rivals.

Since the Watergate era, there has been bipartisan support for the principle that the Department of Justice investigations and prosecutions must be independent from the White House. Over the years, both Republicans and Democrats have asked many individuals seeking the office of Attorney General one basic question: Will you be willing to tell the President no?

Given that Ms. Bondi, when speaking about President Trump's criminal indictments, threatened "the prosecutors will be prosecuted, and the investigators will be investigated," I have serious doubts about her willingness to really say no to this President.

This concern is even more pressing because, over the last 16 days, the Trump administration has purged dozens of senior career law enforcement officials at the Department of Justice and at the FBI. This purge has been particularly focused on dedicated, non-partisan prosecutors and investigators working in the National Security Division and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

On its first day, the Trump administration removed or reassigned as many as 20 experienced professionals with invaluable national security expertise, without any comparable replacements, including the veteran career Deputy Assistant Attorneys General in the National Security Division. These are men and women we have entrusted with the responsibility to keep America safe. They were summarily dismissed by this new President just days into his administration. Those who have been reassigned are reportedly being put in roles concerning immigration enforcement, for which they have little expertise.

We had a hearing this morning about fentanyl and talked about some 70,000 Americans each year losing their lives to this terrible drug. We are all concerned and expressed it at this hearing. But some of the very people who are working in drug enforcement are going to be removed and put into mass deportation of immigrants.

We have said over and over again that if the President is setting out to do what he promised he would do, he

needs more personnel to get it done or he will have to cut back invaluable functions of our law enforcement community at the risk of endangering the families and businesses in America.

Since that warning, dozens more senior officials have been removed. At the FBI, at least six FBI Executive Assistant Directors, or EADs, have been removed, including the EADs who oversee the National Security Branch, Intelligence Branch, and the Criminal, Cyber, Response, and Services Branch. The Trump administration has also removed special agents in charge of at least four major field offices and the Assistant Director of the Washington Field Office.

The Acting Attorney General has also issued a memo firing dozens of career DOJ prosecutors, stating:

Given your significant role in prosecuting the President, I do not believe that the leadership at the Department can trust you . . . in implementing the President's agenda faithfully.

The Trump administration has even asked line attorneys and agents to retire, resign, or be fired simply for handling tasks linked to the investigation of President Trump or prosecution of his misconduct.

The Acting FBI Director informed the entire FBI workforce that he was reviewing the files of "all current and former FBI personnel assigned at any time to investigations and/or prosecutions" relating to January 6 and unrelated terrorism cases.

Mr. President, if you are a student of history, you know that when the communists took over the Soviet Union, one of the things that they gloried in doing was rewriting history, trying to make the bad chapters, the embarrassing chapters, the sad chapters different so that future generations never were really quite sure what happened. That is exactly what is going on with January 6, 2021.

Despite the graphic video evidence of what happened on that day when this insurrectionist mob tried to take control of this Capitol and stop the transfer of power from Donald Trump to Joseph Biden—despite the clear evidence to the contrary, they continue to believe that this is a hoax, that somehow these were just tourists coming by the Capitol. Those of us who were there, those of us who remember the danger that was brought by these mobsters and thugs, know that is a lie.

Now they are going through the Department of Justice and saying: If you were involved in prosecuting any of these people who beat up on the policemen in this building, tore down the structures, broke the windows; if you were involved in any prosecution involving them, you are not welcome at the Department of Justice.

They want to rewrite history. They want future generations to believe the lie that they have perpetrated about what happened on that day. Those of us who were there will never forget what actually did happen.

The interim U.S. attorney for DC also ordered an internal review of staff handling cases relating to January 6, moved to dismiss all pending charges against those defendants, and has already fired dozens of prosecutors and investigators who worked those cases.

The people who were spared by the pardon of Donald Trump include individuals who are dangerous. One had a record of 38 convictions for crimes, and they are now back out on the street.

Over the past weekend, thousands of FBI personnel across the country were told to complete a questionnaire that asked a series of questions about their involvement in the prosecution and investigation of January 6.

This shameless partisan retribution is only the beginning. It has been reported that future FBI Director Kash Patel, if he is chosen by the Senate, will be guided by an advisory committee composed of solely partisan political operators, including an associate of Elon Musk's. Elon Musk. Who elected him? By what authority does he have any voice in the administration of our government? Why should he or his minions have access to the private records of American citizens? It is happening.

These actions will cripple FBI field offices and U.S. attorneys' offices across the country by increasing the caseload for the remaining agents, dramatically slowing down critical investigations and prosecutions.

The Trump Department of Justice is taking this partisanship beyond the President's personal grievances, as many as there may be. They are already dropping criminal investigations against the President's allies, such as Congressman ANDY OGLES. They also have begun systemically stripping the Department of Justice of vital, substantive expertise by reducing personnel from the law and policy sections of various divisions, such as the Environment and Natural Resources Division, which pursues polluters who poison our communities.

As America faces a heightened threat landscape, these shocking removals and reassignments of hundreds of employees deprive the Department of Justice and FBI of experienced leadership and decades of experience fighting violent crime, espionage, and terrorism.

For years, my Republican colleagues claimed they "back the blue" and accused Democrats of being soft on crime. We heard it over and over and over. But now, as President Trump is gutting our Nation's law enforcement Agencies and putting our national security at risk, my Republican colleagues do not complain. They are nowhere to be found.

Instead of condemning these actions, they will likely come to the Senate floor tonight and confirm an individual to lead the Department of Justice who is in lockstep with this policy of President Trump and was chosen for the role specifically because she is loyal. More than anything else, she is loyal.

I urge my colleagues to consider what a danger President Trump and Pam Bondi present to this Nation. I will oppose her confirmation and hope my colleagues will do the same.

I will also say letters went out today asking for further hearings on Kash Patel. I have been reading his response to the questions for the record—QFR—and I can tell you, they raise more questions than they answer. He has an attitude. To think this man will be in charge of 38,000 FBI agents and personnel, 400 field offices across the Nation and around the world, is going to have the authority to investigate those whom he chooses, is a frightening thing. His message in politics is "get even."

I read his book. It is called "Government Gangsters." This book, in specific detail, talks about his view of politics. He has a long list of grievances, political and personal, and he plans to get even. That is not the kind of person we need in charge of the FBI. He has no experience to point to of any significance which qualifies him for this job.

We have had many Directors of the FBI chosen for long periods of time because of our change in the law. We now have a 10-year period of service for the Director of the FBI, and we also do our best to make sure they are apolitical since they bridge various administrations, not just one or two. That is part of the law, and that is the reason we did it.

Now we are going to put a man in that position who has no experience, no background, and a political chip on his shoulder. I am afraid that is just a recipe for disaster.

I urge my colleagues to think twice about Pam Bondi and Kash Patel. This is not what we should expect or want from the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Department of Justice.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

MR. WELCH. Mr. President, I believe that the Attorney General may, in fact, be the most important position in a President's Cabinet, and if it is not the most important, it certainly is the most difficult.

Whoever is our Attorney General is a person that serves all of us. They have two clients. They have the President who appointed her or him and they have the Constitution.

Let me be clear that I have no objections to any President, including President Trump, appointing someone that the President is close to. President Kennedy appointed his brother. I do have a problem with any President seeing the job of Attorney General to be the person who runs "my Justice Department," and that is how President Trump has characterized it—"my Justice Department."

So we have this dilemma with respect to coming to a conclusion on the use of the responsibility that the Senate as an institution has for the advice and consent of a Cabinet member.

I start from the orientation that a President should be able to pick his team and that we should take up nominations and move on them, vote on them expeditiously. My orientation is that the President is entitled to the benefit of the doubt but not to a blank check.

What is also difficult for me with respect to this appointment is that, in my view, Pam Bondi is accomplished and competent and qualified. I have great respect for her work as a county prosecutor in Florida, and I have great respect for her work as attorney general in the State of Florida. I have great respect for the fact that, as a woman, she made that decision to run for attorney general and had to overcome pretty significant odds in order to win that position.

I also remember, Mr. Ranking Member, that she had great testimony from people whom she worked with, and I think both you and I have a great deal of respect for folks who have a leadership position and treat their subordinates with great respect and have their affection and confidence, and that came through in the testimony of people who have worked with Ms. Bondi.

My grave concern is really about President Trump and what he is clearly demanding of the person, whoever it is—and now it is Ms. Bondi—what the President is demanding, and that clearly is a loyalty oath to him as opposed to a demand for straightforward, candid advice, including, if the President is asking something to be done, like the prosecution of a political adversary, that the answer, Mr. President, has to be no. That is what the President is demanding. We can argue on both sides about whether that is the case, but the evidence is overwhelming.

The question that I have asked a number of nominees, including Mr. Patel and including Ms. Bondi, is, Who won the 2020 election? It is pretty clear that the President's team, in preparing folks for that inevitable question, came up with an acceptable answer. The acceptable answer is that President Biden was the President; President Biden was certified. No one could just say the straightforward: President Biden won.

In the closest election in our history, *Bush v. Gore*, after the Supreme Court made its decision, not only did Al Gore accept the outcome, but Democrats did, Americans did. That was pre-January 6 when we all relied on the guardrail in the Constitution that there would be a commitment to a peaceful transfer of power and that there would be renunciation of violence as a means of persuasion in the outcome of an election.

January 6 did change that. There was an attack on the Capitol. Many of us were here. That was inspired by President Trump. He invited people to come: "It will be wild."

It was provoked because the President used the enormous authority he had and the enormous credibility he

had with people who supported him to begin peddling the "Stop the Steal" narrative; the election was stolen.

President Trump has never, ever given up on that. As far as he is concerned, he says to every person and every audience: That election is stolen.

People who were going to work in his administration, in a vetting process, had to answer that question in the way that was acceptable to then-duly elected President Trump. That is not acceptable to me. It is not acceptable.

President Biden won. President Trump won this last election. I didn't vote for him, but I can say it. I can acknowledge it and do the best I can as a member of the minority party.

But we now have a President who is now allowing a person to have a dual loyalty to him, yes, and to the Constitution, to make it clear for that person who is nominated for a law enforcement position, that they accept his narrative of what happened in 2020. It is really dangerous, in my view, for our country.

The President has gone on, much to my regret, intensifying that concern that many of us have as to whether there will be an adherence to the rule of law.

In an extraordinary first 2 weeks, the President has gone on—it is my opinion, but a lot of courts support it—a rampage of illegality. It is a serious threat to our country.

Let me start with the impoundment—you know, basic civics. The article I branch—that is the U.S. Senate and U.S. House—has authority over appropriations and spending. The executive can propose, and we can consider, an appropriations request. The President can reject an appropriations bill that Congress passes with a veto. But what the President can't do is pick and choose where he feels like spending or just disregarding the appropriations passed by the Congress of the United States. And he is doing that.

The impoundment is patently illegal, not even close. And what is clear to me is the President doesn't care if the impoundment causes enough havoc that affected agencies will either be destroyed or severely damaged.

Let me give a couple of examples. When that impoundment notice went out, Wells River Community Health Center in Vermont—it provides healthcare to really poor Vermonters, and they do an incredible job. They have a cash balance that allows them to stay in business from 0 to 5 days. That is it. The impoundment notice comes in, literally, they show up to work, and it says: You shut down. You can't open up tomorrow.

Those folks running that organization don't have the money to pay the salaries of anyone: the doctors, the receptionists, the medical providers.

We see what is happening at USAID: "We are shutting you down." The doors are locked. People show up for work; they can't get in. That is illegal and unconstitutional, as I see it.

The administration, the President, has made a clear decision that he doesn't care. He is not going to worry about the niceties. Things that restrained Republican and Democratic Presidents before; namely, adherence to the law and recognition of their responsibility to preserve a tool that has been a safeguard for our democracy through both Republican and Democratic administrations, those rules don't apply to him.

Then we have seen that he has delegated authority to a nonelected billionaire—Mr. Musk—and told him, basically, to go wild with the Federal Government; do what you want; go where you want. And in one of the most astonishing things, they sent over—Musk sent over five kids. One of them is 19; he can't drink in Vermont—and four early-20-year-old folks. They marched in and the Treasury Secretary, basically, of the United States—the successor to Alexander Hamilton—a man I respect, by the way, Mr. Bessent, and the person who ran the payment system, and said: "We are in charge." That is basically what they did.

Then they got access to the computers, which means they have your Social Security Number and mine. They have information about our taxes. Every individual in this country, their privacy has now been put in jeopardy.

Just think if this were the private sector. Let's say you are Jamie Dimon, and you run a major financial institution, J.P. Morgan, and five kids show up at your bank. They say: Hey, Mr. Musk sent us. Give us access to the computers.

And they have access to all the individual information, company information, of the folks who work with J.P. Morgan. That is what happened.

It is not really apparent to all the American people what is happening. It is the folks who are directly impacted by this, the folks at USAID who don't have a job, the folks at Wells River Clinic who are operating on the tightest of margins who have suffered and don't know whether they will be able to keep the lights on. It is the woman, the mom, who had, finally, after months and months of trying, a dental appointment through Medicaid—they had it canceled arbitrarily and abruptly. Those individuals are feeling it, and this is going to ripple out to more and more Americans seeing what is happening.

We need an Attorney General who will share my shock at a President acting in such a lawless way.

The fact is, frankly, I don't think President Trump ever in the world would place a value on having an Attorney General who is willing to tell him: Mr. President, no, you can't get appointed unless you pass the test. And the test was on full display both with Mr. Patel and Ms. Bondi in their inability to answer the basic question: Who won the 2020 election?

My concern is not that they "get the answer right." My concern is that they

get that their profound responsibility is, first and foremost, to the Constitution and the rule of law.

The President is not looking for anyone other than someone who is going to give him the fealty that he demands when these questions arise.

What we are seeing with the President in these first 2 weeks of his term is that there is no restraint. The rule of law is for suckers. He is going to break things, and whatever damage is done is not his problem.

The problem is, there are a lot of really innocent good Americans who are being affected by this: doctors and nurses, moms whose children get Medicaid help, lawyers who dedicated their career to civil rights or environmental protection.

There is a cruelty with the way in which the President has acted. It is almost a casual cruelty that just doesn't matter. So I am looking for some confidence that the checks and balances that are required, that we can build up.

Frankly, there is a major question that we face as a U.S. Senator and each of us as an individual Senator. I believe, at least to exercise our judgment—we won't agree, necessarily, and we may come to a different judgment about how best we can do what I think each of us is required to do, and that is to protect the institutional responsibility of the U.S. Senate to be an independent, separate branch of government and to adhere to the importance of the separation of powers, and that this institution has a fundamental responsibility to the American people to be a check and balance.

There are 100 of us here, and we may have 100 different opinions as to when it is that we should say no, but my hope is that every single one of us will accept that it is our responsibility to make that judgment and not just passively submit to whatever action the President is sending our way.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I sit on the Judiciary Committee and was present for the confirmation hearing of Pam Bondi in her quest to be Attorney General of the United States.

I have to say that there is a lot to admire. She had been a competent prosecutor for many years. She was the twice-elected attorney general of a major State. And she said a lot of the right things about independence of the Department and rule of law.

What I couldn't get over was how things changed when she got to a topic that would have been sensitive to Donald Trump—something that would have gotten Donald Trump all twitchy. When she hit those topics, it was like, watching the plane fly into the Bermuda Triangle and all the naves and coms go crazy.

She couldn't say obvious things—things like: Did President Biden win the 2020 election? That is an easy answer: Yes, he did, sir—or ma'am. Super

simple. When she can't say that, that is a sign.

When she told us that there had been a peaceful transfer of power—a roomful of Senators who have had to flee this Chamber because of the violence of January 6 and go and shelter in a secret location, and she had to tell us that there had been a peaceful transfer of power. Again, haywire.

No predication, she said. She couldn't say there was no predication to go after somebody like Liz Cheney or Jack Smith. Predication is the key to being able to opening a case like that. The predication is pretty apparent—or its lack is pretty apparent, and she could not agree that there was no predication to open a case.

Last, she pretended that the candidate for FBI did not have an enemies list. He had an enemies list. He published his enemies list. He said that the people on his enemies list were criminals. He said that now it is time to go on the manhunt for the enemies that he identified on the enemies list. So when she can't state the obvious, it causes real concern.

It causes real concern because of the lawlessness this administration has already demonstrated in the first 2 weeks.

She got a lot of questions about pardons: Would she support violent offenders in the January 6 attack on the Capitol being pardoned? We were chastised for having asked such questions by our Republican colleagues who said: You know, you are asking her ridiculous hypotheticals. That will never happen. JIM JORDAN: Oh, that wouldn't happen. The President would never do that. Over and over again, Republicans said: Oh, that would never happen. Well, what happened? He pardoned the violent offenders.

In fact, some of them are already up to no good again. We have got some arrested for assaulting police officers. We had some shot in a violent confrontation with police officers. This is just in the 2 weeks since their pardons. And, here, soliciting a minor. That is the quality of people that the President was willing to pardon. So those pardons are another signal about a very strange and dangerous time that President Trump is taking us into.

As my colleague from Vermont just mentioned, we have got these little characters—I call them the muskrats—running around in Treasury, running around over at USAID, getting into systems where they have no business, where apparently they are not just able to get into the payment systems for Social Security and things like that—tax refunds, whatever—but they can actually manipulate the systems and they can leave backdoors so that Elon Musk can continue to access that data even after this raid by his little muskrats is over.

We don't know the details of what they have done, but there are probably a great number of laws, including privacy laws, that they are violating by

running around without proper authorization through these enormous accounting databases. And of course the billionaires that helped bring Trump to office live off data. Now they have access to one of the biggest datasets in the world. Do you think they are going to be responsible about that? I sure don't.

Right now in Rhode Island, funds are frozen, and people can't get straight answers about how they will ever get access to funding that has been duly appropriated, authorized, and obligated. The freeze of those funds by the President is now in violation of not one but two court orders.

So the lawlessness is apparent, whether it is the muskrats running around in Treasury looking at everybody's files or whether it is court orders being patently violated or whether it is violent offenders being pardoned so they can go out and solicit minors again.

I mean, the whole thing really calls for probity and good judgment and adherence to constitutional norms from an Attorney General, and when she can't answer as simple a question as "Did President Biden win the 2020 election?" my alarms go off. And they particularly go off when we get to her FBI Director, Kash Patel. She suggested she would be able to rein him in. I have my doubts.

He made completely preposterous explanations of how his enemies list wasn't an enemies list, even though he had called those people "criminals" and that there would be a "manhunt" for them. He denied having a role with the J6 Choir, which was a singing group of violent attackers from January 6, and he had taken credit for producing their recording but pretended he didn't know that they were January 6 violent attackers.

He assured us that FBI agents would be protected against political retribution, which was beginning as he testified and which is going on at the Department right now—massive, unprecedented political retribution.

He won't tell us what he told a grand jury in proceedings in which he pled the Fifth Amendment. Well, if you plead the Fifth and then you go into a civil proceeding, your having pled the Fifth is something that the civil attorney can use against you. It is called the adverse inference. A jury can draw the conclusion that the testimony that you would have given had you not asserted your Fifth Amendment privilege would be harmful to your case. They are legally available to reach that conclusion. A judge will instruct them that they may reach that conclusion.

Here we are in the Judiciary Committee, and we can't get an answer from this guy about his grand jury testimony. We know he pled the Fifth. And, what, are we not supposed to take the adverse inference that a regular jury would take from pleading the Fifth? It is a mess.

This guy Patel went into a court in Colorado to testify for Trump. How did

he do when he went in front of that court and testified? Well, the presiding judge said that he “was not a credible witness,” his testimony was “illogical” and was “completely devoid of any evidence in the record.”

OK. So I used to be a U.S. attorney, and we used to take FBI agents and we would put them into court to make cases. If an FBI agent working for me had gotten that kind of a response from a Rhode Island district judge—that he was not credible, that he was giving testimony that was illogical, that he could not be believed—there would be repercussions. We would need to see if that was a Giglio disclosure problem for this person. We would need to understand why this FBI agent couldn’t be trusted by a Federal judge.

This isn’t just an agent; this is the guy who wants to run the FBI. So to trust Pam Bondi to rein in a character like this who has “virtually no experience that would qualify him” to lead the FBI, says former Attorney General Bill Barr; who has ideas that are ludicrous—“absolutely unqualified for this job,” “untrustworthy,” “an absolute disgrace to . . . even consider him”; a guy who ran on his website, “Kash Patel retruthed,” imagery of him chain-sawing his enemies list people—this is actually a video clip. We can’t play it here, but it is a video clip of him chain-sawing through his enemies list, and he thought that was cool to retruth.

That is the kind of person we are dealing with. Pam Bondi is going to be able to restrain him? Not if she can’t even say that Joe Biden won the 2020 election.

This was his last comment. He said I had misquoted him. To the press:

We are going to come after the people in the media who lied about American citizens, who helped Joe Biden rig presidential elections.

Like he didn’t win it.

We are going to come after you. Whether it’s criminal or civilly, we will figure that out. But yeah, we are putting you all on notice.

That is what is coming to the Department of Justice. The FBI is in danger of being turned into the political enforcement weapon of this President, who is already breaking the law over and over again in just the last 2 weeks. And a woman who cannot say that Joe Biden won the 2020 election I believe is not going to be able to restrain this kind of misbehavior, let alone the kind of misbehavior we are seeing out of the Oval Office.

So regretfully—because there was a lot to like about Ms. Bondi—regretfully, I cannot possibly vote to confirm her.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Hawaii.

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, in examining all of the President’s Cabinet nominees, I am focused on two things: their fitness and their qualifications for the positions to which they are

nominated, including their ability and willingness to put loyalty to the Constitution above loyalty to the President.

This independence is critically important for the Attorney General, our Nation’s highest law enforcement officer. The Attorney General oversees thousands of career prosecutors in all 50 States, trying cases based not on politics but on facts.

However, Pam Bondi’s record, her statements in her confirmation hearing, and her responses to questions for the record make clear she does not have the requisite independence to lead the Department of Justice.

In her confirmation hearing, Ms. Bondi shows she had trouble differentiating fact from fiction where her loyalty to President Trump might come into question.

Rather than attempting to assuage my concerns—concerns shared by many of my colleagues; you just heard from one of my colleagues just previous to myself—Ms. Bondi failed to provide clear and convincing answers to the following questions: whether President Biden won the 2020 election, whether she agreed with the President’s characterization of January 6 felons as “hostages” and “patriots,” whether she would make good on her promise to “prosecute the prosecutors” and “investigate the investigators” by using the DOJ to go after the President’s perceived political enemies.

I also asked her in writing, for the record, how she would resolve a conflict between a request from President Trump and her duty to the Constitution. Ms. Bondi provided no response, and she left the answer blank. This refusal to even try to answer the question told me a lot.

We have already seen in the 2 weeks since President Trump took office that he does not believe the rule of law applies to him. He issued an unconstitutional order on birthright citizenship. He put an illegal hold on all Federal funds. He fired or pushed aside scores of senior career FBI officials and Federal prosecutors.

Most egregiously, he issued a blanket pardon for more than 1,500 criminals convicted for their roles in the January 6 insurrection. Not content to stop at pardoning those who assaulted police officers, now he is compiling lists of FBI agents and DOJ prosecutors who did their jobs by working on January 6 cases to which they were assigned. This could be thousands of civil servants whom Donald Trump is apparently planning to punish to exact retribution.

Make no mistake, by focusing DOJ and the FBI inward on themselves instead of outward on the many threats against our country, President Trump is making our Nation less safe and sowing fear and chaos in the DOJ. When we suffer an attack, a hack, or a rise in crime, President Trump will try to blame everybody else, but he will be responsible.

As Senator DURBIN so accurately put it, Donald Trump sees the DOJ as his personal law firm, but the DOJ and the Attorney General work for the people, not for the President. Any President but especially this President needs an Attorney General who will tell him when his actions break the law. What is more, the American public deserves an Attorney General who will put the law first and refuse an illegal order from the President. Ms. Bondi will not be that person. She will be yet another “yes” woman doing whatever the President wants her to do. The law, the Constitution, and our country will suffer the consequences.

For these reasons, I urge my colleagues to vote no.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, colleagues, I, too, rise today to oppose President Trump’s nomination of Pamela Bondi to serve as Attorney General of the United States.

And I don’t do it lightly.

After evaluating her record, as well as her testimony before the Judiciary Committee, it has sadly become clear to me that Ms. Bondi is either unwilling or unable to put her duty to the Constitution of the United States and her duty to the American people above her loyalty to President Trump. With a President now in office who has proven his complete disregard for the rule of law on numerous occasions, Pam Bondi is simply unfit to serve as our Nation’s chief law enforcement officer.

Time and again, we have seen Ms. Bondi more than willing to go on national television and push President Trump’s lies about the results of a free and fair election. Despite the facts, despite overwhelming evidence, she has chosen to lie to the American people in defense of Donald Trump.

Now, as I shared in committee during the confirmation hearing this very issue, offering her an opportunity to withdraw those statements that she made back in 2020, reminding my colleagues and anybody watching that the danger of her refusal isn’t just that she is sticking to some political talking points—in fact, when it comes to the integrity of our elections, lies have become threats to our democracy, threats to voters, and threats to election workers who dedicate themselves to administering our free and fair elections.

To this day, she refuses to state the simple truth that Donald Trump lost in 2020. Colleagues, consider the fact that these same lies have led to her associate Rudy Giuliani being disbarred. Think about that contrast. Rudy Giuliani lied, and he is being disbarred for those actions. Pam Bondi—same lies—refuses to take them back, and now you want her to be the top law enforcement officer for the United States of America?

It is this very behavior that actually endears her to President Trump, and it

is the same reason why we cannot trust her to hold him accountable. If confirmed, Ms. Bondi will no doubt face far more daunting challenges to shield the Department of Justice and its professional civil servants from politics.

I mean, just look at President Trump's activities in the first couple of weeks in office. From his first day on the job—day one of his second term—he issued around 1,500 pardons for January 6 insurrectionists and commuted the sentences of 14 of his supporters, including those convicted of violence against police officers.

Let me say it again: The first day in office, Trump freed convicted violent criminals who pepper-sprayed and beat Capitol Police officers—so much for “Back the Blue.”

President Trump's appointees then proceeded to fire career Department of Justice lawyers involved in investigating and prosecuting him for his role in the January 6 insurrection and for his improper handling of classified documents. Now, the Acting U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia has already promised to investigate the prosecutors who helped put violent insurrectionists behind bars.

None of this comes as a surprise. Before she was even selected, before the nomination was official, Ms. Bondi had already publicly promised to investigate the investigators, to prosecute the prosecutors.

And just this past Sunday, President Trump's Department of Justice demanded specific FBI staff fill out a questionnaire sharing what involvement they had in the January 6 cases. This is a tough environment for any Attorney General to walk into and to act independently, let alone someone who has already shown blind loyalty to President Trump over the rule of law.

But these past few weeks, I was struck most by the fact that, despite her having practiced law for decades, despite the fact that she served once as the attorney general for the State of Florida, Ms. Bondi was somehow unfamiliar with the 14th Amendment of the Constitution and, specifically, its citizenship clause.

It shouldn't have come as a surprise. We talked about it in my office the day before the hearing. I let her know I was going to be asking her about it during the hearing. And when I gave her an opportunity during the hearing to discuss it, she simply refused to answer my questions, and now we know why.

In his very first day back in office, President Trump issued a blatantly unconstitutional Executive order seeking to strip birthright citizenship from American citizens—citizens born here in the United States.

Now, someone who still needs to study birthright citizenship surely won't be a champion in defending it. And I point that out because that is what Ms. Bondi said in response to my question that she would “study” it.

Think about that, colleagues. The top law enforcement officer in the

United States needed to study the Constitution?

The American people need and deserve to be able to trust that the Department of Justice is enacting the law fairly, neutrally, and free from political interference. We need and deserve an Attorney General who will speak truth to power; push back against illegal, immoral, and unethical requests; someone who can be a credible messenger to the American people in a time of crisis; and someone who will defend not only the American people but the proud public servants who work within the Department and who are being purged in not a Saturday night massacre or a Monday massacre but a January massacre by President Trump.

To my colleagues today, I ask this: Do you believe Ms. Bondi will fight against retribution or enact it? Do you believe she will stand up to the administration's chaos or further enable it?

Colleagues, I don't believe Ms. Bondi is up to the task, and for that reason, I will oppose her nomination, and I urge all of you to join me.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

MR. SCHIFF. Mr. President, just over 8 years ago, Donald Trump assumed the Office of the Presidency for the first time. He began that administration with at least a few people of independence and stature, people that had enough of a respect for themselves and the rule of law that, when they were asked to do things that violated the law, their oath, or their own sense of decency, they said no or resigned—people like Defense Secretary Mattis, who wrote in his resignation letter:

My views on treating allies with respect and also being clear-eyed about both malign actors and strategic competitors are strongly held and informed by over four decades of immersion in these issues. We must do everything possible to advance an international order that is most conducive to our security, prosperity, and values, and we are strengthened in this effort by the solidarity of our alliances.

Because you have the right to have a Secretary of Defense whose views are better aligned with yours on these and other subjects, I believe it is right for me to step down from my position.

Treating allies with respect; being clear-eyed about malign actors; advancing an international order conducive to our national security, prosperity, and values; the solidarity of our alliances—these didn't use to be novel ideas. They didn't used to be controversial ideas. What Secretary Mattis said about an “international order that is most conducive to our security, prosperity, and values” may also be applied to a domestic order that is respectful of our Agencies and institutions, our norms and values.

Not everyone in Trump's first administration was like Secretary Mattis. Some took much longer to realize that the President's demand for loyalty to him be placed above all else was incompatible with their own oath of office.

Attorney General Bill Barr, once so desperate for a job in the Trump administration that he wrote a lengthy job application castigating an investigation he knew little about, found, ultimately, that there were lines even he could not cross, like lying about the election.

Others still, like Kash Patel, seemed never to find a demand by the President too taxing of their own moral code to raise an objection, but rather viewed any questionable order as a means of advancement.

The question we face with the nomination of Pam Bondi is, What will she do when, inevitably, she is put to the test by a President who feels unbound by law or propriety?

Her testimony before the Senate Judiciary Committee tells us that she will not pass the test. When asked about whether the President lost the 2020 election, she could not answer. When asked whether she would preserve evidence gathered in the January 6 investigation, she could not agree to do so. When asked about potential pardons of violent criminals who attacked police on January 6, she indignantly assured us that she would review all pardon cases on a case by case basis—a promise breached by the President so soon thereafter that her words seemed still to hang in the air.

If she could not assert her independence now, before Congress, before taking office, what hope can we have that she will do so when put to the test by the President?

When asked about this, too, she demurred: That is a hypothetical.

But it wasn't then, and it isn't now. The President has already pardoned hundreds of violent criminals. He has already issued Executive orders that violate the law and Constitution.

Would Pam Bondi have objected to the firing of inspectors general? Do any of us believe that she would?

The President has issued an Executive order attempting to amend the Constitution. A Federal judge struck down this order as presenting perhaps the simplest constitutional question he had ever heard. Could we have expected Pam Bondi to defend it? Sadly, yes.

The President issued an Executive order freezing and illegally impounding congressionally appropriated funds. Would she have uttered a word of protest? Certainly not.

Dozens of top prosecutors have already been fired, by the Department of Justice, who did their lawful duty investigating the rioters who attacked police. Would she have resigned in protest?

She has witnessed this Saturday night massacre and still wants the job. So, plainly, the answer is no.

She is no Elliot Richardson. Top-ranking FBI agents have been fired. Questionnaires have gone out to identify the hundreds—perhaps thousands—of agents who were involved in the legitimate prosecution of these felons. Would she have defended these FBI

agents at the risk of her own job, as one senior FBI leader has done? Of course not, and let us not pretend otherwise.

Donald Trump only took the oath of office a mere 2 weeks ago—with an oath to protect and defend the Constitution of the United States, to faithfully execute the Office of the President of the United States, to faithfully execute the laws of this country that Congress passed and funded. Each day, it seems he has found new ways to bend and break those laws, to put in power unelected billionaires and political cronies to dismantle Agencies, take control of payment systems, and exact political retribution.

One after another, each of his nominees, asked whether they would oppose such conduct, has claimed that they won't engage in hypotheticals, claimed that there was simply no way the President would take these actions, stated that what the President promised to do during the campaign simply wouldn't happen. But it is happening. It has happened. His campaign of retribution is happening. His empowering of a shadow President is happening. His dismantling of congressionally approved Departments is happening.

We cannot afford an Attorney General who believes their role is to defend him rather than the American people and the democracy we have inherited from our Founders—this big, bold, brave, and improbable experiment in self-governance. We need an Attorney General with a backbone of steel, with a stature to say no, whose purpose is to enforce the laws against any law-breaker, including the President of the United States. That person is not Pam Bondi.

Senator Rufus Choate, who once walked these halls and served in this body, reminded us nearly 200 years ago that we have built no temple but the Capitol, that we consult no common oracle but the Constitution. And what does that oracle tell us? I think maybe simply this: We have been given the most brilliant Constitution ever devised to constrain the worst impulses of human nature, but even that brilliant document will not protect us if we do not inhabit positions of great responsibility with people worthy of them, with people who view our system of checks and balances not as a weakness to overcome or to overrun but as a source of strength, who view the domestic order they produce, to borrow Secretary Mattis's words from a different context, as "most conducive to our security, prosperity and values."

We need an Attorney General who will stand strong when the President seeks to turn this Capitol into a rubberstamp for unconstitutional and unlawful actions, when the President seeks to empower the likes of Elon Musk to ignore laws that Congress has passed and Departments that Congress has funded, when the President ignores our allies and emboldens our enemies, when the President targets those in

government who did their job to investigate crimes and malfeasance and does so to exact vengeance. Vengeance. Apart from self-aggrandizement and self-enrichment, the President's only motivation—vengeance.

Donald Trump is hoping that in the chaos of his Executive orders, of oligarchs marauding through the Agencies of government, of tariffs that turn on and off like a blinking light, that we will get lost and in getting lost, be lost. We must not be.

His actions will get worse. They will. With a congressional majority that empowers him, with appointees that embolden him, he himself will only grow more emboldened in return. His unconscionable and unconstitutional actions will multiply, and when that happens, will Pam Bondi take up her role, her duty, as the people's lawyer or will she serve as the President's lawyer as she has done before? Will Pam Bondi say no to the President's unlawful actions? no to purges of perceived political enemies? no to investigations of career officials? because if she will not say no, if she cannot say no, it is up to us today to say no. No to this nomination. No to Pam Bondi. It is up to us.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, as my colleague Senator SCHIFF from California has just so powerfully stated, we are in the midst of a constitutional crisis—a crisis that would have been unimaginable just weeks ago, a crisis that involves a President disobeying the law.

Now, Presidents in the past have disobeyed the law. They have sought to test the boundaries of their power, and the courts have blocked them. But never has a President violated so many significant laws and the Constitution so rapidly, so repeatedly, that we are, as Senator SCHIFF said, lost in the chaos. And it falls to the arbiters of law—our courts—but it is also incumbent on the enforcers of the law.

Any of us who have served in the Department of Justice—I was U.S. attorney for Connecticut for 4½ years—knows that the most important decisions that any prosecutor, any law enforcer makes is whether to uphold the rule of law and sometimes say no to an FBI agent who is too enthusiastic about a case and wants to indict someone who could not be convicted, a public official who is close personally or politically and has overstepped their powers or ethics. To be fair, independent, objective, to be completely impartial, and to uphold the rule of law is the first duty of anyone in the U.S. Department of Justice.

I have more than respect, I have reverence for the Department of Justice, and that is why I am so deeply disappointed that we are here tonight for the nomination of Pam Bondi.

The Attorney General of the United States of America is supposed to be the people's lawyer, not the President's.

Donald Trump has said he wants the Attorney General to be his Roy Cohn, his fixer, his personal attorney.

Well, Ms. Bondi said she would be the people's lawyer, but that claim is betrayed by almost everything else she said and, most importantly, what she would not say.

Here is what she would not say. She would not say that she would say no to the President when he asked her to do something illegal or immoral. She dodged that question. She would not say that she was wrong for spreading lies about fraud and cheating in Pennsylvania during the 2020 election. She dodged that question, too. She would not say that President Biden won the 2020 election or that President Trump lost. She ducked it.

Now, the issue of whether President Trump asked his Attorney General to do something illegal or immoral is not a hypothetical. It is not abstruse or abstract. It is real. We know it is real because every one of his past Attorneys General ran afoul of Donald Trump because they would not do something illegal or immoral—our colleague Jeff Sessions, Bill Barr. No matter how good their intention, nobody can talk Donald Trump out of what he wants to do, and the law is no concern, nor is the lawyer. He will get lawyers to do whatever he wants, and Pam Bondi was reassuring—very reassuring—to one person—Donald Trump—when she dodged those questions because what he wants is a loyalist, a sycophant, an acolyte, and he wants a puppet to do his bidding.

The American people need a lawyer at this moment in history, at this point of constitutional crisis, who will truly speak truth to power. We use that phrase all the time, "speak truth to power," but in this instance, it is the essence of what an Attorney General has to do at this moment in our history. And Donald Trump doesn't want to hear the truth. As much power as he has, he wants to hear an Attorney General tell him: Fine to go ahead. You have the green light.

If Pam Bondi thinks she won't face that same dilemma that Bill Barr and Jeff Sessions did and every other lawyer who has worked for Donald Trump has faced, she is either delusional or disingenuous—delusional or disingenuous. For me, both are disqualifying for this job. And she can't even pass that low bar of saying she could say no. Her answer is: Oh, well, he would never do anything like that. He is my friend.

As we are here tonight, the Trump Justice Department is reported to be preparing to purge hundreds or even thousands of FBI agents or other personnel in the Department of Justice for nothing more than doing their jobs. These agents were assigned to criminal cases involving Donald Trump. They didn't leap forward. They didn't volunteer. They were assigned, and, like FBI agents do, they took the assignment. Now they will pay a price in their careers unjustly, unfairly, and unwisely

because it will deter other FBI agents from doing their job when it comes to drug cases or terrorism cases.

We have heard also that assistant U.S. attorneys are being reassigned from drug cases and terrorism cases so that they can do immigration. We are hearing that career civil servants must be loyal to Donald Trump in this Department of Justice—well, to Donald Trump and to them.

We all know something fundamental in this body—that we swear an oath. The lowliest private in the U.S. Army or the Navy or the Marine Corps or the Air Force takes an oath. They raise their right hand, just as we do. Anybody in the Cabinet takes that oath, and they swear allegiance, but it isn't to the President, and it isn't to the government; it is to the Constitution. That is what is at risk here. That is what Pam Bondi cannot do in good conscience if she is confirmed because her allegiance will be to Donald Trump.

The purge of agents and the reassignment and retribution of others not only damages morale, the effectiveness of the Department of Justice, it undermines the rule of law.

The Attorney General—perhaps chief among Presidential appointees—is responsible for making good on the constitutional promise that no man or no woman is above the law, that we have no king in the United States. We are no longer a monarchy. We can no longer ask a billionaire to rummage through the files of the Department of Treasury that have information about the Presiding Officer and every one of us who serves in this body and almost every American because we all pay taxes; we all have Social Security; we get tax refunds. Veterans get disability benefits. Almost anything the U.S. Government does creates a record in the Treasury Department, and all that information is being read and scanned and now collected. That is the news of the day.

More bad news about Elon Musk. Who is going to stop Elon Musk when he is doing something illegal and immoral? It won't be Pam Bondi because she is Donald Trump's lawyer. That is a real and present danger for every one of us in this country.

After I was U.S. attorney in Connecticut—I was the attorney general of my State for 20 years. In that job, also, I took an oath to the Constitution of the United States as a State official, as well as to the constitution of the State of Connecticut. It isn't an abstract notion; it is what we all do. If she is confirmed, maybe Pam Bondi will be able to raise her right hand and recite after whoever is administering the oath, but it will not be an oath she is capable of keeping.

And so on this critically important vote for our country, I don't think there is a Cabinet officer more important at this moment in our history. I urge my colleagues to say no to this nomination.

I yield the floor.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, 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. 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.

VOTE ON BONDI NOMINATION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I know of no further debate on the Bondi nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

If not, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Bondi nomination?

Mr. THUNE. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 54, nays 46, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 33 Ex.]

YEAS—54

Banks	Fischer	Moran
Barrasso	Graham	Moreno
Blackburn	Grassley	Mullin
Boozman	Hagerty	Murkowski
Britt	Hawley	Paul
Budd	Hoeben	Ricketts
Capito	Husted	Risch
Cassidy	Hyde-Smith	Rounds
Collins	Johnson	Schmitt
Cornyn	Justice	Scott (FL)
Cotton	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cramer	Lankford	Sheehy
Crapo	Lee	Sullivan
Cruz	Lummis	Thune
Curtis	Marshall	Tillis
Daines	McConnell	Tuberville
Ernst	McCormick	Wicker
Fetterman	Moody	Young

NAYS—46

Alsobrooks	Hirono	Sanders
Baldwin	Kaine	Schatz
Bennet	Kelly	Schiff
Blumenthal	Kim	Schumer
Blunt Rochester	King	Shaheen
Booker	Klobuchar	Slotkin
Cantwell	Lujan	Smith
Coons	Markey	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Warner
Duckworth	Murphy	Warnock
Durbin	Murray	Warren
Gallego	Ossoff	Welch
Gillibrand	Padilla	Whitehouse
Hassan	Peters	Wyden
Heinrich	Reed	
Hickenlooper	Rosen	

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The majority leader.

Mr. THUNE. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call with respect to the Turner nomination be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 11, Eric Turner, of Texas, to be Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

John Thune, Markwayne Mullin, Jim Justice, Tom Cotton, John Barrasso, David McCormick, Steve Daines, Joni Ernst, Roger Marshall, Deb Fischer, Chuck Grassley, Bernie Moreno, Ted Budd, John Kennedy, John Boozman, Tommy Tuberville, Cindy Hyde-Smith.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Eric Turner, of Texas, to be Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, 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.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 55, nays 45, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 34 Ex.]

YEAS—55

Banks	Graham	Mullin
Barrasso	Grassley	Murkowski
Blackburn	Hagerty	Paul
Boozman	Hawley	Ricketts
Britt	Hoeben	Risch
Budd	Husted	Rounds
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Schmitt
Cassidy	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Collins	Justice	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Kennedy	Sheehy
Cotton	Lankford	Sullivan
Cramer	Lee	Thune
Crapo	Lummis	Tillis
Cruz	Marshall	Tuberville
Curtis	McConnell	Welch
Daines	McCormick	Wicker
Ernst	Moody	Young
Fetterman	Moran	
Fischer	Moreno	

NAYS—45

Alsobrooks	Hickenlooper	Reed
Baldwin	Hirono	Rosen
Bennet	Kaine	Sanders
Blumenthal	Kelly	Schatz
Blunt Rochester	Kim	Schiff
Booker	King	Schumer
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Coons	Lujan	Slotkin
Cortez Masto	Markey	Smith
Duckworth	Merkley	Van Hollen
Durbin	Murphy	Warner
Gallego	Murray	Warnock
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Warren
Hassan	Padilla	Whitehouse
Heinrich	Peters	Wyden

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. LUMMIS). On this vote, the yeas are 55, the nays are 45.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Eric Turner, of

Texas, to be Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. RISCH. Madam President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is still available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications that have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such an annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. JAMES E. RISCH,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 24-50, concerning the Navy's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Egypt for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$625 million. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL F. MILLER,
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 24-50

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Egypt.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:
Major Defense Equipment* \$200 million.
Other \$425 million.
Total \$625 million.

Funding Source: Foreign Military Financing.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase: The Government of Egypt has requested to buy equipment and

services including the following to modernize its four fast missile craft (FMC):

Mjor Defense Equipment (MDE):

Four (4) Component Based Total Ship System, 21st Century (COMBATSS-21) combat management systems.

Non-MDE: Also included are air and surface surveillance radars; chaff decoy systems; electro-optical/infrared sensor systems; electronic warfare systems; navigation data distribution systems; communications intelligence systems; fire control radar systems; 76 mm gun upgrades; and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Navy (EG-P-LGY).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: EG-P-SBU.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: February 4, 2025.

*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Egypt—Fast Missile Craft Modernization

The Government of Egypt has requested to buy equipment and services including four (4) Component Based Total Ship System, 21st Century (COMBATSS-21) combat management systems to modernize its four fast missile craft (FMC). Also included are air and surface surveillance radars; chaff decoy systems; electro-optical/infrared sensor systems; electronic warfare systems; navigation data distribution systems; communications intelligence systems; fire control radar systems; 76 mm gun upgrades; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total cost is \$625 million.

This proposed sale will support U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives by helping to improve the security of a friendly country that continues to be an important force for political stability and economic growth in the Middle East.

The proposed sale will improve Egypt's capability to meet current and future threats by increasing the tactical and operational capabilities of the Egyptian Navy to support strategic maritime security objectives. Egypt will have no difficulty absorbing this equipment into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractors will be Lockheed Martin, located in Manassas, VA, and L3Harris, located in Northampton, MA. At this time, the U.S. Government is not aware of any offset agreement proposed in connection with this potential sale. Any offset agreement will be defined in negotiations between the purchaser and the contractor.

Implementation of this proposed sale will not require the assignment of any additional U.S. Government or contractor representatives to Egypt.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 24-50

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. The Component Based Total Ship System, 21st Century (COMBATSS-21) is an Aegis-derived combat management system. It is the backbone of the ship's mission system and integrates the radar, electro-optical infrared cameras, gun fire control system, countermeasures, and short-range anti-air

missiles to provide the decision support functions to designate in real time the optimum weapon system for the detected threat.

2. The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is SECRET.

3. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the specific hardware and software elements, the information could be used to develop countermeasures that might reduce system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

4. A determination has been made that Egypt can provide substantially the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

5. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal have been authorized for release and export to the Government of Egypt.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. RISCH. Madam President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is still available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications that have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such an annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. JAMES E. RISCH,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 24-100, concerning the Air Force's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Egypt for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$304 million. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL F. MILLER,
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 24-100

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Egypt.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:
Major Defense Equipment* \$0 million.

Other \$304 million.

Total \$304 million.

Funding Source: Foreign Military Financing.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

None.

Non-Major Defense Equipment: The following non-MDE items will be included: AN/TPS-78 long range radar turnkey systems; KIV-78 cryptographic devices; Global Positioning System (GPS) devices with Selective Availability Anti-Spoofing Modules (SAASM); spare and repair parts; software and software support; personnel training and training equipment; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Air Force (EG-DBG).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: None.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None known at this time.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: February 4, 2025.

*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Egypt—AN/TPS-78 Long Range Radar

The Government of Egypt has requested to buy AN/TPS-78 long range radar turnkey systems; KIV-78 cryptographic devices; Global Positioning System (GPS) devices with Selective Availability Anti-Spoofing Modules (SAASM); spare and repair parts; software and software support; personnel training and training equipment; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total cost is \$304 million.

This proposed sale will support U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives by helping to improve the security of a friendly country that continues to be an important force for political stability and economic growth in the Middle East.

The proposed sale will improve Egypt's capability to meet current and future threats by improving its ability to detect various air threats. Egypt already operates a mixture of other radar systems and will have no difficulty absorbing this equipment and services into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractor will be Northrop Grumman Corporation, located in Falls Church, VA. At this time, the U.S. Government is not aware of any offset agreement proposed in connection with this potential sale. Any offset agreement will be defined in negotiations between the purchaser and the contractor.

Implementation of this proposed sale will not require the assignment of any additional U.S. Government or contractor representatives to Egypt.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 24-100

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. The KIV-78 is a cryptographic appliqué for Identification Friend or Foe (IFF). It can be loaded with Mode 5 classified elements.

2. The Global Positioning System (GPS) devices with Selective Availability Anti-Spoofing Module (SAASM) and Precise Positioning Service (PPS) are self-contained navigation systems that provide the following: acceleration, velocity, position, altitude, platform azimuth, magnetic and true heading, altitude, body angular rates, time tags, and coordinated universal time (UTC) synchronized time. SAASM enables the GPS receiver access to the encrypted P (Y or M) signal, providing protection against active spoofing attacks.

3. The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is SECRET.

4. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the specific hardware and software elements, the information could be used to develop countermeasures that might reduce system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

5. A determination has been made that the Government of Egypt can provide substantially the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

6. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal have been authorized for release and export to the Government of Egypt.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING WORLD'S WINDOW

• Ms. ERNST. Madam President, as chair of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize an outstanding Iowa small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit. This week, it is my privilege to recognize World's Window of Cedar Falls, IA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

In 1982, Vonna Yoder founded World's Window to educate the Cedar Valley community about fair trade business practices and to support artisans worldwide. Driven by a desire to help international artisans find success through fair wages and ethical trade, Vonna began to sell global artisan products at a church-sponsored gift fair. After the overwhelming success of the second annual fair, she established a permanent retail store in 1984. World's Window operated as a community-led nonprofit for 40 years until 2022 when a longtime volunteer Betsy Roling decided to purchase the shop and keep the mission alive as a family-owned small business.

Today, World's Window continues to thrive in its downtown Cedar Falls storefront, offering an array of high-quality, handcrafted goods from over 30 countries and 40 artisan groups and co-operators. While preserving the shop's global mission, Betsy also introduced a local vision with the Cob Mercantile. With the help of community volunteers

and employees, Betsy opened a year-round indoor market to give local Iowa artisans a Main Street location without the typical costs associated. The Cob Mercantile offers a shared marketing and online sales platform and a physical booth space. Beyond World's Window store and the Cob Mercantile, Betsy opened a space for local artisans to rent and host classes, workshops, or private events for children and adults in the community.

World's Window remains an active part of the Cedar Valley community. The business is a member of the Cedar Falls Downtown District. In addition, the company offers special fundraising nights for organizations to host an event in the shop and take home a guaranteed portion of the total proceeds back to their business. The two conjoined storefronts remain an important part of the Cedar Falls Main Street, embodying the meaning of service—whether it is supporting local Iowa businesses or international artisans. Later this year, World's Window looks forward to celebrating its 43rd year in Iowa.

The entrepreneurial spirit and commitment to global and local impact demonstrated by World's Window and the Cob Mercantile are clear. I want to congratulate Betsy Roling, her family, Vonna Yoder, and the entire team for their hard work and dedication to enriching their community and providing unique, meaningful products to families across Iowa. I look forward to seeing their continued growth and success. •

TRIBUTE TO NAVY SECOND CLASS OFFICER STEPHEN WOODFIN

• Mr. TUBERVILLE. Madam President, America's military is the greatest in the world because of men and women who take pride in their role to keep us safe. No one demonstrates this better than Second Class Officer Stephen Woodfin of Harvest, AL.

After being drafted into the Navy in 1968, Stephen found himself far from his smalltown Alabama farm at basic training in Nashville and San Diego. He describes this journey from the farm to the Navy as "a country boy in hog heaven."

After basic training, he was shipped out to the South Pacific to serve his country for the next 4 years in the Vietnam war. Like many Vietnam veterans, Stephen saw firsthand the horrors of war. Yet Stephen is still proud to say he served in the military and says his time in combat led him to meet some of the finest people he ever met.

Shortly before returning home in 1972, Stephen met his wife, whom he describes as the best thing that ever happened to him. After their return back to the States, Stephen took on several different roles, including husband, father, postal serviceman, teacher, and many more.

For more than two decades, he worked at the local post office. Whether delivering or shipping mail, people in the local area could always count on him to help them with a smile and see the job through no matter how long it took. One Christmas Eve, he even worked late hours delivering hundreds of packages because of a delivery backup, to make sure all the kids in his area could open their new toys on Christmas morning. This is just one example of the many, of Stephen continuously putting other's well-being before his own.

He received several awards for his outstanding service, including Clerk of the Month and Carrier of the Month. There is no denying that Stephen's pride in helping others has been evident in everything he has done.

In 1997, Stephen, his wife, and their two sons moved back home to Harvest to the same farm he grew up on. There, he was able to pass on those same values like grit and hard work to his sons, including James, who nominated him for this recognition.

Stephen's story reminds us that we don't have to have a fancy title to make an impact, but you can make a difference with the roles you have. Whether in No. 1, the military; No. 2, the farm; No. 3, his family; or No. 4, his community, Stephen has given 110 percent to everything he does.

It is my honor to recognize him as the February Veteran of the Month.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Mr. Hanley, one of his secretaries.

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

REPORT OF THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY THAT WAS ORIGINALLY DECLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 14014 OF FEBRUARY 10, 2021, WITH RESPECT TO BURMA—PM 9

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the na-

tional emergency with respect to the situation in and in relation to Burma declared in Executive Order 14014 of February 10, 2021, is to continue in effect beyond February 10, 2025.

The situation in and in relation to Burma, and in particular the February 1, 2021, coup—in which the military overthrew the democratically elected civilian government of Burma and unjustly arrested and detained government leaders, politicians, human rights defenders, journalists, and religious leaders, thereby rejecting the will of the people of Burma and undermining the country's democratic transition and rule of law—continues to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. Therefore, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 14014 with respect to the situation in and in relation to Burma.

DONALD J. TRUMP,
THE WHITE HOUSE, February 4, 2025.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-310. A communication from the Assistant to the Director of the Office of Regulatory Affairs and Collaborative Action, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acknowledgement of American Indian Tribes" (RIN1076-AF67) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 28, 2025; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

EC-311. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Director of Congressional Relations, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Immigration Bond Notifications" (RIN1653-AA85) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 28, 2025; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-312. A communication from the Agency Representative, Patent and Trademark Office, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Setting and Adjusting Trademark Fees During Fiscal Year 2025" (RIN0651-AD65) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 27, 2025; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-313. A communication from the Agency Representative, Patent and Trademark Office, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Setting and Adjusting Trademark Fees During Fiscal Year 2025" (RIN0651-AD64) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 27, 2025; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. CRAPO for the Committee on Finance.

*Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., of California, to be Secretary of Health and Human Services.

By Mr. COTTON for the Select Committee on Intelligence.

*Tulsi Gabbard, of Hawaii, to be Director of National Intelligence.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself and Mr. CRAMER):

S. 379. A bill to prohibit the General Services Administration from awarding contracts to certain insured depository institutions that avoid doing business with certain companies that are engaged in lawful commerce based solely on social policy considerations; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. HASSAN (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. BRITT, and Ms. SMITH):

S. 380. A bill to improve obstetric emergency care; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. SANDERS (for himself and Mr. HAWLEY):

S. 381. A bill to amend the Truth in Lending Act to cap credit card interest rates at 10 percent; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. SCHMITT (for himself, Mr. COTTON, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. DAINES, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. MARSHALL, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. RISCH, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. BANKS, Mr. SHEEHY, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. LEE, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. HAWLEY, and Mr. BUDD):

S. 382. A bill to ensure equal protection of the law, to prevent racism in the Federal Government, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. KAINE (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. SMITH, Mr. MARSHALL, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. COONS, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. DAINES, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. HOEVEN, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. KELLY, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. OSSOFF, Mr. PETERS, Ms. ROSEN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WARNER, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 383. A bill to extend Federal Pell Grant eligibility of certain short-term programs; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. COTTON:

S. 384. A bill to prohibit the use of materials that use the term "West Bank", and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. CRUZ, and Mr. KING):

S. 385. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to periodically review the automatic maximum coverage under the Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance program and the Veterans' Group Life Insurance

program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. LUMMIS (for herself, Mr. BARRASSO, and Mr. SHEEHY):

S. 386. A bill to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to provide exemptions from the consultation requirements required under that Act for agency actions that fulfill critical human water needs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. MARSHALL:

S. 387. A bill to require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to ensure that the small business regulatory budget for a small business concern in a fiscal year is not great than 0, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mr. FETTERMAN):

S. 388. A bill to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act with respect to the implementation of building codes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mrs. FISCHER, and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 389. A bill to establish consumer standards for lithium-ion batteries; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. GALLEG0, and Mr. ROUNDS):

S. 390. A bill to require Federal law enforcement agencies to report on cases of missing or murdered Indians, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. COONS, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. MURRAY, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. WELCH):

S. 391. A bill to clarify the rights of certain persons who are held or detained at a port of entry or at any facility overseen by U.S. Customs and Border Protection; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO:

S. 392. A bill to amend the Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area Act to adjust the boundary of the Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. FETTERMAN (for himself, Mr. CRUZ, and Ms. SLOTKIN):

S. 393. A bill to amend the Energy Policy and Conservation Act to prohibit the export or sale of petroleum products from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve to certain entities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. HAGERTY (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Ms. LUMMIS):

S. 394. A bill to provide for the regulation of payment stablecoins, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. LUMMIS (for herself, Mr. BARRASSO, and Mr. SHEEHY):

S. 395. A bill to amend the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 to expedite wildfire prevention projects to reduce the risk of wildfire on certain high-risk Federal land, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. MORAN (for himself and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

S. 396. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to impose limitations on the

provision of critical skill incentives to employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Senior Executive Services positions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Mr. BOOKER, and Ms. HIRONO):

S. 397. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to increase the minimum disaster loan amount for which the Small Business Administration may require collateral, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. KING, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. KAINE, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. WARNER, Mr. WELCH, Mr. LUJÁN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. PETERS, Ms. WARREN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. BENNET, Ms. SMITH, and Mr. KIM):

S. 398. A bill to transfer and limit Executive Branch authority to suspend or restrict the entry of a class of aliens; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. LEE, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, and Mr. COTTON):

S. 399. A bill to amend section 1507 of title 18, United States Code, to establish appropriate penalties for obstruction of justice by picketing or parading in or near court buildings or residences of judges, jurors, witnesses, or other court officers; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. FISCHER (for herself and Mr. KING):

S. 400. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to enhance the paid family and medical leave credit, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CRAMER (for himself, Mr. BANKS, Mr. BARRASSO, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. BUDD, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. CURTIS, Mr. DAINES, Ms. ERNST, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. HOEVEN, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. JUSTICE, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. LANKFORD, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. MCCORMICK, Mr. MORAN, Mr. MORENO, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. RISCH, Mr. SCHMITT, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. SHEEHY, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. TUBERVILLE, and Mr. WICKER):

S. 401. A bill to amend the Federal Reserve Act to prohibit certain financial service providers who deny fair access to financial services from using taxpayer funded discount window lending programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself and Mrs. HYDE-SMITH):

S.J. Res. 11. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management relating to "Protection of Marine Archaeological Resources"; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. HOEVEN (for himself, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. LEE, Mr. LANKFORD, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. DAINES, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. CRAMER, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. RISCH, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. PAUL, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. JUSTICE, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. KENNEDY, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr.

SHEEHY, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. WICKER, Mr. RICKETTS, and Mr. BARRASSO):

S.J. Res. 12. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to "Waste Emissions Charge for Petroleum and Natural Gas Systems: Procedures for Facilitating Compliance, Including Netting and Exemptions"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Mr. HAGERTY, and Mr. TILLIS):

S.J. Res. 13. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency of the Department of the Treasury relating to the review of applications under the Bank Merger Act; 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 Mr. LANKFORD (for himself, Mr. COONS, Mr. TILLIS, and Mr. KAINE):

S. Res. 52. A resolution recognizing religious freedom as a fundamental right, expressing support for international religious freedom as a cornerstone of United States foreign policy, and expressing concern over increased threats to and attacks on religious freedom around the world; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. YOUNG (for himself, Mr. WARNER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. COONS, Mr. BOOZMAN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. GALLEG0, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. KAINE, Ms. ERNST, Mr. KING, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. TILLIS, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. REED, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. BANKS, and Ms. WARREN):

S. Res. 53. A resolution recognizing the 80th anniversary of the amphibious landing on the Japanese island of Iwo Jima during World War II and the raisings of the flag of the United States on Mount Suribachi; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. LEE (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. TUBERVILLE, and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

S. Res. 54. A resolution expressing the vital importance of the Panama Canal to the United States; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. MULLIN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. BLUNT ROCH-ESTER, Mr. BOOKER, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. COONS, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. REED, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. SANDERS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. BOOZMAN):

S. Res. 55. A resolution recognizing January 2025 as "National Mentoring Month"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. WELCH (for himself and Mr. SANDERS):

S. Res. 56. A resolution congratulating the University of Vermont men's soccer team on winning the 2024 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I men's soccer national championship; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 37

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 37, a bill to promote democracy in Venezuela, and for other purposes.

S. 53

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) 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. 93

At the request of Mr. SULLIVAN, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. MORENO) 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. 187

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) was added as a cosponsor of 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.

S. 212

At the request of Mr. BUDD, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 212, a bill to make the assault of a law enforcement officer a deportable offense, and for other purposes.

S. 306

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 306, a bill to establish and maintain a coordinated program within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration that improves wildfire, fire weather, fire risk, and wildfire smoke related forecasting, detection, modeling, observations, and service delivery, and for other purposes.

S. 313

At the request of Mrs. CAPITO, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. ERNST) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) were added as cosponsors of S. 313, a bill to restrict United States voluntary and assessed contributions to the United Nations, and for other purposes.

S. 315

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 315, a bill to require the Secretary of Transportation to issue a rule re-

quiring access to AM broadcast stations in passenger motor vehicles, and for other purposes.

S. 317

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER), the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) were added as cosponsors of S. 317, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify and extend the deduction for charitable contributions for individuals not itemizing deductions.

S. 324

At the request of Ms. ROSEN, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 324, a bill to require the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere to carry out pilot projects relating to improved subseasonal to seasonal forecasting in agriculture and water management, and for other purposes.

S. 333

At the request of Mr. SHEEHY, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST) was added as a cosponsor of S. 333, a bill to repeal certain provisions relating to taxpayer subsidies for home electrification, and for other purposes.

S. 338

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the names of the Senator from Utah (Mr. CURTIS) and the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) were added as cosponsors of S. 338, a bill to award posthumously a Congressional Gold Medal to Fred Korematsu, in recognition of his contributions to civil rights, his loyalty and patriotism to the United States, and his dedication to justice and equality.

S. 339

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the names of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) were added as cosponsors of S. 339, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for Medicare coverage of multi-cancer early detection screening tests.

S.J. RES. 3

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 3, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Internal Revenue Service relating to "Gross Proceeds Reporting by Brokers That Regularly Provide Services Effectuating Digital Asset Sales".

S.J. RES. 4

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. JUSTICE) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 4, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Energy relating to "Energy Conservation Program: Energy Con-

servation Standards for Consumer Gas-fired Instantaneous Water Heaters".

S.J. RES. 10

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) and the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) were added as cosponsors of S.J. Res. 10, a joint resolution terminating the national emergency declared with respect to energy.

S. RES. 51

At the request of Mr. COONS, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 51, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the United States Agency for International Development is essential for advancing the national security interests of the United States.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. COONS, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. MARKEY, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. WELCH):

S. 391. A bill to clarify the rights of certain persons who are held or detained at a port of entry or at any facility overseen by U.S. Customs and Border Protection; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, I rise to introduce the Access to Counsel Act.

This legislation would ensure that all individuals with a legal right to be in the United States have access to legal counsel if they are held by Customs and Border Protection at ports of entry or at airports.

This legislation would ensure that individuals who have a legal right to be in the United States and are held by Customs and Border Protection in secondary inspection at airports or other points of entry for more than 1 hour are granted an opportunity to access legal counsel and an interested party. An interested party is defined as a family member, sponsor, or organization with a connection to the individual.

The bill creates no obligation for the Federal Government to pay for counsel and allows counsel the ability to advocate on behalf of the individual being held at a port of entry, including by providing information or documentation in support of the individual.

It also invalidates any effort by CBP to persuade a lawful permanent resident to relinquish their legal status if that person has been denied access to counsel or voluntarily waives in writing their right to counsel.

In 2017, under the first Trump administration, a Muslim ban was implemented, and thousands of U.S. citizens, green card holders, and others with valid visas were detained at airports for hours.

They were held by CBP officers without any ability to call a lawyer, relative, or advocate. Many Members of Congress rushed to the airports in an attempt to help these individuals and were barred from speaking to them or connecting them with attorneys.

In early 2020, for example, dozens of Iranian Americans were held at the northern border in Blaine, WA, for 12 hours without access to counsel.

Everyone who has valid travel documents and is seeking entry to the United States should be afforded due process. If CBP refers someone to secondary inspection, they should be able to call counsel, family, or someone to support them. It is imperative that we are prepared this time and ensure that Americans and those with a legal right to be here have access to representation if they are held at a port of entry.

With a second Trump administration beginning, we must be ready for similar policies to be implemented and be proactive about trying to place guardrails against these abuses.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 52—RECOGNIZING RELIGIOUS FREEDOM AS A FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT, EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM AS A CORNERSTONE OF UNITED STATES FOREIGN POLICY, AND EXPRESSING CONCERN OVER INCREASED THREATS TO AND ATTACKS ON RELIGIOUS FREEDOM AROUND THE WORLD

Mr. LANKFORD (for himself, Mr. COONS, Mr. TILLIS, and Mr. Kaine) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 52

Whereas freedom of religion is a fundamental right;

Whereas the First Amendment of the Constitution stipulates that “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof”;

Whereas, in pushing for religious freedom in the Commonwealth of Virginia, James Madison argued that the right to freedom of religion “is precedent, both in order of time and in degree of obligation, to the claims of Civil Society”;

Whereas freedom of religion is a foundational element of democracy, human rights, and the rule of law in the United States and abroad, as well as a guiding principle for United States foreign policy;

Whereas Article 18 of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights states “Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship, and observance”;

Whereas the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom stipulates that “freedom of religion or belief is an expansive right that includes the freedoms of thought, conscience, expression, association, and assembly”;

Whereas the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6401 et seq.) recognizes religious freedom as a “universal human right”;

Whereas the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6401 et seq.) requires the President to annually designate as a “country of particular concern” each country the government of which has engaged in or tolerated “particularly severe” religious freedom violations, including—

- (1) systematic, ongoing, and egregious violations such as torture;
- (2) cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment;
- (3) prolonged detention without charges; and
- (4) forced disappearances;

Whereas, on December 29, 2023, the State Department designated Burma, the People's Republic of China, Cuba, Eritrea, Iran, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan as countries of particular concern;

Whereas the Frank R. Wolf International Religious Freedom Act (Public Law 114–281; 130 Stat. 1426) requires the President to annually designate countries with severe religious freedom violations that do not reach the threshold of “systematic, ongoing, and egregious” violations to a “Special Watch List”;

Whereas, on December 29, 2023, the State Department designated Algeria, Azerbaijan, the Central African Republic, Comoros, and Vietnam as Special Watch List countries;

Whereas, to enhance accountability for global human rights violations, including violations of religious freedom, President Joseph R. Biden signed the permanent authorization of the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act (22 U.S.C. 2656 note) into law on April 8, 2022;

Whereas the Senate passed a resolution calling for the global repeal of blasphemy, heresy, and apostasy laws in 2020 (Senate Resolution 458, 116th Congress, agreed to December 19, 2020);

Whereas, in 2023 and 2024, threats to religious freedom worsened around the world, including incidents targeting the exercise of religion in public or private, participation in religious advocacy, conversion from one religion to another, engagement in religious practices broadly, and those choosing to have no faith at all;

Whereas there were thousands of incidents wherein religious freedom was violated in 2023, including—

- (1) the targeting of 2,228 individuals by 27 countries and entities;
- (2) the imprisonment of 1,491 individuals;
- (3) the ongoing imprisonment of 1,311 individuals; and
- (4) the death of 9 individuals while in custody;

Whereas, as of 2024, there are 96 countries with legislation criminalizing blasphemy used to enforce arbitrary limitations on religious freedom of expression;

Whereas the Department of State has determined that religious minorities continue to be victims of genocides that relate to matters of religious freedom, including in—

- (1) Burma, where security forces have committed crimes against humanity and genocide against Rohingya Muslims since 2017, including the systematic killing, torture, and confinement of Rohingyas to small, overcrowded camps without freedom of movement or access to adequate food, health care, and education; and
- (2) China, where since 2017 the Chinese government has committed crimes against humanity and genocide against Uyghurs, including by—

- (A) imprisoning more than 1,000,000 Uyghurs in “re-education camps”;

- (B) subjecting Uyghur women to forced sterilizations and abortions;

- (C) deliberately separating Uyghur families;

- (D) instituting government surveillance through intrusive homestay programs; and
- (E) eliminating the Uyghur language from educational materials;

Whereas religious minorities face harassment, intimidation, violence, and imprisonment from state and non-state actors around the world, including in—

- (1) Afghanistan, where the Taliban has rigorously enforced its harsh interpretation of Shari'a law that violates the freedom of religion or belief of religious minorities, including Christians, Ahmadiyya Muslims, Baha'is, and nonbelievers who face imprisonment or death if discovered;

- (2) Burma, where in addition to violence targeted at religious minorities, strict laws in favor of the Buddhist majority regulate religious conversion, marriages, and births of non-Buddhists such as Muslims and Christians;

- (3) China, where the government utilizes targeted surveillance to monitor, harass, and detain Christians, Tibetan Buddhists, Falun Gong practitioners, Uyghur Muslims, and other religious minorities for exercising their beliefs;

- (4) Cuba, where the government subjects religious leaders and groups that are unregistered through its Office of Religious Affairs to detention, interrogation, imprisonment, and confiscation of property;

- (5) India, where laws promoting religiously discriminatory policies, including laws that target religious conversion, interfaith relationships, the wearing of hijabs, and cow slaughter, have been implemented at the national, state, and local levels and negatively impact the livelihoods of Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Dalits, and Adivasis;

- (6) Iran, where the government disproportionately subjects members of religious minorities such as Baha'is, Christians, Gonabadi Dervishes, and Sunni Muslims to amputations, floggings, detention, harassment, surveillance, executions, and exile;

- (7) Nicaragua, where the government arbitrarily detains and exiles religious clerics and leaders who advocate for the rights of religious minorities and criticize the government's persecution of the Roman Catholic Church;

- (8) Nigeria, where the government's enforcement of blasphemy laws embedded in Nigeria's criminal and Shari'a codes results in the arbitrary detainment and imprisonment of those who express their religious identity;

- (9) North Korea, where any religion contrary to the ruling ideology known as Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism is deemed an existential threat to the state;

- (10) Pakistan, where religious minorities face killings, lynchings, mob violence, forced conversions, and sexual violence for their religious identities;

- (11) Russia, where laws on terrorism and extremism are used to target religious minorities such as Jehovah's Witnesses, Muslims, and members of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church for their beliefs;

- (12) Tajikistan, where the government represses the display of public religiosity by individuals of all faiths and institutes strict restrictions against Muslims, including a ban on beards and hijabs;

- (13) Turkmenistan, where the government controls all aspects of religious life and expression, monitors religious practice, and punishes nonconformity through administrative harassment, imprisonment, and torture; and

- (14) Russian-occupied areas of Ukraine, where the Russian military has reportedly

perpetrated at least 43 cases of targeted persecution of the clergy and more than 109 acts pressuring churches and religious figures representing Orthodox Christians, Ukrainian Greek-Catholics, Roman Catholics, Protestants, Muslims, and Jehovah's Witnesses since the launch of its full-scale invasion in February 2022;

Whereas violent extremists and non-state actors continue to capitalize upon violence and instability in countries to perpetrate serious human rights violations against religious minorities, including in—

(1) Latin America, where criminal gangs and paramilitary groups threaten and displace indigenous communities, destroy places of worship, and forcibly require conversion or renunciation of ancestral practices;

(2) Nigeria, where violent, non-state militant groups such as Boko Haram target Christians, as well as persons engaged in “un-Islamic” activities, including Muslim critics and elders;

(3) the Sahel region of Africa, where violent extremist organizations threaten violence against Christians who do not convert to Islam;

(4) Syria, where violent extremist organizations restrict the religious freedom of non-confirming Sunni Muslims and threaten the property, safety, and existence of religious minority groups such as Alawites, Christians, and Druze; and

(5) Yemen, where the Houthis rebels harass, defame, and incite hatred against vulnerable faith communities including the Christians, Baha'is, Jews, and non-religious persons who continue to be forced to flee to the south of the country or leave Yemen entirely; and

Whereas religious sites continue to be damaged or destroyed, especially in areas of conflict, including in—

(1) Burma, where the military junta has destroyed approximately 200 houses of worship and religious sites such as Buddhist monasteries, churches, and mosques, and has occupied religious compounds for use as military bases;

(2) China, where the government has destroyed mosques, shrines, gravesites, and other religious and cultural sites throughout Xinjiang and the country;

(3) Ethiopia, where ongoing violence between the government and non-state actors has led to drone strikes and attacks on church compounds such as the Full Gospel Church in the Oromiya region in which 8 people were killed;

(4) India, where places of worship such as Christian churches and Muslim madrasas continue to be destroyed, especially those in predominantly Christian and Muslim neighborhoods;

(5) Nigeria, where violent, non-state groups, such as Boko Haram, attack population centers and religious targets, including churches and mosques;

(6) Sudan, where members of the Rapid Support Forces attacked a Coptic Christian monastery and raided the Sudanese Episcopal Church in Khartoum, using both as bases for military operations; and

(7) Ukraine, where over 600 religious buildings have been damaged or destroyed since Russia's full-scale invasion of the country began in February 2022: Now, therefore, be it Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes religious freedom as a fundamental human right;

(2) recognizes the critical importance of religious freedom in—

(A) supporting democracy, good governance, and the rule of law;

(B) encouraging pluralism and robust political participation; and

(C) fostering global stability and peace;

(3) expresses grave concern over threats to religious freedom around the world, such as

through harassment, violence, and imprisonment;

(4) condemns all efforts to suppress religious freedom, including through the criminalization of—

(A) religious exercise in public or private;

(B) the choice to have no faith;

(C) conversion from one religion to another;

(D) advocacy for religious freedom;

(E) sharing and spreading religious messages and educational materials; and

(F) construction and maintenance of religious holy sites;

(5) supports the invaluable work of religious freedom advocates in fighting for greater religious freedom around the world; and

(6) urges the Department of State to—

(A) continue robust bilateral and multilateral engagement with allies and partners on religious freedom;

(B) maintain and expand support for human rights activists, journalists, and civil society leaders working to protect religious freedom in countries of particular concern and Special Watch List countries;

(C) leverage all diplomatic and sanctions tools available to the United States Government to hold religious freedom violators accountable for their actions, including those authorized by the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6401 et seq.);

(D) continue to impose sanctions on those responsible for violations of religious freedom pursuant to the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Act (22 U.S.C. 2656 note);

(E) consider human rights abuses and religious freedom violations in prioritizing partners for free trade agreements; and

(F) promote religious freedom as an utmost priority for the United States in implementation of United States foreign policy.

SENATE RESOLUTION 53—RECOGNIZING THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMPHIBIOUS LANDING ON THE JAPANESE ISLAND OF IWO JIMA DURING WORLD WAR II AND THE RAISINGS OF THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES ON MOUNT SURIBACHI

Mr. YOUNG (for himself, Mr. WARNER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. COONS, Mr. BOOZMAN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. KAINE, Ms. ERNST, Mr. KING, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. TILLIS, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. REED, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. BANKS, and Ms. WARREN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 53

Whereas, following the surprise attack by Japanese forces on December 7, 1941, at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, the United States formally declared war on the Imperial Government of Japan on December 8, 1941;

Whereas, during the 4 years that followed the attack, the United States and Allied forces fought a prolonged counterattack against Japanese advances across the Pacific region;

Whereas the tactic of attacking, defeating, and controlling Japanese-held outposts through the use of amphibious assault landings against Japanese-held islands and territories (referred to in this preamble as “island hopping”) became crucial to successfully countering Japanese advances throughout the Pacific region;

Whereas the goal of island hopping was to secure airfields and supply bases—

(1) in order to progressively extend the sea control of the United States Navy westward across the Pacific Ocean towards Japan;

(2) in order to launch aerial bombardment attacks against the mainland of Japan using the new Boeing B-29 Superfortress; and

(3) in preparation for, and in anticipation of, a United States invasion of Japan;

Whereas, by early 1945, the United States and Allied forces bravely fought and advanced to the island of Iwo Jima, an 8-square mile island of volcanic rock and sand with 3 strategic airfields, located between the Mariana Islands and Japan;

Whereas Iwo Jima was—

(1) a strategic island with airfields to support the bombers of the United States with fighter escorts; and

(2) an essential base for emergency, refueling, and diversionary landings for B-29 bombers;

Whereas, under the command of Japanese Lieutenant General Tadamichi Kuribayashi, Iwo Jima was a heavily fortified island with nearly 11 miles of underground and networked tunnels, rooms, bunkers, artillery emplacements, ammunition dumps, and pillboxes supporting more than 21,000 Japanese soldiers;

Whereas, on February 19, 1945, under the leadership of United States Navy 5th Fleet Admiral Raymond A. Spruance, United States Marine Corps V Amphibious Corps Major General Harry Schmidt, 3rd Marine Division Major General Graves B. Erskine, 4th Marine Division Major General Clifton B. Cates, and 5th Marine Division Major General Keller E. Rockey, the United States launched an amphibious landing and assault on Iwo Jima (referred to in this preamble as the “Battle of Iwo Jima”) that culminated with the engagement of more than 70,000 members of the United States Marine Corps, supported by thousands of members of the United States Navy, the United States Coast Guard, and the United States Army serving as assault, garrison, and support forces;

Whereas the members of the United States Marine Corps who fought in the Battle of Iwo Jima overcame numerous disadvantages in the 36-day battle that included treacherous terrain, unfavorable weather conditions, and heavy enemy fire from an entrenched, determined, and fierce Japanese fighting force in places immortalized by members of the United States Marine Corps, including the “Meat Grinder” and “Bloody Gorge”;

Whereas, on February 23, 1945, only 5 days into the Battle of Iwo Jima, members of the United States Marine Corps ascended the highest point on the island, Mount Suribachi, and raised the flag of the United States 2 times, the second of which resulted in the iconic, Pulitzer Prize-winning image that—

(1) was captured on film by photographer Joe Rosenthal;

(2) has become a recognized symbol of determination, perseverance, and struggle;

(3) has been memorialized as the United States Marine Corps War Memorial in Arlington, Virginia;

(4) immortalized the fighting spirit of the United States Marine Corps and the heroism of the 6 Marine flag raisers portrayed; and

(5) has continued to inspire the people of the United States to fight in support of our Nation's interests and in support of our allies, even against formidable odds;

Whereas Secretary of the Navy, Hon. James Forrestal, who was observing the battle from the sea aboard a landing craft, remarked to Lieutenant General Holland M. Smith that, “the raising of that flag on Suribachi means a Marine Corps for the next 500 years.”;

Whereas the Battle of Iwo Jima, one of the bloodiest battles in the history of the United

States Marine Corps, resulted in more than 26,000 casualties for the United States, more than 6,800 of whom were killed;

Whereas the Battle of Iwo Jima led to 22 members of the United States Marine Corps and 5 members of the United States Navy receiving the Medal of Honor, representing—

(1) the most members of the United States Marine Corps ever to receive the highest military decoration in the United States for a single battle; and

(2) more than $\frac{1}{4}$ of all members of the United States Marine Corps to receive the decoration during World War II;

Whereas the secured airfields on Iwo Jima became emergency landing locations for 2,251 B-29 Bombers, saving the lives of an estimated 24,761 crewmen;

Whereas 160 days after the end and victory of the pivotal Battle of Iwo Jima the United States received the unconditional surrender of Japan on September 2, 1945;

Whereas the world owes a debt of gratitude to the members of the United States Marine Corps who selflessly led the fight for the strategic island of Iwo Jima in the middle of the Pacific theater; and

Whereas the 80th anniversary of the Battle of Iwo Jima will be marked by commemorative events on the island of Iwo Jima, in Washington, D.C., and internationally, organized by the people of the United States and Japan: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the 80th anniversary of the amphibious landing on the Japanese island of Iwo Jima that began on February 19, 1945, and ended on March 26, 1945;

(2) commemorates the iconic and historic raisings of the flag of the United States on Mount Suribachi that occurred on February 23, 1945;

(3) honors the Marines, Sailors, Soldiers, Army Air Crew, and Coast Guardsmen who fought bravely on Iwo Jima, including the thousands of Japanese soldiers who tenaciously defended the island;

(4) remembers and venerates the service members who gave their last full measure of devotion on the battlefield;

(5) recognizes the Allied victory at the Battle of Iwo Jima, which—

(A) was led by the United States Marine Corps; and

(B) made the defeat of the Empire of Japan in World War II possible;

(6) affirms the immortal words of Admiral Chester Nimitz, who stated that “uncommon valor was a common virtue” among the service members of the United States who fought on Iwo Jima;

(7) reaffirms the bonds of friendship and shared values between the United States and Japan, whose strong and resilient alliance demonstrates the power of reconciliation between former adversaries;

(8) encourages the people of the United States to honor the veterans of the Battle of Iwo Jima with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities;

(9) honors the service and sacrifice of the men and women who serve the United States today, carrying on the proud tradition of the individuals who came before them; and

(10) salutes the 250th year since the founding of the United States Marine Corps and the United States Navy.

SENATE RESOLUTION 54—EXPRESSING THE VITAL IMPORTANCE OF THE PANAMA CANAL TO THE UNITED STATES

Mr. LEE (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. TUBERVILLE, and Mrs. BLACKBURN) submitted the following

resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 54

Whereas early efforts of the Colombian government and French investors to construct a canal across Panama were unsuccessful and resulted in bankruptcy by 1889;

Whereas, as a condition of United States Government support for Panama's independence from Colombia, including the positioning of United States troops in the then-territory of Panama, the United States was to be assured access to construct and control a canal in perpetuity, an agreement that culminated in the Hay-Bunau-Varilla Treaty, signed at Washington November 18, 1903;

Whereas the Panama Canal was never initiated, engineered, or built by the Panamanian government;

Whereas the United States Government funded, pioneered, and built the Panama Canal over a 10-year period from 1904 to 1914, at a cost of \$375,000,000 and 10,000 lives, and raised the canal above sea level through construction of a lock system;

Whereas, historically, the Panama Canal has been distinct from the sovereign territory of Panama;

Whereas the Panama Canal serves as a vital connection between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, connecting the east and west coasts of the United States and providing passage for more than 14,000 vessels in 2023;

Whereas approximately 72 percent of vessels traveling through the Panama Canal are traveling to or from United States ports;

Whereas, without the Panama Canal, vessels would have to pass through the notoriously dangerous Cape Horn, extending transit by nearly 8,000 miles;

Whereas, in 1977, President Carter surrendered United States control over the Panama Canal in a series of treaties with Panama known as the “Torrijos-Carter Treaties”;

Whereas one of those treaties, the Treaty Concerning the Permanent Neutrality and Operation of the Panama Canal, signed at Washington September 7, 1977, otherwise known as the “Neutrality Treaty”, reserved the right of the United States to use armed force to defend the permanent neutrality of the Panama Canal;

Whereas, for nearly a decade, the People's Republic of China has steadily increased its footprint in the Panama Canal;

Whereas, in 2016, Panama ceded control of Margarita Island, the Panama Canal's largest Atlantic port, to the People's Republic of China-affiliated Landbridge Group in a \$900,000,000 agreement;

Whereas, in 2018, Panama entered into a \$1,400,000,000 agreement for the China Communications Construction Company and the China Harbor Engineering Company to construct the fourth bridge across the Panama Canal;

Whereas CK Hutchison Holdings, based in Hong Kong, manages two of the Panama Canal's five ports, including the Balboa port along the Pacific and Cristobal port along the Atlantic;

Whereas the rapid acceleration of Chinese influence in the Panama Canal poses a high risk of intelligence-gathering and surveillance by the People's Republic of China;

Whereas Chinese law requires the assets of civilian firms to be made available to support the armed forces of the People's Republic of China;

Whereas the Panama Canal would serve as a logistics point between the east and west coasts of the United States in the event of a conflict involving United States Armed Forces, cementing its value to homeland and hemispheric defense; and

Whereas the ability of the People's Republic of China to control major entry and exit

points of the Panama Canal would provide the People's Republic of China with a significant military advantage relevant to United States Armed Forces in the event of a conflict: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the ingenuity and labor of Americans that made the Panama Canal possible for future generations, with special regard for those Americans who lost their lives in pursuit of the Panama Canal project;

(2) expresses that the Panama Canal is vital to United States regional security, hemispheric hegemony, and economic interests;

(3) assesses that a pattern of Chinese-backed investment in port infrastructure and canal operations in Panama constitutes a violation of the Neutrality Treaty; and

(4) urges the Trump administration to ensure that the canal remains neutral and to take all appropriate measures to enforce the Neutrality Treaty.

SENATE RESOLUTION 55—RECOGNIZING JANUARY 2025 AS “NATIONAL MENTORING MONTH”

Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. MULLIN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. BLUNT ROCH-ESTER, Mr. BOOKER, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. COONS, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. REED, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. SANDERS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WYDEN and Mr. BOOZMAN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 55

Whereas the goals of National Mentoring Month are to raise awareness of and celebrate the powerful impact of mentoring relationships, recruit new mentors, and encourage institutions to integrate quality mentoring into their policies, practices, and programs;

Whereas quality mentoring fosters positive life and social skills, promotes self-esteem, bolsters academic achievement and college access, supports career exploration, and nurtures youth leadership development;

Whereas mentoring happens in many settings, including community-based programs, elementary and secondary schools, colleges, government agencies, religious institutions, and the workplace, and in various ways, including formal mentoring matches and informal relationships with teachers, coaches, neighbors, faith leaders, and others;

Whereas effective mentoring of underserved and vulnerable populations helps individuals confront challenges and display improved mental health and social-emotional well-being;

Whereas studies have shown that incorporating culture and heritage into mentoring programs can improve academic outcomes and increase community engagement, especially for Alaska Native and American Indian youth;

Whereas mentoring encourages positive youth development and smart daily behaviors, such as finishing homework and having healthy social interactions, and has a positive impact on the growth and success of a young person;

Whereas mentors help young people set career goals and can help connect mentees to industry professionals to train for and find jobs;

Whereas mentoring programs generally have a significant, positive impact on youth

academic achievement, school connectedness and engagement, and educational success, which lead to outcomes such as improved attendance, grades and test scores, and classroom behavior;

Whereas research has found that young people facing risk of not completing high school but who had a mentor were, compared with their peers, more likely to enroll in college, to participate regularly in sports or extracurricular activities, to hold a leadership position in a club or sports team, and to volunteer regularly, and less likely to start using drugs;

Whereas mentoring has long been a staple of juvenile justice and violence prevention efforts and can offer comprehensive support to youth at risk for committing violence or victimization, as mentoring can address many risk factors at once;

Whereas mentoring relationships for youth facing risk, such as foster youth, can have a positive impact on a wide range of factors, including mental health, educational functioning and attainment, peer relationships, employment, and housing stability;

Whereas mentoring programs have been found to have a meaningful positive impact on mental health symptoms across a variety of outcomes, including internalizing and externalizing mental health symptoms, interpersonal relationships, and reducing parental stress;

Whereas mentoring is an innovative, evidence-based practice and, uniquely, is both a prevention and intervention strategy that can support young people of all demographics and backgrounds in all aspects of their lives;

Whereas each of the benefits of mentors described in this preamble serves to link youth to economic and social opportunity while also strengthening communities in the United States;

Whereas, despite the benefits of mentoring, 1 out of every 3 young persons is growing up without a mentor, which means a third of the youth of the United States are growing up without someone outside of the home to offer real life guidance and support; and

Whereas this “mentoring gap” demonstrates the need for collaboration between the private, public, and nonprofit sectors to increase resources for relationship-centric supports for youth in communities, schools, and workplaces: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes January 2025 as “National Mentoring Month”;

(2) recognizes the caring adults who serve as staff and volunteers at quality mentoring programs and help the young people of the United States find inner strength and reach their full potential;

(3) acknowledges that mentoring is beneficial because it supports educational achievement, engagement, and self-confidence, supports young people in setting career goals and expanding social capital, reduces juvenile delinquency, and strengthens communities;

(4) promotes the establishment and expansion of quality mentoring programs across the United States to equip young people with the tools needed to lead healthy and productive lives; and

(5) supports initiatives to close the “mentoring gap” that exists for the many young people in the United States who do not have meaningful connections with adults outside the home.

SENATE RESOLUTION 56—CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT MEN’S SOCCER TEAM ON WINNING THE 2024 NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION DIVISION I MEN’S SOCCER NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Mr. WELCH (for himself and Mr. SANDERS) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 56

Whereas, on December 16th, 2024, the University of Vermont men’s soccer team (referred to in this preamble as the “Catamounts”), after a golden goal with 5 minutes and 6 seconds left in overtime, pulled off an historic comeback against Marshall University to win the 2024 National Collegiate Athletic Association (referred to in this preamble as “NCAA”) Division I men’s soccer national championship, with a final score of 2 goals to 1;

Whereas the 2024 NCAA Division I men’s soccer national championship victory for the Catamounts is the first-ever NCAA Division I national championship in the history of the Catamounts;

Whereas the 2024 NCAA Division I men’s soccer national championship game was a game for the record books, with many notable moments including—

(1) a perfectly timed goal by Marcell Papp, which gave the Catamounts a golden opportunity in overtime; and

(2) the game winning goal by Maximilian Kissel, his 11th goal of the season, which will be remembered by the Catamounts for all time;

Whereas the coaching staff of the Catamounts led the team with grit and determination;

Whereas the support staff of the Catamounts played critical roles in supporting the Catamounts throughout the 2024 season;

Whereas, to the casual observer, the Catamounts may have been the underdogs or the “Cinderella story” of the entire 2024 NCAA Division I men’s soccer national championship tournament;

Whereas, during the 2024 season, the Catamounts scored 22 goals in the 76th minute or later, including the championship equalizing goal, earning the Catamounts the nickname “Cardiac Cats”;

Whereas last-minute victories were a habit for the Catamounts during the 2024 NCAA Division I men’s soccer national championship tournament, including—

(1) beating San Diego University in overtime in the third round match; and

(2) tying the University of Denver in the final minutes of the semifinal match to push the game into penalty kicks, where a save from Catamounts goalkeeper Niklas Herceg ended up securing the Catamounts a ticket to the championship match;

Whereas Vermonters and fans of the Catamounts congratulate the Catamounts for their well-deserved 2024 NCAA Division I men’s soccer national championship win;

Whereas the Catamounts are champions, not underdogs; and

Whereas the Catamounts made the people and State of Vermont very proud and showed the United States that the State of Vermont is, in fact, a soccer State: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the University of Vermont men’s soccer team on winning the 2024 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I men’s soccer national championship; and

(2) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to—

(A) the interim president of the University of Vermont, Patricia A. Prelock;

(B) the director of athletics of the University of Vermont, Jeff Schulman; and

(C) the head coach of the University of Vermont Catamounts men’s soccer team, Rob Dow.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I have four requests for committees to meet during today’s session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today’s session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Committee on Finance is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, February 4, 2025, at 10 a.m., to consider a nomination.

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

The Committee on Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, February 4, 2025, at 10:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, February 4, 2025, at 2:20 p.m., to conduct a closed business meeting.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, February 4, 2025, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a closed briefing.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Sam Ruhe and Ivy Benjenk, two detailees in my office, be granted floor privileges for the remainder of the Congress.

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

RECOGNIZING JANUARY 2025 AS NATIONAL MENTORING MONTH

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 55, which was submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 55) recognizing January 2025 as “National Mentoring Month”.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be

considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 55) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT MEN'S SOCCER TEAM ON WINNING THE 2024 NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION DIVISION I MEN'S SOCCER NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 56, which was submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 56) congratulating the University of Vermont men's soccer team on winning the 2024 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I men's soccer national championship.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. THUNE. Here is to Vermont.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 56) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY,
FEBRUARY 5, 2025

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, February 5; 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, morning business be closed, and the Senate proceed to executive session and resume

Executive Calendar No. 11; that at 11:30 a.m., all time be expired on the Turner nomination; finally, that if any nominations are confirmed during Wednesday's session, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10:30 A.M.
TOMORROW

Mr. THUNE. Madam 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 8:23 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, February 5, 2025, at 10:30 a.m.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate February 04, 2025:

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

DOUGLAS COLLINS, OF GEORGIA, TO BE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

PAMELA BONDI, OF FLORIDA, TO BE ATTORNEY GENERAL.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF LOUIS BASS

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 2025

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of Louis Bass, CEO of Regional Medical Center Health System (RMC) in Anniston, Alabama.

Louis has dedicated 26 years of his career to RMC Health System, culminating in a decade of service as CEO. Prior to this leadership role, he served as the system's CFO.

During his tenure, Mr. Bass led RMC through the COVID pandemic and spearheaded several key accomplishments. He integrated Stringfellow Memorial Hospital into the RMC family, allowing the transformation of inpatient care. He helped transform RMC Foundation to better invest in needs of the hospital and expanded access to serve the community. Bass improved nurse education through the donation of Jacksonville Medical Center to Jacksonville State University and helped position RMC for a financially stable future and success by securing HUD funds to refinance and make needed capital improvements.

Louis is a dedicated community leader, serving on the boards of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Alabama, Vizient Southeast, the JSU Foundation and the RMC Foundation. He is also an active member of the Calhoun County Chamber of Commerce and Rotary Club.

Louis and his wife, Debbie, are the proud parents of Jordan and Ashley Bass, Corey and Hazuki Bass, and Lauren and Trey Shaw. They are blessed with four grandchildren: Claire, Jonathan, Emma, and Owen Bass, and Baker and Brewer Shaw.

Mr. Bass is a devoted member of Hillcrest Baptist Church, where he serves as a Deacon.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing Louis on his retirement and thanking him for his service to Northeast Alabama. I congratulate Louis.

HONORING BETHANY BRAMAN FOSTER FOR 10 YEARS OF SO- BRIETY

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 2025

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Bethany Braman Foster of Ludlow, Massachusetts on celebrating 10 years of sobriety, which she achieved on January 31, 2025. This milestone, which required a lot of faith, self-discipline, and healthy choices is an achievement that her new husband Micah Welintikonas (U.S. Army, Retired), her family, and friends came together to honor. Bethany is the epitome of a community-oriented individual, leading her life with care and kindness.

Bethany was always destined to lead a generous life. Since completing her education, Bethany has pursued an extremely successful career as a Physician Assistant (PA) in Springfield, Massachusetts. As a trusted medical professional, she has provided much-needed care and treatment to patients and families in times of need. Her exceptional work was recognized in 2024 when Bethany was named one of the top 5 medical providers from over 100 clinics nationwide.

In addition to her devoted work as a PA, Bethany has found time to give back to her community in other ways. She has been a long-time volunteer at animal rescues, caring for animals and helping them find forever homes. Bethany has also been a devout volunteer for AWANA, a worldwide nonprofit ministry for children and youth.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues please join me in congratulating Bethany on 10 years of sobriety and recognize her as the exceptional citizen she has distinguished herself as. Bethany has led a life full of giving, exemplified through her selfless work in the medical field, countless community engagements, and her role as a loving mother to three children. Bethany, we congratulate you on this momentous accomplishment.

REMEMBERING THE REMARKABLE LIFE OF DANA CRAWFORD

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 2025

Ms. DeGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the legacy of Ms. Dana Crawford. She was a true Denver icon who transformed our city with her vision and determination to revitalize Colorado's most treasured places.

Born in Kansas, Dana brought her passion for preservation and community to Denver in 1953. Inspired by New England town squares, she saw the potential for our city to have vibrant gathering spaces.

Her work began with Larimer Square, a well-known landmark in downtown Denver, which she saved from destruction in the 1960s. Under challenging circumstances, she transformed a block of deteriorating buildings into a thriving hub that sparked a nationwide movement for historic preservation.

Dana's vision didn't stop at Larimer Square. From the Oxford Hotel to Union Station, her work preserved Denver's essence while building for its future. Eventually, her impact extended beyond Denver, revitalizing communities across Colorado, in places like Trinidad, Pueblo, and Idaho Springs.

Dana was a pioneer and beloved in Denver and beyond. Her work wasn't just about preserving buildings—it was about building community and creating places that brought Denverites together.

Our hearts go out to her four sons—Jack, Peter, Tom, and Duke—and all who knew and loved her.

May her memory continue to inspire us all and live in the heart of our city.

RECOGNIZING THE FOOTHILLS YOUNG MARINES

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 2025

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Foothills Young Marines for being the 2024 "Division 4 Young Marine Unit of the Year."

The Young Marines encourages young people to uphold the Marine Corps' core values of honor, courage, and commitment while serving their local communities. The Foothills unit, made up of about 50 students aged eight through eighteen, logged 2,440 community service hours and 880 hours towards drug demand reduction, earning them the division's highest distinction.

The group organized Children's Hospital fundraisers, food drives, Toys for Tots, and more—while also being at the forefront of drug reduction initiatives and veterans and military appreciation. The young people and staff of the Foothills Young Marines have made extraordinary contributions to our communities, and their work is greatly appreciated by all the people they serve.

On behalf of the people of Colorado's Seventh Congressional District, it is my honor to congratulate the Foothills Young Marines on winning "Division 4 Young Marine Unit of the Year" and thank them for their service to the Colorado community.

HONORING CONGRESSMAN KEN CALVERT FOR LEADERSHIP AND INNOVATION IN NATIONAL SEC- URITY

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 2025

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend my colleague and longtime friend, Congressman KEN CALVERT, who is being honored by the Creative Defense Foundation with the Visionary Award for Leadership and Innovation in National Security. Throughout his distinguished tenure, Congressman CALVERT has been a steadfast advocate for strengthening our Nation's defense capabilities and fostering technological advancements critical to our security.

As Chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense, Congressman CALVERT has championed initiatives to bridge the gap between technological innovation and its adoption by the Department of Defense. His instrumental role in establishing the Accelerate the Procurement and Fielding of Innovative Technologies (APFIT) program has been

• 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.

pivotal in ensuring that cutting-edge technologies reach our warfighters without undue delay.

Congressman CALVERT's commitment to innovation is further exemplified by his efforts to formalize the Defense Innovation Unit (DIU) and the Office of Strategic Capital, ensuring that our military maintains its technological edge.

On a personal note, I have had the privilege of working alongside Congressman CALVERT for many years. His unwavering dedication to our Nation's security and his visionary leadership have been both inspiring and instrumental in shaping our defense policies. I am proud to call him a friend and colleague.

It is an honor to congratulate and recognize Congressman KEN CALVERT on this well-deserved award and express my gratitude for his invaluable contributions to our Nation's security.

**CELEBRATING THE MAYOR OF
THE CITY OF PORT HURON,
MICHIGAN FOR 15 YEARS OF EX-
EMPLARY SERVICE**

HON. LISA C. McCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 2025

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary leadership and enduring commitment of Mayor Pauline Repp, who has served the City of Port Huron with distinction for 15 years as Mayor. Her tenure exemplifies the values of dedication, professionalism, and selfless service that define an exceptional public servant.

Mayor Repp's life story is as inspiring as her career. Born in England and raised across three countries—England, Canada, and the United States—she became a U.S. citizen in 1988. She began her professional journey in advertising, eventually serving as Assistant to the Publisher of the Times Herald. In 1977, she paused her career to focus on raising her family, but her drive to contribute to her community remained unwavering.

Her commitment to public service began in 1983 when she joined the City of Port Huron as Executive Secretary to the City Manager. Her intelligence and reliability earned her the respect of her colleagues, leading to her promotion as City Clerk in 1989, a position she held for nearly two decades. During her tenure, she achieved the prestigious designation of Master Municipal Clerk, underscoring her dedication to the people she serves.

In 2009, Mayor Repp's passion for improving her community led her to public office. After serving as Chair of the City's Charter Commission, she was elected Mayor of Port Huron and re-elected six more times. Her leadership has been transformative, steering the City toward progress while fostering a spirit of collaboration and unity.

Beyond her mayoral duties, Mayor Repp serves as Chair for the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments and contributes to its Executive, Budget, and Regional Review Committees. She holds prominent roles with the Michigan Association of Mayors, Lake Huron Medical Center Board, St. Clair County Child Abuse Neglect Council, and numerous other boards and organizations. Her work re-

flects an unwavering commitment to the welfare of her community.

Mayor Repp's influence extends beyond her professional achievements. She and her husband Greg have raised four children and enjoy the company of six grandchildren. Having lived in Port Huron for nearly 50 years, she embodies the spirit of the city she has tirelessly served.

Mr. Speaker, Mayor Pauline Repp's 15 years of exemplary service have left an indelible mark on the City of Port Huron. Her visionary leadership, dedication to public service, and commitment to her community stand as a testament to what local government can achieve. Let us honor Mayor Repp's remarkable legacy and express our deepest gratitude for her years of service.

**RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT
OF MAYOR JOHNNY SMITH**

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 2025

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of Mayor Johnny L. Smith, Mayor of the City of Jacksonville, Alabama.

Mayor Smith graduated from Collinsville High School and received his Bachelor of Science degree from Jacksonville State University. He furthered his studies with a Master of Mathematics from the University of South Carolina, Doctor of Education with a Special Emphasis in Mathematics from the University of Alabama and Post Graduate Study in Mathematics from Emory University.

Mayor Smith served on the Jacksonville City Council for 12 years and has served as mayor for 20 years. He has served in the Alabama League of Municipalities, the Alabama Recreational Trails Commission, Past Chairman and member of the East Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission and Past Chairman and member of the Calhoun County Metropolitan Planning Organization.

His children include: Laura A. Smith (deceased) (David), Jennifer Smith Aguilar (deceased) and Lyle Smith (Jennifer). His grandchildren include: Glenn M. Smith (deceased), LeeAnn Smith (deceased), Kristen Aguilar, Camden Aguilar, Amelia Smith, Olivia Smith and Luke Smith.

Mayor Smith is a member of the First Baptist Church in Jacksonville and the Jacksonville Exchange Club. In 2017, he was the recipient of the Book of Golden Deeds and the Jacksonville News Citizen of the Year.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing my friend, Mayor Smith, and thanking him for his service to the City of Jacksonville. Congratulations.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. FRANK J. MRVAN

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 2025

Mr. MRVAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 23, 2025, I missed Roll Call Votes No. 24, No. 25, No. 26, and No. 27. Had I been present, I

would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 24; YEA on Roll Call No. 25; YEA on Roll Call No. 26; and NAY on Roll Call No. 27.

**INTRODUCTION OF THE AMERICAN
SEABED PROTECTION ACT AND
THE INTERNATIONAL SEABED
PROTECTION ACT**

HON. ED CASE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 2025

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce two critically important pieces of legislation aimed at protecting our oceans and marine ecosystems from the potentially catastrophic consequences of deep-sea mining: the American Seabed Protection Act and the International Seabed Protection Act.

These bills will place a moratorium on seabed mining until its full environmental, social and economic impacts are thoroughly studied and appropriate regulatory protections are in place.

Our deep oceans and seabeds are among the last unexplored frontiers of our planet. What we do know about these ecosystems is that they are fragile, diverse and essential to the health of our entire planet. Over half of all known coral species are found in the deep sea, and it is believed that as many as ten million marine species may inhabit this area, many of which are still undiscovered.

These ecosystems are not only rich in biodiversity but also serve vital functions, such as supporting carbon sequestration processes that help mitigate climate change. Additionally, some species residing in these depths have already provided invaluable benefits to humanity. For instance, enzymes from microbes found in deep-sea hydrothermal vents were crucial in developing reliable COVID-19 tests.

While deep-sea discoveries have already made significant contributions to humanity, there is still much scientific research to be done and countless discoveries yet to be made. One of the most exciting areas of research lies in the study of dark oxygen, a unique form of oxygen recently found in certain deep-sea environments. Unlike the oxygen we typically encounter, dark oxygen exists in a chemically distinct state, revealing that oxygen dynamics in the deep ocean are far more complex than previously understood. This discovery could have profound implications not only for marine life but also for biogeochemical processes in the ocean, helping us better understand how deep-sea ecosystems function and how they may respond to environmental changes, including those caused by human activities like seabed mining. The mysteries of the deep ocean, including dark oxygen, continue to unfold, offering new insights that could reshape our understanding of marine ecosystems and the vital role they play in our planet's health.

Unfortunately, these ecosystems are now under increasing threat. The imminent expansion of large-scale commercial seabed mining poses a direct threat to these ecosystems, with potentially irreversible consequences for marine biodiversity, climate processes and communities that depend on ocean resources.

The methods used in seabed mining, including shear-mining techniques that strip away

seamounts on the ocean floor, can be highly destructive. In fact, these practices bear many similarities to terrestrial strip mining and can result in the loss of species, the creation of toxic sediment plumes and contamination of marine food chains. Additionally, mining can disrupt the natural processes that help sequester carbon, thus accelerating climate change rather than alleviating it.

Given that the environmental risks of deep-sea mining are largely unknown, and the science surrounding its impacts is still in its infancy, it is critical that we pause and take the time to assess these consequences properly. That is why the American Seabed Protection Act would place a moratorium on all deep-sea mining activities in U.S. waters, as well as any mining activities conducted by American companies on the high seas. This legislation also directs the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the National Academies of Sciences to conduct a comprehensive environmental and social impact study to evaluate the risks of seabed mining on ocean species, carbon storage and coastal communities.

At the international level, the International Seabed Protection Act would require the United States to oppose any international seabed mining efforts until the President certifies that the International Seabed Authority (ISA) has established a comprehensive and effective regulatory framework to safeguard these vital ecosystems. The ISA is currently under pressure to finalize mining regulations, but this process is complicated by ongoing scientific uncertainty and environmental concerns. As such, the U.S. must take a leadership role in ensuring that these regulations are not rushed and that the long-term health of our oceans is prioritized.

The reintroduction of these bills comes at a critical juncture as the ISA prepares to consider regulations that could open vast ocean areas to industrial mining. While proponents of seabed mining argue that it will provide essential minerals for renewable energy technologies, that is an assumption that should not go unchallenged, nor, contrary to some of their arguments, have we maximized the sourcing of critical minerals elsewhere. In either event, we should not and cannot simply fling ourselves headlong into a practice that, wholly unknown and improperly regulated, would certainly cause irreversible damage to our oceans and the communities that rely on them, damage that would far outweigh any arguable short-term benefit.

I urge my colleagues to join me in cosponsoring these bills and defending our marine environment.

RECOGNIZING SERGEANT JONATHAN PRESLEY

HON. JAMES COMER

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 2025

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sergeant Jonathan Presley of the Frankfort Police Department for being awarded the 2024 Medal of Valor for his bravery demonstrated while responding to a critical situation within Franklin County.

During a high-risk pursuit with an armed suspect who had barricaded himself in a vehi-

cle following a multi-jurisdictional pursuit, Sergeant Presley demonstrated excellent courage and tactical precision through his coordinated response with Lieutenant Smith to de-escalate a potentially lethal situation successfully.

Throughout this critical situation, Sergeant Presley successfully disarmed the subject. His actions and exceptional teamwork skills allowed a peaceful resolution for all involved.

Sergeant Presley voluntarily performed extraordinary acts of bravery. His actions went above and have made him deserving of this fine honor. I am confident that Sergeant Presley will continue to serve as an exemplary role model for law enforcement officers across the 1st Congressional District and the entire Commonwealth of Kentucky.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF FRED MOSES

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 2025

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Mr. Fred Moses of Plano, Texas, who peacefully passed away on January 24, 2025.

Fred was born in Coward, South Carolina, on June 6, 1949, to Otis and Elveta Moses. He grew up from humble beginnings in a large sharecropping family with nine siblings. Fred's experiences showed him the importance of working hard, obtaining an education, and safeguarding his family's hard-earned possessions—in this case, land. This inspired him to establish an enduring legacy for his family and future generations. Fred graduated from the University of Bridgeport and later worked as an Operations Manager at General Electric Supply Company for eleven years. In 1985, he left General Electric and used his savings to establish Telecom Electric Supply LLC along with his wife Mазzie.

For over four decades, Fred's company has continued to successfully deliver exceptional supply chain services, electrical equipment, and telecommunications products to North Texas. He also served as a minister at Shiloh Baptist Church and was a generous benefactor for various charitable organizations to help provide scholarships to students in need. For his contributions to our community, Fred received the Community Leader Award from Collin County's Meals on Wheels and was selected to be recognized as a Dallas Living Legend by Verna's HELP Foundation. I was also honored to present him with the prestigious Congressional Patriot Award last year for his outstanding leadership and distinguished community service.

I have requested the United States flag to be flown over our Nation's Capitol in recognition of Fred's incredible life and service. He will be dearly missed by his friends, family, and all who knew him.

HONORING THE PEBBLE HILLS HIGH SCHOOL SPARTAN MARCH- ING BAND

HON. VERONICA ESCOBAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 2025

Ms. ESCOBAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary achievements of the Pebble Hills High School Spartan Marching Band. Under the leadership of Director Maximo Sierra and the unwavering support of the Socorro Independent School District, the Spartan Marching Band has made history as the first band from El Paso to perform in the prestigious Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena, California.

This remarkable accomplishment reflects the dedication, discipline, and talent of the more than 300 student musicians, dancers, and color guard members who have worked tirelessly to reach this milestone. Their invitation to participate in the 136th Rose Parade is not only a testament to their musical excellence, but their commitment to representing the spirit and pride of El Paso's heritage on a national stage.

I commend the students, parents, educators, and community members who have supported the Spartan Marching Band on this journey. Their achievement is a source of immense pride for El Paso and an inspiration for young musicians across the country.

RECOGNIZING CHRIS SIRIANNI AS A COMMUNITY CHAMPION IN PA-16

HON. MIKE KELLY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 2025

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the work and dedication of Mr. Chris Sirianni, founder of Brewerie. In 2006, The Brewerie established itself as Erie's only brew pub and restaurant. With a deep passion for beer, they took it upon themselves to create brews that they loved, serve food that we relished, and provide a space that was unique.

Throughout their journey of operating a brewpub and restaurant, they have consistently shown their dedication to supporting local individuals, non-profits, and businesses in the area. Since they started, their goal has been to make a positive impact on the revitalization of downtown Erie and the historic Union Station. By reviving these significant locations, they have helped create a strong community connection.

Their values are centered around three principles that shape everything they do. First, they focus on crafting superior products, ensuring that every beer brewed, and every dish served exceeds expectations. The second principle is a deep commitment to caring for their staff and patrons by creating an environment where everyone feels valued, respected, and part of the family. Finally, they place a strong emphasis on being community-oriented and driven, believing that their success is linked to the success of the people and businesses around them.

Years later, these principles still drive their operations, impacting not just the excellence

of their products but also their consistent commitment to enhance the Erie community. Their beliefs have not only upheld their business but have also contributed to a more unified downtown Erie.

Because of this, and as Co-Chair of the House Small Brewers Caucus, I am honored to highlight Mr. Chris Sirianni, as the PA-16 community champion. THE BREWERIE at Union Station, "Erie's Original Brewpub & Restaurant."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. FRANK J. MRVAN

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 2025

Mr. MRVAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 22, 2025, I missed Roll Call Votes No. 20, No. 21, No. 22, and No. 23. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 20; NAY on Roll Call No. 21; YEA on Roll Call No. 22; and YEA on Roll Call No. 23.

RECOGNIZING OFFICER LOGAN SUTTON

HON. JAMES COMER

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 2025

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Officer Logan Sutton of the Frankfort Police Department on being awarded the 2024 Medal of Valor for his bravery demonstrated while responding to a critical situation within Franklin County.

Without regard for his own safety, Officer Sutton played a crucial role in successfully resolving a life-threatening situation. Through his actions and support in the face of clear and obvious peril, Officer Sutton exemplified the highest standards of law enforcement professionalism and demonstrated extraordinary commitment to preserving human life.

His teamwork and decisive intervention reflected greatly upon himself and upheld the finest traditions of the Frankfort Police Department. Officer Sutton has earned the respect and support of Franklin County. Officer Sutton voluntarily performed extraordinary acts of bravery. His actions went above and have made him deserving of this fine honor. I am confident that Officer Sutton will continue to serve as an exemplary role model for law enforcement officers across the 1st Congressional District and the entire Commonwealth of Kentucky.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF COLONEL REGINALD L. BASSA, SR.

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 2025

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the service and accomplishments completed by Colonel Reginald L. Bassa, Sr. Colonel Bassa dedicated his life to

service on behalf of the United States, with an extensive career of thirty years. Today, I invite us all to celebrate and reflect on the contributions of Colonel Bassa to our community.

Born in Hastings, Florida on March 4, 1933, Colonel Bassa attended Tuskegee Institute (now Tuskegee University) where he graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in 1954. Upon graduating, Colonel Bassa was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force. To further his knowledge and skills in preparation for his career as a Colonel, he attended flight training in Malden, Missouri and then Greenville AFB, Mississippi. Additionally, he completed Squadron Officer School and Basic/Graduate Supply Officer's Course.

Throughout his service, Bassa held various positions including the 305th Bomb Wing, McDill AFB, Florida supporting B-47's involving operations to Ben Greer AFB, North Africa; then assigned to the 72nd Bomb Wing, Ramey AFB, Puerto Rico involving hazardous refueling missions with B-52's and KC 135 Aircraft to Neu Assal AFB North Africa. Although he was able to come back to the continental United States in 1960, Colonel Bassa was then assigned to Albrook AFB, Panama during troubling times in the Canal Zone two years later due to his specialty qualifications (AFSC).

After a year abroad, Colonel Bassa was reassigned to the continental United States where he remained for the rest of his career. Once back in the States, his assignments included the 840th Combat Support Group, Lockbourne AFB, Ohio, transitioning to the Airforce Reserves supporting the Tactical Airlift Command, Strategic Airlift Command and Air Defense Command, the 934th Tactical Airlift Group, Minnesota, and then the 440th Tactical Airlift Command, Wisconsin.

During his assignment at Richards Gebaur AFB, Belton, Missouri, he was promoted to Colonel where he served as Deputy Wing Commander Logistics in the 442nd Tactical Airlift Wing. In 1979, Colonel Bassa was notified he was under consideration for a promotion to rank as a General. However, this promotion would require yet another move which led to the Colonel to retire as he realized how entrenched and happy his family was with living in Kansas City.

Colonel Bassa's career of three decades is clear evidence of his dedication to his community and country. On behalf of the United States Congress and Missouri's Fifth Congressional District, I thank Colonel Bassa for his work ethic and service throughout his career.

THANKING JOSEPH C. PICOLLA FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HON. BRYAN STEIL

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 2025

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Ranking Member Morelle and myself, I kindly request that you join me in congratulating Joseph C. Picolla on his retirement from the position of House Inspector General. His retirement marks the culmination of 16 years of dedicated service to the House.

Joe began his service with the House in the Office of the Inspector General in 2008 as a

Management Analyst. Over the years, Joe advanced to management and then leadership roles, initially serving as Assistant Director and Director of the Management Advisory Services team. He later became the Deputy Inspector General before assuming the role of Acting Inspector General in June 2021. On April 25, 2022, Joe was officially named the sixth Inspector General of the House of Representatives. During his tenure as Inspector General, the Office of the Inspector General completed numerous audits and advisories targeting high-risk areas within the House and identifying significant process improvements and efficiencies to benefit the institution in the future.

Prior to joining the House, Joe held positions in major financial institutions managing IT service operations, including Technology Help Desks, Availability Management, Incident and Problem Management, and Software Portfolio Change Management, targeting high-risk areas. In addition to his professional work, he dedicated 15 years to volunteering with local law enforcement in his community.

We extend our heartfelt congratulations and gratitude to Joe for his unwavering commitment to service, his dedication, and his leadership while serving the U.S. House of Representatives. We thank him for his contributions and wish him the best as he embarks on this new chapter in his life.

RECOGNIZING FLOYD B. SEVERANCE'S 101ST BIRTHDAY

HON. CHRIS PAPPAS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 2025

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Floyd B. Severance of Concord, New Hampshire, on the occasion of his 101st birthday. A World War II Army veteran, loving husband and father, and lifelong New Hampshire resident, Floyd has exemplified the virtue of service to family, community, and country throughout his life.

Drafted into the Army at 18 years old, Floyd was deployed to Europe in 1944 as scores of Americans bravely fought to protect our freedoms during World War II. Floyd saw action in the battles of Ardennes, Central Europe, Normandy, Northern France, and the Rhineland, some of the defining conflicts in the eventual triumph of the Allied forces. His courage and selflessness in defending his country speak to the strength of his character. He was honorably discharged in 1945 as a Private, First Class. His service during one of the darkest times in world history is a model of the power of sacrifice and devotion for future generations.

Upon completing his service, he met his wife Judith Girard at the bowling alleys of Pembroke, New Hampshire. They settled in Allentown, where they raised their seven children. He continued to demonstrate his dedication to public service in a distinguished career with the United States Postal Service. After retiring from the Postal Service in 1986, he renovated his childhood home in Pembroke, where he lived with Judith until 2014.

On behalf of my constituents in New Hampshire's First Congressional District, I thank Floyd B. Severance for his service to his community and Nation, and wish him a very happy

101st birthday. Granite staters will be forever grateful to Floyd for the impact he has made for our state, the country, and the world. I look forward to seeing what his next chapter holds, and I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

HONORING THE LEGACY OF LILLY LEDBETTER, EQUAL PAY CHAMPION

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 2025

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the incredible life and legacy of a woman who never let anything dissuade her from fighting for what she knew to be right. My dear friend Lilly Ledbetter was a champion for women's equality and trailblazer in the fight for economic justice. Today, we honor her immeasurable contributions to our movement on the 16th Anniversary of the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act. This is the first anniversary we are commemorating since her passing last fall.

Her story begins in Alabama, where Lilly was born and raised, but it did not end there. Lilly was as passionate and fearless as anyone I have ever met. Underneath her genteel southern charm, she was an iron fist in a velvet glove. She never set out to be a hero, but she became one for me and millions of women whose struggles for equal pay and workplace fairness, which she elevated.

In 1979, Lilly accepted a job at the Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company in Gadsden, Alabama. She started there as the only woman in her position as an overnight supervisor. By the end of her career 19 years later, she was anonymously informed that over her decades of hard work for Goodyear she had been receiving 40 percent less pay than her male co-workers. Lilly left a quiet retired life behind to wage a righteous fight for the pay that she had earned and deserved.

Her lawsuit made it to the Supreme Court, which ruled 5–4 against her in a contentious decision that rested on a technicality. They reversed her jury award of over three million dollars, yet never reached the merits of her case. Reversing decades of settled law, they said she needed to bring her pay discrimination case when the discrimination began, two decades before, even though she didn't know about it. Many would have thrown in the towel then. But Lilly knew she was in the right, and as always, she refused to give up.

Lilly then came to Congress, where I had been leading the fight for equal pay for decades. She was an eloquent and powerful champion, and together we assembled a broad coalition of advocates in support of pay equity. In 2009, we passed the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act. It was the first bill President Barack Obama signed into law, restoring the time period women have to sue for pay discrimination after receiving a paycheck tainted by discrimination.

It took remarkable perseverance and a relentless desire to see justice done. Lilly was attacked in the media and suffered all the pitfalls of becoming the public face of an equal rights issue. But as long as there was still work to do, Lilly never let that dissuade her. Lilly kept traveling the country—speaking out

and championing the cause of equal pay, and the need for new tools to challenge discrimination going forward.

She did this not because she benefitted from it, but because the work is not done. This is a fight that I continue to this day, for her and the rest of American women who, on average, still earns only 78 cents for every dollar that a man makes, regardless of state or occupation.

This is what my bill, the Paycheck Fairness Act, is designed to fix. The House has passed this bill four times—it is past time for the Senate to act.

In a world where women continue to suffer from intense economic pressures, Lilly showed that the power of one woman's relentless commitment to justice can make a difference. Because she refused to be silent in the face of terrible injustice, and because she exhibited such strength and perseverance in seeing a wrong made right, she transformed the lives of millions of American women for the better. I was consistently inspired by her strength, courage, and selflessness.

Reflecting on her continuous and persistent efforts, Lilly said, "I told my pastor when I die, I want him to be able to say at my funeral that I made a difference." While our Nation lost Lilly last year, I know she is looking down on us while we continue our fight for economic justice. And we are looking up at Lilly and to say, yes, she made a difference.

Lilly Ledbetter was a remarkable woman, a good friend, and a true American heroine. We must complete her legacy by ending the gender pay gap once and for all.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. FRANK J. MRVAN

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 2025

Mr. MRVAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 21, 2025, I missed Roll Call Votes No. 18 and No. 19.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 18 (H.R. 186) and YEA on Roll Call No. 19 (H.R. 187).

HONORING OFFICER ANTHONY CATANIA

HON. JAMES COMER

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 2025

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Officer Anthony Catania of the Frankfort Police Department, who was named the 2024 Officer of the Year. This prestigious award recognizes his exceptional commitment to the safety and well-being of our community.

Officer Catania exemplifies the core values of courage, respect, integrity, service, commitment, and loyalty. His bravery in crisis situations has not only safeguarded our community but also inspired his peers. He consistently treats all individuals with dignity, fostering trust between the police department and citizens. Integrity is fundamental to Officer Catania's service; he upholds ethical conduct even when unobserved. His dedication extends beyond

law enforcement through community engagement and mentorship. Additionally, his pursuit of professional growth enhances both his skills and the effectiveness of the Frankfort Police Department.

Officer Catania's years of exemplary service make him a deserving choice for this honor. I am proud to recognize him as the 2024 Officer of the Year. I am confident that Officer Anthony Catania will continue to serve as a role model for law enforcement officers across the 1st Congressional District and the entire Commonwealth of Kentucky.

CELEBRATING THE MARRIAGE OF KURT DIETER AND ADDISON BREIDING

HON. JARED MOSKOWITZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 2025

Mr. MOSKOWITZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the marriage of Kurt Dieter and Addison Breiding. As proud residents of Boca Raton in Florida's 23rd Congressional District, Kurt and Addison have not only enriched each other's lives but have also become cherished members of our community.

On March 1, 2025, this wonderful couple will begin the next chapter of their lives together as they exchange vows at the Baker's Cay Resort in Key Largo, Florida. Their love story began on May 15, 2020, when a mutual friend introduced them at Tin Roof in Delray Beach. Since that day, Kurt and Addison have built a beautiful life together, filled with love, laughter, and shared adventures.

Kurt, an adventurous traveler and University of Maryland graduate, fell in love with more than just Addison when they met in 2020. Through her, he discovered the beauty of Florida as she introduced him to her favorite towns, beaches, and hidden gems. Their shared love for the Sunshine State led them to settle in Boca Raton in 2021, where they have created a warm and welcoming home with their beloved dog, Homer. Together, they reflect the vibrant spirit of our community and the joy of building a life filled with love and adventure.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in celebrating Kurt Dieter and Addison Breiding as they prepare for a lifetime of happiness. Their union reflects the values of love, dedication, and community that make our district and our Nation strong. I wish them endless joy and look forward to seeing the incredible contributions they will continue to make to Boca Raton and Florida's 23rd Congressional District.

WARWICK GIRLS FIELD HOCKEY STATE CHAMPIONS

HON. LLOYD SMUCKER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 2025

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Warwick High School Field Hockey Team on winning the PIAA Field Hockey Championship on November 16, 2024.

The Warwick School District Warriors shut out their opponents 4–0 at the PIAA Class 2A

Field Hockey Championship game. Warwick led their opponents less than two minutes into the match and never looked back, only allowing their opponents 7 shots on goal. Their state title crowned a spectacular 27–2 season.

The players and coaches of the Warwick Field Hockey Team should be proud of this extraordinary accomplishment. I congratulate them on their Field Hockey Championship and wish them all the best of luck in their future endeavors. I am certain that the lessons that each of these students learned on the field will continue to serve them well throughout their lives.

HONORING MRS. SUSAN PEGLOW

**HON. CHARLES J. "CHUCK"
FLEISCHMANN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 2025

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate and recognize McMinn County, Tennessee Veteran Service Officer Mrs. Susan Peglow on her retirement March 28, 2025.

Mrs. Peglow began her service to our country in April 1985 when she enlisted in the United States Army as a registered nurse. She served in this position until May of 1987 obtaining the rank of sergeant.

Following her military service, Susan continued to serve others in various capacities as a nurse. In September 2015, Susan accepted the duties as the Veterans Service Officer for McMinn County, Tennessee, a part of the Third Congressional District. This office provides support to approximately 4800 veterans and generates 88 million dollars of Economic Impact annually.

Susan is an active member of American Legion Post 68, and Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5146 Athens, Tennessee. As a member of the American Legion, Susan has been instrumental in the formation of the McMinn County Honor Guard and still serves with them today. To recognize both women veterans and Vietnam Veterans, Susan founded the McMinn County Veterans Ball just completing the third year.

Susan has been married to her husband Robert for 36 years and has six children. Though her career as the Veteran Service Officer is ending, I believe that she will continue to serve veterans and the community of McMinn County.

I am honored to recognize her for her many years of service and congratulate her on her retirement.

HONORING SHELLEY DIEHL
GEBALLE, JD, MPH ON THE OC-
CASION OF HER 75TH BIRTHDAY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 2025

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay tribute to Shelley Diehl Geballe—a dear friend, community leader, and advocate—as she celebrates her 75th birthday, marking a remarkable mile-

stone in her extraordinary life. An attorney by education and training, Shelley has dedicated a lifetime to advocacy and mentorship, touching countless lives.

Following her graduation from the University of Michigan, Shelley went on to attend Yale Law School, where she earned her Juris Doctorate, as well as the Yale School of Public Health, where she earned a Master of Public Health degree. She has used this unique educational background throughout her career to make a difference in the lives of others, particularly children.

Shelley began her career as a civil rights attorney with the Connecticut chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union where she served as counsel in a variety of federal class action cases, including representing the state's abused and neglected children in a challenge to Connecticut's foster care system. In 1995 she co-founded Connecticut Voices for Children, a state research and advocacy organization focused on improving the well-being of Connecticut's children and families, specifically those that have been historically disadvantaged. Shelley led the organization as its President for more than a decade during which time she focused her own research and writing on state and federal tax and budget policy, family economic security, child welfare and juvenile justice, and children's health and mental health. She remains a Distinguished Senior Fellow at Connecticut Voices for Children. In 2009 Shelley co-founded the Connecticut News Project, the parent organization of the CT Mirror, an early on-line news site that provides professional reporting about Connecticut government, policy and politics. Shelley continues to serve on its Board of Directors.

Shelley has always felt a deep commitment to fostering the next generation of leaders. For 20 years she served as a Clinical Lecturer in Law at Yale Law School where she co-taught the Legislative Advocacy Clinic. There, under faculty leadership, students became familiar with the state legislative process and were able to work with non-profit organizations to advance their legislative agendas. Today, Shelley is a Professor in the Practice (Health Policy) at the Yale School of Public Health, the first Health Policy Professor to have held that title. In this role, she has developed and taught courses in Public Health Law and Health disparities while also directing the Health Policy Practicum. Since 2011, she has been voted best professor once, most inspiring teacher twice, and best mentor twice.

Shelley's background, experience, and knowledge have combined to give her a unique voice as well as earning her the respect and admiration of leaders across Connecticut. Her advice and counsel is often sought. Shelley has served in multiple appointed positions in Connecticut, including on the Advisory Committee of the Office of the Child Advocate. She has been a consultant in diverse international contexts, including the role of the non-profit sector and public health law. She has also served on the boards of multiple state and national organizations, including the ACLU, Planned Parenthood of America's Legal Advisory Board, and the Melville Charitable Trust.

Today, as Shelley reflects on her 75th birthday, she can be proud of her many accomplishments as well as her legacy of public service and invaluable contributions. I am hon-

ored to join her husband of fifty-two years, Gordon, as well as their three sons, Josh, Ben, and Dan, their nine grandchildren, and all of the extended family and friends who have gathered in extending my heartfelt congratulations to Shelley Diehl Geballe on her 75th birthday as well as my very best wishes for continued health and happiness. Happy Birthday.

RECOGNIZING ANIKKA GILLISPIE

HON. JAMES COMER

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 2025

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Anikka Gillispie of the Frankfort Police Department for being named 2024 Telecommunicator of the Year in recognition of her exceptional service and unwavering commitment to public safety.

Telecommunicators are the critical first point of contact during emergencies, serving as lifelines that connect people in crisis with the essential help they need. Their role demands extraordinary skills: rapid decision-making, emotional intelligence, and the ability to remain calm under intense pressure. Ms. Gillispie has exemplified these qualities and more, demonstrating exceptional performance beyond standard expectations.

Ms. Gillispie's dedication to her role has not only ensured the efficient dispatch of emergency responders but has also provided crucial support to citizens during their most vulnerable moments. The Telecommunicator of the Year award celebrates not just professional excellence but also the compassion and resilience required in this demanding field.

Ms. Gillispie's outstanding service to the Frankfort Police Department and the community at large makes her the perfect choice for Telecommunicator of the Year. I am confident she will continue to serve as an exemplary role model for telecommunicators across the 1st Congressional District and the entire Commonwealth of Kentucky.

INTRODUCTION OF JONES ACT
MODERNIZATION BILLS

HON. ED CASE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 2025

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, today I again introduce three bills to end over a century of federally-imposed monopolistic closed market domestic cargo shipping to and from my isolated home state of Hawaii and the other island and separated jurisdictions of our country not part of the contiguous 48 United States. In doing so, we seek to break the stranglehold on the peoples and economies of our exposed communities and our resulting sky-high costs of living which are caused by just a few domestic shipping companies controlling the lifeline of commerce upon which we absolutely depend.

These bills all amend the Merchant Marine Act of 1920, also known as the Jones Act. That federal law mandates that all cargo shipping between U.S. ports occur exclusively on U.S. not foreign, flagged vessels. Additionally,

the law requires that these vessels are built in the U.S. and owned and crewed by U.S. citizens.

The Jones Act was enacted in a protectionist era under the guise of preserving a strong national merchant marine. But today it is just an anachronism. Most of the world's shipping is by way of an international merchant marine functioning in an open, competitive market. And those few U.S. flag cargo lines that remain have maneuvered the Jones Act to develop virtual monopolies over domestic cargo shipping to, from and within our most isolated and exposed locales—our island and offshore states and territories—that have no alternative modes of transportation such as trucking or rail.

My Hawaii is a classic example. Located almost 2,500 miles off the West Coast, we import well over 90 percent of our life necessities by ocean cargo. There are plenty of international cargo lines who could and would compete for a share of that market. Yet only two U.S. flag domestic cargo lines—Matson Navigation and Pasha Hawaii—operate a virtual duopoly over our lifeline.

While they are nominally subject to federal regulation, the fact of the matter is that cargo prices have gone in only one direction—up, fast and repeatedly, despite a surplus of International shipping—and it is indisputable that there is no downward market pressure which would otherwise result from meaningful competition. These accelerating cargo prices are not absorbed by the shipping lines, but passed through all the way down the chain, to the transporters, wholesalers, retailers, small businesses, mom-n-pops and ultimately consumers, of all of the elements of life, from food to medical supplies, clothes, housing and virtually all other goods. The result is a crippling drag on an already-challenged economy and the very quality of life in Hawaii.

The Jones Act has far-reaching consequences for the people of Hawaii, one of the most glaring and pervasive being its contribution to the high cost of living across all segments of our society. For the average Hawaii family, the act adds nearly \$5 a day to their expenses, which amounts to \$1,794 a year. While this may seem like a small amount on its own, when compounded over time, it creates a substantial financial strain on households already grappling with high living costs. That extra \$1,794 could be spent on essentials like healthcare, education or better housing—things that would directly improve the quality of life for Hawaii's residents. However, instead of these scarce resources being available for more pressing needs, it is channeled into inflated transportation costs and the profits of the Jones Act shippers and their owners. These price increases cascade through every aspect of daily life: families are paying an additional \$389 for housing, \$200 for motor vehicles and their maintenance and \$147 for food, on top of what they would otherwise be paying, due just to the difference between market and monopoly shipping costs.

One of the most significant areas affected by the Jones Act is housing, already chal-

lenged. The construction industry in Hawaii relies heavily on noncontainerized cargo like sand, cement, gypsum, steel and bricks, materials that are essential for building homes and infrastructure. However, due to the restrictions imposed by the Jones Act, the number of available vessels to transport these types of goods is severely limited. This scarcity drives up the cost of building materials, making it more expensive to develop affordable housing or address deferred maintenance on existing housing. In addition, because a large portion of these materials must be imported from foreign countries, they are subject to tariffs that further increase the price. This results in higher construction costs, which ultimately contribute to the already skyrocketing housing prices in Hawaii. The burden on the real estate market not only affects homebuilders but also exacerbates the affordable housing crisis, as fewer homes are being built, and the ones that are tend to be priced out of reach for most families.

As a consequence of the Jones Act's impact on construction, the limited availability of affordable housing in Hawaii leads to a number of secondary challenges. With fewer new homes being built, the housing stock becomes increasingly vulnerable to damage from natural disasters like hurricanes or flooding. These older homes are at greater risk during such events, further exacerbating the state's housing crisis. As the risk of damage rises, insurers are forced to adjust premiums to reflect the increased likelihood of costly claims. This, in turn, drives up the cost of housing insurance, further burdening homeowners and renters alike, while also making it more difficult for individuals and families to secure affordable, safe housing.

Another prime area for Hawaii is food, most of which we import on Jones Act ships. The monopolistic cargo premium is priced into our food products, contributing to the highest cost of food of any state. And even for locally-produced agriculture, the Jones Act extracts its price for necessary imports including farm machinery, fertilizer and processing materials, resulting in an addition to one of the highest costs of food production anywhere in the country.

Nor is the Jones Act's impact limited to imports into Hawaii, for it also restricts cargo exported from Hawaii to other U.S. ports (especially the West Coast) to the very few Jones Act shippers and their monopolistic prices. Take our cattle industry, which is dependent on access to the market on the continent. No non-Jones Act international ship can serve that route, so, for example, no international ship could ship cargo from Asia into Hawaii, pick up cattle for another run to the West Coast, and then pick up U.S. exports to ship them back to Asia. That means our cattle industry is forced to take whatever is offered by the Jones Act ships returning to the continent, when they want, how they want, and at the prices they choose. It also means that we get very little direct international imports; they must first go to the continent and then ship on Jones Act ships to Hawaii, jacking up prices completely unnecessarily.

The Jones Act also has other consequences, in addition to monopolistic shipping costs absorbed by Hawaii families, that are nothing short of ridiculous. Take the case of defueling the military's bulk fuel storage facility at Red Hill after the disastrous leaks. The great bulk of that fuel was transported elsewhere, which required specialized fuel tankers. There are many in the international trade but few Jones Act tankers in domestic use and in high demand. Much of the fuel was transported to non-U.S. locations and so could access non-Jones Act international shipping and much lower rates. But some fuel was between U.S. ports and so required short-supply Jones Act tankers and much higher rates. Even a one-tanker load transported from Pearl Harbor to another location in Honolulu just ten miles away required bringing in Jones Act tankers from the continents at much higher rates, rather than allow an international tanker here for international export to do a short hop. I specifically asked for a waiver of the Jones Act to avoid this result, a total waste of taxpayer dollars, but got no support from the Jones Act shippers, who, although it made no real difference to them, were petrified by the precedent.

The three bills I introduce today say: enough is enough. If you, the 48 contiguous United States, want to continue the Jones Act as to shipping between your ports, that's your business. But don't penalize islands and other noncontiguous locations by throwing us to the monopoly wolves you've created.

The first bill, the Noncontiguous Shipping Relief Act, exempts all noncontiguous U.S. locations from the Jones Act. These include Hawaii, Alaska, the Northern Marianas, Guam, American Samoa, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

The second, the Noncontiguous Shipping Reasonable Rate Act, benchmarks the definition of a "reasonable rate" that Jones Act shipping can charge to within ten percent of analogous international shipping rates.

And the third, the Noncontiguous Shipping Competition Act, prevents monopolies or duopolies in noncontiguous Jones Act shipping by allowing the noncontiguous jurisdictions to be serviced by non-Jones Act vessels, in order to create and increase and increase competition in these critical shipping lanes. Again, this is a very small portion of the total national Jones Act shipping where it is particularly destructive in application and would not affect the bulk of Jones Act shipping throughout the 48 contiguous United States.

Essentially, these bills are designed to provide viable solutions for alleviating the burdens faced by our U.S. noncontiguous areas. While there are multiple pathways to address this issue, one thing is clear, we must change the status quo that has caused such widespread harm to my state and other jurisdictions dependent on the Jones Act. I urge my colleagues to lend their support to this important effort to reduce the sky-high costs of living to the people of Hawaii and the other non-contiguous areas.

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

Senate confirmed the nomination of Douglas Collins, of Georgia, to be Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

Senate confirmed the nomination of Pamela Bondi, of Florida, to be Attorney General.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S567–S600

Measures Introduced: Twenty-three bills and eight resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 379–401, S.J. Res. 11–13, and S. Res. 52–56. **Page S593**

Measures Passed:

National Mentoring Month: Senate agreed to S. Res. 55, recognizing January 2025 as “National Mentoring Month”. **Pages S599–S600**

Congratulating UVM Men’s Soccer Team: Senate agreed to S. Res. 56, congratulating the University of Vermont men’s soccer team on winning the 2024 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I men’s soccer national championship. **Page S600**

Vote Change—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that Senator Padilla be permitted to change his vote on Roll Call Vote No. 26 from nay to aye, since it will not affect the outcome. **Page S574**

Message from the President: Senate received the following message from the President of the United States:

Transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of the continuation of the national emergency that was originally declared in Executive Order 14014 of February 10, 2021, with respect to Burma; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs. (PM–9) **Page S593**

Turner Nomination—Agreement: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Eric Turner, of Texas, to be Secretary of Housing and Urban Development. **Pages S590, S590–91**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 55 yeas to 45 nays (Vote No. EX. 34), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Pages S590, S590–91**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the nomination, post-cloture, at approximately 10:30 a.m., on Wednesday, February 5, 2025; and that at 11:30 a.m. all time be expired on the nomination. **Page S600**

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

By 77 yeas to 23 nays (Vote No. EX. 32), Douglas Collins, of Georgia, to be Secretary of Veterans Affairs. **Page S571**

By 54 yeas to 46 nays (Vote No. EX. 33), Pamela Bondi, of Florida, to be Attorney General. **Pages S567–71, S574–90**

Executive Communications: **Page S593**

Executive Reports of Committees: **Page S593**

Additional Cosponsors: **Page S595**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S595–99**

Additional Statements: **Pages S592–93**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S599**

Privileges of the Floor: **Page S599**

Record Votes: Three record votes were taken today. (Total—34) **Pages S571, S590**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 11 a.m. and adjourned at 8:23 p.m., until 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, February 5, 2025. (For Senate’s program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today’s Record on page S600.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Finance: Committee ordered favorably reported the nomination of Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., of California, to be Secretary of Health and Human Services.

POISONING OF AMERICA

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the poisoning of America, focusing on fentanyl, its analogues, and the need for permanent class scheduling, after receiving testimony from Sheriff Don Barnes, Orange County Sheriff's Department, Orange County, California, on behalf of the Major County Sheriffs of America; Jaime Puerta,

Victims of Illicit Drugs, Santa Clarita, California; Bridgette Norring, Devin J. Norring Foundation, Hastings, Minnesota; Timothy W. Westlake, ProHealth Oconomowoc Memorial Hospital, Oconomowoc, Wisconsin; and Cecilia Farfan-Mendez, University of California Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation, San Diego.

BUSINESS MEETING

Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee ordered favorably reported the nomination of Tulsi Gabbard, of Hawaii, to be Director of National Intelligence.

INTELLIGENCE

Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee met in closed session to receive a briefing on certain intelligence matters from officials of the intelligence community.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 69 public bills, H.R. 908–976; and 19 resolutions, H.J. Res. 33–35; and H. Res. 91–106, were introduced.

Pages H455–59

Additional Cosponsors:

Pages H461–62

Report Filed: A report was filed today as follows:

H. Res. 93, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 27) to amend the Controlled Substances Act with respect to the scheduling of fentanyl-related substances, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 119–2).

Page H455

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Begich to act as Speaker pro tempore for today.

Page H437

Recess: The House recessed at 12:36 p.m. and reconvened at 2 p.m.

Page H441

Select Committee on the Strategic Competition between the United States and the Chinese Communist Party—Appointment: The Chair announced the Speaker's appointment of the following Members to the Select Committee on the Strategic Competition between the United States and the Chinese Communist Party: Representative Moolenaar, Chair; Representatives Wittman, Barr, Newhouse, LaHood, Dunn (FL), Johnson (SD), Hinson, Gimenez, Bilirakis, Kim, Moran, and Nunn (IA).

Page H442

Recess: The House recessed at 2:09 p.m. and reconvened at 4:01 p.m.

Page H442

Recess: The House recessed at 4:46 p.m. and reconvened at 6:30 p.m.

Page H450

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

9/11 Memorial and Museum Act: H.R. 835, to provide a one-time grant for the operation, security, and maintenance of the National September 11 Memorial & Museum at the World Trade Center to commemorate the events, and honor the victims, of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001;

Pages H442–44

Alaska Native Settlement Trust Eligibility Act: H.R. 42, to amend the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act to exclude certain payments to aged, blind, or disabled Alaska Natives or descendants of Alaska Natives from being used to determine eligibility for certain programs;

Pages H444–45

Alaska Native Village Municipal Lands Restoration Act of 2025: H.R. 43, to amend the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act to provide that Village Corporations shall not be required to convey land in trust to the State of Alaska for the establishment of Municipal Corporations, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yeas-and-nay vote of 412 yeas to 1 nay, Roll No. 28;

Pages H445–47, H450–51

Eastern Band of Cherokee Historic Lands Reacquisition Act: H.R. 226, to take certain Federal

lands in Tennessee into trust for the benefit of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians; and **Pages H447–49**

Nutria Eradication and Control Reauthorization Act of 2025: H.R. 776, to reauthorize the Nutria Eradication and Control Act of 2003, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yeas-and-nays vote of 361 yeas to 56 nays, Roll No. 29. **Pages H449–50, H451–52**

Moment of Silence: The House observed a moment of silence in remembrance of the victims of the mid-air collision in Washington, D.C. **Page H451**

Senate Messages: Messages received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appear on page H442.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Two yeas-and-nays votes developed during the proceedings and appear on pages H450–51 and H451–52.

Adjournment: The House met at 12 p.m. and adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

Committee Meetings

HALT ALL LETHAL TRAFFICKING OF FENTANYL ACT

Committee on Rules: Full Committee held a hearing on H.R. 27, the “Halt All Lethal Trafficking of Fentanyl Act”. The Committee granted, by a record vote of 9–1, a rule providing for consideration of H.R. 27, the “Halt All Lethal Trafficking of Fentanyl Act”, under a structured rule. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides that the amendment printed in part A of the Rules Committee report shall be considered as adopted, and the bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended. The rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce or their respective designees. The rule makes in order only the further amendment printed in part B of the Rules Committee report. Each 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. All points of order against the amendment printed in part B of the Rules Committee report are waived. Finally, the rule provides one motion to recommit. Testimony was heard from Representatives Griffith, DeGette, and Hernández.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2025

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: organizational business meeting to consider an original resolution authorizing expenditures by the committee during the 119th Congress, committee rules for the 119th Congress, and subcommittee assignments for the 119th Congress; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine farmer and rancher views on the agricultural economy, 10:30 a.m., SD–106.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: organizational business meeting to consider an original resolution authorizing expenditures by the committee during the 119th Congress; to be immediately followed by hearings to examine the real impacts of debanking in America, 10 a.m., SD–538.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: business meeting to consider S. 93, to amend the Harmful Algal Blooms and Hypoxia Research and Control Act of 1998 to address harmful algal blooms, S. 98, to require the Federal Communications Commission to establish a vetting process for prospective applicants for high-cost universal service program funding, S. 99, to require the Secretary of Commerce to produce a report that provides recommendations to improve the effectiveness, efficiency, and impact of Department of Commerce programs related to supply chain resilience and manufacturing and industrial innovation, S. 161, to require the Secretary of Transportation to issue rules relating to the testing procedures used under the New Car Assessment Program of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, S. 195, to amend the Visit America Act to promote music tourism, S. 216, to amend the Save Our Seas 2.0 Act to improve the administration of the Marine Debris Foundation, to amend the Marine Debris Act to improve the administration of the Marine Debris Program of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, S. 245, to require the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information to establish a working group on cyber insurance, to require dissemination of informative resources for issuers and customers of cyber insurance, S. 246, to protect the right of law-abiding citizens to transport knives interstate, notwithstanding a patchwork of local and State prohibitions, S. 257, to improve the resilience of critical supply chains, S. 258, to improve forecasting and understanding of tornadoes and other hazardous weather, S. 260, to amend the Bottles and Breastfeeding Equipment Screening Act to require hygienic handling of breast milk and baby formula by security screening personnel of the Transportation Security Administration and personnel of private security companies providing security screening, S. 278, to prohibit

users who are under age 13 from accessing social media platforms, to prohibit the use of personalized recommendation systems on individuals under age 17, and limit the use of social media in schools, S. 281, to require sellers of event tickets to disclose comprehensive information to consumers about ticket prices and related fees, to prohibit speculative ticketing, S. 283, to require the Under Secretary of Commerce for Standards and Technology and the Administrator of National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to develop a standard methodology for identifying the country of origin of seafood to support enforcement against illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing, S. 306, to establish and maintain a coordinated program within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration that improves wildfire, fire weather, fire risk, and wildfire smoke related forecasting, detection, modeling, observations, and service delivery, S. 314, to prohibit unfair and deceptive advertising of prices for hotel rooms and other places of short-term lodging, S. 315, to require the Secretary of Transportation to issue a rule requiring access to AM broadcast stations in passenger motor vehicles, and the nomination of Howard Lutnick, of New York, to be Secretary of Commerce, 10 a.m., SR-253.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: organizational business meeting to consider committee rules, an original resolution authorizing expenditures by the committee during the 119th Congress, S. 347, to amend the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 to reauthorize brownfields revitalization funding, and S. 351, to establish a pilot grant program to improve recycling accessibility, to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to carry out certain activities to collect and disseminate data on recycling and composting programs in the United States, 10:30 a.m., SD-406.

Committee on Indian Affairs: organizational business meeting to consider selection of Chairman and Vice Chairman, committee rules, and an original resolution authorizing expenditures by the committee during the 119th Congress, 2:30 p.m., SD-628.

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship: business meeting to consider S. 68, to prohibit the suspension of collections on loans made to small businesses related to COVID-19, S. 273, to allow nonprofit child care providers to participate in certain loan programs of the Small Business Administration, S. 298, to require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to relocate 30 percent of the employees assigned to headquarters to duty stations outside the Washington metropolitan area, S.

300, to improve accountability in the disaster loan program of the Small Business Administration, an original resolution authorizing expenditures by the committee during the 119th Congress, committee rules, and the nomination of Kelly Loeffler, of Georgia, to be Administrator of the Small Business Administration, 11:15 a.m., SR-428A.

Select Committee on Intelligence: to receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH-219.

House

Committee on Education and Workforce, Full Committee, hearing entitled “The State of American Education”, 10:15 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Energy, hearing entitled “Powering America’s Future: Unleashing American Energy”, 10:15 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Make Community Banking Great Again”, 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Homeland Security, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Preparing the Pipeline: Examining the State of America’s Cyber Workforce”, 10 a.m., 310 Cannon.

Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on Indian and Insular Affairs, hearing on H.R. 410, the “Alaska Native Vietnam Era Veterans Land Allotment Extension Act of 2025”; H.R. 412, to authorize the Bay Mills Indian Community of the State of Michigan to convey land and interests in land owned by the Tribe; H.R. 504, the “Miccousukee Reserved Area Amendments Act”; and H.R. 741, the “Stronger Engagement for Indian Health Needs Act of 2025”, 10:15 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Accountability, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Rightsizing Government”, 10 a.m., HVC-210.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Full Committee, organizational meeting, 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Full Committee, hearing entitled “The State of U.S. Science and Technology: Ensuring U.S. Global Leadership”, 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Small Business, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Hope on the Horizon: Prioritizing Small Business Growth in the 119th Congress”, 10 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation, hearing entitled “America Builds: Maritime Infrastructure”, 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10:30 a.m., Wednesday, February 5

Senate Chamber

Program for Wednesday: Senate will continue consideration of the nomination of Eric Turner, of Texas, to be Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, post-cloture, and vote on confirmation thereon at 11:30 a.m.

Following disposition of the nomination of Eric Turner, Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Russell Vought, of Virginia, to be Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Wednesday, February 5

House Chamber

Program for Wednesday: Consideration of H.R. 27—Halt All Lethal Trafficking of Fentanyl Act (Subject to a Rule).

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

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