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No. 37

## House of Representatives

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

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,

February 25, 2025.

I hereby appoint the Honorable EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

MIKE JOHNSON,

*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

### MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

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

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

### BIRTHRIGHT CITIZENSHIP

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

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, our country has just suffered the largest illegal mass migration in history.

Over 4 years, the Democrats opened our borders and allowed an unvetted and largely impoverished population of nearly 8 million to illegally enter our country—a population the size of Washington State.

This illegal mass migration has overwhelmed our public schools, public hos-

pitals, homeless shelters, food banks, and law enforcement, and it is costing American taxpayers \$160 billion a year to support. Worst of all, it has introduced into our country the most violent criminal gangs and offenders on the planet.

It has also brought to a head the fundamental question of whether any person in the world can break into our country, have a baby at taxpayer expense, have that baby declared an American citizen, and then use that as a pretext to remain.

Now, President Trump has issued an executive order challenging that notion for all future births. The Democrats call this a threat to democracy and a constitutional crisis. That is what they call anything they disagree with these days, but it is neither. It is the Constitution functioning as it should.

The President has created a dispute arising from a difference of opinion in interpreting the Constitution. Opponents in this dispute have appealed to the courts, as they should. Now, the courts will resolve this dispute under the terms of our Constitution.

Meanwhile, I have a question for the Democrats: If the 14th Amendment actually confers automatic citizenship to anyone born here, wouldn't it have said all persons born or naturalized in the United States are citizens of the United States? That is simple enough.

That is not what it says. It says: "All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States."

What does that mean? We know that it means the children of former slaves are citizens. That is its stated purpose and the plain language of the amendment passed, by the way, over the objections of the Democratic Party. We know from the congressional debate that its authors understood it to exclude foreign nationals who are merely passing through the country.

The question of our time is whether those who have illegally entered our country in defiance of our laws and who are subject to deportation under those laws can be considered as having accepted the jurisdiction of the laws that their very presence defies.

The Supreme Court has never considered this question. The closest it came was the Ark decision 127 years ago, but that applied to legal immigrants who had accepted the jurisdiction of the United States by obeying its immigration laws and who had taken up legal, permanent residence subject to a treaty ratified by the Senate.

Does the President have the authority by executive order to clear up this matter as part of his organic constitutional responsibility to take care that the laws be faithfully executed? I don't know. Obama claimed the authority to create a legal residency for DACA beneficiaries out of thin air, so maybe he does. The Court will ultimately rule.

Does the Congress have the authority to clear up this matter by statute? Only if that statute doesn't contradict the Constitution.

Here is the fine point of the matter: If the 14th Amendment does not give automatic birthright citizenship to the children of those here illegally and temporarily, then no law should be necessary to deny them citizenship in the future because no law ever extended that right in the first place. In that case, the President's executive order is merely declaratory of existing law.

Several lower courts have stayed the President's executive order, and no one is screaming that is a constitutional crisis, even though many of us strenuously disagree with those judges just as strenuously as the left disagrees with the President.

Ultimately, though, we have faith in our Constitution, and as the case progresses through the courts, we will get

□ 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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a clear and authoritative ruling that will then determine whether the President's order stands or whether Congress needs to act either by statute or constitutional amendment.

To call this a constitutional crisis is the kind of absurd and juvenile hyperbole that passes for argument these days by the woke left. I look forward to returning to a society someday when we can have civil discussions over high principles as our Founders envisioned.

#### CELEBRATING WINNERS OF 2024 CONGRESSIONAL APP CHALLENGE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BRESNAHAN). The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New Jersey (Mrs. McIVER) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. McIVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the New Jersey-10 winners of the 2024 Congressional App Challenge.

Aman, Alexa, Charlie, and Gabriel teamed up to make Tailored Trivia. The app allows users to create customized trivia games that make studying and memorization more interactive. This tool lets students test SAT vocabulary words, learn phrases in new languages, and quiz their classmates.

In creating this app, Aman, Alexa, Charlie, and Gabriel also grew their skills in coding, design, and teamwork.

I am so proud of their hard work, dedication, and contributions to New Jersey, and I am excited to see what they will accomplish next.

#### CELEBRATING SAHLI NEGASSI

Mrs. McIVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate Sahli, a New Jersey-10 student at West Orange High School who received a perfect score on the SAT this year.

Less than 1 percent of SAT test takers earn a perfect score each year, and Sahli's accomplishment is nothing short of extraordinary. His SAT preparation was largely self-directed, relying on free resources and using his time and determination to study for the exam.

Beyond academics, he is deeply involved in extracurricular activities at West Orange High School. He has been a dedicated member of the cross-country and track teams since seventh grade and spent two seasons on the color guard.

Sahli is also the president of the math team, chapter president of the National Honor Society, a varsity chess team member, and part of the Royal Strings Ensemble. His involvement in multiple activities and honor societies speaks to his well-rounded excellence.

After graduating high school, Sahli hopes to attend Harvard and study law. Any school would be lucky to have such a bright young mind. What an incredible accomplishment and a shining example of New Jersey's excellence. I congratulate Sahli. He makes New Jersey proud.

#### RECOGNIZING AMIGO POWER EQUIPMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. DE LA CRUZ) for 5 minutes.

Ms. DE LA CRUZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Amigo Power Equipment in Edinburg, Texas, for 50 years of service to our community.

Founded in 1974 by Janice and Kent Johnson, Amigo Power Equipment sold tractors and combines to farmers and ranchers throughout south Texas. As the Rio Grande Valley grew, so did their business.

The Johnsons passed down their business to their youngest son, Jeff, and over the years, it has become the premier tractor and power sports dealership in the valley. When visiting their store, you will find knowledgeable staff with years of experience and exceptional customer service.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the Johnsons and the entire staff on this incredible milestone, and I thank them for their dedication to the Rio Grande Valley community.

#### POSITIVE IMPACTS OF SOCIAL SECURITY LEGISLATION

Ms. DE LA CRUZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share the positive impacts that the Social Security Fairness Act has already made for south Texans.

Before this bill, millions of public servants like teachers, police officers, and firefighters were unfairly punished by reduced Social Security benefits. After being signed into law last month, this legislation finally eliminated the provisions that reduced Social Security benefits for public servants.

I have heard back from teachers in south Texas who are incredibly thankful to have the legislation finally signed into law.

I am proud to have cosponsored this bill in the House, advocated for its passage, and played an important role in expanding access to benefits for those who have gone above and beyond to serve our communities.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE ROSE GUERRA REYNA

Ms. DE LA CRUZ. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor State District Judge Rose Guerra Reyna for her service to Hidalgo County.

Earlier this month, Judge Reyna announced that, after 28 years, she will be retiring from her role.

For over two decades, she has upheld the rule of law with fairness and justice in Hidalgo County. She has presided over thousands of cases, worked to improve the judicial process, and mentored many young attorneys throughout her tenure.

□ 1015

Though she will be missed, her legacy will live on in the courtroom. Her commitment to justice in south Texas is unwavering, and we are so fortunate to have public servants like Judge Reyna in south Texas. We wish her the best as she carries out her term and begins her well-deserved retirement.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the judge.

#### 1944 WATER TREATY

Ms. DE LA CRUZ. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to address an issue that is critical to my community in south Texas, Mexico's refusal to fulfill its water obligation. Their refusal to comply with the agreements of the 1944 Water Treaty has caused mass devastation with our farmers and ranchers in south Texas.

Last Congress, we had our one sugar mill in Texas close. That was 500 jobs that were lost and millions of dollars of economic impact in south Texas.

Food security is national security, and we have lost our sugar mill, and we are on the verge of losing our citrus industry. We ask that the Mexican Government repay us the water that they owe us which is now over 1 million acre-feet of water.

It is simply unacceptable that the Mexican Government has not given us the water that they owe us. This not only affects the people of south Texas, but it affects the entire Nation.

Again, food security is national security, and we urge the Mexican Government to pay us our water immediately.

#### HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF U.S. NAVY CORPSMAN JACK GUTMAN

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

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of World War II hero and U.S. Navy Corpsman Jack Gutman, who passed away just a few days before his 99th birthday.

Jack answered the call to serve our Nation after the attack on Pearl Harbor. He was barely 18 when he enlisted as a corpsman in the Navy. Jack defended our country in some of the most harrowing battles of the war, including bravely providing care to the wounded on the beaches of Normandy on D-day.

Years after returning home with his invisible wounds, Jack sought help through the VA and received treatment for his PTSD. His recovery inspired him to dedicate his life to help fellow veterans find the courage to seek support for their own PTSD challenges.

Sergeant Gutman's life of service to this country and his fellow veterans continues to be an inspiration for all of us.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in celebrating the life and legacy of my good friend and American hero, Jack Gutman, part of America's Greatest Generation.

#### HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF U.S. ARMY VETERAN ROYAL "ROY" EDWARD NEELEY

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of U.S. Army veteran Royal "Roy" Edward Neeley.

Sergeant Neeley served our Nation proudly as a Green Beret in the elite

1st Special Forces Command, Airborne. Roy's dedication and service to our country continued after he left the military. As a civilian he worked as an operations manager.

Roy married Elaine McDonald in 1972, and together they built a life filled with love and beautiful memories.

Our community lost Sergeant Neeley on October 12, 2024, at the age of 76. His memory lives on through his loving wife, children, grandchildren, and our Orange County community.

Sergeant Neeley, thank you for your service to our country and dedication to our community. We will miss you.

#### MOURNING THE LOSS OF JOHN REGINALD MURPHY

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mourn the loss of John Reginald "Reg" Murphy, who unfortunately passed away last November.

Mr. Murphy was a true Renaissance man who lived an extraordinary life guided by curiosity, integrity, engagement, and helping those in need.

Mr. Murphy was raised in Gainesville and attended Mercer University, where he began his journalism career. Throughout his career, Mr. Murphy experienced success working in a variety of esteemed publications, including The Macon Telegraph and The Atlanta Journal-Constitution. Shortly after, he was chosen as a Nieman fellow at Harvard University in 1959.

Mr. Murphy went on to serve as the editor and publisher of the San Francisco Examiner, and then he became the publisher and CEO of The Baltimore Sun.

Throughout his life and career, Mr. Murphy stayed true to his morals and strong ethical compass.

Mr. Murphy is survived by his wife, Diana; daughters, Karen and Susan; two grandsons; a sister; and three nieces and nephews.

Mr. Murphy will always be remembered as a humble, approachable, gentle, and kind man.

#### RECOGNIZING MARLON LAWRENCE

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Marlon Lawrence, a custodian at Mary Lee Clark Elementary School in Camden County for being named the South Region winner in the Georgia Leadership Institute for School Improvement Hidden Heroes Campaign.

This recognition celebrates unsung leaders in education whose dedication makes a profound impact on their schools and their communities.

Marlon's hard work and commitment to maintaining a clean, welcoming, and inclusive environment have helped create a space where students and staff can thrive.

This achievement reflects the collective teamwork at Mary Lee Clark Ele-

mentary where everyone works together to ensure student success.

Principal Rika Dow has praised Marlon for his unwavering dedication and innovative approach, making him a model for others to follow.

On behalf of the community and as his Congressman, I commend Marlon Lawrence for his exceptional contributions, and I thank him for the example he sets.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Marlon on this well-deserved recognition.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF MS. ELIZABETH PRYOR

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Ms. Elizabeth Katherine Pryor, a civil rights activist, educator, and pillar in the Savannah community, who passed away last month.

Ms. Pryor was an activist, joining the civil rights movement at a young age where she proudly participated in organized sit-ins, marches, and peaceful protests in the city of Savannah.

After graduating from Savannah State College and Georgia Southern University, Ms. Pryor served as an educator in the Savannah-Chatham County Public School District for more than four decades.

As a lifelong member of the NAACP, Ms. Pryor also was a strong proponent of voting rights. She was also among the activists who were instrumental in the renaming of West Broad Street to Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard.

Ms. Pryor served on the Board of Directors of the Ralph Mark Gilbert Civil Rights Museum and was the former grand marshal for the annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Parade.

Ms. Pryor is survived by her two daughters and many other beloved relatives and friends. Ms. Pryor will always be remembered for her dedication to advocating for justice, change, and equality.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF JOSEPH RYLON WILLS, JR.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mr. Joseph Rylon Wills, Jr., a man of faith, service, and dedication.

Born in 1957 in Plant City, Florida, Joe was raised by his loving parents, Rylon and Gail. He was active in church and sports, demonstrating a commitment to faith and teamwork from a young age.

In 1982, he married Stacy, his lifelong partner, and together they built a beautiful life, raising three wonderful sons, Patrick, Timothy, and David.

Joe earned a business degree from Augusta University and had a distinguished career in hospitality and real estate. He worked at Augusta National Golf Club, Sea Island Company, and Brunswick Country Club. Joe later became a top producing realtor, specializing in luxury properties.

A devoted church leader, Joe served as an elder and deacon, supporting organizations like Manna House of Brunswick and contributing to community events. He was known for his generosity, kindness, and willingness to

help others, always offering a listening ear and thoughtful advice.

Joe found joy in family, good friends, music, cycling, and long walks on the beach with his dogs. His legacy of service, faith, and love for his community will continue to inspire all those who knew him.

#### DEPARTMENT OF GOVERNMENT INEFFICIENCY

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

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the White House's pet project, the department of government inefficiency, otherwise known as DOGI.

For the past month, our Federal workers and agencies have been assaulted by a dilettante billionaire empowered by President Trump to muck about in Americans' lives and Federal agencies.

Americans are justifiably concerned that these unelected intruders are acting as judge and jury on people's lives and livelihoods as they gleefully and illegally feed tens of thousands of jobs and vital programs into a woodchipper.

This billionaire and his tech bros claim to have found billions in fraud, waste, and inefficiency, but their methods and results are shrouded in secrecy. When they hype their claim on Twitter or the White House press room, independent review has shown that their claims are false or riddled with errors. Buying condoms for Gaza?

It didn't happen. Social Security payments to people who are 150 years old?

Nope. Mr. Speaker, \$800 billion in savings on one contract?

Oops. Maybe \$800 million, they are not really sure.

Absolutely nothing adds up.

These DOGI efforts have introduced fraud, waste, and inefficiency into every agency they have touched with their invasions, freezes, and suspensions.

Federal workers have been fired then rehired as their functions were quickly proven to be indispensable rather than nonessential. Employees have been bombarded with weird emails that threaten them with termination if they don't accept a sketchy buyout or snitch on their colleagues and with demands that they interrupt their real work to do make-work for review by people who have no understanding or interest in public service or government functions.

Elon Musk's DOGI efforts are disrupting critical medical research and treatments, foreign aid, veterans' care, criminal investigations, and health, housing and human services across the Nation and beyond.

It takes a remarkable combination of arrogance and stupidity to think that this is the best use of time for our intelligence officers, VA workers, air

traffic controllers, FBI agents, and everyone else upon whom our Nation depends to do their jobs well.

If this is what bringing business acumen to government function looks like, then it is pretty clear we need to prevent our government from becoming a dumpster fire like X or one of Trump's corrupt corporations.

We can't afford it, and the American people can't afford it.

Mr. Speaker, it is well past time that Congress removed Mr. Musk and his DOGI minions from our government and get down to doing the peoples' business.

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

#### DEPARTMENT OF GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, once in a while we could cooperate with the President and those who are trying to do things to make our government run better ultimately for the benefit of the citizens of this country, the taxpayers.

So what we see with DOGE is that \$65 billion of savings have been found and many, many contracts that are illegitimate or unnecessary to the operations of the government or what people expect are being turned over and are being rescinded.

This includes the scandal that has been USAID. What started out as a good thing many years ago has been turned into something that is almost completely corrupt.

So let's take a look at some of the other items that DOGE has found: 104 DEI contracts eliminating \$1 billion in spending. I could go down a whole long list: \$168,000 for a Dr. Fauci exhibit and a \$45 million DEI scholarship in Burma.

What are we doing here when we have really difficult issues in our home districts and across the country as well as a \$2 trillion deficit?

So this isn't going to solve everything overnight, but it sure is a right step.

So why don't we have cooperation by Federal agencies that work for us but ultimately for the American people?

Here is the food chain: The people are on top. In a republic these are the voters who vote us in to carry out what they tell us they want done. Then we employ people at the different levels of different agencies to get that work done for us, which is ultimately the American people.

Why is that not being recognized here, that yes, we are supposed to hold them accountable, and yes, we are supposed to have oversight?

Ultimately, the oversight hearings don't work around here because it is 2 hours of running the clock out by the

bureaucracy. Now we have an administration that has the executive authority to do that oversight.

That is an important thing that keeps getting lost here. The administration has the executive authority to appoint people. That is what the entire administration is: people appointed by the executive branch, by the President. At the State level it is by a Governor. In a city it is by a mayor. It is not a foreign concept.

Certainly, it is something that the Democrats when they are in charge take advantage of. They appoint people to do things.

I didn't vote for Fauci, did I?

A whole lot of other people are wondering that too.

That is what gets done by the executive branch.

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Whether we are talking about Elon Musk, or whether we are talking about anybody in the President's Cabinet and the people that they appoint, yes, they are appointed positions. It is our job to rein them in and hold them in line to whatever their mission statement was, if they remember their mission statement, and to follow that.

The work that DOGE is doing is pretty darn good. Yes, there are some fits and starts here and there and some things that we need to modify and smooth out a little bit on some of the employment out there, but at least the people's tax dollars are finally being respected.

We want to keep going with this and work that out, but we would like to be able to work with the agencies and say: Where are the areas that we could do better in, and what personnel are extra to the process?

Certainly, when the government was shut down due to COVID and we saw which people are essential and which people are nonessential, that should have been pretty revealing right there. That is tough if you are on the non-essential list, but we have to remember that we hire people in government and we create the agencies to serve a task and a purpose for the people of the country. It is not a government jobs program. It is a get-a-job-done-for-the-people program.

#### STATE OF CALIFORNIA'S HIGH-SPEED RAIL PROJECT

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, one thing I point out here that came up last week in my home State of California as part of a considerable amount of savings we could do federally is to quit funding that high-speed rail project. It has been a boondoggle from day one.

Right at the end of the Biden administration, they put up nearly \$4 billion more at the end, so let's quickly review that. The original high-speed rail program was going to be \$33 billion to build the rail from San Francisco to L.A., and that has ballooned in the following years to \$130 billion.

It was supposed to be completed by 2020. All they have is about an 1,800-

foot-long bridge near Fresno done right now. They haven't laid any track. They have seized a lot of land. They have devastated a lot of agricultural land, parts of cities, important installations, et cetera, but they haven't laid any rail yet.

They are trying to first do the easy part between Merced, California, and an orchard somewhere outside of Bakersfield. They actually said at the time it is because they will have less resistance to building that portion. That is not going to help anybody in San Francisco or Los Angeles, where the population base is.

Basically, if it is timed versus Amtrak, I think you get from Merced to Bakersfield about 20 minutes faster, if they actually had a high-speed rail that ran all the way through on just this chunk of track. They don't, and they won't by at least 2033, 2035. To build out the whole thing will be a lot longer.

We had a conference meeting in Los Angeles at Union Station last week, and I was very pleased. This was called by our Secretary of Transportation, Sean Duffy, at the behest of the Trump administration. We had this opportunity to talk to the press, the people of California, and anybody who would listen about what such a boondoggle this high-speed rail project is. It demands \$4 billion of new money that we need to claw back and put toward something useful, such as fixing our highways, water infrastructure, or anything besides this boondoggle.

#### DEFENSE OF DEDICATED FEDERAL PUBLIC SERVANTS

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

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in defense of our dedicated Federal public servants in the face of the relentless attacks from President Trump and Elon Musk.

Hardworking families in my district and people across the country are beginning to see this initiative for what it really is: a sham perpetrated by President Trump and run by an unelected billionaire, the richest person in the world, who has no idea how our government operates or what our public servants do for our communities.

Trump and Musk's goal is to undermine people's faith in public services, gain access to sensitive government data, and ultimately give away trillions of dollars in tax cuts for the rich. We know their game, and we are not playing it.

Last week, I met with union leaders who are representing our Federal workforce, including the American Federation of Government Employees, National Nurses United, the National Association of Letter Carriers, the American Postal Workers Union, and the Western New York Area Labor Federation.

I am deeply grateful for their work to empower our Federal workforce: our air traffic controllers, veteran healthcare practitioners, Social Security benefit experts, and so many more who provide the services and assistance hardworking families in our communities deserve and need.

Their ability to continue doing so is under immense threat. Union leaders on the front lines painted a picture in which our Federal workers are living in fear of wrongful firings, receiving intimidating emails that are causing mass confusion, and receiving unclear directives from an administration that has no interest in the rule of law.

These are workers who have dedicated their lives to public service. They help our parents and grandparents receive the Social Security that they have earned and rely on. They deliver world-class care to our veterans who have sacrificed so much for our freedoms. They keep our borders secure, our air and water clean, our airports and skies safe, and so much more. They deserve our gratitude, not to be subjected to this demeaning and cruel treatment, especially as they continue to deliver for hardworking families amid all of it.

Mr. Speaker, I have also spoken to constituents who have been impacted by these wrongful cuts. A young man named Jeff Plummer spoke to me hours before being wrongfully fired from the Internal Revenue Service. Jeff received exemplary reviews of his work within the IRS Small Business/Self-Employed Division, which helps small businesses to comply with tax requirements, helping our regional economy to thrive.

Due to the simple fact that he had worked for the IRS for less than 1 year, he was terminated. He is among 6,000 IRS employees who have been wrongfully fired, all in the middle of tax season.

Jeff and his fellow IRS employees are not alone. Our veterans are being directly harmed and discriminated against. They are experiencing real harm as the services they rely on are being decimated.

Service-disabled veterans are among the 8,500 Federal employees in my district alone being attacked and dismissed for being DEI hires. I spoke with one disabled veteran who bled for our country and continued to serve as a Federal employee for nearly two decades. He received a title change in the last year, which automatically put him on probationary status. He was fired last week with absolutely no justification.

These veterans feel demeaned and betrayed. It is unthinkable and shameful to treat our military heroes this way. It violates the sacred honor that we have to care for our veterans and provide the services and benefits that they have earned and that they deserve.

I have spoken to constituents myself. I have heard the palpable fear and anxiety that our Federal workers are feel-

ing, which makes it impossible to deliver the best quality care and services for taxpayers, from caring for veterans and seniors to protecting our environment.

As egg prices are skyrocketing due to bird flu ravaging our farms, Trump and Musk have cut FDA and USDA employees, putting the health and well-being of our communities on the line.

After we saw the first commercial airline crash in 16 years, there are FAA employees who are being fired. Their message each time: These employees weren't mission critical. Don't worry. You won't miss them.

Tell that to the senior whose medicine is contaminated due to the lack of oversight, or to the airline passenger facing major delays because of a severe shortage of air traffic controllers.

Meanwhile, unelected billionaire Elon Musk is celebrating on the world stage with a chain saw in his hand, bragging about the degrading treatment of our public servants, with no regard for the taxpayers who will suffer as a result because they cannot get the services that they rely on.

Why wouldn't he celebrate? President Trump has illegally given him the keys to our Treasury, sensitive government data, and control of our Federal workforce. We won't let him take a chain saw to our Federal workforce without a fight. That is why we are speaking up and speaking out and holding those accountable. We ask our colleagues on the other side of the aisle to join in our fight.

#### BAN ON ACCEPTANCE OF GIFTS FROM LOBBYISTS

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

Mr. KHANNA. Mr. Speaker, President Trump campaigned around the country to drain the swamp. Yet, one of the first things he did was to reverse President Biden's executive order that banned White House officials from accepting gifts from lobbyists.

Today, I am introducing the Drain the Swamp Act. It is pretty simple. It will ban any White House official from accepting gifts from lobbyists, and it will ban White House officials from becoming lobbyists during the Trump term.

I believe that this bill will have support not just from progressives, not just from Independents, but from the MAGA movement. That is why I am calling on my colleagues, Republicans and Democrats, to pass the Drain the Swamp Act and send it to President Trump's desk so that he can fulfill his promise.

#### DEPRIVATION OF MEDICARE TELEHEALTH SERVICES

Mr. KHANNA. Mr. Speaker, the Trump administration is stripping millions of American seniors of their coverage of telehealth on March 31. That is right. Starting March 31, doctors' visits via videoconference or Zoom or

phone will no longer be covered for seniors on Medicare.

This is going to impact over 12 million Americans, and the crazy thing is that the inspectors general have found that there is only 0.2 percent of fraud in telehealth. Why are we taking telehealth away from millions of seniors who are homebound or who have difficulty leaving their homes? It is most devastating for rural Americans.

That is why I am introducing today the Telehealth Coverage Act. It will require Medicare to pay for telehealth services. Let us pass this act in a bipartisan way so that millions of American seniors aren't deprived of telehealth services because of the actions of the Trump administration.

#### CONGRATULATING JERRY GACHETT ON HIS RETIREMENT

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

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of a dedicated and true public servant, Detective Jerry Gachett, who is retiring from the Akron Police Department.

I am honored to be standing here today talking about a man who has served the Akron community so humbly for over 31 years and who I am proud to call a friend.

Jerry was born in Alabama and raised in Akron, where he graduated from the John R. Buchtell High School in 1985. He then bravely served this country in the United States Army for 4 years.

For the last 31 years, Jerry has served our community as a member of the Akron Police Department. He has worked as a hostage negotiator. He worked in the financial crimes unit. Jerry also worked for 21 years as a juvenile detective, where he investigated crimes against children.

Throughout his distinguished career, Detective Gachett has played a pivotal role of securing justice with his investigations, leading to the imprisonment of hundreds of child predators, solidifying his reputation as a champion for the community's most vulnerable.

Jerry is one of the most caring and compassionate people I know. In fact, throughout his career, he has taken the care to truly get to know the victims and survivors who he has been sworn to protect and serve.

He has been to countless basketball games, baby showers and more, to celebrate the survivors who he cares so deeply for. He even walked one of the people he supported down the aisle at her wedding. In fact, my husband and I met Jerry when we hired him to secure our wedding when MAGA protesters threatened our very precious and sacred event.

Jerry has always put the people of our community first, and his deep desire to serve his community is an inspiration to all who have had the opportunity to experience his passion for

protecting our community's most vulnerable.

In addition to his law enforcement career, Detective Gachett is an ordained minister and a devoted follower of Jesus Christ. He is also a loving husband, father, and grandfather.

No one deserves retirement more than Jerry, but I know that he won't be retiring for real, as he has been sworn into the APD Reserves. I am sure we will continue to see him serving our community in his own special way.

On behalf of Ohio's 13th Congressional District, I congratulate and thank Detective Jerry Gachett on a storied career at the Akron Police Department and for over 31 years of outstanding service and devotion to our community and our country.

#### CELEBRATING EVA AND HERB PORTER AS COMMUNITY PILLARS

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

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as we celebrate Black History Month to uplift two of my constituents and pillars of the Hanover Park community, Eva and Herb Porter. Both have shared more than 40 years of love, leadership, and unwavering dedication to civic engagement.

Eva Porter is a beloved retired educator in our community. After 30 years of teaching, she has continued to shape young minds in and beyond the classroom.

Eva has served as a trustee of the Poplar Creek Library Board and as a board member for school district U-46. Her passion for service shines through her volunteer work with organizations like Kids Hope USA and the American Cancer Society.

Eva's passion and commitment to public service is matched only by her dear husband, Herb. Currently serving as a deputy mayor of Hanover Park, Herb Porter became the first-ever African-American Hanover Park trustee when he was elected in 2019. With nearly a decade of elected office, Herb is currently the longest serving African-American public official in the northwest suburban area.

He continues to serve his community in his roles on the governing board for the Community and Economic Development Association of Cook County as well as the board of the Alignment Collaborative for Education.

□ 1045

Proud members of the DuPage NAACP, Eva and Herb Porter's legacy of service and uplifting diversity and equity have inspired countless community members to get involved in civic engagement, including their daughter, Dr. Chantelle Porter, who was just elected in 2022 as the first Black female judge in DuPage County.

While we think of being first and only, we know we still have a long way

to go to truly have parity and representation across this country, but the Porter family's extensive service to the Hanover Park community is a reminder of just how seriously our local communities take our responsibility to serve our neighbors and to do so with compassion and care.

Today, I rise to speak of their leadership, dedication, and exemplary service, which serves as a reminder to each of us here in Congress that we also have the very same responsibility to care for our neighbors and our working families, not special interests and unaccountable billionaires.

As we take the time to celebrate history, we are also reminded that we are making history every single day in these Chambers and back home in our districts. Let it be good history. Let it be history that we are proud of.

Our constituents, including Herb and Eva, are meeting this moment with the urgency it deserves, and they rightfully expect us to follow their lead. I know I will.

On behalf of Illinois' Third Congressional District on this 25th day of February, 2025, I commend Eva and Herb Porter for their lifelong commitment to modeling civic responsibility, community service, and courageous leadership.

Congratulations to Eva and Herb.

#### PROTECTING VETERANS IS NOT GOVERNMENT WASTE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Puerto Rico (Mr. HERNÁNDEZ) for 5 minutes.

Mr. HERNÁNDEZ. Mr. Speaker, during the past weeks, the Federal Government has been cruel to its workforce. It has offered deferred resignations. It has laid off employees. It has sent employees confusing information.

As Jorge Santiago-Rivera, a labor leader from the Department of Veterans Affairs on the island, has said: The truth is that, yes, we live under fear. We live under uncertainty.

I worry about the well-being of our Federal workers. I worry, in particular, about the well-being of the 13,000 Federal employees who reside in Puerto Rico, but I also worry about the thousands of veterans who rely on the VA for their healthcare needs in Puerto Rico. Why? Because the lack of structure and logic behind these cuts directly affects them.

As Mr. Santiago asks: If you lose 10 emergency workers from the ER, who helps the patients?

Unsurprisingly, the VA is now scrambling to deny deferred resignation requests. In the past, it has had to rehire workers that it laid off.

The VA is not the only Federal agency on the island affected by this chaotic, irresponsible, negligent program of Federal cuts. The IRS reportedly laid off around 200 workers. The National Park Service, the USDA, and the national Forest Service are also laying off employees.

Brenda Reyes Tomassini, a labor leader from the EPA, another agency affected, described it best: It is devastating, truly, a brutal level of anxiety.

What makes this even worse is the process. Some of these employees have worked for the Federal Government for 15 or 20 years. They transferred to new positions, so they appeared as if they were on probation and have been terminated. That is unacceptable.

Members of this Congress have not received accurate information about what is happening. I will be the first one to acknowledge that government waste exists. It exists at the Federal level, the State level, and the municipal level, but protecting our veterans is not government waste. Protecting our national parks and protecting our national forests, like El Yunque, is not government waste. Protecting the employees who work hard to ensure that millionaires and billionaires don't cheat on their taxes is not government waste. It is what government is for.

In the coming days, my office will be taking action. We will share resources for Federal employees so that they know their rights. We will host a tele-townhall to hear directly from affected workers. We will demand transparency from the agencies responsible for these layoffs.

I also urge the Government of Puerto Rico to step up to provide these workers the assistance that the government of Puerto Rico usually provides to workers who are laid off in the tourism or manufacturing sectors.

To the workers affected, I send a clear message: I know that being laid off is painful. It hurts your finances. It hurts your stability. It can even hurt your sense of self-worth, but let's be clear: You are not the problem. Your government is the problem. I see you, hear you, and will fight for you.

#### HONORING GEORGE WALTON WELLER

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

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor an extraordinary American, a true hero in every sense, George Walton Weller.

For 65 years, Mr. Weller has dedicated his life to the safety and well-being of his community through the Verona Volunteer Fire Company. Helping to found the fire company in 1959, he remains an active member to this day at age 91. His unwavering commitment to service and deep sense of duty are nothing short of inspiring.

Long before he answered the call as a firefighter, Mr. Weller bravely served our Nation as a member of the United States Air Force. Serving for 4 years during the Vietnam war, he defended the freedoms we hold dear.

Mr. Weller has strengthened his community in the generations of firefighters he has mentored and his example of dedication. Few can claim such a

legacy, and today, I recognize and thank George Walton Weller for his extraordinary contributions and selfless acts of service.

Mr. Speaker, he embodies the very best of America, and we are forever indebted to him.

CELEBRATING SHENANDOAH UNIVERSITY'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 150th anniversary of Shenandoah University, a proud institution in historic Winchester, Virginia, that has shaped minds and transformed lives for a century and a half.

Founded on February 12, 1875, in Dayton, Virginia, Shenandoah took a bold step back in 1960, relocating 75 miles north to Winchester and paving the way for its continued growth and success.

For 150 years, Shenandoah University has remained steadfast in its mission to provide innovative, high-quality, and student-focused education, always keeping the community at its heart.

The university's legacy has been shaped by visionary leaders, from A.P. Funkhouser, its founder, to Dr. Forrest Racey, who led its relocation, and Dr. James Davis, under whose leadership it became a university. Today, that tradition of excellence continues under Dr. Tracy Fitzsimmons, Shenandoah's first female president, who has guided its remarkable growth.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Shenandoah University on this historic milestone and wishing it continued success for generations to come.

#### RECOGNIZING CONCERN HOTLINE

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Concern Hotline, a vital organization that has provided compassionate, lifesaving support to the residents of the northern Shenandoah Valley for the past 57 years.

Founded in 1970 in response to a tragic rise in suicides, Concern Hotline has been a constant source of hope, offering 24/7 crisis intervention and emotional support. This organization is led by Executive Director Rusty Holland, who has dedicated himself to ensuring that anyone in crisis has a trained, nonjudgmental listener ready to take the call.

The organization thrives because of its dedicated volunteers and community partnerships with first responders, mental health providers, and local universities. Their work has saved countless lives, and their mission is simple but powerful: to keep people safe for now.

I commend Concern Hotline for its unwavering commitment to suicide prevention and crisis intervention. The northern Shenandoah Valley is stronger because of their work, and I wish them continued success in their mission.

#### DEFENDING CONSUMER CHOICE

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to stand against yet another blatant government overreach—this time an

attack by the Biden administration on the ability of hardworking Americans to choose the appliances that best fit their needs.

In his final days, President Biden's Department of Energy finalized a rule that effectively bans certain natural gas water heaters from the market. This unnecessary regulation is yet another example of the left pushing a radical Green New Deal agenda at the expense of American families.

This rule would drive up costs, limit consumer choice, and hurt American families and small businesses. It is the same heavyhanded approach we saw time and again from the previous administration, forcing Americans to buy expensive, inefficient alternatives instead of letting them decide what works best for their homes and businesses.

The DOE has no business dictating what kind of water heater Americans can use, and that is why I strongly support H.J. Res. 20, introduced by my colleague Congressman GARY PALMER. This resolution sends a clear message: Washington bureaucrats do not get to make these choices for the American people.

House Republicans will continue fighting to protect consumer freedom and keep government overreach out of our homes. I urge my colleagues to stand with the American people and pass this important resolution.

#### MARKING THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF UNPROVOKED RUSSIAN INVASION OF UKRAINE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGS of South Carolina). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. VINDMAN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. VINDMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to address the House as we have just marked the third anniversary of the unprovoked Russian invasion of Ukraine.

February 24, 2022, the date of the largest land grab in Europe since World War II, joins an ignominious list of others as a day of infamy, but this month, it is also notorious for something else.

In this month and this year, the Pax Americana, the rules-based international order established in the aftermath of World War II, an order that has delivered peace and prosperity to the United States, has been brought to a dishonorable end.

In this month, Trump ordered the U.S. Representative to the U.N. to vote with autocrats and against democracy.

Pete Hegseth, the FOX weekend television host improbably elevated into an American Secretary of Defense, announced that NATO membership for Ukraine was off the table. Going further, he suggested that Ukraine's return to its 2014 borders was no longer in the cards. Hegseth thereby deprived Ukraine and the West of two of their most valuable bargaining chips in determining the shape of any peace agreement that is to come.

In this same month, Donald Trump, the President of the United States, standing facts on their head, called Volodymyr Zelenskyy, the leader of Ukrainian democracy, an unelected "dictator," and incredibly, spewing another blatant falsehood, blamed Ukraine for starting the war.

In this month, in perhaps the most shameful statement from an American President in the history of our Republic, Trump explained that because Russia had lost so many soldiers, it was entitled to keep some or all of the territory that it had seized in its unprovoked war of aggression.

It is bad enough that these are lies and betrayals of America's great traditions.

It is bad enough that these statements legitimize violations of the fundamental principles of Pax Americana and the U.N. Charter. Namely, the rules of the jungle no longer apply to international relations—that might does not make right and that powerful nations cannot employ force to redraw international borders at will.

It is bad enough that the Trump administration is failing to offer a strong bargaining position for Ukraine from which to negotiate a just peace.

It is bad enough that his statements have sent an unmistakable message to the world, in particular, Communist China, that aggression pays.

Things are even worse than all of that.

Under the tutelage of Donald Trump, we are witnessing a fundamental transformation of American foreign policy from a force for good in the world to a force for evil. Trump is aligning American foreign policy with that of the Kremlin.

As analyst Phillips O'Brien has put it: "The USA is now run by gangsters who both want to ally with other gangsters and are using threats of destruction and violence to get their way."

□ 1100

In the first term, there were guardrails because there were adults in the room. This time there are no such adults in the room. Trump has surrounded himself with sycophants, yes-men, third-rate fanatics, and clowns from the MAGA world. The guardrails are gone. Trump is free to follow his peculiar whims and unhinged instincts. Indeed, he is free to act as would a mad king.

The results are plain to see. The results are visible in Trump's repeated attacks on Denmark for refusing to sell Greenland to the United States, another dangerous fantasy which is roiling relations with a NATO ally that has been an exceptionally loyal friend in times of need.

They are visible in the trade war that Trump is promising to unleash on Mexico, Canada, Europe, and the entire world with untold consequences for prosperity everywhere, including here at home.

They are most visible in the collapse of our friendship with Ukraine, our



abandonment of a fledgling democracy that has been valiantly fighting for its very existence. Instead of standing by Ukraine, the Trump administration is insisting that it yield its natural resource wealth to the United States in exchange for previous American support without any guarantee of territorial integrity.

This is not the behavior of a great democratic power, the leader of the free world. It is the behavior of a Mafia state engaged in coercion and blackmail. It is impossible not to be ashamed by what is being done in the name of America.

Putin would like nothing more than to cause internal chaos in Ukraine and rid Kyiv of Zelenskyy. Trump is following suit. Zelenskyy is absolutely right when he stated that Trump is living inside a disinformation bubble.

At the root, Trump's policies betray a fundamental misunderstanding of the American idea: the fact that we are a free and self-governing people, a democracy that has always been a beacon of liberty.

The President and his billionaire, shadow co-president have embraced a dystopian ideology based on falsehoods. The effect of their disinformation is rapidly bringing us to a crisis point where their falsehoods will crash into the reality of a great power competition.

If America abandons Ukraine and embraces the Kremlin, the consequences for the United States and for the world will prove ruinous. Already, everywhere Russia has advanced into Ukrainian territory, its forces have raped and pillaged and murdered.

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

#### DIRE CONSEQUENCES OF FUNDING FREEZE AND MASS FIRINGS

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

Mr. VASQUEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to address the dire consequences of the Federal funding freezes and mass firings that are devastating communities across the country, including in my home State of New Mexico.

Over the past few weeks, I have spoken with New Mexicans who have been impacted by these reckless decisions. Their stories are heartbreaking. Their families are suffering. Rural communities are reeling, and they deserve to be heard.

The funding freeze is crippling essential programs in our State, programs that provide wildfire prevention, conserve rangelands, grasslands, and forests, provide services to veterans, and fund public safety services. Rural communities and food producers are left vulnerable. Our national parks and forests are in disarray, and our local economies are suffering.

At the same time, mass firings are stripping thousands of dedicated Federal workers of their livelihoods. They are Americans—parents, veterans, and public servants—who have spent years serving their communities.

More than 2,400 employees have been dismissed from the Department of Veterans Affairs, undermining care for those who have served our country.

The U.S. Forest Service is losing the very employees that provide Americans access to our national treasures and public lands. These cuts also threaten wildfire prevention as our State enters another critical fire season.

The administration has fired 2,300 Department of the Interior employees, including 800 from the Bureau of Land Management and another 1,000 from the National Park Service, crippling decades of conservation efforts and degrading public land management.

These numbers alone are shocking, but they don't fully capture the impact. I want to share what my constituents have told me about these firings because behind every statistic is a real American.

Jason, a former National Park Service employee from Grants, New Mexico, told me: I received outstanding reviews on my last evaluation just a week before I was laid off. The local economy here in Grants will be devastated. I moved here to serve my community. I joined the local library board, and I am serving my people, but now I am afraid I will have to leave. There are no options left.

Devrie, who works with the Friends of Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge, shared: We already lost two employees at the refuge. We were understaffed before, and now if we lose visitors, my job is next. The Bosque brings in thousands of tourism dollars to Socorro, New Mexico. This isn't just about jobs. It is about the future of our communities, and what is happening is reckless.

Madison, a former probationary Federal employee in Carlsbad, New Mexico, told me: I lost my dream job on February 14. Many of us had moved hours away from our families to serve. In Carlsbad alone, the government wasted nearly half a million taxpayer dollars training us, only to fire us months later. These mass firings cannot go unnoticed.

Claudia, who worked at Carlsbad Caverns National Park, shared this: In 4½ months, I dedicated myself to my work, training others, providing emergency medical services, ensuring visitor safety. Then, without warning, I was fired. I was told I failed to prove my skills, despite my experience, my positive evaluations, and my commitment. How does firing somebody making less than \$40,000 a year solve the debt crisis?

These are the voices of our rural communities. They are not nameless, faceless numbers to be scratched off by somebody who wasn't even elected by the American people. From their coun-

try and from this administration, they deserve better.

As Elon Musk is busy firing thousands of New Mexicans, the Republican majority is preparing today a budget that offers American taxpayer dollars to give massive tax breaks for millionaires and billionaires. I hope that my colleagues can justify eliminating a \$40,000 Federal job at a national park for wildfire prevention so that a millionaire can take another summer vacation to Aruba.

I urge my colleagues to recognize the human cost of these reckless firings and funding freezes. I am sure the constituents of my colleagues will make it clear to them even if they don't listen to us today.

(English translation of the statement made in Spanish by Mr. VASQUEZ is as follows:)

Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize a group of individuals who are the life force of our nation: our farmworkers. Their commitment and tireless efforts in the field ensure that every family in this country can access fresh, nutritious food. I see and hear you, and I am proud to represent you.

Every day, these tireless workers face challenges that require strength and perseverance. Whether enduring extreme weather conditions or working long hours, their work sustains our economy and feeds our communities. Behind every meal we enjoy is the constant dedication of farm workers, who often go unnoticed.

Mr. Speaker, hoy quiero reconocer a un grupo de personas que son la fuerza vital de nuestra nación: nuestros trabajadores agrícolas.

Su compromiso y esfuerzos incansables en el campo aseguran que todas las familias de este país puedan tener alimentos frescos y nutritivos. Los veo y los escucho y estoy orgulloso de representarlos.

Cada día, estos trabajadores incansables enfrentan desafíos que requieren fortaleza y dedicación. Trabajan muchas horas en condiciones climáticas extremas para sostener nuestra economía y alimentar a nuestras comunidades. Detrás de la comida que disfrutamos está la dedicación constante de los trabajadores del campo que muchas veces son invisibles en este país.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from New Mexico will provide a translation of his remarks to the desk.

#### ILL-CONCEIVED BUDGET RESOLUTION

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

Ms. STRICKLAND. Madam Speaker, this week House Republicans are bringing forth their ill-conceived, cruel budget resolution. This resolution will set the stage across the board for cuts on the basic services our constituents depend on the most. These constituents, by the way, live in both red States and blue States.

As the majority brings up their budget resolution, they have already said what they plan to do because they told us. They want to take away Head Start



school lunches. They want to take away food assistance from children and needy families. They want to take away Medicaid and Affordable Care Act premium assistance. Instead of strengthening the social safety net, the MAGA majority has decided to strip Medicaid coverage from almost 65,000 children in my district alone.

Almost 40 percent of children in Washington State get their healthcare through Medicaid, 35 percent of moms giving birth and their newborn babies rely on Medicaid for their healthcare, and the MAGA majority wants to strip away their healthcare.

If any of my colleagues vote for this, they have forfeited the right to claim they are pro-life ever again. It is not pro-life to take away a newborn baby's healthcare. It is not pro-life to take away healthcare from 65,000 children in my district. It is not pro-life to take away food from hungry children.

We were promised that president Musk and the MAGA majority would lower costs for the American people from day one. This does none of that. Instead, they are trying to take away healthcare and food from our kids.

I urge everyone to vote "no" on this resolution and stop the Republican rip-off.

#### UNPRECEDENTED FIRING OF MILITARY LEADERS

Ms. STRICKLAND. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak out against the unprecedented firing of some of our most qualified and senior military leadership, including General CQ Brown, the eminently qualified Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

General Brown is an exceptional leader, a dedicated servicemember, and an American hero. His firing, the dismissal of Admiral Franchetti, and the judge advocate generals for the services is a travesty. When nominated, General Brown had logged in over 3,000 flying hours, including 130 combat hours and command of the Pacific Air Forces for the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command. His service and dedication are impeccable.

Most galling is that the person President Trump nominated is affirmatively less qualified than General Brown was when he was nominated. This person has not even met the most basic qualifications to be chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

What does this tell our servicemembers and their families and our future recruits that expect to be promoted on merit and ability?

President Trump has decided to prioritize nominating people who will make us less safe and less secure because his only requirement is blind loyalty.

As a member of the House Armed Services Committee, we constantly hear the drumbeat of needing to prepare for the threats that we face both today and tomorrow, both here at home and abroad. President Trump's abrupt dismissal has created chaos, will degrade our readiness, hurt recruitment, and empower our enemies.

#### LIFE AND LEGACY OF ERNEST CHARLES TANNER

Ms. STRICKLAND. Madam Speaker, I rise today, as we celebrate Black History Month, to recognize the life and legacy of Ernest "Ernie" Charles Tanner.

Ernie Tanner was born in Indianapolis, Indiana, on June 5, 1889. His family moved to Tacoma, Washington, my hometown, in 1900, where he attended Tacoma High School, which is now known as Stadium High School. At Whitworth College, he was the first African American to play football at the college level in the entire Pacific Northwest.

After college, Mr. Tanner worked as a Tacoma elevator operator, and in 1918 he joined the Tacoma chapter of the International Longshoremen's Association, then known as ILA. He remained a member until he died.

In 1934, Mr. Tanner was the only Black member of the Tacoma strike committee during the big strike that shut down every single Pacific Coast port. Mr. Tanner worked closely with San Francisco leader, Harry Bridges, to keep Black and White workers united during the strike so employers could not break the union.

He was a trustee of Local 2897 from 1934 to 1936, where he pressured leaders to pay Black dockworkers the same wages as their White counterparts.

Ernest Charles Tanner passed away in 1956 at the age of 66. He achieved what many seek when they join a union, the recognition of the dignity of all work, to rise out of poverty, and to provide a better life for his family. This was exemplified when Mr. Tanner's son, Jack Tanner, became the Pacific Northwest's first Black Federal judge in 1978. This is generational success and wealth.

Ernie Tanner broke barriers in sports and labor. On behalf of his community, it is appropriate that we recognize his life and legacy today. Happy Black History Month to everyone.

#### RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 12 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. AMODEI) at noon.

#### PRAYER

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

The Word of the Lord is right and true. O Lord, bind Your Word this day to our hearts that it would guide our

steps and direct our lives with Your unwavering righteousness.

By Your Word the heavens were made and the starry host by the breath of Your mouth. Speak Your Word into our lives that what we do would be as You command, and what we profess would revere You.

Lord, You foil the plans of the nations, You thwart the purposes of the peoples. Then show forth Your plans which are sure and stand firm forever. Reveal the purposes of Your grace plan through all generations.

For You love righteousness and justice. Fill the Earth and all who labor in this place with Your love.

We wait in hope for You, Lord, for You alone are our help and shield. May Your unfailing love be with us, Lord, even as we put our hope in You.

In Your sovereign name, we pray.

Amen.

#### THE JOURNAL

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

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

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. LAMALFA led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

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

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

#### BUDGET RESOLUTION WILL BRING FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY TO GOVERNMENT

(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, the important work we are doing right now on the budget resolution is going to set the course to bring really strong fiscal responsibility back to this Congress and for our Nation.

It is important that we get on board and pursue this process so that we can do even better things later on this year. There is so much that needs to be done.

We are seeing the great work that DOGE is doing in reeling in the size of our government and trying to claw back some of the waste that has cost

the taxpayers money. It is not our money. It is the taxpayers' money.

This includes, for example, the great work done by our Secretary of Transportation Sean Duffy the other day in California. He pointed out that this boondoggle, high-speed rail system in California that has cost about \$15 billion so far now is going to cost \$130 billion.

The quibbling over \$4 billion right now of Federal money that Biden dumped in at the last minute, we should claw that back and then stop the spigot. No more spending. It is \$110 billion short of what it is going to take to build the whole rail from San Francisco to L.A.

We need to stop the boondoggle spending. The work of DOGE and the work of our Budget Committee are going to be important to set the course for all of America and on all of these things we have been wasting so much money on.

Remember, Mr. Speaker, we have to respect the taxpayers. It is their money, not ours.

#### UKRAINE

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

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, Putin and Trump: a dictator and a wannabe, and another destroyed Ukrainian city. Thousands have been murdered and thousands of children have been kidnapped. Trump disgracefully voted yesterday with North Korea and Russia to blame the murdered, not the murderer.

Trump is joining a rogues' gallery of lesser dictators to deny Putin's murderous invasion, his war crimes, and a demand that he return occupied Ukrainian territory. Trump, "the great appeaser," is joined in this appalling wrong by House Republican accomplices.

While Ukrainians dodge bullets and missiles and are risking death daily, most of the House Republicans seem scared into silence by the threat of a very mean Trump tweet. By its silence, this Republican white flag surrender caucus is emboldening our adversaries to replace the world order established by both Democratic and Republican leaders since World War II.

If we fail Ukraine, our democratic ally, we fail the rule of law. Let's unite to resist the appeasement of Putin and seek a victory for self-determination, democracy, and freedom.

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

#### MAY COURAGEOUS UKRAINE PREVAIL

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, yesterday marked the tragic

third anniversary of the invasion of Ukraine by war criminal Putin concealed as a 30-day special mission, misleading his troops into bringing dress uniforms for fictional victory parades in his quest to resurrect the failed Soviet Union.

Thanks to President Donald Trump, the Putin invasion convoy was destroyed by Javelin missiles he previously provided Ukraine. The Ukrainian people courageously and valiantly fought back with war criminal Putin importing Iranian drones and sacrificing North Korean troops, confirming this is a war of dictators in Moscow, Tehran, Pyongyang, and Beijing.

President Donald Trump is achieving peace through strength with an empowered Ukraine and a now-liberated Syria because Putin was not able to save dictator Assad, as Trump praises Turkiye's and Saudi Arabia's success.

In conclusion, God bless our troops as the global war on terrorism continues. Open borders for dictators put all Americans at risk of more 9/11 attacks imminent, as warned by the FBI. Trump is building peace through strength.

#### SCHOOL BUS DRIVER APPRECIATION WEEK

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

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge the dedicated schoolbus drivers who ensure our children's safety every day.

During School Bus Driver Appreciation Week, I had the privilege of riding along on Mrs. Pamela Respass' schoolbus at Banks Elementary School in Lenoir County.

There was so much excitement. It was an early morning, and we hopped on the bus after the prechecks. Throughout the route, Mrs. Respass greeted students by name, transforming morning faces into smiles. After parking the schoolbus, the students hugged Mrs. Respass as they hopped off and headed to class.

My experience highlights the vital role of schoolbus drivers who face enormous challenges like bus shortages and overcrowding.

We thank our schoolbus drivers across America like Mrs. Respass not just today but every day.

#### THANKING ALEX CISNEROS, LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR

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

Mrs. KIM. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to thank Alex Cisneros for his decade of service to our Nation as a dedicated staff member in the House of Representatives, most recently as my legislative director over the last 4 years.

His diligent work ethic, sharp intellect, and the ability to build trusting

relationships on both sides of the aisle have made him an invaluable part of my team.

His legislative team advised me each week in Congress and shepherded more than 40 bills through the House and got more than 15 bills signed into law.

These are real results that have made a difference in the lives of the American people.

So I thank Alex, and I hope that he knows how proud we all are of what he has accomplished.

We will miss Alex, but he will always be a part of our family.

#### CELEBRATING THE RETIREMENT OF PARMA HEIGHTS POLICE DEPARTMENT CHIEF TANYA CZACK

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

Mr. MILLER of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the retirement of Parma Heights Police Department Chief Tanya Czack, who is a very good friend of mine.

Chief Czack has dedicated her career to upholding the law, protecting her community, and leading with integrity. With over 35 years of service in law enforcement, Tanya has risen through the ranks, starting as a dispatcher and becoming the first female chief in her department's history.

A graduate of Northwestern University's prestigious staff and command program, Chief Czack has not only excelled in her role but has also committed herself to shaping the future of law enforcement.

For 17 years she has been an instructor at police academies, preparing the next generation of law enforcement officers to serve with honor, courage, and dedication to justice.

Our community is made better by people like Chief Czack, and I thank her for her selfless service and wish her a very happy retirement. I will see her Friday.

#### APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO UNITED STATES HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL COUNCIL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to 36 U.S.C. 2302, and the order of the House of January 3, 2025, of the following Members on the part of the House to the United States Holocaust Memorial Council:

Mr. KUSTOFF, Tennessee  
Mr. BACON, Nebraska  
Mr. MILLER, Ohio

#### APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 3003, and the order of the House of January

3, 2025, of the following Member on the part of the House to the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe: Mr. WILSON, South Carolina, Co-Chair

#### APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO CANADA-UNITED STATES INTER-PARLIAMENTARY GROUP

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 276d, and the order of the House of January 3, 2025, of the following Member on the part of the House to the Canada-United States Interparliamentary Group:

Mr. HUIZENGA, Michigan, Chair

#### APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO BRITISH-AMERICAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY GROUP

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 276L, and the order of the House of January 3, 2025, of the following Members on the part of the House to the British-American Interparliamentary Group:

Mrs. KIM, California  
Mr. MEUSER, Pennsylvania  
Mr. ADERHOLT, Alabama  
Mr. SMUCKER, Pennsylvania  
Mr. COLE, Oklahoma  
Mr. KEAN, New Jersey

#### PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.J. RES. 20, PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL OF THE RULE SUBMITTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY RELATING TO "ENERGY CONSERVATION PROGRAM: ENERGY CONSERVATION STANDARDS FOR CONSUMER GAS-FIRED INSTANTANEOUS WATER HEATERS"; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.J. RES. 35, PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL 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"; AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H. CON. RES. 14, CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025

Mrs. HOUCHIN. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 161 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 161

*Resolved*, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 20) 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 Pro-

gram: Energy Conservation Standards for Consumer Gas-fired Instantaneous Water Heaters". All points of order against consideration of the joint resolution are waived. The joint resolution shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the joint resolution are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the joint resolution and on any amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce or their respective designees; and (2) one motion to recommit.

SEC. 2. Upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 35) 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". All points of order against consideration of the joint resolution are waived. The joint resolution shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the joint resolution are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the joint resolution and on any amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce or their respective designees; and (2) one motion to recommit.

SEC. 3. At any time after adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 14) establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2025 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2026 through 2034. The first reading of the concurrent resolution shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the concurrent resolution are waived. General debate shall not exceed three hours, with two hours of general debate confined to the congressional budget equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Budget or their respective designees and one hour of general debate on the subject of economic goals and policies equally divided and controlled by Representative Schweikert of Arizona and Representative Beyer of Virginia or their respective designees. The amendment printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution shall be considered as adopted in the House and in the Committee of the Whole. The concurrent resolution, as amended, shall be considered as read. After general debate the Committee shall rise and report the concurrent resolution, as amended, to the House. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the concurrent resolution and amendments thereto to adoption without intervening motion except amendments offered by the chair of the Committee on the Budget pursuant to section 305(a)(5) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 to achieve mathematical consistency. The concurrent resolution shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question of its adoption.

□ 1215

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from Indiana is recognized for 1 hour.

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

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. HOUCHIN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Indiana?

There was no objection.

Mrs. HOUCHIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this rule and in support of the underlying legislation.

Last night, the Rules Committee met and produced a rule, House Resolution 161, providing for the House's consideration of several pieces of legislation, including a closed rule for H. Con. Res. 14, the budget resolution.

The rule provides for 2 hours of debate for the Committee on the Budget or their respective designees to debate the congressional budget and an additional hour equally divided and controlled by Representative SCHWEIKERT of Arizona and Representative BEYER of Virginia or their respective designees to debate economic goals and policies.

The rule further permits the chair of the Committee on the Budget to offer amendments in the House to achieve mathematical consistency and provides that the concurrent resolution shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question at its adoption.

Additionally, the rule provides for consideration of H.J. Res. 20, a CRA relating to the DOE's water heater rule, under a closed rule. The rule provides for 1 hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce or their respective designees and provides for one motion to recommit.

Finally, the rule provides for consideration of H.J. Res. 35, a CRA relating to EPA's methane tax, under a closed rule. The rule provides for 1 hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce or their respective designees and provides for one motion to recommit.

Mr. Speaker, notable among the bills this rule provides for is the House budget resolution, H. Con. Res. 14. This budget resolution marks the first step for House Republicans to advance President Trump's America First agenda.

We have heard plenty of fear-mongering and flatout dishonesty from Democrats and their liberal media allies about what is included in this resolution. To be clear, this resolution unlocks the path forward to deliver on our promises to the American people.

Over the next hour, Members are going to hear all of the identity groups

the Democrats want my colleagues to believe this bill hurts. Members will hear them say that Republicans are abandoning the middle class and cutting benefits. None of that is true.

The truth is, there is not one single cut in this bill to any specific program or benefit. The truth is the Democratic Party abandoned the middle class for the liberal elite class a long time ago. The election last November should have been a wake-up call that the American people don't believe them anymore, nor should they.

The Democrats are desperate for attention and for power. Don't give it to them.

Let's set the record straight about what this budget resolution actually accomplishes.

It will provide funding for border security, provide for our national defense, and restore American energy independence. It will provide tax relief for working families.

On border security, Biden's open-border policies resulted in over 8.5 million encounters at the southern border since 2021, a 500 percent increase in illegal crossings, and over \$115 billion in costs to State and local governments. Most tragically, Biden's border crisis allowed unprecedented amounts of deadly fentanyl into our communities, killing over 100,000 Americans.

Next, this bill enables us to permanently protect tax relief. President Trump's Tax Cuts and Jobs Act provided critical relief to middle-class families and small businesses. Americans are still experiencing high prices because we are still recovering from Bidenomics.

Prices are up 21 percent. Real wages have declined by more than 3 percent. Mortgage rates have skyrocketed. Credit card delinquencies have risen by over 50 percent. Bidenomics cost American families more than \$11,000 every year for the last 4 years.

Next, this budget resolution prioritizes energy independence. Under President Trump's first administration, the United States was energy independent for the first time in 40 years. That stopped the day Joe Biden took office, and American families have been hurting ever since.

Under President Biden, the American energy production was severely restricted. Federal lands were blocked from responsible energy development, and the Strategic Petroleum Reserve was drained.

Simply put, again, the budget resolution is a framework that will allow us to deliver on the demands of the American people to secure the border, eliminate wasteful spending, revitalize Biden's broken economy, and safeguard our economic prosperity by providing permanent tax relief for working families. I hope our Democratic colleagues will join us in those efforts.

This budget resolution kicks off the reconciliation process and allows our work to begin. Once adopted, our committees and the entire House will begin

detailed work to achieve these important goals for the American people.

Mr. Speaker, this rule also provides for consideration of two Congressional Review Act measures: H.J. Res. 20 and H.J. Res. 35.

H.J. Res. 20 provides for congressional disapproval of the rule submitted by the Department of Energy relating to energy conservation standards for consumer gas-fired instantaneous water heaters.

The rule we seek to overturn with this legislation effectively bans certain natural gas water heaters from the market, placing unnecessary financial burdens on consumers, especially seniors and low-income households.

H.J. Res. 35 provides for congressional disapproval of the rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to natural gas facilities. The EPA's rule imposes a significant fee on methane emissions from oil and natural gas facilities. The fee is essentially a pass-through cost to consumers that will raise prices, harm domestic energy production, and increase our reliance on other countries to meet our own energy needs.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to the consideration of these important pieces of legislation. I urge the passage of this rule, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. HOUCHIN) for yielding me the customary 30 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, before I get into my statement, let me begin by saying that I keep on hearing from the other side that this is just a budget resolution and that it doesn't have any actual policies in it. Yet, the gentlewoman referred to all the tax cuts.

Can she point me to where the resolution says anything about tax cuts? Of course, the answer is that it doesn't.

What it does is simply instruct our tax-writing committees to write legislation to spend \$4.5 trillion, just as it instructs our SNAP committee to cut \$290 billion and our Medicaid committee to cut \$880 billion.

Republicans cannot have it both ways and pretend that the harms aren't real while the tax cuts are, but we know the harms are real. We know what is planned, and we have seen the leaked document.

Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, it looks like facts and truth have absolutely no place in this administration or in this Republican Party. We already knew that this administration lies like a rug.

First, we heard that the United States was sending \$50 million worth of condoms to Hamas, which was a lie.

Then we heard it was Ukraine that started the war, not Russia, which is another lie.

Then we heard that the terrible plane crash here in Washington happened because of diversity programs, which was also a lie.

Mr. Speaker, the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. HOUCHIN) wants us to be-

lieve that not a single thing in the budget she is arguing for is going to hurt anyone at all and that there isn't a single tax giveaway to billionaires in their budget.

Guess what, Mr. Speaker. It is simply not accurate.

We all saw this coming. We did. Last month, at Trump's inauguration, who was in the front row? It wasn't people on Medicaid. It wasn't factory workers. It wasn't nurses or teachers or firefighters. It wasn't even his own Cabinet. It was the richest people in the world, and that is who this Republican budget helps.

It steals from taxpayers and funnels the money to those at the very top. Imagine stealing from school meals for kids so that billionaires could get another tax giveaway.

Last night, in the Rules Committee, the gentlewoman claimed: No, no, no. Democrats can't prove there are any cuts in this budget. Except, Mr. Speaker, we can. We can. Let me lay it out as simply as I can for people.

The Republican budget cuts, for example, \$330 billion from programs related to education, and the same Representative who wrote this budget, the chair of the Budget Committee, Mr. ARRINGTON, also wrote this document right here, Mr. Speaker, which I have in front of me. It says in black and white that those education cuts include \$12 billion from school meals. How dare my colleagues on the other side of the aisle.

Mr. Speaker, I am sorry that the gentlewoman doesn't like these facts, but they are facts.

School meals are just one example. This budget makes deep, deep cuts to Medicaid, including long-term care; deep cuts to food assistance for hungry families; and deep cuts to Pell grants. These cuts are going to hurt people.

I ask the gentlewoman a simple question: Whose side is she on? Does she want to stand with the school kids in her district who rely on school meals to get through the day, or does she side with the billionaires who are getting another tax giveaway in this budget?

Does she stand with the 178,119 constituents in her district who are on Medicaid? Does she stand with the thousands and thousands of kids in her district who rely on school meals, or does she stand with the greedy corporations who are price gouging struggling families?

I know where I stand, Mr. Speaker, and we are going to fight like hell to oppose this awful Republican budget because we know whose side we are on. We are going to fight like our constituents' lives depend on it because they do.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I commend the other side for finally saying that some of these things that they have been harping on for the last several hours and 24-

hour segments is not true. There is nothing in this budget resolution that presumes cuts to specific programs. Our Democratic colleagues admitted this much themselves last night.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation simply provides flexible spending targets for authorizing committees to best determine what is feasible within their jurisdiction.

I remind my Democratic colleagues that this resolution is the first step in a process to let reconciliation begin, when the real work will happen in the committees. If my colleagues have concerns about potential cuts being proposed once the authorizing committees begin their work, there will be ample opportunity to debate, provide amendment, and find opportunities in the reconciliation instructions for common ground.

Unlike my friends on the other side, we don't view the Rules Committee as the first stop in the legislative process, but, rather, the last. We should let the committees do their work and not prejudge the outcomes or make baseless accusations and presumptions.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. NORMAN), my friend.

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congresswoman HOUCHIN for leading this debate, and I rise in full support of the House budget resolution as introduced by Chairman ARRINGTON.

□ 1230

What our viewers, both in the balcony and watching this by TV, are going to see is two different worldviews.

My friends on the left think tax money is their money, that you shouldn't know where it is spent in any shape, form, or fashion.

Where they want to spend our tax dollars, which is now being uncovered by Elon Musk, is on a variety of things, but it began 4 years ago with the invasion of the border.

My friends from the left, the minute the Biden administration took office, opened the gates for over 170 different countries to let everybody and anybody into this country. My friends on the left allowed 400,000 unaccompanied minors to come into this country, and we don't know what happened to them. It is not good, though.

They claim to sympathize with people in this country, but what about sympathy for the children? They did nothing to stop the invasion at the border. They had words, but that is all it was.

They want the American people to know that it is their money to spend on illegal aliens' free college tuition, putting it on the backs of the everyday working man.

This is the first step in a long journey of what we are voting on today. From the very first day I set foot in this Chamber, I have always promised my constituents that I would do everything within my power to reinstate fiscal sanity to our great Nation.

What is worse than a bankrupt country? How does that help children? How does that help single moms? It doesn't. That is what this bill attempts to stop or at least begin the process of healing.

We now suffer from World War II levels of indebtedness and pay more on interest than we do on our national defense, to the tune of over \$880 billion in interest.

Unfortunately, many Members of Congress have demonstrated a complete lack of fiscal discipline and will try to spoil a strong bill that President Trump himself has endorsed.

This budget resolution enables us to reach over \$4.5 trillion in tax cuts for hardworking Americans and more than \$2 trillion in spending cuts, a concept that Congress has been foreign to for way too long.

With a historic trifecta, since the Republicans were elected by 77 million people to control the House, the Senate, and the executive branch, we have the opportunity to deliver on our promise to America. We must do what is best for them, including raising the debt ceiling by \$4 trillion to prevent Democrats from using a fiscal crisis to hold Trump's agenda hostage.

The Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CISCOMANI). The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mrs. HOUCHIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 2 minutes to the gentleman from South Carolina.

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Speaker, due to the previous Biden administration's failed security measures, included in our budget is \$300 billion in critical and urgent funding for strengthened border security and our Armed Forces.

America is paying twice. We pay to ship illegals over here. We pay to feed illegals over here. We pay to house illegals over here. Now, we are having to take them back. We are for immigration, but the right way.

All in all, this package, combined with economic growth unleashed by the America First agenda, can ensure it will provide a deficit-neutral outcome, including seven times the amount of cuts that were initially unveiled. For every dollar that Republicans surpass the goal of spending cuts, there will be another dollar in tax cuts.

I am proud to support this budget that finally implements fiscal and budgetary constraints on Congress. It is the first step to unlocking the reconciliation process ahead of us.

Previously, under Democrats' failed leadership, which we had 4 years of, nonsense welfare programs ate at the budget, allotting billions for mindless spending.

The American people have had enough, which is why we are in the new age of the golden age.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for allowing me to speak and for putting this argument up.

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

Mr. Speaker, there are just a couple of points I will make.

I am still waiting for the gentleman from Indiana to tell me where the tax cuts are in this budget. My colleagues can't have it both ways. They can't say there are all these tax cuts in this budget, yet there are no cuts. The reality is, there are cuts in this budget.

To the gentleman who just spoke from South Carolina, he may need a reminder. Maybe he could do a townhall in his district. He might get an earful. Mr. Speaker, 74,000 of his constituents received coverage under the Affordable Care Act.

By supporting this resolution, he is betraying the 148,948 constituents in his district who depend on Medicaid for their essential care and the 85,000 constituents in the Fifth District who rely on SNAP to put food on the table.

Maybe do a townhall and listen to constituents rather than just big donors.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1¼ minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ).

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to oppose the Republican budget resolution that utterly betrays middle-class Americans and threatens to explode the deficit.

This deceitful budget would gut Medicaid, schools, and affordable housing, all so Republican billionaire donors can get more tax breaks.

Instead of cutting costs for families, it undermines veterans' benefits and forces millions more families to live paycheck to paycheck. Instead of lowering prices at the pharmacy or the supermarket, this budget will bleed Americans dry. Billionaires get a windfall, and taxpayers get stuck with the bill.

This budget would swipe food from seniors and children, and in my district, ACA healthcare premiums would leap by almost \$500. A 60-year-old Broward County couple with a household income of \$85,000 would see their ACA premiums jump \$16,000 a year, a 226 percent increase.

How does this Republican rip-off help American families? Long story short, it won't.

I urge my colleagues to reject this billionaire buyout budget that would crush working families, make Americans less safe and secure, blow out the debt, and devastate lifesaving resources that families need.

Mrs. HOUCHIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX), chairwoman of the Rules Committee.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the rule, which provides consideration of the fiscal year 2025 budget resolution.

Our Nation stands at a fiscal crossroads, one where we are beckoned to answer a simple yet pertinent question: What path will we choose to go down? The answer to that question is clear: We must embark upon a path that restores the fiscal health and vitality of the Nation.

Many have lobbed spurious caricatures and distorted criticisms at this budget resolution, but the truth is that it will work to put the Nation back upon a sound footing where it belongs.

Last night at the Rules Committee, we caught Democrats dead to rights. A Democrat tried to refer to the alleged "cuts" in our debate but instead admitted that "it is not there."

That is right. It is not in the budget resolution. You simply cannot find programmatic cuts in any respect, and I stand here to tell the truth about this budget and the rule we need to get it across the line.

From shielding Americans from the greatest tax increase in history to supporting the military, allocating resources to the Trump administration to secure the border and to trimming wasteful programs, our budget resolution has solutions that the American people expect and demand.

President Trump specifically requested "one big, beautiful bill," and House Republicans have answered that request with a constructive, full-bodied product.

Now, let's juxtapose our beautiful bill with the failed reconciliation schemes passed by Democratic Congresses.

They used it to pass ObamaCare, robbing Medicare of over \$700 billion of funds in the process and kicking Americans off their health insurance plans after promising to keep them.

They hijacked the process to pass the so-called American Rescue Plan to waste over \$2 trillion in taxpayer funds, fueling the greatest inflation rates in generations.

Lastly, they used the reconciliation process just a few years ago to pass one of the worst pieces of legislation in the modern era, the so-called Inflation Reduction Act. That catastrophe of a bill was a one-way ticket to financial ruin. It wasted money on green energy schemes, punished companies that proudly develop American energy, and ironically drove up costs for every American family.

I will let our deficit-reducing, border-securing, tax cut-preserving, American energy-strengthening budget stand against the failed record of congressional Democrats any day of the week.

The truth is that Americans win under the Trump agenda and this budget. This blueprint is a framework on which Congress can deliver the agenda the American people want and deserve.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support the rule and the underlying resolution.

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

Mr. Speaker, the gentlewoman is talking about what was said in the Rules Committee last night. I will take a couple of minutes to talk about how people voted in the Rules Committee last night.

We gave Republicans a chance last night in the Rules Committee. We said if they really don't believe that this budget cuts funding for school meals, if

they really believe what they are saying, then they can vote to ensure the American people that they are not going to steal school meals from kids in order to give tax breaks for millionaires. Every Republican voted no, every single one of them.

Then, Democrats offered an amendment to protect Medicaid. Medicaid, as you know, Mr. Speaker, covers 41 percent of all births in the United States, nearly half of children with special healthcare needs, and five in eight nursing home residents. We asked them not to cut Medicaid in order to fund tax breaks for billionaires. Every Republican voted no.

Then, Democrats offered an amendment to extend tax cuts for people making under \$400,000 while ensuring that corporations and billionaires pay their fair share. We asked Republicans to continue tax cuts for only those who need it the most because those are the tax cuts they let expire while their tax cuts for greedy corporations were made permanent. We asked them to prioritize working families over greedy corporations. Every Republican voted no.

Then, Democrats offered an amendment preventing tax giveaways for people earning over \$1 million a year. Every Republican voted no.

We wanted to see if there was anyone so rich that Republicans don't think they deserve a tax giveaway, so we asked them to vote against tax breaks for people earning over \$100 million per year. We asked them to side with factory workers and firefighters over hedge fund managers and billionaire bankers. Every Republican voted no.

We even offered an amendment preventing tax cuts for people with a net worth of over—get this—\$1 billion. Every Republican voted no.

They betrayed their constituents. They voted to steal from the American people in order to protect tax breaks for billionaires.

Again, this is about whose side you are on. Republicans showed us last night with their votes whose side they are on, and it is not the working people of this country.

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

Mrs. HOUCHIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3½ minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JACK).

Mr. JACK. Mr. Speaker, in addition to the budget resolution, which I support, I rise today in support of the rule for H.J. Res. 20, a resolution authorized by the Congressional Review Act that will enable our Congress to repeal a job-killing Biden administration regulation that would ban and eliminate noncondensing tankless water heaters, an American product made by blue-collar American workers in the heart of my congressional district in Georgia.

This regulation was passed in the midnight hours of the Biden administration on December 26, after Christmas and weeks after Americans soundly rejected the Biden-Harris regulatory

regime administration, putting in peril the livelihoods of hundreds of my constituents the day after Christmas.

To put this into perspective, noncondensing tankless water heaters account for 40 percent of our country's tankless water heater market. A majority of those noncondensing tankless water heaters are manufactured in my congressional district by an incredible company called Rinnai America Corporation.

These water heaters are the most advanced and efficient noncondensing tankless water heaters on the market. Perhaps most importantly, Rinnai America is the only company that builds noncondensing tankless water heaters on American soil.

Rinnai America is headquartered in my hometown of Peachtree City, and 3 years ago, it opened a state-of-the-art facility in Griffin, Georgia, two cities I proudly represent in this Congress.

□ 1245

Over 500 of my constituents are working to manufacture and market the very water heaters the Biden administration attempted to outlaw. This job-killing regulation imposed by the Biden administration is yet another painful example of the left's war on hydrocarbons.

The purpose of this regulation is to try to single out and eliminate an American manufacturer of noncondensing tankless water heaters. Effectively, the Biden administration and the government were trying to alter the market on their own by picking winners and losers, which is something that consumers should do, not unelected nameless bureaucrats.

Mr. Speaker, our colleagues on the other side of the aisle have spent an enormous amount of time the past few weeks trying to convince Americans they are the party of blue-collar American workers.

Well, in the spirit of bipartisanship, I encourage my Democratic colleagues to join me in support of this resolution to protect and champion hundreds of blue-collar American jobs in the heart of our country. To my Republican colleagues, let's join together as a team and end this war on hydrocarbons now.

President Trump's White House has explicitly endorsed this resolution, and I urge all of my Republican colleagues to join us and vote for this critical legislation to empower consumer choice and champion American manufacturing.

I will close by saying, we expect this vote later this week. I hope everyone in this House joins me in support of this legislation in defense of blue-collar American workers.

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

We are here talking about billions of dollars of cuts to Medicaid, school meals, and food for children, and this guy is talking about tankless water heaters. I mean, read the room.

I should just say that by supporting this budget resolution, he is betraying



125,952 constituents in his district that depend on Medicaid for their essential care.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1¼ minutes to the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. MAGAZINER).

Mr. MAGAZINER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to Donald Trump, Elon Musk, and House Republicans stealing trillions of dollars from the middle class to fund massive tax cuts for billionaires. Instead of focusing on the cost of living or making America safer, Republicans are planning a massive giveaway to the rich, with working people picking up the tab.

They want \$2 trillion in tax cuts for people making more than \$500,000 a year by extending Trump's 2017 tax plan. That is \$2 trillion for people making more than \$500,000 a year.

How are they going to pay for it?

By cutting Medicaid.

That is healthcare for 77 million Americans, 80,000 Rhode Islanders, including seniors, children, and people with disabilities.

Nursing homes and community health centers all across this country will shut down.

It is not just healthcare. This bill takes money from education, farmers, and small businesses, all for billionaire tax cuts. These Republicans are not fighting for the middle class. They are fighting for Donald and Elon's rich friends at Mar-a-Lago, and the middle class is paying for it.

I urge my colleagues to vote "no."

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

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. COSTA).

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I strongly oppose this rule that enables a reckless Republican budget resolution to go forward. Let me tell you why.

Republicans claim to be lowering costs, but their plan, in my view, does just the opposite.

Let me bring it all home. In California's 21st Congressional District which I have the honor and privilege to represent, the wonderful people in the San Joaquin Valley, 456,532 people could lose their Medicaid under this rule and budget resolution.

Under this rule and resolution, 131,000 people could lose their SNAP benefits.

Over 25,000 people could lose coverage through the Affordable Health Care Act. We have made remarkable progress as a result of the Affordable Health Care Act, reducing the number of people without insurance in our constituency to less than 10 percent. That would be changed.

There would be \$3 million in energy and conservation funds that would be withheld from farmers in my district.

If you want to put the American people first, we must reject this debacle and begin on a real bipartisan basis to pass a budget that fits the American people.

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

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. MORRISON).

Ms. MORRISON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise on behalf of the nearly 80 million Americans across the country who get their health insurance through Medicaid.

I rise as a physician who has cared for patients for more than 20 years, and I implore my colleagues to recognize that health insurance is not just a throwaway line item that you can scratch out in a budget. It is the difference between being able to receive the lifesaving healthcare people need or not.

Medicaid is the single largest source of healthcare coverage in the United States. Medicaid covers nearly half of all children, and it is the largest insurer of kids with disabilities. Medicaid is a vital source of prenatal and postpartum care for women, and it covers more than 40 percent of births in our country.

The Republicans' dangerous proposal today is selling out the health and wellness of kids, families, seniors in nursing homes, and people with disabilities.

Why? To make room for tax breaks for millionaires? This is wrong. We cannot stand for this.

We need our colleagues across the aisle to stand up for our children and families.

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

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I notice there are not a lot of people on the other side wanting to defend this budget.

I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. GOMEZ).

Mr. GOMEZ. Mr. Speaker, the Republican budget can be summed up in three simple words: defund, defraud, and deceive.

First, the Republicans want to defund social safety net programs working families rely on, like Medicaid, school meals, and food stamps.

In my district alone, 425,000 individuals depend on Medicaid for their healthcare. That includes kids and people with disabilities.

Second, Republicans want to defraud the American people by taking money from working families to hand out massive tax breaks to billionaires and corporations who pay little to no taxes.

Finally, they are trying to deceive the American people by claiming that they are not cutting any programs, but we know at the end of the day that their budget will include cuts to Medicaid and programs that families depend on.

Republicans need to step up because this is not just a blue State or a Democratic issue. This will cut benefits, healthcare benefits, for hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of Americans across the country, including 171,000 in Arizona's Sixth District.

We need Republicans to step up and not be shameful and pass this budget.

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

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I don't know if the gentlewoman wants to give us some of her time because we have a lot of speakers over here. I guess not.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Ms. TOKUDA).

Ms. TOKUDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to the House Republican budget resolution, a blatant attempt to strip healthcare and food aid away from everyday Americans.

With up to \$2.5 trillion in Medicaid cuts and \$230 billion slashed from SNAP, this budget plan would leave millions of families and seniors without essential support. Rural America would suffer the most.

Nationwide, more than 12 million rural Americans rely on Medicaid, and SNAP participation is higher in rural areas than urban ones. In my home State of Hawaii, over 350,000 people rely on Medicaid, and nearly one in five depend on SNAP to eat. Rural Americans, who live in 181 of our congressional districts, red and blue, already face some of the harshest health disparities, living 3 to 10 years less than their urban counterparts. These cuts will only deepen such inequities and leave them with no safety net.

Let me be clear. These cuts will cost lives. These are not just numbers. They are real people. They are our neighbors, our grandparents, and our children. At a time when too many are struggling, Republicans are delivering tax breaks to billionaires on the backs of our working families.

Americans in rural America deserve better. Our country deserves better. I urge my colleagues to vote "no."

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

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

Let me just say, by the way, Mr. Speaker, how is that mandate going for you guys now that voters are realizing that you betrayed them?

Let's look at some newspapers from around the country: "Georgia Congressman confronted by angry crowd over support for Trump's agenda."

This is from The Atlanta Journal-Constitution: "U.S. Rep. Rich McCormick was peppered with boos and catcalls throughout a townhall meeting in Roswell late Thursday, as hundreds of critics jeered the Republican for backing President Donald Trump's agenda during his first month in office."

There is another one. "U.S. Rep. Glenn Grothman faces hostile crowd in Oshkosh townhall meeting." That is in Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

"Protesters urge Rep. Scott Perry to say no to Medicaid cuts." That is in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

"Outside Congressman's office, protesters make noise over potential Medicaid cuts." That is from Representative RYAN MACKENZIE's district in Salisbury Township in Pennsylvania.

I could spend an hour reading these into the RECORD, Mr. Speaker. Republicans are getting chewed out at all of



their townhalls. Something is happening in this country right now, and you can feel it. People are waking up to the betrayal, and they are angry. They have a right to be angry.

My Republican colleagues need to remember that when they vote for this budget, they are on record. They have made it clear that they serve the billionaires and not their voters.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SORENSEN).

Mr. SORENSEN. Mr. Speaker, looking around this room, I ask: Shouldn't our government benefit those we represent back home?

However, what is being presented by my Republican colleagues today is a plan that would gut healthcare for 152,483 of my neighbors at home who depend on Medicaid, more than 66,000 kids under the age of 19. Ten thousand seniors back home rely on Medicaid in Illinois' 17th District for their nursing home coverage.

While you may see this as a numbers game in a budget, I see families. I see neighbors. I see loved ones.

Let me let you in on a secret because there aren't any Republicans in this room. There are more Republican constituents of mine that are calling my office saying: We may have voted for Donald Trump, but we didn't vote for him to do this.

This is cruel and unusual punishment to single out everyday Americans, making them go without.

Also, billionaire donors and big corporations get tax breaks to make them more wealthy.

Let's get back to doing the work for the American people who need us to do this work the most.

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire how much time both sides have remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Massachusetts has 12¾ minutes remaining.

The gentlewoman from Indiana has 12 minutes remaining.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I note the gentlewoman doesn't seem to have any other speakers. I was wondering whether she might want to lend us some of her time.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), the Speaker Emerita, a powerful leader in the Democratic Caucus and for the country.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding and for his exuberant presentation of opposition to this budget. I thank him for all the amendments he proposed to improve upon it. Sadly, the Republicans didn't accept just one.

Here we go again. The last time the Republicans had a majority in the House and Senate and President Trump in the White House, they passed a terrible bill that was a tax cut for the rich that gave 83 percent of the benefits to

the wealthiest people, the top 1 percent in our country, and added \$2 trillion to the national debt.

This year, they are doubling down on that, \$4 trillion to the national debt, and they call that fiscal sanity. They are doing it by steering taxpayer dollars from Medicaid to give additional tax breaks to billionaires and big corporations.

People think of Medicaid sometimes as a poor children's program, and that would be sufficient justification for it all, but it is a middle-income benefit. Seniors who need long-term healthcare need Medicaid.

Members should listen to their constituents and hear what they have to say about what it means to their fiscal well-being. Listen to constituents. The numbers are staggering.

By voting for this cruel bill, they are betraying hardworking Americans by raising costs for all those already struggling to make ends meet. The President said he was going to reduce the cost of living. He didn't. He said he would reduce inflation. He didn't.

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Mr. Speaker, indeed a vote for this budget is a vote against Medicaid, ripping away healthcare from children, people with disabilities, and seniors. It is a vote against SNAP, as the distinguished chairman indicated, taking food out of the mouths of babies.

They do that with glee while President Trump and congressional Republicans are choosing to protect billionaires, by the way, who benefit from Medicaid with people cleaning their homes.

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

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

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, we are led and unified by HAKEEM JEFFRIES. We are united in our commitment to work for working families. That is why I urge a "no" vote on this extreme measure, and I thank the distinguished chairman for his leadership.

Mrs. HOUCHIN. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to include in the RECORD an article from the Economic Policy Institute titled: "The House Republicans' plan to cut Medicaid to pay for tax cuts for the rich would slash incomes for the bottom 40 percent."

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

There was no objection.

[From the Economic Policy Institute,  
February 19, 2025]

THE HOUSE REPUBLICANS' PLAN TO CUT MEDICAID TO PAY FOR TAX CUTS FOR THE RICH WOULD SLASH INCOMES FOR THE BOTTOM 40 PERCENT

(By Josh Bivens)

The clearest legislative priority of the Trump administration and the Republican-led Congress is to keep taxes low for the

richest households and corporations. Last week, House Republicans submitted a budget resolution that calls for \$800 billion in cuts to Medicaid—the program that provides health insurance for low-income Americans—to help pay for extending the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA), which primarily benefits the highest earners. President Trump endorsed the House plan earlier this morning, despite vowing yesterday to not cut Medicaid.

Besides being unfair, the cost of this overall tax cut would be large enough to put huge stress on other parts of the economy, no matter how it is paid for. But the costliest way to pay for this would be to enact large cuts in spending programs like Medicaid that provide benefits to economically vulnerable families. These cuts would equal almost 11 percent of all Medicaid spending over the proposed time period.

In a forthcoming report, we highlight just how damaging these Medicaid cuts would be for typical families. Health coverage is expensive in the U.S., and the value of Medicaid's coverage is equal to a huge share of the total income of poorer families. In fact, a family health insurance plan in private markets can cost more than what the bottom 20 percent of families earns in an entire year.

Figure 1 below shows the House budget resolution's average cut to Medicaid benefits for the bottom 40 percent of the income distribution, expressed as a share of average income. It also shows how much extending the TCJA's expiring provisions would boost incomes for these groups and the top 1 percent. The upshot is that the bottom 40 percent would be unequivocally worse off: Proposed cuts to Medicaid would reduce incomes for the bottom 40 percent more than extending the TCJA would boost them—and the lowest-income households would fare the worst. Strikingly, this is true even as the full \$880 billion in Medicaid cuts would only pay for about 20 percent of the total cost of the TCJA—other cuts and economic damage falling on non-rich families stemming from tax cuts for the rich would still be forthcoming. Meanwhile, the TCJA boosts the incomes of the top 1 percent significantly, while these households do not rely in any way on Medicaid.

A table from our forthcoming report is reproduced below—it shows the cuts to Medicaid expressed as a share of total money income for the bottom 40 percent of the income distribution for each state. States with more generous Medicaid coverage will see larger cuts, while states that have been stingier to date with Medicaid will see smaller cuts. But in every single state, the proposed cuts are a disaster for the incomes of the bottom 40 percent. This policy trade-off of thousands of dollars in cuts for the bottom 40 percent in exchange for tens or even hundreds of thousands of dollars in tax cuts for rich families crystallizes the Republican priorities.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, this article details how these cuts would hurt working families more than any tax relief that they might receive.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. STANSBURY).

Ms. STANSBURY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to oppose this so-called budget resolution which is one of the greatest heists in American history as they loot the Treasury to give permanent tax breaks to billionaires at the expense of millions of Americans.

We are talking about cuts to healthcare, Medicaid, and Medicare. Literally a quarter of a million New Mexicans will be unable to access care.

There will be cuts to income and food assistance, billions of dollars that go to families to keep food on the table and a roof over their head and to give tax breaks to billionaires. They are going to cut vital programs that go to our lowest income and most vulnerable families.

As a native New Mexican who grew up in a single-parent home in a low-income family, I know exactly what this means. These cuts are cruel. They are unnecessary. They are undemocratic, and they will blow a hole through our deficit spending by \$4 trillion. This is not a budget resolution.

This is a blueprint for suffering or, as Elon Musk put it over the weekend, the spoils of war. These guys don't care how many people they hurt or how many families are going to suffer. It is about power and greed, and the GOP is enabling them.

We will not sit down and do it. We will not support this budget resolution. We will not give them one single vote. I will not be silenced because we will continue to fight.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to include in the RECORD a letter to Speaker Johnson, signed by eight Republicans, titled: "Protecting American Communities in the Budget Reconciliation Process."

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

There was no objection.

Re Protecting American Communities in the Budget Reconciliation Process.

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

DEAR SPEAKER JOHNSON: As Members of the Congressional Hispanic Conference, and those who represent sizeable Hispanic populations, we are writing to express our concerns regarding possible funding decisions stemming from the House Budget Resolution's committee instructions advanced on February 13, 2025. While we fully support efforts to rein in wasteful spending and deliver on President Trump's agenda, it is imperative that we do not slash programs that support American communities across our nation, nor underfund critical programs necessary to secure the border and keep our communities safe.

Founded in 2003, the Congressional Hispanic Conference is the only Member organization of Hispanic Republicans in Congress and is committed to ensuring that the Republican party welcomes all who believe in faith, family, and the American Dream. Hispanic Americans played a decisive role in securing a Republican majority in 2025, having helped flip key districts, delivered historic gains in border communities, and put their faith in our party to fight for them. That trust wasn't given—it was earned.

Moreover, the American people—as a whole—put their trust in us. People of all backgrounds cast a vote of confidence for our party. That is why we are eager to deliver on President Trump's historic mandate.

We support the highest possible funding for border security to achieve the long-term border security agenda items by President Trump that we fully support. Collectively our members represent over half of the southern border and it is our constituents who have felt the brunt of the border crisis. We must fully fund and support efforts to:

Complete the border wall, hire and retain border security personnel, and invest in border security technology.

Increase ICE detention capacity, end catch-and-release policies, and enforce immigration law.

Integrate and improve communications systems, as well as provide resources for rural sheriffs, police departments, and state and federal law enforcement agencies affected by the border crisis.

We also fully stand behind efforts to:

Reauthorize the *Tax Cuts and Jobs Act* to protect the Child Tax Credit, defend small businesses, and prevent reckless taxation.

As we consider reconciliation cuts, we must be strategic. We need to uphold fiscal responsibility while ensuring that essential programs—programs that have empowered Americans to succeed—are not caught in the crossfire.

The House Budget Resolution proposed \$880 billion in cuts to programs under the jurisdiction of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, with Medicaid expected to bear the brunt of these reductions. Nearly 30 percent of Medicaid enrollees are Hispanic Americans, and for many families across the country, Medicaid is their only access to healthcare. Slashing Medicaid would have serious consequences, particularly in rural and predominantly Hispanic communities where hospitals and nursing homes are already struggling to keep their doors open. Moreover, the possibility of cutting Medicaid Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) funding threatens hospitals that serve low-income and uninsured patients.

Additionally, the House Committee on Education and the Workforce has been tasked with cutting \$330 billion, where federal aid for higher education—such as Pell Grants—may be a target for reductions. Hispanic students make up a significant share of Pell Grant recipients, many of whom are first-generation college students striving for a better future for themselves, their families, and our nation. In the 2015–16 academic year alone, 82 percent of full-time Latino students relied on grants and loans, including Pell Grants, to afford college. If we are serious about empowering the next generation and strengthening our workforce, we must facilitate, and not undermine, opportunities that help students succeed.

Finally, the House Committee on Agriculture has been directed to cut \$230 billion. While we fully support efforts to eliminate fraud, waste, and abuse, we must ensure that assistance families rely on this programs—such as SNAP—remain protected as nearly 22 percent of Hispanic families rely on this critical program as a temporary safety net during difficult times. Not to mention the support that SNAP provides to families of all backgrounds across our nation.

Hispanic Americans stood with us because we stood up for them on the issues that matter: border security, economic opportunity, and a government that works for the people, not against them.

We look forward to working with you and our colleagues on a responsible approach to these budget discussions where we can both eliminate government waste while ensuring we do not undermine programs that support working-class Americans. Hispanic Americans are the future of the Republican Party, and they are closely watching to see if we will govern in a way that honors their values and delivers results.

Sincerely,

TONY GONZALES;  
MONICA DE LA CRUZ;  
JUAN CISCOMANI;  
JAMES MOYLAN;  
NICOLE MALLIOTAKIS;  
DAVID VALADAO;

ROB BRESNAHAN, JR.;  
KIMBERLYN KING-HINDS  
Members of Congress.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, this letter makes clear that they know that Medicaid, Pell grants, and SNAP will face harmful cuts if this budget passes.

Madam Speaker, if we defeat the previous question, I will offer an amendment to the rule to provide for consideration of an amendment to the budget resolution which prevents tax cuts for billionaires if Medicaid is cut by a single cent.

Madam Speaker, 72 million Americans, including 30 million children, rely on Medicaid for critical healthcare and other lifesaving services. With this budget resolution, House Republicans are betraying the most vulnerable Americans to give tax breaks to billionaires.

Representative GRAY submitted an amendment that would prevent Republicans from betraying Medicaid recipients in order to give billionaires tax breaks. It shouldn't be controversial.

I offered that amendment last night in the Rules Committee and, to my shock, every single one of my Republican colleagues voted against it, standing with billionaires over Medicaid recipients.

I am now giving every House Republican a chance to go on the record. Voting "yes" on the previous question means my colleagues want to cut taxes for billionaires, even at the expense of vital Medicaid coverage. Voting "no" gives my colleagues an opportunity to ensure that Medicaid is protected. It is that simple.

Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to insert the text of my amendment into the RECORD, along with any extraneous material immediately prior to the vote on the previous question.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, to discuss our proposal, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. GRAY), the sponsor of this legislation.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today conflicted about what is happening in our government and across the country. Like many Americans, I find myself frustrated with government that doesn't work, lines that are too long, services that are too hard to navigate, and roads that don't get fixed.

This shouldn't be a partisan issue. All of us here today should be in favor of making our government work better and strengthening programs that our constituents rely upon. In fact, some of my Republican colleagues, led by Congressman TONY GONZALES, wrote in a letter to Speaker JOHNSON that the proposed cuts to Medicaid within this budget would have serious consequences, particularly in rural and

Hispanic communities where hospitals and nursing homes are already struggling to keep their doors open.

One of those communities where hospitals are struggling to stay open is mine in California's Central Valley. Over 450,000 people in my congressional district rely on Medicaid for their health coverage. The Central Valley is also experiencing a healthcare shortage, forcing people to drive across the country, across county lines, across the State, waiting for hours to see a provider.

These proposed cuts to Medicaid only stand to worsen the crisis. Let's be clear. These cuts wouldn't just impact individuals covered by Medicaid. In my congressional district, 59 percent of individuals are covered by California's Medicaid program. That means that doctors and hospitals in my district rely on Medicaid for nearly two-thirds of their revenue. Without that revenue, these providers would not be able to keep their doors open. In fact, Madam Speaker, there is an entire county I represent with a population of 162,000 people who have no hospital at all to go to because it had to close.

I submitted an amendment to this resolution to ask a simple question. Is it such a priority to fund tax cuts for individuals with over \$1 billion in net worth that we would enact devastating cuts to healthcare for rural and low-income communities?

This proposal would steal from the poor to give to the rich. Even if my colleagues don't think that is a problem, Madam Speaker, this literally makes healthcare coverage worse for every single person living in rural America. I have spent the majority of my career in public service, working to make healthcare better, both more accessible and more affordable. This proposed budget does the opposite.

My amendment to the proposed budget would prevent consideration of any legislation that would result in cuts to Medicaid in order to provide such tax cuts. Unfortunately, that amendment was blocked from consideration by members of the Rules Committee last night.

To my Republican colleagues who agreed that we must protect Medicaid, I hope they will join me in support of this amendment should I have the opportunity to offer it here.

Madam Speaker, this is my commonsense solution to honor the trust our constituents put in us when they sent us to Congress. I urge my colleagues to oppose the previous question and support this amendment.

Mrs. HOUCHIN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, the ranking member has discussed a number of votes taken at the Rules Committee markup last night. Once again, the budget is the first step in the process, not the last. Many of these amendments will have the opportunity to be debated thoughtfully and ad nauseam, I have

no doubt, in the authorizing committees.

The Democrats are speaking fear, not facts. Saying something that is false over and over again does not make it true. These amendments can be given consideration in the committees of jurisdiction. That is the process of regular order.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I say to the gentlewoman that Republican Members are raising concerns about these cuts. Maybe we can share some of those press clippings with her.

Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN).

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, this budget is about the millionaires, the trillionaires, the people earning over \$400,000 a year, and giving them a \$4 trillion tax cut over the next 10 years. It is not about working people. It is about hurting working people, hurting the poor, hurting people with disabilities, and hurting children.

What this Congress is looking at doing, because of Musk and Trump and the Republican colleagues here that I share this floor with, is cutting programs that help the public.

In October, Elon Musk incorporated United States of America, Inc., in Texas. What that means is it shows his mentality. He thinks he owns this government. He has bought it. He has been given it. He doesn't care about anybody else. He is the only stockholder.

America is not a stockholder. Americans are the people who give him the money to give it to the trillionaires and billionaires who were first in President Trump's inaugural crowd. They were first in the crowd. They are first in his mind. They are first in his heart. They are his people.

Mrs. HOUCHIN. Madam Speaker, I will reiterate that saying something false over and over again doesn't make it true.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I say to the gentlewoman the facts do matter. Her Members are complaining about the cuts in the Republican budget. Read them.

Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute in the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. DEXTER).

Ms. DEXTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in opposition to this rule which allows for consideration of the Republicans' extreme budget that slashes funding for vital programs like Medicaid, SNAP, and Federal housing assistance to bankroll \$4.5 trillion in tax breaks for billionaires and big corporations.

Last week, I got a devastating call from Susan who lives in Sandy, Oregon. She and her husband worked all their lives and saved diligently for retirement but had a single accident that wiped out their savings. They are now in their seventies and rely on Medicaid,

SNAP, and utility assistance to just make ends meet each month.

The legislation in front of us today would rip these benefits from Susan and her husband, denying them access to healthcare, forcing them to ration their food, and jeopardizing their ability to remain in their home. For what? To line the pockets of the ultrawealthy, to pad the bottom line of corporations already raking in profits.

I offered six commonsense amendments to this bill to safeguard critical programs for people like Susan and so many Oregonians like her. Republicans rejected every single one of my amendments.

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

Ms. DEXTER. Madam Speaker, as has been true all along, they have no interest in protecting America's middle class.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman is no longer recognized.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, may I inquire of the gentlewoman how many more speakers she has? I can't remember the last time she had one.

Mrs. HOUCHIN. Madam Speaker, I am prepared to close.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Massachusetts has 2½ minutes remaining.

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

Madam Speaker, a majority of Americans now say that Donald Trump is doing a bad job at handling the economy. I don't blame them. Prices are going up on everything in large part because of Trump's tariffs. Meanwhile, wages for workers have not kept pace with inflation for decades. Home ownership is slipping out of reach for more and more people.

I will end this debate where we began. Whose side are my Republican colleagues on? Talk is cheap, Madam Speaker. This place runs on hot air from corrupt politicians whose only care in the world is where their next campaign check comes from.

Last night in the Rules Committee, Democrats gave Republicans a chance to show whose side they are on. Every single one of them voted against protecting Medicaid so they could give tax breaks to billionaires. That is how they voted.

Every single one of them voted against protecting the child tax credit so they could give tax cuts to billionaires. Every single one of them voted against protecting food assistance for hungry families so they could give tax breaks to billionaires.

The gentlewoman can claim whatever she wants. The truth is this budget betrays the middle class in favor of tax giveaways for billionaires. It gives trillions in handouts to the ultrawealthy, billionaires, and greedy corporations to the tune of \$314,266 each every year for the top 0.1 percent.

That is an average. Some of them will get millions.

That is a bigger giveaway to the ultrarich than most people make in a year. To pay for it, they are stealing from the American people. They are stealing from Americans. They are betraying the people who voted for them. This is the betrayal on a scale I don't think we have ever seen before.

Madam Speaker, I am going to fight to expose it and to stop it. I have said this over and over again. We need tax relief for workers, not the ultrarich. We need to preserve Social Security and Medicare, not gut them to pay for corporate handouts. We should protect Medicaid and food benefits for working families because we know these are programs that people rely on and need when times get tough.

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, you can shut me up but you can't silence the voice of the American people.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is no longer recognized.

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Mrs. HOUCHIN. Madam Speaker, despite what Democrats may claim, the American people know the Biden-Harris administration caused enormous damage to our economy, weakened our national security, allowed millions of illegal immigrants and deadly fentanyl to flood across our southern border, and crippled American energy independence. That is exactly why voters rejected their failed leadership in the last election.

Once again, this resolution does not cut a single specific program or benefit. The Democrats are speaking fear, not facts, and saying something over and over again that is false does not make it true. Democrats have told these lies before and were proven wrong.

The Democrats want to continue 4 more years of Bidenomics. We want to put us on a path to prosperity. These are the same people claiming that there is no waste, fraud, or abuse in Washington.

This resolution will begin a process that sets a fiscal framework to meet the agenda the American people demanded in November.

Let's talk about some of their claims, that this is a handout to billionaires. It is their party that abandoned the middle class by spending like crazy. Not extending the 2017 Trump tax cuts would be the ultimate betrayal of the middle class. The average taxpayer in my district, in the Ninth District of Indiana, would see a 26 percent tax hike if the tax cuts the Democrats oppose expire.

A family of four making \$67,000, the median income in my district, would be a \$1,289 tax increase. More than 6 million people were lifted out of poverty under Republican tax reform, dropping the poverty rate to 10.5 percent, the lowest in U.S. history.

They claim this budget slashes food assistance. This resolution makes no changes to current law, no cuts in benefits, zero.

They claim costs will go up. We will reverse Biden's spending spree and bend the curve on mandatory spending that is driving our debt.

Inflation skyrocketed 21 percent under the Biden administration. That is why 77 million Americans voted for President Trump, to fix the economy and rein in Washington's waste, fraud, abuse, and reckless spending.

Let's go with facts, not fear. This resolution doesn't say the words "SNAP" or "Medicaid" or "school lunch" once.

We are cutting waste, fraud, and abuse for people who are here legally. The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act helped people get off SNAP, which is a good thing. A GAO report last year showed improper payments could be costing the Federal Government more than \$500 billion annually.

I am not here to fight with my colleagues on the other side of the aisle. I am here to fight on behalf of the American people, and that is exactly what we are going to continue to do.

In the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, my friends want to scare the American people into thinking that this is a tax cut for billionaires to detract from the fact that the 2017 tax cuts under the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act have been extremely successful.

Let's look at what has made it a success. By every conceivable measure, American workers and the economy were better off. Americans earned bigger paychecks, unemployment for every group was at a historic low, and poverty dropped to its lowest level in history.

The 2017 Trump tax cuts lowered tax rates for all Americans. In fact, the lowest earning individuals gained the most benefit. The bottom 20 percent of earners, those with incomes up to \$26,000, saw their Federal tax rate fall to the lowest point in 40 years.

Earnings under \$100,000 received an average cut of 16 percent, while the share of taxes paid by the top 1 percent increased. This is not simply a tax cut for the rich.

Finally, if these tax cuts expire, it will devastate our Nation's families, workers, and small business owners. The average taxpayer would see a 22 percent tax hike, meaning on average they will pay \$1,695 more in taxes; 40 million families will see their child tax credit cut in half; and 26 million small businesses would be hit with a 43.4 percent top tax rate. This is over 20 points higher than what businesses pay in Communist China.

Because of House Republicans and President Trump, American workers enjoyed the fastest wage growth in a decade. This spread to Americans across the income distribution with lower-wage workers experiencing 50 percent higher wage growth than high-income workers. Higher wages led to a rapid growth in household income. Just

2 years after enactment of the tax cuts, real median household income rose by over \$5,000.

In total, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act's pro-growth policies helped contribute to 3 percent growth in 2018 and 2.6 percent growth in 2019, well above CBO's pre-Tax Cuts and Jobs Act projections of 2.2 percent and 1.7 percent respectively.

Meanwhile, we have seen what Bidenflation has cost American families.

Again, this budget resolution does not cut a single specific program or benefit. The budget resolution sets a framework. It is a first step toward delivering on the America First agenda and getting our country back on track.

We will secure our border. We will rebuild the American economy. We will unleash American energy and safeguard our financial future.

Madam Speaker, 77 million Americans voted for this agenda, and it is our job to deliver on those promises.

I look forward to moving these bills out of the House this week. I ask my colleagues to join me in voting "yes" on the previous question and "yes" on the rule.

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

AN AMENDMENT TO H. RES. 161 OFFERED BY  
MR. MCGOVERN OF MASSACHUSETTS

Strike all after Sec. 2 and insert the following:

SEC. 3. At any time after adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 14) establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2025 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2026 through 2034. The first reading of the concurrent resolution shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the concurrent resolution are waived. General debate shall not exceed three hours, with two hours of general debate confined to the congressional budget equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Budget or their respective designees and one hour of general debate on the subject of economic goals and policies equally divided and controlled by Representative Schweikert of Arizona and Representative Beyer of Virginia or their respective designees. After general debate the concurrent resolution shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. The amendment specified in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution shall be considered as adopted in the House and in the Committee of the Whole. The concurrent resolution, as amended, shall be considered as read. No further amendment shall be in order except the amendment specified in section 4 of this resolution. Such amendment may be offered only by Representative Gray of California or a designee, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for 10 minutes equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against the amendment in section 4 are waived. After the conclusion of

consideration of the concurrent resolution for further amendment, the Committee shall rise and report the concurrent resolution, as amended, to the House with such further amendment as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the concurrent resolution and amendments thereto to adoption without intervening motion except amendments offered by the chairman of the Committee on the Budget pursuant to section 305(a)(5) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 to achieve mathematical consistency. The concurrent resolution shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question of its adoption.

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

Add at the end of title V the following:

**SEC. \_\_. POINT OF ORDER AGAINST MEDICAID CUTS TO FUND TAX BREAKS FOR THE WEALTHY.**

It shall not be in order in the House of Representatives to consider any bill or joint resolution, or amendment thereto or conference report thereon, that would—

(1) reduce tax liability for any taxable year beginning after 2025, compared to taxable years beginning during 2025, for any individual taxpayer whose net worth exceeds \$1,000,000,000; and

(2) reduce coverage for individuals enrolled under the Medicaid program under title XIX of the Social Security Act, shift the responsibility for funding such program or for coverage under such program to States, or include a net reduction in Federal funding for such program.

Mrs. HOUCHIN. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

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

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. 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 question are postponed.

# RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 21 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1330

# AFTER RECESS

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

# ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

Votes will be taken in the following order:

Ordering the previous question on House Resolution 161; and

Adoption of House Resolution 161, if ordered.

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

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.J. RES. 20, PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL OF THE RULE SUBMITTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY RELATING TO "ENERGY CONSERVATION PROGRAM: ENERGY CONSERVATION STANDARDS FOR CONSUMER GAS-FIRED INSTANTANEOUS WATER HEATERS"; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.J. RES. 35, PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL 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"; AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H. CON. RES. 14; CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on ordering the previous question on the resolution (H. Res. 161) providing for consideration of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 20) 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 Conservation Standards for Consumer Gas-fired Instantaneous Water Heaters"; providing for consideration of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 35) 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"; providing for consideration of the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 14) establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2025 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2026 through 2034, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 216, nays 210, not voting 7, as follows:

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

# NAYS—210

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

Friedman	Mannion	Sánchez	Buchanan	Harshbarger	Moran	Kamlager-Dove	Moskowitz	Sherman
Frost	Matsui	Scanlon	Burchett	Hern (OK)	Murphy	Kaptur	Moulton	Sherrill
Garamendi	McBath	Schakowsky	Burlison	Higgins (LA)	Nehls	Keating	Mrvan	Simon
Garcia (CA)	McBride	Schneider	Calvert	Hill (AR)	Newhouse	Kelly (IL)	Nadler	Smith (WA)
Garcia (IL)	McClain Delaney	Scholten	Cammack	Hinson	Norman	Kennedy (NY)	Neal	Sorensen
Garcia (TX)	McClellan	Schrier	Carey	Houchin	Nunn (IA)	Khanna	Neguse	Soto
Gillen	McCollum	Scott (VA)	Carter (GA)	Hudson	Obernolte	Krishnamoorthi	Norcross	Stansbury
Golden (ME)	McDonald Rivet	Scott, David	Carter (TX)	Huizenga	Ogles	Landsman	Ocasio-Cortez	Stanton
Goldman (NY)	McGarvey	Sewell	Ciscomani	Hunt	Onder	Larsen (WA)	Olszewski	Stevens
Gomez	McGovern	Sherman	Cline	Hurd (CO)	Owens	Larson (CT)	Omar	Strickland
Goodlander	McIver	Sherrill	Cloud	Issa	Palmer	Latimer	Pallone	Subramanyam
Gottheimer	Meeks	Simon	Clyde	Jack	Perry	Lee (NV)	Panetta	Suozi
Gray	Menendez	Smith (WA)	Cole	Jackson (TX)	Pfluger	Lee (PA)	Pappas	Swalwell
Green, Al (TX)	Meng	Sorensen	Collins	James	Reschenthaler	Leger Fernandez	Pelosi	Sykes
Harder (CA)	Mfume	Soto	Comer	Johnson (LA)	Rogers (AL)	Levin	Perez	Takano
Hayes	Min	Stansbury	Crane	Johnson (SD)	Rogers (KY)	Liccardo	Peters	Thanedar
Himes	Moore (WI)	Stanton	Crane	Jordan	Rose	Lieu	Pingree	Thompson (CA)
Horsford	Morelle	Stevens	Crawford	Joyce (OH)	Rouzer	Lofgren	Pocan	Thompson (MS)
Houlahan	Morrison	Strickland	Davidson	Joyce (PA)	Roy	Lynch	Pou	Titus
Hoyer	Moskowitz	Subramanyam	De La Cruz	Kean	Ruth	Magaziner	Pressley	Tlaib
Hoyle (OR)	Moulton	Suozi	DesJarlais	Kelly (MS)	Rull	Mannion	Quigley	Tokuda
Huffman	Mrvan	Swalwell	Diaz-Balart	Kelly (PA)	Rutherford	Matsui	Ramirez	Tonko
Ivey	Nadler	Sykes	Donalds	Kennedy (UT)	Salazar	McBath	Randall	Torres (CA)
Jackson (IL)	Neal	Takano	Downing	Kiggans (VA)	Scalise	McBride	Raskin	Torres (NY)
Jacobs	Neguse	Thanedar	Dunn (FL)	Kiley (CA)	Schmidt	McClain Delaney	Riley (NY)	Trahan
Jayapal	Norcross	Thanedar	Edwards	Kim	Schweikert	McClellan	Rivas	Tran
Jeffries	Ocasio-Cortez	Thompson (CA)	Elizy	Knott	Scott, Austin	McCollum	Ross	Turner (TX)
Johnson (GA)	Olszewski	Thompson (MS)	Kustoff	Kustoff	Self	McDonald Rivet	Ruiz	Underwood
Johnson (TX)	Omar	Titus	Estes	LaHood	Sessions	McGarvey	Ryan	Vargas
Kamlager-Dove	Pallone	Tlaib	Evans (CO)	LaLota	Shreve	McGovern	Salinas	Vasquez
Kaptur	Panetta	Tokuda	Ezell	LaMalfa	Simpson	McIver	Sánchez	Veasey
Keating	Pappas	Tonko	Fallon	Langworthy	Smith (MO)	Meeks	Scanlon	Velázquez
Kelly (IL)	Pelosi	Torres (CA)	Fedorchak	Latta	Smith (NE)	Menendez	Schakowsky	Vindman
Kennedy (NY)	Perez	Torres (NY)	Feenstra	Lawler	Smith (NJ)	Meng	Schneider	Wasserman
Khanna	Peters	Trahan	Finstad	Lee (FL)	Smucker	Mfume	Scholten	Schultz
Krishnamoorthi	Pingree	Tran	Fischbach	Letlow	Spartz	Min	Schrier	Waters
Landsman	Pocan	Turner (TX)	Fitzgerald	Loudermilk	Staubert	Moore (WI)	Scott (VA)	Watson Coleman
Larsen (WA)	Pou	Underwood	Fitzpatrick	Lucas	Stefanik	Morelle	Scott, David	Whitesides
Larson (CT)	Pressley	Vargas	Fleischmann	Luna	Steil	Morrison	Sewell	Williams (GA)
Latimer	Quigley	Vasquez	Flood	Luttrell	Steube			
Lee (NV)	Ramirez	Veasey	Fong	Mace	Strong			
Lee (PA)	Randall	Velázquez	Fox	Mackenzie	Stutzman			
Leger Fernandez	Raskin	Vindman	Franklin, Scott	Malliotakis	Taylor	Crenshaw	Mullin	Wilson (FL)
Levin	Riley (NY)	Wasserman	Fry	Maloy	Tenney	Grijalva	Pettersen	
Liccardo	Rivas	Schultz	Fulcher	Mann	Thompson (PA)			
Lieu	Ross	Waters	Garbarino	Massie	Tiffany			
Lofgren	Ruiz	Watson Coleman	Gill (TX)	Mast	Timmons			
Lynch	Ryan	Whitesides	Gimenez	McCauley	Turner (OH)			
Magaziner	Salinas	Williams (GA)	Goldman (TX)	McClain	Valadao			
			Gonzales, Tony	McClintock	Van Drew			
			Gooden	McCormick	Van Dwyne			
			Gosar	McDowell	Van Orden			
			Graves	McGuire	Wagner			
			Green (TN)	Messmer	Walberg			
			Greene (GA)	Meuser	Weber (TX)			
			Griffith	Miller (IL)	Webster (FL)			
			Grothman	Miller (OH)	Westerman			
			Guest	Miller (WV)	Wied			
			Guthrie	Miller-Meeks	Williams (TX)			
			Hageman	Mills	Wilson (SC)			
			Hamadeh (AZ)	Moolenaar	Wittman			
			Haridopolos	Moore (AL)	Womack			
			Harrigan	Moore (NC)	Yakym			
			Harris (MD)	Moore (UT)	Zinke			
			Harris (NC)	Moore (WV)				

## NOT VOTING—7

Crenshaw  
Gonzalez, V.  
Grijalva

## □ 1358

Ms. CROCKETT and Mr. CARSON changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Messrs. HURD of Colorado and MOOLENAAR changed their vote from “nay” to “yea.”

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

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

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

## RECORDED VOTE

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

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 217, noes 211, not voting 5, as follows:

[Roll No. 47]

## AYES—217

Aderholt  
Alford  
Allen  
Amodeli (NV)  
Arrington  
Babin  
Bacon  
Baird

Balderson  
Barr  
Barrett  
Baumgartner  
Bean (FL)  
Begich  
Bentz  
Bergman

Bice  
Biggs (AZ)  
Biggs (SC)  
Bilirakis  
Boebert  
Bost  
Brecheen  
Bresnahan

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

## NOES—211

Cleaver  
Clyburn  
Cohen  
Conaway  
Connolly  
Correa  
Costa  
Courtney  
Craig  
Crockett  
Crow  
Cuellar  
Davids (KS)  
Davis (IL)  
Davis (NC)  
Dean (PA)  
DeGette  
DeLauro  
DelBene  
Deluzio  
DeSaulnier  
Dexter  
Dingell  
Doggett  
Elfreth  
Escobar  
Español  
Evans (PA)  
Fields  
Figures  
Fletcher  
Foster

Foushee  
Frankel, Lois  
Friedman  
Frost  
Garamendi  
Garcia (CA)  
Garcia (IL)  
Garcia (TX)  
Gillen  
Golden (ME)  
Goldman (NY)  
Gomez  
Gonzalez, V.  
Goodlander  
Gottheimer  
Gray  
Green, Al (TX)  
Harder (CA)  
Hayes  
Himes  
Horsford  
Houlahan  
Hoyer  
Hoyle (OR)  
Huffman  
Ivey  
Jackson (IL)  
Jacobs  
Jayapal  
Jeffries  
Johnson (GA)  
Johnson (TX)

## NOT VOTING—5

Crenshaw  
Grijalva

## □ 1406

So the resolution was agreed to. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

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

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

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

## H. RES. 162

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

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE: Ms. Pingree, Mr. Carbajal.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS: Mr. Schneider, Ms. Dean of Pennsylvania.

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

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

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

## CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025

## GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members



may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H. Con. Res. 14.

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 161 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 14.

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

□ 1415

#### IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 14) establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2025 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2026 through 2034, with Mr. WOMACK in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

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

General debate shall not exceed 3 hours, with 2 hours confined to the congressional budget, equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Budget or their respective designees and 1 hour on the subject of economic goals and policies equally divided and controlled by the Representative SCHWEIKERT of Arizona and Representative BEYER of Virginia or their respective designees.

The gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARRINGTON) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BOYLE) each will control 1 hour of debate on the congressional budget.

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

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

Mr. Chair, today, the majority will unlock the policies for making America safe and prosperous again by advancing the FY 2025 budget resolution.

Mr. Chairman, this fiscal framework will guide the process for restoring the fiscal health of our Nation by reining in reckless spending and reigniting economic growth. In addition, it provides critical resources to our Commander in Chief to secure our border, strengthen our military, and provide for the common defense.

For the next 2 hours, Mr. Chairman, my Democratic colleagues are going to reach way back to the only plays they know how to run: making false claims and fear-mongering.

Why? Because they are still, even after the recent election, disconnected

from the people's reality because they are more concerned with protecting unionized government bureaucrats and woke and wasteful government programs than they are about protecting taxpayers and their sacred treasure.

Why? Because their commitment isn't to we the people in this fateful moment. It is to we the government and to derailing the mandate from the people for commonsense policies and President Trump's America First agenda.

I am going to take some time to set the record straight, Mr. Chairman, so that every time the American people hear these false claims to mislead them into thinking that the tax cuts somehow benefited the billionaires and corporations and that Republicans are cutting benefits for seniors and the poorest among us, I want the American people to know the truth. Here is the truth: The Trump tax cuts lower tax rates for every American household at every income level while increasing the amount of taxes paid by the top 1 percent.

According to The Washington Post—which, by the way, gave Democrats not one, not two, not three, but four Pinocchios every time they made these misleading claims—\$3 of every \$4 in the Trump tax cuts didn't go to corporations but to individuals, cutting taxes for the lowest income individuals by 10 percent while cutting taxes for the top 1 percent of income earners by less than one-half of 1 percent.

In addition, we saw a record 25-year wage increase for median household incomes. Real wages in the bottom 10 percent rose two times faster than the top 10 percent. Real wealth at the bottom half of households rose three times faster than that of the top half of our country.

A record 6 million people were lifted out of poverty. Black, Hispanic, and Asian-American citizens experienced historic high incomes and all-time low unemployment.

Here is the reality, Mr. Chairman: Our Democratic colleagues opposed the American people's tax cuts back in 2017, and they oppose their tax cuts today.

If they were successful in this endeavor, here is what would happen. We would have a 22 percent tax hike on every American citizen, on average, when they just suffered through a 21 percent tax hike from the inflation tax over the last 4 years and the worst cost-of-living crisis in modern history. Median-income families would lose \$1,700. Twenty-six million small businesses would pay at the highest marginal rate and lose the 20 percent deduction, putting them on a comparable level to corporate tax rates. Forty million families would have the child tax credits for their children cut in half. Ninety-one percent of the American people who get the standard deduction would have that cut in half.

Those are the results of the Democrats standing in the way of what

would be, if they were successful, the highest tax hike in American history.

Here is the other false claim. To pay for these tax cuts, the Democrats are going to say that Republicans are cutting benefits for seniors and for, again, our poorest and most vulnerable among us. Here is the truth, Mr. Chairman: Republicans are fighting to rightsize a woke, weaponized, and bloated bureaucracy; to root out the trillions of dollars in waste, fraud, and abuse; and to rein in the reckless spending of the Biden administration and our Democratic colleagues from over the last 4 years.

Prior to 2019, before President Biden took office and he and the Democrats jammed \$2 trillion through in the so-called COVID relief, even though maybe 10, 20 percent of that money actually went for the purposes of COVID relief, our budget back then was \$4.5 trillion. Today, it is \$7 trillion.

With the so-called Inflation Reduction Act, they gave away \$700 billion in tax credits to green energy corporations. They expanded ObamaCare subsidies to people making more than half a million dollars, many of whom already had employer-sponsored healthcare. They expanded the IRS to 80,000 new IRS agents tasked with shaking down mostly middle-class people and small businesses.

With the stroke of a pen, President Biden wasted \$2 trillion unilaterally of taxpayer money by opening up our taxpayer-funded welfare services to people in this country illegally; waived work requirements for means-tested welfare programs, from SNAP to Medicaid and beyond, trapping people in poverty and dependence on the Federal Government; mandated expensive and unreliable electric vehicles for all Americans; and a whole lot more.

In fact, we are spending \$9,000 per illegal immigrant in this country for the millions of people who violated our sovereignty and came to this country in violation of our immigration laws. Mr. Chairman, \$9,000 is what taxpayers pay for people who are here illegally for taxpayer-funded social services. That is more than we spend on the most vulnerable Americans for Medicaid. That is more than we spend collectively for our veterans' military retirement. President Biden weakened government program integrity, allowing people who aren't eligible for Medicaid and other programs to receive benefits.

Case in point, we used to review the Medicaid rolls twice a year to make sure people who were on the rolls were those who were most vulnerable and those who qualified according to the law. That was revoked by the Biden administration. They only did it once a year. If we changed it back, we would eliminate fraud, waste, and abuse and save \$160 billion of taxpayer money.

President Biden implemented unconstitutional and regressive student loan bailouts, forcing working Americans to subsidize the upper-middle class, law



students, and medical students. These are folks who deferred their education. These are hardworking people who didn't think they could afford college.

We have an unprecedented opportunity, Mr. Chairman. My fellow Republicans and I have a sacred obligation at this moment to meet this moment with the urgency it demands.

Now more than ever is the time for Republicans in Congress to demonstrate the courage of their convictions and take bold action in this historic moment. Let's save this country, save our children's future, and save us from wrecking the greatest economy in the world and jeopardizing our national security and our leadership in the world.

The world is counting on a safe, strong, and free America, and I believe that this bill encapsulates the policies that are going to restore America's greatness.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to support it, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I should be quite clear about what this is really about. This budget represents a Republican betrayal of the middle class, and I am proud to rise to oppose it.

Here is what is at stake. My friends on the other side of the aisle want to deliver \$4.5 trillion of tax cuts, almost all of which go to the richest 1 percent of Americans. How do they pay for it? How do they pay for that \$4.5 trillion in tax cuts?

First, at least \$880 billion is from Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act. Those cuts from Medicaid, by the way, represent the largest cuts to Medicaid in American history. Seventy-two million Americans get their healthcare from Medicaid. I am mostly talking about seniors, children, and those with disabilities. Another 20 million Americans get their healthcare from the ACA. Combined, I am talking about 92 million Americans whose healthcare is at risk. Why? All to deliver tax cuts to billionaires.

Now, we have a math problem because even with the largest cuts to Medicaid in history, we don't get anywhere close to \$4.5 trillion. How do they finance the rest of it? We have more cuts, hundreds of billions more in cuts to education programs like school lunches, Head Start, and student loan repayment. There are also \$230 billion in cuts to nutrition assistance at a time when grocery prices are at record highs.

All told, that gets you to at least \$1.5 trillion. Remember, the size of the tax cuts is \$4.5 trillion, and they want to add some more spending on top of that. What do they do to make up the difference? Increase the national debt by \$4 trillion, a massive increase to our national debt from the same crowd that for the last 4 years has done nothing but shed crocodile tears about the size of our national debt.

Mr. Chair, you can always tell when there is a Democrat in the White House because that is when the other side cares about the size of the national debt, but when there is a Republican President, a Republican House, a Republican Senate, the top priority is always tax cuts for the top 1 percent.

A budget isn't just numbers on a spreadsheet. It is a reflection of our values. It is a reflection of what kind of country we are and want to be.

□ 1430

This past November, there was a lot of campaigning going on around this country, and especially in my State, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. After all, we are the biggest battleground State in the Nation. A lot of promises were made on both sides. A lot of it was about reducing costs for ordinary Americans.

Not once, ever, in that campaign did I ever hear the other side say: We are going to cut Medicaid to the tune of \$880 billion, the biggest cuts to Medicaid in American history. In fact, we have a President who said: I will love and cherish Medicaid. Then a few hours later, he endorsed the House Republican plan that slashes Medicaid to the tune of \$880 billion. When this President promises to love and cherish something, watch your wallets.

I think the American people are going to figure out what this is about. It is right there in black and white. The \$880 billion I talked about, it is right there in their 58-page resolution. The \$4 trillion increase in debt is right there in black and white in their resolution. No amount of spinning will get you away from that simple reality. This is cutting healthcare and all sorts of programs for the American people in order to deliver tax cuts for billionaires who don't need it.

I urge every Member in this House to oppose this reckless and unfair plan.

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

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

What you won't hear from my Democratic colleagues is any mention of the half a trillion dollars in waste, fraud, and abuse in the Medicaid program that jeopardizes that program for the most vulnerable Americans and does a disservice to every taxpayer in this great country of ours.

By the way, when I hear the words "betrayal of the middle class," what comes to mind is the unbridled spending and the failed economic policies that gave us the worst cost-of-living crisis in modern history. A whole lot of people suffered under that 21 percent inflation tax, and a whole lot more people would suffer under a 22 percent tax increase if they were successful in killing the American people's tax cuts.

Mr. Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SMUCKER), my friend, the vice chair of the Budget Committee, and a key ar-

chitect, I would say, of this budget blueprint.

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Chair, we have heard how this budget resolution will deliver tax relief to working and middle-class families. It will put a stop to crime and drugs flooding over our southern border, and it will jump-start the American economy. This is exactly what the American people are looking for today.

Unfortunately, we have also heard a lot of falsehoods from my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, and so I would like to set the record straight.

The House Republican budget resolution will stop a 22 percent tax hike for the average taxpayer. It will put \$1,700 back into the pockets of a median family of four and will prevent the child tax credit from being cut in half for 40 million families. This bill doesn't take from the working class. It puts money in their pockets.

While my colleagues on the other side try to drown out these facts with tired talking points and fear-mongering, let's ask the American people directly: How does a 22 percent tax hike help them pay their bills? How does taking \$1,700 out of the pockets of families and cutting the child tax credit help them raise their kids?

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Chair, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Chair, it doesn't. Republicans are working to stop those tax hikes by passing this budget resolution.

President Trump was elected by the working class, and this budget will deliver on the promises he made to them. I am very proud to support this budget resolution and urge my colleagues to vote "yes."

Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chairman, I would remind my fellow Pennsylvanian that this bill would put 3.1 million people in Pennsylvania at risk of losing Medicaid.

Mr. Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE), the ranking member of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong opposition to this Republican budget resolution.

Make no mistake about it, this budget will lead to millions of Americans losing their healthcare coverage, all so Republicans can give giant tax breaks to billionaires and big corporations. The only group that wants these tax breaks is Wall Street, not the average American.

Mr. Chair, if Republicans pass this resolution today, we will be forced to cut a minimum of nearly \$1 trillion from Medicaid, our Nation's largest healthcare program.

For those who are saying that somehow the Medicaid program has a lot of waste, let me remind us that Medicaid is the leanest Federal healthcare program. Every independent study says

that Medicaid is financially sound, the most financially sound Federal healthcare program.

The consequences of these cuts will be devastating. Medicaid provides healthcare to one in three Americans, nearly half of the children in the United States, and it is the largest source of funding for nursing homes for seniors and people living with disabilities.

This is a lifesaving program for 80 million Americans. They count on it every day. Yet, today, House Republicans are unnecessarily rushing forward with a budget resolution that will impose the largest healthcare cuts in our Nation's history.

Millions of people will lose their healthcare, but that is just the beginning. Healthcare prices will sharply rise. Hospitals, particularly those in underserved and rural communities, will be forced to close—so, too, will nursing homes. Seniors will lose the care that they rely on, and doctors and nurses will be laid off. Emergency rooms will once again be overflowing, as people are forced to delay care until absolutely necessary. States will be bankrupted and forced to make painful cuts to important healthcare services. This is the reality, not what the Republicans are telling you.

Mr. Chair, it doesn't have to be this way. If just a few of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle take a stand today, we can stop this from happening.

I implore my Republican colleagues to think about the harm, the devastating harm that will be done to their communities if this budget resolution is adopted. Stand up. I urge my colleagues to think twice and vote "no."

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MOORE), former speaker of the house of the Tar Heel State and a Budget Committee member.

Mr. MOORE of North Carolina. Mr. Chair, last November the American people said enough is enough. They are tired of government waste. They are tired of rising prices, and they are tired of the policies of the last administration.

This budget is a critical step forward toward reining in out-of-control Federal spending. To be clear, this resolution has no provisions that make cuts to Social Security, Medicare, or Medicaid. Mr. Chair, I would tell those folks watching at home to read the bill. It is not in there.

When Democrats vote against this today, they are voting to raise the average family of four's taxes by nearly \$1,700. They are voting to raise taxes on small businesses. They are voting for open borders. They are voting for higher energy costs.

I am proud to have worked with my fellow House Budget Committee members on this bill as well as the chairman, who has done an amazing job on

this. I encourage my colleagues to vote "yes" on this important measure.

Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chair, I would remind the gentleman that this bill would put 2.8 million people in North Carolina at risk of losing Medicaid.

Mr. Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. NEAL), the ranking member of the Ways and Means Committee.

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Chair, well, the looting is underway. Our colleagues are running the same failed playbook of trickle-down handouts. My friend, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SMUCKER) said the family of four is going to get \$1,700. Look at the tax distribution tables and see what billionaires are going to get in this. That is the real issue that is in front of us on this occasion. Let me go to another point that I think is fascinating. DOGE is rummaging through your private records even as we speak.

How about the following? Imagine what the Republican reaction would have been if Bill Clinton, Barack Obama, or Joe Biden said, we are going to borrow \$4 trillion more for these tax cuts for the wealthiest amongst us?

Don't kid yourself. Medicaid—71 million Americans—Medicare, Social Security, the American people depend upon these programs.

I am stunned that Republicans would borrow \$4 billion to justify tax cuts for the wealthiest amongst us. By the way, these people aren't even asking for those tax cuts. The cuts will affect every part of American life, including those who need basic sustenance every day. We have the \$4 trillion, but look at the alignment: \$1.23 trillion here for cuts, but \$1.2 trillion for tax cuts. Oh, let me figure that one out. They are going to cut Medicaid to justify what it is that they want to do.

There is no reason why billionaires should be getting a massive tax cut. It is totally unnecessary. In the end, that is what this legislation is about, despite their protestations. It provides \$1,700 for a family of four, but tens of millions of dollars for billionaires. That is where these tax cuts are going.

I want you also to understand this: The people are watching. We are going to defend Medicare and Medicaid, and we are going to defend all of these entities that have made a difference in American life for average people every single day.

Let me close on this note: My father had a great saying. He used to say: Jesse James at least had the respect to wear a mask. They should be wearing masks for what they are doing today.

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. ESTES), another Budget Committee member who had a hand in developing this fiscal framework.

Mr. ESTES. Mr. Chair, I rise today in strong support for starting the process to pass one big, beautiful bill for America.

For 4 years, Americans suffered from an open border, crippling inflation,

massive Federal spending, and burdensome regulations. On top of that, we are on the verge of increased taxes for families, workers, and small businesses if we fail to act. Our mandate is to restore and secure our Nation, both physically and financially.

It is critical that we pass a bill that enables us to address all of these priorities, including an extension of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. In my home State, Kansans will see an average of a \$2,200 increase in their taxes if we don't act now and we allow the Trump tax cuts to expire.

My colleagues on the other side of the aisle have made false claims that this budget resolution will cut Social Security. As chairman of the Ways and Means Social Security Subcommittee, I emphasize with the strongest terms possible that this budget resolution does not do a single thing to cut Social Security. In fact, Social Security cannot be amended in the budget reconciliation process. The Byrd rule prevents the consideration of any reconciliation measure in the Senate that changes the Social Security program.

Mr. Chair, I support today's budget resolution as a next step in advancing America First policies.

Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chair, the gentleman from Kansas is right, it is a big, beautiful bill for billionaires. I would also remind the gentleman that this bill would put 410,000 people in his State of Kansas at risk of losing Medicaid.

I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from the Commonwealth of Virginia (Mr. SCOTT), the ranking member of the Education and Workforce Committee, also a distinguished member of the Budget Committee.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to this resolution. It is, frankly, hard to take my colleagues on the other side of the aisle seriously when they come up here and give speech after speech complaining about the deficit, and then support this resolution that, what, increases the deficit.

Let's start with some facts. Every single Democratic President since Kennedy has left for their Republican successors a better deficit situation than they inherited, and every Republican President since Nixon has left a worse deficit situation than the one they inherited, all without exception.

Here we are again. A Republican President following a Democratic President, and the Republicans are set to increase the deficit and national debt, just like clockwork. Democrats have been finding solutions and cleaning up Republican messes for six decades, and thanks to Republican tax cuts for corporations and the top 1 percent, they added over \$7 trillion to the national debt during Trump's first term, and here we go again. Help billionaires run up the debt and make everybody else pay.

As ranking member of the Committee on Education and Workforce, I am particularly outraged that Republicans want to fund these tax cuts for

corporations and billionaires by making cuts to educational and nutritional programs. This could end up cutting things like Meals on Wheels, children's feeding programs, and could jeopardize Head Start, making it harder for students to receive K–12 education and higher education, and it will certainly rip away healthcare for millions of Americans.

There is nothing economically responsible about this budget because it increases the deficit. It helps billionaires, but working families and the middle class will pay the price.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to oppose this resolution.

□ 1445

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. HERN), my good friend and our Conference Policy Committee chair.

Mr. HERN of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for the opportunity to speak.

One of America's most famous sons, Will Rogers, once said: "It costs ten times more to govern us than it used to and we are not governed one-tenth as good."

That was in 1932. I can only imagine what he would say today. That is why this vote is so important. It moves us closer to delivering on the mandate the American people overwhelmingly demanded in November.

We are on an unsustainable path, and every Member of this body knows it. This budget resolution commits us to investing in strong border security and strengthening our national defense. It directs committees to find ways to make the President's tax agenda permanent. It paves the way to unleash American energy production.

The budget resolution calls for historic spending cuts as Congress works with the President to eliminate waste, fraud, and abuse, something that every single one of us, regardless of party, should applaud, all in one, big, beautiful bill.

Failure to unite on this vote may very well result in breaking up the President's agenda. I urge my colleagues to vote "yes." Together we can build a stronger, more prosperous America before it is too late.

Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I remind the gentleman that this bill would put 990,000 people in Oklahoma at risk of losing Medicaid.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. CRAIG), the ranking member of the Agriculture Committee.

Ms. CRAIG. Mr. Speaker, I rise to oppose this resolution that prioritizes tax cuts for billionaires over the well-being of hardworking American families and the livelihood of our Nation's farmers.

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program is our Nation's most effective antipoverty tool and a key part of the farm bill which Republicans want to cut by \$230 billion. This would

cause millions of hardworking Americans to suffer, including some of the most vulnerable in our communities: children, seniors, and the disabled.

Decimating SNAP in this way would break up the coalition that is critical to passing a bipartisan farm bill and hurts the entire food supply chain when times are tough in farm country and in many communities, especially rural communities across this country.

Right now, as people across our Nation are struggling with the high cost of groceries, SNAP helps American families keep food on the table. Let's be clear about what we are talking about. It is \$6 a day for people in need. It is six bucks to those who qualify. SNAP reduces childhood poverty, improves health outcomes, and generates hundreds of thousands of jobs throughout the food supply chain.

When we spend \$1 on food, we aren't just paying for the food in carts. We are helping to pay for the salary of the grocery store clerk who stocked the shelves, the trucker who delivered the food to the store, the manufacturer who produced the packaging, and the farmer who grew it.

The future of a bipartisan farm bill, which our farmers desperately need, is in Republican hands today. If they cut SNAP to pay for tax cuts or the wealthy donors, it is on them.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "no."

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CLINE), my good friend and a member of the Budget Committee.

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, back in November the American people issued a resounding rejection of the profligate policies of the Biden-Harris administration that existed over the past 4 years by electing President Donald Trump.

In the first month of his new administration, President Trump has answered this election mandate, signing executive orders aimed at securing our Nation's borders, unleashing domestic energy production, and rooting out the waste, fraud, and abuse that was left over as the final remnants of Biden's failed legacy.

However, the President cannot achieve all of these policy objectives alone. He needs Congress. It will take those of us in the House and Senate, concerned about addressing our fiscal irresponsibility the last 4 years and working together in a unified fashion, to pass a reconciliation package that is set in motion by today's budget resolution. It will give this administration the tools they need to succeed in fulfilling their election mandate.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on this budget as we work to deliver real savings for the American people.

Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I would remind the gentleman this bill would put 1.8 million people in the Commonwealth of Virginia at risk of losing Medicaid.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DOGGETT), my distinguished colleague on the Budget Committee.

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, this is the Republican wreckonconciliation because it makes a wreck of our Nation's finances and it makes a wreck of the lives of so many of our fellow Americans.

Republicans are so very troubled about our Nation's debt that they want to add trillions more to it. In fact, according to the bipartisan Citizens for a Responsible Federal Budget, they want to make it bigger by about \$4 trillion deeper in debt.

Elon Musk's DOGE—it is dodge also—is a sideshow for a multi-ring circus of deception and lies designed to create the illusion that billions are being saved from waste, fraud, and abuse when DOGE itself is the abuse.

Even with these fake savings, the insatiable demand of these Republicans for additional billionaire tax breaks requires denying opportunities to middle-class families; denying access to a family physician, first by slashing hundreds of millions from Medicaid for which Trump professes to love and cherish; wrecking Medicaid which pays for half the babies born at Seton hospital in Austin and half the children that go to the Children's Hospital there.

Millions of Americans will lose health protection, and millions more will lose educational opportunity. For those who are facing a dreaded disease like cancer, Republicans are cutting innovative medical research in the hope for a cure. With the looming threat of a flu pandemic, there would be a 40 percent cut of staff at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CDC. All of this represents more Republican broken promises.

Remember last month when Trump was going to drastically bring down grocery prices? The only thing that is drastic is the pain of this Republican budget. Now Trump tells us we will have a golden age in America. With this budget imposing so many burdens on our finances, the sick, the hungry, and students, we see who gets the gold. It is those billionaires that were on the front seat of his inauguration as working families are betrayed.

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Speaker, I wonder when my Democrat colleagues will direct their indignation and outrage to the fact that DOGE and our friend, Elon Musk, has exposed tremendous, outrageous, and utterly offensive waste like transgender operas in Colombia, DEI musicals in Ireland, transgender comic books, and \$20 million on "Sesame Street." I would only have to assume my Democrat colleagues think that is the way to find peace in the Middle East. It is insane, and it is offensive to the taxpayers. You will never hear a single word about that in this debate today.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BERGMAN).

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding the time.

Mr. Speaker, it is crucial we are clear about the focus of today's debate. Our aim is not to remove vulnerable Americans from the government assistance programs they and their families depends on. On the contrary, we are focused on strengthening the integrity of these programs to ensure that taxpayer dollars are directed to those who genuinely need them.

In the past decade, Medicaid has accounted for over \$550 billion, with a b, in improper payments, making it one of the government's largest sources of payment errors. It would be irresponsible and a betrayal of our fiduciary duty to American taxpayers not to make a focused effort to recover these misused funds and redirect them to those who need them the most.

With that said, it is essential these efforts are made with a careful approach that avoids unintended consequences for vulnerable Americans and providers.

As my colleagues on the Energy and Commerce Committee begin their critical efforts, I urge them to keep this top of mind. I urge all my colleagues to support this good resolution.

Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I would remind the gentleman that this bill would put 2.4 million people in Michigan at risk of losing Medicaid.

Mr. Speaker, let's be clear. That is what this debate is about. The other side is great at trying to distract you, holding up the shiny object of a few outlandish stories about tens of thousands of dollars to distract you from the trillions of dollars that are at stake. One in three Americans get their healthcare from Medicaid. That is at risk because of this proposal, and don't forget it. We can't allow ourselves to get distracted.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. PETERS), my colleague and friend on the Budget Committee.

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, our national debt is more than \$36 trillion. We borrow nearly \$2 trillion every year just to pay our expenses. We spend more in interest payments now than we do on Medicaid, schools, childcare, and the national defense.

Republicans have raised the alarm about this deficit, but this budget actually makes the debt and deficit much worse. They say we have a spending problem. Then cut annual spending to a level that is covered by our revenues and stop the deficits. That is not what they are doing here.

They will make big cuts to healthcare, air traffic controllers, cybersecurity, and the people who fight wildfires. They will not use those savings to cut deficits. They will use those savings to pay for tax cuts for people who don't need them.

America doesn't have a spending problem. We have a borrowing problem. This budget would lead to more bor-

rowing we can't afford. It would limit our ability to borrow money when we do need it and when there is a future urgent need.

Today, the economy has low unemployment and high interest rates. This is the exact wrong time to blow up the debt. This bill will add between \$4 trillion and \$11 trillion to the debt, which will increase interest rates, raise prices, and keep inflation high. Our kids are going to pick up the bill. Don't vote for this self-inflicted harm.

Mr. Speaker, I work with many of my Republican colleagues as co-chair of the Bipartisan Fiscal Forum on controlling the debt and deficit. I know some are sitting here, quietly agreeing with me. I know personally how hard it is to buck your party. When Democrats held the House, the Senate, and the White House, I voted "no" on our reconciliation budget to get a better product. It was very unpopular, but I held my ground. People at home knew I was standing up for them. We got a better product, and they sent me back.

We work with Presidents. We don't report to them. We report to our constituents as independently elected Members of Congress who were elected on the exact same day as Donald Trump.

Mr. Speaker, our colleagues should do their job. They know better, and I ask them to vote "no."

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GILL), my friend and also a member of the Budget Committee.

Mr. GILL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman ARRINGTON for his leadership throughout this process.

Mr. Speaker, President Trump delivered historic results. He is securing our border, restoring common sense, lowering costs, and reestablishing America's strength in the world. He is stopping our tax dollars from funding woke, perverted projects that the other side of the aisle seeks to push.

Today, 60 percent of American taxpayers are facing rising taxes and uncertainty. To address these challenges, this resolution provides for the extension of the Trump tax cuts, funds the largest mass deportation operation in U.S. history, and cuts at least \$1.5 trillion in waste, fraud, and abuse from our Federal budget.

This is something that should receive bipartisan support. Our commitment to fiscal discipline is clear. Conservatives on the Budget Committee added a provision that incentivizes a total of \$2 trillion in reductions.

Mr. Speaker, the American people are begging for Washington to unlock the Trump agenda, which this bill does. They gave us a mandate to save this country, and I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I would remind the gentleman this bill would put 4.2 million people in Texas at risk of losing Medicaid.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR),

a distinguished member and friend from the Budget Committee.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I thank the ranking member for the opportunity to speak. I thank him for his great work.

Mr. Speaker, budgets are about choices for the American people. If we look at what is happening with this current budget, it is a bonanza for billionaires. We live in a moment in our country when 1 percent of our population, the very top, hold as much wealth as the bottom half of our country. One percent of the top, the billionaires and millionaires, hold more wealth than the bottom half of our people. It is an astounding moment in which we are living.

The very top are not paying their fair share, and everybody in America knows it, including them. How many more mansions do we need to see that take up acres and acres? How many yachts do these people actually need? Some of the old movies about "Goldfinger" and all come to mind. Some people seem to like gold a whole lot in this country.

□ 1500

If the tax cuts that are proposed in this bill offer a few hundred dollars to people who live in the bottom half of our country, which is most of the people that I represent, the bottom half of incomes, the people at the top are going to get hundreds and hundreds of thousands of dollars back. I say to myself: Do they have any conscience about what is happening in their country? To take away the healthcare, Medicare, Medicaid, the cuts that Republicans are proposing, you will cause death in this country.

To me, what is happening here is shameful. Here is the chart. If we look back at who caused the debt in our country, wow. It is pretty obvious. If we go back to the Reagan Presidency, all you are doing is just repeating what happened. They added \$2 trillion. Then the Bush II tax cuts added \$8 trillion. The Trump tax cuts are already over \$2.5 trillion.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chair, I yield an additional 15 seconds to the gentlewoman from Ohio.

Ms. KAPTUR. The Afghan and Iraq wars declared by Republican Presidents added \$8 trillion. If you look at this, two-thirds of what we owe were caused by the Republican side of the aisle. I represent a lot of Republicans, and I will tell you they are honest people and they will pay their taxes, but they don't like this excess. It is hurting America. The Republican budget is just a bonanza for billionaires. Shame on you.

The CHAIR. Members are reminded to direct their comments to the Chair.

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CLYDE), my friend and another Budget Committee member.

Mr. CLYDE. Mr. Chair, I rise today in strong support of the House Budget Committee's FY25 budget resolution which advances President Trump's America First agenda by unlocking the budget reconciliation process to achieve the President's priorities and restore fiscal sanity in Washington.

This budget resolution paves the way to extend the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act signed into law by President Trump in 2017, which fueled historic economic growth and raised real wages. This resolution also provides instructions to reverse Biden's assault on domestic energy, rein in reckless spending, and deliver critical resources to the Trump administration so we can secure our border and strengthen our national security.

Finally, I want to address the fear-mongering among our Democrat colleagues. This budget resolution does not cut benefits for any legitimate recipient of Medicare, Medicaid, or Social Security. I challenge anyone to find a single provision in this 45-page resolution that cuts benefits because they can't. This resolution simply sets a budget framework so we can deal with the incredible fraud, waste, and abuse in Medicaid to stabilize and preserve it for those who really need it.

GAO alone estimates that the fraud—  
The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Chair, I yield an additional 15 seconds to the gentleman from Georgia.

Mr. CLYDE. Mr. Chair, GAO alone estimates that the fraud in Medicaid is at least \$50 billion a year.

Mr. Chair, I include in the RECORD this report from the GAO, which states \$50 billion a year of improper payments.

[From the U.S. Government Accountability Office, Mar. 26, 2024]

IMPROPER PAYMENTS: INFORMATION ON AGENCIES' FISCAL YEAR 2023 ESTIMATES  
(Q&A Report to the Subcommittee on Legislative Branch, Committee on Appropriations, House of Representatives)

#### WHY THIS MATTERS

Improper payments—those that should not have been made or were made in the incorrect amount—have consistently been a government-wide issue. Since fiscal year 2003, cumulative improper payment estimates by executive branch agencies have totaled about \$2.7 trillion. Reducing improper payments is critical to safeguarding federal funds.

We have reported on improper payments in our audit reports on the U.S. government's consolidated financial statements since fiscal year 1997. We have found that these payments represent a material deficiency or weakness in internal controls. Specifically, we have noted that the federal government is unable to determine the full extent of its improper payments or to reasonably assure that appropriate actions are taken to reduce them.

House Report 117-389, which accompanied the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2023, includes a provision for GAO to provide quarterly reports on improper payments. This is our fifth such report, and it provides an overview of federal agencies' improper payment estimates for fiscal year 2023. Addi-

tionally, we discuss agencies' compliance with legal requirements for reporting and managing improper payments.

#### KEY TAKEAWAYS

In fiscal year 2023, federal agencies estimated a total of \$236 billion in improper payments, a decrease of about \$11 billion from the prior fiscal year. About \$175 billion (or 74 percent) of these improper payments were overpayments.

The total fiscal year 2023 improper payment estimate does not include some programs that agencies have determined are susceptible to significant improper payments, such as the Department of Health and Humans Services' (HHS) Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).

In fiscal year 2022, 14 of the 24 agencies covered by the Chief Financial Officers Act of 1990 (CFO Act) fully complied with applicable improper payment criteria, as reported by their agency inspectors general.

#### WHAT ARE THE FEDERAL AGENCIES' ESTIMATES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023 IMPROPER PAYMENTS?

Agencies reported about \$236 billion in improper payment estimates for fiscal year 2023. This amount represents a decrease of about \$11 billion from the fiscal year 2022 estimate (see fig. 1).

Our analysis of agency data shows that 14 agencies reported improper payment estimates across 71 programs. As shown in figure 2, about 79 percent (\$186 billion) of the government-wide total of estimated improper payments that agencies reported for fiscal year 2023 is concentrated in five program areas:

- HHS's Medicare, comprising three programs (\$51 billion);
- HHS's Medicaid (\$50 billion);
- the Department of Labor's Unemployment Insurance—Federal Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (\$44 billion);
- the Department of the Treasury's Earned Income Tax Credit (\$22 billion); and
- the Small Business Administration's (SBA) Paycheck Protection Program Loan Forgiveness (\$19 billion).

As seen in figure 3, most of the total \$236 billion in government-wide improper payment estimates for fiscal year 2023 consisted of overpayments. The remaining improper payments consisted of underpayments, unknown payments, and technically improper payments.

It should be noted that the fiscal year 2023 improper payment estimates do not include certain programs that agencies have determined are susceptible to significant improper payments. As a result, the government-wide total potentially does not represent the full extent of improper payments. For example, the \$236 billion total does not include HHS's TANF program. HHS reported that it does not have the authority to obtain the information it needs to estimate or report improper payment amounts for this program. In April 2022, we recommended that Congress consider providing HHS the authority to require states to report the data the agency needs to estimate and report on improper payments for TANF. As of February 2024, Congress has not acted on this recommendation.

#### HOW MANY PROGRAMS REPORTED SUBSTANTIAL DECLINES IN IMPROPER PAYMENTS?

Our analysis of PaymentAccuracy.gov data found that eight programs experienced substantial declines in reported estimated improper payments for fiscal year 2023 (see table 3). Agencies attributed these declines to factors such as terminating certain programs and implementing mitigation strategies. In addition, variability arising from the improper payment estimation process could potentially explain a portion of the reported declines.

Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Since the gentleman asked the question, I am happy to answer it. Right there in the bill, \$880 billion directed to the Energy and Commerce Committee as a floor to find savings. In other words, for cuts. There is only one place that can come from. Literally, if they cut 100 percent of everything else Energy and Commerce has purview over, it would still leave them hundreds of billions of dollars short. It has to come from Medicaid. It has to come from the ACA premiums because much like when Willie Sutton was asked why he robbed banks, he replied: Because that is where the money is.

Likewise, in terms of the Energy and Commerce cuts, the \$880 billion has to come from Medicaid because that is the only place you can find \$880 billion. Don't be fooled by their rhetorical tricks.

Mr. Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from New Jersey (Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN), a distinguished member of the Budget Committee.

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Chair, I am standing in opposition. During their campaigns, Donald Trump and my Republican colleagues promised to get to work to lowering prices for the American people. This budget is a betrayal of that promise. It is a betrayal of millions of our children, our parents, and our seniors. It is a betrayal of the one-third of New Jersey children who rely on Medicaid. It is a betrayal of the one-third of new mothers who count on Medicaid for their prenatal care. It is a betrayal of 6 in 10 New Jersey seniors living in nursing homes. It is a rip-off of New Jersey taxpayers as Republicans have prioritized tax cuts for their billionaire donors over the lives of everyday citizens who will suffer under this new budget.

My neighbor, TOM KEAN, has over 70,000 Medicaid recipients, including over 27,000 children. Does Congressman VAN DREW from New Jersey know a vote for this budget means abandoning 177,000 of his residents for the billionaire class? Does Congressman CHRIS SMITH know that there are 178,000 Medicaid recipients in his district, including nearly 100,000 children who will be cut and will lose their coverage simply to enrich Trump's billionaire friends?

A few weeks ago, I offered an amendment in the Budget Committee to eliminate these disastrous cuts. Not a single Republican gave me a vote on this issue. Last night, I offered the same amendment to the Rules Committee, and we had the same outcome. There was not one Republican vote. I only hope that there are at least a few of my Republican colleagues today who have the courage and the humanity to stand up for their most vulnerable constituents and to vote "no." I urge a "no" vote here.

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from

Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON), our Agriculture Committee chair and my friend.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chair, this budget resolution begins the process of delivering on President Trump's agenda, and that agenda is clear. It is securing the border. It is unleashing economic growth. It is providing efficiency and accountability in government. It is reining in reckless spending that spurred record inflation.

My colleagues on the other side of the aisle continue to talk about the harmful provisions within this resolution. In reality, this is the beginning of the process. It is the beginning of a course correction as desperately needed following 4 years of policy that placed America in a position of excess and decline.

Speaking of excess, since President Trump's first term, increased enrollment and exploitation of the 2018 farm bill by the Biden administration ballooned the annual spending on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program by 66 percent at a total cost of \$256 billion, leaving workers on the sidelines while small businesses paying record wages struggle to find help.

This egregious executive overreach not only violated the Congressional Review Act but likely reduced the fraction of people participating in the workforce and contributed to inflation.

Mr. Chair, we must meet the vital supplemental food needs of Americans that Congress committed to fulfill through SNAP, and we will. We cannot allow excess or lack of accountability within the bureaucracy, though, to compromise fulfilling that obligation.

Thoughtful policies that recognize the value of work, hold states accountable, promote program integrity, and in the long run protect the safety net for those Americans who truly need it should be our priority.

At the same time, we must use this process to advance the needs of the farm economy. We cannot leave our most ardent supporters in rural America without new resources and empty-handed for a third year.

House Republicans have a mandate to restore America's faith in government and we will protect hardworking taxpayers, preventing the largest tax increase in American history. We will provide for the neediest among us while simultaneously delivering a foundation for economic growth and prosperity.

Mr. Chair, let us ensure America is once again the land of opportunity and thriving communities. Passage of this resolution is one step in that process.

Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chair, I remind my friend and fellow Pennsylvanian who just spoke, this resolution would put 3.1 million people in our beloved Commonwealth of Pennsylvania at risk of losing Medicaid.

Mr. Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Ms. PLASKETT), a distinguished member of the Budget Committee.

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to this budget. We know that a budget is a statement of values. In simple terms, you put your money where your mouth is. The money my Republican colleagues are getting right now is going to the class that they are beholden to, the uberwealthy.

The bulk of those cost savings come from slashing Medicaid funding, which ensures that 70 million Americans, and funds from the Children's Health Insurance Program, CHIP, where another 10 million American children are helped. Those savings they are getting are being created so that they can then give that money, give those savings, to the ultrarich.

Twenty percent of the population in the Virgin Islands are at risk of losing their healthcare under this budget. Veterans, children, working families who are barely making it, rely on this.

Mr. Chair, right here, right now, Republicans are trying to steal healthcare from 80 million people, and they are heading to the bank as millions of Americans are left helpless. What is happening? What is going on?

Republicans are intentionally targeting grandmothers, targeting children, and targeting veterans that live in your neighborhood. Mr. Chair, they are going to throw some peanuts, a couple of hundred bucks, at each one of us and tell us that you are getting some taxes back. That is the amount of money that the very wealthy are getting. An average of \$314,000 is going to them at the expense of the American people.

Speaking of fraud, waste, and abuse, they are going to tell you they are using that money to get rid of illegals. They are going to tell you that they are going to try and dramatically change the landscape. No. They are only changing the landscape for those individuals that they are beholden to—\$2 trillion of cuts for \$4 trillion of money that is going into the pockets of individuals that they are beholden to. That is what is happening. I am disappointed, but I am not surprised that the Republicans have used this process to satisfy the people that they are most beholden to. Americans must stand up.

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Chair, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SMITH), the chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee.

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Chair, I want to thank Mr. ARRINGTON for yielding.

Mr. Chair, 4 years ago, President Trump left Joe Biden a blueprint for success, and then Democrats proceeded to open our borders, undermine American energy, and spend trillions of dollars on handouts to the wealthy.

They created the highest inflation in 40 years that made it impossible for working families to survive. That is why the American people sent Donald Trump back to the White House with a mandate. Now it is up to Congress to deliver on that mandate, to make our

economy work again for working families.

The economy isn't just numbers on a chart. It is the farmer who wakes up at 4 a.m., the mom or dad working two jobs just to get by, the shop owner figuring out how to keep the store lights on, and the truck driver working overtime.

Mr. Chair, let me be clear, a vote against this budget is a vote to raise taxes on low-income Americans. Mr. Chair, \$2.6 trillion of the tax cuts in this resolution are people making less than \$400,000 a year. Democrats campaigned on not allowing taxes to increase on people making less than \$400,000 a year. Let us see if their voting cards show up. Extending the Trump tax cuts will give the lowest income families a tax cut of 15 percent, the highest of any income group.

On the other hand, failing to extend these tax cuts means the average taxpayer will see a 22 percent tax hike.

□ 1515

The average family of four making \$80,000 a year will see their taxes go up almost \$1,700. That is 2 months' worth of groceries.

Americans need certainty that relief is on the way. Workers need certainty that their taxes won't go up.

Mr. Chair, 26 million small businesses need certainty that their tax rates won't rise to 43 percent in a few short months so that they can focus on investing and hiring more workers.

Mr. Chair, 2 million family-owned farms need certainty that they won't be forced to sell their farm to pay an increased death tax. They need to know right now if they should be contacting an estate planner for the massive tax hike that is coming.

Parents need certainty that their guaranteed deduction of \$30,000 won't be cut in half and that their child tax credit won't be slashed from \$2,000 to \$1,000.

Following passage of the Trump tax cuts, wages increased by 4.9 percent, the fastest 2-year growth in real wages in 20 years. Mr. Chair, 5 million new jobs were created. More than 6 million people were lifted out of poverty. Real median household income rose by \$5,000. The economy grew a full percentage point higher than CBO's initial forecast, and revenues have remained steady at 17 percent of GDP.

Building on President Trump's tax cuts will deliver a new golden age of prosperity: over 1 million new small business jobs each year, \$284 billion in economic growth for more manufacturing, and billions in new investments to revitalize our poorest neighborhoods.

We will reignite our economy with a return of policies like 100 percent immediate expensing and incentives to make sure R&D is happening here and not being outsourced around the globe.

We will deliver on President Trump's commitment to tax relief for tipped workers, help for seniors struggling



with inflation, and tax relief for over-time workers.

President Trump's policies will spark an economic recovery, and that recovery starts by passing this budget so we can send one big, beautiful bill to President Trump's desk.

Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chair, I would remind the gentleman that this bill would put 1.3 million people in Missouri at risk of losing Medicaid.

Mr. Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. ESCOBAR), a distinguished member of the Budget Committee.

Ms. ESCOBAR. Mr. Chair, I thank the ranking member for yielding me time.

Let's talk about what is really happening here today. Housing costs are up. Groceries are up. Inflation is up. Donald Trump is threatening more tariffs, which means our costs will continue to go up. It is no wonder that the bond market is flashing a warning sign about slowing economic growth under Donald Trump.

My Republican colleagues, instead of working with us to lower costs, what are they doing? They are working to give billionaires massive tax breaks, and they will do that by making life costlier for everyone else.

In fact, this budget bill that will be on the floor today will have enormous consequences. It will make America poorer, sicker, and hungrier. It will close hospitals and clinics. It will kick seniors out of nursing homes. It ends support for Americans with disabilities. It will double healthcare costs and more.

That is just the Medicaid portion of it. In Texas, in my State, over 4 million Texans stand to lose with the cuts that my Republican colleagues will implement that this bill would unlock with cuts to Medicaid.

It is not just that. It gets worse. This budget bill would explode the national debt. Why? So that billionaires can have another yacht, another luxury home, another jet?

It doesn't have to be this way. We just need some of our Republican colleagues to stand with us and vote to protect the American people, reject these billionaire tax breaks, reject the harm that it will do to their constituents and ours, and protect the American people.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to vote "no."

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN), the chairman of the Natural Resources Committee.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of the fiscal year 2025 budget resolution.

My constituents know firsthand how the failed policies of the left resulted in increased grocery and energy bills, opened our borders, imperiled our national security, accelerated our debt, and made it next to impossible to build

and use our natural resources here at home, making us dependent on our adversaries.

This budget creates a blueprint to deliver on the promises we made to the American people: righting the wrongs of the past, unleashing America's energy potential, and implementing the full America First agenda.

Advancing the budget resolution opens the door for the budget reconciliation process. It will allow committees to begin our work on the nuts and bolts of budget reconciliation, implementing savings across government and harnessing our biggest revenue generators, such as domestic energy production.

By unlocking access to our energy and mineral reserves, actively managing our forests, streamlining burdensome permitting processes, and repealing wasteful IRA spending, we will deliver a responsible reconciliation bill that builds the wealth of our Nation.

As a former member of the House Budget Committee, I appreciate the budget process and have great respect for Chairman ARRINGTON and his staff in getting this budget resolution to the House floor.

Mr. Chair, while our colleagues across the aisle are using made-up numbers that have no basis or substance as a scare tactic on the American people, I can say, as a former State legislator, and I am happy to remind my colleagues across the aisle that Medicaid is a State and Federal program. Not a single person will lose Medicaid coverage unless their State makes that choice.

Mr. Chair, this resolution has my full support, and I encourage my colleagues to vote for it.

Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chair, I would remind the gentleman that this big, beautiful bill for billionaires would put 820,000 people in Arkansas at risk of losing Medicaid.

Mr. Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New York (Mr. JEFFRIES), the Democratic leader of the House and my friend.

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Chair, I rise today in strong opposition to the reckless Republican budget, which is a betrayal of working-class Americans, middle-class Americans, children, seniors, and everyday Americans all across the country.

I thank the distinguished gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BOYLE), the top Democrat on the Budget Committee, for his leadership, all the members of the Budget Committee, and all the members of the House Democratic Caucus, who are standing up for the American people by opposing this reckless Republican budget that will devastate people all across the land.

It is not consistent with promises that were made to the American people. It is the exact opposite. Here is the promise that was made to the American people over and over again: Republicans were going to drive down the high cost of living in the United States of America and combat inflation. That

was the promise that Republicans made to the American people.

As House Democrats, we are working hard to lower housing costs, lower grocery costs, lower insurance costs, lower utility costs, and lower childcare costs because we know America is too expensive. We want to drive down the high cost of living.

On the other side of the aisle, we haven't seen a single bill introduced by Republicans to drive down the high cost of living and address the affordability crisis in the United States. Not a single executive order issued by President Trump has anything to do with driving down the high cost of living. Not a single administrative action taken this year by the Trump administration has anything to do with driving down the high cost of living.

In fact, costs aren't going down in the United States of America. Costs are going up. Grocery prices are going up. Inflation is going up. Republicans are crashing the economy in real time.

Republicans have betrayed the American middle-class, working families, everyday Americans, children, and seniors with this \$4.5 trillion budget scheme.

Don't come to the House floor and act like this is being done in the name of fiscal responsibility. Enough with that narrative. There is nothing in the Republican track record to suggest to the American people that you are the party of fiscal responsibility, absolutely nothing.

President Reagan comes into office. His signature legislative accomplishment is a massive unpaid-for tax cut for the wealthy, the well-off, and the well-connected. What does it do? It increases the debt by \$2 trillion. That is not fiscal responsibility. That is recklessness. That is your record.

Those kinds of fiscal policies continued for 8 years and carried over into the Presidency of George H.W. Bush. Then, we saw a massive debt handed over to President Bill Clinton. What do Democrats do with that massive debt? We turned that debt into a surplus over an 8-year period of time, and the economy exploded.

That is what fiscal responsibility looks like. That happened under President Bill Clinton. Stop saying to the American people that you are the party of fiscal responsibility. The facts say exactly the opposite.

A budget surplus was handed over to President George W. Bush, who proceeded, in 2001 and then again in 2003, to pass massive tax cuts—same playbook; here we go again—massive tax cuts for the wealthy, the well-off, and the well-connected. That explodes the debt by \$8 trillion, and at the same time, we have a failed war in Iraq and a failed war in Afghanistan, over time adding another \$8 trillion to our Nation's debt.

That burden is handed over to President Barack Obama, but during the period of his time in office, when he had a \$1.5 trillion deficit, he cut it by \$1



trillion, despite the fact that he also inherited from Republicans the Great Recession and had to turn things around. He cut the deficit by \$1 trillion, from \$1.5 trillion to \$500 billion. You asked about numbers. Here are the numbers.

Then, that gets handed over to President Trump in his first term. He proceeded, of course, to follow the same Republican playbook, which has nothing to do with fiscal responsibility and everything to do with massive tax cuts for the wealthy, the well-off, and the well-connected.

Republicans passed the GOP tax scam with 83 percent of the benefits set aside for the wealthiest 1 percent and, in connection with the GOP tax scam, exploded the debt by another \$2 trillion that they force working families, middle-class folks, and everyday Americans to pay for.

Republicans are not the party of fiscal responsibility. Stop trying to convince the American people otherwise. It is the same playbook.

In fact, during the administration of Donald Trump during his first 4 years, the debt exploded to such a degree that 25 percent or so of our Nation's debt came from just the first term of President Donald Trump, 25 percent. We have been around for over 248 years. The party of fiscal responsibility?

□ 1530

Then, of course, President Biden inherits a significant deficit and overwhelming debt in his 2 years. The first 2 years he gets a lot done and cuts the deficit by \$1.7 trillion.

There is still a lot of work for all of us to do, but do not pretend that this budget resolution has anything to do with fiscal responsibility or keeping their promises to the American people. The Republicans promised to lower the high cost of living and have done nothing about it.

So here we are again, and there they go again with this GOP tax scam, the same exact playbook, \$4.5 trillion worth of cuts for the wealthy, the well-off, and the well-connected disproportionately to benefit billionaire donors and well-connected corporations.

To make matters worse, the Republicans would actually cut programs, cut the social safety net, and cut the things that matter to working-class Americans, middle-class Americans, young people, seniors, and others, including up to, if not more, \$880 billion of cuts to Medicaid. That is the largest cut to Medicaid in American history.

It doesn't help working-class Americans. It doesn't help middle-class Americans. It doesn't help children, and it doesn't help older Americans. It will devastate them. It will devastate children, devastate people with disabilities, devastate seniors, devastate pregnant women all across the country, devastate nursing homes, and shut down nursing homes. It will shut down hospitals, including in rural America, urban America, small-town America,

and the heartland of America. That is what the Republican budget betrayal is all about.

It will devastate supplemental nutritional assistance programs for our children, for our veterans, and for our families. That is what the Republican budget is all about. It has nothing to do with making life better for everyday Americans. It will hurt everyday Americans.

So Democrats are not going to provide this reckless Republican scheme, this out-of-control budget, a single vote, not a single vote, because we are standing on the side of the American people.

We will fight this reckless Republican budget today, we will fight this reckless Republican budget tomorrow, and we will fight this reckless Republican budget until it is buried deep in the ground never to rise again. We will stand on the side of the American people at all times.

Mr. Chair, vote "no".

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. ROGERS), who is the chairman of the House Armed Services Committee.

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Chair, I thank the chairman for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of this resolution, and I commend the Chair, the leader, and Chairman ARRINGTON on their tremendous work.

We have heard about all the ways the House budget resolution will deliver on President Trump's America First agenda. That includes making a generational investment in our national defense.

The \$100 billion in defense spending this resolution unlocks will enable us to begin restoring American deterrence, prioritizing lethality, and ensuring peace through strength.

It will help defend the DOD's mission at the border because border security is national security.

It will help improve the quality of life for our servicemembers and their families.

It will help us start to revitalize our defense industrial base and restore readiness accounts to ensure we can fight tonight. It will also help us start to expand U.S. shipbuilding capacity and enhance our missile defense. It will also help begin restocking our Nation's arsenal of critical munitions. It will help us position our military to out-compete and out-innovate China.

Achieving the President's goal of peace through strength will ultimately require us to get defense spending back above 4 percent of GDP. However, none of that can happen unless we pass this budget resolution today.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution.

Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chair, I remind the gentleman that this bill would put 950,000 people in Alabama at risk of losing Medicaid.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms.

OMAR), who is a distinguished member of the Budget Committee.

Ms. OMAR. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong opposition to this Republican budget resolution because it is not a budget. It is a blueprint for American decline.

Let's be clear. They want to exploit your labor and your tax dollars and gut your earned benefits all to bankroll tax cuts for their wealthy friends and donors.

They want to increase your healthcare costs while Elon Musk and his friends hoard even more wealth, and they have the audacity to call it fiscal responsibility.

This proposal will only deepen the constitutional crisis we are already in: a President trying to rule like a dictator and an unelected billionaire using hate and fear to expand his control over our country.

Congressional Republicans are pretending this chaos is normal, even as their own constituents call them out for their cowardice.

Our government is being hollowed out, our institutions are falling apart, and today House Republicans are slashing programs that people rely on to enact a massive \$4.6 trillion tax giveaway to the rich.

So I ask my Republican colleagues: Whom will you serve, the people who sent you here or the billionaires trying to buy our democracy?

The CHAIR. Members are advised to not only direct their comments to the Chair but to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Chairman, the minority leader regurgitated a talking point from the Democratic Party we have heard now for years. We heard it prior to the passage of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017. The gentleman said that 83 percent of the tax cuts in the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act benefits would accrue to the top 1 percent of income earners. The Washington Post, which is no bastion of conservative journalism, gave him two Pinocchios for that one and called it a zombie claim. They called it galling. PolitiFact agreed with them and said that it was flat-out misleading.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK), who is also a member of the House Budget Committee.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Chairman, this resolution not only saves an average family about \$16,000 over the next 10 years through reduced spending, it also prevents a crushing \$1,500 annual tax hike on a struggling family earning just \$75,000 a year. I have news for the minority leader: That ain't rich. They can't afford it, and they don't deserve it.

The details will come in the reconciliation bill which can't be drafted until this resolution passes, so our Democratic colleagues ought to wait to see what the committees actually propose before setting their hair on fire.

The people didn't save our country last November. They gave us the tools

to save it. It is now up to us to use them. This resolution unlocks a powerful tool, and it is a critical step to stop the reckless theft of the earnings, the productivity, the prosperity, and the dreams of the American people.

Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chair, I remind the gentleman this bill would put 13.4 million people in California at risk of losing Medicaid.

I further remind my friend, the chair of the Budget Committee, that it was not the Democratic leader's statistic that he was quoting about 83 percent. It was the Congressional Budget Office that found that 83 percent of the 2017 Trump tax cuts go to the richest 1 percent of Americans.

Mr. Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. TONKO), who is a distinguished member of the Budget Committee.

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Chair, it was quite remarkable to go back home to New York's 20th District last week after spending 12 hours moving this monstrosity through the Budget Committee. Everywhere I went folks were imploring me, begging and pleading, to stand up to this cruelty.

Moreover, that is after weeks of receiving nonstop calls from thousands of activated and engaged constituents, many of whom are reaching out to me for the very first time.

I held a townhall at Albany High School and, like many of my colleagues' in recent weeks, it was packed. The energy in the room was palpable: fear, helplessness, and anger.

Why, Mr. Chairman, are we forcing through legislation that will hurt the very people we represent?

My constituents should never have to stand up and tell me they will interrupt their lives to stand up and fight with me in D.C. against the Republican agenda, but they did.

Our job is to serve the American people, not rip access to basic necessities away from them at the behest of a President who declared himself king. Frankly, it is insulting to me, to this institution, to the working families of New York's 20th District, and to every American who is still struggling just to get by.

Nevertheless, here we are, blowing a \$3 trillion hole in our national debt to serve billionaire oligarchs instead, billionaire oligarchs and donors who will never have to wonder whether they can afford to go to the doctor, retire with dignity, or even put food on the table to feed their children at night.

It is outrageous, it is a rip-off, and it is a heartless betrayal of the American people, the middle class, working families, and future generations.

My district has asked me: Where is the solution to this?

It rests right in this Chamber. Let us assume the responsibilities, the duties, the authority, and the power we have by the Constitution with the power of the purse placed in our hands here in the House of Representatives. Let's act accordingly.

They didn't want a President to circumvent Congress, they didn't want an agent who never had a background check and who was never confirmed by the U.S. Senate and who is wielding a chain saw at our programs and not showing sensitivity, compassion, and intellect in academics that will make the true difference.

The CHAIR. Once again, the Chair would remind and implore all Members to not engage in personalities toward the President and direct your remarks to the Chair.

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from the State of Indiana (Mr. STUTZMAN).

Mr. STUTZMAN. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of this resolution because it delivers on the promise that we made to the American people by extending the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act and fulfilling President Trump's agenda.

This is direly needed. For the past 4 years, the American people have lived through the longest sustained period of debt and deficit in our Nation's history. During that same time, Americans have also had to grapple with hyperinflation and record-high energy costs and grocery costs at the grocery store.

This budget will usher in a new golden era that the American people are yearning for and where free enterprise can flourish, energy production is unleashed, and our fiscal health is restored.

This budget does so by extending the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, which delivered wage increases of 4.9 percent and the lowest poverty and unemployment rates in 50 years. This budget also achieves a deficit reduction of \$1 billion over 10 years and achieves massive savings in our spending.

Washington doesn't have a revenue problem. Washington has a spending problem.

Mr. Chair, the American people sent us here to fulfill a mission, putting our Nation back on a trajectory toward success and prosperity. Passing this resolution is the first step in that process. This budget doesn't betray the middle class. It saves the middle class, and it empowers the middle class for a prosperous future.

Mr. Chairman, I support this resolution, and I encourage my colleagues to do the same. This is the first time that I remember where we are actually being fiscally responsible.

Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chair, I remind the gentleman that this bill would put 1.8 million Hoosiers at risk of losing Medicaid.

Mr. Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS), who is the ranking member of the Financial Services Committee.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Chairman, I strongly oppose the Republican budget rip-off. I hear from constituents every day about the high cost of living. Under the Trump administration, healthcare costs are rising, and putting

food on the table is getting harder as egg prices skyrocket and housing remains unaffordable.

Unfortunately, the Republican rip-off is a slap in the face to working families.

Trump, Elon Musk, and House Republicans are asking us to support axing Medicaid by \$180 billion, even though food stamps reduce rural poverty. Republicans will cut this program too by \$230 billion.

Republicans are defunding the police by stripping funding from the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, and the CFPB is the only Federal cop on the block to hold Wall Street banks and Big Tech payment apps accountable when they cheat Americans.

It is shameful that while families suffer from high prices, Musk is firing thousands of Federal workers and stealing sensitive data from his competitors.

Although this rip-off cuts \$2 trillion in vital programs, what do Republicans plan to do with this money?

□ 1545

Mr. Chairman, they are going to give \$4.5 trillion in tax cuts to the billionaires in this country. That is \$4.5 trillion in tax cuts. If that math doesn't compute, it is because Republicans expect Americans to buy the next megayacht for Jeff Bezos.

Mr. Chairman, we are not going to do that, and Democrats are voting "no" on this budget. It is outrageous that Republicans have the audacity to come here with this budget that harms so many Americans and ask us to support billionaires and think we are going to buy it? The majority thinks we are going to support it? My colleagues on the other side of the aisle have another thought coming. We ain't doing it.

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Chairman, I can't believe my ears of Democrats criticizing the audacity of Republicans here in Washington, our Nation's Capital, giving the hard-earned money back to the people, letting them keep more of their money as they have suffered 4 years under record inflation, record interest rate hikes, and record consumer debt. How dare Republicans give money back to small businesses and working families so that they can pay the bills and provide for their families?

Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GRAVES), the "Show-Me" State, our House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure chairman.

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Chairman, I thank the chairman for yielding me time.

Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of the House's fiscal year 2025 budget resolution, which is a critical step needed to unlock a reconciliation bill that is going to help secure our border and revitalize our military. It is going to unleash American energy independence and extend tax cuts for American families and small businesses.

Simply put, this budget delivers on all of President Trump's America First

agenda by prioritizing the economic and national security of hardworking Americans. Failure to act on this budget resolution, our House Republican budget, risks trillions in tax increases on Missouri farmers, small businesses, and families.

Mr. Chairman, as a member of the House Armed Services Committee, I am pleased to see that the budget directs an investment of \$100 billion for our national defense after years of underinvestment.

As chairman of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, we are ready to do our part to produce a bill that fulfills President Trump's border security agenda by providing funding for the United States Coast Guard for drug and migrant interdiction.

The Coast Guard has been underfunded for years. However, this administration recognizes that the Coast Guard is the workhorse when it comes to securing our maritime border. I am grateful for the President's focus on providing robust resources to the service to do even more, and I know that the men and women in the Coast Guard are very much up to the task.

Despite delivering these robust investments, this budget still requires the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee to generate at least \$10 billion in savings overall. Committee Republicans have been hard at work to make sure that we are prepared to support the Coast Guard while also being good stewards of taxpayer dollars by responsibly offsetting our investments.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to support this budget resolution.

Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, the chair of the Budget Committee said something moments ago to the effect of: This is about giving the people their money back.

That is not so. This is about the one in three Americans on Medicaid who are at risk of losing it because what is in this budget plan in black and white are the largest cuts to Medicaid in American history and cuts to other programs like SNAP, school lunches, and Head Start. Why is that? It is to deliver tax cuts, 83 percent of which go to the richest 1 percent of Americans. That is what this plan is about.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO), my friend and ranking member of the Appropriations Committee.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Chairman, as ranking member of the Appropriations Committee, I am responsible for funding programs and services that the American people rely on.

I also see the importance of programs like Medicaid, which help tens of millions of people afford health insurance. After all of their talk of lowering the cost of living, Republicans wasted no time in making their real priorities clear. For this majority, billionaires and the biggest corporations always come first.

Elon Musk and President Trump are hard at work trying to gut Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act, which helps nearly 100 million Americans afford health insurance, medications, and lifesaving care.

Nationwide, Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program provide medical coverage to nearly 4 in 10 children. Almost 40 percent of the children in the United States get their healthcare through Medicaid.

These programs were designed, improved, and expanded over decades by both parties to help people deal with the high costs of healthcare, and they have delivered for so many families. In my district alone, there are 229,000 people on Medicaid, including 79,000 children and 33,000 seniors. Medicaid paid for 3,000 births last year, providing comprehensive prenatal, delivery, and postpartum care to newborns and mothers. These are programs that help families and children. Medicaid works.

Elon Musk is only interested in helping the richest among us. His dream is to fully extend more than \$4.5 trillion worth of tax breaks to his billionaire friends and the wealthiest corporations in the world.

How will they pay for these tax cuts and pay for this massive giveaway? Republicans want to pay for this with cuts to Medicaid, \$880 billion from Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act, putting coverage at risk for millions of Americans and raising their premiums.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas). The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chair, I yield an additional 15 seconds to the gentlewoman from Connecticut.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Chairman, who bears the brunt of these cuts: seniors, children, low-income families, people with disabilities, those struggling. The most high healthcare costs impact the first ones left behind.

Republicans are coming for SNAP next, threatening 40 million Americans who are just trying to put food on the table. Democrats will stand where we always do, on the side of the middle class, against yet another reckless Republican budget that steals even more wealth for the billionaire class.

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JORDAN), my good friend and chairman of the House Judiciary Committee.

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, the budget resolution will allow us to cut taxes, reduce spending, help our national defense, and secure the border, which is exactly what we told the voters we were going to do in the election.

I always say that we make this job way too complicated. It is pretty darned simple. What did Members tell the voters they were going to do when they put their name on the ballot? If they get elected, go do what they said.

The American people elected us, a majority in the House and a majority

in the Senate. There were 77 million people who voted for President Trump. We told them what we were going to do. It is now time to do it, and this is step one of that process.

The ranking member referenced the American people. We are remembering the American people, exactly what we told them, and why they elected us. To do all of that, it takes resources, particularly the one that focuses in our committee on securing the border.

It takes resources, and the reason we need so many resources to secure the border is because the previous administration screwed everything up so badly. Day one of the Biden administration, they made three decisions: no more building the wall, no more remain in Mexico, and when migrants get here, they will not be detained but will be released.

When that is done and it is advertised to the entire planet that those are the new policies, everybody comes. There were 10 million people who came, almost the equivalent of the entire population of the State I get the privilege of representing.

Mr. Chairman, to fix that, my colleagues have to find resources, find savings, and do what we are doing in this legislation because it takes personnel. It takes equipment. It takes space. It takes detention beds. It takes judges. It takes lawyers to secure that border and handle what needs to be done to fix what Democrats caused and created.

Mr. Chairman, I thank the chairman for the good work he has done and the Republican members of the Budget Committee for putting this together.

The gentleman is right. If we don't do this, taxes are going to go up on the families across this great country. I don't want the taxes to go up on the families who I represent in the Fourth District of Ohio. I don't want that to happen.

I want the borders secured. I want to reduce spending because I know we are running deficits in the trillions, and we have piled up \$36 trillion in debt. I want to help our national defense because it is still a dangerous world.

I just got back from Israel last week. We know how dangerous it is. They know how dangerous this world is.

This bill is common sense, and it is step one of a three-part process to get us to what we told the American people we were going to do and what they elected us to do. That is why I hope we can pass this.

Mr. Chairman, I urge a "yes" vote, and I thank the chairman again for his good work and his committee's work.

Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chairman, the gentleman from Ohio is actually right: It is a dangerous world.

Mr. Chairman, do my colleagues know what makes it more dangerous? It is when, under this administration, the United States is voting with Russia and North Korea and Hungary and voting against every single one of our democratic allies. That makes a dangerous world infinitely more dangerous.

Mr. Chairman, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. HUFFMAN), my good friend and the ranking member of the Natural Resources Committee.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

In just 4 weeks, Donald Trump has sown chaos all over this country. His administration is defying court orders, firing Federal workers, freezing vital funding that our constituents depend on, impacting everything from wildfire preparations to water security, health and housing programs, and a lot more. All of this is under the guise of cost savings, but the reality is there are no meaningful savings or other benefits for average taxpayers.

Real people's lives are being turned upside down: our National Park Service and workers at a number of Federal agencies, farmers, and firefighters. Everyone who depends on Federal services is feeling the squeeze of this reckless agenda. Meanwhile, Republicans are preparing their budget reconciliation bill, which is going to cost at least \$4 trillion.

Mr. Chairman, our Republican colleagues are being coy about the specifics, but Americans can connect the dots. There can't be a tax cut for billionaires of that magnitude without either dramatically slashing Medicaid and maybe Social Security and Medicare while you are at it, or dramatically exploding the deficit.

Just like every other action before us, the Republicans' budget is a betrayal of the American people. The majority is choosing billionaires over programs that everyday people depend on.

In my district alone, hundreds of thousands of people will lose Medicaid. Tens of thousands will lose SNAP benefits that help put food on the table. The Natural Resources Committee is tasked with finding at least \$1 billion of these savings, \$1 billion for their billionaire joyride. Their plan is to sell off public lands and do more favors for Big Oil.

The Acting CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chair, I yield an additional 15 seconds to the gentleman from California.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Chairman, Republicans plan to do more favors for Big Oil even though they are rolling in record profits and even though we are already producing and exporting record amounts of oil and gas. Of course, their old favorite is to open up the Arctic Refuge for drilling and pretend that that will bring in money, as well. Last time, it brought in zero dollars when they did that in 2017.

Mr. Chairman, I am going to vote "no." I urge my colleagues to vote "no."

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. WALBERG), my friend and the chair of the House Education and Workforce Committee.

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Chairman, I thank my friend from Texas for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, in November, the American people delivered a clear and resolute mandate to this Congress: Rein in out-of-control spending.

For too long, bureaucrats in Washington recklessly spent Americans' hard-earned tax dollars and drove up our national debt to nearly catastrophic levels, hurting all Americans, especially the most vulnerable.

For example, the Biden-Harris administration attempted to spend as much as \$1 trillion through his illegal and irresponsible student loan bailouts. Virtually nothing was done to control the cost of Federal student loan programs, meaning students will be able to take on even more in student loan debt and drive up the burden on all Americans, even those who never went to college or received a degree.

Why should we continue to spend Americans' tax dollars on a system that is clearly not working?

Something must change, and Americans are sick and tired of this wasteful spending.

With Republicans in control of the House, Senate, and White House, we have a real opportunity to cut through the waste, fraud, abuse, and falsehoods in Washington.

□ 1600

Reconciliation provides us with a chance to address Washington's spending problem.

Under the new Trump administration, we can cut spending, deliver on the mandate given to us by the American people, and put more money back in Americans' pockets.

As I begin to yield back, I will await the false report on Medicaid in Michigan.

Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chair, I wouldn't want to disappoint the gentleman from Michigan, so I am happy to inform him of the accurate number. This bill would put 2.4 million people in Michigan at risk of losing Medicaid.

Mr. Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. JAYAPAL), a distinguished former member of the Budget Committee.

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Chair, this bill is a Republican betrayal of the middle class and working families across the country.

If you are at home watching this, I want you to think about what Republicans want to slash from your life so that they can lower taxes for the biggest corporations and wealthiest billionaires like Elon Musk. They want to cut a minimum, the floor, of \$880 billion from Medicaid, which covers healthcare for 72 million Americans.

Medicaid pays for nursing homes for five out of eight seniors across the country. It pays for healthcare for 38 million kids, including over 3 million kids in Texas and 1.2 million kids in Ohio. In fact, it pays for 64 percent of childbirths in Speaker MIKE JOHNSON and Majority Leader STEVE SCALISE's home State of Louisiana.

Any Republican who votes for this resolution is voting for those cuts as well as devastating cuts to nutrition and Medicare.

Don't listen to Republicans who try to say that Medicaid won't be touched. I introduced an amendment to protect Medicaid, which they blocked during our budget markup because they intend to cut Medicaid.

Remember when Donald Trump said that he would tackle inflation and lower costs on day one? Well, here we are, a month in, and prices are rising. Musk has taken a literal chain saw to tens of thousands of jobs, putting families and local economies at risk.

This budget resolution makes it clear that the only people who Republicans are willing to fight for in this country are the wealthiest billionaires, who apparently now rule the country.

This is unbridled greed and corruption. Vote "no" on this disastrous budget resolution.

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. SMITH), my good friend from the Cornhusker State who is also chair of the Ways and Means Committee's Trade Subcommittee.

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Chair, the American people want us to have a thoughtful exchange here. I will hopefully contribute to that, especially when I hear some of the accusations made that are just off base, misleading, and false.

Warren Buffett has paid a record amount in taxes. I think that is worth noting. That has been in the press very widely in the last few days.

This budget framework delivers on House Republicans' and the President's promise to minimize tax burdens for Americans across the income spectrum, promote security in our communities, and unleash economic growth.

The resolution would allow us to extend the historic tax relief from the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, which has been enormously successful, and we know this, in allowing families to keep more of their paychecks and supercharging growth for small businesses.

If these tax cuts are allowed to expire, as we have heard, the average American would suffer. Make no mistake, small businesses, family farms, and so many other folks would suffer.

The Acting CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Chair, I yield an additional 15 seconds to the gentleman from Nebraska.

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Chair, the American people want us to have a thoughtful exchange on this. Let's elevate the debate and stick to the facts, realizing we can do well for the American people by doing so.

Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chair, I will remind the gentleman that this bill would put 340,000 people in Nebraska at risk of losing Medicaid.

Mr. Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. CHU), a member of the Budget Committee.

Ms. CHU. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to the Republican rip-off.

Budgets tell priorities, and as inflation goes up and Americans continue struggling to pay their rent, purchase groceries, and afford going to the doctor, Republicans stand united to sell out the working class by ripping away healthcare coverage and food from children to pay for tax cuts for the rich.

This is the unbelievable but real cruelty of their budget. Make devastating cuts to Medicaid for 135,000 mostly seniors and children in my district alone, slash SNAP benefits for thousands of hungry children and families, and end ACA premium tax cuts that currently save families over \$6,000 annually, and for what? To give \$5 trillion in handouts to those who need it the least, the ultrarich and big corporations.

Let's be clear: My Republican colleagues will declare that this resolution is necessary to extending the 2017 Trump tax scam to purportedly help the middle class. This is a lie. The majority of the tax cuts that they aim to extend will only benefit the rich, and the middle class will lose so many of the benefits they rely on.

In their 2017 Trump tax scam, Republicans slashed the corporate tax rate and watched 100 percent of those benefits flow to shareholders, billionaires, and high-paid executives. What did workers get? A big fat zero.

Even still, President Trump wants to cut the corporate tax rate by even more. What is more, Republicans' apparent concern for fiscal responsibility is nowhere to be found. Their budget will actually balloon our national debt in a reverse Robin Hood scheme that betrays the working Americans we all represent.

The Acting CHAIR. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chair, I yield an additional 15 seconds to the gentlewoman from California.

Ms. CHU. Mr. Chair, my constituents deserve better. All of our constituents deserve better.

I, once again, voice my opposition to the Republican rip-off that would do nothing to address the needs of the everyday American people.

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL), my good friend and the chair of the House Financial Services Committee.

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Chair, I thank Mr. ARRINGTON for yielding this time.

Mr. Chair, what is irresponsible, to those watching this debate, is the truth about the Biden-Harris policies, that when you combine irresponsible fiscal policy in this Nation over the past 4 years and an irresponsible monetary policy—what is irresponsible, Mr. Chair, is the fact that our families are suffering from inflation, the highest in 40 years. It takes \$1.21 for what cost \$1 just 4 years ago.

The resolution before us changes the direction. It delivers on President

Trump's agenda to put the American people first. This resolution does protect the American people from the largest tax increase in American history.

Let's set the record straight: The top 1 percent are paying more in taxes than they have ever paid in the history of the country. They pay 45 percent of all the taxes in this country, and 50 percent of us are paying the least amount of tax they have ever paid in American history.

This bill goes on to support border security and national defense, which President Trump campaigned on and Republicans campaigned on, and it reins in wasteful spending. It reduces our long-term debt to GDP.

In the Financial Services Committee, we are pleased to follow the direction of the House Budget Committee and deliver on spending reforms by cutting back one of the most wasteful agencies that we have, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chairman, upon hearing that the richest 1 percent of Americans pay 45 percent in taxes, my heart is breaking. I will be sure that at church this Sunday we take up an extra collection, but God knows that the billions of dollars they are about to get in this budget resolution will certainly help line their pockets.

Mr. Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. MCGARVEY), a distinguished member of the Budget Committee.

Mr. MCGARVEY. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to the Republican budget resolution and urge my colleagues to reject it for what it is: a total scam and betrayal of the middle class.

A budget isn't just a policy document. It is a moral document. In their budget, the Republicans make their moral code clear: The rich get richer, and the rest of us pay for it.

There is no reason a teacher in Louisville, Kentucky, should pay more in taxes than Tesla did last year.

Mr. Chair, let's talk about how this budget will hurt Kentuckians. This budget mandates at least \$880 billion of cuts to Medicaid; \$230 billion of cuts to take meals away from seniors, veterans, and kids; and at least \$330 billion of cuts to our public schools.

Let me make this clear for those of you watching from Kentucky.

If you are one of the 1.4 million people in the Commonwealth who gets health insurance through kynect, Republicans are coming for your healthcare.

If you have a kid in JCPS, Republicans are coming after their education—fewer teachers, fewer opportunities, and no more free school lunches.

If you are one of our veterans, our seniors, or the one in five Kentucky kids going hungry as we speak, Republicans want to take away your next meal.

It is wrong. I met with over a thousand of my constituents this weekend.

They are angry. I am angry, too, because this budget hurts people, and for what? So Elon Musk can get even richer. It is a scam.

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. EDWARDS), also a Budget Committee member who helped us draft this budget framework.

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Chairman, first of all, I acknowledge the great work that our Budget Committee chairman has done to bring us to this point today. It has taken him hundreds of hours and tested his blood pressure quite seriously to get us to this point.

Mr. Chair, I rise today in firm support of this resolution.

In November last year, 77 million Americans demanded changes in how our Federal Government is working for them, particularly changes in the disastrous policies from the last 4 years. I plan to help deliver on those demands by fixing how Washington works and implementing President Trump's agenda to make America first.

This resolution gives us the framework that we need to meet the demands of those 77 million Americans. Those demands include fixing our border crisis once and for all. This resolution does that. Those demands include unleashing American energy. This resolution does that.

Mr. Chair, I urge strong support for this resolution.

Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chair, may I inquire as to the time remaining.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Pennsylvania has 15¼ minutes remaining.

Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chair, I remind the gentleman who just spoke that this bill would put 2.8 million people in North Carolina at risk of losing Medicaid.

Mr. Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. AMO), a distinguished member of the Budget Committee.

Mr. AMO. Mr. Chair, I ask myself two questions on every vote: Who does this benefit? Who does this hurt?

Today, the answers are clear. This Republican budget resolution would benefit the richest 1 percent. Who would it hurt? Working-class families struggling to make ends meet.

It threatens third graders in my hometown of Pawtucket who rely on the community eligibility provision to eat school breakfast and lunch. It threatens a new mom on Aquidneck Island who needs Medicaid to afford postpartum care. It threatens seniors in East Providence who depend on Medicaid's home- and community-based services to stay connected to their loved ones as they age at home.

All of these ordinary Americans would get hurt. For what? To pay for tax cuts for the rich. Don't believe me? Look at the numbers.

The Republican plan could slash \$230 billion from SNAP and \$880 billion from Medicaid, two proposals which

allow them to turn around and shovel \$1.1 trillion in tax giveaways to the richest 1 percent.

□ 1615

Mr. Chair, when I first read through this resolution, I thought surely it must be a mistake, there is no way that Republicans would intentionally hurt working Americans, right?

Wrong. Democrats tried to stop the madness over and over, but Republicans refused to listen.

Just yesterday, Republicans refused to consider my amendment to block cuts to SNAP and programs that provide free and reduced-price lunches for students. You heard that right. Republicans want to make it harder for hungry children to eat.

Republicans also refused to join me in supporting Medicaid. It provides health coverage to 72 million Americans, including over 300,000 Rhode Islanders. That is not a typo. Republicans are putting the needs of billionaires above the needs of ordinary Americans. If that isn't a betrayal, I don't know what is.

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. McDOWELL), a Budget Committee member and good friend.

Mr. McDOWELL. Mr. Chair, while we may not agree on whose State has better barbecue, one thing we do agree on is that today is a momentous day; not for one party, but for all Americans. Today, we take a giant step toward fulfilling the mandate given by millions of Americans.

For too long, the people's interests have been drowned out by an agenda pursued by elite, leftwing politicians. The elite, leftwing politicians don't feel the impact of their reckless policies. Whether it be pursuing open border policies or policies that fuel inflation, it is normal citizens who feel the impact.

Today, we start the process of restoring America's strength. Rather than pursue a reckless, ideological joyride agenda, this resolution paves the way for historic investment in our country's border security, permanent tax relief for the middle class, getting rid of the inflation tax that has hit the working class, and rooting out waste, fraud, and abuse throughout our government.

Mr. Chair, Americans demand better. This resolution does that. I urge a "yes" vote.

Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chairman, I remind the gentleman this bill would put 2.8 million people in North Carolina at risk of losing Medicaid.

Mr. Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MOSKOWITZ), a member of the Judiciary Committee.

Mr. MOSKOWITZ. Mr. Chair, Representative THOMAS MASSIE is a budget hawk who walks around with the debt clock—which, by the way, I bought. It

is \$99 on the website. Today, he talked about that if the Republican budget passes, the budget deficit doesn't get better. It gets worse.

Then Elon Musk commented, and he said: That sounds bad.

Boy, that is awkward. I mean, you know how much we hate it when you guys fight amongst each other.

That wasn't enough, right? Then Representative MASSIE went to the Republican meeting where the budget was being discussed, and he came out, and he said: You know what, they convinced me.

They convinced me that he is a "no." The reason he is a "no," he said, over the next 3 years, it is going to add almost a trillion dollars to the debt, and that is in the best case, the most rosy scenario. Then he said: That is a lie.

This clock that we have that has the debt, it is still going up. DOGE has not yet reversed it. I say that as a member of the DOGE Caucus who wants to shrink the size of government and cut spending. This 36, instead of your budget making it a 35, it is going to make it a 37. We are going to go to \$37 trillion in debt.

If you pass this today, this idea about DOGE or the Republicans being fiscal hawks or wanting to cut spending is no longer a reality.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. CRAWFORD). Members are reminded to address their remarks to the Chair.

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

Mr. Chairman, I remind the gentleman that the last 4 years, President Biden and my Democratic colleagues set a record of \$8 trillion added to the national debt. If you add the \$5 trillion in interest expense, well, I don't know that anybody is going to ever accomplish that feat. That is \$6 billion borrowed a day, and during that reign of reckless spending, they added \$116,000 to the debt burden that our children will bear into the future.

I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. OBERNOLTE), also a Budget Committee member.

Mr. OBERNOLTE. Mr. Chair, I thank the chairman of the Budget Committee and my friend from Texas for yielding.

Mr. Chair, this year we will borrow almost \$2 trillion, which represents almost a third of all Federal spending.

For the first time in the history of our country, this year we will spend more on interest paying the national debt that we have already borrowed, and in several years three-quarters of all Federal spending, borrowing, will be just to pay interest on the money that we have already borrowed.

Several years after that, we won't even have enough money to pay the interest on the national debt, which will signal a devastating default for our country.

Mr. Chair, we cannot allow that to happen. Yet, Mr. Chair, we have a spending problem. We do not have a revenue problem. Last year, we col-

lected more dollars in Federal tax revenue than ever in the history of our country.

That is why this budget resolution is so important. It starts us, finally, down the path of reducing Federal spending rather than increasing Federal spending, and it does it without increasing taxes on hardworking Americans. That is why I am proud to urge a "yes" vote.

Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chair, I remind the gentleman that this resolution would put 13.4 million people in California at risk of losing Medicaid.

Mr. Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Vermont (Ms. BALINT), a great member of the Budget Committee.

Ms. BALINT. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong opposition to the Republican budget.

Here is the deal: Republicans have the House, the Senate, and the White House. They could be passing legislation to actually make our lives better, to lower costs on groceries, on prescription drugs. They could be lowering the cost of housing. Instead they are attacking the very programs that working- and middle-class families rely on in this country. It is a betrayal.

All of us were sent here to work on behalf of the people back home. We were sent here to lower costs for people, to alleviate suffering. I know that my colleagues were as well. Therefore, I ask, why are they letting Trump do this? Why?

This Republican budget doesn't do anything to address the costs that working people are facing. They have proposed a budget that gives massive, massive tax cuts to the wealthiest and corporations in this country. How will they pay for it? They will pay for it by making deep cuts to Medicare, to the tune of \$880 billion, and deep cuts to SNAP benefits. That is right, taking food away from families who need it.

They will be increasing the deficit. It is long past time for them to stop lecturing us about the debt when they know full well that their math is not mathing. They are adding to the deficit with this program, and they are literally giving the money away to the wealthiest who do not need it.

When I vote on this Republican budget, I will be thinking of all the working families back home in Vermont, people who sent me here to work on their behalf, not against them. I am thinking of families who worry that they won't have Head Start.

The Acting CHAIR. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chair, I yield an additional 15 seconds to the gentlewoman from Vermont.

Ms. BALINT. Mr. Chair, I am thinking of the small businesses in Vermont that have reached out to me to say that Trump's proposed tariff war with Canada is going to crush them. I am thinking about the 150,000 Vermonters who are dependent on Medicaid.



I urge my colleagues to reject this unfair budget.

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GROTHMAN), also my colleague on the House Budget Committee.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Chair, I think I have to address some of the things that I think are out of line or misspoke with regard to the other party today.

First of all, I want to point out there are not a lot of details in this budget. The budget has a lot of top-line numbers in which we try to keep tax cuts that went into effect 8 years ago in effect because we had a strong economy with high employment. There are no specific cuts in here.

The frustrating thing I hear from the other side is that they are talking about that any cut or any reduction in spending is a problem. Let me remind people, 26 percent of the current level of spending for the current year is borrowed. That should be of huge concern to everybody. The average American has about \$100,000 as their share of debt. Think of that, a family of four has \$400,000 in their share of the debt. The average person or the average American in the budget coming up this year will be spending about \$20,000.

The Acting CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Chair, I yield an additional 15 seconds to the gentleman from Wisconsin.

Mr. GROTHMAN. One more time, remember, America has to know that 26 percent of every Social Security dollar, 26 percent of every new tank, 20 percent of every new education dollar is borrowed, at a time where interest costs are going up.

Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chair, I would remind the gentleman, this bill would put 1.2 million people in the Badger State at risk of losing Medicaid.

I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. PRESSLEY), a distinguished member of the Oversight and Government Reform Committee.

Ms. PRESSLEY. Mr. Chair, I rise on behalf of the Massachusetts Seventh Congressional District.

As the House prepares to vote on a truly horrifying Republican budget resolution, one void of empathy or common sense, I am thinking of the people in my district who stand to be harmed the most: families in Mattapan who receive their healthcare through MassHealth, the Medicaid program for Massachusetts; mothers in Chelsea, who rely on SNAP to feed their babies; disabled veterans in Randolph who receive lifesaving care and benefits through the VA; families in Roxbury who rely on Head Start for childcare.

This Republican majority said they would spend the next 2 years cutting costs for the middle class, but the only thing they are cutting is trillions of dollars from lifesaving programs our communities depend on to make ends meet.

Mr. Chair, this has never been about efficiency. Tell me how it is efficient to make people across this country sicker, hungrier, poorer, and more vulnerable. Tell me how it is efficient to buy more toy rockets for Donald Trump's billionaire friends while parents can't afford groceries. The cruelty is the point. What a callous shame and a sham.

I urge my colleagues to stand with the people. Protect families and reject this shameful budget resolution. In the words of a righteous faith leader whose place of worship Donald Trump recently attended: Have mercy.

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

I think God has had mercy on this country, and he is giving us a shot now to turn this country around and to give it back to the American people; to return to commonsense policies, to put the American people first, and to clean up the mess in Washington, D.C.

We have seen the exposure of the waste and the woke and the bloat, and it is immoral to hand our country like this to the next generation. We are long overdue to get our fiscal house in order, Mr. Chairman.

The American people deserve to keep more of their money. The American people deserve fiduciaries in Congress who will take care to steward their tax dollars. The people who need these programs that we created for the most vulnerable deserve to have the programs without having folks siphon off moneys or people that are ineligible draining those programs.

We have got a lot of work to do. We won't be intimidated by the rhetoric. We won't be scared into paralysis anymore as a Republican Party. We are standing up with our President and fearless leader, Mr. Donald J. Trump. We know the American people are behind us 100 percent. We are leaning in, and we are going to save this country.

We are going to give our children a fighting chance at the blessings of liberty and the land of opportunity.

I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. NORMAN), a member of the Budget Committee, my good friend who is a fighter for our freedom and fiscal sanity.

□ 1630

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Chair, I rise in full support of the House budget resolution. I thank Mr. ARRINGTON for the yeoman's work he has done. He stood tall and he stood strong.

For those who are watching on TV and for those listening, we have gotten a steady diet of the same old, worn-out tactics: rich, poor, divinity politics, taking food from hungry children. They haven't used granny is going over the cliff yet, but I assume that is coming.

My question to my good friends on the other side is: Where were they the last 4 years? Where were they? We have got a steady diet of high inflation. We

have got a steady diet of 15 million illegals coming into this country, using every public school, every hospital, not being a citizen, draining the payroll, and draining the economy of America.

What about the empathy for the poor, unaccompanied children who came over here and are in sex trades, if they are still living, many of them, well over 400,000 children? What about the inflation at every level? Where were you the last 4 years?

With house prices, where were you? Interest rates, you were nowhere to be found. Where were your solutions? You didn't have any because we have got two worldviews. You think taxes paid by Americans is your money to spend like you want.

What Elon Musk and Donald Trump are doing is identifying the waste. Let the American people judge. Seventy-seven million Americans judged on who they thought could lead this country, and it wasn't an inept President who couldn't give a press conference if he had to or read a thank-you card. That is who you put up with for 4 years.

The past is the judge of the future. I would love to have \$5 trillion in cuts on this bill.

The Acting CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Chair, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from South Carolina.

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Chair, we have got more to go. This is the first step. The journey starts with the first step. We are going to fight, and we are going to stop the policies that have bankrupted this country, that you have put up with for the past 4 years. Time is up. It is time for a new day.

The Acting CHAIR. Members are reminded to direct their comments to the Chair.

Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chair, I remind the gentleman that this bill would put 1 million people in South Carolina at risk of losing Medicaid.

I appreciate the previous speaker's candor. He is saying he wants \$5 trillion worth of cuts. To quote him, this is only the beginning. I hope that every middle-class American hears that and knows what is coming. By his own words, this is just the beginning. This is bad enough.

What are we talking about? We are talking about \$880 billion worth of cuts to Medicaid and the ACA, \$230 billion worth of cuts to nutrition programs, \$330 billion worth of cuts to student loan programs, Pell grants, Head Start, school lunches, and more. Why? It is all so tax cuts worth \$4.5 trillion can go to the richest 1 percent of Americans.

Mr. Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from New Jersey (Ms. POU), a wonderful new Member of this body and a distinguished member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

Ms. POU. Mr. Chair, I rise for the first speech on the floor of this body to



reject the Republicans' so-called budget.

I came to Congress to help my constituents. I came here to provide direct relief to struggling Americans and lift people up. This Republican budget does none of those things. It is nothing more than a blueprint for cruelty. This GOP budget will destroy Medicaid and take healthcare away from millions of Americans.

In my district alone, this could strip healthcare from the 215,000 people on Medicaid, blow up hospital budgets, raise insurance premiums, all to give trillions in tax cuts to the millionaires. This is another cash giveaway to the superrich at the expense of ruining American lives.

Mr. Chair, I reject it, and I intend to vote "no" to this cruel Republican budget.

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

Mr. Chair, my good friend and ranking member made a comment about Mr. RALPH NORMAN from South Carolina. Listen closely to what he said. He would like to cut \$5 trillion from the budget.

Add my name to that list because the GAO says there is \$5 trillion of fraud throughout the four corners of this Federal Government. That is the people's money. We ought to spend every waking hour together, across the aisle, and in a bipartisan way to go and root out that waste and fraud that is fleecing the taxpayers.

Count me in the camp of Mr. RALPH NORMAN when the Government Accountability Office says that there is \$5 trillion of defrauding the people's government and the people's money. We will not hear anybody on the other side of the aisle, and there are some good and well-intended people. In this debate we will not hear them talking about illegals being on welfare rolls or the fact their President, President Joe Biden, with the stroke of a pen, welcomed illegals onto welfare and healthcare rolls.

We can't even afford Social Security benefits because the fund will be insolvent within the next 10 years. Instead, we are bringing people who aren't even citizens onto the social safety nets that are paid for by taxpayers. We are not spending that money, that precious treasure of taxpayers, to shore up Medicare and Social Security.

It makes no sense to me. Do you know what? It made no sense to the American people. That is why they gave this President a mandate and gave this country unified Republican leadership. They are apparently still in denial. They are disconnected from the reality of the last 4 years.

They may have had all the best intentions, but the pain and the suffering that the American people endured because of the reckless, record trillions of dollars in spending and the failed economic policies of the last administration is real. They didn't forget it.

They voted with that acid test and that fundamental question: Is my life better today?

I don't think there has ever been in American history a clearer contrast between the two parties back to back with Republican total control in '17 and '18, Democrat unified leadership on the heels of that, and the philosophies, the values, the worldviews, the policies, and the consequences borne by the American people.

Mr. Chair, they have chosen a very different path, and they have asked us to reverse course and to reverse the curse that looms not only over this country but our children's future.

I am surprised that I haven't heard one sentence about the waste, fraud, and abuse in the Federal Government at \$5 trillion. I am surprised that I haven't heard any criticisms of the millions of people who have come to this country illegally and drained Medicaid, according to CBO, by billions of dollars. That was a letter in response to an inquiry that we sent.

How much of the tax dollars and Medicaid are being siphoned off for people who are here illegally? I can't believe there is not more indignation on account of the fact that \$9,000 is what we are spending on people who broke the law, violated our sovereignty, and are here in this country illegally.

Taxpayers are spending \$9,000 per illegal immigrant for social services that were intended for the United States citizens. That \$9,000 represents more money than we spend on our own vulnerable American citizens on Medicaid, but we won't hear any of that today.

The American people know better. They have always had better judgment, and they made the right call. We aim to deliver for them.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Texas has 7 minutes remaining.

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

Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chair, may I inquire as to how much time is remaining.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Pennsylvania has 4¼ minutes remaining.

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

Mr. Chair, let me first say before my closing that my good friend and chair of the Budget Committee and I have worked closely together in opposition a lot of the time but actually in agreement some of the time with some real achievements, though not today.

He said something that really interests me. There is this GAO report showing \$5 trillion of fraud. I certainly would be interested in seeing that report. The size of the entire budget every year is only \$6.5 trillion. How in the world is \$5 trillion out of \$6.5 trillion really fraud? I find it a little hard to believe.

Mr. Chair, we are at a pivotal moment. I said at the beginning of this debate some 2½ hours ago that this budget resolution represents the Republican betrayal of the middle class. For the last 2½ hours, we have heard speaker after speaker on my side expose exactly why that is so.

First and foremost, and I think most crucially, the \$880 billion in cuts to Medicaid, the largest cuts in American history to Medicaid, why is that important? It is important because 72 million Americans rely on Medicaid. Another 20 million rely and get their healthcare through the Affordable Care Act. They are also at risk.

We have heard further that, while those are the biggest cuts, there are even more. There are hundreds of billions of dollars in cuts to nutrition assistance, school lunch programs, Pell grants, and Head Start. The list goes on and on. Why is that? It is all to deliver \$4.5 trillion of tax cuts to the richest 1 percent of Americans.

Let's not forget the fact that in order to cover the rest of the costs of those tax cuts, they are increasing the debt limit by \$4 trillion. They like to talk about debt and how horrible it is, but this piece of legislation will make our debt situation far worse.

This is the Republican betrayal of the middle class. Day after day, in my home State of Pennsylvania, candidates from both sides talk about how the number one priority should be to lower costs for Americans. The President made that promise. He said he would do it on day one.

Here we are more than a month in, and there is not one executive order or one bill to lower the costs for the American people. Instead, we have this bill to take money from the middle class and give it to those who need it the least.

Mr. Chair, I am proud to lead the opposition to this Republican betrayal of the middle class. I urge every Member of this House to vote "no," and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Chair, let me also pay respects to my ranking member. He is a great guy. He has been a really good partner. We have done some really important things together on a bipartisan basis. In fact, we passed more bipartisan legislation to fix the broken budget process which doesn't serve either party in this institution well.

Mr. Chair, I give him equal credit, if not more credit. When you are the minority, there is tremendous pressure not to work with the majority. He is an American first. We may disagree, but I know where his heart is.

Let me answer the question to the ranking member. The \$5 trillion is a CBO score. That is a 10-year budget window score just like the \$2 trillion that we have as a goal to reduce reckless, wasteful, and fraudulent spending.

Mr. Chair, the reconciliation process is generally to reconcile the House and

Senate budgets but more than a process for matching up revenues and outlays. This exercise, more importantly, is reconciling the difference between the American people's interest, expectations, and values in a Federal Government that has totally lost its way, forgotten who it serves, and too often has failed to faithfully, fairly, and efficiently execute the laws of the land.

□ 1645

Mr. Chair, if we learned anything from the November election, it is that the American people want a strong country. They want a competent leader and commonsense policies, and they want all of us to put America first. That is what this budget resolution does.

I like to think of this budget resolution as a promissory note to our children to preserve the land of liberty and opportunity by safeguarding it from an unwieldy government with unbridled spending, taxing, and regulating that threatens to destroy it.

Mr. Chairman, I said this in the Budget Committee, and I am going to say it now to close: The era of wasteful, woke, and weaponized government is over, and this budget resolution will be its tombstone. Here lies one of the darkest chapters in American history: open borders, record crime, lawlessness, feckless foreign policies, cost-of-living crises. Enough. It is time to reverse the curse. It is time to reverse the reckless spending and failed policies and do the first and most important job of the Federal Government: Keep the American people safe.

That is exactly what we intend to do, and that is exactly what we deliver with this framework.

Mr. Chairman, I include in the RECORD three statements from organizations supporting this legislation.

NFIB,

Washington, DC, February 24, 2025.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of NFIB, the nation's leading small business advocacy organization, I write in support of the H. Con. Res. 14, Establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2025 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2026 through 2034. A vote in favor of H. Con. Res. 14 will be considered an NFIB Key Vote for the 119th Congress. When enacted, this budget resolution will allow Congress to use the budget reconciliation process to make the 20 percent small business deduction permanent.

In less than a year, taxes will increase on over 30 million small businesses if Congress fails to act. The budget reconciliation process presents the best opportunity for Congress to prevent a tax increase on small employers and make the 20 percent small business tax deduction permanent. The 20 percent small business deduction was claimed by nearly 26 million small businesses in 2021. If made permanent the deduction will grow the economy by \$750 billion over the next ten years, while adding 1.2 million jobs each year. Over 91 percent of NFIB Members support making expiring small business Tax Cuts and Jobs Act provisions permanent.

Making the 20 percent small business tax deduction permanent is the most important action Congress can take to help small businesses this year. Passing H. Con. Res. 14 is

the first step in achieving this outcome. NFIB strongly supports H. Con. Res. 14 and will be considered an NFIB Key Vote for the 119th Congress.

Sincerely,

ADAM TEMPLE,

Senior Vice President for Advocacy, NFIB.

MAIN ST. EMPLOYERS,

February 24, 2025.

Hon. MIKE JOHNSON,

Speaker of the House, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

Hon. HAKEEM JEFFRIES,

House Minority Leader, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER JOHNSON AND MINORITY LEADER JEFFRIES: The undersigned business groups urge Congress to act quickly to prevent a massive tax hike on Main Street businesses, beginning with the speedy adoption of the House budget resolution.

Absent action, millions of Main Street businesses organized as S corporations, partnerships, and sole proprietorships will see their taxes go up sharply next year. Taxes on these pass-through businesses will go up when they earn profits, when they invest, and when they pass their businesses on to the next generation.

Pass-through businesses are the backbone of the American economy. They account for 95 percent of all businesses and employ 63 percent of all private sector workers. They also form the economic foundation for thousands of communities nationwide. Without them, those communities would face a future of lower growth, fewer jobs, and more boarded-up buildings.

Provisions to make permanent the Section 199A deduction, maintain rates on individuals and pass-through businesses, provide estate tax relief, and increase deductions for business investment in equipment and R&D are critical to the continued success of our members.

The House budget is the first step in improving the tax treatment of all these areas and providing pass-through businesses with the certainty they need to survive and grow.

The more quickly Congress acts, the sooner Main Street can get back to investing in our communities and creating jobs for your constituents. We appreciate your work on this important legislation and look forward to seeing this resolution enacted soon.

Sincerely,

Agricultural Retailers Association, AICC, The Independent Packaging Association, Air Conditioning Contractors of America, American Building Materials Alliance, American Council of Engineering Companies, American Council of Independent Laboratories (ACIL), American Farm Bureau Federation, American International Automobile Dealers Association, American Lighting Association, American Rental Association, American Staffing Association, American Subcontractors Association.

American Supply Association, American Veterinary Medical Association, AmericanHort, Associated Equipment Distributors, Associated General Contractors of America, Brick Industry Association, Chicago Roofing Contractors Association, Coalition of Franchisee Associations, Construction Industry Round Table, Distribution Contractors Association, Door and Hardware Institute, Energy Marketers of America.

Family Business Association of California, Family Business Coalition, FCA International, Foodservice Equipment Distributors Association, Forest Resources Association, Franchise Business Services, GAWDA, Glass Packaging Institute, Global Cold Chain Alliance, Hardwood Federation, Health & Fitness Association.

Heating, Air-conditioning, & Refrigeration Distributors International, Independent

Bakers Association, Independent Electrical Contractors, Independent Insurance Agents & Brokers of America (Big "I"), Industrial Fasteners Institute, International Foodservice Distributors Association, International Housewares Association, International Institute of Building Enclosure Consultants (IIBEC), International Sign Association, ISSA, the Worldwide Cleaning Industry Association.

Job Creators Network, Leading Builders of America, Main Street Employers Coalition, Manufactured Housing Institute, Meat Institute, Metal Construction Association, Metals Service Center Institute, Michigan Farm Bureau, Mortgage Bankers Association, Nareit, National Apartment Association, National Association of Convenience Stores.

National Association of Electrical Distributors (NAED), National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors, National Association of Professional Insurance Agents, National Association of Wholesaler-Distributors, National Automatic Merchandising Association (NAMA), National Confectioners Association, National Cotton Council, National Council of Farmer Cooperatives, National Electrical Contractors Association.

National Electrical Manufacturers Representatives Association (NEMRA), National Energy & Fuels Institute (NEFI), National Fastener Distributors Association, National Federation of Independent Business, National Franchise Association, National Lumber & Building Material Dealers Association, National Marine Distributors Association, National Multifamily Housing Council, National Peach Council.

National Ready Mixed Concrete Association, National Restaurant Association, National Roofing Contractors Association, National RV Dealers Assoc. (RVDA), National Small Business Association (NSBA), National Stone, Sand and Gravel Association, National Wooden Pallet & Container Association, NATSO, Representing America's Travel Centers and Truck Stops, North American Association of Food Equipment Manufacturers (NAFEM).

Outdoor Power Equipment and Engine Service Association, Pennsylvania Farm Bureau, PRINTING United Alliance, Professional Beauty Association, S Corporation Association, Service Station Dealers of America and Allied Trades, SIGMA: America's Leading Fuel Marketers, Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council, Small Business Legislative Council (SBLC), Society of Collision Repair Specialists (SCRS), Southeastern Lumber Manufacturers Association, Specialty Equipment Market Association (SEMA), Spray Polyurethane Foam Alliance, Subchapter S Bank Association.

Textile Care Allied Trades Association, The Association for Hose and Accessories Distribution, The Fertilizer Institute, The Real Estate Roundtable, The Transportation Alliance, Tile Roofing Industry Alliance, Tire Industry Association, US Sweet Potato Council, Virginia Association of Roofing Professionals, WASDA—Water and Sewer Distributors of America, Wholesale Florist & Floral Supplier Association, Workplace Solutions Association, Wyoming Stock Growers Association.

NAW URGES CONGRESS TO SUPPORT HOUSE BUDGET RESOLUTION, PREVENT DETRIMENTAL TAX INCREASES ON AMERICAN WORKERS

NAW applauds the House and Senate for moving forward with their respective budget resolutions and urges Members of Congress to support and vote for the House Budget Resolution to unlock comprehensive legislation necessary to prevent a massive tax increase on millions of America's businesses and workers.

If tax provisions enacted by the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 (TCJA) such as the 199A small business deduction are allowed to expire this year, as projected, the net result will be an unfathomable tax increase on 30 million small businesses, impacting 2.6 million workers supported by the provision. Workers across the country will face additional tax increases due to the expiration of lower individual tax rates, the doubled standard deduction, and the doubled child tax credit.

NAW members such as First Supply, a multigenerational, family-owned plumbing business, have made their voices clear. Wholesaler-distributors are predominantly high-tax, low margin businesses and have relied on TCJA provisions to offer well-paying, skilled jobs with extensive benefits and career development programs. If lawmakers fail to act, pass-through businesses could face a top tax rate of 39.6 percent, which will threaten the ability of our industry to continue re-investing in their workers and communities. The TCJA provisions have worked and should be permanently extended, giving certainty to pro-growth, pro-family, small business owners nationwide.

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on H. Con. Res. 14, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SCHWEIKERT) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BEYER) each will control 30 minutes on the subject of economic goals and policies.

The Chair now recognizes the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SCHWEIKERT).

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

To the chairman and the minority, I first want to apologize to everyone. I have one of my crappy lung infections, so at some point, I am going to start coughing and doing an inhaler. Just ignore me. Somehow, I thought that would be funnier.

Mr. Chairman and my good friend, Mr. BEYER, I think this is somewhat of a unique opportunity. Those of us from the Joint Economic Committee actually take math seriously. We don't always see things alike, but the fact of the matter is the Joint Economic Committee I think started in 1956. It has this remarkable history of some of the world's greatest economists coming and speaking before walking us through it. That is why, at this moment, we are going to try to do something that is special. Instead of just sort of sharing feelings, I am going to ask us to share math. Within that, we are going to walk through what is actually in the budget resolution.

This is a reconciliation budget. It is not a regular budget. This is a budget that opens up the ability, because of the insanity we go through, of moving something through the Senate and its 60 votes. With the 1974 Budget Control Act, this is the dance we go through.

The other thing I am going to try to walk through is where the actual math lays in the box that has been given to us by the Budget Committee, and then the part I am going to do, the SCHWEIKERT little bit of hope, is: Is this the moment? Is this the moment of

policy that actually forces us, both the left and the right, that if there are cuts, modernization, changes, updates in methodology on how we deliver services, is this the stressor that makes us do something that is hard but also do something that is truthful.

I am also going to try repeatedly to make the point, Mr. Chairman, and show why we are primarily doing this. We have a bunch of provisions of the 2017 tax reform that begin to expire. Most of those provisions actually are to the benefit of small businesses and the working class. I will show that over and over and the distributional effects.

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

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

Mr. Chair, I rise today in opposition to this budget resolution.

This budget is disastrous for the American economy. It will balloon our deficits, lead to higher interest rates, and make the things Americans buy every day more expensive. It will slash critical investments in the things that make us healthier, safer, and more productive, things like cancer research, aviation security, and our National Park System. It will decimate critical programs that support the people we represent, stripping healthcare for millions and making it harder for families to put food on the table and make ends meet. All of this is for billionaires and corporations to get tax cuts they do not need and that our country cannot afford.

I am pleased to do this with my friend, Chairman SCHWEIKERT. I also believe in math, and I rarely brag, but I am good at math.

Americans have been clear. They want lower prices and an economy that works for them. Yet, instead of focusing on making life easier for American families, at every turn, this administration and my Republican colleagues have engaged in a scorched-earth policy, a policy that creates chaos across the country as the richest person on the planet eliminates services that our Nation depends upon.

My friend from South Carolina earlier said that the policies would bankrupt our country. What does he mean? Healthcare for our families? Food for the working poor who overwhelmingly live in Republican districts?

Sure, get rid of any identified bloat, as every President does, but this is a budget about billionaires, not about every American, the women, men, and children who we represent. Yes, I want to move toward a much smaller deficit budget.

I listen to DAVID SCHWEIKERT every closing afternoon during his Special Order hours. I hate the higher interest costs, but who pays? Our families or the 1,000 billionaires, that small percentage, 1 percent or less, of the American population that has way more wealth than they could ever spend in lifetimes to come?

Republicans have long sung from the altar of fiscal responsibility, yet the

plan they put in front of us today is a fiscal sacrilege. It depends on fantasy math and ignores that their deficit-busting tax breaks will add at least \$4.6 trillion to our Nation's credit card and even more interest that our families must pay.

This interest has real costs. It slows economic growth. It depresses the standard of living. It leads to higher inflation and higher interest rates. It makes it even harder for families already faced with high prices and borrowing costs to make ends meet.

Wasteful, woke, and weaponized policies, my friend from Texas said. That is a very small percentage of the Federal budget. You can never achieve what is in this budget resolution on wasteful, woke, and weaponized policies.

With this Republican plan, how do they address it? They double down on the policies that will widen the growing wealth gap of this Nation by giving billionaires trillions in handouts and providing pennies to the middle class.

According to the Treasury Department, the top 1 percent of Americans, those making over \$750,000 a year, can expect to get an annual tax cut of over \$32,000. Working families will see a tiny fraction of that.

Of course, the other main beneficiaries will be the wealthiest executives of the wealthiest corporations at a time when corporate profits are at an all-time high. Americans who rely on government services will be told they need to make sacrifices to pad their profit margins even further. How does that make any sense?

To pay for these tax cuts for the ultrawealthy, the Republican budget proposes to cut programs Americans rely on to afford healthcare and to put food on the table.

Almost 100 million Americans, including seniors, children, families, and those from every corner of this country, depend on Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act to afford medical care. Yet, this budget would slash almost \$900 billion from these critical programs, ripping away lifesaving coverage and raising healthcare costs for those who rely on them.

At a time when prices at grocery stores continue to climb, this budget would make it even harder for the 40 million Americans who rely on SNAP to put food on the table.

The budget we are considering today will do nothing to support the economic growth of this Nation. It will benefit the wealthiest at the expense of those who make this country work.

Madam Chair, I urge my colleagues to reject it, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I have to figure out, do I sit here and just spend my time correcting things that are mathematically not true or not in the design of what is actually here or just over and over say how much I like working with Mr. BEYER

because one day he will be the chair, and I will be in his position.

Let's actually walk through some basic math together. What will our spending be this year? It will be \$7 trillion. What is actually in the cuts—remember the horrible draconian cuts—is \$120 billion in a year. So, \$7 trillion—a trillion is a thousand billion, for those of you who are math dysfunctional—let's walk through it, and \$120 billion is the Armageddon.

I am probably going to end up using these a couple of times here because I think they make a point.

The way a reconciliation budget is laid out is it creates a series of boxes. Here are all of these authorizing committees. We need you to find savings. We need you to find those savings through modernization and waste and fraud.

We are going to spend a little time actually talking about some great documents even the Biden administration produced on waste and fraud, and I am sure every Member here has actually read them. We have some other articles from *The Wall Street Journal* on Medicare Advantage and all these others. Many of them, when all added up, are a trillion-plus dollars. Are we capable of actually being intellectually honest and walking through?

One of the charts—we are going to come back to this again—you have been hearing the Armageddon being said, that it is Medicaid.

I used to do my State's Medicaid budgets. Arizona has a somewhat unique system. We actually buy managed care capitated policies for our indigent population. It is remarkably effective, and we deliver remarkably effective healthcare cheaper than almost every other State in the country, demonstrating that planned design, managed design, can both be much healthier for our society and save money. You don't start to have those revolutionary conversations in Congress until you have moments of stress like this.

Once again, I want to add, in the document, 96 percent of the budget authority within Energy and Commerce is not touched. We are talking 4 percent of their budget authority, and that is spread over a decade. If we can't find 4 percent of modernization in these programs, we are actually in much more trouble than even just the brain trust here as we tell our stories.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BEYER. Madam Chair, while we are doing math, when I divide \$2 trillion in savings and cuts over 10 years, I get \$200 billion a year.

Madam Chair, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. CLARK), the whip of the House Democratic Caucus.

□ 1700

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Madam Chair, despite all the promises on the campaign trail, House Repub-

licans have chosen to do three things with their majority: raise the cost of putting food on the table, raise the cost of getting healthcare, and use that money, deserving taxpayers' money, to cut billionaires' taxes. That is it. That is the agenda.

Let's look at the scale of what Republicans are sacrificing: funding that feeds 15 million children, a program that pays for half of all the births in America, and a service that keeps nursing homes and health centers' doors open. This is all to cut Elon's taxes.

If that sounds outrageous to you, Madam Chair, and I sure hope it does, you are not alone.

Let's be clear about the kind of money we are talking about. Do you know what it costs to keep a kid on Medicaid? It costs \$10 a day. How about how much it costs to keep that child fed with SNAP benefits? It costs \$6 a day.

What do Republicans want to give away to the already rich? They want to give \$6 million per billionaire. Think about that. For a billionaire, \$6 million is not even a rounding error. For a hungry child, it is enough to eat every single day for 34 lifetimes.

Inflicting hunger on children to give billionaires money they don't need and won't even notice, there is no moral code under which that is acceptable. There is no public demand for it. There is no logical reason for it other than total fealty to billionaire donors, billionaires who will never feel they have enough.

I will close with a family that has been on my mind, a mom-to-be who is 5 months pregnant. She and her husband are happy. They are in love, and they are excited for their daughter to arrive. Every month, their budget is tight. They get a little bit of help from food pantries, but sometimes, even if they arrive by 6 a.m., the food is already gone. Without the SNAP program, the mom said: I honestly don't know what we would do. I honestly don't know what we would do.

Every Republican has a choice to make with this vote. Will they vote to keep that mom and her daughter fed, or will they keep padding the pockets of those who will not even notice?

The American people can forgive a lot, but they will not forgive this betrayal.

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

I love public policy by storytelling, but this being the Joint Economic Committee, let's actually go back to math.

Madam Chair, I would say to Mr. BEYER that I want to make sure I am communicating right, but at least we are down to, instead of the Armageddon, his number was, well, if you cut \$2 trillion over 10 years, that is \$200 billion. He is right, but that is actually not what is in the document here. It is functionally 1.2 with a shock absorber. Once again, I will give you the shock

absorber, depending on what Ways and Means ultimately does. I thank the gentleman again. It shows we actually are fairly close on math.

Another thing, and this is just someone who actually had worked on the tax reform in 2017 and the storytelling that has existed, particularly with my brothers and sisters on the left—Madam Chair, how would you feel if I could document to you that the post-2017 tax reform was more progressive? They were lower rates, but the top portion of income earners actually were paying a higher percentage of Federal income tax.

When you start looking at this, remember, this is the distributional problem that I was going to try to walk through. I believe when you do the math here, 5 percent of the population are people making stunning amounts of money. If we want to have a discussion about whether they should pay more—guess what?—this opens up that discussion because there are no rates locked in to this. It just creates the capacity to now have the discussion.

The fact of the matter is that the top 5 percent pay 38 percent of all Federal income taxes. Functionally, half of the workers in the United States pay less than 1 percent. I will take a correction if someone knows the actual number, but I think the bottom 25 percent receives more because of the earned income tax credit, which is the old negative income tax model. Look, we have a distributional problem.

If you want to have a discussion of wealth and income equality, I have some great charts to show you what inflation did, what the previous functionally 3½ years of inflation did to wealth and the working class. When you inflate up people who have assets and crush those who are trying to survive, congratulations. Remember, before the pandemic under the TCJA, the tax reforms of 2017, it was the fastest closure of income inequality in American history.

What is being discussed here is whether you allow those very tax benefits for small businesses, for individuals, to expire. We don't get a huge economic pop from continuing them. You maintain consumption. We know if you don't do them, that loss of consumption in those populations actually really hurts us economically.

I am going to reserve in a moment, and then, we are going to come back and talk about some of the other provisions that are just, once again, Madam Chair, trying to create the capacity so we can actually have the more elegant debate of what should the distributional effects be and where do we get the most economic growth from?

The next time I come back, let's actually do a bit of where the economic growth can come from, and we will walk through the model of expensing and those things.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BEYER. Madam Chair, to add to the distributional impacts, the top 5 percent pay 38 percent of the taxes, but they have more than 60 percent of the wealth. The bottom 10 percent pay very little but live hand-to-mouth, including more than 12 percent of our children.

Madam Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. AGUILAR), the distinguished chair of the House Democratic Caucus.

Mr. AGUILAR. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentleman for yielding. I rise in opposition to this Republican budget.

House Democrats came to Congress ready to work with our Republican colleagues to lower the cost of eggs, take on price gouging, expand the child tax credit, build more housing, and put the pocketbooks of working families first. This is what the American people told us was their top priority, and these are the issues that drive our Caucus.

Instead, Madam Chair, they have turned their attention to the only policy priority that they really care about: ensuring billionaires pay less.

My constituents can't afford eggs at the local grocery store while my Republican colleagues are fighting amongst themselves about who to hand out tax breaks to, corporations or individuals.

Tesla pays \$0 in Federal taxes while teachers and firefighters in San Bernardino are paying more than their fair share.

Here is the reality, Madam Chair: My Republican colleagues are going to take away healthcare for more than 10 million Californians to pay for tax cuts for billionaires.

This is not going to make the cost of eggs cheaper or housing less expensive, but it is going to put children and seniors who need healthcare at risk.

House Democrats believe that the people who work for a living ought to get a little breathing room, and the wealthy and well connected shouldn't get special treatment.

The Republican budget is not good for the economy. It is not good for the country. It is a betrayal of the middle class. I urge a "no" vote.

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

I actually made a board for what the gentleman's point was, showing, within this reconciliation budget document, how much additional tax cuts are there for C corporations. There is your board. I am being a little sarcastic, but that is sort of a personality trait.

The fact of the matter is, once again, the talking points don't match up with the reality here.

Everyone in this room, your taxes go up at the end of this year. If you run a small business, a passthrough, not a C corporation, a passthrough, your taxes go up. If you are part of an employee-owned company, so you have come together and you are managing yourselves almost like an employee co-op, your taxes go up.

Also, I hope but don't know if the capacity that this creates will allow us to do it, but I sure hope so. We have some great data, and I won't make you live through my charts that show expensing, research and development expensing and expensing. It has a cost in the 10-year window.

Hopefully, everyone has listened to my dozens and dozens of speeches walking through what expensing is. Expensing is nothing more than depreciation. Do you take the expense in 1 year or, let's pretend, 7 years? You still get the exact same amount of reduction on your taxes. It is a timing effect. The difference is if you can't take it in the first year and you do it over 7 years, you have to finance it.

We have great economic modeling that shows when you do expense research and development, when you do expensing, you get a virtuous cycle of: We bought the piece of equipment, so we do it better, faster, and cheaper. Our competitors just did it, so the next year, we have to do it again.

That was one of the reasons, particularly prepandemic, we had that sudden spike of capital expenditures and productivity. The punch line on that is that does not exist now. It is our fading out for those C corporations, which had their rates already locked in, but also for all those other small businesses to make those capital expenditures.

Why is this really important? Well, there is a lot of data that shows that part of the tax code actually does, from an economic growth standpoint, create incredible vitality. It is a timing effect. It is the tyranny of living within a 10-year window in our models. I just hope that starts to elevate a little bit of the economics discussion instead of the storytelling.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BEYER. Madam Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. MOORE), a distinguished member of the Ways and Means Committee and the Joint Economic Committee.

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Madam Chair, Republicans pretend to care about the Nation's debt and annual deficits, but they have instructed Ways and Means to add \$4.5 trillion to the debt to provide tax cuts to the wealthiest.

What we have heard from our Republican opponents here today is that if we don't pass this resolution, everybody's taxes are going to be raised.

I will tell you what, there will be crumbs from the master's table for the average American earning under \$200,000 a year versus tax cuts for the wealthiest corporations and individuals.

That is the math. I know how fond you are of math. That is the arithmetic.

Let me tell you, the handouts to the wealthiest will come on the backs of the least of us, from affordable healthcare through the ACA and Med-

icaid, veterans healthcare, nursing home coverage, food assistance, student loan repayment options, energy tax credits, national security, and cancer research.

You all contend that 78 million people voted for this. No, they did not.

The Acting CHAIR (Ms. Foxx). The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. BEYER. Madam Chair, I yield the gentlewoman from Wisconsin an additional 15 seconds.

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Madam Chair, no, 78 million people did not vote for this. Who do you think you are fooling?

They are not fooled by your notion that somehow these tax cuts are going to pay for themselves, that they are backed up by all kinds of economists, the CBO, the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget.

The Acting CHAIR. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Members are reminded to address their remarks to the Chair.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Madam Chair, the average family would save \$2,853. That is your crumbs.

I would argue, for the average family that has been crushed by the previous 3 or 4 years in inflation, if you don't make 27 percent more money in my district, you are poorer today than you were 4 years ago. They were having their taxes go up \$2,853, and that is the average.

□ 1715

I promise you, Madam Chair, I think in my district it was closer to 3,300. I am blessed to have a more prosperous district. That is not crumbs, Madam Chair.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BEYER. Madam Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. CASTEN), who is a distinguished member of the Joint Economic Committee and our preeminent environmental economist.

Mr. CASTEN. Madam Chair, I want you to imagine that a friend came over to you and said: Donald Trump taught me how to save 50 percent on my shoe purchases. All you have to do is cut off one leg.

It is just math, as the gentleman from Arizona says. So let's get out the saw and head to Foot Locker.

Now, Madam Chair, if you were a good friend, you would tell them: You are crazy, and you need to stop thinking that Donald Trump likes you.

Nonetheless, here we are today talking about the idea that we are going to save money by gutting Medicaid; slashing food assistance; defunding white-collar law enforcement, the police; and exploding budget deficits so that we can do what Donald Trump told you he wants: Give a \$4½-trillion tax cut to the wealthiest Americans.

So I would say to my Republican colleagues as a friend: Donald Trump doesn't like you. He doesn't really like anybody. He just assumes that you will

never find the courage to stand up to him so he is going to keep asking you for more until you finally do.

If you are sick of being bullied and if you are ready to act like the leaders you claim to be and make sure that we leave this country in a little better shape than we found it, then grow a spine and vote hell no on this budget resolution.

The Acting CHAIR. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Madam Chair, may I inquire as to how much time remains.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Arizona has 16½ minutes remaining. The gentleman from Virginia has 18 minutes remaining.

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

Mr. BEYER. Madam Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY), who is the distinguished ranking member of the Select Committee on the Strategic Competition Between the United States and the Chinese Communist Party.

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Madam Chair, I rise today as the ranking member of the Select Committee on the Strategic Competition Between the United States and the Chinese Communist Party, the CCP, to express serious concerns about the proposed cuts in the Republicans' budget resolution.

First, the resolution includes \$880 billion in cuts to programs that risk stalling the advancement of technologies crucial to our competition with the CCP.

Second, these cuts will likely jeopardize our ability to enforce critical export controls with the Chinese as well as gutting programs that help us reshore manufacturing from China.

While we have got to restore our fiscal house, these cuts to critical programs amount to the GOP's perverted version of DEI, devastating, extreme, and irresponsible.

The CCP is cheering for the GOP budget resolution tonight, and I object.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Madam Chairwoman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Chairwoman, can you believe this? We broke our printer. However, thank heaven we didn't break the markers.

So I thought actually just because we are trying to do fact-based, the average family's taxes are going up at the end of this year \$2,853, and 62 percent of taxpayers will see hikes.

I am sorry, we just didn't have time to make a much prettier chart for everyone.

Remember that after 2017 we actually moved up, some of that were some of the deductions and things that were added, we moved up the threshold, so almost one-half of our taxpaying population actually didn't pay income tax. They still had payroll taxes and FICA and those things.

A bunch of that population that has not paid taxes in years and years and

years will be getting tax bills with the opposition to this.

Madam Chair, we are going to come back and go over more.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BEYER. Madam Chair, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. MORELLE), who is a distinguished member of the House Administration Committee.

Mr. MORELLE. Madam Chair, I thank my friend, the gentleman from Virginia, for yielding me time.

I rise today in strong opposition to this budget resolution. As an Appropriations Committee member, thoughtful consideration of government spending is a responsibility I don't take lightly. I believe every hard-earned taxpayer dollar must work for all Americans, not fuel wildly irresponsible economic theory.

I would like to think my colleagues on the other side of the aisle believe the same thing, given the rhetoric we have all heard over the last several years.

So I encourage the American people to watch what House Republicans do, not what they say.

Remarkably, instead of lowering costs, this reckless budget resolution bestows tax cuts for the wealthiest 1 percent of Americans while jeopardizing essential healthcare and nutrition programs. For this reason, I strongly oppose the budget resolution authored by House Republicans.

Shockingly, gutting programs our communities rely on isn't harmful enough because this resolution will also require taxpayers to borrow another \$1.6 trillion over the next 10 years.

Our Nation's Founders vested in the House of Representatives the unique set of powers to make it responsive to the will of the people. The father of our Constitution, James Madison, said that "the House should have an immediate dependence on, and intimate sympathy with, the people."

House Republicans demonstrate no dependence on nor sympathy with the American people.

Madam Chair, I urge my colleagues to reject this handout to millionaires and billionaires and work on a budget that instead advances the interests of American families.

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

Madam Chair, once again, here is the budget document. Here are spreadsheets. I keep hearing: You are giving away to billionaires.

Where is that?

Where is it?

Madam Chair, it doesn't exist because this is a box that allows us—and understand, Madam Chair, I am passionately concerned about debt and deficits, but this may be, for an idiot like myself, the first opportunity where members of leadership and those are ready to allow people like me to

come in and walk through how we can improve and change the costs of how we deliver services, and we need this type of document to do it.

Madam Chair, you deal with the reality of what we are allowed to touch. You do realize the majority of mandatory spending we are not even allowed to touch in a budget reconciliation because it is interest and Medicare is the majority. Every day we wait to modernize, we are in that much more trouble.

The last thing before I do a yield here. We are going to spend \$86 trillion, and I am partially doing this off the top of my head, over the next decade.

This budget reconciliation we are hoping to get, let's say we are blessed and we get \$2 trillion in offsets, so that creates a couple trillion dollars in additional borrowing, we are talking a fraction, a couple percent of the spending, Madam Chair.

I would argue this is the moment for us where it is not about cuts. If any of us has ever just even bothered to look at the MedPAC reports, and this was done by the Biden administration, we have potentially over a decade hundreds of billions of dollars in here that aren't going to services. They aren't going to make our brothers and sisters healthier.

Help us. Help us engage the morality of doing this better, faster, and cheaper.

Madam Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. VALADAO).

Mr. VALADAO. Madam Chair, I thank the gentleman from Arizona for yielding. I also thank Leader SCALISE for his time today.

We have a historic opportunity to advance the key priorities of this administration with a one-bill solution, and I fully agree we need to move forward in a way that reflects the needs of the American people.

This budget resolution unlocks the next step in the reconciliation process to deliver on our priorities. That includes extending key provisions of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, like doubling the standard deduction, expanding the child tax credit, and maintaining the death tax exemption. These policies make a real difference for working families, farmers, and small business owners, and allow them to keep more of their hard-earned money.

We also need to fulfill our commitment of securing our border, strengthening our economy, and rooting out fraud, waste, and abuse.

It is my understanding that after this resolution passes, House leadership will be working with the Senate to come to an agreement on reconciliation language so that the committees can begin drafting specific policies to achieve the administration's agenda.

There has been a lot of political rhetoric about what this upcoming budget resolution does and does not do, and I want to be clear about where I stand.

As a Representative of one of the most agriculturally rich districts in



the country, it is my constituents who are responsible for putting food on everyone's table. My district also has one of the highest Medicaid populations in the Nation.

I have heard from countless constituents who tell me the only way they can afford healthcare is through programs like Medicaid, and I will not support a final reconciliation bill that risks leaving them behind.

Medicaid cuts are deeply unpopular with the American families who sent us here to deliver on President Trump's agenda. I understand Medicaid is not explicitly named in this bill, but achieving \$880 billion in budget cuts within E&C's jurisdiction is not an easy task.

I also ask that leadership remain committed to working with my colleagues and me to produce a final product that strengthens critical programs like Medicaid and SNAP and ensures our constituents are not left behind.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Madam Chair, I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. SCALISE).

Mr. SCALISE. Madam Chair, I thank Mr. SCHWEIKERT for yielding and I thank the gentleman from California's Central Valley for his passion. He has been a vocal advocate for the things that are necessary to keep these programs like Medicaid strengthened. As we know, some of these programs are weakened right now. As we move this through the process, he surely has my commitment and that of all of leadership that we will continue to not only listen to him, but his district is going to have a very loud voice as this process moves forward to protect and make sure that people who are on these programs, who are deserving, and who need these programs are going to—frankly, we all ought to be focused on getting better services to these people and rooting out the waste, fraud, and abuse. That is what we are focused on, protecting those people who are on these programs who need them so desperately as Mr. VALADAO has fought for years to deliver. He will continue to do that, and we absolutely commit to that for him and others.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Madam Chairwoman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BEYER. Madam Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ), who is the distinguished ranking member of the Small Business Committee.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Madam Chair, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Chair, I rise today in strong opposition to this Republican rip-off. This budget slashes \$880 billion from Medicaid, putting 286,000 people in my district, including nearly 100,000 children, at risk of losing healthcare.

Madam Chair, cruelty is the point.

It also targets food assistance, leaving over 147,000 New Yorkers in my district struggling to afford meals.

Cruelty is the point.

Why?

All this to hand out trillions of dollars in tax breaks to the top 1 percent. Republicans tried this trick before in 2017. They promised it would raise wages, pay for itself, and boost the economy. It didn't.

Instead, it made the rich richer while working people fell further behind.

Now they are doubling down, making America sicker, poorer, and hungrier just to funnel more money to their billionaire donors.

This isn't fiscal responsibility. It is economic cruelty. Vote "no."

□ 1730

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Madam Chairwoman, economic literature and, actually, I think even the board here demonstrated that, if we go back to the original TCJA, over 70 percent of those corporate tax cuts show up in wages. That is one of the reasons there was such remarkable wage growth without inflation. If workers are cared for, tax policy becomes correct.

Madam Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. SCALISE).

Mr. SCALISE. Madam Chairwoman, I thank my friend from Arizona for yielding to me for 1 minute.

Madam Chair, I rise in strong support, first of all, of this budget resolution. It is a critically important piece of legislation. Frankly, it might be one of the most important resolutions that this Chamber has taken up in years to start the process of delivering on the mandate that President Trump and this House and Senate Republican majority got from the voters of America in November.

I understand that my friends on the other side of the aisle are upset with the voters of America that the minority lost the election. My Democratic colleagues are upset with the results. If everybody here listened to what the American people said in November, frankly, first of all, they would vote for this resolution because the resolution delivers on those commitments, the things that were talked about, the things that sent people to the polls that say: Let's finally get America back on track.

How do we do it? Number one, we start by staying off a \$4.5 trillion tax increase. That is \$4.5 trillion.

We have heard a lot of hyperbole over the last few days. Just here on this House floor, we have heard from the other side of the aisle, Madam Chair, about millionaires and billionaires. For some reason, it seems like, if somebody is successful in America, the other side of the aisle wants to demonize them, as if that is wrong.

Clearly, if Members read this resolution, this resolution is not about millionaires and billionaires. This resolution is about whether or not Congress is going to stand up for the middle class of America, who will be devastated if this resolution fails.

A lot of times, when we come to the House floor, Madam Chair, my col-

leagues can vote for or against a bill, and maybe the bill does good things. Maybe Members think the bill does bad things and nothing happens if they vote against the bill. Some days, nothing happening is a good day.

Today, if nothing happens, it is not nothing that happens. Let's be clear: Members have options, Madam Chair. They can vote "yes" to pass this resolution and get this process of budget reconciliation started, or they can vote "no," like all of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle brag that they are going to do.

If that is the case, Madam Chair, maybe I can persuade a few. Maybe Democrats don't know this because clearly my colleagues on the other side of the aisle haven't read the resolution. We hear Democrats talking about Medicaid over and over again: Cuts to Medicaid. Cuts to Medicaid.

Clearly, my colleagues haven't read the resolution because, if they read the resolution, the word "Medicaid" is mentioned a total of zero times in the resolution. That is all my colleagues on the other side of the aisle want to talk about.

If Democrats read the resolution, the minority would talk about what this does to engage 11 different committees in this Congress to start a process called budget reconciliation, where they will go into open hearings, on C-SPAN. Everybody in America can watch the deliberations, where there will be a discussion about how to get this country back on track. The people of this Nation are hungering for that.

They are not hungering for people yelling and screaming and telling lies and trying to scare people with false information. We are here to talk about facts, and the facts are that a "no" vote imposes \$4.5 trillion in taxes that primarily hit middle- and low-income families, not the millionaires and billionaires that my colleagues seem to want to demonize.

For example, President Trump was heard talking at every rally about no tax on tips. Clearly, the other side of the aisle was against that. They wanted everybody's taxes to go up. They said they were against renewing the Trump tax cuts, let alone adding things like no tax on tips. We know they were against making sure that those people who work for tips don't have to pay taxes on it.

Well, who are those people who work for tips? Madam Chair, last time I checked, Elon Musk does not work for tips. The billionaires aren't the ones working for tips. In fact, we went back and checked. There are over 6 million Americans in this country who actually do work for tips.

Madam Chair, what is their average salary? Is it \$1 million? Is it tens of millions? Is it \$1 billion? No. In fact, the average salary of tip workers is \$32,000 a year. That is who we are helping in this resolution.

Those tip workers who are struggling, some of them may be working

two or three jobs. They are not the millionaires and the billionaires. They might actually be able to take a family vacation for the first time if they don't have to pay a tax on tips and if the 87,000 new IRS agents who Democrats created in the last administration are not unleashed on them to go audit them, to try to make them pay more money on their tip money, which is what is happening. Madam Chair, we say: No, they shouldn't have to pay taxes on those tips.

The other side of the aisle says "no" to that. My colleagues hide behind Elon Musk and hide behind billionaires and millionaires, except it is not the millionaires and billionaires who we are trying to help.

Democratic Members want to confuse the voters of this country so that, when the minority votes "no," the middle class of America doesn't realize and revolt that Democrats just voted with their "no" vote to impose a \$4.5 trillion tax hike on the middle class of this country.

Look at the big number. Taxes on every income level go up. Madam Chair, for those who pay income taxes in America, if the other side of the aisle votes "no," everybody's income tax rate goes up.

Who are those folks? It is 145 million families. It is not 145 million people. I am talking about 145 million families in America who make less than \$1 million will see their taxes go up. It is a tax increase not on the millionaires and billionaires if my colleagues vote "no," but it is a tax increase primarily on middle- and lower-income families.

Why aren't Democrats telling us that? Why haven't Members said that on this House floor? It is because my Democratic colleagues don't want the American people to know the truth. The minority wants to create class warfare and try to divide the country against itself.

Shame on people who want to divide this country even more. It is time we unite this country and grow this country, grow the middle class, actually create more jobs and wealth and opportunity.

Madam Chair, as Mr. SCHWEIKERT pointed out earlier, and he has the charts to prove it, wealth and opportunity for lower and middle-income families is what happened in 2017 and beyond when we started with the Trump tax cuts.

Just because minority Members don't like the person whose name is behind those tax cuts, Democrats want to try to demonize him, but the facts still remain.

Who benefited the most? We were losing our middle class in America in the decade before we passed those tax cuts. Why? Go look at the record, the facts. We were losing great American company after great American company. They were moving out of America. They were leaving the country. Why is that? It is because we had the highest corporate tax rate in the world.

Madam Chair, the other side would say: Stick it to them even more. Raise tax rates even more.

Madam Chair, there are laboratories of democracy where that has been tried. It is called New York and California, and every time they keep raising rates, what happens? People move in droves. A million-plus people have left those States to go to other States, such as Texas, Florida, and Tennessee, where there is no income tax.

Sure, we are seeing it happen in America, but what happens if Democrats destroy America's system? Where do people go? Well, some of those people left America.

Madam Chair, we don't want that to happen. We actually brought companies back. The logos of all of them would be recognized if we put them up. There is too many to mention that left America over years and years, and nobody did anything about it. Everybody knew why it was happening. We made our country competitive again. How? It was by lowering tax rates.

Madam Chair, everybody should have been for that. Unfortunately, the Democratic Party back then said: We are going to vote "no" on that.

Every single Democrat voted "no." Why did my colleagues on the other side of the aisle make it a partisan issue? I don't know, but I know this: We lowered those tax rates to make America competitive.

We are a globally competing economy. Our companies in America don't just compete against the person down the street. They are competing against companies all over the globe, and we should applaud that. We shouldn't just applaud it, by the way; we should make sure they remain the most competitive businesses in the world and that America remains the most competitive country in the world, but we weren't. We were not.

That is why we were losing people. Imagine people saying: I am going to leave the United States of America, the greatest country in the history of the world. It is because our country stopped being competitive, and we finally did something about it.

In 2017, this Republican majority did something about it and finally brought those jobs back and brought wages up. Wages grew for everybody. Companies were giving out bonuses and pay raises. Our unemployment rate went to virtually zero. Those are the facts.

Democrats want those tax rates to go up. Not all of them expire. The corporate rate remains, by the way, competitively low at 21 percent. The corporate rate stays at 21 percent. Do my colleagues know what doesn't stay low if Democrats vote "no"? I am a "yes" vote because I want our country to be competitive. I want our small businesses to be able to be competitive with big businesses.

My Democratic colleagues love beating up on the big guy, but guess what the minority is going to do, and let's look at the facts.

Madam Chair, every small business in America is under a provisional tax code called 199A. If companies are not a small business, they probably have never heard of 199A. If they are a small business, a 20-person mom-and-pop shop on Main Street America, anywhere in this country, 199A is their lifeblood because that is what allows a small business, a 10-, 15-, 20-person American Dream story who started their own business, to now compete and pay the same tax rate as the big, global, multinational corporation who is at 21 percent.

Madam Chair, what happens if Democratic Members vote "no"? Again, the "no" vote does not mean nothing happens. If Members vote "no," they are saying they want the small business now to go from a 21 percent effective rate to as high as 43 percent in taxes.

Think about this: The mom-and-pop small business is barely hanging on. They have beaten all the internet competitors, and they are still able to hold onto those jobs, show up at work every day, and employ the 20 people or the 15 people that they are creating jobs for.

If the other side gets their way, that small business jacks up to a 43 percent tax rate when their competitor, the big, global, billionaire corporation, is still at 21 percent. That is what happens if Democrats vote "no."

Why haven't my colleagues said that during the debate? I haven't heard it yet. Again, all we hear about is the billionaires and the millionaires are the ones getting all the breaks, except it is not true, Madam Chair. It is just not true.

Every small business in America gets kicked in the gut if this fails. It will be every small business in America. Look at the numbers. This is over 20 million small businesses. Think of how many workers that is.

Do Democrats just want to kick all of those workers out to the street and to the unemployment rolls? If businesses are paying 43 percent and their competitor is paying 21 percent, one doesn't need a math degree to figure out how quickly they are not going to be able to compete.

We made them competitive in 2017. Why does the other side want to vote "no" and all of a sudden make every small business in America uncompetitive with the big billionaires? Madam Chair, Democratic Members are defending the billionaires. This is insanity, but that is the reality of what happens if Members vote "no."

Again, maybe by me going through the actual details, we might convince a couple of Members that maybe somebody duped them. Someone gave Members some talking points. Someone mentions the words "millionaire" and "billionaire" and, next thing we know, we have a parade of 200 people who will just line up and bash the resolution, except it is not in the resolution.

Do my colleagues want to stand up for the middle-class families of this country? Vote "yes" on the resolution because that is who we are defending.

Republicans are going to defend the ability for the next billionaire company maybe, but right now it is a dream in somebody's basement. This is what is great about America. If my Democratic colleagues haven't, they should go look at their favorite company. Go look at the biggest companies. Most of them started with a dream in somebody's garage in Silicon Valley.

I know a lot of entrepreneurs who started with great ideas and risked it all over and over again, and then ultimately they might have hit it big, but the only way they were able to hit it big is because they had the ability in the United States of America to turn that dream into a reality where now, all of a sudden, they might hire 300 people.

We ought to applaud that. We ought to celebrate that. We ought to make sure that remains in place. The day we take away that ability in the United States, God help us as a country because the few people who still want that dream but don't have America to go to pursue it, they might go to other places, but there just aren't that many other places in the world to pursue it.

We cannot crush the American Dream of America. It starts with strengthening the middle class and the lower income families' ability to compete with the big guys so that maybe one day they can be, and then they, too, will be demonized by the other side.

□ 1745

In the meantime, give them that ability to compete fairly, and you take that away if you vote "no" on this bill. Those are the facts.

Whose rates go up and whose rates don't if this bill fails? That is where we are.

I do think it is important to, one more time, go through the facts of the 2017 bill because so many lies have been told about that.

The poverty rate dropped to the lowest level in history. This isn't the millionaires and billionaires. When we passed the bill in 2017 that every Democrat voted no on, the poverty rate in America dropped to its lowest rate in history. Unemployment hit a 50-year low, and lower-income workers—not the millionaires and billionaires, lower-income workers—saw their wages grow substantially faster than the highest 10 percent of income earners.

Whose side are you going to be on today? We are going to give everybody an opportunity to stand up for those hardworking people who want their shot at the American Dream. Stand up for that waiter or waitress who is working their tail off tonight and who is going to come home and go: Wait a minute. I might not have to pay taxes on my tips. I can save that money and, for the first time, start a college fund for my kid.

It is not the millionaires and billionaires that benefit from that. It is the

average income worker. There are millions of them, by the way. The average income is \$32,000 a year. That is who House Republicans are fighting for, and we are going to deliver for them because that was the mandate that the people of this country gave us.

Whether you agree or not, whether you like Donald Trump or not, Donald Trump ran on very specific things, and he is delivering on those things. I applaud President Trump for actually following through on the promises that were made. Promises made and promises kept actually matter in this town, and they are rare. When it happens, we ought to applaud it.

When this majority actually delivers, we are going to see on that board real soon who actually stands with the 77 million people of this country who said we want this change, that we demand this change, and that we are going to go to the polls to vote for this change. Let's preserve the American Dream.

Yes, at the risk of offending a couple of people, I am fine with saying: Let's make America great again because America deserves to be great again.

Don't put a \$4.5 trillion tax on the middle class of this country. Let's let this country grow. Let's see opportunity flourish. We will do it. We need to pass this bill to start that process.

Mr. Chair, I urge all of my colleagues to vote "yes."

Mr. BEYER. Madam Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. BONAMICI), a member of the Education and Workforce Committee.

Ms. BONAMICI. Madam Chair, last week, I had five townhall meetings across northwest Oregon in urban, suburban, and rural areas. Not one person, not one of the thousands who attended, asked me to support a budget that cuts Medicaid, gives tax breaks to the wealthiest, raises the cost of living, or undermines safety and security, but that is what we are voting on today.

The Republicans are stealing the hard-earned tax dollars of Oregonians and Americans to line the pockets of people like Elon Musk.

This ruthless Republican budget will rip away healthcare from low-income and working families and children and take us back to the days when if you got sick, you either went without treatment or went bankrupt.

It could rip away resources from local schools and prevent children, especially students with disabilities, from getting a good education.

Republicans say they are eliminating waste. Do you want to talk about waste? Waste is giving the wealthiest big tax cuts while regular Americans are struggling to put food on the table.

The cost of groceries is increasing, wages continue to remain stagnant, and too many families can't afford housing or childcare. The Republican majority's answer is to rip you off and give tax breaks to the wealthiest and then hope, unrealistically, that it is going to trickle down.

We must oppose this Republican billionaire budget. We must focus instead

on the American people so everyone, not just those at the top, have the opportunity for a better future.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Madam Chair, may I inquire as to the time remaining.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Arizona has 9 minutes remaining. The gentleman from Virginia has 13½ minutes remaining.

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

Mr. BEYER. Madam Chair, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO), the ranking member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Chair, as the ranking member of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, I rise today in complete opposition to the Republican rip-off budget resolution.

Let's be clear: This is a tax break for billionaires like Elon Musk paid for by working people, including millions of our veterans. The Republican rip-off cuts at least \$880 billion from Medicaid, the program that 80 million Americans, including 9 million veterans, rely on for health insurance coverage.

This extreme budget also cuts \$230 billion from SNAP. Every year, SNAP helps almost 43 million Americans, including over 1 million veterans, put food on the table.

Republicans aren't just going to leave American veterans without healthcare or make them go hungry. They also want to take a chain saw to VA, attacking the very people who provide care to the veterans who have served our country with honor.

This is completely unacceptable, and I urge every Member to oppose this abomination of a resolution that uses veterans as a piggy bank to pay for a billionaire tax break.

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

Mr. BEYER. Madam Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. HORSFORD), a distinguished member of the Ways and Means Committee.

Mr. HORSFORD. Madam Chair, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Chair, I rise today not in favor or opposition. I rise in defense, defense of 811,000 Nevadans and countless people across the country whose lives are in danger. I rise in defense of my constituents who will be impacted if Republicans are able to slash their healthcare services to fund \$4.5 trillion to the ultrawealthy and big corporations.

Madam Chair, Nevada Democrats and Republicans worked together to implement the Affordable Care Act, including the expansion of Medicaid. We reduced the uninsured rate by a third, and 563,000 children were able to receive coverage as a result. The fact that Nevada did the right thing then means we have more to lose as Republicans do the wrong thing now.

Our State would be the third hardest hit, including in rural communities. This isn't a budget. It is the Republican screw America bill. That is why I

am calling on every Member of this body to vote "no." I will, in defense of my constituents.

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

Mr. BEYER. Madam Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. ESPAILLAT), a distinguished member of the Appropriations Committee.

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Madam Chair, very often, we take very serious votes on this floor, but this vote is a deadly serious vote. This is a vote about life and death.

I represent just slightly over 780,000 constituents. Out of those 780,000 constituents, 524,000 of them are Medicaid recipients, and over 100,000 of them are Medicare recipients, so over 600,000 of the 780,000 constituents who I represent receive either Medicaid or Medicare. In addition to that, there are 263,000 households that receive food stamps.

This bill would put their lives and health in danger, Madam Chair. This is about life and death.

As the Republican majority proposes to cut Medicaid across this country to give a massive \$4.5 trillion, with a capital T, trillion-dollar cut in taxes to the very rich, who would that go to? Fifty percent of that will go to the shareholders. Forty-four percent of that tax cut will go to high-end executives.

The fat cat executives are going to get this money, and working-class and even middle-class people are going to get stiffed with the cuts.

This is about life and death. It is not a simple piece of legislation that we will pass. There are diabetics who will see the price of insulin go up. There are people with renal problems and cardiovascular problems.

Madam Chair, this is about life and death. Vote "no" on this bill.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Madam Chair, let me have just a couple of moments of joy here. A reconciliation budget that only touches individuals and pass-through businesses, so there are no shareholders who are getting—that is actually already locked in.

That is one of the reasons we are doing this is because you want to see distortions in the economy, have a world where small businesses, passthroughs, employee-owned, their taxes shoot up, but the C corporations are down here. What distortion did you just create in the world?

I am a C corporation. I am buying everyone else. You want to see the big get bigger? It is one of the reasons you have to do this. Also, I beg my brothers and sisters, have a different view but actually just try to get the most basic facts correct here.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BEYER. Madam Chair, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ), a distinguished and unenviable member of the Rules Committee.

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Madam Chair, Republicans are attacking wom-

en's ability to afford life as a mom or a daughter.

Medicaid supports more than 40 percent of all births in the United States.

Our grandmothers and parents in nursing homes rely on Medicaid to pay their health bills. Their caregivers, who are mostly women, depend on Medicaid themselves.

Over 37 million children rely on Medicaid and CHIP. Republicans would strip this essential healthcare from women across the country. Why? To give tax breaks to their billionaire bros.

Women need to know how they will be impacted wherever they live.

Earlier today, we heard Representative VALADAO acknowledge that his voters depend on Medicaid and are upset. Indeed, 507,000 of his constituents receive Medicaid, but he said he will vote "yes" on the bill.

I need women across the country to visit the Democratic Women's Caucus website to find out how these cuts will impact them and how much money billionaires and millionaires will make from women's economic pain.

Republicans should stand with their moms and not the billionaires.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Madam Chair, apparently, the Democratic position is the \$2,000 you get per child, which was the doubling of the child tax credit in 2017, should go away and go back to the \$1,000? Wow. I think that is what I just heard.

Those of us who have adopted kids, those who have children, congratulations, your child tax credit is going to get cut in half.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1800

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

With respect to my friend from Arizona, that is not what I heard. We heard that this budget resolution, as put together, promises cuts that we are desperately afraid of.

When we do the math, in Congressman SCHWEIKERT's district, Arizona 1, people who count on SNAP to put food on the table are 85,000; Medicaid recipients at risk of losing their healthcare, 127,000; Affordable Care Act recipients who will see their premium payments go up by varying amounts, 44,000. We would love to see a budget worked out that somehow gives a lie to those frightening numbers.

Madam Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. MIN), a distinguished member of the Joint Economic Committee.

Mr. MIN. Madam Chair, I rise today in opposition to the disastrous GOP budget resolution.

This bill seeks to cut \$3 trillion in spending, supposedly by targeting waste and fraud, but the entire domestic discretionary budget is only \$917 billion, and that simply doesn't add up. There is only one way to get to \$3 trillion in cuts, and that is to slash lifeline

programs, including nearly \$1 trillion in cuts to Medicaid.

Under the GOP budget, over 136,000 of my constituents would lose their healthcare, including over 42,000 children. This budget would also take food away from hungry children and deny healthcare to sick veterans.

Why are House Republicans pushing such an immoral and cruel agenda?

It is not to reduce our deficits. In fact, their budget adds nearly \$1.6 trillion a year to our debt.

No, it is to pass tax cuts for billionaires and foreign investors. In fact, over \$350 billion of these same tax cuts went to foreign investors over the last 10 years.

Let's be clear: If this budget passes, kids are going to go to bed hungry so that we can give more money to Elon Musk and investors from Saudi Arabia, China, and Russia. This is immoral. It is wrong.

Madam Chair, I urge my colleagues to oppose this horrible budget measure.

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

Mr. BEYER. Madam Chair, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. VASQUEZ), a distinguished member of the Agriculture Committee and Armed Services Committee.

Mr. VASQUEZ. Madam Chair, I thought Republicans' plans were to make Americans' lives better. I thought we were supposed to lower the cost of goods. I thought we were supposed to make healthcare more affordable for Americans.

Well, let me tell you this: When you strip healthcare away from 290,000 New Mexicans, many of which are in my district, including 132,000 children and 26,000 seniors, can anybody on the other side of the aisle tell me how is that making life better for my constituents and for New Mexicans?

Well, it is not going to.

In fact, this Republican budget is going to raise healthcare premiums by nearly \$1,000 a year for 20,000 people in my district. It could force a 60-year-old couple to pay over \$16,000 more annually for coverage.

Now, in my district and in my State, we have some of the best service records of veterans in this entire country. In fact, we are home to the Code Talkers. We are home to folks who have served our country with pride and with dignity for so many years that when I look at the cuts that are being made to the VA healthcare system, I am ashamed of what this body is doing. I am ashamed of what my colleagues across the aisle are doing.

When I go home and I talk to a working mother, a person who wakes up at 7 in the morning and works two jobs every day and has to send her kid to school and relies on the food programs just to keep her family healthy, just to have something in the stomach of that 7-year-old who is going to first grade, and to know that their food assistance programs could get taken away, we are doing the exact opposite of what Republicans promised that they would do for this country.

This budget is a statement of where we are at as a country, and this is the wrong statement that we are making.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Chairman, I would inquire once again on how much time is remaining.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. SIMPSON). The gentleman from Arizona has 7½ minutes remaining.

The gentleman from Virginia has 4½ minutes remaining.

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

Mr. Chair, just as some of my Democratic colleagues have done, I was just thumbing through the actual document. I know this is crazy, and literacy being sort of a lost art, but I am trying to find where this heresy, these cuts are.

There is a discussion here that basically says we need not to just purely stick this on the debt and deficit. Okay.

In the Energy and Commerce instruction, I think it is 4 percent of the area of authorization, you are telling me after the hundreds of hours idiots like me have come behind this microphone and done presentations showing the distortions, the waste and fraud, the misallocations, the lack of use of technology, the duplications, you can't produce 4 percent?

Why is the left so terrified of the moment where maybe a document that forces us in some ways to listen to each other, to maybe say: How do we do this better, faster, cheaper? I am going to say this three or four more times. Does the left really want to raise taxes on the average American family by \$2,853? Is that the plan here?

This says that 63 percent of those who are tax filers will see their taxes go up. Is that the plan here?

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

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

Let me just respond to my good friend from Arizona. No, that is not what Democrats want. We don't want to see taxes go up for average, middle-class Americans at all. This is what our budget experts say, based on the budget resolution before us, as my friend Mr. SCHWEIKERT knows well: To achieve significant cuts, the kind of cuts that you are talking about, inevitably we have to look at Medicaid, Medicare, and Social Security.

We look at the fact that in Virginia, just eliminating Medicaid Advantage is 660,000 Virginians. We see that 46 percent of the children in America receive their healthcare through Medicaid. When we look at Medicare, it is beyond belief what that would do.

I am looking forward to somehow seeing how you achieve the massive budget cuts that are in this resolution without touching those. That is why you have heard so much concern today about what this will do to the average American people.

It is not that we don't want to revisit not raising taxes on the American pub-

lic. We also just don't want to cut away their healthcare, their SNAP benefits, their ability to put food on the table, and the like.

Mr. Chair, I am ready to close when the distinguished chair of the Joint Economic Committee tells me it is time. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Chairman, just because I want to help out—because I know this is heresy around here. Truly one of my favorite Members to work with, even though we are on different sides of the aisle, he may want to retract the words “Social Security,” which he just said, because he knows Social Security cannot be allowed in any of this package.

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Chair, I will be happy to retract. I also notice that our anxiety about Social Security will not go away.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Oh, no. Who else has been working for a decade now to save it?

Remember, in 2033, about halfway through the year, the trust fund is gone. Is that a Republican or a Democratic problem? I would say it is a morality problem. We will be doubling senior poverty in America in 8 years.

How often are we allowed to come talk about it?

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

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

In doing so, let me first begin by saying that my good friend, JOHN LARSON, on the Ways and Means Committee has for years promoted Social Security 2100, which would actually fix it for the rest of this century.

Mr. Chairman, President Trump and the Republican majority were elected last November to deliver on a simple promise, to lower costs for Americans. Unfortunately, this budget does not do that.

My Republican friends have decided that providing billions of dollars in tax breaks for a few millionaires and billionaires is worth ordinary Americans bearing, as Elon Musk put it last year, some temporary hardship. That hardship brought about by this budget will come in many forms and may not mean much to the richest man in history, but it will certainly mean a lot to ordinary people.

It will grow our debt by \$4.6 trillion. It will lead to higher interest rates and raising prices on goods that Americans pay for every day. It will cut crucial government services that keep us safe, healthy, and productive. It will strip healthcare and food assistance from tens of millions of Americans who are already struggling to make ends meet.

What are Americans getting in exchange for this hardship? Tax cuts for billionaires and corporations that they do not need and that our country cannot afford.

Mr. Chair, this is a bad deal. I urge all of my colleagues to reject this proposal. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Chairman, I am prepared to close, but I would like to inquire on how much time is remaining.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Arizona has 5 minutes remaining.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself the balance of my time to close. I know it is painful to listen to an idiot like me for 5 minutes, but let's have some fun here.

First, I want to say to everyone who has spoken, I love the passion and I love the caring. I just, once again, have to come back. This is a reconciliation budget. It basically builds boxes. This box here is for your authorization. You can go more, but you can't go less. Okay.

I am on the other side. I actually believe there should be more cuts in spending because I think we can achieve that by modernization, changing processes, and the adoption of technology.

Last week, I believe I was behind this very microphone, and we were showing charts of, hey, this is Medicare, how many billions and billions do we spend every year on duplicative MRIs, ultrasounds, x-rays? Does that make someone healthier? Does that make them better? No. It is basically waste and fraud.

We have the ability to use technology to get rid of that. If we all agreed to do something like that, then we are going to get rid of these duplicative services. We are going to get rid of some of the—we like to say waste and fraud, but the fact of the matter is there are design problems in the model. You didn't cut a single service. You didn't take anything away from someone, but what you gave is my kids a chance to survive.

Look, part of this I don't like. I am going to be brutally honest. I wish there were more cuts. I don't like the amount of borrowing here, but if this is the moment that opens up a chance for someone like myself, who has spent a decade here passionately trying to say it doesn't have to be cuts. It is actually the adoption of technology.

I am going to go slightly off track, then I want to get back into the distribution. If I turn to my brothers and sisters and anyone willing to listen right now, what is the single biggest cost in our society? This is where SCHWEIKERT soaks himself in kerosene and plays with matches, Mr. Chair.

It turns out it is obesity. For our brothers and sisters, we calculate there will be over \$9 trillion in additional healthcare costs over the next decade. What would happen if the left and the right actually said we are going to fixate on the way we deliver healthcare, the way we deliver nutrition support, the way we do agriculture policy, that we are going to help our brothers and sisters be healthier, and, by the way, family formation, the use of healthcare, the ability to have a life.

Maybe it is moments like this where we go to battle in the committees. We

have really smart people, but armies of lobbyists outside these hallways look at us and stress out when we start saying it is time to modernize, time to find a better, faster, more elegant way to deliver services and slow down the piling of debt because the math still comes back to 63 percent of our tax-paying brothers and sisters will see their taxes go up.

Now, for the comments you have heard over and over here about the distributional effects. Okay. Mr. BEYER and I are both on Ways and Means and battle in the committee.

Remember, there is no bill coming out of the committee yet. What is it going to look like? Do we actually have to make elegant changes? Are there things we can agree on as a body that will maximize economic growth?

At some point you have got to look—and I am sorry I have beaten up this chart, but we have been trying to model what happens to the economy if we allow these tax hikes to come in automatically.

It turns out the economy is also benefited if we maximize how much we pay for at the end of 10 years. I know changing spending policy is hard, but if we were to maximize both, at the end of the decade we are more prosperous.

Mr. Chairman, at some point that is the ultimate question here: Is prosperity moral? Is there a way we can actually do our work here where we maximize the prosperity for my 2½-year-old but also the person heading to retirement, to our brothers and sisters who are out there working their hearts out? There is a way.

The hardest part is we are going to have to do things differently than we have done in the past.

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

Mr. CAREY. Mr. Chair, today's vote marks an essential step towards fulfilling our promise to the American people—to extend the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, secure funding for border protection, and move toward American energy independence.

After enduring significant inflation, American families and small businesses urgently need tax relief to make ends meet.

We must pass our budget resolution today to start the budget reconciliation process and advance the policies our American families expect and desperately need.

It includes much-needed deficit reduction, for which our children and grandchildren will be grateful. It will allow us to extend the successful tax cuts from 2017 that produced unprecedented job growth and higher wages for American workers.

This is only the first step in a process where everyone will have a voice. But it's a significant step toward American success and security, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

The Acting CHAIR. All time for general debate has expired. Pursuant to the rule, the amendment printed in House Report 119-5 is adopted and the concurrent resolution, as amended, is considered read.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

#### H. CON. RES. 14

*Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring),*

#### SECTION 1. CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025.

(a) DECLARATION.—The Congress determines and declares that prior concurrent resolutions on the budget are replaced as of fiscal year 2025 and that this concurrent resolution establishes the budget for fiscal year 2025 and sets forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2026 through 2034.

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

Sec. 1. Concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2025.

#### TITLE I—RECOMMENDED LEVELS AND AMOUNTS

Sec. 1001. Recommended levels and amounts.  
Sec. 1002. Major functional categories.

#### TITLE II—RECONCILIATION AND RELATED MATTERS

Sec. 2001. Reconciliation in the House of Representatives.

#### TITLE III—RESERVE FUND AND DEFICIT REDUCTION ADJUSTMENT

Sec. 3001. Reserve fund for reconciliation legislation in the House of Representatives.  
Sec. 3002. Adjustment for spending cuts of at least \$2 trillion.

#### TITLE IV—POLICY STATEMENTS

Sec. 4001. Policy statement on economic growth.  
Sec. 4002. Policy statement on mandatory spending reduction.  
Sec. 4003. Policy statement on Government deregulation.

#### TITLE V—OTHER MATTERS

Sec. 5001. Enforcement filing in the House of Representatives.  
Sec. 5002. Budgetary treatment of administrative expenses in the House of Representatives.  
Sec. 5003. Application and effect of changes in allocations, aggregates, and other budgetary levels.  
Sec. 5004. Adjustments to reflect changes in concepts and definitions in the House of Representatives.  
Sec. 5005. Adjustment for changes in the baseline.  
Sec. 5006. Exercise of rulemaking powers.

#### TITLE I—RECOMMENDED LEVELS AND AMOUNTS

#### SEC. 1001. RECOMMENDED LEVELS AND AMOUNTS.

The following budgetary levels are appropriate for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2034:

(1) FEDERAL REVENUES.—For purposes of the enforcement of this concurrent resolution:

(A) The recommended levels of Federal revenues are as follows:

Fiscal year 2025: \$3,408,969,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2026: \$3,766,668,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2027: \$4,066,393,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2028: \$4,186,847,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2029: \$4,309,831,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2030: \$4,508,641,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2031: \$4,730,270,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2032: \$4,938,712,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2033: \$5,172,643,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2034: \$5,410,030,000,000.

(B) The amounts by which the aggregate levels of Federal revenues should be changed are as follows:

Fiscal year 2025: -\$450,000,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2026: -\$450,000,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2027: -\$450,000,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2028: -\$450,000,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2029: -\$450,000,000,000.

Fiscal year 2030: -\$450,000,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2031: -\$450,000,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2032: -\$450,000,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2033: -\$450,000,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2034: -\$450,000,000,000.

(2) NEW BUDGET AUTHORITY.—For purposes of the enforcement of this concurrent resolution, the appropriate levels of total new budget authority are as follows:

Fiscal year 2025: \$5,515,610,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2026: \$5,605,352,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2027: \$5,744,975,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2028: \$5,999,399,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2029: \$6,173,475,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2030: \$6,494,898,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2031: \$6,748,868,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2032: \$7,048,096,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2033: \$7,438,116,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2034: \$7,610,582,000,000.

(3) BUDGET OUTLAYS.—For purposes of the enforcement of this concurrent resolution, the appropriate levels of total budget outlays are as follows:

Fiscal year 2025: \$5,490,790,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2026: \$5,623,085,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2027: \$5,821,621,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2028: \$6,088,332,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2029: \$6,164,293,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2030: \$6,484,545,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2031: \$6,720,491,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2032: \$6,983,637,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2033: \$7,401,699,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2034: \$7,529,256,000,000.

(4) DEFICITS.—For purposes of the enforcement of this concurrent resolution, the amounts of the deficits are as follows:

Fiscal year 2025: \$2,081,821,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2026: \$1,856,417,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2027: \$1,755,228,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2028: \$1,901,485,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2029: \$1,854,462,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2030: \$1,975,904,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2031: \$1,990,221,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2032: \$2,044,925,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2033: \$2,229,056,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2034: \$2,119,226,000,000.

(5) DEBT SUBJECT TO LIMIT.—The appropriate levels of debt subject to limit are as follows:

Fiscal year 2025: \$37,660,656,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2026: \$39,839,449,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2027: \$41,752,932,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2028: \$43,721,320,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2029: \$45,725,094,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2030: \$47,646,893,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2031: \$49,490,401,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2032: \$51,311,359,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2033: \$53,342,100,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2034: \$55,566,372,000,000.

(6) DEBT HELD BY THE PUBLIC.—The appropriate levels of debt held by the public are as follows:

Fiscal year 2025: \$30,430,405,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2026: \$32,469,082,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2027: \$34,395,037,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2028: \$36,452,960,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2029: \$38,403,594,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2030: \$40,444,544,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2031: \$42,449,786,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2032: \$44,476,114,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2033: \$46,612,129,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2034: \$48,599,876,000,000.

#### SEC. 1002. MAJOR FUNCTIONAL CATEGORIES.

Congress determines and declares that the appropriate levels of new budget authority and outlays for fiscal years 2025 through 2034 for each major functional category are:

(1) National Defense (050):

Fiscal year 2025:

(A) New budget authority, \$888,044,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$883,821,000,000.

Fiscal year 2026:

(A) New budget authority, \$913,263,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$895,830,000,000.

Fiscal year 2027:

(A) New budget authority, \$935,345,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$913,493,000,000.



Fiscal year 2028:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$956,694,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$940,299,000,000.

Fiscal year 2029:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$979,049,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$950,598,000,000.

Fiscal year 2030:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$1,002,337,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$977,233,000,000.

Fiscal year 2031:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$1,026,119,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$996,535,000,000.

Fiscal year 2032:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$1,050,408,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$1,016,235,000,000.

Fiscal year 2033:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$1,076,299,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$1,050,728,000,000.

Fiscal year 2034:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$1,101,659,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$1,067,701,000,000.

(2) International Affairs (150):

Fiscal year 2025:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$65,962,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$69,206,000,000.

Fiscal year 2026:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$64,270,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$68,458,000,000.

Fiscal year 2027:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$64,856,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$68,013,000,000.

Fiscal year 2028:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$66,169,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$64,433,000,000.

Fiscal year 2029:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$67,655,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$65,177,000,000.

Fiscal year 2030:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$69,175,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$65,601,000,000.

Fiscal year 2031:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$70,699,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$66,643,000,000.

Fiscal year 2032:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$72,220,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$67,916,000,000.

Fiscal year 2033:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$73,809,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$69,332,000,000.

Fiscal year 2034:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$75,431,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$70,768,000,000.

(3) General Science, Space, and Technology (250):

Fiscal year 2025:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$42,084,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$41,734,000,000.

Fiscal year 2026:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$43,056,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$42,483,000,000.

Fiscal year 2027:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$44,011,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$43,166,000,000.

Fiscal year 2028:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$44,881,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$43,781,000,000.

Fiscal year 2029:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$45,834,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$44,611,000,000.

Fiscal year 2030:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$46,835,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$45,450,000,000.

Fiscal year 2031:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$47,840,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$46,405,000,000.

Fiscal year 2032:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$48,853,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$47,377,000,000.

Fiscal year 2033:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$49,907,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$48,391,000,000.

Fiscal year 2034:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$50,997,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$49,436,000,000.

(4) Energy (270):

Fiscal year 2025:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$39,842,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$37,587,000,000.

Fiscal year 2026:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$40,172,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$44,518,000,000.

Fiscal year 2027:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$43,579,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$52,928,000,000.

Fiscal year 2028:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$44,493,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$52,542,000,000.

Fiscal year 2029:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$45,633,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$51,237,000,000.

Fiscal year 2030:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$44,014,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$47,297,000,000.

Fiscal year 2031:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$45,460,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$46,521,000,000.

Fiscal year 2032:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$50,176,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$48,864,000,000.

Fiscal year 2033:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$35,184,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$34,040,000,000.

Fiscal year 2034:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$27,122,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$26,021,000,000.

(5) Natural Resources and Environment (300):

Fiscal year 2025:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$88,219,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$90,074,000,000.

Fiscal year 2026:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$89,760,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$90,428,000,000.

Fiscal year 2027:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$83,830,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$91,282,000,000.

Fiscal year 2028:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$85,498,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$91,754,000,000.

Fiscal year 2029:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$87,319,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$92,172,000,000.

Fiscal year 2030:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$88,970,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$92,442,000,000.

Fiscal year 2031:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$91,016,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$92,640,000,000.

Fiscal year 2032:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$92,975,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$91,686,000,000.

Fiscal year 2033:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$95,254,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$93,640,000,000.

Fiscal year 2034:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$97,211,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$94,831,000,000.

(6) Agriculture (350):

Fiscal year 2025:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$58,457,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$41,846,000,000.

Fiscal year 2026:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$59,875,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$58,018,000,000.

Fiscal year 2027:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$64,092,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$61,792,000,000.

Fiscal year 2028:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$66,014,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$64,140,000,000.

Fiscal year 2029:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$66,999,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$63,775,000,000.

Fiscal year 2030:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$65,213,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$62,065,000,000.

Fiscal year 2031:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$65,516,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$62,226,000,000.

Fiscal year 2032:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$66,979,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$63,432,000,000.

Fiscal year 2033:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$68,738,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$64,825,000,000.

Fiscal year 2034:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$70,130,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$66,347,000,000.

(7) Commerce and Housing Credit (370):

Fiscal year 2025:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$12,477,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, -\$18,175,000,000.

Fiscal year 2026:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$33,817,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, -\$207,000,000.

Fiscal year 2027:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$29,807,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$8,387,000,000.

Fiscal year 2028:  
 (A) New budget authority, -\$55,092,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, -\$64,213,000,000.

Fiscal year 2029:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$27,308,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$17,149,000,000.

Fiscal year 2030:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$27,501,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$14,043,000,000.

Fiscal year 2031:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$27,776,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$9,486,000,000.

Fiscal year 2032:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$28,233,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$6,788,000,000.

Fiscal year 2033:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$22,118,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, -\$2,412,000,000.

Fiscal year 2034:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$31,836,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$4,308,000,000.

(8) Transportation (400):

Fiscal year 2025:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$173,158,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$144,771,000,000.

Fiscal year 2026:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$176,249,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$154,625,000,000.

Fiscal year 2027:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$178,411,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$162,925,000,000.

Fiscal year 2028:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$180,607,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$171,610,000,000.

Fiscal year 2029:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$182,610,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$175,967,000,000.

Fiscal year 2030:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$179,144,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$174,442,000,000.

Fiscal year 2031:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$181,099,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$178,314,000,000.

Fiscal year 2032:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$189,966,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$187,367,000,000.

Fiscal year 2033:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$192,692,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$191,213,000,000.

Fiscal year 2034:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$195,495,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$194,754,000,000.

(9) Community and Regional Development (450):

Fiscal year 2025:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$87,762,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$78,752,000,000.

Fiscal year 2026:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$89,366,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$69,845,000,000.

Fiscal year 2027:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$91,267,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$74,426,000,000.

Fiscal year 2028:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$92,897,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$75,604,000,000.

Fiscal year 2029:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$94,812,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$77,850,000,000.

Fiscal year 2030:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$96,811,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$82,903,000,000.

Fiscal year 2031:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$98,774,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$86,364,000,000.

Fiscal year 2032:

(A) New budget authority, \$100,621,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$88,685,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2033:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$102,711,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$90,723,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2034:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$104,818,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$93,005,000,000.  
 (10) Education, Training, Employment, and Social Services (500):  
 Fiscal year 2025:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$149,303,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$171,916,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2026:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$152,714,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$151,605,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2027:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$155,153,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$150,979,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2028:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$157,971,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$152,819,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2029:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$160,952,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$155,502,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2030:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$163,865,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$158,383,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2031:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$166,854,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$161,312,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2032:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$170,223,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$164,486,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2033:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$173,784,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$167,792,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2034:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$176,834,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$170,876,000,000.  
 (11) Health (550):  
 Fiscal year 2025:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$945,070,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$961,180,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2026:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$992,460,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$976,705,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2027:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$1,021,428,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$1,021,884,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2028:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$1,056,522,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$1,053,318,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2029:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$1,099,999,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$1,095,100,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2030:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$1,144,066,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$1,133,456,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2031:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$1,177,723,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$1,176,648,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2032:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$1,228,051,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$1,218,203,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2033:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$1,278,134,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$1,267,299,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2034:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$1,311,280,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$1,300,233,000,000.  
 (12) Medicare (570):  
 Fiscal year 2025:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$950,891,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$950,641,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2026:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$1,007,431,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$1,009,161,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2027:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$1,067,229,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$1,066,832,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2028:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$1,210,420,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$1,208,952,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2029:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$1,126,357,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$1,125,928,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2030:

(A) New budget authority, \$1,276,602,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$1,276,291,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2031:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$1,358,554,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$1,358,476,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2032:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$1,445,982,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$1,445,966,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2033:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$1,664,590,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$1,664,595,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2034:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$1,667,328,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$1,667,321,000,000.  
 (13) Income Security (600):  
 Fiscal year 2025:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$712,446,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$709,132,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2026:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$702,007,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$699,086,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2027:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$703,592,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$698,238,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2028:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$722,280,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$721,948,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2029:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$724,420,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$710,279,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2030:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$743,824,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$735,068,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2031:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$757,021,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$747,723,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2032:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$775,456,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$765,416,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2033:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$796,775,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$793,408,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2034:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$805,597,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$795,238,000,000.  
 (14) Social Security (650):  
 Fiscal year 2025:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$67,259,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$67,259,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2026:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$81,690,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$81,690,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2027:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$89,447,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$89,447,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2028:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$94,419,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$94,419,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2029:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$100,138,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$100,138,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2030:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$106,208,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$106,208,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2031:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$112,114,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$112,114,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2032:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$118,485,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$118,485,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2033:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$125,325,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$125,325,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2034:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$132,539,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$132,539,000,000.  
 (15) Veterans Benefits and Services (700):  
 Fiscal year 2025:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$361,349,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$357,760,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2026:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$382,625,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$378,862,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2027:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$404,665,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$401,379,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2028:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$427,402,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$444,309,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2029:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$447,832,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$422,387,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2030:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$466,693,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$461,795,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2031:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$486,796,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$481,715,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2032:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$507,269,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$502,734,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2033:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$528,816,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$548,814,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2034:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$550,747,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$547,878,000,000.  
 (16) Administration of Justice (750):  
 Fiscal year 2025:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$83,111,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$85,235,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2026:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$90,002,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$87,682,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2027:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$89,047,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$87,256,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2028:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$91,066,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$89,499,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2029:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$93,553,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$91,849,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2030:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$96,019,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$94,292,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2031:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$98,328,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$96,277,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2032:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$105,979,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$103,293,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2033:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$108,710,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$105,827,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2034:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$111,020,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$108,460,000,000.  
 (17) General Government (800):  
 Fiscal year 2025:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$10,089,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$37,960,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2026:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$30,678,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$38,289,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2027:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$32,078,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$38,267,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2028:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$33,007,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$37,965,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2029:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$33,784,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$37,804,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2030:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$34,628,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$37,998,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2031:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$35,261,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$37,038,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2032:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$36,204,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$36,321,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2033:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$36,975,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$36,772,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2034:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$37,697,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$37,281,000,000.  
 (18) Net Interest (900):  
 Fiscal year 2025:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$1,027,694,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$1,027,694,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2026:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$1,090,880,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$1,090,880,000,000.

Fiscal year 2027:

(A) New budget authority, \$1,160,719,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$1,160,719,000,000.

Fiscal year 2028:

(A) New budget authority, \$1,250,257,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$1,250,257,000,000.

Fiscal year 2029:

(A) New budget authority, \$1,328,362,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$1,328,362,000,000.

Fiscal year 2030:

(A) New budget authority, \$1,399,636,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$1,399,636,000,000.

Fiscal year 2031:

(A) New budget authority, \$1,475,634,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$1,475,634,000,000.

Fiscal year 2032:

(A) New budget authority, \$1,551,786,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$1,551,786,000,000.

Fiscal year 2033:

(A) New budget authority, \$1,619,496,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$1,619,496,000,000.

Fiscal year 2034:

(A) New budget authority, \$1,693,863,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$1,693,863,000,000.

(19) Allowances (920):

Fiscal year 2025:

(A) New budget authority, \$0.  
(B) Outlays, \$0.

Fiscal year 2026:

(A) New budget authority, \$0.  
(B) Outlays, \$0.

Fiscal year 2027:

(A) New budget authority, \$0.  
(B) Outlays, \$0.

Fiscal year 2028:

(A) New budget authority, \$0.  
(B) Outlays, \$0.

Fiscal year 2029:

(A) New budget authority, \$0.  
(B) Outlays, \$0.

Fiscal year 2030:

(A) New budget authority, \$0.  
(B) Outlays, \$0.

Fiscal year 2031:

(A) New budget authority, \$0.  
(B) Outlays, \$0.

Fiscal year 2032:

(A) New budget authority, \$0.  
(B) Outlays, \$0.

Fiscal year 2033:

(A) New budget authority, \$0.  
(B) Outlays, \$0.

Fiscal year 2034:

(A) New budget authority, \$0.  
(B) Outlays, \$0.

(20) Government-Wide Savings (930):

Fiscal year 2025:

(A) New budget authority, -\$120,000,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, -\$120,000,000,000.

Fiscal year 2026:

(A) New budget authority, -\$299,849,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, -\$179,763,000,000.

Fiscal year 2027:

(A) New budget authority, -\$375,694,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, -\$231,910,000,000.

Fiscal year 2028:

(A) New budget authority, -\$384,958,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, -\$263,939,000,000.

Fiscal year 2029:

(A) New budget authority, -\$393,736,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, -\$296,185,000,000.

Fiscal year 2030:

(A) New budget authority, -\$407,056,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, -\$330,476,000,000.

Fiscal year 2031:

(A) New budget authority, -\$419,698,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, -\$357,567,000,000.

Fiscal year 2032:

(A) New budget authority, -\$431,652,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, -\$381,290,000,000.

Fiscal year 2033:

(A) New budget authority, -\$445,094,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, -\$402,008,000,000.

Fiscal year 2034:

(A) New budget authority, -\$460,001,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, -\$420,590,000,000.

(21) Undistributed Offsetting Receipts (950):

Fiscal year 2025:

(A) New budget authority, -\$127,603,000,000.

(B) Outlays, -\$127,603,000,000.

Fiscal year 2026:

(A) New budget authority, -\$135,110,000,000.

(B) Outlays, -\$135,110,000,000.

Fiscal year 2027:

(A) New budget authority, -\$137,883,000,000.

(B) Outlays, -\$137,883,000,000.

Fiscal year 2028:

(A) New budget authority, -\$141,145,000,000.

(B) Outlays, -\$141,165,000,000.

Fiscal year 2029:

(A) New budget authority, -\$145,400,000,000.

(B) Outlays, -\$145,407,000,000.

Fiscal year 2030:

(A) New budget authority, -\$149,582,000,000.

(B) Outlays, -\$149,581,000,000.

Fiscal year 2031:

(A) New budget authority, -\$154,014,000,000.

(B) Outlays, -\$154,013,000,000.

Fiscal year 2032:

(A) New budget authority, -\$160,114,000,000.

(B) Outlays, -\$160,113,000,000.

Fiscal year 2033:

(A) New budget authority, -\$166,102,000,000.

(B) Outlays, -\$166,101,000,000.

Fiscal year 2034:

(A) New budget authority, -\$171,015,000,000.

(B) Outlays, -\$171,014,000,000.

(22) Across-the-Board Adjustment (990):

Fiscal year 2025:

(A) New budget authority, -\$4,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$0.

Fiscal year 2026:

(A) New budget authority, -\$4,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$0.

Fiscal year 2027:

(A) New budget authority, -\$4,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$0.

Fiscal year 2028:

(A) New budget authority, -\$4,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$0.

Fiscal year 2029:

(A) New budget authority, -\$4,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$0.

Fiscal year 2030:

(A) New budget authority, -\$4,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$0.

Fiscal year 2031:

(A) New budget authority, -\$4,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$0.

Fiscal year 2032:

(A) New budget authority, -\$4,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$0.

Fiscal year 2033:

(A) New budget authority, -\$5,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$0.

Fiscal year 2034:

(A) New budget authority, -\$5,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$0.

## TITLE II—RECONCILIATION AND RELATED MATTERS

### SEC. 2001. RECONCILIATION IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

(a) SUBMISSIONS.—Not later than March 27, 2025, the committees named in subsection (b) and subsection (c) shall submit their recommendations on changes in laws within their jurisdictions to the Committee on the Budget of the House of Representatives to carry out this section.

(b) INSTRUCTIONS.—

(1) COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE.—The Committee on Agriculture shall submit changes in laws within its jurisdiction to reduce the deficit by not less than \$230,000,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2025 through 2034.

(2) COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES.—The Committee on Armed Services shall submit changes in laws within its jurisdiction that increase the deficit by not more than \$100,000,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2025 through 2034.

(3) COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE.—The Committee on Education and Workforce shall submit changes in laws within its jurisdiction to reduce the deficit

by not less than \$330,000,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2025 through 2034.

(4) COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE.—The Committee on Energy and Commerce shall submit changes in laws within its jurisdiction to reduce the deficit by not less than \$880,000,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2025 through 2034.

(5) COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES.—The Committee on Financial Services shall submit changes in laws within its jurisdiction to reduce the deficit by not less than \$1,000,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2025 through 2034.

(6) COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY.—The Committee on Homeland Security shall submit changes in laws within its jurisdiction that increase the deficit by not more than \$90,000,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2025 through 2034.

(7) COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY.—The Committee on the Judiciary shall submit changes in laws within its jurisdiction that increase the deficit by not more than \$110,000,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2025 through 2034.

(8) COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES.—The Committee on Natural Resources shall submit changes in laws within its jurisdiction to reduce the deficit by not less than \$1,000,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2025 through 2034.

(9) COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM.—The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform shall submit changes in laws within its jurisdiction to reduce the deficit by not less than \$50,000,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2025 through 2034.

(10) COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE.—The Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure shall submit changes in laws within its jurisdiction to reduce the deficit by not less than \$10,000,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2025 through 2034.

(11) COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS.—The Committee on Ways and Means shall submit changes in laws within its jurisdiction that increase the deficit by not more than \$4,500,000,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2025 through 2034.

(c) INCREASE IN STATUTORY DEBT LIMIT.—The Committee on Ways and Means shall submit changes in laws within its jurisdiction that increase the statutory debt limit by \$4,000,000,000,000.

## TITLE III—RESERVE FUND AND DEFICIT REDUCTION ADJUSTMENT

### SEC. 3001. RESERVE FUND FOR RECONCILIATION LEGISLATION IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In the House of Representatives, the chair of the Committee on the Budget may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for any bill or joint resolution considered pursuant to section 2001 containing the recommendations of one or more committees, or for one or more amendments to, a conference report on, or an amendment between the Houses in relation to such a bill or joint resolution, by the amounts necessary to accommodate the budgetary effects of the legislation, if the budgetary effects of the legislation comply with the reconciliation instructions under this concurrent resolution.

(b) DETERMINATION OF COMPLIANCE.—For purposes of this section, compliance with the reconciliation instructions under this concurrent resolution shall be determined by the chair of the Committee on the Budget of the House of Representatives.

**SEC. 3002. ADJUSTMENT FOR SPENDING CUTS OF AT LEAST \$2 TRILLION.**

(a) **ADJUSTMENT IF DEFICIT REDUCTION TARGET NOT ACHIEVED.**—If one or more committees of the House of Representatives submit reconciliation recommendations pursuant to paragraphs (1), (3), (4), (5), (8), (9), or (10) of section 2001(b) and such recommendations do not, in total, achieve at least \$2,000,000,000,000 in net deficit reduction over the period of fiscal years 2025 through 2034, the chair of the Committee on the Budget of the House shall reduce—

(1) the \$4,500,000,000,000 reconciliation instruction for the Committee on Ways and Means under section 2001(b)(11);

(2) the allocations to the Committee on Ways and Means under section 302(a) of the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 633(a));

(3) the aggregates of budget authority, outlays, and revenues; and

(4) any other appropriate level in this concurrent resolution, by an amount equal to the difference between \$2,000,000,000,000 and the total dollar amount of such recommendations.

(b) **ADJUSTMENT IF DEFICIT REDUCTION TARGET EXCEEDED.**—If one or more committees of the House of Representatives submit reconciliation recommendations pursuant to paragraphs (1), (3), (4), (5), (8), (9), or (10) of section 2001(b) and such recommendations, in total, achieve at least \$2,000,000,000,000 in net deficit reduction over the period of fiscal years 2025 through 2034, the chair of the Committee on the Budget of the House shall increase the levels described in paragraphs (1) through (4) of subsection (a) by an amount equal to the difference between the total dollar amount of such recommendations and \$2,000,000,000,000.

(c) **CERTIFICATION REQUIRED FOR ADJUSTMENT.**—No adjustment may be made under subsection (a) or subsection (b) unless the chair of the Committee on the Budget of the House, using cost estimates provided by the Congressional Budget Office and the Joint Committee on Taxation (as appropriate), certifies in writing that the applicable reconciliation recommendations—

(1) with respect to subsection (a), do not achieve net deficit reduction of at least \$2,000,000,000,000 over the period of fiscal years 2025 through 2034; or

(2) with respect to subsection (b), achieve net deficit reduction of at least \$2,000,000,000,000 over the period of such fiscal years.

(d) **RECONCILIATION INSTRUCTION FOR WAYS AND MEANS.**—The dollar amount resulting from any adjustment made under this section to the reconciliation instruction for the Committee on Ways and Means under paragraph (11) of section 2001(b) shall be substituted for “\$4,500,000,000,000” in such section and shall be deemed the reconciliation instructions for such Committee under such section. Any recommendations on changes in law within the jurisdiction of the Committee shall be consistent with the goals of this concurrent resolution, including with respect to spending reduction, tax policy changes, reforms, or other measures deemed appropriate by the chair of the Committee on the Budget of the House.

(e) **CONSISTENCY WITH THE RESOLUTION.**—Any reconciliation recommendations receiving an allocation adjustment under this section shall not be considered in violation of the budgetary levels established by this concurrent resolution.

**TITLE IV—POLICY STATEMENTS****SEC. 4001. POLICY STATEMENT ON ECONOMIC GROWTH.**

(a) **FINDINGS.**—The House finds the following:

(1) The rate of economic growth has a significant impact on budget deficits. When the rate of gross domestic product (GDP) increases, projected revenue grows with it and deficits decline. Conversely, slower GDP growth can lead to lagging revenues and mounting deficits.

(2) Federal policies affect the economy’s potential to grow and impact economic performance, influencing budgetary outcomes. Consequently, fiscally responsible policies that improve the economy’s long-term growth prospects help reduce the size of budget deficits over a given period.

(3) The free market, where individuals pursue their own self-interests, has been responsible for greater advancements in quality of life and generation of wealth than any other form of economic system. Federal policies designed to grow the economy should thus allow market forces to operate unhindered rather than pick “winners” and “losers”.

(b) **POLICY ON ECONOMIC GROWTH.**—It is the policy of this concurrent resolution to pursue policies that embrace the free market and promote economic growth policies that—

(1) reduce Federal spending;

(2) expand American energy production;

(3) lower taxes that discourage work, savings, and investment;

(4) deregulate the economy and enact reforms to diminish bureaucratic red tape; and

(5) eliminate barriers to work so more Americans enter (or reenter) the job market.

**SEC. 4002. POLICY STATEMENT ON MANDATORY SPENDING REDUCTION.**

(a) **FINDINGS.**—The House finds the following:

(1) The United States faces a significant debt crisis, with the national debt currently exceeding \$36 trillion, or 123 percent of GDP.

(2) Since 2019, mandatory spending has increased by 59 percent.

(3) This debt poses a significant risk to the country’s long-term fiscal sustainability, with implications for future generations.

(4) Mandatory spending currently accounts for over 70 percent of the entire Federal budget.

(5) The deficit for fiscal year 2025 is projected to be \$1.9 trillion, or 6.2 percent of GDP.

(6) This fiscal year, net interest will total \$952 billion, or 3.2 percent of GDP.

(b) **POLICY ON MANDATORY SPENDING REDUCTION.**—It is the goal of this concurrent resolution to reduce mandatory spending by \$2 trillion over the budget window. If the combined deficit reduction provided by authorizing committees is below this target, it is the policy of the Committee on the Budget of the House that the instruction provided to the Committee on Ways and Means of the House should be reduced by a commensurate amount to offset the difference.

**SEC. 4003. POLICY STATEMENT ON GOVERNMENT DEREGULATION.**

(a) **FINDINGS.**—The House finds the following:

(1) Regulations throughout the Federal Government have been a major issue for decades, continuously growing while negatively impacting the nation’s economic and fiscal standing.

(2) Overregulation has consistently hurt small businesses, strangled domestic energy production, weakened labor market conditions, and expanded government overreach and costs on taxpayers.

(3) Real (inflation-adjusted) spending on regulatory agencies has increased exponentially since 1960. The total number of pages in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) has increased from 22,877 pages in 1960 to nearly 200,000 today. When compared to 1950, the CFR contained only 9,745 pages in 1950, making the size of the CFR today 95% larger than it was in 1950.

(b) **POLICY STATEMENT ON GOVERNMENT DEREGULATION.**—It is the policy of this concurrent resolution—

(1) that Congress continues to examine ways to relieve the burdens of overregulation throughout the Federal Government;

(2) that Congress is ready to promote initiatives that will reduce government bureaucracy, enhance Federalism, and increase economic prosperity through deregulation;

(3) to not only reduce burdensome, costly regulations, but to also reassert the role of Congress; and

(4) to enact legislation through reconciliation that strengthens Congress, scales back Federal regulations, limits future bureaucratic red tape, and unleashes economic growth, such as the Regulations from the Executive in Need of Scrutiny (REINS) Act.

**TITLE V—OTHER MATTERS****SEC. 5001. ENFORCEMENT FILING IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.**

In the House of Representatives, if a concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2025 is adopted without the appointment of a committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses with respect to this concurrent resolution on the budget, for the purpose of enforcing the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 621 et seq.) and applicable rules and requirements set forth in the concurrent resolution on the budget, the allocations provided for in this section shall apply in the House of Representatives in the same manner as if such allocations were in a joint explanatory statement accompanying a conference report on the budget for fiscal year 2025. The chair of the Committee on the Budget of the House of Representatives shall submit a statement for publication in the Congressional Record containing—

(1) for the Committee on Appropriations, committee allocations for fiscal year 2025 consistent with title I for the purpose of enforcing section 302 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 633); and

(2) for all committees other than the Committee on Appropriations, committee allocations consistent with title I for fiscal year 2025 and for the period of fiscal years 2025 through 2034 for the purpose of enforcing section 302 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 633).

**SEC. 5002. BUDGETARY TREATMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—In the House of Representatives, notwithstanding section 302(a)(1) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 633(a)(1)), section 13301 of the Budget Enforcement Act of 1990 (2 U.S.C. 632 note), and section 2009a of title 39, United States Code, the report or the joint explanatory statement accompanying this concurrent resolution on the budget or the statement filed pursuant to section 5001, as applicable, shall include in an allocation under section 302(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 633(a)) to the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives amounts for the discretionary administrative expenses of the Social Security Administration and the United States Postal Service.

(b) **SPECIAL RULE.**—In the House of Representatives, for purposes of enforcing section 302(f) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 633(f)), estimates of the level of total new budget authority and total outlays provided by a measure shall include any discretionary amounts described in subsection (a).

**SEC. 5003. APPLICATION AND EFFECT OF CHANGES IN ALLOCATIONS, AGGREGATES, AND OTHER BUDGETARY LEVELS.**

(a) APPLICATION.—Any adjustments of allocations, aggregates, and other budgetary levels made pursuant to this concurrent resolution shall—

(1) apply while that measure is under consideration;

(2) take effect upon the enactment of that measure; and

(3) be published in the Congressional Record as soon as practicable.

(b) EFFECT OF CHANGED ALLOCATIONS, AGGREGATES, AND OTHER BUDGETARY LEVELS.—Revised allocations, aggregates, and other budgetary levels resulting from these adjustments shall be considered for the purposes of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 621 et seq.) as the allocations, aggregates, and other budgetary levels contained in this concurrent resolution.

(c) BUDGET COMMITTEE DETERMINATIONS.—For purposes of this concurrent resolution, the levels of new budget authority, outlays, direct spending, new entitlement authority, revenues, deficits, and surpluses for a fiscal year or period of fiscal years shall be determined on the basis of estimates made by the chair of the Committee on the Budget of the applicable House of Congress.

(d) AGGREGATES, ALLOCATIONS AND APPLICATION.—In the House of Representatives, for purposes of this concurrent resolution and budget enforcement, the consideration of any bill or joint resolution, or amendment thereto or conference report thereon, for which the chair of the Committee on the Budget makes adjustments or revisions in the allocations, aggregates, and other budgetary levels of this concurrent resolution shall not be subject to the point of order set forth in clause 10 of rule XXI of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

**SEC. 5004. ADJUSTMENTS TO REFLECT CHANGES IN CONCEPTS AND DEFINITIONS IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.**

In the House of Representatives, the chair of the Committee on the Budget may adjust the appropriate aggregates, allocations, and other budgetary levels in this concurrent resolution for any change in budgetary concepts and definitions consistent with section 251(b)(1) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 901(b)(1)).

**SEC. 5005. ADJUSTMENT FOR CHANGES IN THE BASELINE.**

In the House of Representatives, the chair of the Committee on the Budget may adjust the allocations, aggregates, and other appropriate budgetary levels in this concurrent resolution to reflect changes resulting from the Congressional Budget Office's updates to its baseline for fiscal years 2025 through 2034.

**SEC. 5006. EXERCISE OF RULEMAKING POWERS.**

Congress adopts the provisions of this title—

(1) as an exercise of the rulemaking power of the Senate and the House of Representatives, respectively, and as such they shall be considered as part of the rules of each House or of that House to which they specifically apply, and such rules shall supersede other rules only to the extent that they are inconsistent with such other rules; and

(2) with full recognition of the constitutional right of either the Senate or the House of Representatives to change those rules (insofar as they relate to that House) at any time, in the same manner, and to the same extent as is the case of any other rule of the Senate or House of Representatives.

The Acting CHAIR. Under the rule, the committee rises.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr.

WOMACK) having assumed the chair, Mr. SIMPSON, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 14) establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2025 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2026 through 2034, and, pursuant to House Resolution 161, he reported the concurrent resolution, as amended by that resolution, back to the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the rule, the previous question is ordered.

Pursuant to clause 1(c) of rule XIX, further consideration of H. Con. Res. 14 is postponed.

□ 1815

**ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE**

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed. Votes will be taken in the following order:

The motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 788;

Adoption of H. Con. Res. 14; and

The motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 804.

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

**DOE AND SBA RESEARCH ACT**

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 788) to provide for Department of Energy and Small Business Administration joint research and development activities, 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 Texas (Mr. WILLIAMS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 427, nays 3, not voting 3, as follows:

[Roll No. 48]

YEAS—427

Adams  
Aderholt  
Aguilar  
Alford  
Allen  
Amodei (NV)  
Ansari  
Arrington  
Auchincloss  
Babin  
Bacon  
Baird  
Balderson  
Balint

Barr  
Barragán  
Barrett  
Baumgartner  
Bean (FL)  
Beatty  
Begich  
Bell  
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  
DeBene  
Deluzio  
DeSaulnier  
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  
Fitzgerald  
Fitzpatrick  
Fleischmann  
Fletcher  
Flood  
Fong  
Foster  
Foushee  
Fox  
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  
Gonzalez, V.  
Gooden  
Goodlander  
Gosar  
Gottheimer  
Graves  
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)  
Higgins (LA)  
Hill (AR)  
Himes  
Hinson  
Horsford  
Houchin  
Houlahan  
Hoyer  
Hoyle (OR)  
Hudson  
Huffman  
Huizenga  
Hunt  
Hurd (CO)  
Issa  
Ivey  
Jack  
Jackson (IL)  
Jackson (TX)  
Jacobs  
James  
Jayapal  
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  
Kustoff  
LaHood  
LaLota  
LaMalfa  
Landsman  
Langworthy  
Larsen (WA)  
Larson (CT)  
Latimer  
Latta  
Lawler  
Lee (FL)  
Lee (NV)  
Lee (PA)  
Leger Fernandez  
Letlow  
Levin  
Liccardo  
Lieu  
Lofgren  
Loudermilk  
Lucas  
Luna

Luttrell  
Lynch  
Mace  
Mackenzie  
Magaziner  
Malliotakis  
Maloy  
Mann  
Mannion  
Massie  
Mast  
Matsui  
McBath  
McBride  
McCaul  
McClain  
McClain Delaney  
McClellan  
McCollum  
McCormick  
McDonald Rivet  
McDowell  
McGarvey  
McGovern  
McGuire  
McIver  
Meeks  
Menendez  
Meng  
Messmer  
Meuser  
Mfume  
Miller (IL)  
Miller (OH)  
Miller (WV)  
Miller-Meeks  
Mills  
Min  
Moolenaar  
Moore (AL)  
Moore (NC)  
Moore (UT)  
Moore (WI)  
Moore (WV)  
Moran  
Morelle  
Morrison  
Moskowitz  
Moulton  
Mrvan  
Murphy  
Nadler  
Neal  
Neguse  
Nehls  
Newhouse  
Norcross  
Norman  
Nunn (IA)  
Oberholte  
Ocasio-Cortez  
Ogles  
Olszewski  
Omar  
Onder  
Owens  
Pallone  
Palmer  
Panetta  
Pappas  
Pelosi  
Perez  
Peters  
Pfluger  
Pingree  
Pocan  
Pou  
Pressley  
Quigley  
Ramirez  
Randall  
Raskin  
Reschenthaler  
Riley (NY)  
Rivas  
Rogers (AL)  
Rogers (KY)  
Rose  
Ross  
Rouzer  
Ruiz  
Rulli  
Rutherford  
Ryan  
Salazar  
Salinas  
Sánchez  
Scalise  
Scanlon

□ 1924

Mr. PERRY changed his vote from "yea" to "nay."

Messrs. GOSAR, GREEN of Texas, Ms. HOYLE of Oregon, and Mr. FIGURES changed their 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.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). 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. 804) to require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to improve access to disaster assistance for individuals located in rural areas, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 415, nays 8, not voting 10, as follows:

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

Rulli	Stansbury	Turner (OH)
Rutherford	Stanton	Turner (TX)
Ryan	Stauber	Underwood
Salazar	Stefanik	Valadao
Salinas	Steil	Van Drew
Sánchez	Steube	Van Dwyne
Scalise	Stevens	Van Orden
Scanlon	Strickland	Vargas
Schakowsky	Strong	Vasquez
Schmidt	Stutzman	Veasey
Schneider	Subramanyam	Velázquez
Scholten	Suozzi	Vindman
Schrier	Swalwell	Wagner
Schweikert	Sykes	Walberg
Scott (VA)	Takano	Wasserman
Scott, Austin	Taylor	Schultz
Scott, David	Tenney	Waters
Sessions	Thandekar	Watson Coleman
Sewell	Thompson (CA)	Weber (TX)
Sherman	Thompson (MS)	Webster (FL)
Sherrill	Thompson (PA)	Westernan
Shreve	Tiffany	Whitesides
Simon	Timmons	Wied
Simpson	Titus	Williams (GA)
Smith (MO)	Tlaib	Williams (TX)
Smith (NE)	Tokuda	Wilson (FL)
Smith (NJ)	Tonko	Wilson (SC)
Smith (WA)	Torres (CA)	Wittman
Smucker	Torres (NY)	Womack
Sorensen	Trahan	Yakym
Soto	Tran	Zinke

Biggs (AZ)	Gill (TX)	Roy
Brecheen	Norman	Self
Burlison	Perry	

Cole	Issa	Rogers (AL)
Gonzales, Tony	Kaptur	Spartz
Green (TN)	Luna	
Grijalva	Mullin	

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.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 1(c) of rule XIX, further proceedings on the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 14) establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2025 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2026 through 2034, will now resume.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

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

Under clause 10 of rule XX, the yeas and nays are ordered.

This is a 15-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 217, nays 215, not voting 1, as follows:

Aderholt	Barrett	Boebert
Alford	Baumgartner	Bost
Allen	Bean (FL)	Brecheen
Amodei (NV)	Begich	Bresnahan
Arrington	Bentz	Buchanan
Babin	Bergman	Burchett
Bacon	Bice	Burlison
Baird	Biggs (AZ)	Calvert
Balderson	Biggs (SC)	Cammack
Barr	Bilirakis	Carey



Carter (GA)	Hill (AR)	Nehls	Krishnamoorthi	Neal	Smith (WA)
Carter (TX)	Hinson	Newhouse	Landsman	Neguse	Sorensen
Ciscomani	Houchin	Norman	Larsen (WA)	Norcross	Soto
Cline	Hudson	Nunn (IA)	Larson (CT)	Ocasio-Cortez	Stansbury
Cloud	Huizenga	Oberholte	Lattimer	Olshewski	Stanton
Clyde	Hunt	Ogles	Lee (NV)	Omar	Stevens
Cole	Hurd (CO)	Onder	Lee (PA)	Pallone	Strickland
Collins	Issa	Owens	Leger Fernandez	Panetta	Subramanyam
Comer	Jack	Palmer	Levin	Pappas	Suozi
Crane	Jackson (TX)	Perry	Liccardo	Pelosi	Swalwell
Crank	James	Pfluger	Lieu	Perez	Sykes
Crawford	Johnson (LA)	Reschenthaler	Lofgren	Peters	Takano
Crenshaw	Johnson (SD)	Rogers (AL)	Lynch	Pettersen	Thanedar
Davidson	Jordan	Rogers (KY)	Magaziner	Pingree	Thompson (CA)
De La Cruz	Joyce (OH)	Rose	Mannion	Pocan	Thompson (MS)
DesJarlais	Joyce (PA)	Rouzer	Massie	Pou	Titus
Diaz-Balart	Kean	Roy	Matsui	Pressley	Tlaib
Donalds	Kelly (MS)	Rulli	McBath	Quigley	Tokuda
Downing	Kelly (PA)	Rutherford	McBride	Ramirez	Tonko
Dunn (FL)	Kennedy (UT)	Salazar	McClain Delaney	Randall	Torres (CA)
Edwards	Kiggans (VA)	Scalise	McClellan	Raskin	Torres (NY)
Ellzey	Kiley (CA)	Schmidt	McCollum	Riley (NY)	Traban
Emmer	Kim	Schweikert	McDonald Rivet	Rivas	Tran
Estes	Knott	Scott, Austin	McGarvey	Ross	Turner (TX)
Evans (CO)	Kustoff	Self	McGovern	Ruiz	Underwood
Ezell	LaHood	Sessions	McIver	Ryan	Vargas
Fallon	LaLota	Shreve	Meeks	Salinas	Vasquez
Fedorchak	LaMalfa	Simpson	Menendez	Sánchez	Veasey
Feenstra	Langworthy	Smith (MO)	Meng	Scanlon	Velazquez
Finstad	Latta	Smith (NE)	Mfume	Schakowsky	Vindman
Fischbach	Lawler	Smith (NJ)	Min	Schneider	Wasserman
Fitzgerald	Lee (FL)	Smucker	Moore (WI)	Scholten	Schultz
Fitzpatrick	Letlow	Spartz	Morelle	Schrier	Waters
Fleischmann	Loudermilk	Staubert	Morrison	Scott (VA)	Watson Coleman
Flood	Lucas	Stefanik	Moskowitz	Scott, David	Whitesides
Fong	Luna	Steil	Moulton	Sewell	Williams (GA)
Foxx	Luttrell	Steube	Mrvan	Sherman	Wilson (FL)
Franklin, Scott	Mace	Strong	Mullin	Sherrell	
Fry	Mackenzie	Stutzman	Nadler	Simon	
Fulcher	Malliotakis	Taylor			
Garbarino	Maloy	Tenney			
Gill (TX)	Mann	Thompson (PA)			
Jimenez	Mast	Tiffany			
Goldman (TX)	McCaul	Timmons			
Gonzales, Tony	McClain	Turner (OH)			
Gooden	McClintock	Valadao			
Gosar	McCormick	Van Drew			
Graves	McDowell	Van Dyne			
Green (TN)	McGuire	Van Orden			
Greene (GA)	Messmer	Wagner			
Griffith	Meuser	Walberg			
Grothman	Miller (IL)	Weber (TX)			
Guest	Miller (OH)	Webster (FL)			
Guthrie	Miller (WV)	Westerman			
Hageman	Miller-Meeks	Wied			
Hamadeh (AZ)	Mills	Williams (TX)			
Haridopolos	Moolenaar	Wilson (SC)			
Harrigan	Moore (AL)	Wittman			
Harris (MD)	Moore (NC)	Womack			
Harris (NC)	Moore (UT)	Yakym			
Harshbarger	Moore (WV)	Zinke			
Hern (OK)	Moran				
Higgins (LA)	Murphy				

NAYS—215

Adams	Cohen	Garamendi
Aguilar	Conaway	Garcia (CA)
Amo	Connolly	Garcia (IL)
Ansari	Correa	Garcia (TX)
Auchincloss	Costa	Gillen
Balint	Courtney	Goldin (ME)
Barragán	Craig	Goldman (NY)
Beatty	Crockett	Gomez
Bell	Crow	Gonzalez, V.
Bera	Cuellar	Goodlander
Beyer	Davidson (KS)	Gottheimer
Bishop	Davis (IL)	Gray
Bonamici	Davis (NC)	Green, Al (TX)
Boyle (PA)	Dean (PA)	Harder (CA)
Brown	DeGette	Hayes
Brownley	DeLauro	Himes
Budzinski	DelBene	Horsford
Bynum	Deluzio	Houlihan
Carbajal	DeSaulnier	Hoyer
Carson	Dexter	Hoyle (OR)
Carter (LA)	Dingell	Huffman
Casar	Doggett	Ivey
Case	Elfreth	Jackson (IL)
Casten	Escobar	Jacobs
Castor (FL)	Españillat	Jayapal
Castro (TX)	Evans (PA)	Jeffries
Cherfilus-	Fields	Johnson (GA)
McCormick	Figures	Johnson (TX)
Chu	Fletcher	Kamlager-Dove
Cisneros	Foster	Kaptur
Clark (MA)	Foushee	Keating
Clarke (NY)	Frankel, Lois	Kelly (IL)
Cleaver	Friedman	Kennedy (NY)
Clyburn	Frost	Khanna

As we mourn this breathtaking loss, we pray for Officer Duarte and extend our deepest condolences to his family, fellow officers, loved ones, and all who were fortunate enough to have crossed his path.

May his bravery remain at the forefront and his legacy endure. His dedication to duty, tireless service, and selfless sacrifice set the standard by which we should all be judged. Let us honor him by remembering the immense price of safety and peace.

May God bless Andrew.

At this time, I ask the House to observe a moment of silence.

#### RECOGNIZING PUBLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

(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 to recognize Public Schools Week.

Approximately 9 out of 10 American students receive their education from a public school. Our public school system, envisioned by our Founding Fathers, is meant to give every child, regardless of ZIP Code, background, or ability, access to a quality education.

These schools provide knowledge and skills that allow our young people to thrive and contribute to our communities.

As a senior member of the Education and Workforce Committee, a former school board member, and having attended public schools growing up, I understand the vital role our school system plays in the success of not only the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania but also our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, as part of Public Schools Week, I also want to acknowledge and recognize the tireless efforts of educators and staff who work each day to inspire and to support our students.

Every child deserves access to a high-quality education which helps foster growth and encourages students to achieve their great potential.

□ 2030

#### HONORING RONELLE MUSTIN

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

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, during Black History Month, I rise today to honor Ronelle Mustin, a fearless champion for justice whose activism has shaped movements and transformed communities.

Ronelle was a founding force behind the first organization to demand sanctions against South Africa's apartheid regime.

In 1979, as co-chair of the Chicago Peace Council, he fought to curb excessive U.S. military spending and redirect resources to those in need.

NOT VOTING—1

Grijalva

□ 2019

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

So the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

#### MOMENT OF SILENCE HONORING OFFICER ANDREW DUARTE

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

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, this past Saturday, February 22, 2025, beautiful York County, Pennsylvania, was shaken by a horrific act of violence.

Officer Andrew Duarte of the West York Borough Police Department was killed in the line of duty while responding to an active shooter at UPMC Memorial hospital at York, which also included a hostage situation that wounded five other individuals.

Officer Duarte demonstrated extraordinary courage, with no regard for his own personal safety, as he ran to the sounds of the guns and as he put himself in harm's way to protect others. He paid the ultimate price to protect the innocent.

This serves as yet another stark reminder of the selfless and tireless dedication of our law enforcement officers who put their lives on the line each day to keep us safe.

On Monday, I spoke to the chief, Chief Millsaps, who told me that Officer Duarte's last act, as he laid dying and bleeding out, was to pull one of his injured fellow officers to safety and behind the line of fire. “Thank you” will never be enough.

Ronelle's impact runs deep in Chicago. As a key architect of the 22nd Ward Independent Political Organization, Ronelle helped pave the way for Harold Washington's historic election as the city's first Black mayor in 1983.

For decades, he has been a relentless advocate for equity, justice, and true representation. His work has empowered countless voices and strengthened our democracy.

Mr. Speaker, Ronelle's legacy is one of courage and conviction. I thank him for his unwavering dedication to justice and for his friendship.

#### 500 DAYS SINCE OCTOBER 7 ATTACK

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

Mr. ROSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the many families still grieving from the heinous assault that claimed 1,200 innocent lives on October 7, 2023.

Last Monday marked 500 days since Hamas terrorists perpetrated the unprovoked and truly evil attack. It was the deadliest assault on Israel and the Jewish community since the Holocaust.

I commend President Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu for their efforts to secure the recent ceasefire agreement. Because of their collaboration, we are seeing some of the 240 hostages being released, including Americans.

I urge my colleagues to keep the events of that horrific day top of mind. It is imperative that the United States show unwavering support for Israel and the Jewish community so that Hamas terrorists or any other bad actors never attempt another attack on our closest ally in the Middle East, Israel.

#### IT IS TIME TO LOWER COSTS

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

Ms. BYNUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask: When are prices going down?

I was told that this would be priority number one for this administration and Speaker MIKE JOHNSON, but I have yet to have a chance to vote on a single piece of legislation that actually lowers costs.

I am hearing from my constituents over and over and over and over again that their grocery bills are too high, that they can't afford to buy a home, and that their paycheck just doesn't go as far as it used to.

We need to be doing more to help families get by instead of focusing on petty partisan politics. I have said over and over again my focus is lower costs, more jobs, and a better quality of life for Oregonians and that I will work with anyone to get that done. I am pur-

suage all of that by co-leading bipartisan legislation to help rural small businesses, by advocating for funding for my district, and by actually listening to my constituents. It is time for others to do the same.

#### HONORING DIANA TAURASI

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

Mr. STANTON. Mr. Speaker, today is bittersweet. Diana Taurasi of the Phoenix Mercury announced her retirement.

DT is the greatest professional athlete in Arizona sports history—fight me on that one—with three NCAA championships, three WNBA championships, and six Olympic Gold Medals and as the WNBA's all-time leading scorer. There is a reason when I was mayor I named the street in front of the arena Taurasi Way.

A world-class and hilarious trash-talker on the court, she could have been a professional comedian. She lights up every room that she is in, constantly uplifting others. Brittney Griner could not have asked for a more loyal friend during her detainment in Russia.

I had a courtside seat to her entire 21-year career in Phoenix. I saw her grow as a basketball player and as a tremendous leader in our community.

My son, Trevor, grew up idolizing Diana Taurasi. He wanted to be her when he grew up, but one day, I had to tell him: Son, you can't grow up to be Diana Taurasi. Her jump shot is just too darn good.

Dee, on behalf of a grateful city, Godspeed on your retirement.

#### HONORING GERALDINE THOMPSON

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

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise with a heavy heart to honor the loss of a giant, Florida State Senator Geraldine Thompson. She was a trailblazer, historian, and fierce advocate who worked every day to uplift Floridians, ensuring that nobody was left behind.

For nearly 20 years in the Florida Legislature, she broke barriers and created opportunities, especially for Black communities and those often overlooked.

Senator Thompson was unapologetic, courageous, and a force for good like no other. She paved the way for people like me to be in a job like this. She believed in the promise of this country and fought to make it a reality for everybody.

Senator Thompson's contributions to Florida and really to this country will never be forgotten, and her spirit will live on in the work she championed and in all of us who she inspired.

May she rest in power. Thank you so much, Senator Thompson.

#### AANHPI HISTORY AND BLACK HISTORY BONDED TOGETHER

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

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, Black history has shaped our country, and I am proud to celebrate Black History Month with my Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus colleagues.

The coalition of Asian American, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islanders, and Black Americans has worked hand-in-hand for generations to advance racial equality. That coalition was on full display during Martin Luther King, Jr.'s historic march from Selma to Montgomery in 1965 when he wore a lei gifted to him by Reverend Abraham Akaka of Hawaii.

It existed even on the battlefield. Senator Daniel Inouye was a proud and decorated member of the legendary 442nd Infantry Regiment. He recalled how he sustained injuries in combat, which resulted in the loss of his arm, and that it was soldiers from the 92nd Division, a segregated African-American unit, who provided him with the blood for the 17 transfusions that kept him alive.

AANHPI history and Black history are inextricably tied together and, in the case of Senator Inouye, a blood bond uniting our two communities together.

#### HONORING CIVIL RIGHTS ICON BARBARA ROSE JOHNS

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

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as we honor February as Black History Month.

I think of the students at Waterford's Second Street School in my district, a one-room schoolhouse established 2 years after the end of the Civil War where kids studied under segregation.

I think of Barbara Rose Johns, a civil rights icon from Virginia. Barbara's high school was dilapidated and overcrowded. At just 16, she led her classmates in a walkout, inspiring the Virginia NAACP to sue for integration. The walkout sparked one of five cases reviewed by the Supreme Court in the landmark *Brown v. Board of Education* decision.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to say that Barbara Johns will soon have a statue just steps from this Chamber, alongside George Washington, representing the Commonwealth of Virginia.

As a country, we have come a long way since Barbara Rose Johns' high school was integrated, but we can't let our country slide back.

We will continue to fight and honor the work and legacies of Barbara Johns and all who fought for a more perfect Union.

### CELEBRATING ALLYSHIP OF BLACK AND AAPI COMMUNITY

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

Ms. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, I have the distinct honor of being the only Black and Korean person serving in the U.S. House of Representatives.

As I stand with my colleagues from CAPAC in recognition of Black History Month, I celebrate the long history and importance of allyship in the Black and AAPI community.

From when Frederick Douglass denounced the Chinese Exclusion Act in 1869 to Jesse Jackson taking a stand and taking time away from his Presidential campaign to protest the murder of Vincent Chin to when AAPI groups stood with the Black community after the murder of George Floyd, today we continue that fight.

As the Republican majority seeks to cut Medicaid, which 11 million Black and 4.5 million AAPI Americans rely on, we know that we have a lot in common, and when we work together, we can be powerful and strong and use our voices.

On cutting SNAP food assistance, 30 percent of recipients are Black or AAPI. We must continue to stand together to use our voices, to use our political power, and to show up.

As this administration seeks to attack the civil rights that our ancestors fought for, we must let everyone know that the Black experience and the Asian American experience are indeed the American experience.

### COMMEMORATING THE HOLIDAY BOWL

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

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. Mr. Speaker, there is a longstanding allyship between the Black and Asian communities in L.A. exemplified by the Holiday Bowl, once located in the heart of my district.

Founded by five Japanese Americans in 1957, the Holiday Bowl served everyone but had a particularly significant impact on the growing Black community in the historic Crenshaw Corridor.

Both the Japanese and Black communities in L.A. were targets of redlining and racial discrimination from the government and banks, which left them with few places to settle. While Japanese Americans worked to recover from the unjust internment camps and postwar discrimination, Black Americans continued to fight against racial segregation and voter suppression.

The Holiday Bowl provided a space to come together as Angelinos, offering residents of Crenshaw a safe space for entertainment, healing, and protection.

This solidarity was tested during the 1992 L.A. riots, which erupted following the horrific beating and arrest of Rodney King.

At a time when racial tensions dominated our city, and much of South Central was engulfed in flames, the Holiday Bowl stood as a beacon of light amid the destruction. Not only did the Holiday Bowl emerge unscathed from the riots, but people actually gathered to bowl on the night the riots broke out.

Although the bowling alley closed in 2000 and was eventually demolished, its impact on our South L.A. community will be felt for decades to come.

### STANDING WITH CBC IN SHARED FIGHT FOR EQUALITY AND JUSTICE

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

Ms. MENG. Mr. Speaker, my Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus and I are proud to honor Black History Month and stand with our Congressional Black Caucus colleagues in the shared fight for equality and justice.

There is a long and storied history of solidarity between the Black community and the Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander communities.

In the 19th century, Frederick Douglass spoke out against the racist Chinese Exclusion Act and used his voice to advocate for Asian immigrants who wanted to earn the right to become U.S. citizens.

During the civil rights movement, Asian American activists protested alongside Black Americans in the fight for equality.

The allyship between our two communities remains critically important in the face of a vicious campaign to erase our stories, voices, and contributions to this Nation.

Make no mistake, we will fight tooth and nail for our communities and stand up to these attacks. We will not let anyone tell us that our stories don't matter.

Our stories are American history, and without us, our Nation would not be where it is today.

### FIGHTING FOR FAIRNESS AND OPPORTUNITY FOR EVERY AMERICAN

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

Mr. LATIMER. Mr. Speaker, House Republicans just passed their budget plan. Like many House Democrats, I am clear-eyed about this plan and how it will affect families in Westchester and the Bronx. This budget is a direct attack on the working and middle class, all while handing more than \$4.5 trillion in tax breaks to the wealthiest in our society.

The cuts needed for these tax breaks will mean over 196,000 residents in my

district are at risk of losing Medicaid coverage. This includes 73,000 children and 27,000 seniors. This budget plan also threatens 74,000 people who count on SNAP to put food on the table.

Republicans have promised to lower costs for everyday Americans, but this budget won't do that at all. Instead, it will make life harder and more expensive for constituents and Americans across the country.

As this process moves forward, I will join with Americans to fight for fairness and opportunity for every American.

□ 2045

### BLACK HISTORY MONTH AND THE ALLIANCE BETWEEN THE BLACK AND ASIAN COMMUNITY

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

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues in honoring Black History Month and uplifting the connection between the Black and Asian community.

As a Member of Congress who is part of both the Black and Asian community and the Civil Rights Task Force chair of CAPAC, I want to acknowledge the long history of solidarity between our two communities. For example, American abolitionist Frederick Douglass spoke out against the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1869 in his Our Composite Nation speech. Our communities have shared struggles against systemic racism during the civil rights movement.

In the 1960s, for example, Japanese-American civil rights activist, Yuri Kochiyama, worked alongside Malcolm X during the civil rights movement.

During Black History Month, we are reminded that the civil rights and Asian-American movements have always gone hand in hand in seeking justice against systemic racism.

As we celebrate our progress this Black History Month and fight back against the Trump administration, we must remember that we cannot abandon our commitment to achieving racial equity for all people.

### DISASTROUS REPUBLICAN BUDGET

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

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my newborn, Sam, who is just 4 weeks old.

Unfortunately, I wasn't given the opportunity to vote remotely after giving birth. Nevertheless, I wasn't going to let that stop me from being here to represent my constituents and vote "no" on this disastrous Republican budget proposal.

Republicans and Trump promised to lower costs on day one, and instead their priorities have been focused on

ripping healthcare away from kids, seniors, moms, and others who need it most. This is not going to save money.

It includes people like my mom who work for hourly wages but are still unable to afford healthcare. When you don't have access to healthcare, Mr. Speaker, you show up in the E.R. This is going to place a huge burden on our hospitals and, unfortunately, we will have skyrocketing costs. Hospitals will bear this burden.

It also slashes SNAP, taking food off the plates for seniors, veterans, and kids all to fund tax breaks for billionaires like Elon Musk while increasing our national deficit by trillions of dollars.

How can anyone show their face in their district after voting "yes" for this?

### REPUBLICAN BUDGET

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KENNEDY of Utah). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SCHWEIKERT) is recognized for one-half the time remaining until 10 p.m. as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, I yield to my good friend, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON).

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for the opportunity.

Under the Biden-Harris administration, America experienced wasteful spending, harming families and destroying jobs.

Tonight, in a very historic vote that we just completed; in order to combat those destructive impacts, House Republicans have voted to establish the congressional budget for the United States Government for 2025 and set forth the appropriate budgetary levels for 2026 through 2034.

Introduced by the very capable House Budget Committee Chairman JOEY ARRINGTON, this bill will pave the way for the passage of a single comprehensive bill which will deliver on the agenda of President Donald Trump. Again, it is Donald Trump promises made promises kept.

This budget resolution provides a framework for Congress to secure the border, unleash American energy, prevent the largest tax hike in history, create jobs, and bring common sense back to the government. Unnecessary and wasteful government spending will be eliminated, putting the American people first.

I am grateful for the leadership of Speaker MIKE JOHNSON working closely with President Donald Trump for economic opportunity in jobs for all American families.

The Trump tax cuts have been proven to energize small businesses and to create jobs across the United States. The National Federation of Independent Business, NFIB, has made a difference in working with the administration for this progress tonight.

Additionally, large companies have expanded in my home State of South Carolina, anticipating the tax cuts which provide for citizens to have more money which they can use to improve their lives.

In the district I represent, I am very grateful that Michelin Tire Corporation of Lexington is the largest facility in the world, and this facility is producing tires for energy production across North America. President Trump has provided for an all-of-the-above energy policy which will create jobs.

It is also encouraging that Boeing Aircraft Company in Charleston is doubling its size. It has already been announced that there was the sale of \$39 billion of 787-10 jets to Saudi Arabia, as Saudi Arabia is developing a new airline, Riyadh Airways, which we know will be successful for our friends and allies of Saudi Arabia.

It is additionally encouraging, and I am grateful, that we have BMW success in South Carolina with the largest BMW manufacturing facility in the world along with Volvo in Summerville. It makes South Carolina the leading exporter of tires and automobiles of any State in the Union.

In addition to Michelin, we have Continental Tire, which is obviously German. We are grateful for their investment in Bridgestone, which is very important, and Japanese investment in the district I represent along with GTI of Singapore.

So over and over we have investments that are being made because of, I believe, significant anticipation of the vote that just occurred tonight.

In conclusion, God bless our troops as the global war on terrorism continues while the people of Ukraine continue to successfully stop war criminal Putin who is trying to resurrect the failed Soviet Union, killing so many people in Ukraine, additionally in Georgia, and threatening the people of Moldova. We know what war criminal Putin has done to oppress the people of Belarus and to address and try to disrupt the elections in Romania and the Republic of Georgia.

Open borders for dictators puts all Americans at risk of more 9/11 attacks imminent as warned by the FBI. President Donald Trump is reinstituting existing laws which are successfully securing our border to protect American families with peace through strength.

Today also marks the 100th day of the inspiring protest in Tbilisi, the capital of the Republic of Georgia, where the people are protesting the rigged election that occurred on October 26 where war criminal Putin interfered in the elections and provided for, sadly, the institution of a new government which is not legitimate.

The legitimate government of Georgia led by President Salome Zourabichvili is so important to recognize as she courageously stands as a patriot for the people of Georgia.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, first, is there a chance to get the

amount of time that we are splitting so we have a sense of the run time here?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has 36½ minutes.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. If we are all blessed, I won't use it all.

Mr. Speaker, have you ever had a moment where the first words in your head are: I am damned if I do and damned if I don't, but is there a chance?

For a decade, I have been coming behind this very microphone and walking through demographics, debt, and the deficit and trying to explain something that the left doesn't like and the right doesn't like, that almost 100 percent of the growth of the deficit for the next three decades is demographics.

We don't like saying that because it is harder to play the politics of blaming each other. There have been dozens of things said. That is just the nature of it in regards to the reconciliation budget resolution that was just passed.

I managed part of the Joint Economic Committee time, and my job there as the chair of the Joint Economic Committee is I represent the committee, and now I get to represent myself.

I worry, but the opportunity is having basically authorizing committees do what is necessary to save our future.

Mr. Speaker, a little while ago you saw a beautiful little baby here. Last week, when we were here, I had my 2½-year-old that we have adopted with me.

Here are some basic pieces of math. For my 2½-year-old, when he is 24, 25 years old, every U.S. tax rate has to have been doubled, all of them, just to maintain baseline services.

The whole presentation of walking through what happens when you get a moment to actually disrupt policy and do things that are better, faster, and cheaper—because I will argue the army of lobbyists, basically the rent seekers, if you remember your high school economics, who are around us all, despise the concept of reform. They despise the concept of modernization. That is actually some of the basic things I want to go over tonight, and I will try to do it efficiently.

First off, I know I used this board a little while ago, and I am sorry it is handwritten. I broke the printer. It is just simply making a point that for the average American at the end of this year, if we don't fix the expiring provisions, their taxes go up \$2,853, and functionally 62 percent of all taxpayers will be subject to higher taxes.

Now, we actually have our friends on the left basically saying: You are going to give away to the millionaires and billionaires. It is not the distributional effect of 2017.

As a matter of fact, one of the great trivia points—and I actually had some fun with this one because it comes from my progressive analysis from a few years ago—is that after the 2017 tax reform, the U.S. tax regime actually became more progressive. There were lower rates, but it meant the top-tier

of taxpayers were paying more of the Federal budget.

You walk through saying: Okay. Can I show you? Well, you gave money to corporations. Yes, but we can show you that the vast majority of that actually went to wages.

People forget many of the things we did to force the repatriation back of capital, intellectual property, expensing, and R&D expensing. As a Republican, don't ever tell anyone this: A bunch of that was in the Obama budget.

They were in many ways bipartisan ideas from back then because we were bleeding out productive capacity in this country. We were transferring productive capacity and our assets overseas because of our tax regime and the ability to compete.

Now, it looks like the reality of sounding like an idiot economist around here doesn't buy you a lot of friends, Mr. Speaker. Yet, the fact of the matter is the budget box that was just offered is an opportunity to—Mr. Speaker, forgive me, my asthma and my lung infection are going a little nuts right now—it is an opportunity to stop our taxes from going up.

What I am actually more interested in is what I believe are solemn promises I got from the leadership about many of the things I have come behind this microphone for a decade talking about as to how we can adopt technology and how we can adopt models to lower costs and yet cover our brothers and sisters and give them more access and more opportunity to be healthier, because the way we deliver services as a government is archaic.

Right now, Mr. Speaker, if you were designing a system, you wouldn't do it this way. We are all terrified of whether it be the bureaucracy and their lobbyists and their unions, you know, something the left has to deal with. Many of the businesspeople that have learned how to make money off these programs are a problem. They come marching into our offices all upset because we are going to change their business model and make them compete.

Guess what, Mr. Speaker. That might be what we just accomplished in this vote, which is less about fixing the expiring tax provisions, which we are going to do, but maybe it will also give us that window where we can change and improve the way we deliver these services.

□ 2100

I can't figure out why this place is so intellectually calcified that they are terrified of changing it.

Mr. Speaker, let's once again walk through some of our basic math. This is just a pie chart—yes, it is a pie chart—yay, we love pie charts—for the estimates for this fiscal year. Basically, I want to take a look at it. It is a little less than 75 percent, but it is close. Actually, it looks like that may be. What is seen in red is mandatory spending.

Well, guess what. The blue is all I get to vote on as a Member of Congress, and every dime of the blue is borrowed. What happens if I come and say: Well, net interest? Well, we don't get to vote on the interest. My personal math is closer to almost \$1.2 trillion in interest coming in this year, but I have been doing a running calculation of a higher interest rate.

We don't get to touch Social Security. Social Security has its own trust fund, which is gone in 8 years. Then, all of a sudden, we have to figure out—what is it, the first full year of Social Security trust fund being empty is \$600 billion or \$609 billion, something of that nature. It depends on workforce participation at the time that is done. That makes the dollars we were talking about today tiny.

Well, we have Medicare, Medicaid, and some other mandatory programs, so why am I showing this? What is so difficult here? I know this is geeky stuff, but this is why there is such a fraud in the debates that happen around this place, is we don't treat the voters like they have an IQ. Stop talking down to America. I will argue that many of them are a hell of a lot smarter than people like me.

We don't get to actually put net interest into our reconciliation budget. As a matter of fact, there is nothing we get to do about it. There is some things we could have if we could actually work together on the way we sell debt, or maybe the types of interest.

Professor Shiller of Yale wrote an article 10 years ago about trills, which is an equity interest in tax receipts, and other things—there is ways to break up the concentration on debt, making society less fragile—are subject to possibly bond vigilantes.

Social Security, it is illegal. It is part of the 1974 Budget Control Act. It can't be touched. Yet, I saw half a dozen Members on the other side go behind the microphone and say: Whoa, Social Security.

What is a good word for an absolute untruth? Oh, okay. I will work on that.

What we have is less than half of the red portion that we can even work on in a reconciliation budget.

This is an incredibly important moment. Will the standing committees, which have gone years and years and not been able to actually provide improvements, redesigns, and modernization, be able to look at things like The Wall Street Journal's five-article series and also the ones this weekend on Medicare Advantage?

Mr. Speaker, one of their headlines said—I think it was actually more than a single-year period, but \$50 billion of fraud. Are we allowed to work on that? Is that Republican or Democrat, or is it just time to find a better way to actually think about these things?

That is maybe what we just opened up, assuming that my own leadership and my own committee chairman are ready to do hard work, really difficult things that, just like that baby, just

like my 2½-year-old, maybe we could save their future. Maybe I could save their retirement without ever cutting a service.

There have been a number of Members who have come up behind the microphone and said that we are cutting Medicaid, and we are cutting this.

Really, find me that word in here.

It doesn't mean it is easy. For the Energy and Commerce Committee, they have to find 4 percent of their entire committee's authorization over 10 years. Are Members telling me they can't find 4 percent of improvements in this place? Yet, the sound of Armageddon, that is why this slice is so incredibly frustrating. We are trying to save the future. I am not bouncing around. There is a linear thought here.

Mr. Speaker, believe it or not—promise me you won't ever tell anyone this—I was reading an article from The New Yorker that just came out. Don't tell anyone that, as a conservative, I actually look on occasion at The New Yorker: "The End of Children."

Realize that the Census Bureau of the United States says that in about 7½ years this country has more deaths than births. Tell me as a junior actuary, or someone who wishes he was smart enough to be one, how I make the math of the future work in a society that has a shortage of young people.

Is that Republican or Democrat? It is just demographics, but we are not allowed to actually do difficult things here because, Mr. Speaker, it would require math, and then the harder part is it would require us to tell truth.

So many people, like this very moment, there will be someone on cable television on the left and the right doing their talking, getting people's dopamine to hit, but it is not honest math. The math is really hard. It is really complex. There is a way to make it work, but we have only a couple more years, I believe, to provide the stability. Maybe that is what we just did a few minutes ago.

Once again, this is the single board that gets me the most hate mail. It also is the truth. This is the 30-year projection. If my colleagues look at the 30-year projection from the Congressional Budget Office—I didn't produce this. They did, and we believe it is already way out of date because of the change in interest rates—Social Security and Medicare and their interest carry are responsible for almost functionally every dime of debt from today through the next 30 years. It is \$116-some trillion of debt.

The rest of the budget actually has about a \$9 trillion positive balance because its growth is slower than the growth of tax receipts according to the Congressional Budget Office. This is the thing the left, in my particular case, loves to run hate television commercials: He dared to talk about saving Social Security, saving Medicare, reforming how we deliver services so they are stable and so people have a future.

If Members want to understand why this place is so damned toxic, those of us who are actually trying to fix things also write the attack commercials for the other side. It is a sickness, but the math is the math, and the math will eventually win.

Mr. Speaker, understanding what will happen if we don't modernize how we deliver services and, through that, start to stabilize everything—it is not just the benefits, but it is the growth of debt, convincing the bond markets we are going to be stable so they don't raise our interest rates.

A couple of weeks ago, we showed a chart that, if this place does stupid things and we make the bond markets nervous and we were to get a one-point increase in U.S. interest rates, we showed that, in 9 budget years, the additional interest is bigger than everything we talked about today.

My colleagues have to start processing how fragile we have made our future, and Members will start to actually look that, if we don't start to actually use this opportunity to say that we are going to use the reconciliation to open debate, we are going to not raise people's taxes, but we will get to have a robust debate, discussion, and ideas with the left, the right, particularly those of us on Ways and Means Committee, Energy and Commerce Committee, those things, saying: Here is what the mix should look like.

Maybe we don't extend everything. Maybe we mix them up. Maybe we find where there is leakage. Maybe we find where there is economic growth opportunities. Bring proposals. Bring economics. Bring statisticians. The debate is on, and now we get to actually have an honest debate based in statistics and math and maybe a future because we so rarely do that around here.

We are going to publish a couple more versions of this in more detail. I am blessed to also chair the Joint Economic Committee, so I have people who are much smarter than I am.

My colleagues will be happy to know that all of our economists now bathe. It is a running joke, particularly if Members know economists.

□ 2110

We work through the math that said what would happen if you did both things and paid for as much of this reconciliation budget, the spending, the extension of the tax cuts as possible, and you do it. That is how you get your maximization of growth.

Turns out, if you don't do it, you actually get probably a small retraction, maybe a small recession, because people's taxes go up rather dramatically.

Remember, for the average family, didn't I just show you—\$2,853. In a district like mine, it is somewhere in the \$3,000 range. I have a higher income district. You also had the other thing. The most we can do to try to find ways to pay for that.

Turns out, there is this concept of capital stack. The United States Gov-

ernment is not the only one bingeing on debt. Look at China and other countries, this and that. As the demographics of the industrialized world start to functionally get really ugly, and we are having to provide services, the amount of savings is starting to be chewed up.

One of the benefits we had in the previous decade and the decade before that is there was fairly substantial savings stacks that went into U.S. sovereigns and other things. We expect, in the next few years, we will actually start to see that roll over. Then, you get the concepts of term premiums and those things. I know it is geeky, but the fact of the matter is, if you don't have a substantial modernization of government, you can't make this math work.

Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to the time remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Arizona has 12½ minutes remaining.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, my best guess is I will use about 6 or 7 minutes of it.

Mr. Speaker, do you remember the hair on fire comments that people said that mathematically had no basis? They are not actually in the budget documents. Let's understand the size of these committees are vastly different, but the one people were focusing on, E&C, the Energy and Commerce Committee, still has 96 percent of its spending authority within its jurisdiction. That is going to continue.

This little wedge here is what they are being asked to work on. I will promise you if I am given the chance, if my economic team is given the chance, and if leadership in Ways and Means and E&C will work with us, I can get every dollar of that by just modernization of delivery of services.

Remember, at one time, I worked on my State's Medicaid budgets. It has been a long time. I actually chaired for a little while my State's health committee, so I have some experience on Arizona, which has a very unique Medicaid system. We buy basically managed care policies for our indigent population.

It is remarkably good. It is remarkably efficient. It may have the highest satisfaction rate in the entire Nation. It is something worth thinking about.

Let's get down to the brass tacks here on a couple of last bits.

Look at the next decade of spending. We don't get to touch interest. We don't get to touch old age survivor fund. That is your Social Security.

Matter of fact, what we should be doing is having really interesting conversations, mathematically honest ones, not in front of the microphone, but probably in a back room with actuaries, on how we are going to save it considering the fact that Social Security's own actuarial report says now, I think, in mid-2033, the trust fund is empty.

For my Democrat friends who keep saying what we need to do is just do a

bunch more taxes and enhance the benefit, you do realize you just chewed up every dime of your seed corn, if that is a colloquialism, for everything else.

We have a chart we have brought here multiple times showing the proposals saying to take everyone over \$400,000 and just raise the cap, so every billionaire pays their full Social Security, both the employer's side and the individual's side.

I think our math says that it only took care of 38 percent of the shortfall, helping folks to understand the scale and also the rhetorical solutions that are so often thrown out are not mathematically honest.

Then you come over here to discretionary. We can take a run at that. Do you know what discretionary is? It is defense. It is everything you really think of as government. Other mandatory and then Medicare and Medicaid basically sit in this area.

What would happen if our brothers and sisters on the left would actually, instead of defending the inefficiencies, the distortions—I despise using “waste and fraud” because I think everyone is against waste and fraud. Even if you read the articles, the ProPublica and The Wall Street Journal on the extortion of bad acts, if that is a way to phrase it, that are going on in these programs and the willingness to fix that, should that be Republican or Democrat, or should it just be our attempt to do good governance?

Remember, we are the board of directors for the biggest concern in the world. It is malfeasance the way we run this place. Our rhetoric is often completely intellectually vacuous. There are solutions.

For any of you who have staff, do you have a nice highlighted copy of the MedPAC report from top to bottom where they walk you through lots and lots of solutions? I will send you over the stack of The Wall Street Journal articles. I will even send you the ProPublica on durable medical equipment fraud and how there are ways the doc and I could simply fix that with about a three-paragraph bill. People would have better access and better health, and we would save potentially a hundred-plus billions just on that one line item over the 10 years.

I believe, Mr. Speaker, that is the opportunity we may have just unlocked. I also think sometimes I might be delusionally optimistic and hopeful. I am 62 with a 2-year-old. That is actually funny, but I don't think we have a lot more time to play this treadmill game.

For my brothers and sisters in the majority, we are going to have to carry this. We are going to have to do the hard things because the left has decided they want to burn us down. That is fine.

I wish I could be honest and say we didn't try to do the same when they were in the majority, but we are at a moment when the morality of protecting the society, protecting this



country, and protecting the American Dream is growth moral. It is also the next generation not being, as the economists keep telling me, the first generation to live poorer than their parents because that is what is coming.

Let's use this opportunity to do hard things.

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

### THREE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF RUSSIA'S BRUTAL ATTACK ON UKRAINE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. HOULAHAN) is recognized until 10 p.m. as the designee of the minority leader.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. HOULAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. HOULAHAN. Mr. Speaker, this week marks a very solemn anniversary. It is the anniversary of Russia's brutal attack on Ukraine.

Three years ago, Russia started this war by invading Ukraine, not the other way around.

I repeat: Three years ago, Russia started this war.

I am utterly disgusted that President Trump would refute this absolute truth.

I am equally horrified by President Trump's characterization of President Zelenskyy as a dictator who does not want peace. I was with President Zelenskyy just last week in Germany for the Munich Security Conference. He is an honorable and earnest leader, a man who has even offered to step down from the Presidency if it would guarantee the freedom of his people.

□ 2120

President Trump's blatant lie and absurd insult is a lie directly out of Soviet-style propagandist playbooks. It is Putin who wants to take Ukraine's resource-rich land. It is Putin who wants to strip its people of their rights and their freedoms, and it is Putin who wants to destroy another European democracy. It is Putin who is a cancer on the world, a liar, a torturer, a murderer, and a war criminal.

It is appalling to see our President of these United States, expected to be a reliable standard-bearer of democracy, align himself and as a result ourselves so closely with our adversaries, even organizing a sit-down to determine the fate of Ukraine without Ukraine at the table, and without the input of our European allies at all.

Whatever comes out of these meetings will not be a peace agreement. It will instead be a Russian power grab and an appeasement of war criminal

Putin facilitated by the United States, an illegitimate peace. It is all horrifying. It is all infuriating, and it is all antithetical to our American ideals.

As President Trump and his administration publicly trash our allies, undermine the strength of NATO, and decimate our international aid programs, our adversaries are greedily and happily waiting to fill the gaps that this administration is deliberately creating.

On Monday, the United States joined Russia, North Korea, Belarus, Sudan, and Hungary—I will name them again: Russia, North Korea, Belarus, Sudan, and Hungary—a group of countries I never would like us to be associated with, in voting against the United Nations resolution condemning Russian aggression and demanding the immediate withdrawal of Putin's forces from Ukraine.

To quote my Republican colleague and dear friend, Congressman DON BACON: The Trump administration royally screwed up on Ukraine.

Another anniversary is fast approaching. Indeed, on April 20 of last year, 101 Republicans voted to support Ukraine. I am really glad that Representative BACON is speaking out about President Trump's actions, but I wonder where are the rest of his colleagues?

I hope that the other 100 Members who supported aid to Ukraine in April will be as brave as Representative BACON and speak out against this administration's ridiculous and dangerous actions.

I want to emphasize how important it is that the American people hear President Trump's own words, see his own actions, and be appropriately outraged.

President Trump's disavowal of Ukraine and his cozying up to dictators puts us here in the United States at risk as well. President Trump's turn towards authoritarianism leaves us exposed politically and economically.

Scorned allies could pull out or change their free trade agreements, cause shortages in imported goods, including food and oil, pharmaceuticals, and more. President Trump campaigned on bringing down costs, but his very actions right now are indeed undermining the value of the dollar and driving up inflation.

We have heard over and over again from the American people that the prices of essential goods are already too high, and President Trump's actions will only hurt our attempts to bring down these costs.

America's global leadership also helps to keep Americans safe, too. President Trump turning his back on Ukraine isolates us and undermines our strength, the strength of international institutions, and the security networks that work, like NATO.

This encourages NATO allies to question our own alliance and allegiance. It, in turn, causes our allies worldwide to do the same, and those who are con-

sidering with whom to form alliances, and there are many, it causes them as well to turn away from us.

It gets worse. With President Trump actually allying himself with China, Russia, Iran, and North Korea, these countries now seemingly have America's explicit backing to spread their influence, and in some cases to spread their force, like we have seen in Ukraine. This will undoubtedly cause people to flee oppressive regimes and create new regimes, who will be inspired by this global democratic back slide.

President Trump claimed he was going to reduce this kind of migration, but the political turmoil he is causing will, in fact, make it worse, pushing people to seek safety outside of their own home country.

We can't turn our back on Ukraine and the world, and we cannot expect that the consequences of that decision will not reach our shores. The American way of life is reliant on our global reputation and interconnectivity. President Trump is doing his very best to tear that all down.

President Trump must reverse his dangerous position. He must stop this gamesmanship, and he must recommit to our longstanding alliances instead of realigning ourselves, the United States, with dictators.

I yield now to my esteemed colleague from the great State of Ohio, the very honorable MARCY KAPTUR.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Congresswoman so very much for allowing me to speak this evening and to also thank her for her service to the United States of America in our military. She knows the cost of liberty. There couldn't be a better Member of Congress than CHRISSY HOULAHAN, I will tell you that.

A lot of Americans perhaps in the newer generations don't understand what Russia is capable of, so I refer them to two books if they are interested, and I hope they are. One is "Bloodlands" by Dr. Timothy Snyder, now at Yale University, who discusses the history of the region that we are talking about and what happened yesterday at the United Nations. Another book is "Red Sparrow." I would recommend people don't read that in the evening, but during the day because they will learn more about how Russia both operates now and has always operated.

To give a little history, before the collapse of the murderous dictatorship that was called the Soviet Union that occurred in 1991 and had extended all the way from Russia all the way across Europe to Germany to East Berlin, which has been free since 1991, a great President, Ronald Reagan, served this Nation. He was elected twice.

He correctly identified Russia as the "evil empire." Ronald Reagan had been an actor in Hollywood and fought to remove Communists from the ranks of the Screen Actors Guild in California, where he met his wife. That particular

effort by Reagan took great courage because he could have been killed. That is what it is like to deal with Russia as the Soviet Union or the empire now.

Another Republican President during my service was George W. Bush. He named Russia and North Korea as the “axis of evil.” We could add Iran and other countries. Never before at the United Nations has any U.S. President ever stood with the dictators of Russia.

Those countries that voted with Russia yesterday are state sponsors of terrorism. Russia understands terror. That is what she does. For the United States to stand beside Russia, North Korea, and Belarus at the United Nations, it is appalling. It is appalling.

Russia’s atrocities go back hundreds of years. During World War II on the soils of Ukraine, 14 million people were murdered. This is the tradition of Putin. If you do not know that, you are naive. Wake up. Wake up.

Even China abstained from the vote yesterday.

Aligning with these countries which past Presidents have called the epitome of evil on Earth is shocking. The very fundamental purpose of this Nation is liberty. That is why we are here. This isn’t some game, and it is not about strategic metals or very precious items that are underground somewhere. It is about something much more precious—liberty.

To see that happen at the U.N. yesterday, I thought, what have they been drinking up there?

Ukraine is the scrimmage line for liberty on the Continent of Europe today, and no President of the United States should cavort with dictators. We have always been the bastion of freedom. Our people have died for it, defending these ideals around the world. Yesterday, President Trump cowered and appeased one of the most dangerous dictatorships in the world.

□ 2130

Mr. Speaker, it is shameful. It is un-American. It is not patriotic. It is almost traitorous—maybe it is traitorous to do that. We know Russia. We know North Korea. We know Iran. They don’t stand for liberty. They are part of the new spiderweb of tyranny that is poised against us, if anyone is paying attention anywhere in this country.

The actions to vote with them and against Ukraine is a blotch on America’s record as a champion for a free world. Most of the world is not free. If people haven’t traveled to these places, try. They might learn something.

Tomorrow is another day. I urge those who lead foreign policy for this administration to remember who we fight for, who our friends are, who our allies are, and who our enemies are united against us.

I also just wanted to place on the record a reminder that when Ukraine was beginning to be free after the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, a

great man, Viktor Yushchenko, was President of the young Ukraine. What did Putin do? Putin had him poisoned. Yushchenko survived somehow when they flew him to Europe and they tried to pump him out with some kind of horrible, strategic metal that he had been made to swallow when he ate with the dictators who continued to control Russia. Putin had just killed Alexei Navalny in a terrible Arctic prison because he wanted to run against Putin.

That is how someone gets elected in Russia. Kill the opposition. My friends, pay attention. Be informed. If we want to understand how a tyranny operates, look at the film on YouTube. It takes 30 minutes. It is called, “Freedom Means Never Surrender.” It is a documentary about how a tyranny functions. It just won the Telly Award. Take the time to do it. Recall the preciousness of the liberty we enjoy.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman very much for allowing us to speak on this Special Order.

Ms. HOULAHAN. The gentlewoman is very welcome. It is my privilege.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from Pennsylvania has 28 minutes remaining.

Ms. HOULAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. VINDMAN).

Mr. VINDMAN. Mr. Speaker, 3 years ago this week, Russia launched an unprovoked invasion on Ukraine. We are entering the fourth year of war in Ukraine and 11 years of war on Ukraine since the invasion in Crimea and the Donbas.

In the past few days, the fact of this major invasion has sadly been disputed. It is important that history represent the truth. Whether it is Putin or anyone else, including in our government, that says Russia is not the aggressor and that Ukraine is responsible for the invasion, they are lying.

Yesterday’s anniversary reminds us that the Ukrainian people continue to suffer, but I know that they will remain strong and resilient. This is not a regional fight. Ukraine’s sovereignty is a U.S. national security issue. We must hold the line in Ukraine now or we may have American boots on the ground, fighting in Europe in a few years. That is my fear.

We do want peace, and yet this administration has begun negotiations from the weakest possible position. Before we even get to the table, Ukraine has been excluded from NATO. Territorial concessions were granted to Russia, and Ukraine didn’t even have a seat at the table. This is what they get for a sacrifice of hundreds of thousands of their people, cities destroyed across Ukraine.

The Trump administration must increase pressure on Russia if we are truly interested in peace. With Russia, in particular, weakness invites aggression, and easing up on Russia only makes Ukraine’s fight harder. We must stand firm.

I spent 25 years in the Army, defending America’s national security interests at home and abroad. When I retired a little over 2 years ago, I traveled to Ukraine 14 times investigating war crimes. I traveled to Kharkiv, 20 miles from the Russian border. I traveled to Zaporizhzhia, 20 miles from the Russian front. I traveled to Mykolaiv and Chernihiv, cities that have appeared in the news, devastated by Russian attacks.

Those people are resilient. They are fighting for their freedom, much like we fought for our freedom almost 250 years ago. We are going to celebrate that anniversary in one short year. Can we imagine what it would have been like if France did not intervene on our behalf? We have a portrait there, the Marquis de Lafayette, that stood with us shoulder to shoulder. The French spilled blood on our battlefields.

We weren’t even asked to do that. We were asked to provide some material support, 31 tanks, a couple hundred of our armored vehicles, and some money. Granted, we have to watch how we spend our money. We have an obligation to the American people. We also have to recognize where our national security interests lie. I think for some reason we have forgotten the fact that we spent 80 years defending an international order that our grandfathers fought for and died on European battlefields for. I can’t explain it.

They know that in Ukraine because that is what they are fighting for. They know that if they give up, the Russians will occupy. In those occupied areas, they have already deported tens of thousands of children to be reeducated and taken away from their family. They put the Ukrainian people in camps.

Russia is basically like a boa constrictor, slowly digesting chunks of Ukraine. If we pause now without security guarantees, they will be back at it in a few years just like they were after Crimea, like they were in Georgia, and like they were in Moldova.

We have to be clear-eyed about that in our interests. In Virginia’s Seventh District, my voters expect me to stand up for American values, and that is exactly what I am doing by speaking out today.

That is why I will keep fighting for strong U.S. leadership all around the world. That includes Ukraine’s sovereignty, for our own country’s national security interests, and for the values that keep and have kept America strong.

On this anniversary we must reaffirm our commitment that we stand against autocrats and dictators like Russia and North Korea and that we stand with Ukraine on the right side of history.

Ms. HOULAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Hawaii (Mr. CASE).

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues in condemning what can only be seen as sheer desertion—yes, I used the word “desertion”—of Ukraine

by this President, and I deeply regret, at least to date, by my Republican colleagues in Congress.

The dictator of Russia, as has already been pointed out, has not seen a better day at least since the successful death of Alexei Navalny. Let's be clear. Putin is not the only dictator—and for the third time I use the word “dictator”—who is dancing today.

Let's just take one example. For the dictators of Iran, this betrayal is a bright light in a dim room. They want nothing more than a stronger and resurgent and unchecked Russia because that brings them renewed hope to their singular focus of the destruction of Israel.

By the way, I say very directly to our friends of Israel, wherever they are—and many of them were in the Capital today—if they do not call out this abandonment of Ukraine now, they have learned nothing from 1939 Czechoslovakia.

There is one dictator in our world who is cheering the loudest of all, and that dictator is the general secretary of the Chinese Communist Party. This is the world he covets. This is the world that he has worked for. This is the world that turns the lock and opens the door on his ambitions. This is the world of a weakened, isolated America that nobody trusts. This is a world in which this country walks away from proven international rules-based orders that have kept the peace and stability for three generations now. This is a world he hopes for that has forgotten that true peace and prosperity are built on both strength and democratic values.

Yes, the desertion of Ukraine and its sheer ripple effects shows Xi that he finally has the willing partner he has sought, even more than Putin himself. He has a partner equally committed to an ad hoc transactional foreign policy where all that really matters is power, money, and leverage, that alliances, principles, and loyalty are disposable, as if that ever alone would buy lasting peace. There is no example in world history that it does.

□ 2140

Our President says: Don't worry. We have an ocean between us and Ukraine, so what is to worry about?

No doubt, in time, he will assert the same thing about my ocean, the Pacific Ocean, between us and the People's Republic of China. He will say that that ocean offers the same illusion of insulation from the world of reality.

Tell that to Japan or Taiwan or South Korea or the Philippines. Tell them that that ocean protects them. Tell that to the ASEAN countries, Australia and New Zealand, Singapore, India, the island nations of the Pacific. Tell that to the citizens of the American homeland in the Pacific: Hawaii, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, and American Samoa.

Just try to tell the rest of our world and country that the outcome in

Ukraine has nothing to do with the geopolitical challenge of our time, the threat of the Chinese Communist Party. Tell that to anybody, and you truly live in denial of the world today and the lessons of history.

The PRC knows history, and they already have an edition of the People's Daily, their leading newspaper, already printed up as a gift for the President's trip home when he surely visits shortly. The headline of People's Daily in Mandarin reads: Peace in Our time.

Those are the unavoidable broader stakes of betraying Ukraine today. I know my Republican colleagues know this. I know this because I have heard them say it repeatedly over 3 years. I have heard them say it in committee. I have heard them say it on this floor. I have heard them say it in public, but where are they now?

Did something in the world change in the last week or two? Was there some fundamental shift in our understanding of this world, in our alliances, in our commitment to loyalties and principles and values in addition to strength?

I don't think so, and I don't think anybody else thinks anything has changed, other than a President who wants to go in a different direction. That President has no effective check and balance on this tragic mistake, except for the majority in the House and the Senate.

I really hope for my Republican colleagues in this body because I don't hold that hope for the administration of the Presidency. I do hold that hope for my colleagues. I hope they find their way back soon through the fog into reality again before it is too late.

Ms. HOULAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. KENNEDY).

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I begin by thanking my friend and colleague, Representative HOULAHAN, for convening this Special Order.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support our ally, Ukraine, and speak up against the grave threat the Trump administration's support for Russia poses to democracy at home and abroad.

Yesterday marked 3 years since Russia's unprovoked and brutal invasion of Ukraine, a sovereign nation. We have since witnessed incredible bravery from the Ukrainian soldiers on the front lines to the families who have endured unimaginable loss yet continue to fight for their homeland.

My community of Buffalo knows what it means to stand together in times of hardship. We are a city that welcomes, embraces, and lifts up those in need. I stood arm in arm with western New York's Ukrainian community in Niagara Square, designated Ukraine Freedom Square, just outside Buffalo City Hall days after Russia's invasion.

What I said then is just as true today: The United States of America must always stand with Ukraine against Russian aggression.

Buffalo is known as the City of Good Neighbors, and that spirit has been evident in the way our community has opened its doors to Ukrainian refugees, providing shelter, education, and hope for a better future.

Members of this body, both Democrats and Republicans alike, understand that this is not just Ukraine's fight. This is a battle between democracy and tyranny, between freedom and oppression.

That is why this body has come together on numerous occasions to pass legislation to help the people of Ukraine resist the Russian invasion and defend their homeland. We continue to do this because we know that if Russia succeeds, it sets a dangerous precedent for dictators around the world, and it threatens the security of our NATO allies.

When the President of the United States chooses to spread the same false Russian propaganda as Vladimir Putin, absolving Russia for its responsibility of starting the war and defaming the democratically elected President of our ally, we should have the courage to stand up and call it what it is: a bald-faced lie.

It is shameful when we, the shining city upon a hill, as President Reagan put it, oppose a United Nations resolution condemning Russia and supporting Ukraine. The rest of the world should look to us as a model of democracy. Instead, we are enabling a dictator.

Just think about the company that we are keeping with this U.N. vote. The only other countries to oppose this resolution were Russia, North Korea, and Belarus, all dictatorships.

Since when does the United States side with dictators? I suppose when we have a President who says he wants to be one.

Turning our back on Ukraine goes against everything Americans have fought and died for since we declared our independence from a monarch in England. Supporting Russian aggression against Ukraine sends a dangerous message to our allies around the world: The United States is no longer a reliable friend. You are on your own.

I have news for you. We are much better than this as a country. This isn't just about democracy. It is also about our national security and our credibility on the world stage. The world is a safer place and the American people are more secure when we stand united with our allies, uphold our commitments to global peace and stability, and lead with strength, diplomacy, and integrity.

Ms. HOULAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I very much thank all of my colleagues for joining us and meeting here tonight.

This evening, we heard about the damage that President Trump's actions have done to our Nation's security. If our Nation turns its back on Ukraine, we heard about what comes next: Our ally Taiwan left in greater jeopardy to a Chinese invasion; our allies elsewhere left looking for security and other

trading opportunities; and worst of all, our enemies worldwide left emboldened by Trump's isolationist actions.

The American people should be worried tonight. History has shown us that when America is isolated, we are less safe.

I very much hope that my Republican friends, the 101 of them, now 100 of them, who very recently voted in support of this nation in its fight for their democracy and, as a consequence, all of our democratic values, will stand up to our President and will help us, the United States, change our course and, as a consequence, the world change its course for safety and freedom, as well.

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

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, like Hitler, Mussolini, and Saddam Hussein before him, Vladimir Putin should be called what he is: a dictator.

Over the past 20 years, Putin has systematically ended free and fair elections, crushed independent media, quashed protests, and killed, jailed, or exiled political opponents.

Three years ago, Putin invaded Ukraine, showing complete disregard for European borders, UN and NATO doctrines, and human rights.

For three years, the Ukrainian people have faced deliberate killings, rapes, and the abduction of their children.

The United Nations has found evidence of Russian war crimes, and the International Criminal Court has issued an arrest warrant for Vladimir Putin, accusing him of being responsible for the abduction of Ukraine children.

Under Putin's rule, Russian intelligence operations pose one of the most aggressive and sophisticated threats to our national security.

And yet—the White House is now parroting Putin's talking points, alleging that Ukraine started the war when we all know that Russia, unprovoked, invaded Ukraine.

President Trump has described Putin as a "genius" and "very savvy," and last week he called Ukrainian President Zelensky a "dictator."

Under Donald Trump, the United States has turned its back on Ukraine and our NATO allies, while cozying up to an authoritarian.

Under Donald Trump, America's long-held reputation as a defender of democratic ideals and state sovereignty, a credible and reliable partner who will assist others in need and stand up for our allies, is now a crumbling illusion.

Our country was created on the principle that it would not be ruled by an all-powerful king but instead maintained by a system of checks and balances to prevent tyrannical rule and provide power to the people.

But now, Donald Trump is ceding power to an unelected billionaire at home and appeasing a Russian dictator abroad.

I urge my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to open their eyes and rediscover their spines.

## ADJOURNMENT

Ms. HOULAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 50 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, February 26, 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-457. A letter from the Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting proposed amendments to 31 U.S.C. Sec. 5322; to the Committee on Financial Services.

EC-458. A letter from the Senior Attorney Advisor, Corporation for National and Community Service, transmitting the Corporation's final rule — AmeriCorps State and National Updates (RIN: 3045-AA84) February 13, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

EC-459. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Non-Power Production or Utilization Facility License Renewal [NRC-2011-0087] (RIN: 3150-AI96) received February 12, 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-460. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting DC Act 26-5, "Rent Stabilized Housing Inflation Protection Continuation Temporary Amendment Act of 2025", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 813); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

EC-461. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, National Institutes of Health, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Privacy Act; Implementation [Docket Number: NIH-2022-0002] (RIN: 0925-AA69) received February 19, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

EC-462. A letter from the Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting a legislative proposal to revise 18 U.S.C. Sec. 3292; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-463. A letter from the Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting a proposal for a Legislative fix to the Sentencing Guidelines; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-464. A letter from the Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting proposed amendments to the 21st Century Department of Justice Appropriations Act; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-465. A letter from the Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting proposed amendments to 18 U.S.C. Sec. 1956(c)(7); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-466. A letter from the Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting proposed amendments to 18 U.S.C. Sec. 2311/2314/2315; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-467. A letter from the Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting proposed amendments to 18 U.S.C.

Sec. 1014 and USSG Sec. 2B1.1; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-468. A letter from the Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting proposed amendments to 18 U.S.C. Sec. 1960; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-469. A letter from the Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting proposed amendments to 18 U.S.C. Sec. 3238; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-470. A letter from the Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting proposed amendments to 18 U.S.C. Sec. 984; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-471. A letter from the Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting proposed amendments to 18 U.S.C. Sec. 1956(c)(7)(D); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-472. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel, Department of Justice, transmitting proposed amendments to 18 U.S.C. Sec. 1510(b); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-473. A letter from the Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting proposed amendments to 18 U.S.C. Sec. 3293; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-474. A letter from the Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting proposed amendments to 19 U.S.C. Sec. 1607; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

EC-475. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Section, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Temporary Relief Under Section 1.102-1(j)(3)(ii) [Notice 2025-7] received February 18, 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.

EC-476. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Section, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Changes in accounting periods and in methods of accounting (Rev. Proc. 2025-6) received February 18, 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.

EC-477. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Section, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Deduction for Taxes (Rev. Rul. 2025-4) received February 13, 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.

EC-478. A letter from the Federal Register Liaison, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's Major final rule — Credit for Production of Clean Hydrogen and Energy Credit [TD 10023] (RIN: 1545-BQ97) received February 4, 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:

Mrs. HOUCHIN: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 161. Resolution providing for consideration of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 20) 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 Conservation Standards for Consumer Gas-fired Instantaneous Water Heaters"; providing for consideration of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 35)

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"; and providing for consideration of the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 14) establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2025 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2026 through 2034 (Rept. 119-5). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. SMITH of Missouri: Committee on Ways and Means.

H.R. 1156. A bill to amend the CARES Act to extend the statute of limitations for fraud under certain unemployment programs, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 119-6). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

## PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Ms. STEFANIK (for herself and Mr. TONKO):

H.R. 1550. A bill to redesignate Saratoga National Historical Park as Saratoga National Battlefield Park; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. RUTHERFORD (for himself, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. STAUBER, Mr. GOLDEN of Maine, Mr. HERN of Oklahoma, and Mr. FITZGERALD):

H.R. 1551. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to punish criminal offenses targeting law enforcement officers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BAUMGARTNER:

H.R. 1552. A bill to prohibit proposition bets made with respect to the performance of a student athlete, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. BARRAGAN (for herself, Mrs. MCIVER, Ms. TLAI, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. NORTON, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Ms. CROCKETT, Mr. KENNEDY of New York, Ms. TITUS, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. DEGETTE, and Ms. ANSARI):

H.R. 1553. A bill to establish an Office of Environmental Justice within the Department of Justice, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BEAN of Florida (for himself, Mr. CLINE, and Mr. STUTZMAN):

H.R. 1554. A bill to require that the Federal Government procure from the private sector the goods and services necessary for the operations and management of certain Government agencies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mrs. BICE:

H.R. 1555. A bill to amend the Mineral Leasing Act to streamline the oil and gas permitting process and to recognize fee ownership for certain oil and gas drilling or spacing units, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. BRESNAHAN (for himself, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, and Mr. RESCHENTHALER):

H.R. 1556. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to require the impaneling of a new jury if a jury fails to recommend by unanimous vote a sentence for conviction of a crime punishable by death; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CASTEN (for himself, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Mrs. HAYES, and Ms. TITUS):

H.R. 1557. A bill to implement title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 with respect to elementary and secondary schools, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

By Mr. CONNOLLY (for himself, Ms. NORTON, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. MFUME, Ms. BROWN, Ms. STANSBURY, Mr. GARCIA of California, Mr. FROST, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Ms. CROCKETT, Ms. RANDALL, Mr. SUBRAMANYAM, Ms. ANSARI, Mr. BELL, Ms. SIMON, Mr. MIN, and Ms. TLAI):

H.R. 1558. A bill to modify the government-wide financial management plan, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. CONNOLLY (for himself and Mr. GARBARINO):

H.R. 1559. A bill to extend the right of appeal to the Merit Systems Protection Board to certain employees of the United States Postal Service; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. CONNOLLY (for himself and Mr. BOST):

H.R. 1560. A bill to amend title 39, United States Code, to modify procedures for negotiating pay and benefits of supervisory and other managerial personnel of the United States Postal Service, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Ms. CROCKETT (for herself and Mr. GOODEN):

H.R. 1561. A bill to require research with respect to fentanyl and xylazine test strips, to authorize the use of grant funds for such test strips, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. CROCKETT (for herself and Mr. GOODEN):

H.R. 1562. A bill to amend the 21st Century Cures Act to expressly authorize the use of certain grants to implement substance use disorder and overdose prevention activities with respect to fentanyl and xylazine test strips; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. CROCKETT (for herself and Mr. GOODEN):

H.R. 1563. A bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to clarify that the possession, sale, purchase, importation, exportation, or transportation of drug testing equipment that tests for the presence of fentanyl or xylazine is not unlawful; to the Committee on the Judiciary, 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 Ms. DELAURO (for herself, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. HIMES, Mrs. HAYES, Ms. NORTON, Mr. CLEAVER, Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. LYNCH, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. CASTEN, Ms. TLAI, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. MCGARVEY, Mrs. TRAHAN, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mrs. MCIVER, Mr. AUCHINCLOSS, Mr. POCAN, Mr. NEAL, Mr. FROST, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. MULLIN, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. SUBRAMANYAM, Mr. BEYER, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. COSTA, Ms. TOKUDA, Mr. MAGAZINER, Mr. RUIZ, Mrs. TORRES of California, Ms. SEWELL, Mr. FIELDS, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. MCBRIDE, Ms. SHERRILL, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. MOSKOWITZ, Mr.

CROW, Mr. LANDSMAN, Mr. MIN, Ms. TITUS, Ms. DEXTER, Mr. OLSZEWSKI, Ms. MATSUI, Mrs. MCBATH, Mr. PETERS, Mr. DELUZIO, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. DELBENE, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. TONKO, Mr. TRAN, Mr. MOULTON, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Mr. FOSTER, Ms. SALINAS, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Ms. OMAR, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. SWALWELL, Mr. KEATING, Mr. PALLONE, Ms. MCCLELLAN, Mr. IVEY, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mrs. SYKES, Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. HOULAHAN, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. CISNEROS, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. AMO, Mr. TORRES of New York, Ms. SCANLON, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. GRIMALVA, and Mr. TAKANO):

H.R. 1564. A bill to amend chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code, to require the safe storage of firearms, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. DINGELL (for herself and Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota):

H.R. 1565. A bill to amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to reauthorize the voluntary public access and habitat incentive program; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. DUNN of Florida (for himself, Ms. PEREZ, Mr. DAVIDSON, Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mrs. HARSHBARGER, Mr. TONKO, Mr. NUNN of Iowa, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. LANDSMAN, Mr. AMODEI of Nevada, Ms. PETERSEN, Mr. BOST, Ms. NORTON, Mr. ROSE, and Mr. KHANNA):

H.R. 1566. A bill to ensure consumers have access to data relating to motor vehicles of the consumers and critical repair information and tools for such motor vehicles, to provide such consumers with choices for the maintenance, service, and repair of such vehicles, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. GOLDMAN of New York (for himself, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. NADLER, Ms. NORTON, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, and Mr. RASKIN):

H.R. 1567. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to assess the suitability and feasibility of establishing the African Burial Ground International Memorial Museum and Educational Center at the African Burial Ground National Monument, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. GOLDMAN of New York (for himself, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. NADLER, Ms. NORTON, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, and Mr. RASKIN):

H.R. 1568. A bill to establish the African Burial Ground International Memorial Museum and Educational Center in New York, New York, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana (for himself, Mr. MAGAZINER, Mr. GIMENEZ, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Mr. GREEN of Tennessee, Mr. HARIDOPOLIS, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mr. FIELDS, Mr. EVANS of Colorado, Mr. RILEY of New York, and Ms. CRAIG):

H.R. 1569. A bill to establish a pilot program to assess the use of technology to speed up and enhance the cargo inspection process at land ports of entry along the border; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mrs. HOUCHIN (for herself and Mr. GOTTHEIMER):

H.R. 1570. A bill to amend the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act to require notification with respect to individualized

education program teams, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

By Mr. KELLY of Mississippi:

H.R. 1571. A bill to eliminate nonessential civil service positions in the executive branch of the Federal Government, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia (for herself and Mr. PANETTA):

H.R. 1572. A bill to direct the Secretary of Education to award grants to local educational agencies to establish or improve world language or dual language programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

By Ms. LEE of Nevada (for herself, Mr. SCHMIDT, Mr. BERGMAN, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. MOYLAN, Mr. CASE, Mr. MCCORMICK, Mr. MOULTON, Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, Mr. FIELDS, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, and Mr. SORESENSEN):

H.R. 1573. A bill to establish a process to furnish to State educational agencies certain demographic data regarding members of the Armed Forces; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. MORAN (for himself, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Mr. ROY, and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia):

H.R. 1574. A bill to amend title 35, United States Code, to establish a rebuttable presumption that a permanent injunction should be granted in certain circumstances, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. NEWHOUSE (for himself, Mr. MEUSER, Mr. GUEST, Mr. BENTZ, Mr. LATTI, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. HAMADEH of Arizona, Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Ms. HAGEMAN, Mr. ZINKE, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. BEAN of Florida, Mr. ELLZEY, Mrs. HINSON, Mr. ONDER, Mr. GOODEN, Mr. BACON, Mr. BOST, Mr. HARIDOPOLOS, Mr. EVANS of Colorado, Mrs. LUNA, Mr. FLOOD, Mr. COLLINS, Ms. DE LA CRUZ, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. VAN ORDEN, Mr. VALADAO, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Mr. ROSE, Mr. MOORE of West Virginia, Mr. HURD of Colorado, Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania, Mr. PFLUGER, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. ALFORD, Ms. BOEBERT, and Mr. NUNN of Iowa):

H.R. 1575. A bill to prohibit certain businesses and persons from purchasing real estate adjacent to covered Federal lands in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. NEWHOUSE (for himself, Mr. MEUSER, Mr. GUEST, Mr. LATTI, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. HAMADEH of Arizona, Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. GUTHRIE, Ms. HAGEMAN, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. BEAN of Florida, Mr. ELLZEY, Mr. LANGWORTHY, Mrs. HINSON, Mr. ONDER, Mr. GOODEN, Mr. BACON, Mr. BOST, Mr. EVANS of Colorado, Mr. MESSMER, Mr. McDOWELL, Mr. VASQUEZ, Mr. FLOOD, Mr. VAN ORDEN, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. ROSE, Mr. MOORE of West Virginia, Mr. HURD of Colorado, Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania, Mr. PFLUGER, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. ALFORD, Mr. RILEY of New York, Ms. BOEBERT, and Mr. NUNN of Iowa):

H.R. 1576. A bill to amend the Defense Production Act of 1950 with respect to foreign investments in United States agriculture, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the

Committees on Foreign Affairs, and 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. OGLES (for himself, Ms. DE LA CRUZ, Mr. MEUSER, Mr. NUNN of Iowa, Mrs. KIM, Mr. SESSIONS, and Mr. FIELDS):

H.R. 1577. A bill to provide authority to the Secretary of the Treasury to take special measures against certain entities outside of the United States of primary money laundering concern in connection with illicit fentanyl and narcotics financing, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself, Mr. BISHOP, Mr. OBERNOLTE, and Mr. DELUZIO):

H.R. 1578. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to promote assistance from persons recognized by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for individuals who file certain claims under laws administered by the Secretary; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. PFLUGER (for himself, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. DUNN of Florida, Mr. BALDERSON, Mr. WEBER of Texas, and Mr. FULCHER):

H.R. 1579. A bill to apply the Freedom of Information Act to actions and decisions of the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information in carrying out the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. ROGERS of Alabama:

H.R. 1580. A bill to amend section 3001 of title 39, United States Code, to require solicitations sent in the mail to be clearly identified as solicitations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. SCOTT of Virginia (for himself, Mr. WITTMAN, Ms. MCCLELLAN, and Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia):

H.R. 1581. A bill to establish the Fort Monroe National Historical Park in the Commonwealth of Virginia, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. STAUBER (for himself and Ms. CRAIG):

H.R. 1582. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to equalize the charitable mileage rate with the business travel rate; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. TENNEY (for herself, Mr. PANETTA, and Mr. HUDSON):

H.R. 1583. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to remove private or commercial golf courses and country clubs from the list of uses for which certain proceeds cannot be used; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. TITUS:

H.R. 1584. A bill to direct the Administrator of General Services to ensure that the design of public buildings in the United States adheres to the guiding principles for Federal architecture, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. VALADAO (for himself, Mr. BACON, Mr. SCHNEIDER, and Ms. GARCIA of Texas):

H.R. 1585. A bill to provide incentives to physicians to practice in rural and medically underserved communities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. VELÁZQUEZ (for herself and Mr. LALOTA):

H.R. 1586. A bill to establish requirements relating to certification of small business concerns owned and controlled by women for

certain purposes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business.

By Mr. WALBERG (for himself and Mr. TIFFANY):

H.R. 1587. A bill to prohibit the President from revoking Presidential permits relating to cross-border energy facilities; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, and Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GRIFFITH (for himself, Mr. BALDERSON, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. LATTI, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. PALMER, Mr. SCHMIDT, Mr. BOST, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, and Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania):

H.J. Res. 61. 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 "National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants: Rubber Tire Manufacturing"; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. AGUILAR:

H. Res. 162. A resolution electing Members to certain standing committees of the House of Representatives; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. HUIZENGA (for himself, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. THANEDAR, Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. McDONALD RIVET, Ms. SCHOLTEN, and Mr. JAMES):

H. Res. 163. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the goal of education in schools across America shall be that virtually every student in the United States achieves grade-level reading proficiency, providing them with the foundation to develop the skills and knowledge needed for success in school, work, and life; to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

By Mrs. LUNA (for herself, Ms. PETERSEN, Mr. LAWLER, and Ms. JACOBS):

H. Res. 164. A resolution providing for the consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 23) permitting parental remote voting by proxy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules.

By Ms. VELÁZQUEZ (for herself and Mr. JACKSON of Illinois):

H. Res. 165. A resolution expressing support for the designation of February 28, 2025, as Community Arts Education Day; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

## CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

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

By Ms. STEFANIK:

H.R. 1550.

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

Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. RUTHERFORD:

H.R. 1551.

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

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.



By Mr. BAUMGARTNER:  
H.R. 1552.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article 1, Section 8  
By Ms. BARRAGÁN:  
H.R. 1553.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article 1 Section 8 of the United States Constitution  
By Mr. BEAN of Florida:  
H.R. 1554.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article 1 Section 8 Clause 18: To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution . . .  
By Mrs. BICE:  
H.R. 1555.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article 1, Section 8, Clauses 1, 3, and 18.  
By Mr. BRESNAHAN:  
H.R. 1556.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the U.S. Constitution in that the legislation exercises legislative powers granted to Congress by that clause "to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States or any Department or Office thereof."  
By Mr. CASTEN:  
H.R. 1557.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Clause 18 of Section 8 of Article 1 of the Constitution  
By Mr. CONNOLLY:  
H.R. 1558.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article 1, Section 8  
By Mr. CONNOLLY:  
H.R. 1559.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article 1, Section 8.  
By Mr. CONNOLLY:  
H.R. 1560.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article 1, Section 8.  
By Ms. CROCKETT:  
H.R. 1561.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article I Section 8  
By Ms. CROCKETT:  
H.R. 1562.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article I Section 8  
By Ms. CROCKETT:  
H.R. 1563.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article I Section 8  
By Ms. DeLAURO:  
H.R. 1564.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article 1, Section 1 of the U.S. Constitution  
By Mrs. DINGELL:  
H.R. 1565.  
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. DUNN of Florida:  
H.R. 1566.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article 1 Section 8 Clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution.  
By Mr. GOLDMAN of New York:  
H.R. 1567.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article I Section 8  
By Mr. GOLDMAN of New York:  
H.R. 1568.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article I Section 8  
By Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana:  
H.R. 1569.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18: To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.  
By Mrs. HOUCHIN:  
H.R. 1570.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article 1 Section 8  
By Mr. KELLY of Mississippi:  
H.R. 1571.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18  
By Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia:  
H.R. 1572.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article One Section Eight of the Constitution.  
By Ms. LEE of Nevada:  
H.R. 1573.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 provides Congress with the power to "lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises" in order to "provide for the . . . general Welfare of the United States."  
By Mr. MORAN:  
H.R. 1574.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article 1, Section 8, clause 8  
By Mr. NEWHOUSE:  
H.R. 1575.  
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. NEWHOUSE:  
H.R. 1576.  
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. OGLES:  
H.R. 1577.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article I, Section VIII of the United States Constitution  
By Mr. PETERS:  
H.R. 1578.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article I, Section 8  
By Mr. PFLUGER:  
H.R. 1579.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article 1 Section 8  
By Mr. ROGERS of Alabama:  
H.R. 1580.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1  
By Mr. SCOTT of Virginia:  
H.R. 1581.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article 1, Section 8  
By Mr. STAUBER:  
H.R. 1582.  
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 Ms. TENNEY:  
H.R. 1583.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article I  
By Ms. TITUS:  
H.R. 1584.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution  
By Mr. VALADAO:  
H.R. 1585.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article 1, Section 8  
By Ms. VELÁZQUEZ:  
H.R. 1586.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution, which gives Congress the power "to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof."  
By Mr. WALBERG:  
H.R. 1587.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.  
By Mr. GRIFFITH:  
H.J. Res. 61.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

#### ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

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

H.R. 7: Mr. KUSTOFF.  
H.R. 36: Mr. PANETTA.  
H.R. 60: Mr. MOORE of Alabama.  
H.R. 135: Ms. CASTOR of Florida.  
H.R. 137: Mr. MCGUIRE.  
H.R. 139: Mr. HARIDOPOLOS and Ms. LEE of Florida.  
H.R. 243: Mr. PANETTA.  
H.R. 247: Mr. BISHOP and Ms. SALINAS.  
H.R. 264: Mr. MOULTON.  
H.R. 265: Mr. MOULTON.  
H.R. 322: Ms. SALINAS.  
H.R. 330: Mr. LATTA.  
H.R. 425: Mr. DONALDS, Mr. SHREVE, and Mr. MILLS.  
H.R. 433: Mr. GRIJALVA and Ms. SHERRILL.  
H.R. 436: Mr. COSTA.  
H.R. 451: Mr. MURPHY and Mr. CAREY.  
H.R. 452: Mr. TIMMONS, Ms. KAPTUR, and Mr. TONKO.  
H.R. 483: Mr. LAHOOD.  
H.R. 485: Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia.  
H.R. 486: Mr. SMITH of Washington.  
H.R. 516: Mr. SHREVE.  
H.R. 539: Mr. VAN ORDEN.  
H.R. 551: Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Mr. VAN DREW, and Mr. DONALDS.

- H.R. 573: Mr. LAMALFA.  
H.R. 581: Ms. ELFRETH.  
H.R. 597: Mr. ESTES and Mr. AMODEI of Nevada.  
H.R. 628: Mr. SHREVE.  
H.R. 644: Mr. HARDER of California and Ms. MCBRIDE.  
H.R. 649: Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota.  
H.R. 703: Mr. EVANS of Colorado.  
H.R. 715: Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia.  
H.R. 740: Mr. WEBSTER of Florida.  
H.R. 744: Mr. CARSON.  
H.R. 745: Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania.  
H.R. 801: Mr. BARR.  
H.R. 821: Ms. CRAIG, Ms. CHU, and Mr. RASKIN.  
H.R. 830: Mr. BERA.  
H.R. 833: Mr. HUIZENG.  
H.R. 862: Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK.  
H.R. 879: Ms. ADAMS, Mr. NORCROSS, Mr. FLOOD, Ms. McDONALD RIVET, Mr. RUTHERFORD, and Ms. ROSS.  
H.R. 882: Mr. VAN DREW.  
H.R. 884: Mr. VAN DREW.  
H.R. 894: Ms. CRAIG.  
H.R. 905: Ms. TOKUDA.  
H.R. 909: Mr. CARBAJAL.  
H.R. 911: Ms. POU.  
H.R. 934: Mr. LAMALFA.  
H.R. 944: Ms. SIMON and Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE.  
H.R. 989: Mr. MRVAN and Mr. SHERMAN.  
H.R. 1000: Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas.  
H.R. 1002: Mr. LANDSMAN and Ms. BONAMICI.  
H.R. 1004: Ms. OMAR and Mr. HARDER of California.  
H.R. 1007: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.  
H.R. 1024: Mr. MOORE of Utah, Mr. CISCOMANI, Mr. BEYER, and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.  
H.R. 1065: Mrs. KIM, Mr. MORELLE, Mr. HARDER of California, and Ms. JACOBS.  
H.R. 1083: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.  
H.R. 1085: Mr. EVANS of Pennsylvania, Ms. TOKUDA, and Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania.  
H.R. 1086: Mr. FEENSTRA.  
H.R. 1099: Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania and Mr. KEATING.  
H.R. 1106: Mr. LANDSMAN, Mr. SORENSSEN, and Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.  
H.R. 1111: Mr. QUIGLEY.  
H.R. 1121: Mr. GIMENEZ.  
H.R. 1144: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, and Mr. VALADAO.  
H.R. 1150: Mr. VAN ORDEN.  
H.R. 1151: Mr. SELF and Mr. GROTHMAN.  
H.R. 1169: Ms. VAN DUYN.  
H.R. 1171: Mr. VAN DREW and Mr. POCAN.  
H.R. 1175: Mr. STAUBER.  
H.R. 1181: Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. LATTI, Mr. WEBER of Texas, and Mr. NEHLS.  
H.R. 1196: Mr. LATIMER, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Ms. SHERRILL.  
H.R. 1200: Ms. CRAIG.  
H.R. 1207: Mr. EZELL.  
H.R. 1229: Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. MOSKOWITZ, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, Mr. BISHOP, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia, and Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia.  
H.R. 1252: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.  
H.R. 1259: Ms. TLAIB, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. GRIJALVA.  
H.R. 1262: Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. VAN DREW, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. BISHOP, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. HARDER of California, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. FINSTAD, and Mr. HUIZENG.  
H.R. 1266: Mr. FINSTAD, Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, and Mr. YAKYM.  
H.R. 1267: Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.  
H.R. 1291: Mr. HARDER of California.  
H.R. 1312: Mr. GILL of Texas.  
H.R. 1313: Mr. LAMALFA.  
H.R. 1314: Mrs. FOUSHEE.  
H.R. 1321: Mr. PETERS and Ms. SHERRILL.  
H.R. 1336: Mr. HARDER of California.  
H.R. 1346: Mr. SHREVE.  
H.R. 1350: Ms. MCBRIDE.  
H.R. 1354: Mr. MEEKS and Mrs. FOUSHEE.  
H.R. 1364: Mr. VALADAO.  
H.R. 1383: Ms. MALOY, Mr. FULCHER, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. HARDER of California, Ms. PETERSEN, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Ms. DELBENE, and Ms. BONAMICI.  
H.R. 1386: Mr. LAWLER.  
H.R. 1389: Ms. WATERS.  
H.R. 1394: Mr. VAN ORDEN.  
H.R. 1407: Mr. LAHOOD.  
H.R. 1414: Mr. MILLER of Ohio.  
H.R. 1415: Mr. WESTERMAN.  
H.R. 1422: Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. SALAZAR, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. BISHOP, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. GIMENEZ, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia, Mr. BOST, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, and Mr. TIFFANY.  
H.R. 1437: Mr. CISCOMANI, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. SEWELL, and Ms. NORTON.  
H.R. 1458: Mr. VAN ORDEN.  
H.R. 1475: Mr. VALADAO and Mr. McDOWELL.  
H.R. 1484: Mr. MOULTON, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Mr. RASKIN.  
H.R. 1488: Mr. COLE and Ms. DELBENE.  
H.R. 1494: Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia and Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.  
H.R. 1496: Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Mr. VALADAO, and Mr. VEASEY.  
H.R. 1505: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.  
H.R. 1507: Mrs. LUNA and Mr. HARIDOPOLOS.  
H.R. 1530: Mrs. HAYES and Mr. LATIMER.  
H.R. 1535: Ms. SALINAS.  
H.J. Res. 20: Mr. YAKYM.  
H.J. Res. 25: Mr. TIMMONS.  
H.J. Res. 28: Mrs. BIGGS of South Carolina.  
H.J. Res. 31: Mr. VAN DREW.  
H.J. Res. 35: Ms. FEDORCHAK.  
H. Con. Res. 4: Mr. OBERNOLTE.  
H. Con. Res. 8: Mrs. HINSON and Mr. LAWLER.  
H. Res. 23: Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Ms. SCHOLTEN, Ms. ROSS, Ms. STANSBURY, Mr. RYAN, and Mr. THOMPSON of California.  
H. Res. 70: Mr. MEEKS, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. CASE, Ms. BROWN, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. HARDER of California, and Ms. McDONALD RIVET.  
H. Res. 73: Mr. COSTA.  
H. Res. 100: Mr. MOULTON.  
H. Res. 106: Mr. HUIZENG.  
H. Res. 110: Mrs. BIGGS of South Carolina.  
H. Res. 120: Mr. CONAWAY.  
H. Res. 136: Ms. MENG.  
H. Res. 148: Mr. CONNOLLY.  
H. Res. 153: Ms. POU and Mr. RASKIN.  
H. Res. 154: Mr. MEEKS, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Mr. COHEN, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. LIEU, Mr. HOYER, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. PAL-LONE, Ms. NORTON, Ms. TITUS, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. SCANLON, and Mr. MOULTON.  
H. Res. 159: Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mrs. MCBATH, Mr. NADLER, Ms. STRICKLAND, Ms. ELFRETH, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Ms. BALINT, Ms. LEE of Nevada, Ms. POU, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. BROWN, and Ms. ROSS.



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 119<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

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No. 37

## Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

### PRAYER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Today's opening prayer will be offered by our guest Chaplain, National Chaplain Daniel DePozo, the American Legion, Henderson, NV.

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Most Heavenly Father, whose love is given freely, we thank You, Lord. May all of our lawmakers who make decisions be guided in Your Name. May they have the wisdom and the courage and, most importantly, the courage of love and heart. We ask You, Lord, for those who are serving now, to give to them the help that is needed.

This great Nation of ours is entrusted to You, O Lord. Your blessings on the men and women who are protecting us as a great Nation, who are also under Your care, we ask You to bless them as well.

We ask this all in Your 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. MORENO). 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 senior assistant executive clerk read the nomination of Daniel Driscoll, of North Carolina, to be Secretary of the Army.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

#### NOMINATION OF JAMIESON GREER

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, soon, we will be voting on the nomination of Jamieson Greer of Maryland to be U.S. Trade Representative.

I will be supporting that nomination. I voted for his nomination to get out of the Finance Committee because I believe we need a clear change from the last 4 years, when there was never any attempt to do anything to reduce trade barriers.

Unlike his predecessor, I am confident that Mr. Greer will pursue an aggressive trade strategy that includes opening access to new markets through new trade deals. I also believe that Mr. Greer will work to level the playing field for U.S. farmers to compete with Brazil fairly and to deal with China head on. As my colleagues know, I am a free and fair trader, and though I would not like to see extreme tariffs, I am hopeful that Mr. Greer and President Trump will bring us to freer and more fair trade.

We often think of Europe, Brazil, Japan, South Korea, and China as being big problems for us when it comes to trade. I would like to remind my colleagues that there are about 190 other countries on this globe that we can seek agreements with, and taking time to seek those agreements would be good.

Along this line, Senator BOOZMAN, chairman of the Ag Committee, and I,

a member of the Finance Committee, which has jurisdiction over trade, sent letters to members of the Finance Committee, the Agriculture Committee, and the Ways and Means Committee of the House of Representatives. We asked our colleagues to listen to somebody who has had some experience in dealing with some of these smaller nations with bilateral trade agreements. That person is a person by the name of Al Johnson.

During the George W. Bush Presidency, he negotiated trade agreements with about a dozen countries that added up to about six or seven different agreements—all bilateral. I think, this is the way President Trump prefers—bilateral negotiations rather than multilateral negotiations. He was very successful, and that success can be measured by the fact that he has shown in his studies that, with these dozen countries with which we negotiated bilateral free-trade agreements during the George W. Bush administration, we increased our trade with those nations by about 600 percent.

So I hope my colleagues will give Al Johnson a chance to talk to them. I know he has already visited with some Members of the U.S. Senate, and he is very vigorously promoting the idea that we ought to have bilateral negotiations—and with a lot of countries that we never think about—that could be beneficial to American exports.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The majority leader is recognized.

#### NOMINATION OF JAMIESON GREER

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, yesterday evening, we invoked cloture 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 Jamieson Greer to be U.S. Trade Representative.

Mr. Greer is admirably qualified for this position. He spent most of his career specializing in trade law and has extensive international experience. He served as a missionary in Brussels, received a master's degree from two Paris institutions, served as law clerk for the European Court of Justice, and was stationed in both Türkiye and Iraq as a member of the Air Force. Most significantly of all, he spent 3 years of the previous Trump administration serving as Chief of Staff to then-U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer, who spoke highly of Mr. Greer's work. He is, in short, very well prepared for this role.

One of my top priorities when it comes to trade is expanding opportunities for our Nation's agriculture producers, like the many farmers and ranchers in my State of South Dakota.

The Biden administration frequently seemed to have no interest in trade beyond negotiating on climate and labor issues. Witness the fact that there was not a single FTA negotiated during the Biden administration—not a single one—with all the opportunities across the globe to enter into trade agreements to open up and provide access to America's farmers and ranchers and small business people. Well, that was a real disservice to America's ag producers and to our small businesses.

Trade is critical to the continued success of American agriculture. Twenty percent of U.S. ag products are exported yearly, and exports provide substantial farm income. Soybeans and corn alone accounted for 22 percent of all U.S. exports by value in 2024.

Thanks, in part, to the Biden administration's almost complete inaction on trade, the current agricultural trade deficit is at an alltime high. That is an area of our economy where we have always run trade surpluses historically. Consistently over time, decade after decade, we had always run trade surpluses in agriculture until the last few years under the Biden administration, when we started racking up not only deficits but now record trade deficits. They are at an alltime high. I have to say that is a real problem for our ag producers, especially considering the other challenges that they have been facing, and it is something that needs to be addressed.

I know that the Trump administration is committed to meeting the needs of farmers and ranchers, and I am looking forward to working with Mr. Greer to expand opportunities for our agricultural producers.

I am very encouraged by the fact that Mr. Greer has expressed his commitment to working closely with the Senate Finance Committee, of which I am a member, and with Congress.

President Biden's Trade Representative was completely uninterested in working with Congress. So it is very encouraging to hear of Mr. Greer's commitment to communication and collaboration.

I look forward to a close partnership between the administration and Congress in the coming months and years, as we work to expand opportunities for American producers.

#### ENERGY

Mr. President, this afternoon, we are going to vote on a resolution to end the energy emergency that President Trump declared upon taking office.

Apparently, according to the resolution's authors, this energy emergency declaration isn't justified. In response to that, I would like to just read a headline from the Washington Post last March. That headline is:

Amid explosive demand, America is running out of power.

Let me just repeat that for my Democratic colleagues:

Amid explosive demand, America is running out of power. [Running out of power.]

The article stated:

Vast swaths of the United States are at risk of running short of power as electricity-hungry data centers and clean technology factories proliferate around the country, leaving utilities and regulators grasping for credible plans to expand the nation's creaking power grid.

Then, of course, there was this headline from another major news outlet in December:

More than half the US faces blackout risks in next decade, NERC finds.

Again:

More than half the US faces blackout risks in next decade . . .

Large swaths of the US—

The article noted—

could experience rolling blackouts due to capacity shortfalls during extreme weather events in the next decade, according to a grid reliability analysis released Tuesday.

The Midcontinent Independent System Operator faces the highest risk of energy shortfalls starting as soon as this summer, according to the report from the North American Electric Reliability Corp., which can force grid operators to trigger rolling outages to prevent wider system harm.

These aren't niche publications. These are mainstream media outlets—mainstream media outlets reporting on the fact that “America is running out of power.”

If my Democrat colleagues don't consider that an emergency, I just don't know what to say.

As these articles—and others—make clear, the U.S. electric grid is extremely shaky.

Thanks in substantial part to a movement to shut down fossil fuel-fired powerplants before reliable sources of clean energy are available to replace them, America is running out of power, even as we face huge new power demands. The boom in data center construction—in particular to power the rise of artificial intelligence—is placing, and will place, vast new demands upon the grid.

A recent CNBC headline noted:

Data centers powering artificial intelligence could use more electricity than entire cities. [. . . more electricity than entire cities.]

If we continue on our current course, there is a very real risk that we are not going to be able to meet that demand; that we are going to end up with widespread brownouts and blackouts or electricity rationing or de facto rationing forced by sky-high energy bills.

I realize that this is an inconvenient truth to my Democrat colleagues. Why? Because it interferes with their plans to force the United States off conventional energy.

If Democrats acknowledge that we are rapidly approaching an energy crisis, they might have to actually consider the consequences of their energy plans; to consider what might happen when you put immense new power demands on an already shaky grid by forcing Americans into electric vehicles; to consider what might happen if you drastically limit domestic oil and gas production, even as the Nation continues to require steady and affordable supply of conventional fuels.

So I do understand why Democrats prefer not to acknowledge our national energy emergency. But acknowledge it or not, it is there. And if we don't take action, we are going to be facing some very serious problems in the very near future.

So I am grateful to have a President who recognizes and acknowledges the energy emergency facing our Nation, and I look forward to working with him to unleash American energy production and achieve a secure, affordable, and reliable energy future with the American people.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Democratic leader is recognized.

#### TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, over the last month, it has become clear how Donald Trump and Republicans govern. Donald Trump and Republicans have focused on things most Americans don't care about or don't like while refusing to focus on things Americans actually do care about.

Donald Trump and Republicans have focused on things most Americans don't care about or don't even like while refusing to focus on things Americans actually do care about.

Exhibit A of these things that Americans don't like is what is happening today in the House of Representatives. As soon as today, House Republicans will advance a budget resolution clearing the way for perhaps the most draconian cuts to Medicaid in American history, all so Republicans can cut taxes for their billionaires club and have the American people pick up the tab and pay the price. This is in the

category of things Americans really don't like.

There is only one proper way to describe the Republican plan that is moving through the House this week: radical. Radical. The Republican plan radically hurts American families while radically helping the billionaires club. Republicans are so eager to cut taxes for billionaires that they would increase the deficit by a trillion dollars or more to make room for their sweetheart-deal tax cuts for billionaires like Elon Musk.

Republicans are also pushing for trillions in cuts for working- and middle-class Americans, endangering everything from Medicaid to nutrition programs, to housing assistance, and so much more. The Republican bill could cut as much as \$880 billion from Medicaid alone. That means 80 million Americans—kids, veterans, people with disabilities, rural Americans, the elderly—are all at risk.

And why? Why are Republicans putting these people at such risk and hurting things that benefit them—not waste; things that actually go to people and help them? They are doing it to make life easier for the billionaires club. They are doing it to cut taxes for the ultrawealthy.

Last week, here in the Senate, during vote-arama, I pushed an amendment that said we should have no tax breaks for billionaires. I pushed an amendment calling for no billionaire tax breaks if even one dollar of Medicaid spending was cut. What is more important: helping people get healthcare, helping the elderly stay in nursing homes, helping our veterans—especially those who may be out of work—get the healthcare they need? What is more important—that or a tax break for someone who is very wealthy already?

Well, on both amendments—the one that said no tax breaks for billionaires and the one that said no tax breaks for billionaires if even one dollar of Medicaid spending was cut—both times, Republicans overwhelmingly said no.

Let us hope—let us hope—it may be a distant hope, but let us hope that House Republicans show more courage, more compassion, and more common sense to reject these horrible, harmful, radical cuts.

This is not what the American people signed up for in this election. Billionaire tax cuts is a clear example of things Americans don't like. Just look at all the backlash Republicans are seeing in their townhalls. And Republicans know this. Republicans know that cutting taxes for wealthy billionaires is something most Americans don't like at all. They didn't campaign on it. Oh, no. I didn't hear any of our Republican colleagues who were running go home and say "I want to cut taxes for the billionaires," although that is the first thing they are doing when they get here. Yet Republicans seem to be full steam ahead all the same.

This, of course, is part of the pattern I am talking about. Over the last month, Donald Trump and Republicans have spent their energy focused on things Americans don't like while refusing to focus on things Americans actually do care about—like inflation, rising prices.

We already see that Americans are upset with the Trump administration because prices continue to rise, as they have over the last many years. Donald Trump promised to bring down costs on day one. He said that the first day he is elected, he is going to start bringing costs down, but instead, inflation has gone up, grocery prices are up. Chicken, pork, steak—all more expensive. Eggs are up 15 percent from last month. All the while, Republicans are focused on things that Americans either don't like or don't care about.

Americans don't like, for instance, pardoning violent insurrectionists. It was one of the least popular things we have seen; a recent poll in the Washington Post is clear. But that was the first major decision Donald Trump made as President, the first major decision.

Most Americans don't care whether you call it the Gulf of Mexico or the Gulf of America or something else. Most Americans don't care about building hotels in Gaza or annexing Canada. Yet these are the things that Donald Trump is focused on to distract people from the fact that he doesn't actually have real solutions to the things Americans really worry about.

Of course, there are things that Republicans are focused on that make things actively worse. Most Americans don't think it is a great idea to get into a trade war with our closest allies. That is going to make trips to the grocery store even more expensive than they are now.

Of course, most Americans do care about making government more efficient. While everyone certainly supports cutting waste, Americans don't like the harmful chaos that Elon Musk and DOGE have unleashed. They don't want to see a rich billionaire treat Federal workers with immense disrespect. And make no mistake, Americans did not sign up for DOGE to endanger their Social Security and Medicare and Medicaid benefits. That is not government efficiency; that hurts the American people.

What DOGE is doing is chaos, and Americans know that the chaos being unleashed by DOGE is causing a lot of harm to the country. Americans don't want to see their air traffic safety personnel fired in droves, no questions asked. That is not government efficiency; that is chaos and danger at the airports and in airplanes, at security checkpoints.

Our veterans don't want to see the VA starved of resources. Someone came over to me the other day and said: My brother is in a VA hospital. He has a rare disease. Seven of the people were let go. Who is going to take care of him?

They don't want to hear about cuts to the Veterans Crisis Line, where veterans who may have come back from Iraq or Afghanistan with PTSD or other problems have a place to go and a place to call. That is not government efficiency, cutting the Veterans Crisis Line; that is just more chaos, more harm, more hurt. Can you imagine the callousness of firing personnel who operate the veterans suicide crisis line, as was reported by the staff at the VA? It is a cruel and vindictive way to treat America's heroes.

Of course, our 9/11 families did not sign up for DOGE trying to cut the 9/11 survivor health program—the people who rushed to the Towers, the brave heroes, police, fire, first responders, and others who rushed to the Towers in the days after that horrible day of 9/11 and got illnesses in their lungs and gastrointestinal tracts and now are getting some help. The 9/11 families didn't sign up to cut that, but that is precisely what DOGE tried to do. We pushed back, and I am glad that President Trump and DOGE reversed themselves on that issue. They should be reversing themselves on many other issues also that hurt people so badly.

But the takeaway is they are very clear: What DOGE is doing is not making government more efficient; it is creating more chaos. And if there is one thing Americans don't want in these turbulent times, it is more chaos.

Rather than actually cut waste in government in a smart way, a careful way, an efficient way; rather than putting the needs of working people first, Donald Trump, Elon Musk, and the Republican Party have plunged basic government services into chaos and taken a meat ax at programs that help workers, middle-class families, and low-income Americans, all for the sake of cutting taxes for billionaires and mega corporations.

Republicans are focused on the wrong things. They are helping the wrong people, and they are ignoring the vast majority of Americans they promised to serve.

Under Donald Trump's Republican Party, billionaires win, American families lose.

So let me say it once again. Over the last month, it has become clear how Donald Trump and Republicans govern. Donald Trump and Republicans have focused on things Americans don't care about or don't like while refusing to focus on things Americans actually do care about.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. 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.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I have just come to the floor, having listened to the minority leader, the

Democratic Senator from New York, say something to the effect that he thought that President Trump's policies were not popular with the American people.

As he was saying this, I recalled a poll, a Harvard-Harris poll, conducted just this past week. Trump's policies—the key thing why he won election as President of the United States—huge popularity of what the President is doing today: promises that he made prior to the election, promises kept now that he is in the White House.

Let's take a look at No. 1—deportation of illegal immigrants who have committed crimes. Mr. President, 81 percent of the American people—and that includes a lot of Democrats—say that is a very popular position taken by President Trump and now being enforced by President Trump.

Eliminating fraud and waste in government expenditures—76 percent of Americans agree. What have we seen happen with DOGE? What we have seen is actually pointing out fraud and waste in government. The American people are supportive.

Then, of course, closing the border. Again, 76 percent of Americans—Republicans, Democrats, Independents—all across the board support what President Trump is doing.

President Trump ran for office against a party that was a party of high prices and open borders, and it is because of those things that President Trump won and Republicans won the House and the Senate.

So now the minority leader comes to the floor and says that what President Trump is doing is not popular. Well, they sure are in terms of wasteful Washington spending and closing the border, which were the two reasons that President Trump and Republicans won the elections in November.

Let's talk about the things the American people care about. Republicans, President Trump—all of us promised to get America back on track. That is what we said we would do. That is what we are doing right now. We committed to cutting Washington's wasteful spending. We committed to reducing the size of a bloated government. This is going to make life more affordable for all Americans.

President Trump and Republicans are now doing exactly what we promised we would do. We are rooting out waste, we are rooting out fraud, and we are rooting out abuse by a bureaucracy, all across a bureaucracy. We are ripping it out root and stem.

The Department of Government Efficiency has already uncovered more than \$55 billion in savings. Who benefits from the savings? The American taxpayers.

U.S. taxpayers were spending \$2 million—take a look at this list—\$2 million to develop “sustainable recycling models” in the Balkans. Well, we have canceled that.

U.S. taxpayers were spending \$19 million on “biodiversity conversation” in Nepal. Well, that has been canceled.

U.S. taxpayers were spending \$47 million to improve “learning outcomes in Asia.” We canceled that.

U.S. taxpayers were spending \$1.5 million on “voter confidence” in Liberia, Africa. Well, we have canceled that.

U.S. taxpayers were spending \$21 million for voter turnout in India. Canceled.

More savings are on the way.

Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Lee Zeldin, who we recently confirmed to that post, uncovered \$20 billion—with a “b”—\$20 billion in taxpayer money that the Biden EPA shoveled out the door on their last days before leaving office.

This was a slush fund, and it was funneled to eight leftwing climate groups. Now, all of this was in the service of the left's extreme, radical climate agenda—an agenda that makes energy more expensive and life less affordable for American families.

Who received these taxpayer-funded, undeserved gifts? Does anybody remember Georgia Democrat Governor candidate Stacey Abrams? Well, she was one of them. Her leftwing organization got a \$2 billion kickback from the Biden administration. I am so glad that Ambassador Zeldin caught this scam and is working to claw back the money for the taxpayers of this Nation.

I heard the minority leader admit just this morning—he said: Of course there is some wasteful spending. He didn't mention any of those things. He didn't actually point out what it is. But I don't hear him say what wasteful spending he wants to cut. In fact, I haven't heard any Democrats say what wasteful spending, if any, should be cut. What about that \$2 billion that was sent to Stacey Abrams?

Democrats added almost \$5 trillion to our debt in 4 years. Joe Biden and Democrats' reckless spending caused painfully high prices.

Cutting wasteful Washington spending is long overdue. President Trump and Republicans are uncovering massive evidence of wasteful Washington spending, and we are stopping it.

Democrats seem more upset that the waste they support is now being exposed than about the massive waste itself. Instead of defending the indefensible and the obscene level of spending, what are they doing? What do the Democrats do? They are demanding that the courts intervene. Hey, let's get the courts involved. This is the next chapter of destructive Democrat behavior.

Democrats have now filed over 80 lawsuits in 1 month against the Trump administration. Now, often, they go judge shopping. What are they looking for? They are looking for partisan, activist judges.

So how does that work? Well, last month—and it is unbelievable—last month, the State of New Jersey wanted to sue the administration, so they filed suit not in New Jersey but in Massachusetts. They sued in a district where

11 of the 13 district judges were appointed by Democrat Presidents. They didn't think they could accomplish what they wanted to accomplish in their own home State, so they go to Massachusetts, one of the most liberal States in the country. That is not a coincidence. It is intentional. It is premeditated. What is the aim of it? It is to obstruct President Trump's popular cost-cutting efforts.

Let me tell you how far the Democrats are taking this. Earlier this month, a Federal judge in New York issued a knee-jerk order that forbids political appointees from accessing records within the Treasury Department. The judge actually went so far as to block the Secretary of the Treasury, Scott Bessent, from accessing important data within the Agency that he runs, that he has been confirmed to serve as the Secretary of the Treasury by this very body, by the U.S. Senate, and you got a judge saying he doesn't have access to the Treasury records.

So a Federal judge blocks a Senate-confirmed Secretary of Treasury from getting the information he needs to run the U.S. Department of the Treasury. That is where the Democrats are headed.

District courts should not get to micromanage the executive branch. Yet that is what Democrats want to do with the courts, and that is why they have filed 80 lawsuits so far. It is not based on the law. It is not based on policy disagreements. This is based solely on political disagreements.

This is the real crisis we are facing in America. It is what I hear about in Wyoming. I heard about it this past weekend. It is unelected, unaccountable, heavyhanded Federal bureaucrats who have taken America off track. We are getting America back on track.

The American people are being strangled by Washington's wasteful spending, by burdensome redtape. According to a poll last month from the Associate Press, almost two in three Americans say government inefficiency is a major problem.

The bureaucracy must be accountable to the American people, and they are there to serve the American people. Americans voted in November for more accountability. They voted to drain the swamp. This is the swamp I am talking about, and that is exactly what President Trump is doing.

Working with President Trump, Senate Republicans are going to deliver on our mandate, and it is going to involve massive change in Washington because it is time, Mr. President, to get America back on track.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, did you see over the weekend Elon Musk, the richest man in the world, dancing on a stage with a chain saw? Did you see that? Most Americans did. That was his approach to DOGE government efficiency—take a chain saw to it, put an



Agency like USAID in the “wood chipper,” in his words. Does this sound like a thoughtful approach to making government more efficient or does this sound like a meat-ax approach from a man who has no business being there, an unelected individual who somehow has been given authority by this President to lop off tens of thousands of jobs day in day out?

Yes, we have gone to court. Many of the Agencies in the government—the employees and their representatives—have gone to court to question this ham-handed approach to making this government work, and they have been successful in the overwhelming percentage to receive temporary restraining orders and the like because on its face, serious questions are raised as to the authority of this President.

We have time-honored traditions when it comes to things like impoundment of Federal funds. The President cannot make that decision unilaterally. The power of the purse happens to be with the article I agency of the government, the legislature, not with the article II agency, the executive. As a consequence, when the President decides to do this unilaterally, he is being challenged in court, and he should be challenged in court.

This is not just a political issue, as one Senator just described; it is more importantly a constitutional issue and a legal issue, and it is going to be resolved ultimately by the court. Perhaps the President will win some of his cases and lose others. But this is a legitimate exercise of the authority in the Constitution.

I might add that this notion that we are going to start lopping off air traffic controllers and people who are responsible for aviation safety—I would just say to those who are for that and believe that is draining the swamp: Pay attention to what is happening across America. These terrible aviation disasters like the one that happened here in Washington, DC, should be taken seriously by us every day, and putting people in charge of these Departments who don't have adequate staff to monitor the flights of our Nation is active irresponsibility, as far as I am concerned.

The same thing is true with avian flu. Yes, the price of eggs is terrible. One of the reasons is avian flu is killing off the flocks of laying hens. As a consequence, we have fewer eggs and higher prices.

It is a very real concern because the avian flu is going to jump from these birds and fowl into the human chain, and we will face another pandemic. Do we want that? For God's sake, no. But the notion that we are going to lop off employees that are responsible for public health one after the other and somehow make this a safer nation is irresponsible on its face. Should it be challenged in court? Of course it should be, and I stand by that.

I just want to say to the Senator and others who make these comments: Think about what you are inviting

here, to give the President the authority this Congress has, the authority under the Constitution—to just give it away. Are we going to give away our responsibility under the Constitution because of the popularity of this President with some Members? I pray that we won't.

(The remarks of Mr. DURBIN pertaining to the introduction of S. 710 are printed in today's RECORD under “Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.”)

Mr. DURBIN. I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SHEEHY). The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MULLIN. 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 DRISCOLL NOMINATION

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Driscoll nomination?

Mr. MULLIN. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. TUBERVILLE).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) would have voted “yea.”

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Maryland (Ms. ALSOBROOKS), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN), are necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 66, nays 28, as follows:

#### [Rollcall Vote No. 90 Ex.]

##### YEAS—66

Banks	Grassley	Moran
Barrasso	Hagerty	Moreno
Bennet	Hassan	Mullin
Blackburn	Hawley	Murkowski
Boozman	Heinrich	Paul
Britt	Hickenlooper	Peters
Budd	Hoeven	Reed
Capito	Husted	Ricketts
Cassidy	Hyde-Smith	Risch
Collins	Johnson	Rosen
Cornyn	Justice	Rounds
Cortez Masto	Kaine	Schmitt
Cotton	Kelly	Scott (FL)
Crapo	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Curtis	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Daines	Lankford	Sheehy
Durbin	Lee	Sullivan
Ernst	Lummis	Thune
Fetterman	Marshall	Tillis
Fischer	McConnell	Warner
Gallego	McCormick	Wicker
Graham	Moody	Young

##### NAYS—28

Baldwin	Booker	Duckworth
Blumenthal	Cantwell	Gillibrand
Blunt Rochester	Coons	Hirono

Kim	Ossoff	Warnock
King	Padilla	Warren
Lujan	Schatz	Welch
Markey	Schiff	Whitehouse
Merkley	Schumer	Wyden
Murphy	Slotkin	
Murray	Smith	

#### NOT VOTING—6

Alsobrooks	Cruz	Tuberville
Cramer	Sanders	Van Hollen

The nomination was confirmed.

(Mr. CURTIS assumed the Chair.)

The VICE PRESIDENT. 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 PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CURTIS). The majority leader.

#### ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Senator KENNEDY be recognized for up to 15 minutes and, upon the use or yielding back of time, then make a motion to proceed to Calendar No. 15, S.J. Res. 11.

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

The Senator from Louisiana.

#### TRIBUTE TO JESS ANDREWS

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I rise today for two reasons. No. 1, I am losing one of my best colleagues—she is sitting right here next to me—Ms. Jess Andrews. Jess has run my communications shop for—I don't know how many years—5 years.

I try to hire really good people, and, certainly, Jess is one of them. She is a very moral person. She is whip-smart. But when you hire good people, you know you are going to lose them because good people, capable people, like Jess, are ambitious people, and they want to move on to new positions.

Jess is becoming deputy chief of staff to our new Senator from Ohio. I wish her well, and I just wanted to thank her publicly.

Jess Andrews is the real deal, and she has just done an extraordinary job for the people in Louisiana and for the American people, and I am so, so grateful.

I congratulate our new Senator from Ohio. He is getting a good one.

So thank you, Jess.

#### S.J. RES. 11

Mr. President, the second reason I rise is to talk about a regulation that I am trying to get rid of, but I want to begin with this observation.

Nearly 5 years ago, when he was running for President—I remember it like it was yesterday—President Biden said:

I guarantee you, we are going to end fossil fuels.

“I guarantee you,” he said, in front of God, country, and the American people. “I guarantee you,” he said, “we are going to end fossil fuels.”

And he tried. For 4 years, he tried.

Here is why I point that out.

The first well drilled in the Gulf of America—I know some people call it the Gulf of Mexico. I don't want to get off into that discussion. But the first

well drilled offshore in the Gulf of America was drilled 87 years ago, in 1938. Since then, we have drilled, I think, 6,000 wells. There are 6,000 platforms in the Gulf of Mexico.

Now, before an oil company drills a well, on its own volition and at the suggestion of the Department of the Interior, the oil company surveys the seabed. It just makes sense for safety reasons but also for the sake of history because we want to look for shipwrecks.

We have found—I don't know how many—shipwrecks. I had it written down: 4,000 shipwrecks. We have surveyed the entire Gulf of America in the 87 years since we started drilling there. We have surveyed 311,652 square nautical miles, the surface area of Texas and California put together. That is how we found 4,000 shipwrecks. And it has cost hundreds and hundreds of millions of dollars. So we know what is there. We know what is there.

Well, in September of 2024, the Department of the Interior, in a midnight regulation, in an effort to try to further hurt fossil fuels, passed a new rule, and they said: Look, we know we have surveyed the entire gulf, and we know we have found 4,000 shipwrecks. And we know that the area that we surveyed is the size of California and Texas put together. But every time you drill a new well, we want you to survey again.

Well, why? I mean, what is the benefit? We know what the cost is. It costs anywhere from \$10,000 to \$1 million to resurvey again. It just makes no sense.

And a third of the production in the gulf is from independent oil companies. Maybe the majors can support this, but if an independent oil company has to survey what has already been surveyed, it can add, as I said, \$10,000 to \$1 million to a well cost.

What is the point? I can tell you what the point is. Somebody over at BOEM, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Department of the Interior, hates fossil fuels—somebody or somebodies.

Now, I am not saying that the person who came up with this rule is the dumbest guy in the world, but that person better hope that the dumbest guy in the world doesn't die because this is just bone-deep, down-to-the-marrow dumb. This is the kind of "spending porn" that we all ought to abhor.

So I am going to try to kill the regulation today under what, as the Presiding Officer knows, is called the Congressional Review Act, and we will be voting on that shortly.

I realize that common sense, as I have said before, is illegal in Washington. This is not a normal place. But I hope folks who still have common sense will vote to get rid of this foolish rule.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

## LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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"—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 15, S.J. Res. 11.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant executive clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 15, S.J. Res. 11, 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".

## VOTE ON MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. KENNEDY. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. TUBERVILLE).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Maryland (Ms. ALSOBROOKS) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) are necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 54, nays 42, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 91 Leg.]

## YEAS—54

Banks	Graham	Moran
Barrasso	Grassley	Moreno
Blackburn	Hagerty	Mullin
Boozman	Hawley	Murkowski
Britt	Hickenlooper	Paul
Budd	Hoeven	Ricketts
Capito	Husted	Risch
Cassidy	Hyde-Smith	Rosen
Collins	Johnson	Rounds
Cornyn	Justice	Schmitt
Cortez Masto	Kennedy	Scott (FL)
Cotton	Lankford	Scott (SC)
Crapo	Lee	Sheehy
Cruz	Lummis	Sullivan
Curtis	Marshall	Thune
Daines	McConnell	Tillis
Ernst	McCormick	Wicker
Fischer	Moody	Young

## NAYS—42

Baldwin	Hirono	Reed
Bennet	Kaine	Sanders
Blumenthal	Kelly	Schatz
Blunt Rochester	Kim	Schiff
Booker	King	Schumer
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Coons	Lujan	Slotkin
Duckworth	Markey	Smith
Durbin	Merkley	Warner
Fetterman	Murphy	Warnock
Gallego	Murray	Warren
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Welch
Hassan	Padilla	Whitehouse
Heinrich	Peters	Wyden

## NOT VOTING—4

Alsobrooks	Tuberville
Cramer	Van Hollen

The motion was agreed to.

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"

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the joint resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (S.J. Res. 11) 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".

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the provisions of 5 USC 802, there will now be up to 10 hours of debate equally divided.

## RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 1:02 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mrs. BRITT).

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"—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

## CHINA

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, it has been a little over a month since President Trump was inaugurated as the 47th President of the United States. One of his key promises on the campaign trail—and, really, throughout his service in the White House—has been to confront the threat of the Chinese Communist Party and to hold China accountable for failing to play by the rules. The American people voted resoundingly for that agenda this past November, delivering both the electoral vote and the popular vote to President Trump, as well as Republican majorities in both the House and the Senate. Now, the task at hand is to actually begin to implement those promises to hold China to account.

Xi Jinping has made clear his plans to "reincorporate" Taiwan in 2027, just 2 years away. We don't know exactly what that entails, but the threat is ominous.

Time is running short to make any potential conflict with China undesirable from their standpoint—in other words, to reestablish deterrence. But the good news is, we have a number of tools available to us and a track record of success on confronting the threat of the CCP during the Trump administration.

Back in 2018, I was proud to work with President Trump on modernizing the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States, otherwise known as CFIUS. This interagency committee reviews foreign direct investment into the United States for potential national security concerns.

The bill we ultimately passed and that was signed into law by President Trump was called FIRREA, the Foreign Investment Risk Review Modernization Act. In that law, we updated CFIUS to expand its scope and process to ensure that we are more comprehensively reviewing any investments that might allow influence by foreign entities for nefarious purposes in the United States.

This bipartisan legislation was signed into law by President Trump as part of the 2019 National Defense Authorization Act. FIRREA was a critical step toward derisking from China.

While this was a big win for Republicans and for President Trump, the truth is we still have more work to do. The top of our to-do list now is to address outbound investment flowing into China by American investors.

At this very moment, American investors—some of these are businesses; some of these are individuals. The investments they are making are fueling China's military buildup and modernization by funneling capital into potentially dual-use technology and military capabilities that could eventually be used against the United States and our allies.

According to the U.S.-China Economic Security and Review Commission's 2024 Report to Congress, U.S. investments in China's semiconductors, quantum computing, and AI alone totaled about \$2 billion in 2023.

In 2020, more than 90 percent of these investments were concentrated in the semiconductor industry. And from 2015 to 2021, U.S. investors made up 37 percent of China's global funding for artificial intelligence.

Congress is acutely aware of the threat posed by China's rapid capture of the autonomous vehicle market, advanced cellular technologies, and semiconductor manufacturing. We have acted on these issues before, and it is time to do so again.

I was proud to lead the CHIPS for America Act to help the United States reestablish manufacturing for advanced semiconductors here in America, where the percentage of advanced semiconductors that fuel everything from our cell phones to the avionics in an F-35 Joint Strike Fighter—only 12 percent of those were made here in the United States. The rest of them were

made in Asia, principally in Taiwan and South Korea. But we are in the process of turning that around.

But there is another side to this coin. How can we expect to outcompete or even catch up to Chinese companies if, unbeknownst to us, American dollars are continuing to fuel their rise, economically and militarily?

We are simply not being serious about confronting our greatest strategic adversary if we continue to be blind to the investment of billions of dollars in the very technologies that could be potentially used to kill American soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines.

Now, we have an opportunity on a bipartisan basis to finish the job we began with CFIUS reform just a few short years ago. We can do this by passing legislation to address outbound investment into China. To start with, we need greater transparency. We need some sort of accountability so we know exactly what the facts are.

It is no secret to any of my colleagues that I have been working on this issue for some time now. During the previous Congress, my amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act with provisions to increase transparency around outbound investment passed by a vote of 91 to 6, demonstrating the high level of consensus in this Chamber on this issue. But, unfortunately, this amendment was dropped from the National Defense Authorization Act when it went to conference, and it didn't make it into the final version that was sent to the President's desk and ultimately signed into law.

Then, last year, we made progress along a bipartisan path and in a bicameral manner, with Speaker JOHN-SON and Congressman MICHAEL MCCAUL, who was then the chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, working on the House's legislative provisions around outbound investment. But, unfortunately, that didn't make it across the finish line before the end of the year.

But there are reasons for optimism that this year will be the time we get these provisions over the finish line. We have worked hard to work with the House's version and to work with the Senate version that passed overwhelmingly, previously, to make sure we marry those up and we establish a bill that enjoys bipartisan, bicameral support.

I have been working with everyone, from the Speaker of the House to the chairman of the Select Committee on the CCP, JOHN MOOLENAAR, to Congressman MCCAUL, as well as TIM SCOTT, chairman of the Banking Committee here in the Senate. We have all made input into a piece of legislation that will finally accomplish what we have been working on for these last few years.

We know time is of the essence, and we are working hand in glove with the Trump administration to ensure this

legislation actually accomplishes the goals that we set out for it.

I can't emphasize what a great opportunity this is and what a great win it will be for all parties involved. Addressing U.S. outbound investment in China will be a great opportunity for all of my colleagues here in the House and the Senate to deliver a big win for our country and for our national security.

It will be a home run for all Americans, who can feel safe that American companies and investors are not helping China not only rebuild its economy but also its military as well. And, of course, China continues to be our greatest strategic adversary on the planet.

The only party that stands to lose from this legislation will be the Chinese Communist Party, and it is high time that they be held accountable.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico.

S.J. RES. 11

Mr. HEINRICH. Madam President, I rise today in opposition to S.J. Res. 11, which would repeal a policy that helps protect archeological sites in the ocean when oil and gas development is planned in the area.

I want to be clear that this policy does not prevent any oil and gas development. It simply requires that companies take a good look at the ocean floor with sonar where they are planning to drill a well and see what historic and prehistoric resources are there.

The Outer Continental Shelf, where these wells are typically drilled, is home to one-of-a-kind cultural resources, from incredible historic shipwrecks to old maritime infrastructure, even evidence of human settlements on land that used to be on dry ground but is now on the sea floor.

This policy is a small change, and it simply brings offshore oil and gas up to the exact same standard that we already apply to offshore wind projects. It is entirely reasonable to require energy developers to identify archeological sites and other cultural resources on the ocean floor, just as they do when they produce energy on land.

In fact, in my home State of New Mexico, energy companies routinely work with Tribal representatives, State agencies, and other experts to identify cultural resources in an area proposed for development and to make a plan to limit the impact of development on those resources. It is reasonable for us to expect the same of offshore energy developers.

This policy was supported by two federally recognized Tribes, the Chickahominy and the Rappahannock. Passage of this resolution means not only that this would be repealed but that any similar policy could never be put back in place.

Our cultural resources are too valuable to let them go unprotected just because they are on the ocean floor, and I would urge my colleagues to oppose the resolution.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BANKS). The Democratic whip.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. RES. 91

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, over the years, Federal funding for medical and scientific research has helped split the atom, defeat polio, create the internet, map the human genome, and so much more. No nation has ever made such a significant investment in science and medicine—none. And no nation's researchers have done more to approve the quality of life, not only here but around the world.

But we are in a pivotal moment in history. All the progress we have made—all the progress we hope to make—is in danger because of Donald Trump and Elon Musk. That is right. These two men promised to bring down the price of eggs and gasoline and make housing more affordable. Well, none of that has happened. Instead, they are carrying out an unprecedented and devastating campaign to cut research on cancer, ALS, Alzheimer's, dementia, and infectious diseases.

Instead of making life better for Americans, they want to slash research funding for the National Institutes of Health. If you have never heard of this Agency, I hope you will Google it or take a look and research to figure out who they are and what they do. It is the premier medical research agency in the world.

If you or someone you love receives a dreaded diagnosis, you turn to the doctor and ask: Is there a cure? A surgery? A medicine? I know I have been there and asked those very questions.

There is a difference between the doctor saying, "I'm sorry, there is nothing we can do" and "I have got some good news; there has been some research at NIH we should look into."

You know all the miracle drugs you see on TV? You can't get away from them, can you? And 99 percent of those drugs approved in the last 10 years were the product, in some way, of NIH research. NIH funding is why people are beating cancer, why babies are being spared from preventable diseases, why HIV is no longer a death sentence, why progress is being made on dementia and other neurological diseases.

Since the start of this administration, we have seen the White House unleash a lawless chaotic attack on everything from funding for farmers to biomedical research. Planes are crashing, and they are cutting aviation safety. Avian flu is on the rise and threatening to make that leap to humans, and we are cutting public health experts. Elon Musk dances across the stage with a chain saw; people laugh and cheer. First, let me tell you this: There is nothing to cheer about when it comes to medical research.

It was this bizarre memo from Office of Management and Budget that illegally froze Federal grant funding. They even prohibited the recipients of Federal grants and medical research from physically meeting in the same place. Oh, you are going to hear arguments:

We have got to cut back on the waste and fraud and abuse. I am all for that. But having researchers unable to even sit down and talk about the next breakthrough, how can that possibly be good for our country?

These cuts that were announced by this administration were quickly halted by a Federal judge in a Federal court. There was comment on the floor earlier today that too many people are going to courts. Thank God they went to courts to keep this policy from being implemented by this administration.

But it seems, even though the court made a ruling, this administration is still holding up funding in violation of the court's order. As a result, NIH is delayed awarding approximately \$1 billion in grant funding, delaying research at institutions nationwide. Does the delay hurt? Not unless you are the one sitting in that waiting room at a doctor praying to God there is a breakthrough to save your child.

Listen to what is at stake for one of my constituents, Dr. Timothy Koh, professor of kinesiology and nutrition at the University of Illinois in Chicago. For 15 years, Dr. Koh has been researching why people with diabetes develop wounds that do not heal, as well as researching treatments to address these wounds.

While having steady Federal funding for his research through the years, Dr. Koh was recently informed in the last few weeks that his NIH grant application is on hold because of the Trump-Musk Federal funding freeze. His current grant is scheduled to end on Friday of this week. And if his grant is not renewed, he will have to lay off his lab staff and will see major setbacks in the research he has been involved in. Dr. Koh said:

It's going to potentially put an end to my research career and we won't be able to develop these new therapies for diabetic [patients].

Is diabetes research important? If it is someone in your family, it is very important.

Make no mistake, under the Constitution, Congress is supposed to have the power of the purse—that is what it reads. But over the decades, bipartisan Members of Congress have worked in concert on a bipartisan basis to do something about NIH funding. It was a little over 10 years ago—Francis Collins, I consider to be an American hero and a saint. He headed up the NIH. And I went out to see him, and I said: I can't double your appropriation. I would do it if I could. What can I do to help you?

He said: Give the NIH Agency 5 percent real growth every year, and I will tell you this: Two things will happen. We will line up the scoreboard with breakthroughs and cures for diseases in America; and, secondly, my researchers will take heart because one of the things that destroys their interest in pursuing a career is the uncertainty of Federal funding.

Well, we went from \$30 billion to \$48 billion in 10 years because we had a bipartisan team to do it. PATTY MURRAY joined me on the Democratic side. She has always been a champion of medical research; and on the Republican side, Senator Blunt of Missouri was the leader. He was the best. When he chaired a subcommittee on Appropriations that funded this Agency, he was committed to the 5 percent. And then Lamar Alexander of Tennessee—both of those gentlemen have retired. The four of us put together an effort to raise the NIH funding from \$30 billion 10 years ago to \$48 billion—a dramatic, dramatic increase.

We did it because we all agreed this is not a partisan issue. It should never be. We knew that NIH funding leads to new cures and treatments for patients in need. It supports well-paying jobs nationwide. And it cements our global leadership.

Illinois universities and hospitals receive approximately \$1.2 billion in NIH funding a year, which supports 14,000 jobs in our State and 3.5 billion in economic activity. But I will tell you, Mr. President, virtually every State in the Nation can tell that story in one form or another.

Each year, the State of Wyoming receives approximately \$12 million in NIH funding. Now, Wyoming is a small State, but they clearly have good research facilities that merit NIH grants. This money supports 265 jobs in Wyoming and \$49 million dollars in economic activity. The top NIH funded institution in Wyoming is the University of Wyoming.

With this NIH funding, researchers at the University of Wyoming have recently conducted the following projects. See if any of these sound close to home or close to your family:

No. 1, why Alzheimer's disease and dementia can worsen at specific hours of the day.

No. 2, a project in Wyoming, links between menopause and cardiovascular disease in women.

And developing a new noninvasive tool to help treat people suffering from epilepsy, schizophrenia, anxiety, and autism.

They all sound like worthy projects to me.

Unfortunately, President Trump and Elon Musk aren't finished there. They tried indiscriminately to slash how NIH pays for indirect costs. Without funding, universities wouldn't be able to afford the technology that allows them to conduct research. Cuts to indirect costs are, simply, cuts to research, period.

The other day, we had a debate on the floor on this NIH. One of the Republican Senators talked about the outrageous outlying indirect cost in this country. Let's look at them. Let's review them.

But to stop all meetings of all medical researchers while we do this, to stop the funding for all the grantees, to stop all of the medical research because there might be 1 or 2 or 10

schools that ask for too much or hospitals—thankfully, the Illinois Attorney General, along with 21 other States' leading attorneys general, sued and secured a temporary reprieve for universities and researchers.

Trump and Musk illegally froze Federal medical research funding. They tried to illegally cut funding for medical research, and now they are firing the medical researchers themselves.

Reports indicate that 1,200 NIH employees have been fired so far, from experienced vaccine researchers to the next generation of scientists to the Acting Director of the NIH's Alzheimer's and dementia program.

Further, Trump and Musk have reportedly ended a popular trainee program that brought 1,600 young scientists just out of college to the NIH world-renowned campus in Maryland to get them started working in labs and eventually running labs. They are our future when it comes to medical research, and the Trump and Musk chain saw of chaos of budget cuts has made them victims.

How does this make us a greater nation? How does this make us a healthier nation? A better nation? It doesn't.

NIH research leads to new cures and treatments that extend, improve, and save lives, which is why I am introducing this resolution today to simply say to Senators of both sides of the aisle: Let's pledge our support to make NIH an exception. Let us not let wanton cuts stop something very valuable.

The resolution is straightforward. It says: The work of NIH should not be subject to interruption, delay, or funding disruption in violation of the law—in violation of the law. And it reaffirms that the workforce at NIH is essential to sustaining medical progress.

Can we really debate that point? Do we think the best medical research Agency in the world is being staffed by people who aren't the best? This is not controversial. It shouldn't be. Americans get sick on a bipartisan basis; shouldn't we support medical research on a bipartisan basis?

For as long as I can stand and for as long as I can speak, I will fight to protect NIH and medical research. I hope my Republican colleagues wake up and join me before it is too late.

So, Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 93, submitted earlier today; further, that the resolution be agreed to, and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Republican whip.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, reserving the right to object. The American people voted to get spending under control.

Two in three Americans say that a major problem that we face today in this country is government inefficiency.

And I agree. Three in four Americans support eliminating waste, fraud, and abuse in government spending; and there is plenty of it.

We need to review how much money we spend. We need to see where it is going. We need to see what is effective and what is not. This is common sense. Families have to do it. States do it. Washington ought to do the same thing.

Every family audits their own budgets, their own spending. Every CEO audits their business operations.

President Trump and Republicans are doing exactly the same thing, and it is something that the Federal Government has not done for a long time.

Let me be clear. I am a doctor; I support so much of the good work being done by the National Institutes of Health and through the universities around the country. It is essential that America continues to lead the world in medical innovation.

I am a strong supporter of continuing smart investment in our National Institutes of Health. Americans deserve better care. Americans deserve better prevention and, of course, better transparency.

So the total budget for the NIH is almost \$48 billion. Hard-working taxpayers deserve smart scrutiny and serious transparency over that kind of money.

There is indisputable evidence that there is wasteful overspending of administrative costs associated with medical research, and this is why I am here saying this must stop. In 2024, Harvard University spent \$135 million of government grant money on overhead costs. Clearly, we can do better. They used hard-working taxpayer dollars to pay for heating bills, electricity bills, for maintaining buildings. They used it to cover payroll for people not involved in research. This is money that should have been spent on advancing researching for cures.

Harvard's overhead costs related to the National Institutes of Health research—69 percent of the money goes for overhead. That is taxpayer money, Mr. President. That is one university, one year. Clearly, we can do better—if you look at that all across the country.

Imagine all the new cures we could find if we just spent the money efficiently. That is what is at stake today, and that is why I am here on the floor of the Senate.

Democrats don't want to have a serious debate about wasteful Washington spending. Instead they are wasting the Senate's time on predictable distractions like this one. And, therefore, Mr. President, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The Democratic whip.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, if standing in this Senate and asking Republicans and Democrats to come together to preserve and build medical research is a waste of time, what in the world are we doing here?

If you were asked to take the Federal budget and put your priorities in there, maybe No. 1 would be national defense. Well, I might make that No. 1 as well; but I can tell you, No. 2 is medical research.

Because what happens when you reach a point where you cut off medical research? These researchers leave the laboratories and say: Honey, I don't know if I will have a job here next year. Let's start looking someplace else.

That is not an unusual thing to occur. So the next generation of researchers are being discouraged by the uncertainty of funding, and this notion that we have to get spending under control—how much does it cost to find a cure? What does it cost to have no cure? Let's get down to the bottom line here. We are talking about how long people stay in the hospital or whether they are alive at the end of the experience or not.

Some of these medical treatments they have to turn to are extremely expensive, unless you can find a cure at the front end of it. And you don't find it by saying, Well, maybe next year we will spend some money on medical research. That isn't the way it works. You want to have a good doctor you can trust from year to year, not a new one every year with a question mark.

The same thing is true with researchers. If you have the best researchers, why in the world would you discourage them from their continued work?

I listened to this comment about \$48 billion. It is a lot of money, for sure. That is taxpayers' money, and I take it very seriously. But how much do you think it would cost if we didn't find these cures, didn't find these drugs? What would it cost in human terms and the experience of families who would give up hope because there is no place to turn? That is the reality.

We all have friends—and I had one today—I won't get into the details—who has just learned that he has pancreatic cancer. We don't have a cure yet. If we could find one, do you know how that would change the lives of so many people and their families? Is that worth putting our research into, our tax dollars into, or is it, as the Senator who objected to my resolution said, just wasting time here on the floor?

Well, I am going to come back and waste time over and over again. I am not giving up on this. I am not giving up on families who are waiting for cures and research. I am not giving up on the researchers who dedicate their lives to finding them.

Of course, if we have some overspending, whether it is at Harvard or Illinois or even the University of Wyoming, let's clean it up. But is it possible to clean that up without jeopardizing the basic mission of the National Institutes of Health? I certainly hope so. To think that we would have to close down the whole Agency because a handful of schools are overcharging the Federal Government—and there is no

proof that they are—I think that is part of the reality.

This is an issue that is important to every single American whether they know it or not. We can get spending under control and do it thoughtfully but not at the expense of the best researchers in the world and the expense of cures which would give families hope once and for all.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### DEPARTMENT OF GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY

Mr. WELCH. Mr. President, I would like to speak about DOGE.

The verdict is in: It has been a colossal failure. It has done immense damage to many of our institutions and inflicted immense pain on innocent people. Also, it is not going to be successful in its stated goal of reducing spending and wasteful spending.

But before I go on, let me just say what all of us know. Every single person in this U.S. Senate is all in when it comes to attacking waste, fraud, and abuse. Every single one of us knows that we should kick the tires on every program we have in the Federal Government and look to see how we can make it be more efficient. And there may even be some programs where we say: You know what, its purpose has been served; it is time to move on.

So those of us who are being critical of DOGE are just looking at what DOGE is doing but not at all quarreling with the notion that every one of us, Republican and Democrat and Independent, has a responsibility to be the best stewards of taxpayer money that we can be.

But here is my problem with DOGE: They are not looking in the right places. There is so much rip-off that is going on. Let's just talk about a couple of examples in our healthcare system. United Healthcare is rigging the system on Medicare Advantage Programs. Our seniors—we want them to have the healthcare they need. But they have set up these billing systems where they have paid nurses and forced doctors essentially to overanalyze and overprescribe and overstate what medical conditions were. This was not to help the senior on a Medicare Advantage Program; this was to pad their bottom line and make billions of dollars.

Of course, I am referring to the series of articles that was in the Wall Street Journal that documented the rip-offs and what I think were corrupt practices by United Healthcare.

Where is DOGE? All that money is just wasted. It has gone into the pockets of executives at United Healthcare. It has gone into shareholder payouts and dividends, but it hasn't gone into improving healthcare for seniors.

Another one: the pharmacy benefit managers. They are ripping us off so badly. We had a bipartisan bill with enormous Republican support and Democratic support to curb the rip-offs in the PBM industry. That was in our final budget deal last year. It got derailed. Why? Elon Musk. He was against it, and he gave the word that this has got to go down. The thing blew up, and we don't have the PBM reform that both sides of the aisle knew was necessary—something that was going to save hundreds of billions of dollars for American taxpayers and allow us to reinvest in healthcare and make things better.

So my first question with DOGE is, Why don't you look where the money is, where the rip-offs are, instead of just sending out emails overnight telling people they are fired whose performance has been absolutely exemplary?

So that is the core question I have about DOGE. Why are you leaving these practices that we know are really corrupt and a rip-off untouched, unexamined, and allowing them to continue when it is hammering taxpayers and citizens?

We have work to do on saving money, and we have places where it is absolutely essential that we act. DOGE is blind to all of those, all of those situations, and that is disgraceful, especially when you have Elon Musk as the person who sabotaged our effort for PBM reform.

The second thing is, there is a basic question if you are going to go about examining a program. You can ask hard questions. You can look under the hood. How is it working? How is it not working? Where do we have too many personnel? Where can we actually improve the practices and the performance by some reforms?

DOGE is not doing that. It literally is not doing that. It has not even taken a day, an hour, to come up with a plan on how to examine the various programs they are engaging with. What they are doing is firing people. People are waking up in the morning, and they are getting an email that says: Due to your poor performance, you are gone.

Now, this is a situation that obviously is incredibly cruel. You are working at the Department of Agriculture, you are working at the NIH, you are working on a USAID program, and life is going on, and suddenly you get this email out of the blue that clearly is a mass email but has a very specific impact on you, your life, your livelihood, and your hopes and dreams. That is just a savage, savage way to treat people who have been working in our various governmental Agencies, and it has enormous impact on our communities.

By the way, DOGE is picking on veterans. Literally thousands of veterans have been fired. The VA has announced the dismissal of more than 1,000 employees. That includes researchers working on cancer treatments, opioid

addictions, prosthetics, and burn pit exposure.

So the issue here was not “How do we help them do that job better? Where are there ways we can economize?” The procedure is “You are gone; that is it.”

President Trump and Elon Musk fired around 350 employees at the National Nuclear Security Administration. These are folks who safeguard nuclear weapons. Now, it was so embarrassing that even Musk had to acknowledge it was a mistake, and those people are now back on their job.

But what it does I think very clearly is show how there is nothing about a plan to execute a thoughtful way to save taxpayer money. It is just shoot first and aim later. And 4,000 employees at the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

By the way, this is incredibly important: These are all things that affect red States and blue States. This has no political orientation on one side or the other because the impacts of these are going to be felt by the farmers in Indiana just as they are going to be felt by the farmers in Vermont.

Another example that is really pretty cruel, and I just don't understand this: We have farmers across the country that I have spoken to—farmers in Vermont—who entered into contracts with the Federal Government under the provisions of the Inflation Reduction Act. What the deal was is the farmer agreed, say, to install solar panels or create a buffer zone between cattle grazing in a streambed or change the tillage practices to try to improve the soil.

I get it that President Trump and Mr. Musk are against the Inflation Reduction Act, and they have a right to do everything they possibly can to try to reverse that policy. So this is not about their right to use Executive authority. But here is what I don't understand: How do you stiff farmers who went out and borrowed money because they had a contract, they agreed to do certain things around their farm, and then they get an email saying: Just kidding. We, the Federal Government, are not going to honor our contract.

I am thinking of one farm in my own town of Norwich, VT, where folks did borrow the money and they did the work, and it was in anticipation of the Federal Government keeping its part of the bargain and coming through with the cash that it had agreed to, and they are told: No, we are not doing it anymore.

I know that the Presiding Officer is like me when it comes to keeping your word. You give your word; you keep your word. The folks you represent, the folks I represent, that is what they do, that is what they expect. But we have DOGE saying: Well, that doesn't apply to us because we want to “save money.” That is just flat out disgraceful and unacceptable.

FEMA. FEMA is absolutely essential to help folks respond to a catastrophic event. We need reform in FEMA, and I



want to work with colleagues in order to do that. But when that disaster comes—you know, a fire in Hawaii or California, floods in Vermont or North Carolina, hurricanes down south, or drought—the response from FEMA is essential because the local community doesn't have the infrastructure in place to provide that immediate emergency assistance that folks need for saving lives and keeping themselves together during that immediate storm event.

We are hearing that DOGE and the President want to just abolish FEMA. We have to be there for one another when it is our community that is affected by a catastrophic event where our citizens, the folks we represent, to whom we have a real duty—it is no fault of their own—they are on the receiving end of Mother Nature. It has always been the tradition in the Senate that we help one another on that. That is not a partisan deal. DOGE is hammering us on that.

The people who get hurt—it is the everyday people whom we represent that are working hard, who are struggling each month to pay their bills. They are anxious about the safety of their kids, they are anxious about inflation, they are anxious about meeting the challenges of daily life, and they want to make a contribution to strengthening their community as well as their family, and they are getting hammered.

I mentioned, too, that among them are the 6,000 veterans who have been fired by DOGE across the Federal workforce. I mean, that just astonishes me. How do we say to a veteran who showed up to serve us and protect our country and to whom we claim we have great respect and allegiance—how do we send them an email that says “You are fired,” with no explanation, no sitdown, no face-to-face, just contempt for the value of what they contribute and how hard they are working? I do not understand that. I just don't.

Even in a tough business environment where some of our employers have to make tough decisions because they just know their business can't handle the workforce they have and they may have to make, against their desires, some reductions in force, our employers will sit down with folks face to face: Here is what we can do. Let's work out a plan. We know you need healthcare.

DOGE just dispenses with that when it has no plan. So the cruelty—the cruelty of this is so abhorrent to me.

We as a society, really, despite whatever our differences are, have to have some mutual respect, and is it so essential to people that they have meaningful work. If we are going to make adjustments, we have to have a plan to include them, where DOGE says: We don't have to do that.

This isn't just about Elon Musk being a multibillionaire. No matter what happens, it is not really going to affect him. It is about Elon Musk treating people with what I think is the utmost cruelty. You are gone—you

are gone—such disrespect for people who work hard at the VA, work hard in the NIH, work hard in the Department of Agriculture, work hard in the Department of the Treasury. So that element of this, we should all be shocked at.

You know, I can give a few examples of people in Vermont, but I know I am like every single Member of the U.S. Senate: We can give examples of people in the States we represent.

Our Small Business Administration Office has been a real help to Vermonters—very effective. One employee there got a performance review that—this is shortly after the performance review:

In a very short period of time, you established yourself as an invaluable asset.

That was the performance review. The next day, February 7, she was fired because the email said:

Your performance has not been adequate to justify further employment at the Agency.

So arbitrary, so unfair, so Elon Musk-like. We have a scientist at the Department of Agriculture, Caitlin Morgan. She studies sustainable agriculture and food systems at the agricultural services Food Systems Research Center. She was fired despite glowing performance reviews.

So what we have with DOGE is an assertion that they are seeking to cut waste, fraud, and abuse. Who is to argue? There is not a person here that wants to vote in favor of waste, fraud, and abuse, but the reality is they do have a plan. It is not to look at each Agency and then make adjustments so that the Agency, at the end of the operation, will be fit for purpose and better able to do its job.

They have a very simple plan: Kill the headcount, reduce the headcount, fire people. That is it. That is the plan.

So we are going to be left with a decimated FEMA, a decimated Department of Agriculture, a decimated National Institutes of Health, and then who is going to put it back together? This brings me back to the cruelty of a guy like Musk. He doesn't have to worry about that. That is not his concern. Tesla is doing fine. SpaceX is doing fine. You know, things are great for him.

But they won't be great—not just for the people whose jobs have been savagely terminated, it will be bad for the cancer research that scientists are doing. It will be bad for our Vermont farmers who now find themselves deeply in debt because the Federal Government stiffed them. It will be bad for our FEMA response to the next community in our country that gets hit hard by a natural disaster.

So we have got to wake up here and be honest about what is going on with DOGE. We do agree—we do agree, I believe, Republicans and Democrats—that we have got to kick the tires on programs in government, and it is everything from food programs to commodity programs to the Defense De-

partment. And we may have some fierce debates about what the priorities are and what we think is important and what we don't think is important, but that has got to be an on-the-level debate.

What Musk has done is just said: Hey, leave it to me. Let me send out a bunch of emails. Let me fire a lot of people in a lot of Agencies. Let's move fast and break things, and it will come back together.

It doesn't work that way. You know, you destroy the foundation of your house just like you destroy the foundation of a government program like FEMA or the National Institutes of Health, it just doesn't come back overnight because the organizations that we are trying to build, institutions that are essential to the well-being of our own country, those often take generations to create. It takes the commitment, the service, the dedication, and hard work of Americans of all kinds in all States.

This guy Musk is just destroying it all and cavalier about it and contemptuous to the rest of America about what he is doing. We can pay the price.

It is wrong what they are doing and how they are doing it. My view is that we do, in fact, have an opportunity here because both sides are quite willing to come to the table and ask these questions: How can we do it better?

But you know, if we came to the table and we asked how can we do it better, we would be looking at the long-term function: How do we have FEMA work better; how do we have our NIH work better; how do we assess grants better; how do we help our Small Business Administration be more effective in helping our young entrepreneurs? We would be asking those questions.

The other thing we would be doing—and I believe this because I have such respect for all of my colleagues here—we care about how it affects the people. We might have to make some tough decisions because this program could be cut; this one might have to be expanded. But we wouldn't just send off an email telling people to get lost. We wouldn't just be sending off an email to a farmer who just went to the bank and got a loan based on the credit of the United States of America promising to contribute a grant.

We would be considering that. DOGE isn't. In my view, we should all be outraged at the cruelty with which DOGE is operating. It is cruel to the institutions that are important for each of our States, and it is cruel to the people who have been doing this work in good faith for so long.

We have got to speak up and acknowledge that DOGE is destructive. We can embrace the effort to address waste, fraud, and abuse. We can embrace the opportunity to streamline and save money, make things work better, but we can never abandon our commitment to the people of this country who work so hard. We can

never abandon, in a cavalier way, the veterans to whom we have an immense debt of obligation.

Mr. President, DOGE is pretty dumb and pretty cruel and pretty destructive the way that it has operated under Elon Musk.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

#### ENERGY

Ms. LUMMIS. Mr. President, I rise to speak in support of President Trump's energy dominance agenda and to oppose my colleagues who want to keep America literally in the Dark Ages when it comes to producing energy. This, the greatest energy-producing country, is being asked to take a step back.

Our energy is cleaner. We produce it cleaner. We transport it cleaner. And yet the Biden agenda had us deferring to other countries that produce energy dirtier, transport it to countries that are paying for it so the Russians, for example, can spend money to fight a war that we are on the other side of.

These are matters that President Trump is addressing and has committed to the American people, pursuant to his Executive order on January 20 of this year—the first day he took office—to make it a priority. As we all know, during President Trump's campaign, he chose to make exporting energy dominance and energy independence a hallmark of his campaign.

He did it because he knows about the connection between energy independence and bringing down inflation. When you go to the grocery store, we see products all over the shelves that have been brought there by trucks—trucks that are paying a lot for gasoline and diesel fuel.

You see frozen food refrigerators lining the aisles that are plugged into electricity that comes from oil, gas, coal, wind, and solar. And the more expensive it is, the more expensive the products are that we buy in those stores.

The same is true in any retail store around this country. Over the last 4 years, the Biden administration worked overtime to stick it to the energy industry at every turn while my colleagues here cheered them on and helped them. On day one, President Biden placed a moratorium on public land energy development that never truly went away until January 20, 2025, when President Trump was sworn into office and signed an Executive order.

Wyoming and the West have fallen victim to the previous administration's regulatory regime designed specifically to kill the industry. Then, once he kills it, he goes overseas and asks countries like Saudi Arabia and Venezuela to fill in the difference. These are countries that cannot produce energy as cleanly as we can and do, and yet he would rather get the energy from them to placate the radical environmental community in this country—that very same community that knows that we can do it cleaner here.

During the Biden administration, the BLM declined to offer up lands for oil and gas leasing. And when they did, they ignored the spirit of the law and offered the fewest acres possible.

In September 2023, the BLM collected a measly and insulting \$27,000 from an oil and gas lease sale in Wyoming. Compare that to the September 2021 lease sale that netted over \$1.3 million.

The people of Wyoming are elated that President Trump, on day one, committed to fixing the sins of the previous administration by declaring a national energy emergency.

You know, I was in Seoul, South Korea, last spring. And one day, we had clear air. The next day, it was so dirty that you couldn't see, Mr. President, from where I am standing to where you are sitting. And I said: What went wrong over 24 hours? And they told me the wind shifted and was coming in from China. China's dirty air was blowing in because China is producing dirty energy.

And yet we would rather defer to them when we know we can produce it cleaner. In my State of Wyoming, the Dry Fork energy plant is the cleanest coal-producing energy ever produced anywhere. In fact, it is so clean that when they began emitting from that plant, they didn't want to tell the U.S. EPA how clean they could do it for fear that the EPA would apply that same standard to all of America's legacy coal plants—none of which could afford to retrofit to the modern technology of Gillette's coal-fired powerplant.

In Wyoming, we have abundant oil, gas, uranium, coal, and more. Under the order, Wyoming's public lands can return to Congress the intended goal of multiple use, which includes responsible resource extraction. If you go back to FLPMA, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, which passed in the 1970s, it mandates multiple use of public lands—not single use, not preservation or conservation alone, not oil and gas alone, not recreation alone. It is all of these multiple uses.

Energy production is the backbone of my State and many other Western States. We are proud to power the Nation and to support a President who supports us.

With the rise of artificial intelligence and a thriving data center industry, our Nation will need all the energy it can get. I was out in California during October and went to AI companies—large, medium, and small—and they all told me the same thing: that the bottleneck for America in being the world leader in AI is energy.

We are going to need way more energy than we have needed in the past, and in order to make artificial intelligence work for us and to be dominant in this technology, we need more energy, not less. And we know we can do it cleaner than other countries.

If my colleagues succeed in passing their resolution that is under consideration, we are setting the stage for failure. We are setting up our economy

and future generations for failure. Voting to approve the resolution is a vote for an unstable energy supply, higher energy costs, and more.

I urge my colleagues to vote no against the resolution that is brought by my colleague Senator HEINRICH from New Mexico. I urge my colleagues to stand with President Trump and to oppose this resolution.

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

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

#### FINLAND

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, I rise to describe an amazing journey that I took this weekend that was a powerful journey connected to my Virginia National Guard and also to issues that are very, very prominent right now in the world.

We finished voting on the Senate floor a little bit before 5 a.m. on Friday, on the reconciliation bill, and, a few hours later, I went to Dulles Airport and flew to Finland, landed in Helsinki at about 1:30 on Saturday, went back to the airport at 1:30 on Monday—spent 48 hours on the ground with one of our newest NATO allies to work together with them on a number of issues.

The reason for the visit over the weekend was to see my Virginia National Guard. The Virginia Guard, as in most States, are active participants in the State Partnership Program that was established back in the 1990s, where a State's Guard unit connects with the military of an allied country and engages in joint training exercises. Once Finland decided to join NATO, Virginia—which already has a partner in the State Partnership Program—reached out and said to Finland: We would like to work together with you as well.

My Governor, Governor Youngkin, helped preside over the signing of this partnership program in 2024, and the Virginia Guard—about 50 members of the Guard—were engaged in the first training exercises in Finland.

As Governor of Virginia, I used to be the commander in chief of the Virginia Guard. I have been very close to them, and I wanted to go see my Virginians training in snowy birch forests in southern Finland this weekend, and I was able to do that.

My Guard unit is training with the Karelia Brigade, which is one of the three brigades of the Finnish Army. It has got a long history of very heroic service. And on Sunday, it was a delight to drive 2½ hours outside of Helsinki and visit with my 50 Virginians and to hear the Finnish Army brag about them: Your Guard are well-trained. They are great marksman, even shooting Finnish rifles, which are

different than the rifles they use every day and doing it in temperatures that are far colder than Virginians normally have to experience on training exercises.

In addition to my time with the Virginia Guard, I spent time in Finland with our own Embassy team; with representatives from EUCOM, the European Command of the U.S. Army; with the President of Finland, President Stubb, who is a pretty amazing guy, who attended Furman University on a golf scholarship and manages to drop the word “y’all” into a lot of sentences in a pretty thick Finnish accent. I spent time with the Foreign Minister and the Permanent Defense Secretary, and also visited the Helsinki Shipyard, which is about to start working in tandem with the United States and Canada to build icebreakers, which is something we desperately need.

So it was a great trip—too short but really powerful—and I returned last night having interacted with my Virginians and knowing a lot more.

There was a sobering element to it, too, and that is really why I wanted to come and speak. To be in Finland, a nation that had to fight two wars against Russia in the late 1930s, early 1940s, to maintain its independence, and to be there with those leaders on the third anniversary of the Russian invasion of Ukraine was sobering and thought provoking.

Finland knows Russia and Russian leadership better than just about anybody because of these hundreds of miles of border between the two nations. And that memory of fighting two wars against Russia to maintain Finnish independence is still a very present-day and palpable memory for the Finns, even though those wars happened in the late 1930s and early 1940s.

And you can be sure that our friends, our allies, those we are training together with, had some pretty strong thoughts about Russia’s invasion of Ukraine and the commemoration of the third anniversary. I was very disappointed and I think many were yesterday that the U.N. considered competing resolutions on the third anniversary of the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

One was a Ukrainian resolution that talked about Russia as the invader, Russia as the instigator of the war. That resolution passed the General Assembly, but in a shocking move, the United States voted against it because of the language placing the blame for the war on Russia.

There had been previous resolutions after the invasion and on the second anniversary and the first anniversary saying that this war was started by Russia. The United States led those resolutions. But now the United States, through our President, through our Secretary of Defense, through the U.N.—we don’t have a permanent U.N. Ambassador now—through the U.N. representative at the U.N. was unwilling to sign on to and vote for a resolu-

tion that talked about Russia as being responsible for the war.

So we opposed the Ukrainian resolution. Who voted with us to oppose this resolution? Russia opposed, North Korea opposed, Nicaragua opposed, and another 15 nations opposed. About 60 nations abstained, including China. China wouldn’t vote no. China abstained, and 90-plus nations voted yes. The resolution passed, but it passed with the United States unwilling to sign on to the proposition that Russia started this war and should not have done so.

There was also a U.S. resolution that was tendered to the U.N. General Assembly. That U.S. resolution did not mention anyone being responsible for the war but called for a cease-fire and peace, obviously. The U.S. resolution was subject to an amendment that was offered by the UK and other nations inserting the language that Russia was responsible for the war and should not have done so. That amendment passed, and because it passed, the United States ended up not even being willing to vote yes on its own resolution and instead abstained.

These Finnish colleagues who are friends and allies were pretty candid about their disappointment in the United States for not being willing to state a truth—that this war was instigated by Russia—and they deeply want to be partners with the United States on defense; hence their accession to NATO; hence their agreement to the State Partnership Program with Virginia. But they are puzzled with an American leadership—from the President, to the Secretary of Defense, to the U.N.—that is unwilling to state that Russia started this war.

I came home last night. It was a long flight made too long because of a cancellation. I got back a little bit later than I originally planned. But I had a lot of time to think. What I thought about was basically this: We need to learn some lessons.

We need to remember the lessons of 1938. Neville Chamberlain, the Prime Minister of England, went to Munich, thinking he could find an end to war and deliver what he called “peace” in our time. He negotiated with the German Government and came back to England and said: There is now peace in our time—which anyone in politics would love to be able to say. But we all know that Munich Agreement was a disaster. It was negotiated between England and Germany, but many of the other nations that were later invaded by Germany weren’t there, and it wasn’t a peace agreement, and they suffered.

But did England at least protect itself from suffering by signing a deal and proclaiming peace in our time? No. England was attacked as well after the Germans had attacked Belgium and France and Poland and other nations.

So an illusory “peace in our time” deal was just that—it was illusory. You can’t appease a bully. They will bully

you and others unless you stand up to them.

We could remember 1975. In 1975, the Helsinki Accords, right in the community where I was visiting, were signed—the Soviet Union was a signatory, along with the United States and Canada and European nations—to guarantee certain principles, including the guarantee of the inviolability of national sovereignty and that no nation should be able to invade the sovereignty of others. We need to remember that. We celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Helsinki Accords this summer. We need to remember those principles and who has violated them and who has not.

Let’s remember 1995. In 1995, as an aftermath of the Helsinki Accords, we helped form the OSCE, the Organization for Security and Co-Operation in Europe. It is the one organization that includes all European nations, including Russia. NATO doesn’t include them all; the OSCE does. The OSCE was committed to the principles of the Helsinki Accords protecting national sovereignty, and we need to remember who has violated those principles and who hasn’t.

We should remember 2020, 5 years ago this week in 2020—the Doha accord. President Trump negotiated a “peace” accord with the Taliban—a peace accord with the Taliban. Afghanistan was not allowed to be at the table. The Government of Afghanistan that had been our partner, in whom we had invested hundreds of billions of dollars, was not allowed to be at the table. So, yes, there was a “peace” deal. There was peace in our time, but the peace proved to be illusory and catastrophic months later when the United States removed troops pursuant to the Doha accord.

The absence of inclusion of the Afghan Government led to a demoralization and a collapse. The inspector general that analyzed the end of our military participation in Afghanistan had plenty of blame to assign—blame to the Biden administration but also blame to a President, President Trump, who negotiated a deal without including the party that was most affected.

I thought of the Doha accord when I saw the news of negotiations in Riyadh between the United States and Russia to end the war in Ukraine and noticed Ukraine was not at the table. A peace deal about a nation’s sovereignty where you are not allowing that nation to be at the table is doomed to failure.

We need to remember those lessons in connection with any discussion about the future of Ukraine.

Mr. President, you don’t even need to completely remember history; just remember what your mom or dad told you. I know I had this call, and I think most people will remember this. You are getting bullied at school, and you go home and complain to your parents. What do your parents tell you about bullies? If you give in to them, they will keep bullying you and others. If

you stand up to them, they are more likely—not guaranteed but more likely to stop bullying.

The United States should have been willing yesterday in the U.N. to stand up to a bully. The United States should have been willing to say that this was an illegal war unjustly initiated by Russia. If you are unwilling to state a truth, you begin in a very weak position.

So my thought in coming home from visiting my own troops, who are sacrificing and risking to train for an action that they know they may one day be called on to support—else they wouldn't be conducting training in a snowy birch forest in southern Finland in February of 2025—they are there because they are willing to sacrifice. It takes sacrifice to protect democracy.

Our Nation is coming up on the 250th anniversary of our democracy—and not only our democracy but our leadership role in democracies around the globe. The world needs us to continue to stand strong. Our friends like Finland are hoping and praying that we continue to stand strong. It is my belief that in the heart of the American people is a desire to continue to stand strong.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 724

Mr. BOOKER. Mr. President, we are dealing with a crisis that all hundred Members of this body understand has taken the lives of hundreds and hundreds of thousands of people, and that is the scourge of fentanyl.

One of the things we have been doing as a result of that is temporarily scheduling fentanyl analogs, these horrific substances that are manufactured in order to pour onto our streets. Such a small amount of this drug—it literally could be the size of one pill—as they say, one pill can kill. It is very important to me that we see the temporary scheduling of this continue until the Senate finds a more wholesome response to this crisis. We must rise to meet this crisis in a wholesome way, in way that meets the gravity of the crisis and does not just continue to do the things we have done over and over again.

So as we are working in a bipartisan way in the Senate Judiciary Committee with the understanding that the temporary scheduling may expire in the coming weeks—in order to remove that pressure and allow us to work in a bipartisan fashion, I have come to the floor today to ask for unanimous consent that we continue that temporary scheduling while we work in a bipartisan fashion to make sure that we give the most fulsome response possible to this crisis.

I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 724, the Temporary Extension of Fentanyl-Related Substances Scheduling Act, which is at the desk; I further ask unanimous consent

that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Louisiana.

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, for years, one more time, Congress has refused to make a definitive, permanent decision. It has failed to make schedule I classification of fentanyl-related substances permanent.

Law enforcement needs permanence. It needs a definitive change to combat the opioid crisis and go after the criminals flooding communities with deadly drugs.

Congress's inaction only emboldens China, drug cartels, and other criminals who exploit our communities, and that should not happen.

We need a lasting solution. There is no reason to do any temporary extension. We have the bipartisan votes to make the schedule I classification permanent.

This Thursday, the Senate Judiciary Committee, with the support of Judiciary Chairman GRASSLEY and Senator HEINRICH, is marking up the Halt All Lethal Trafficking of Fentanyl Act, or the HALT Fentanyl Act. This legislation permanently classifies fentanyl-related substances as schedule I controlled substances.

Let's be clear. The HALT Fentanyl Act is not controversial. For two consecutive Congresses, it passed the House of Representatives with strong bipartisan support. There are enough votes to pass HALT in the Judiciary Committee and on the Senate floor this Congress. My Democratic colleague's legislation delays that permanency. Schedule I classification will once more be in jeopardy when the next deadline comes around. Law enforcement cannot continue to have this uncertainty.

That is why, after my objection, I will ask unanimous consent to pass the HALT Fentanyl Act. This legislation has already passed the House of Representatives and has bipartisan support in the Senate. I hope all my Democratic colleagues will join in supporting the bill.

We have a responsibility to provide law enforcement the tools they need to address the scourge of deadly drugs in our communities. Failure to act puts Americans in harm's way.

For those reasons, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CURTIS). Objection is heard.

The Senator from Louisiana.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—H.R. 27

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, because of my objection, I ask unanimous consent to pass the HALT Fentanyl Act to permanently classify fentanyl-related substances as schedule I controlled substances. The bill also removes barriers that impede the ability of researchers to conduct studies on these substances.

The HALT Fentanyl Act has already passed the House of Representatives with overwhelming bipartisan support. It has support from Democrat and Republican Senators now.

This is the bill the Senate should be voting on today, not just a temporary extension that creates greater uncertainty in our effort to address the opioid crisis but, again, one which establishes permanence, something which gives certainty to law enforcement to combat this, as I said earlier, scourge of illegal fentanyl.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 27 and that the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration. I further ask that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. BOOKER. In reserving the right to object, this is why I am down here today—really, literally, at this point—and I want to jump here.

I thank the Presiding Officer for recognizing me. I truly appreciate that, but this gets me excited because this is the point that I want to illustrate.

My colleague is far smarter than I on medical issues. I could not have passed organic chem at Stanford. I am sure he passed it with flying colors. Of my colleague, who is truly one of my more favorite colleagues in this place because of how rational and pragmatic he is on approaching real crises like this, I am begging and hoping he will listen to me, and I am begging this body to listen to me.

We have had a fentanyl crisis in this country of monumental proportions. It is one of the greatest killers in America. Fentanyl and fentanyl analogues have literally been responsible for lowering the life expectancy for Americans. It is one of the greatest crises we have seen to human life in America in my lifetime. There is so much data-driven evidence and evidence-based answers to this, of how we can approach this crisis, but yet the only bill that we seek to do is a bill that does what we have already done on a temporary basis. I support classwide scheduling for fentanyl analogues, but here we have this bill, the HALT bill, that my colleague pointed out did pass in a bipartisan way and now is in the Judiciary Committee.

The reason I am down here is not to drag my dear friend down here because he is a busy man, and I wanted to go over to him before this conversation started to apologize, but I needed to make this point on the floor in this kind of standoff.

He is asking us to pass the HALT bill, which would give classwide scheduling to fentanyl analogues, which we have already done. For years, it has been temporarily scheduled, and what

has happened to opioid deaths in America when we have used this that law enforcement has called for, “Schedule. Schedule. Give us these tools?” Well, we have had these tools, and deaths in the Presiding Officer’s State, deaths in my colleagues’ States, and deaths in my State have continued to go up.

Now, here is the beauty of the conversation we are having and why we should be passing the temporary one to let us go back to work, and I know this because I know his heart and I know your heart. There are evidence-based, bipartisan amendments to that HALT Act that are widely supported. My colleague’s partner Senator from his State, in committee, said: I don’t understand why we are not putting the test strips on this. Why? Because kids who are using fentanyl right now don’t know that they are using this fentanyl analogue. Kids in your State and my State think they are taking Adderall, not realizing that this has those toxic things that can kill.

Here we were in committee, with a bipartisan test strip bill, and my colleague’s partner Senator said: This makes sense to me. And the one excuse they were using for not doing a bipartisan bill to give us more of a response than doing what we are already doing and wiping our hands and saying, “We did great things,” was saying, “We didn’t have time” because of this artificial deadline.

So I am down here to say: Wait a minute. Let’s do the temporary extension and take time to do bipartisan bills.

But don’t take my word for it. Take the word of the Republican witnesses who came to our hearing. We just had a painful hearing of law enforcement leaders and other Republican witnesses who told us the scourges of fentanyl that we all know. Those people all said that this can’t be all Congress does; that the HALT bill cannot be our only response because the whole bill permanently schedules what we have already scheduled temporarily.

I believe in the 99 Members here who know that our response to this crisis cannot be what we have already been doing for the last 5 years when there are bipartisan bills that we could be putting on this bill to show America that we are not going to just puff ourselves up and make permanent something that was already done in a temporary way.

Let me read some of this pleading from Republican witnesses.

Republican witness Jaime Puerta, a courageous parent who lost his child to an overdose, testified:

It is imperative that we educate our children on the dangers of any kind of drug use due to the lethality that can come with any kind of experimentation or self-medication . . . we must have specific fentanyl education introduced to . . . our schools as soon as possible; otherwise, more children will . . . die.

That doesn’t even cost money.

We could be doing things through the Department of Education in supporting

education campaigns. Bipartisan support for that idea—is it on the HALT bill? No. Let me go on.

Republican witness Sheriff Donald Barnes highlighted the successes of a multifaceted strategy to address both supply and demand for illicit drugs. These are the bullet points he said that we should do, imploring Congress: Don’t just do what you have already done. Do something more. Give law enforcement officers naloxone to reduce overdoses; education for fifth and sixth graders; ensure the continuity of care and successful reintegration of people who are returning to the community from the scourge of these drugs.

Witness after witness—from law enforcement to scientists to doctors—have offered up bipartisan supportive ideas so that our response to one of the biggest scourges of our country isn’t just to do what we have been doing for the last half decade or more.

I have got bipartisan bills on the committee, and my colleagues from Texas have bipartisan bills on the committee, and the only excuse that people gave for us not to have more consideration was: Oh, well, the deadline is coming up in a few weeks for temporary passage. But I realize we have passed temporary scheduling by unanimous consent before. It is not hard to do.

I beg of my colleagues—I beg of my colleague who is here and others: We have a moving bill that has to go back to the House because we have already added a managers’ package to it. I promise you, if we add truly bipartisan things that give a more fulsome approach—a more comprehensive approach—to stop our children from dying, it will pass in the Republican-controlled House of Representatives because it was a bipartisan year. I am in agony over the deaths in New Jersey. I have met with parents who have looked at me and said: What are you going to do?

Let me read to you the words from one of these parents.

Susan Ousterman, who is a courageous mother who lost her son to an overdose—I beg of my colleagues listen to this—said:

I urge you to stop crafting policies based on stigma, false narratives, and political loyalty, and most of all, stop using our dead children to justify these failed approaches. Harsher penalties for drugs, like those for the HALT Fentanyl Act, do not deter drug use. They only push people into riskier behaviors, increase the likelihood that someone will die rather than call for help, and make our communities less safe. How many more Americans must die before we finally admit that the War on Drugs was a failure?

I am a former mayor. I oversaw a police department that had to answer the calls with children dying on floors. They had these law enforcement tools. They would tell me more needs to be done. The HALT Fentanyl Act will get passed. Fentanyl analogues will never again be unscheduled in our country. That is not the challenge right now to save lives. The challenge to save lives

in America right now is, What are we going to do more than is being done right now? Fentanyl analogues are scheduled right now, and if the only thing we can do—the only bill that is moving through here—is to just do what we have been doing, shame on us.

I am asking this body to give time. Extend the temporary scheduling so that we can work in a bipartisan fashion, like Senator KENNEDY, who said: I want more time to look at this. This seems rational; this seems logical; it seems like something we should do. Then, when bipartisan Senators step up like that and say, “I want to work with the man or the woman across the aisle,” we will have the time to do it.

So, God, I am sorry that my friend who is truly a great American leader and one of the smarter people in here—I am sorry that he objected to my bill, but I will stand up in our committee meeting on Thursday and make this same plea; that we don’t just pass the HALT Fentanyl Act but that we actually put things in it that aren’t partisan ideas. They are the ones that law enforcement is calling for. They are the ones that scientists are calling for. They are the ones that doctors are calling for—bipartisan bills.

Dear God, the parents of dead children are calling for us to step up and do more than the same old thing we have been doing around the War on Drugs since I was a kid myself.

With that, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Louisiana.

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, I appreciate my colleague’s passion.

Everybody watching me right now knows somebody who has died from a fentanyl overdose. You cannot minimize the impact of this on everyday families, but what is presented to us is a false choice and I would say the wrong choice.

I think my colleague is saying, unless we pass his amendment to put this temporarily on hold—and, once more, refuse to make a decision to make this permanent—that somehow things will not get better.

Let me repeat what I said in my earlier remarks: This Thursday, the Senate Judiciary Committee, with the support of Judiciary Chairman GRASSLEY, a Republican, and Senator HEINRICH, a Democrat, is marking up the Halt All Lethal Trafficking of Fentanyl Act, or the HALT Fentanyl Act. This Thursday is when it is going to be marked up.

Now, this is a moving piece of legislation. If you want to do something more than this legislation does, you should have 2 months ago started working with that committee. Don’t stop now. Call people tonight, and say: Listen. On Thursday, we are going to be marking this up. Will you consider my amendment? Make the case that was so impassionately given that we have got to do more than what we are doing.

I agree. So the way to do it—because this has not yet been marked up this

can still be modified. By the way, this is not the end of what we are going to do to address the issue of fentanyl. It does allow law enforcement to say: Listen, this isn't temporary. We now can kind of go to the bank, if you will. This is the law going forward. But if my esteemed colleague wants to make this more than it is now, that is the opportunity on Thursday. The process matters. Going Thursday, on a bipartisan basis and getting that buy-in, sitting down with a Senator who is undecided and working through it with that Senator and getting him or getting her to a yes, is part of that process. Delaying once more—delaying once more the permanence? Then we will say a year from now, once more, we will make it temporary, and we will make it temporary.

There is something about deadlines. Deadlines sharpen a man's mind. If there is a deadline Thursday to get this on and then, when it is brought to the floor, there is a deadline to amend it on the floor, now is the time to act, but now is not the time to delay.

I appreciate my colleague's passion, and I look forward to working with him. Neither of us ever wants to go to a family member, to a friend, to a fellow American and have to comfort them over the issue of another death from opioids. I just think that this is an important step and that, if there is more to be added, then let's add it, but let's not complain because it hasn't already been added.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. BOOKER. Mr. President, I just want to clarify because my colleague pounded on the desk, and that was hard for me to watch. I am not here because we haven't been trying to get a bipartisan consensus on this and calling and doing all the work. I have watched this now for three Congresses. Number 2, I am here not because I am trying to stop the HALT Act. I am here because I heard two Republicans in our committee say the only reason we can't consider bipartisan approaches, even if they are good ideas, is because of the urgency of this moment.

All I am saying is—this is, obviously, a fait accompli—I just don't want my colleague to walk away thinking this is some kind of stunt. This is my attempt to take away an argument for us to do the work on Thursday. Clearly, it has been objected to. I am going to go back and try my hardest on Thursday to do something more.

The one prediction—I don't want to call it a "prediction." But my colleague says we have a lot more time. I have watched now for at least three Congresses that I have worked on trying to get a larger approach to meet the fentanyl crisis; and in three Congresses, this body has failed to rise to the challenge.

I am dying to be here when my colleague tells me: I told you so—and I give him permission to do that—that

this body would do something beyond just scheduling. Because, as I have read, law enforcement, scientists, doctors, and parents are not just asking for the HALT Fentanyl Act; they are asking for us to do more to save lives.

Now, I have only been here 12 years, but I know the window is open to get things done when something is a must-pass bill to move. This is an opportunity to put some things on to show the larger public that we are not going to do what we always do.

I am really worried when this window closes, there will be a lot of people thumping their chests and saying: We have dealt with the fentanyl crisis, and all these other ideas won't have vehicles to go through.

I will not stop working until this body does more than just scheduling what has already been scheduled. People on both sides of the aisle are demanding us to do more. And we don't need to go left; we don't need to go right. We need to do the commonsense, evidence-based approaches that are being supported and called for. In fact, some of the commonsense amendments are already bipartisan supported by Senators. So I am grateful.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

S.J. Res. 11

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I have a resolution under the—we call it a CRA, to rescind one of President Biden's regulations.

In 1938, we drilled the first well in the "Gulf of America," which some people still call the Gulf of Mexico.

Since then, 87 years have passed, and we have drilled about 6,000 wells in the gulf. We have laid hundreds of thousands of miles of pipelines.

The oil and gas companies who did this have surveyed, they have x rayed every square inch of the seabed in the gulf. They have surveyed, they have x rayed 311,652 square nautical miles in the gulf. Put Texas and California together, that is the geographical area that has been surveyed by the oil and gas industry.

Why did they do that? For safety reasons. So before they put a platform in the gulf, they knew where they were putting it. And, No. 2, to preserve history, because we have—or had a lot of shipwrecks in the gulf, from which we can learn about the past.

In fact, as a result of this effort by the oil and gas industry to x ray the entire gulf, we have discovered 4,000 shipwrecks.

In the waning days of the Biden administration, September of 2024, the Department of the Interior, under the Biden administration, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management—we call it BOEM—promulgated a midnight regulation. This is what the regulation said: You have to survey it again. Even though the entire gulf has been surveyed, you have to do it again, oil and gas industry. If you want to drill a well, or if you want to lay some pipe-

line, you have got to x ray it again. Why? Because the government says so.

This is going to add anywhere from—I don't know—\$20,000 up to, potentially, \$1 million to the cost of drilling a well, to x ray after an x ray has already been done. That, of course, is going to increase the cost of the well, which is going to increase the cost of the oil and gas from the well, which is going to be passed on to the consumer, which is going to raise the price of energy, which is going to contribute to inflation in America.

You want to know why we had such outrageous inflation under President Biden? Because of regulations like this. And there are hundreds more that increased prices needlessly. That is why under President Biden, the average person's electricity bill in America went up 20 percent under President Biden.

We don't need this regulation. I do not know—well, let me put it another way. I am not saying that the person at the Department of the Interior who came up with this idea is the dumbest person in the world. I am not saying that. But I am saying that the person at BOEM who came up with this idea better worry that the dumbest person in the world doesn't die because he is in the running.

My CRA would kill this rule dead as Woodrow Wilson, and I hope my colleagues will vote for it.

I yield back all time on Calendar No. 15, S.J. Res. 11.

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

The clerk will read the title of the joint resolution for the third time.

The joint resolution was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

VOTE ON S.J. RES. 11

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The joint resolution having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the joint resolution pass?

Mr. KENNEDY. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. TUBERVILLE).

The result was announced—yeas 54, nays 44, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 92 Leg.]

YEAS—54

Banks	Crapo	Husted
Barrasso	Cruz	Hyde-Smith
Blackburn	Curtis	Johnson
Boozman	Daines	Justice
Britt	Ernst	Kennedy
Budd	Fischer	Lankford
Capito	Graham	Lee
Cassidy	Grassley	Lummis
Collins	Hagerty	Marshall
Cornyn	Hawley	McConnell
Cortez Masto	Hickenlooper	McCormick
Cotton	Hoeben	Moody



Moran	Risch	Sheehy
Moreno	Rosen	Sullivan
Mullin	Rounds	Thune
Murkowski	Schmitt	Tillis
Paul	Scott (FL)	Wicker
Ricketts	Scott (SC)	Young

## NAYS—44

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
Duckworth	Merkley	Warner
Durbin	Murphy	Warnock
Fetterman	Murray	Warren
Gallago	Ossoff	Welch
Gillibrand	Padilla	Whitehouse
Hassan	Peters	Wyden
Heinrich	Reed	

## NOT VOTING—2

Cramer	Tuberville
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The joint resolution (S.J. Res. 11) was agreed to, as follows:

## S.J. RES. 11

*Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That Congress disapproves the rule submitted by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management relating to “Protection of Marine Archaeological Resources” (89 Fed. Reg. 71160 (September 3, 2024)), and such rule shall have no force or effect.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION—Motion to Proceed

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 24.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

## VOTE ON MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. TUBERVILLE).

The result was announced—yeas 51, nays 47, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 93 Leg.]

## YEAS—51

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

## NAYS—47

Alsobrooks	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Baldwin	Hirono	Sanders
Bennet	Kaine	Schatz
Blumenthal	Kelly	Schiff
Blunt Rochester	Kim	Schumer
Booker	King	Shaheen
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Slotkin
Coons	Lujan	Smith
Cortez Masto	Markey	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Merkley	Warner
Durbin	Murphy	Warnock
Fetterman	Murray	Warren
Gallago	Ossoff	Welch
Gillibrand	Padilla	Whitehouse
Hassan	Peters	Wyden
Heinrich	Reed	

## NOT VOTING—2

Cramer	Tuberville
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The motion was agreed to.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

## EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Linda McMahon, of Connecticut, to be Secretary of Education.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

## CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

## CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 24, Linda McMahon, of Connecticut, to be Secretary of Education.

John Thune, Cindy Hyde-Smith, James E. Risch, Katie Boyd Britt, Tommy Tuberville, James Lankford, Markwayne Mullin, Marsha Blackburn, Tom Cotton, John R. Curtis, Bernie Moreno, Tim Sheehy, Mike Rounds, Joni Ernst, Roger F. Wicker, David McCormick, Rick Scott of Florida.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, with me today is Mr. John Lowery, who is one of my colleagues from my office, who has been a big help to me.

## NATIONAL DEBT

Mr. President, as you know, when Vice President HARRIS and President Trump ran against each other for the Presidency, one of the planks in President Trump's platform was that he was going to review every penny of Federal Government spending.

Why did he say that? Why did he promise to do that? Well, first, there is a moral principle involved. People work hard for their money, and when they give it to government, they are entitled to expect government to spend it efficiently.

Number 2, President Trump ran on that plank because of our debt. The Federal debt is \$36.5 trillion. You know, we throw these numbers around—like a trillion, you know—and we start to take them for granted.

To give you a little perspective, this \$36.5 trillion grows bigger by the second. It is going to increase—if we just keep doing what we have been doing, it is going to increase \$1 trillion every 100 days. If we just keep doing what we have been doing, it is going to increase \$10 billion a day. Today, nothing changed. We added \$10 billion in debt. That is also \$417 million an hour. That is \$6.9 million a minute. I think I have been talking about a minute; we just added \$7 million to our debt. That is why the President wants to get rid of spending porn.

The reaction here in Washington has been breathtaking. I understand Washington is not exactly a slice of America. I get that. I understand that Washington is not normal. Normal in Washington, DC, is a setting on the dryer. So I get all that. We are different in Washington. But the pushback to President Trump's effort through Mr. Musk and his team to reduce spending has just been extraordinary. I mean, people are barking and yelping and shrieking about it. They sound like the game room in a mental hospital.

I get that a lot of people don't like President Trump, and I get that many people don't like Mr. Musk. I get that Mr. Musk is different. I kind of like that. I mean, I like different. You know, he is the sort of guy that would wear—I don't know—he would wear Crocs to a wedding. I get that. I find it kind of refreshing. But nobody has ever called him a dummy. And he has found an incredible amount of waste and abuse of taxpayer money, what I call spending porn.

I am not going to repeat everything I have repeated or said the first time we talked about this, but it just seems to me to be, once again, extraordinary that people are mad at President Trump or Mr. Musk for the process they are using, but they are not mad about the money being wasted.

I mean, Mr. Musk, whether you like him or not, has found, for example, \$7.9 million that we spent to teach Sri Lanka journalists to avoid binary gendered language. He found money that was given to an NGO to empower the LGBT community in Armenia. He found \$1.5 million that we spent to rebuild the Cuban media ecosystem, \$2.1 million to the BBC to strengthen the media ecosystem in Libya, and \$8.3 million spent for equity and inclusion education in Nepal. Does no one care about how the money was actually abused and wasted?

It is not unusual for me to be disappointed for some things I see in Washington, and under the last administration, I have to admit, I was disappointed just about every single day. I had almost gotten used to it.

But last week—and this is what I want to talk about—I read a story. It

was a story about the abuse of taxpayer money in the last administration, and it was so nauseating that it triggered my gag reflex.

In April of 2024—not that long ago—the EPA, under President Biden, gave \$2 billion in taxpayer money to an organization that had absolutely no experience, that was backed by a very prominent Democratic politician by the name of Ms. Stacey Abrams.

Here is what happened: In 2022, as you know, President Biden and my Democratic colleagues passed the Inflation Reduction Act. Not a single Republican voted for it—not one—either in the House or in the Senate.

We knew, at the time, that spending \$1.2 trillion—that is what the Inflation Reduction Act cost—would only make inflation worse, not better. And even President Biden eventually admitted that the Inflation Reduction Act did absolutely nothing to lower prices. Even President Biden, at the end of his term, admitted that.

So where did all the Inflation Reduction Act money go? A fair question for taxpayers to ask. I mean, there is nothing wrong with wanting to know what they do with our money.

Let me say that again. There is nothing wrong with wanting to know what they do with our money.

So where did all the Inflation Reduction Act—this \$1.2 trillion—go? Well, President Trump and DOGE, the group appointed by President Trump, and the EPA under new leadership, under Mr. Lee Zeldin, have begun to follow some of that money.

Now, this is where Ms. Stacey Abrams comes in. I think it is fair to say that Ms. Abrams is—I don't know. I would call her controversial. She has the right to believe what she believes. This is America, and she has the right to free speech. I am not criticizing that, even though I disagree with some of what she says. But I think it would be fair to describe her as controversial. She is probably best known for the fact that she ran for Governor of Georgia twice, and she lost.

In her career, Ms. Abrams has said the following. I don't want to just articulate hyperbole here. I want you to read her words, not mine. On April 20, 2024, Ms. Abrams appeared on MSNBC with Rev. Al Sharpton, and this is what Ms. Abrams said:

What we know is that the attack on diversity, equity, and inclusion, DEI, is an attack on democracy.

On September 20, 2022, during a panel discussion in Atlanta, Ms. Abrams said this about a baby's heartbeat—a fetal heartbeat—the heartbeat of a baby in a mother's womb. This is what Ms. Abrams said about a fetal heartbeat. She said:

It is a manufactured sound designed to convince people that men have the right to take control of a woman's body.

Her words, not mine.

In May of 2022, during a Georgia gubernatorial debate—she is running for Governor of Georgia now—Ms. Abrams

called Georgia “the worst State in the country to live” in.

In October of 2022, during another Georgia gubernatorial debate, Ms. Abrams accused the sheriffs—all the sheriffs in Georgia who endorsed her opponent, Governor Brian Kemp—of wanting “to be able to take Black people off the streets.”

In October of 2022, Ms. Abrams appeared on MSNBC. She suggested that abortion is the solution to inflation. Here is what she said. She said:

Let's be clear. Having children is why you're worried about your price for gas. It's why you're concerned about how much food costs.

Her words, not mine. Let me say again, Ms. Abrams has the right to her opinion. This is America. You are not free if you can't express yourself. But I do think any fairminded person would have to conclude that Ms. Abrams is controversial.

So in March of 2023, not that long ago, Ms. Abrams went to work for an organization, a nonprofit, called Rewiring America. You have probably seen that name in the news: Rewiring America.

Ms. Abrams' title—she went to work for Rewiring America. Her title was senior counsel. She was paid for her work for Rewiring America. We don't know how much, though there will probably be an investigation to find out.

Now, nonprofits like Rewiring America, Ms. Abrams' group, they have to file documents with the IRS, and one of the documents they have to file is called Form 990. This form by the IRS asks a number of questions about nonprofits. One of the questions the IRS asks is for the organization—the nonprofit—to list its accomplishments.

Rewiring America, Ms. Abrams' group, told the IRS in 2023 on this Form 990 that this was Rewiring America's “startup year for the organization,” and the form goes on to say that the only accomplishment Rewiring America listed was that it had “joined a coalition of other national organizations to apply for a grant from the Inflation Reduction Act's Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund.”

In other words, Ms. Abrams' organization told the IRS that this filing was their first-ever tax filing, in 2023; that the organization was a startup; and its purpose was exclusively to seek a grant from President Biden's Inflation Reduction Act—fair enough.

So what do we know about this coalition Ms. Abrams' group wanted to form? Rewiring America, Ms. Abrams' group, announced on October 12, 2023, that it was joining Habitat for Humanity, it was joining United Way Worldwide, and two other organizations, and these four organizations were going to form another nonprofit—a coalition of nonprofits—called Power Forward Communities.

So you have got Power Forward Communities up here. You have got Rewiring America and some other organiza-

tions down here. And all together, they make up Power Forward Communities. And they also announced that a gentleman by the name of Tim Mayopoulos, a former Obama administration appointee, would lead the coalition.

Now, as a nonprofit, I told you that Rewiring America had to file forms with the IRS. Well, so did this new group Power Forward. It had to file Form 990, as well, with the IRS.

According to its filings, Power Forward had just \$100 in total revenues in 2023. According to the IRS filing, it didn't list a single accomplishment. I have seen Girl Scout troops with more business credentials. Yet Power Forward Communities, of which Ms. Abrams' Rewiring America was a part, had the audacity to ask the Federal Government for a \$2 billion grant. For what, you ask? It was supposed to be “to expand access to clean energy by prioritizing housing, equity, and resilience.”

Power Forward Communities said it wanted to take this taxpayer money and help people install energy-efficient upgrades to their homes.

What are we talking about? Heat pumps, getting rid of gas stoves.

Now, it is good to dream big in America. I am all for that. But under any reasonable standard—under any reasonable standard—one is entitled to ask how these organizations—Ms. Abrams' Rewiring America and Power Forward Communities—brandnew organizations, no business experience, \$100 in the bank, are qualified to receive \$2 billion of taxpayer money from the Biden administration.

Now, that didn't stop the Biden administration from cutting a check, though. They took our money and gave Power Forward Communities and Rewiring America \$2 billion.

Do you want to know how we ran up \$36 billion in debt? That is how.

Now, the EPA announced in 2024, under President Biden, just 6 months after Power Forward was formed—Power Forward was formed, and 6 months later President Biden and his team announced they were giving them \$2 billion. And as I said, that is billion with a “b.”

Now, look, I try to see the world from other people's bell towers as much as I can, but I cannot come up, not for the life of me, with a single rational justification as to why the EPA under the Biden administration thought it was appropriate to give Power Forward and Rewiring America—two brandnew nonprofits with no business experience, no accomplishments according to the IRS forms, and only 100 bucks in the bank—\$2 billion of taxpayer money, especially to the exclusion of every other qualified applicant for that money, if there were any other qualified applicants. We don't know. I don't know. I don't know if there was a competitive bid.

Now, I do know that the EPA, under President Biden, gave Ms. Abrams' group—her two groups—\$2 billion cash.

In the grant approval, President Biden's EPA said that Power Forward had to allocate this money to get rid of stoves and to put in heat pumps. They had to allocate the money—they had to spend it—in 21 days.

Now, that meant that Ms. Abrams' group, Rewiring America, which was part of the larger group, likely received or was supposed to receive a check for \$490 million, about a quarter of the total of \$2 billion, by the end of May 2024. And the other organizations, within 21 days, President Biden directed, were also supposed to receive their share of the money.

But get this: President Biden and his team directed these NGOs to distribute \$2 billion in 21 days, but the Biden administration also told Power Forward, within 90 days, to go take a course. You know what the course was? The name of the course was "How to Develop a Budget"—"How to Develop a Budget."

So President Biden gave Power Forward 21 days to spend the money but said: You have got 90 days to go take a course about how to put together a budget.

And why would anybody in the Milky Way give \$2 billion of taxpayer money to two organizations that had just been formed that, according to the IRS filings, had no accomplishments and one of them only had 100 bucks in the bank?

I think I know why. I certainly know what it looks like. I mean, this would be comical if it wasn't so odious—\$2 billion.

You know, the last 4 years under the last administration have been very difficult for America. The cost of everything has gone up. The cost of many things have gone up by 20 percent, and our wages didn't keep up. The average electricity bill in America went up 19 percent. The average Louisianian, because of President Biden's inflation, had to spend an extra \$890 a month—extra—for food and clothing and car notes, and they didn't get an \$890-a-month raise.

President Biden and my Democratic colleagues told us that the Inflation Reduction Act—I remember when it was passed. They said: If you spend \$1.2 trillion on the Inflation Reduction Act, it will be a lifeline to every family in America.

That is not what it looks like to me. It is starting to look like to me that it was really a slush fund—a slush fund for Washington insiders.

Now, I don't want to make accusations that are unfair. I think EPA Administrator Zeldin needs to get to the bottom of this. I believe in fairness. I believe in due process. Mr. Zeldin has announced that he is going to try to claw back as much of this \$2 billion and other moneys as he can. Again, I think he ought to do it fairly and accord everybody due process.

But you know what, if the shoe fits, wear it, Cinderella. Here is what I see. I see two organizations formed in the

last year or so of President Biden's administration—on their IRS filings, they say: We have no experience. We have no accomplishments.

One of them only has a hundred bucks in the bank. One of them—their senior counsel is Ms. Stacey Abrams, a well-known Democratic politician.

I see them asking the President of the United States and his EPA for \$2 billion cash to fight gas stoves and getting it—and getting it—to the exclusion of every other applicant who might have been able to use that money.

Now, this is just the beginning of the type of spending porn that President Trump and Mr. Musk are uncovering that people are screaming about.

I am going to repeat what I started with. There is nothing wrong with wanting to know what they do and did with our money. That is all President Trump and Mr. Musk are doing.

#### MAURITIUS AND CHAGOS ISLANDS

Mr. President, I want to spend 5 minutes talking about another subject because President Trump tomorrow has a very important meeting with Prime Minister Starmer of the United Kingdom.

This is the Indian Ocean. You have heard me talk about this. A group of islands right here are the Chagos Islands. This is China over here. Down here is another group of islands called Mauritius that I will talk about in a second.

Why do I talk about the Chagos Islands? Well, from 1715 to 1810, the Chagos Islands were owned by France. In 1814, France gave the Chagos Islands to the United Kingdom. At the time, the United Kingdom—after France gave the islands to them—not only owned the Chagos Islands, but the United Kingdom also owned Mauritius.

The United Kingdom administered both the Chagos Islands and Mauritius from headquarters in Mauritius. Mauritius never owned the Chagos Islands—never. They were always owned either by France or by the United Kingdom, which owns them today. The only connection Mauritius had with the Chagos Islands was that the United Kingdom owned both at the same time and administered the two groups of islands from headquarters in Mauritius.

After the United Kingdom acquired the Chagos Islands here, the United States of America built one of the most important military bases in the world on one of the islands called the Diego Garcia—hugely important. The United Kingdom helped, but we put up most of the money.

Now, Mr. Starmer, the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, has decided that he wants to give the Chagos Islands, with our military base, to Mauritius. He wants to give it to them.

We said: Wait a minute. We have a military base here. What about our military base?

Mr. Starmer says: Well, I am going to give all of the islands, including the military base, to Mauritius—even though Mauritius never owned them.

Now that Mauritius owns them, we are going to pay Mauritius \$9 billion over time—I want to be fair, over time—for a military base that we built. What? Why? Well, I will tell you why. Prime Minister Starmer feels guilty because the United Nations—actually, it is not the United Nations; rather, a group called the International Court of Justice, which is loosely affiliated with the United Nations, issued a ruling that criticized the United Kingdom for actually owning the Chagos Islands.

They said: United Kingdom, you are an anti-colonialist. You should feel guilty, you should feel bad, and you need give the Chagos Islands away. You need to give them to Mauritius even though Mauritius never owned them.

That is what is going on. That is all that is going on.

Now, how did this get started? The Prime Minister of Mauritius—his name was Prime Minister Jugnauth—sued in the International Court of Justice—he sued the United Kingdom. He said: Give me Mauritius and the military base.

He filed a lawsuit. The International Court of Justice, based in the Netherlands, issued a ruling in Mauritius's favor. It is an advisory opinion. It is not binding on anybody. But Mr. Jugnauth got what he wanted on behalf of Mauritius.

A few weeks later, Prime Minister Jugnauth got beat, and he was replaced by a new Prime Minister, whose name is Prime Minister Ramgoolam. Prime Minister Ramgoolam said: Not only do I want the Mauritius Islands, you are not paying us enough, United Kingdom and America.

According to news reports, he wants not only \$9 billion, he wants \$18 billion for our own military base.

He said: We will lease you the base that you built, which we, Mauritius, now own, back to you, but you have to give us between \$9 and \$18 billion.

Isn't that special? Isn't that special? That is what is going on.

Now, there is one other thing you need to know. Mauritius is very close to China. Mauritius has a very lucrative trade agreement with China, and you might be surprised to learn that after all of this has been developing, China all of a sudden is Mauritius's best friend. Do you know why? Because if Prime Minister Starmer does this, Mauritius is going to own the base. They are going to own the base.

Now, Prime Minister Starmer is going to meet with President Trump tomorrow to try to talk President Trump into agreeing to this. The Prime Minister of the U.K. has already said: If President Trump is not comfortable with me giving away an American military base—I want to giggle when I say that—if President Trump is not comfortable, I won't do it.

Here is what the Prime Minister is going to tell President Trump tomorrow. He is going to say, No. 1: Mr. President, we need to do this because it is the right thing to do.

The United Nations' International Court of Justice, which is comprised of

a bunch of weeny wokers, has issued an advisory opinion saying that we and the United Kingdom should feel guilty because we used to own Colonies.

Prime Minister Starmer is going to say: Mr. President, we need to give these islands away and your military base, Mr. President, because it is the right thing to do.

The second thing he is going to tell the President is that if we don't do it, China is going to get really mad. He is going to say: China is going to get really mad if we don't do this.

The third thing he is going to tell the President is that if we don't do this, the United Nations could cut off the telecommunications for our military base—like the United Nations is going to all a sudden, out of the blue, cut off the spectrum and the telecommunications for an American military base. They have no jurisdiction to do that, and they also don't have the oranges to do that.

There is one other thing I want to mention. I didn't mean to go on this long, but this is an important meeting the President is having. Remember I told you about the Prime Minister who started all this, Prime Minister Jugnauth? He got beat—you will recall me saying it—in 2024.

A few weeks ago, former Prime Minister Jugnauth was arrested. He was arrested for money laundering. The Mauritius authorities searched his house and the home of one of his closest associates, and do you know what they found? They found \$25 million in cash in various currencies. They found Rolex watches, they found Cartier watches, and they found United Kingdom visas. I am not saying that they are connected, but it is mighty interesting.

Here is what one of the generals who formerly worked for President Trump has said about this deal that stinks to high heavens—GEN Herbert McMaster:

Mr. President, it would put us, the United States, at a significant strategic disadvantage, especially at a time when China is trying to gain control of critical terrain and chokepoints around the world in this effort to create new spheres of influence.

So to President Trump, my President, tonight I say: Don't do it, Mr. President. Please don't do it. I don't care what Prime Minister Starmer promises you. The only reason he is doing this is because he feels guilty because the United Nations has said that the United Kingdom should be ashamed of its history and ashamed that it at one time owned Colonies.

People of the United Kingdom can feel what they want. That is none of my business. But we have an American military base there, and it is very important to defend the Indian Ocean against China.

Please, Mr. President—please, President Trump—don't let Prime Minister Starmer talk you into giving away an American military base that we need to combat China to another country that never owned it just because Prime Minister Starmer feels guilty.

I am sorry he feels guilty. He needs to go buy an emotional support pony. But he doesn't need to give away an American military base.

Mr. Trump, President Trump, please don't agree to this.

That is it. I am out of gas. My work here is done. This is important, this meeting with Prime Minister Starmer tomorrow. I don't want to lose a military base we need. So I appreciate your indulgence.

## LEGISLATIVE SESSION

### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. 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.

### U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION RULES OF PROCEDURE

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, the Committee on Rules and Administration has adopted rules governing its procedures for the 119th Congress. Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 2, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, on behalf of myself and Senator PADILLA, I ask unanimous consent that a copy of the committee rules be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

#### RULES OF PROCEDURE MEETINGS OF THE COMMITTEE

Rule 1. The regular meeting dates of the Committee shall be the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month, at 10:00 a.m., in room SR-301, Russell Senate Office Building. Additional meetings of the Committee may be called by the Chair as he or she may deem necessary or pursuant to the provision of paragraph 3 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate.

Rule 2. Meetings of the Committee, including meetings to conduct hearings, shall be open to the public, except that a meeting or series of meetings by the Committee on the same subject for a period of no more than 14 calendar days may be closed to the public on a motion made and seconded to go into closed session to discuss only whether the matters enumerated in subparagraphs (a) through (f) would require the meeting to be closed followed immediately by a recorded vote in open session by a majority of the Members of the Committee when it is determined that the matters to be discussed or the testimony to be taken at such meeting or meetings:

(a) will disclose matters necessary to be kept secret in the interests of national defense or the confidential conduct of the foreign relations of the United States;

(b) will relate solely to matters of the Committee staff personnel or internal staff management or procedure;

(c) will tend to charge an individual with crime or misconduct, to disgrace or injure the professional standing of an individual, or

otherwise to expose an individual to public contempt or obloquy, or will represent a clearly unwarranted invasion of the privacy of an individual;

(d) will disclose the identity of any informer or law enforcement agent or will disclose any information relating to the investigation or prosecution of a criminal offense that is required to be kept secret in the interests of effective law enforcement;

(e) will disclose information relating to the trade secrets or financial or commercial information pertaining specifically to a given person if:

(1) an Act of Congress requires the information to be kept confidential by Government officers and employees; or

(2) the information has been obtained by the Government on a confidential basis, other than through an application by such person for a specific Government financial or other benefit, and is required to be kept secret in order to prevent undue injury to the competitive position of such person; or

(f) may divulge matters required to be kept confidential under the provisions of law or Government regulations. (Paragraph 5(b) of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules.)

Rule 3. Written notices of Committee meetings will normally be sent by the Committees staff director to all Members of the Committee at least a week in advance. In addition, the Committee staff will telephone or e-mail reminders of Committee meetings to all Members of the Committee or to the appropriate assistants in their offices.

Rule 4. A copy of the Committees intended agenda enumerating separate items of legislative business and Committee business will normally be sent to all Members of the Committee and released to the public at least one day in advance of all meetings. This does not preclude any Member of the Committee from discussing appropriate non-agenda topics.

Rule 5. After the Chair and the Ranking Minority Member, speaking order shall be based on order of arrival, alternating between Majority and Minority Members, unless otherwise directed by the Chair.

Rule 6. Any witness who is to appear before the Committee in any hearing shall file with the clerk of the Committee at least three business days before the date of his or her appearance, a written statement of his or her proposed testimony and an executive summary thereof, in such form as the Chair may direct, unless the Chair and the Ranking Minority Member waive such requirement for good cause.

Rule 7. In general, testimony will be restricted to five minutes for each witness. The time may be extended by the Chair, upon the Chairs own direction or at the request of a Member. Each round of questions by Members will also be limited to five minutes.

#### QUORUMS

Rule 8. Pursuant to paragraph 7(a)(1) of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules, a majority of the Members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum for the reporting of legislative measures.

Rule 9. Pursuant to paragraph 7(a)(1) of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules, one-third of the Members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, including action on amendments to measures prior to voting to report the measure to the Senate.

Rule 10. Pursuant to paragraph 7(a)(2) of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules, two Members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of taking testimony under oath and one Member of the Committee shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of taking testimony not under oath; provided, however, that in either instance,

once a quorum is established, any one Member can continue to take such testimony.

Rule 11. Under no circumstances may proxies be considered for the establishment of a quorum.

#### VOTING

Rule 12. Voting in the Committee on any issue will normally be by voice vote.

Rule 13. If a third of the Members present so demand a roll call vote instead of a voice vote, a record vote will be taken on any question by roll call.

Rule 14. The results of roll call votes taken in any meeting upon any measure, or any amendment thereto, shall be stated in the Committee report on that measure unless previously announced by the Committee, and such report or announcement shall include a tabulation of the votes cast in favor of and the votes cast in opposition to each such measure and amendment by each Member of the Committee. (Paragraph 7(b) and (c) of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules.)

Rule 15. Proxy voting shall be allowed on all measures and matters before the Committee. However, the vote of the Committee to report a measure or matter shall require the concurrence of a majority of the Members of the Committee who are physically present at the time of the vote. Proxies will be allowed in such cases solely for the purpose of recording a Members position on the question and then only in those instances when the absentee Committee Member has been informed of the question and has affirmatively requested that he or she be recorded. (Paragraph 7(a)(3) of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules.)

#### AMENDMENTS

Rule 16. Provided at least five business days notice of the agenda is given, and the text of the proposed bill or resolution has been made available at least five business days in advance, it shall not be in order for the Committee to consider any amendment in the first degree proposed to any measure under consideration by the Committee unless such amendment has been delivered to the office of the Committee and by at least 5:00 p.m. the day prior to the scheduled start of the meeting and circulated to each of the offices by at least 6:00 p.m.

Rule 17. In the event the Chair introduces a substitute amendment or a Chairs mark, the requirements set forth in Rule 16 shall be considered waived unless such substitute amendment or Chairs mark has been made available at least five business days in advance of the scheduled meeting.

Rule 18. It shall be in order, without prior notice, for a Member to offer a motion to strike a single section of any bill, resolution, or amendment under consideration.

Rule 19. This section of the rule may be waived by agreement of the Chair and the Ranking Minority Member.

#### DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY TO COMMITTEE CHAIR

Rule 20. The Chair is authorized to personally sign or sign by delegation all necessary vouchers and routine papers for which the Committees approval is required and to decide on the Committees behalf all routine business.

Rule 21. The Chair is authorized to engage commercial reporters for the preparation of transcripts of Committee meetings and hearings.

Rule 22. The Chair is authorized to issue, on behalf of the Committee, regulations normally promulgated by the Committee at the beginning of each session.

#### DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY TO COMMITTEE CHAIR AND RANKING MINORITY MEMBER

Rule 23. The Chair and Ranking Minority Member, acting jointly, are authorized to ap-

prove on behalf of the Committee any rule or regulation for which the Committees approval is required, provided advance notice of their intention to do so is given to Members of the Committee.

Rule 24. The Chair, with the concurrence of the Ranking Minority Member of the Committee, is authorized to subpoena the attendance of witnesses and the production of correspondence, books, papers, documents, and other materials. Regardless of whether a subpoena has been concurred in by the Ranking Minority Member, such subpoena may be authorized by vote of the Members of the Committee. When a subpoena is authorized, either by a vote of the Committee or by the Chair with the concurrence of the Ranking Member, the subpoena may be issued upon the signature of the Chair or of any other Member of the Committee designated by the Chair.

#### ARMS SALES NOTIFICATIONS

Mr. RISCH. Mr. 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)(5)(C) of the Arms Export Control Act (AECA), as amended, we are forwarding Transmittal No. 24-OM. This transmittal notifies a cost increase in excess of the total value previously described in the Section 36(b)(1) AECA certification 13-56 of May 12, 2014.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL F. MILLER,  
*Director.*

Enclosure.

#### TRANSMITTAL NO. 24-OM

Report of Enhancement or Upgrade of Sensitivity of Technology or Capability (Sec. 36(b)(5)(C), AECA)

(i) Purchaser: Republic of Türkiye.  
(ii) Sec. 36(b)(1), AECA Transmittal No.: 13-56; Date: May 12, 2014; Implementing Agency: Navy.

Funding Source: National Funds.

(iii) Description: On May 12, 2014, Congress was notified by congressional certification transmittal number 13-56, of the possible sale under Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act of up to 48 MK 48 Mod 6 Advanced Technology All-Up-Round (AUR) Warshot Torpedoes, containers, fleet exer-

cise sections, exercise fuel tanks, surface recovery cage and tools, exercise hardware, maintenance facility upgrades, support and test equipment, spare and repair parts, personnel training and training equipment, publications and technical documentation, U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services, and other related elements of technical support. The total estimated value was \$170 million. Major Defense Equipment (MDE) constituted \$126 million of this total.

This transmittal notifies an increase in MDE value by \$100 million, due to recent cost increases. There are no additional MDE or non-MDE items being reported with this notification. The total case value will increase by \$100 million to \$270 million. MDE will constitute \$226 million of this total.

(iv) Significance: Recent cost increases have brought about the need to add value to the original notification. The proposed sale will improve Türkiye's naval power and its capability to meet current and future threats.

(v) Justification: This proposed sale will support the foreign policy goals and national security of the United States by improving the naval capabilities and interoperability of a NATO Ally that is a force for political and economic stability in Europe.

(vi) Sensitivity of Technology: The Sensitivity of Technology Statement contained in the original notification applies to items reported here.

(vii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: February 21, 2025.

#### VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, this morning I attended the funeral of former Maryland Congresswoman Beverly Byron, an extraordinary public servant who represented the people of western Maryland and expanded the rights of women in the military as the first woman to chair a subcommittee on the Armed Services Committee and author of the Byron amendment that allowed women to fly combat missions. She was a mentor and friend, and I was grateful to pay my respects to her this morning among her many friends and family.

Due to this conflict, I missed rollcall vote No. 90, confirmation of the nomination of Daniel Driscoll to be Secretary of the Army. Had I been present, I would have voted no.

Due to this conflict, I also missed rollcall vote No. 91, the motion to proceed to 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." Had I been present, I would have voted no.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### RECOGNIZING EDGEWOOD LOCKER

● Ms. ERNST. Mr. 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 Edgewood Locker of Edgewood, IA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

In 1966, Tom and Joan Kerns founded Edgewood Locker as a family-run operation in a rented building in downtown Edgewood. After experience on their family farm, the young couple decided to take the risk of opening a meat processing plant. Initially, the business focused solely on custom meat processing and locker storage services. Four years later, the Kerns family expanded operations by purchasing an old creamery on the north edge of town and remodeling it themselves. The business steadily grew with the involvement of their sons Terry and Jim, and by 1980, they established a generational family partnership. This enabled Edgewood Locker to expand its service offerings, as well as launch a retail store serving cuts, cured meats, and more. Over the years, the business undertook six major remodels to accommodate its increasing customer base and expanding range of services. In 1997, this ultimately led to Edgewood Locker's relocation into a new, state-of-the-art facility on the west edge of town. In 2022, the business nearly doubled its space, adding another 19,000 square feet to its facility.

Today, Terry and Jim continue to run Edgewood Locker along with the family's third generation Katie, Baili, Payson, and Luke. Under their leadership, Edgewood Locker expanded to employ 60 full-time employees from the local community while serving customers throughout Iowa. Edgewood Locker built a reputation for its high-quality meat products and award-winning processing services. The company provides full-service custom processing of cattle, hogs, lambs, goats, and deer, catering to both individual customers and wholesalers. Edgewood Locker prepares award-winning sausages, meat sticks, bacon, and more with their family recipes and works with over 140 retail partners across the State. Last year, the business produced over 1 million pounds of sausage and almost 500,000 pounds of venison products.

Edgewood Locker is deeply committed to community service. The company is a member of the Edgewood Chamber, the American Association of Meat Processors, and the Iowa Meat Processors Association, with over 200 industry awards hanging on its walls. The company also supports local schools, civic groups, and churches through charitable donations and sponsorships. Additionally, Edgewood Locker sponsors the annual Edgewood Rodeo. The business is committed to investing in the next generation by running a butcher apprenticeship program for high school and college students. The program covers the students' tuition at Hawkeye Community College and allows them to learn the skills of the trade by working at Edgewood Locker. Edgewood Locker will celebrate its 58th anniversary in Iowa later this year.

Edgewood Locker's entrepreneurial spirit and commitment to excellence are clear. I want to congratulate the Kerns family and the entire team for their hard work and dedication to providing exceptional products and services to families across Iowa. I look forward to seeing their continued growth and success.●

#### VERMONT STATE OF THE UNION ESSAY CONTEST JUDGES

● Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, since 2010, I have sponsored a State of the Union essay contest for Vermont high school students. This contest gives students in my State the opportunity to articulate what issues they would prioritize if they were President of the United States.

This is the contest's 15th year, and I would like to congratulate the nine volunteer judges who helped choose the contest winners and finalists. The contest relies on its committed team of judges. The judges take time to review each essay and evaluate the diversity in writing that engages students and will benefit them for years to come. The judges' willingness to participate in this project reflects their dedication to both the students and our State, and for that, I graciously thank them.

The judges include:

Andrew Chobanian of Oxbow High School—participant for 3 years

Jason Gorczyk of Milton High School—participant for 12 years

Krista Huling of South Burlington High School—participant for 12 years

Robert Jackson Randolph Technical Career Center—participant for their first year

Krystal Melendez of North Country Union High School—participant for their first year

Mary Schell of White River Valley School—participant for 3 years

Terri Vest of Twinfield Union School—participant for 15 years

Robert Walls-Thumma of North Country Union High School—participant for their first year

Caroline Zeilenga of Randolph Technical Career Center—participant for their first year

I am very proud to enter the State of the Union Essay Contest judges into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD to recognize their contributions.●

#### VERMONT STATE OF THE UNION ESSAY WINNERS

● Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, since 2010, I have sponsored a State of the Union essay contest for Vermont high school students. This contest gives students in my State the opportunity to articulate what issues they would prioritize if they were President of the United States.

This is the contest's 15th year, and I would like to congratulate the 475 students who participated. It is truly heartening to see so many young people engaged in finding solutions for the problems that face our country. To my mind, this is what democracy is all about.

A volunteer panel of Vermont educators reviewed the essays and chose Justason Lahue as this year's winner. Justason, a junior at Burr and Burton Academy, wrote about the impact of social media on youth mental health. Ari Glasser, a junior at Essex High School, was the second-place winner. Ari wrote about the influence of billionaires on American politics. Ely White, a senior at Leland & Gray Union Middle and High School, was the third-place winner, with an essay on political polarization.

I am very proud to enter into the Congressional Record the essays submitted by Justason, Ari and Ely.

The material follows:

WINNER, JUSTASON LAHUE, BURR AND BURTON ACADEMY, JUNIOR

Social media is deteriorating adolescent mental health, yet the United States' government is treating the situation like a social experiment; our government is waiting to see what will happen despite the mounting evidence that social media has dangerous effects. Until we apply evidence-based regulations to limit social media use, adolescent well-being is in jeopardy.

The current evidence of harm is compelling. A 2023 Gallup survey found that teenagers spend an average of 4.8 hours on social media daily. Alarmingly, a longitudinal study involving 6,595 adolescents revealed that spending over 3 hours daily on social media doubled the risk of poor mental health outcomes, such as anxiety and depression. These are not studies in isolation: a systematic review of 13 studies also found that unhealthy engagement of social media was correlated with depression, anxiety, and psychological distress.

While these studies demonstrate correlation, there are also indicators of causality. Numerous studies highlight how limiting social media use can improve mental health. A randomized controlled trial reported that reducing social media use by just 30 minutes daily lessened depressive symptoms in college students. Another study involving adolescents showed that ceasing social media use for 4 weeks resulted in a 25-40% improvement in subjective well-being (e.g., life satisfaction, depression, and anxiety) when compared to psychological interventions such as therapy.

Social media use can worsen adolescent mental health, while lessening use demonstrates the opposite effect. Adolescent brain development is most active from ages 10 to 14. However, the arbitrary and rarely enforced 'internet age' currently set at 13 exposes immature brains to a world of entertainment, inappropriate content, and harassment. Given these biological factors and the evidence of potential harm, a more appropriate age for adolescents to access the internet is 16 years of age.

I propose a bill called the Youth Mental Health Protection Act. This act would target a root cause of social media-related youth mental health issues by changing the legal age of 'internet adulthood' (i.e., when one can sign up for most online platforms, consent to terms of service, and share personal data). This act would make 16 the legally required age to access social media, similar to obtaining a driver's license in most states, another privilege requiring complex thinking and decision-making. Finally, the Youth Mental Health Protection Act would hold social media companies liable by requiring age verification prior to account creation.

Requiring age checks would likely lessen the negative effects of social media on adolescent mental health, however, this is just



one step the United States government needs to take to solve this crisis. To counteract the harms introduced by this ongoing social experiment, policy-makers need to act now. Enacting the Youth Mental Health Protection Act and prioritizing further research on the effects of social media is imperative to safeguard the mental health of our nation's youth.

SECOND PLACE, ARI GLASSER, ESSEX HIGH SCHOOL, JUNIOR

President-elect Donald Trump has so far nominated over a dozen billionaires to his cabinet, with a combined net worth of over \$400 billion—more than ten times the GDP of the state of Vermont. In addition, Elon Musk, the richest man in the world, was one of Trump's strongest supporters during the election campaign: He donated a staggering \$277 million to Trump and other Republican candidates, according to CBS News. It is clear that the ultra-wealthy control a growing share of both political and economic power in the United States, holding disproportionate sway that erodes the power of the American people. The expanding influence of the billionaire class is one of the greatest challenges facing America today.

The recent trend of billionaire influence is reminiscent of the Gilded Age, a time when an incredibly wealthy group of industrialists such as John D. Rockefeller presided over vast monopolies while the government struggled to break them up. Meanwhile, the urban masses worked long hours with deplorable conditions and little pay. It was a kind of oligarchic society, one where these "Captains of Industry" wielded immense political and economic influence. Today, America is in a sort of Second Gilded Age—complete with drastic wealth inequality and a dangerous level of influence by the ultra-wealthy that is becoming ever nearer to oligarchy. Just 735 billionaires hold more wealth than the bottom half of all American households.

In order to reduce the concerning level of billionaire influence, many reforms must be enacted, but perhaps most important is a wealth tax. This could raise trillions of dollars for the government while also reducing the wealth and influence of billionaires over time. One such proposal would be Senator Bernie Sanders' plan, which would implement a progressive wealth tax, starting at one percent on net worth over \$32 million, up to eight percent on net worth over \$10 billion. According to Sanders, this plan would cut in half the wealth of billionaires over just 15 years, greatly reducing wealth inequality and the power of the top 0.1 percent.

In addition to reducing the economic power of billionaires, their political influence must be reduced through the use of campaign finance reform—most importantly, overturning the 2010 Supreme Court decision in *Citizens United v. FEC*. This case eviscerated campaign finance regulations and essentially allowed unlimited contributions to political groups known as super PACs, such as the one Elon Musk donated to. While it may be difficult, passing a proposal such as the We the People Amendment would reverse the *Citizens United* decision by putting an end to the antidemocratic concepts that money equals political speech, and that corporations are people.

While there is no simple solution to ending the dangerous influence of billionaires in American politics and the economy, through important legislative action such as a wealth tax and campaign finance reform, America can stop the encroachment of oligarchy on its society.

THIRD PLACE, ELY WHITE, LELAND AND GRAY UNION MIDDLE HIGH SCHOOL

Abraham Lincoln once said, "a house divided against itself cannot stand." Speaking

solemnly of the dire state of division in the United States leading up to the Civil War, it is now over a century later that his words resonate once more.

Political polarization has grown in the past decade in the United States, transforming healthy debates of ideas into an endless battle of "us" against "them." Division has infiltrated into all facets of American life, a political landscape where compromise is rare and partisan loyalty is prioritized. This deepening division threatens the ideals of our democracy, making it nearly impossible to address the critical issues that face our country today.

A 2022 NBC News survey revealed that 80% of Americans believe the opposing party "poses a threat that, if not stopped, will destroy America." This growing divide is evident in the 2018–19 government shutdown, when a standoff between Democrats and Republicans over border wall funding caused a 35-day gridlock. With neither side willing to compromise, 800,000 government workers went unpaid, and federal services became disrupted. Heightened polarization has normalized the prioritization of party loyalty over national needs, a theme of officials refusing to seek bi-partisan solutions even with critical federal services, workers, and decisions at stake.

Beyond our boardrooms and capitals, division based on political views has become synonymous with what it means to be American. Pew Research Center's 2022 report on polarization shows that 72% of Republicans view Democrats as more immoral than other Americans, and 62% of Democrats say the same about Republicans. Political identity has become tribal in nature, a defining characteristic of one's morality and values. Political polarization strains relationships in families, communities, and workplaces, the American Psychological Association reporting that 38% of adults avoided conversations with people of opposing political views.

Addressing solutions to America's political division is complex. Specific systemic reforms, however, can help reduce polarization by shifting the incentives that drive division. Ranked-choice voting (RCV) is a system that allows voters to rank candidates in order of preference, the votes for the lowest-ranking candidate then redistributed to voters' next choice until a majority is achieved. RCV would encourage candidates to appeal to broader ranges of voters rather than just their base, incentivizing politicians to take moderate stances rather than extreme party-driven positions. Reforming the closed primary system by adopting open or top-two systems would force candidates to appeal to a broader electorate, reducing the influence of extreme partisanship and encouraging more moderation. Integrating civic education and media literacy into our schools and communities could also work as a grass-roots solution in helping individuals evaluate information and recognize bias in misinformation and ideological chambers.

The future of our democracy depends on our ability to bridge divides and prioritize unity over partisanship. We must rebuild trust, restore faith in our institutions, and create a government that serves all Americans. Change begins with us—and we call and act for a system that brings us together, not tears us apart.●

#### VERMONT STATE OF THE UNION ESSAY CONTEST FINALISTS

●Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I ask to have entered into the RECORD some of the finalists' essays written by Vermont High School students as part

of the 15th Annual State of the Union Essay contest conducted by my office.

The material follows:

#### FINALISTS

AMY VAUGHAN, OXBOW HIGH SCHOOL, JUNIOR

Climate change is at the forefront of issues in the nation; however, its effect on farming and food systems is often overlooked. Climate change poses a growing threat to agriculture through fluctuating weather patterns that cause crop losses and increase production costs (EPA). These disruptions jeopardize food security and threaten farmers' livelihoods. While the challenges are significant, an effective, sustainable solution is to support outreach and educational initiatives, particularly through university extension services. By increasing funding for these programs, farmers and other individuals can be equipped with the knowledge needed to adopt climate-resilient techniques, strategies, and practices (University of New Hampshire Extension). This approach will strengthen the agricultural industry's ability to navigate a changing climate.

In recent years, farmers have faced increasingly unpredictable weather patterns, including severe droughts, flooding, and fluctuating temperatures (NOAA Research). These changes contribute to soil degradation, water shortages, and crop failure (Chicago EPA). A study from the United States Department of Agriculture found that "Increased temperatures can also lead to issues like crop sunburn from extreme heat, which can reduce annual yields for farms by as much as 40%" (USDA Climate Hub). This, in combination with other climate issues, results in decreased farm revenue adding to farmers' struggles with financial instability (USDA ERS). Data from the Bureau of Economic Analysis states that "agriculture and related industries contributed roughly \$1.537 trillion to the U.S. GDP in 2023". Given the importance of agriculture to U.S. food security and the economy, we can not ignore the effects decreased farm revenue would have on our society as a whole.

One step towards a solution is strengthening educational outreach efforts which can support farmers in understanding how to deal with this rising challenge. Land-grant universities have historically played a vital role in broadcasting research-based agricultural knowledge to the farming community (Association of Public Land Grant Universities). These programs offer valuable resources on crop management, pest control, irrigation techniques, and more (UW-Madison Extension). Many extension services include these topics in their program objectives. However, despite the acceleration of climate change, many extension services are underfunded and ill-equipped to meet the growing demand for climate-specific information.

Increased investment in these programs will provide farmers with timely, actionable climate advice. University-led outreach programs can teach farmers about climate-resilient practices such as regenerative farming, crop diversification, and soil health improvement techniques (University of New Hampshire Extension). Furthermore, extension services can introduce precision agriculture technologies to optimize crop monitoring and resource use. Addressing the impact of climate change on agriculture requires more than just technological innovation or policy reform. It requires empowering farmers with the knowledge and tools to adapt. By investing in outreach and education through university extension programs, the United States can build a more resilient agricultural system capable of weathering the challenges of a changing climate, ensuring long-

term food security and sustainable farming practices for future generations.

OWEN STYGLES, BELLOWS FREE ACADEMY  
FAIRFAX, SENIOR

The 1990 Children's Television Act sought to empower the FCC to regulate children's media, requiring that it hold a certain level of educational value, and that the advertisements aired during children's shows meet specific guidelines. This bill came to be as a result of the growing television entertainment industry, and the worries surrounding how it affected children's minds and development. It was also deemed important due to the nature of advertising towards children, as they are largely unable to distinguish advertisements from tv programs, and are easily influenced.

I mention this bill because it lays a strong foundation: children's media needs to support development, and highly suggestible children need to be protected from advertisers. I especially highlight this second point, as there would be far fewer issues if children were not such an easily targeted demographic, furthermore, broadcasters would be less likely to fund shallow, attention-grabbing shows in the first place if they weren't as profitable, allowing higher quality programs to make way on their own.

This all brings us to today, where children are switching away from television, and towards digital media, such as YouTube videos. This new media, of course, is largely unregulated in comparison to broadcast television, and advertisers are now at liberty to exploit children's unawareness to commercials once again. Not only this, but the nature of what kids view, outside of the ads, is also less valuable, as it is being made only to hold their attention until the next ad. Cocomelon, one of the largest channels on YouTube, is a notable example of this. They feature a near-endless supply of videos geared towards children that aim simply to hold their attention for as long as possible. Using bright colors, songs, and sound effects, this content manipulates children into viewing for extensive periods of time.

The exploitation of children's attention is an undervalued and often missed issue related with the rise of digital media. This does not mean, however, that healthy content is not present. Many educational programs, such as Sesame Street, have created an online presence that is far more constructive for children, and, most importantly, isn't structured around making kids watch as many advertisements as possible. Because of this, I think the center of the problem lies in how high quality content is easily bogged down by the onslaught of this lower quality content, as it is far easier and faster to create.

Akin to how you find organic food by looking for the USDA stamp of approval, I think children's content online should be tested and labeled for its quality. This would give educational and developmentally useful content a way to stand out among the rapidly uploaded, low quality content. It would also provide a kind of "guide" for parents, which would make their job of overseeing what their children watch far simpler. While this solution isn't perfect, I believe it to be the best way to end this highly underappreciated issue that is actively impacting millions of children's development.

HANNAH SMILEY, MILTON HIGH SCHOOL, SENIOR

For nearly two centuries, Church Street in Burlington, Vermont has been the heart of the state and the nucleus of the city—a lively community marketplace, bustling with shops and restaurants. In recent years, however, it has become a common controversial topic at gatherings or in any conversation; an issue that cannot be ignored. What was

once a charming, safe city has become a dismal and even daunting area for Vermonters. What caused this change? The homelessness crisis that is plaguing the entire nation.

Let's be clear; the issue isn't panhandling or encampments, rather it is the government's alarming lack of moral accountability and commitment to its citizens. The United States Department of Housing and Urban Development reports that over 653,000 Americans—a population greater than Wyoming and the same as Vermont—were unhoused this past year, yet societal stigmas or the ideal of American individualism have led this issue to be disregarded as a competition for mere existence, or survival of the fittest. Rather than focus on the root causes of inflation, low wages, and lack of government support, people place blame on the victims. Unhoused people are villainized for their attempts at survival. The housing crisis is complex, however, there are concrete solutions.

The US government has the moral responsibility to fulfill its Constitutional promise: "to promote the general welfare" of all Americans. This includes addressing the homelessness crisis which directly affects the welfare of citizens. The most comprehensive solution must include immediate relief for unhoused communities and a means of addressing the root causes of this crisis. According to this formula, the best solution to solving this epidemic is "Housing First" initiatives. This approach to the homelessness crisis, developed in

New York City has a form of publicly-funded permanent housing that includes additional support to aid unhoused people. In short, the "housing first" model is designed to move long-term unhoused individuals—"the majority of whom are living with mental illness, substance abuse disorders, and other serious health problems," adds the Coalition for the Homeless—into subsidized housing with the addition of community support services. This type of housing support allows unhoused people to see health improvements and is proven to be less costly than forms of temporary care such as emergency shelters and correctional facilities. In addition, prevention programs, such as discharge plans for youth in the foster care system and policy change regarding a living wage, are vital to America's future.

Many argue that providing adequate aid to fix the housing crisis is too expensive to sustain. This has led to temporary "fixes" such as wiping out encampments, leaving unhoused people with limited options. This may be successful in easing the guilt for citizens as they won't see unhoused people in their communities, however, ignorance is not a solution. Unethical practices are extremely harmful to unhoused people and an ineffective use of funding.

The US government must recognize the severity of this crisis and enact permanent policy to create long-term change.

WINSLOW SOLOMON, VERMONT COMMONS  
SCHOOL, SENIOR

Three-fourths of adults in the United States are overweight or obese, according to a new study in *The Lancet*, making the U.S. the most obese high-income country. The obesity epidemic is a national emergency threatening our health and economy, and Congress must act quickly to understand and address it.

Obesity and overweight in American adults has risen quickly from just over half of adults in 1990 to three-quarters today. Increased consumption of energy and flavor-dense ultra processed foods engineered for irresistibility, limited access to expensive fresh produce, and normalization of sedentary lifestyles are all contributing to

weight gain. New studies on the role of food-processing and genetics in weight gain show that more than calories and nutrients are involved in a healthy diet. The *Lancet* study predicts that the number of overweight people will reach nearly 260 million by 2050, growth that will put extreme strain on our society.

The effects of overweight and obesity are numerous and extreme. According to the CDC, overweight and obesity lead to health issues from type 2 diabetes to sleep apnea, stroke to osteoarthritis. Adults with a BMI of over 25 (overweight) or 30 (obese) are more likely to develop cancer and high blood pressure and experience worse mental health and early death. If we allow the obesity epidemic to continue, we will cause great harm not just to those suffering from obesity-caused diseases, but also to the economy and the healthcare system. A Joint Economic Committee Republicans report in 2024 estimated that obesity will result in \$9.1 trillion extra medical cost to the country over the next ten years.

It is time for Congress to pass legislation making healthy lifestyles more economical for Americans. Addressing the obesity epidemic requires a multi-faceted approach, combining lifestyle change with medication and surgery. While new medications like Wegovy and Zepbound can offer quick changes in weight, their high costs are prohibitive on an individual and nation-wide scale. Weight loss from such drugs is quickly reversed after medication stops. The most effective, long-term means of battling obesity is change in diet and exercise. As recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Heart Association, the government must consider subsidies for healthier foods, taxes on ultra processed foods and sugary drinks, limits on food advertising, and warning labels on obesity-causing foods. It is important to encourage healthy diet and exercise in schools, where habits start. Public discussion must avoid causing weight bias or fatphobia which cause mental harm to people suffering from obesity and make it harder for them to become healthier.

Congress has been successful in improving Americans' health in the past: CDC data shows a drop over 30% in adult smoking since 1965 after acts banning advertisements and placing warnings on tobacco products were passed. Taxation of sugar-sweetened beverages in Chile and Mexico resulted in significant decreases in purchasing of 21.6% and 6.1% respectively. If we act now, we can offer a happier and healthier country to the next generation.

ALEKSANDRA CIROVIC, WOODSTOCK UNION HIGH  
SCHOOL, JUNIOR

The impacts of fossil fuel-driven climate warming were more evident and catastrophic than ever in 2024. Globally, 26 of 29 warming-induced weather events caused over 3,700 fatalities and displaced millions. Hurricane Helene left 230 dead in the U.S., with rising ocean temperatures exacerbating the devastation. Climate change is among the most urgent crises we face. At the heart of climate change lies consumerism, where our insatiable desire for more products depletes resources and heightens carbon emissions. To address this, we must incentivize eco-friendly products, implement green taxes on high-footprint goods, and enforce stricter industry regulations to minimize waste.

With a growing global population, the demand for resources has surged. Currently, the structure of our food systems enables significant food loss, contributing to global waste. According to National Geographic, over 1.3 billion tons of food is wasted each year. The pattern of waste extends to plastic

and other recyclables. The massive amounts of plastic waste that companies generate, from food packaging to clothing, is severely detrimental to our environment. The levels of plastic in the ocean are expected to quadruple over the coming years, highlighting the growing severity of the issue, according to the World Wildlife Fund. This culture of consumerism, driven by our unappeasable demand for products, produces overwhelming waste, accelerating climate change and threatening biodiversity.

Our demand for goods releases toxic gases during production and delivery as well. We are consuming our planet's resources 1.7 times faster than it can regenerate, as reported by The Guardian. The World Wildlife Fund's warning that, without a significant change in consumption rates, Earth "will expire by 2050" underscores the urgency of the situation. The rise in overconsumption has led to a higher demand for goods, and consequently, a greater reliance on processes that utilize fossil fuels. Overconsumption culture leads to higher reliance on dirty energy, directly threatening the climate by exhausting resources and increasing emissions.

As a Youth Representative on the Vermont Climate Council, I witness how the effects of climate change are becoming ever more evident. From rising temperatures to unpredictable weather patterns and their impact, the need for action is undeniable. In my meetings and climate conversations, the urgency for transformative change grows stronger with each discussion. There is no doubt that climate change is the most unavoidable issue we face.

We have the power to redefine the future. Our government can subsidize manufacturers meeting sustainability standards to reduce production costs and make eco-friendly products more competitive. It can also implement policies to incentivize green innovation and support sustainable technologies. Individuals purchasing energy-efficient appliances, electric vehicles, or sustainable products could receive tax credits. Green taxes on carbon usage and plastics can fund renewable energy, public transit, and sustainable development. Strict waste limits should be set for industries, with penalties for exceeding them. The government can enforce regulations to minimize pollution and promote responsible resource use. For the health of the world and its people, the time to act is now.

ALLIE HAMILTON, MOUNT MANSFIELD UNION  
HIGH SCHOOL, JUNIOR

In Shakespeare's iconic play *\*Hamlet\**, the protagonist declares, "These words like daggers enter in mine ears." This allusion to a weapon of death serves as a powerful lens through which to explore the contentious topic of gun control in contemporary society. Gun violence, much like daggers, leaves wounds that resonate across families, communities, and nations. Gun control has been a subject of intense debate, particularly in the United States, where the Second Amendment enshrines the right to bear arms. In 2023, over 43,180 deaths in the U.S. were attributed to firearm incidents—more than the toll of war. These numbers are not just statistics; they represent lives lost, families devastated, and communities torn apart. As Hamlet struggled with violence, so too must we confront the deadly repercussions of gun violence. This ongoing conversation centers on regulating firearms—how to prevent crimes, reduce gun violence, and ensure public safety, all while respecting the rights of individuals to own firearms.

The gun possession debate centers on the belief that citizens should have firearms for self-defense and protection against government tyranny. However, safety is essential

for freedom to thrive. Research shows that countries with stricter gun laws have fewer gun-related deaths. For instance, after Australia enacted strict gun laws in 1996, firearm-related deaths, including mass shootings, significantly dropped. In contrast, the U.S. sees over 43,180 firearm deaths annually, underscoring the need for stronger regulations. Stricter laws aim to balance individual rights and public safety, ensuring both liberty and life can prosper.

Mental health must be part of the gun control discussion, as nearly 60% of U.S. gun-related deaths are suicides, many involving legally obtained firearms. The 2012 Sandy Hook tragedy, where the shooter had a history of mental health issues but easily acquired firearms, highlights the need for mental health evaluations in the gun purchasing process. By addressing both gun access and mental health, we can prevent tragedies, reduce violence, and save lives.

The issue of gun control is undeniably complex. However, it is clear that balancing individual rights with the need for public safety is critical. Stricter regulations, greater mental health support, and public education on responsible gun ownership are necessary steps to reduce gun violence and ensure a safer society. The cost of inaction is too high—each preventable death is a tragedy, and every missed opportunity for reform prolongs the crisis. Freedom without responsibility leads to chaos; safety without liberty breeds oppression. We must find a balance between these forces. This issue is not just about policy—it's about human lives. The right to bear arms must be paired with the responsibility to protect others, ensuring that both safety and liberty are preserved. This is an urgent call to action—an intersection of gun ownership, public safety, and mental health that demands thoughtful, evidence-based change. The future of our communities depends on it.

LEO BEEBE, WINOOSKI HIGH SCHOOL, SENIOR

This December, America's debt reached an all-time high of 36 trillion dollars, and the deficit climbed yet again to two trillion dollars. This massive burden will have devastating effects on the economy and has already wreaked havoc on the federal budget. We are currently spending more money on the interest on the debt than on the military, and interest payments will only increase if nothing is done. At this very important moment for America, an honest and mature position on the budget is a necessity in our government. As such, an idea as costly as repealing the State and Local Tax (SALT) Deduction Cap should be viewed with caution at best, and outright disgust at worst.

The SALT cap is a tax deduction that allows Americans to deduct certain state and local taxes from their federal tax receipt in order to avoid this money being taxed twice, once at the local level and once at the federal level. President Trump's Tax Cuts and Jobs Act instituted a cap on this deduction, limiting the deductible income to ten thousand dollars. It has been estimated by the nonpartisan Tax Policy Center that lifting the cap would cost the United States government 1.2 trillion dollars over ten years. This is a truly staggering sum, and would represent a massive drain on resources at a time when all federal expenditures need to be closely examined.

Lifting the cap would also mean approving a massive giveaway to America's wealthiest citizens. The Tax Policy Center estimates that Americans making over 430,000 dollars a year would see three-quarters of the benefits of a lifted SALT cap. Considering the drastic cost-of-living crisis in this country, it is simply absurd to consider putting the needs of these wealthy Americans over the much

more pressing needs of poor and middle-class Americans. All Americans would be better off if their government was able to pay down its debt after twenty years of financial mismanagement.

If the government really wanted to help everyday Americans, they would take the steps that are necessary to balance the budget and pay down our debt. Raising taxes on wealthy and middle-class Americans would be unpopular, but are necessary actions to restore fiscal health. Instituting far-reaching cost-containment measures for federal healthcare costs would save billions, as would a responsibly run single-payer healthcare program. While these proposals may seem unrealistic, they are much more sensible than lifting the SALT cap.

This issue is not a partisan one. It is a moral one. When President Trump and many Democrats state their wishes to spend billions of our dollars annually on a giveaway to the wealthy, we should be as clear as possible in our denunciation of such ridiculousness. The deficit is not a state issue or a local issue, but a national issue. Therefore, we should reject out of hand unnecessary political giveaways that only benefit a small fraction of Americans.

EMILEE BROWNELL, ESSEX HIGH SCHOOL, JUNIOR

#### SAVING OURSELVES

My dad, Seth Brownell, was a lineman for years. Growing up, he would consistently tell my sister and me about the importance of electricity and how our phones, iPads, and computers all use it to function. I never really gave it any thought until I got older and realized the effects of that power. Today, data farms require a tremendously high amount of energy; 1,000 terawatt hours is predicted to be the annual requirement for data farms by 2026. That is approximately identical to Japan's electric consumption. These farms require a significantly high amount of energy and are the main contributor for the carbon dioxide polluting our air.

Because data farms require so much power, that means that more has to be made. The fastest way to do so is by burning fossil fuels which is responsible for 74% of the carbon dioxide emissions in the U.S. Generating power is the greatest factor in global warming. According to Landgate, one wind turbine takes up 80 acres of land and can affect the local wildlife. Solar farms require an excessive amount of space as well. Pivot Energy highlights that the average solar farm requires 10-20 acres of land; for every direct megawatt, five acres of buildable land is essential for success. Turbines and solar farms are an unreliable source that evidently depend on weather and don't work as quickly as burning fossil fuels.

New nuclear energy can be key to countering this problem. The word nuclear often brings up difficult topics: Three Mile Island, the Chernobyl disasters, or the radioactive waste produced. However, since today's nuclear technology is more modern, it can be placed in rural areas, and society has a better understanding of it. Not only is less land required for new nuclear power, it's also always accessible and can produce much more power with minimal nuclear fuel because it has a higher energy density than fossil fuels. While many worry about the disposal of nuclear waste, only about 3% of it is the long lived, greatly radioactive form of waste. With that, isolation is required, but with the new high tech safe disposals that combine containment and geological deposits, waste is isolated for thousands of years protecting us and our environment. Though it does come with some risks, new nuclear power is a safe, low profit, efficient fuel source. It produces no emission, ultimately cleaning our air. Using new nuclear power prevents

carbon dioxide from entering the atmosphere. The amount of carbon dioxide prevented is equivalent to removing a third of all cars around the world. The demand for a safe, low profit power source is rapidly growing, and new nuclear power meets all these requirements.

Though nuclear power may seem like a scary, dangerous solution to the extensively high amount of energy data farms consume, ultimately it's the most reliable, safest solution. Not only does it save money, it also reduces the amount of carbon dioxide being emitted into the atmosphere, into the air that we breathe.

SOFIA BUSH, MOUNT MANSFIELD UNION HIGH SCHOOL, JUNIOR

With the patchwork of health insurance and care we call a system, many Americans are left in crippling medical debt. This makes the United States an outlier among industrialized nations, both in the systems we use and the startling incompetence within them. Every single industrialized country, except the United States of America provides universal health care (Vladeck). For affordable and efficient healthcare, Medicare in the US should be expanded into universal National Health Insurance.

The way in which Americans receive and pay for health care today is deeply flawed compared to other countries, it is highly ineffective and significantly more expensive. Industrialized countries follow three main health insurance models, the Beveridge model, Bismarck model, and National Health Insurance model.

Equitable access to care is a good indicator of the effectiveness of health care in a country. Compared to similar countries, the US has very inequitable access to healthcare. The Commonwealth Fund found that the US had the highest income related discrepancies in care, as well as the most "instances of unfair treatment or feelings that health concerns were not taken seriously by health care professionals because of their racial or ethnic background" (Blumenthal et al.). This indicates inequitable access to care as unfair treatment leads to patients not receiving the care they need, as well as breaking trust between the patient and provider. These discrepancies reinforce the idea that this system is ineffective because it shows that it prioritizes some patients over others.

Though healthcare in America is so ineffective, it's remarkably overpriced. Americans spent more than 16% of GDP on healthcare in 2023 (Blumenthal et al.). For context, that's about 1.5 times more than many countries with universal healthcare. This indicates that Americans are pouring money into a poorly performing healthcare and insurance industry.

To make healthcare more affordable and effective, we should turn to the National Health Insurance model by expanding Medicare into mandatory universal healthcare. This would decrease inequalities and administrative challenges, and lay a foundation for a healthier nation, as treatment and preventative care will be more accessible. One estimate says that switching "increases life expectancy by almost 2 years, grows the population size by 3 percent, and increases worker productivity through improved health" ("Medicare for All: Comparison of Financing Options"). To fund this, there should be an income based tax increase, which would be cheaper than what most Americans pay for healthcare now.

So, our healthcare system is more expensive with worse performance compared to other similar countries. Making Medicare universal would result in more effective and affordable care, which would build a foundation for a healthier nation. Healthcare is an

issue that touches every one of our lives, though some more than others. But overall, to build a strong, healthy, productive nation, we must start with an effective and accessible health care system.

HAZEL O'BRIEN, TWINFIELD UNION SCHOOL, SENIOR

On November 5th, 2024, California held elections to determine the representation of their state in the U.S. House of Representatives. Fifteen million voters across 52 congressional districts pledged their ballots, and when the results became clear, the Democratic Party won 60% of the popular vote while the Republican Party won 40%. Despite this result, the seat share of the Californian delegation will be 43 Democrats to 9 Republicans, approximately 83% to 17%. This is the plurality voting system in action, a process that left 6,000,000 Californian Republican voters grossly underrepresented.

Most elections in the U.S. use a plurality voting system, which drives political polarization as the party duopoly becomes entrenched, and demonization becomes a tactic to prevent spillage of voters between the parties. Though this system is deeply embedded in contemporary American democracy, there are paths to improvement. For one, we can look to the proportional systems that successful democracies implement abroad. A great example of a proportional election system is the use of multi-member districts. This method takes the idea of a congressional district and essentially lowers the threshold of popularity a party must receive to earn representation by increasing the number of seats held in the district; this way an accurate reflection of the entire voting public can be achieved as opposed to just the plurality opinion.

Multi-member districts were once permitted in the U.S., but due to threats of misuse by segregationists in response to the Voting Rights Act of 1965, it was banned in 1967 under the Uniform Congressional District Act (UCDA). The UCDA had the aim of eradicating bloc voting, a system that utilizes multi-member districts to neglect minority representation. It unfortunately also set single-member districts as the only legal means to host elections for the House of Representatives, a major cause of our plurality system. The solution here is relatively uncomplicated on its face, the process by which laws are passed mirrors very closely the way in which they are repealed. With a simple bill intended to counteract and nullify the UCDA, a breakthrough is possible. If that bill included clauses detailing how to mandate standards of proportionality and representation, such as specifically banning abusive practices like bloc voting, then we could see significant changes with the successful installment of multi-member districts.

Many in Congress will likely be resistant to the idea of an alteration considering it is directly tied to their positions of power. However, we can already see the movement necessary to make progress. Maine passed Measure 5, an act to establish ranked choice voting on the federal level, via citizen initiative in 2016. Alaska in 2020 also passed a similar measure through referendum. This demonstrates electoral reform is something the voting public considers a priority and by harvesting this momentum we can demand Congress to finally take action.

MACKENZIE RUSSELL, HARWOOD UNION HIGH SCHOOL, JUNIOR

Public education is crucial to the development of society. School prepares students with the knowledge and skills needed for civic engagement, and also provides a space where students can discover their interests and explore the pathways available to

them—and teachers are the backbone of this whole system. However, schools struggle to achieve this purpose when staff inconsistencies arise. The teacher shortage—an issue that Senator Bernie Sanders has raised before—is a national problem currently affecting 86% of public schools across the nation (NCES). Though Sanders has advocated for something to be done about this, there hasn't been the support needed to put a solution into action. To make progress on this issue, solutions must address the multiple perspectives that many feel Sanders' proposal overlooks.

Staff shortages are increasingly prevalent in our schools today. Public schools have trouble filling not only teaching positions but also bus drivers, substitutes, and food workers. As of October 2024, 35% of public schools were operating with at least one open position (NCES). Even with just one vacancy, class sizes and courses offered are often impacted. With fewer teachers available, many schools have to combine classes, which increases average class sizes. Not only does this provide less personalized and one-on-one learning for the students, but it places more pressure on teachers to accommodate more students.

Compared to a decade ago, the number of people pursuing teaching has decreased by 20-30% (Aldeman), showing that college-age students' interest in teaching is declining. The main reasons are apprehensions about salaries and working conditions. Teaching positions earn less money than other jobs earned by a college degree, giving the job a huge downside for people choosing a profession. And furthermore, even if schools fill their teaching positions it's likely they won't be able to keep a steady staff team. In 2022, 55% of teachers decided to leave their job earlier than expected (Walker), often with stress or work overload factoring in this decision.

The Pay Teachers Act was introduced to the Senate in March of 2023 (Stanford). The Act proposes a minimum wage of \$60,000 for all full-time teachers—a number that could increase with promotions and experience like usual. A set minimum wage would address the disinterest in being a teacher due to the salary, but some argue that wouldn't solve the issue. Salary isn't the only downside many find in teaching, as in addition lots of teachers report difficult working conditions within their jobs. A solution to this national teacher shortage would need to recognize the concern with salaries as well as the work environment.

To bring the suggested solution to fruition, and garner more support from opposing lawmakers, more importance should be placed on creating a more manageable and less stressful environment for teachers. In addition to offering a minimum salary of \$60,000, benefits like sabbaticals or retention bonuses could incentivize new teachers to commit to the career. They ultimately would also allow teachers to de-stress, helping to renew their enthusiasm for teaching.

MIA KONEFAL, SOUTH BURLINGTON HIGH SCHOOL, FRESHMAN

The health of our citizens is the most rudimentary, yet fundamental part of what allows our nation to thrive. The skyrocketing prices of prescription medication, hospital trips, and doctor appointments, which are all necessary to ensure the safety and comfort of American citizens, is an issue that needs to be immediately addressed. With prices that just keep rising, I fear for the 16.9% of Americans who, according to the National Library of Medicine, report difficulty affording healthcare; I fear for the millions of people who struggle with or ignore pain and other health issues because they cannot afford treatment.

During recent years, the United States has experienced soaring prices of treatments, medication, and health insurance on levels not previously seen. Despite healthcare being undeniably necessary for our citizens, and therefore our country, to succeed and prosper, millions of Americans are unable to afford the treatment they need. According to the Centers for Medicare Services, in 2022, “the healthcare spending in the United States reached \$4.9 trillion,” which means on average, each person in America spends \$14,570 per year on healthcare. While these rising and unpayable costs are an issue across the globe, the rising costs are especially apparent in the United States. In fact, according to the National Institutes of Health, “The United States spent approximately twice as much as other high-income countries on medical care.”

Although several acts exist that attempt to combat the inflating prices of healthcare services, such as the “Lower Costs, More Transparency Act,” which passed the House of Representatives, and advocates for more price transparency in the healthcare sector, I believe that a large part of the issue lies in the simple fact that the United States remains an outlier in terms of per capita health care spending. The simple yet undeniable fact is that our citizens pay more for healthcare than citizens of any other country.

To combat the skyrocketing prices of the healthcare sector in the United States: I would propose a multi-tiered plan. Firstly, the large, private pharmaceutical companies should no longer be permitted to put their own profits over the health of Americans. For decades these huge insurance and pharmaceutical companies have been able to rip off American people with high prices for medication and treatments that are necessities. A cap for what each individual can pay for medication per year should be implemented. Secondly, a national healthcare system, similar to Medicaid, which is guaranteed for those 65 and older, that guarantees healthcare for all, not just those who can afford it, should be introduced. Healthcare should become a constitutional right, not just a privilege for those who can pay.

The unreasonable prices of prescription medication, insurance, and doctor's visits are actively working against our citizens, preventing our country from flourishing. If nothing is done, prices will only continue to increase and the percentage of Americans who are uninsured or cannot afford healthcare will likewise grow. Steps need to be taken to ensure the health of our citizens.●

### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:03 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 754. An act to amend the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 to increase the amount that may be invested in small business investment companies.

H.R. 818. An act to amend the Small Business Act to include requirements relating to new small business entrants in the scorecard program, and for other purposes.

H.R. 825. An act to prohibit individuals convicted of defrauding the Government from receiving any assistance from the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes.

H.R. 828. An act to require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to report on the veterans interagency task

force, to require the Comptroller General of the United States to report on access to credit for small business concerns owned and controlled by covered individuals, and for other purposes.

H.R. 832. An act to clarify the primary functions and duties of the Office of Advocacy of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes.

### MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 754. An act to amend the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 to increase the amount that may be invested in small business investment companies; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 818. An act to amend the Small Business Act to include requirements relating to new small business entrants in the scorecard program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

H.R. 825. An act to prohibit individuals convicted of defrauding the Government from receiving any assistance from the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

H.R. 828. An act to require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to report on the veterans interagency task force, to require the Comptroller General of the United States to report on access to credit for small business concerns owned and controlled by covered individuals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

H.R. 832. An act to clarify the primary functions and duties of the Office of Advocacy of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

### 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-442. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, National Institutes of Health, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Privacy Act; Implementation at 45 CFR Part 5b” (RIN0925-AA69) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 19, 2025; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-443. A communication from the Chairman, Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the requirements of the Federal Managers’ Financial Integrity Act; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-444. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 26-5, “Rent Stabilized Housing Inflation Protection Continuation Temporary Amendment Act of 2025”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-445. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 25-719, “Restoration of Covenanted Roads and Alleys by the District

Government Act of 2024”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-446. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 25-717, “Harmonious Living Amendment Act of 2024”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-447. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 25-718, “Downtown Arena Revitalization Act of 2024”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-448. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 25-720, “Recidivism Reduction at DYRS Amendment Act of 2024”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-449. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller), transmitting, pursuant to law, the Uniform Resource Locator (URL) for the Department of Defense’s Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2024; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-450. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Secretary of Transportation, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 18, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-451. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Deputy Secretary, Department of Transportation, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 18, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-452. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Amendment of Class E Airspace; Marion, NC” ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2023-2255)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 24, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-453. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Modification of Class D and Class E Airspace; Abbotsford Airport, Abbotsford, BC” ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2023-2440)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 24, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-454. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Amendment and Revocation of Domestic Very High Frequency Omnidirectional Range Federal Airways; Eastern United States” ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2023-1848)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 24, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-455. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes;

Amendment 39-22954" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2024-2145)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 24, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-456. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes; Amendment 39-22955" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2024-2138)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 24, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-457. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes; Amendment 39-22937" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2024-2323)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 24, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-458. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes; Amendment 39-22956" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2025-0198)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 24, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-459. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes; Amendment 39-22958" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2024-2408)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 24, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-460. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes; Amendment 39-22932" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2024-2137)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 24, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-461. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes; Amendment 39-22940" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2023-1993)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 24, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-462. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes; Amendment 39-22946" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2023-1488)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 24, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-463. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Air-

planes; Amendment 39-22935" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2024-1467)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 24, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-464. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Costruzioni Aeronautiche Tecnam S.P.A. Airplanes; Amendment 39-22957" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2025-0202)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 24, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-465. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Canada Limited Partnership (Type Certificate Previously Held by C Series Aircraft Limited Partnership (CSALP); Bombardier, Inc.) Airplanes; Amendment 39-22953" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2024-1893)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 24, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-466. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; FS 2001 Corp, FS 2002 Corporation, FS 2003 Corporation, Piper, and Piper Aircraft, Inc. Airplanes; Amendment 39-22957" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2025-0202)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 24, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-467. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; DAHER AEROSPACE (Type Certificate Previously Held by SOCATA) Airplanes; Amendment 39-22941" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2024-2413)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 24, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-468. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; ATR - GIE Avions de Transport Regional Airplanes; Amendment 39-22943" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2024-2418)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 24, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-469. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Saab AB Airplanes; Amendment 39-22948" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2024-2016)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 24, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-470. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Embraer S.A. (Type Certificate Previously Held by Yabora Industria Aeronautica S.A.; Embraer S.A) Airplanes; Amendment 39-22942" ((RIN2120-AA64)

(Docket No. FAA-2024-2140)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 24, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-471. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc., Airplanes; Amendment 39-22934" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2024-2023)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 24, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-472. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Embraer S.A. (Type Certificate Previously Held by Yabora Industria Aeronautica S.A.; Embraer S.A) Airplanes; Amendment 39-22929" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2024-1887)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 24, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-473. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; MHI R/J Aviation ULC (Type Certificate Previously Held by Bombardier, Inc.) Airplanes; Amendment 39-22936" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2024-2012)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 24, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

## REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. McCONNELL, from the Committee on Rules and Administration, without amendment:

S. Res. 94. An original resolution authorizing expenditures by committees of the Senate for the periods March 1, 2025, through September 30, 2025, October 1, 2025, through September 30, 2026, and October 1, 2026, through February 28, 2027.

## 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. KELLY (for himself and Mr. GALLEGOS):

S. 700. A bill to require the Secretary of Agriculture to convey the Pleasant Valley Ranger District Administrative Site to Gila County, Arizona; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. KAINE, and Mr. WELCH):

S. 701. A bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish the Veteran Family Resource Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. BENNET, Mr. PETERS, and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 702. A bill to require a study on the quality of care difference between mental health



and addiction therapy care provided by health care providers of the Department of Veterans Affairs compared to non-Department providers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. JUSTICE, Mr. KELLY, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. MORENO, Mr. TILLIS, Mrs. CAPITO, and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

S. 703. A bill to establish a pilot program to assess the use of technology to speed up and enhance the cargo inspection process at land ports of entry along the border; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. DAINES (for himself, Mr. BENNETT, and Mr. MARSHALL):

S. 704. A bill to amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to reauthorize the voluntary public access and habitat incentive program; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. REED (for himself and Mrs. CAPITO):

S. 705. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to molecularly targeted pediatric cancer investigations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. SCHUMER, and Mr. SCHIFF):

S. 706. A bill to amend the Justice for United States Victims of State Sponsored Terrorism Act to clarify and supplement the funding sources for United States victims of state-sponsored terrorism to ensure consistent and meaningful distributions from the United States Victims of State Sponsored Terrorism Fund, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. RISCH (for himself, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. SCHMITT, Mr. DAINES, Mr. LEE, Mr. SHEEHY, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. BANKS, and Mrs. HYDE-SMITH):

S. 707. A bill to provide that sanctuary jurisdictions that provide benefits to aliens who are present in the United States without lawful status under the immigration laws are ineligible for Federal funds intended to benefit such aliens; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. COONS (for himself and Mr. COTTON):

S. 708. A bill to amend title 35, United States Code, to establish a rebuttable presumption that a permanent injunction should be granted in certain circumstances, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. ROSEN, and Mr. TILLIS):

S. 709. A bill to provide incentives to physicians to practice in rural and medically underserved communities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. REED, and Mr. WELCH):

S. 710. A bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to prevent fraudulent transactions at virtual currency kiosks, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. MORENO (for himself, Mr. SHEEHY, Mr. BANKS, and Mr. JUSTICE):

S. 711. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish an enhanced deduction for wages paid to automobile manufacturing workers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself, Mr. LANKFORD, and Mr. JOHNSON):

S. 712. A bill to require agencies to repeal ten existing regulations before issuing a new

regulation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself, Mr. BARRASSO, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. CURTIS, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. YOUNG):

S. 713. A bill to apply the Freedom of Information Act to actions and decisions of the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information in carrying out the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LEE (for himself, Mr. KELLY, Mr. OSSOFF, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. CURTIS, and Mr. RISCH):

S. 714. A bill to amend the Energy Act of 2020 to include critical materials in the definition of critical mineral, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. LUMMIS (for herself, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. CRAPO, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Mr. SHEEHY):

S. 715. A bill to prohibit certain businesses and persons from purchasing real estate adjacent to covered Federal land in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself and Mr. SCHATZ):

S. 716. A bill for the relief of Vichai Sae Tung (also known as Chai Chaowasaree); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. CAPITO (for herself and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 717. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to expand and expedite access to cardiac rehabilitation programs and pulmonary rehabilitation programs under the Medicare program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself and Mr. RICKETTS):

S. 718. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to require the impaneling of a new jury if a jury fails to recommend by unanimous vote a sentence for conviction of a crime punishable by death; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself and Mr. HEINRICH):

S. 719. A bill to amend the Tribal Forest Protection Act of 2004 to improve that Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SANDERS, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 720. A bill to establish an Office of Environmental Justice within the Department of Justice, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself and Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina):

S. 721. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to establish a demonstration project to improve outpatient clinical care for individuals with sickle cell disease; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HOEVEN (for himself, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. CRAMER, and Mr. DAINES):

S. 722. A bill to streamline the oil and gas permitting process and to recognize fee ownership for certain oil and gas drilling or spacing units, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself, Ms. SMITH, and Mr. ROUNDS):

S. 723. A bill to require the Bureau of Indian Affairs to process and complete all mortgage packages associated with residential and business mortgages on Indian land

by certain deadlines, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. BOOKER:

S. 724. A bill to extend the temporary scheduling order for fentanyl-related substances for 6 months; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. LUJAN, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. BUDD, Mr. KING, Mr. THUNE, and Mr. KELLY):

S. 725. A bill to direct the Federal Communications Commission to issue reports after activation of the Disaster Information Reporting System and to make improvements to network outage reporting, to categorize public safety telecommunications as a protective service occupation under the Standard Occupational Classification system, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. LUJAN, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. COONS, Ms. ROSEN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. REED, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. KELLY, Ms. WARREN, Mr. KING, Mr. FETTERMAN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. KAINE, Mr. WELCH, and Ms. BALDWIN):

S. 726. A bill to amend chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code, to require the safe storage of firearms, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself and Mr. HAWLEY):

S. 727. A bill to correct the inequitable denial of enhanced retirement and annuity benefits to certain U.S. Customs and Border Protection Officers; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND:

S. 728. A bill to establish the African Burial Ground International Memorial Museum and Educational Center in New York, New York, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. KENNEDY:

S. 729. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to enhance compliance with hospital price transparency requirements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND:

S. 730. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to assess the suitability and feasibility of establishing the African Burial Ground International Memorial Museum and Educational Center at the African Burial Ground National Monument, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. HAWLEY (for himself, Mr. PETERS, and Mr. SCOTT of Florida):

S. 731. A bill to prohibit conflicts of interest among consulting firms that simultaneously contract with China or other covered foreign entities and the United States Government, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. MARSHALL (for himself, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BARRASSO, and Mr. YOUNG):

S. 732. A bill to amend the Defense Production Act of 1950 with respect to foreign investments in United States agriculture, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself and Mr. SCHATZ):

S. 733. A bill to improve the cooperation between the United States and the authorities of Taiwan with respect to travel and tourism; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. BENNET (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, and Mr. KING):

S. 734. A bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Edward J. Dwight, Jr., the first African America astronaut candidate in the United States; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina (for himself, Mr. WICKER, Mr. GRAHAM, Mrs. CAPITO, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, and Mr. SHEEHY):

S.J. Res. 24. 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 "National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants: Rubber Tire Manufacturing"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. SANDERS:

S.J. Res. 25. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval of the proposed foreign military sale to Israel of certain defense articles and services; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. SANDERS:

S.J. Res. 26. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval of the proposed foreign military sale to Israel of certain defense articles and services; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. SANDERS:

S.J. Res. 27. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval of the proposed foreign military sale to Israel of certain defense articles and services; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

## SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. ALSOBROOKS, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. SMITH, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. COONS, Mr. WELCH, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. KING, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. REED):

S. Res. 93. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the operations of the National Institutes of Health should not experience any interruption, delay, or funding disruption in violation of the law and that the workforce of the National Institutes of Health is essential to sustaining medical progress; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. McCONNELL:

S. Res. 94. An original resolution authorizing expenditures by committees of the Senate for the periods March 1, 2025, through September 30, 2025, October 1, 2025, through September 30, 2026, and October 1, 2026, through February 28, 2027; from the Committee on Rules and Administration; placed on the calendar.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself and Mr. JUSTICE):

S. Res. 95. A resolution expressing support for the designation of February 23, 2025, to March 1, 2025, as "National Fentanyl Awareness Week" and raising awareness of the negative impacts of fentanyl in the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. REED, Mr. KAINE, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KING, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. GALLEGO, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. WELCH, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. PETERS, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. CANTWELL, Ms. BALDWIN, and Mr. PADILLA):

S. Res. 96. A resolution designating the week of February 24 through February 28, 2025, as "Public Schools Week"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. RICKETTS (for himself and Mrs. FISCHER):

S. Res. 97. A resolution honoring the life of Nebraska community leader Howard L. Hawks; considered and agreed to.

## ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 127

At the request of Mr. FETTERMAN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. McCORMICK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 127, a bill to establish a whole-home repairs program for eligible homeowners and eligible landlords, and for other purposes.

S. 151

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 151, a bill to exclude the authority to impose duties and tariff-rate quotas from the International Emergency Economic Powers Act.

S. 199

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) and the Senator from Montana (Mr. SHEEHY) were added as cosponsors of S. 199, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide special rules for the taxation of certain residents of Taiwan with income from sources within the United States.

S. 204

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BANKS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 204, a bill to protect the right of parents to direct the upbringing of their children as a fundamental right.

S. 292

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. MORENO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 292, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a credit against tax for charitable donations to nonprofit organizations providing education scholarships to qualified elementary and secondary students.

S. 297

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the names of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) and the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) were added as cosponsors of S. 297, a bill to amend title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act to require group health plans and health insurance issuers offering group or individual health insurance coverage to provide coverage for

prostate cancer screenings without the imposition of cost-sharing requirements, and for other purposes.

S. 315

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 315, a bill to require the Secretary of Transportation to issue a rule requiring access to AM broadcast stations in passenger motor vehicles, and for other purposes.

S. 339

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) was added as a cosponsor 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. 356

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 356, a bill to extend the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000.

S. 366

At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 366, a bill to posthumously award a Congressional Gold Medal to Muhammad Ali, in recognition of his contributions to the United States.

S. 517

At the request of Mr. OSSOFF, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) were added as cosponsors of S. 517, a bill to amend the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Research Act of 1978 to modify the forest inventory and analysis program.

S. 567

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 567, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the First Rhode Island Regiment, in recognition of their dedicated service during the Revolutionary War.

S. 645

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 645, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the individuals and communities who volunteered or donated items to the North Platte Canteen in North Platte, Nebraska, during World War II from December 25, 1941, to April 1, 1946.

S. 673

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of Florida, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mrs. MOODY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 673, a bill to amend the Miccosukee Reserved Area Act to authorize the expansion of the Miccosukee Reserved Area and to carry out activities to protect structures within the Osceola Camp from flooding, and for other purposes.

S. 680

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 680, a bill to prohibit funding for the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change until China is no longer defined as a developing country.

S. 685

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BANKS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 685, a bill to ensure State and local law enforcement officers are permitted to cooperate with Federal officials to protect our communities from violent criminals and suspected terrorists who are illegally present in the United States.

S. 691

At the request of Ms. SMITH, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mrs. BRITT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 691, a bill to amend the Tariff Act of 1930 to improve the administration of antidumping and countervailing duty laws, and for other purposes.

S. 696

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) were added as cosponsors of S. 696, a bill to provide temporary Ukrainian guest status for eligible aliens, and for other purposes.

S. 697

At the request of Mr. HOEVEN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 697, a bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to provide for air traffic control training improvements, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 12

At the request of Mr. HOEVEN, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) was added as a cosponsor of 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".

S. RES. 52

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the names of the Senator from Alabama (Mrs. BRITT), the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) and the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) were added as cosponsors of 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.

S. RES. 81

At the request of Mr. RICKETTS, the name of the Senator from North Caro-

lina (Mr. BUDD) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 81, a resolution calling on the United Kingdom, France, and Germany (E3) to initiate the snapback of sanctions on Iran under United Nations Security Council Resolution 2231 (2015).

S. RES. 91

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the names of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 91, a resolution acknowledging the third anniversary of Russia's further invasion of Ukraine and expressing support for the people of Ukraine.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. REED (for himself and Mrs. CAPITO):

S. 705. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to molecularly targeted pediatric cancer investigations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, today, I am joining Senator CAPITO to introduce the Innovation in Pediatric Drugs Act of 2025 in order to improve access to needed therapies for children.

Children are not just small adults. Drugs affect their developing bodies differently, so new treatments need to be studied carefully to ensure that they are appropriately prescribed and that dosages are properly adjusted. Additionally, drugs that are designed to treat a specific condition in adults may have enormous benefits in treating completely different illnesses in kids. But research is needed to unlock these potentially lifesaving possibilities.

Unfortunately, drug development still leaves children behind. The legislation we are introducing today would help speed therapies to children who need them by making needed changes to the Best Pharmaceuticals for Children Act, BPCA, and the Pediatric Research Equity Act, PREA—two laws that encourage and require the study of drugs in children.

Data resulting from BPCA and PREA studies are added to drug labels to give parents and providers essential information on the safety and efficacy of drugs used in children. I was proud to have helped author these laws when I was a member of the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee. While we have made tremendous progress in advancing treatments for children because of these laws, there are gaps. For example, there is a loophole in PREA that exempts drug companies from pediatric study requirements when the treatment would only be used for a rare pediatric condition.

There are close to 7,000 rare diseases without appropriate treatments, and the vast majority of these diseases affect children as well as adults. But in developing new drugs also known as orphan drugs to treat rare diseases, phar-

maceutical developers focus their research on adult patients only since they are not required to study their impact on children.

Since the majority of new drugs approved by the Food and Drug Administration, FDA, are orphan drugs, this means that the majority of newly approved drugs have not been studied for their impacts on kids. This leaves doctors, parents, and sick kids in the dark about the best possible treatments. Our bill closes this loophole to require studies for children so that that they, too, can benefit from new and innovative treatments for rare diseases.

In addition to this change, the Innovation in Pediatric Drugs Act would invest in pediatric studies of older, off-patent drugs. The FDA incentives and requirements under BPCA and PREA work for many newer drugs, but unfortunately cannot help encourage studies of older drugs. For this reason, in 2002, Congress authorized a program which funds the National Institutes of Health to conduct studies of off-patent drugs used in children that would never be completed otherwise. Drug studies are expensive, and costs have only increased since then, but the program has been flat-funded at \$25 million since it was created more than 20 years ago. Our legislation would increase the authorization for the BPCA NIH program to ensure we have better data about older drugs to treat diseases in children.

Lastly, the Innovation in Pediatric Drugs Act would give FDA the authority it needs to ensure that legally required pediatric studies are completed in a timely manner. Due dates for studies required by PREA are typically deferred by FDA until after the approval of the drug for adults, but FDA has no effective enforcement tools to ensure that these studies are completed on time—or at all.

I am pleased to be working with my colleague Senator CAPITO again on pediatric health issues. We have worked closely for many years on pediatric cancer, first authoring the Childhood Cancer Survivorship, Treatment, Access, and Research, STAR, Act in 2015. That bill was signed into law in 2018, and we worked to fully fund the law every year since.

I look forward to working with her to move the Innovation in Pediatric Drugs Act forward, to give children and their families more options for treatments.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. REED, and Mr. WELCH):

S. 710. A bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to prevent fraudulent transactions at virtual currency kiosks, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, now on a totally different subject, I would like to tell you about one of my constituents. He is a man from New Lenox, IL, in the suburbs of Chicago.

Late last year, he received an urgent phone call from someone claiming to be a deputy in the Will County Sheriff's Office. This self-proclaimed deputy informed my constituent that he had missed jury duty. As a result, the deputy said, there is a warrant out for your arrest.

The man was stunned. Don't worry, the deputy further explained. The man could avoid arrest, put the whole matter behind him. All he had to do was pay the fine. But he couldn't pay it by check or credit card. The deputy directed the man to a local cryptocurrency ATM machine and told him to deposit \$15,000 into the machine, pay the fine, and all would be forgiven.

If you have been following the news, you might have guessed by now that the man on the phone wasn't a sheriff's deputy at all; he was a scammer. Once my constituent deposited his money into the crypto-ATM, it was gone—gone. There was no way to trace the transaction to the scammer and no way to get the money back.

This is just one example of a growing and alarming trend of crypto-ATM fraud. There are now more than 30,000 crypto-ATMs in this country, and they are being used by criminals to cheat Americans out of their hard-earned savings, to the tune of \$114 million in 2023 alone. Most of the victims are senior citizens.

While these scams aren't all identical, they generally play out just like the one I described. A stranger calls and pretends to be from the government or the victim's bank. They make claims of unpaid fines, a frozen bank account, a credit card in default, or even threaten arrest.

The scammer then tells their victim that they must immediately go to a crypto-ATM at a nearby grocery store, gas station, or convenience store. Often, the scammer will try to stay on the phone with the victim throughout the scam, warning of dire consequences if they don't make the payments immediately. It is a way of preventing their victim from getting a moment to take a breath and just maybe realize what is going on.

Once the victim arrives at the crypto-ATM, the scammer will walk them through the process of depositing real money—cash—into the machine, buying Bitcoin or other cryptocurrency, and sending it to the scammer's digital wallet.

Last summer, a small business owner in my hometown of Springfield, IL, removed a crypto-ATM from the store after witnessing senior after senior walk in, talking on their phones, looking stressed, and depositing huge sums of cash into the machine. He said:

One hundred percent of the time that we saw somebody at the machine they were being scammed.

This is in a small store in Springfield, IL.

It wasn't just happening there. There are tragic stories of seniors losing their

savings through these machines in every State in America.

A South Carolina retired couple lost \$390,000 over the course of several months through a scam involving crypto-ATMs. Just this month, a sheriff's office in Walton County, FL, reported a resident that was cheated out of \$129,000 through a crypto-ATM.

It is past time that we put some commonsense guardrails in place to stop fraud in this largely unregulated industry. That is why, today, I am joining with Senators BLUMENTHAL, REED, and WELCH to introduce the Crypto ATM Fraud Prevention Act. This bill will require crypto-ATM operators to warn consumers about scams and take reasonable steps to prevent fraud at their machines.

It will also put in place measures to limit the amount that consumers lose when they do fall victim to scams and would give law enforcement new tools to track down and fight back against criminals.

I want to share a few key measures in this bill with you. First, the bill will provide special protection for consumers during the 2 weeks after they make their first transaction at a crypto-ATM, the period when a consumer is most likely to be a victim of fraud. During this time, customers will be limited to deposits of \$2,000 per day and \$10,000 total. While this is still a lot of money, it ensures people's entire life savings are not put at risk.

The bill will also require crypto-ATM operators to obtain verbal confirmation via a live phone call for any transaction with a new customer over \$500. Do you remember when I told you scammers often stay on the phone with victims until the money has been deposited in their digital wallet? Well, this requirement will break that communication, give victims a chance to think, perhaps reach out to another member of the family, and make sure crypto-ATM operators can assess whether the customer is being scammed.

Next, the bill requires crypto-ATM operators to give prominent, clear warnings about the risk of fraud and tell consumers about common types of scams. While warnings alone are not enough, they are part of the key to preventing fraud.

Operators also will be required to issue paper receipts to customers after each transaction. The receipt will include, among other things, the date, time, and amount of the transaction and the transaction hash, which will allow law enforcement to more easily trace the transaction, collect evidence of the crime, and maybe even recover the stolen funds.

Next, operators will be required to use the analytics to screen for suspicious, illicit transactions. Some companies are effectively using this technology already. It should be used across the board.

Finally, crypto-ATM operators will be required to issue refunds to con-

sumers who are victims of fraud. As long as victims make a sworn report to law enforcement and notify the operator within 30 days of the transaction, they will be entitled to a full refund. New customers will get full refunds. All other customers will be entitled to a refund of, at minimum, any fees associated with the transaction.

These measures are commonsense guardrails that will prevent countless Americans, particularly senior citizens, from losing thousands of dollars of their hard-earned savings to criminal scams. I urge all my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me to pass this bill into law. We don't have any time to waste.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 710

*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 "Crypto ATM Fraud Prevention Act of 2025".

#### SEC. 2. REGISTRATION WITH THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

Section 5330 of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (d)—

(A) in paragraph (1)(A), by inserting ", any person who owns, operates, or manages a virtual currency kiosk in the United States or its territories," after "similar instruments"; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

"(3) VIRTUAL CURRENCY; VIRTUAL CURRENCY ADDRESS; VIRTUAL CURRENCY KIOSK; VIRTUAL CURRENCY KIOSK OPERATOR.—The terms 'virtual currency', 'virtual currency address', 'virtual currency kiosk', and 'virtual currency kiosk operator' have the meanings given those terms, respectively, in section 5337."; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

"(f) REGISTRATION OF VIRTUAL CURRENCY KIOSK LOCATIONS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the effective date of this subsection, and not less than once every 90 days thereafter, the Secretary of the Treasury shall require virtual currency kiosk operators to submit an updated list containing the physical address of each virtual currency kiosk owned or operated by the virtual currency kiosk operator.

"(2) FORM AND MANNER OF REGISTRATION.—Each submission by a virtual currency kiosk operator pursuant to paragraph (1) shall include—

"(A) the legal name of the virtual currency kiosk operator;

"(B) any fictitious or trade name of the virtual currency kiosk operator;

"(C) the physical address of each virtual currency kiosk owned, operated, or managed by the virtual currency kiosk operator that is located in the United States or the territories of the United States;

"(D) the start date of operation of each virtual currency kiosk;

"(E) the end date of operation of each virtual currency kiosk, if applicable; and

"(F) each virtual currency address used by the virtual currency kiosk operator.

"(3) FALSE AND INCOMPLETE INFORMATION.—The filing of false or materially incomplete information in a submission required under

paragraph (1) shall be deemed a failure to comply with the requirements of this subsection.”.

### SEC. 3. PREVENTING FRAUDULENT TRANSACTIONS AT VIRTUAL CURRENCY KIOSKS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of Chapter 53 of Title 31, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

#### “§ 5337. Virtual currency kiosk fraud prevention

“(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) BLOCKCHAIN ANALYTICS.—The term ‘blockchain analytics’ means the analysis of data from blockchains or public distributed ledgers, and associated transaction information, to provide risk-specific information about virtual currency transactions and virtual currency addresses.

“(2) CUSTOMER.—The term ‘customer’ means any person that purchases or sells virtual currency through a virtual currency kiosk.

“(3) EXISTING CUSTOMER.—The term ‘existing customer’ means a customer other than a new customer.

“(4) FINCEN.—The term ‘FinCEN’ means the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network of the Department of the Treasury.

“(5) NEW CUSTOMER.—The term ‘new customer’, with respect to a virtual currency kiosk operator, means a customer during the 14-day period beginning on the date of the first virtual currency kiosk transaction of the customer with the virtual currency kiosk operator.

“(6) TRANSACTION HASH.—The term ‘transaction hash’ means a unique identifier made up of a string of characters that act as a record of and provide proof that a transaction was verified and added to the blockchain.

“(7) VIRTUAL CURRENCY.—The term ‘virtual currency’ means any digital representation of value that is recorded on a cryptographically secured distributed ledger or any similar technology or another implementation, which was designed and built as part of a system to leverage or replace blockchain, distributed ledger technology, or their derivatives.

“(8) VIRTUAL CURRENCY ADDRESS.—The term ‘virtual currency address’ means an alphanumeric identifier associated with a virtual currency wallet identifying the location to which virtual currency purchased through a virtual currency kiosk can be sent or from which virtual currency sold through a virtual currency kiosk can be accessed.

“(9) VIRTUAL CURRENCY KIOSK.—The term ‘virtual currency kiosk’ means a stand-alone machine that is capable of accepting or dispensing legal tender in exchange for virtual currency.

“(10) VIRTUAL CURRENCY KIOSK OPERATOR.—The term ‘virtual currency kiosk operator’ means a person who owns, operates, or manages a virtual currency kiosk located in the United States or its territories.

“(11) VIRTUAL CURRENCY KIOSK TRANSACTION.—The term ‘virtual currency kiosk transaction’ means the purchase or sale of virtual currency via a virtual currency kiosk.

“(12) VIRTUAL CURRENCY WALLET.—The term ‘virtual currency wallet’ means a software application or other mechanism providing a means for holding, storing, and transferring virtual currency.

“(b) DISCLOSURES.—Before entering into a virtual currency transaction with a customer, a virtual currency kiosk operator shall disclose in a clear, conspicuous, and easily readable manner—

“(1) all relevant terms and conditions of the virtual currency kiosk transaction, including—

“(A) the amount of the virtual currency kiosk transaction;

“(B) the type and nature of the virtual currency kiosk transaction;

“(C) a warning that the virtual currency kiosk transaction is final, is not refundable, and may not be reversed; and

“(D) the type and amount of any fees or other expenses paid by the customer;

“(2) a warning relating to consumer fraud including—

“(A) a warning that consumer fraud often starts with contact from a stranger, and that the customer should never send money to someone they do not know;

“(B) a warning about the most common types of fraudulent schemes involving virtual currency kiosks, such as—

“(i) impersonation of a government official or a bank representative;

“(ii) threats of jail time or financial penalties;

“(iii) offers of a job or reward in exchange for payment, or offers of deals that seem too good to be true;

“(iv) claims of a frozen bank account or credit card; or

“(v) requests for donations to charity or disaster relief; and

“(C) a statement that the customer should contact the virtual currency kiosk operator’s customer service helpline or State or local law enforcement if they suspect fraudulent activity.

“(c) ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF DISCLOSURES.—Each time a customer uses a virtual currency kiosk, the virtual currency kiosk operator shall ensure acknowledgment of all disclosures required under subsection (b) via confirmation of consent of the customer at the virtual currency kiosk.

“(d) RECEIPTS.—Upon completion of each virtual currency kiosk transaction, the virtual currency kiosk operator shall provide the customer with a receipt, which shall include the following information:

“(1) The name and contact information of the virtual currency kiosk operator, including a telephone number for a customer service helpline.

“(2) The name of the customer.

“(3) The type, value, date, and precise time of the virtual currency kiosk transaction, transaction hash, and each applicable virtual currency address.

“(4) The amount of the virtual currency kiosk transaction expressed in United States dollars.

“(5) All fees charged.

“(6) A statement that the customer may be entitled by law to a refund if the customer reports fraudulent activity in conjunction with the virtual currency kiosk transaction not later than 30 days after the date of the virtual currency kiosk transaction.

“(7) The refund policy of the virtual currency kiosk operator or a Uniform Resource Locator where the refund policy of the virtual currency kiosk operator can be found.

“(8) A statement that the customer should contact law enforcement if they suspect fraudulent activity, such as scams, including contact information for a relevant law enforcement or government agency.

“(9) Any additional information the virtual currency kiosk operator determines appropriate.

“(e) PHYSICAL RECEIPTS REQUIRED.—Not later than 1 year after the effective date of this section, each receipt required under subsection (d) shall be issued to the customer as a physical receipt at the virtual currency kiosk at the time of the virtual currency kiosk transaction, but such receipt may also be provided in additional forms or communications.

“(f) ANTI-FRAUD POLICY.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Each virtual currency kiosk operator shall take reasonable steps to detect and prevent fraud, including establishing and maintaining a written anti-fraud policy that includes—

“(A) the identification and assessment of fraud-related risk areas;

“(B) procedures and controls to protect against risks identified under subparagraph (A);

“(C) allocation of responsibility for monitoring the risks identified under subparagraph (A); and

“(D) procedures for the periodic evaluation and revision of the anti-fraud procedures, controls, and monitoring mechanisms under subparagraphs (B) and (C).

“(2) SUBMISSION OF ANTI-FRAUD POLICY TO FINCEN.—Each virtual currency kiosk operator shall submit to FinCEN the anti-fraud policy required under paragraph (1) not later than 90 days after the later of—

“(A) the effective date of this section; or

“(B) the date on which the virtual currency kiosk operator begins operating.

“(g) APPOINTMENT OF COMPLIANCE OFFICER.—Each virtual currency kiosk operator shall designate and employ a compliance officer who—

“(1) is qualified to coordinate and monitor compliance with this section and all other applicable Federal and State laws, rules, and regulations;

“(2) is employed full-time by the virtual currency kiosk operator;

“(3) is not the chief executive officer of the virtual currency kiosk operator; and

“(4) does not own or control more than 20 percent of any interest in the virtual currency kiosk operator.

“(h) USE OF BLOCKCHAIN ANALYTICS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Each virtual currency kiosk operator shall use blockchain analytics to prevent sending virtual currency to a virtual currency wallet known to be affiliated with fraudulent activity at the time of a virtual currency kiosk transaction and to detect transaction patterns indicative of fraud or other illicit activities.

“(2) COMPLIANCE.—The Director of FinCEN may request evidence from any virtual currency kiosk operator to confirm compliance with this subsection.

“(i) VERBAL CONFIRMATION REQUIRED BEFORE NEW CUSTOMER TRANSACTIONS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Before entering into a virtual currency kiosk transaction valued at 500 dollars or more with a new customer, a virtual currency kiosk operator shall obtain verbal confirmation from the new customer that—

“(A) the new customer wishes to proceed with the virtual currency kiosk transaction;

“(B) the new customer understands the nature of the virtual currency kiosk transaction; and

“(C) the new customer is not being fraudulently induced to engage in the transaction.

“(2) REASONABLE EFFORT.—A virtual currency kiosk operator shall make a reasonable effort to determine whether the customer is being fraudulently induced to engage in the virtual currency kiosk transaction.

“(3) METHOD OF CONFIRMATION.—Each verbal confirmation required under paragraph (1) shall be given by way of a live telephone or video call to a person employed by, or on behalf of, the virtual currency kiosk operator.

“(j) REFUNDS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—

“(A) NEW CUSTOMERS.—Not later than 30 days after receiving an application under paragraph (2), a virtual currency kiosk operator shall issue a refund to a customer for the full amount of each virtual currency kiosk transaction, including the dollar value

of virtual currency exchanged and all transaction fees, made during the period in which the customer was a new customer and for which the customer was fraudulently induced to engage in the virtual currency kiosk transaction.

“(B) EXISTING CUSTOMERS.—Not later than 30 days after receiving an application under paragraph (2), a virtual currency kiosk operator shall issue a refund to a customer for the full amount of all transaction fees associated with each virtual currency kiosk transaction made during the period in which the customer was an existing customer and for which the customer was fraudulently induced to engage in the virtual currency kiosk transaction.

“(2) APPLICATION.—A customer seeking a refund under paragraph (1) shall, not later than 30 days after the date of the virtual currency kiosk transaction, submit an application to the virtual currency kiosk operator that includes the following:

“(A) The name, address, and phone number of the customer.

“(B) The transaction hash of the virtual currency kiosk transaction or information sufficient to determine the type, value, date, and time of the virtual currency kiosk transaction.

“(C) A copy of a report to a State or local law enforcement or government agency, made not later than 30 days after the virtual currency kiosk transaction, that includes a sworn affidavit attesting that the customer was fraudulently induced to engage in the virtual currency kiosk transaction.

“(3) ENHANCED DAMAGES.—Any person who willfully denies a refund to a customer in violation of paragraph (1) shall be liable to the customer for 3 times the amount of the refund owed under that paragraph or \$10,000, whichever is greater. A penalty under this paragraph shall be in addition to any penalty under subsection (n).

“(k) TRANSACTION LIMITS WITH RESPECT TO NEW CUSTOMERS.—

“(1) IN A 24-HOUR PERIOD.—A virtual currency kiosk operator shall not accept more than \$2,000, or the equivalent amount in virtual currency, from any new customer during any 24-hour period.

“(2) TOTAL.—A virtual currency kiosk operator shall not accept a total of more than \$10,000, or the equivalent amount in virtual currency, from any new customer.

“(l) CUSTOMER SERVICE HELPLINE.—Each virtual currency kiosk operator shall provide live customer service during all hours that the virtual currency kiosk operator accepts virtual currency kiosk transactions, the phone number for which is regularly monitored and displayed in a clear, conspicuous, and easily readable manner upon each virtual currency kiosk.

“(m) COMMUNICATIONS WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Each virtual currency kiosk operator shall provide a dedicated and frequently monitored phone number and email address for relevant law enforcement and government agencies to facilitate communication with the virtual currency kiosk operator in the event of reported or suspected fraudulent activity.

“(2) SUBMISSION.—Not later than 90 days after the effective date of this section, each virtual currency kiosk operator shall submit the phone number and email address described in paragraph (1) to FinCEN and all other relevant law enforcement and government agencies.

“(n) CIVIL PENALTIES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Any person who fails to comply with any requirement of this section, or any regulation prescribed under this section, shall be liable to the United States for

a civil monetary penalty of \$10,000 for each such violation.

“(2) CONTINUING VIOLATION.—Each day that a violation described in paragraph (1) continues shall constitute a separate violation for purposes of such paragraph.

“(3) ASSESSMENTS.—Any penalty imposed under this section shall be assessed and collected by the Secretary of the Treasury as provided in section 5321 and any such assessment shall be subject to the provisions of that section.

“(o) RELATIONSHIP TO STATE LAWS.—The provisions of this section shall preempt any State law, rule, or regulation only to the extent that such State law, rule, or regulation conflicts with a provision of this section. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit a State from enacting a law, rule, or regulation that provides greater protection to customers than the protection provided by the provisions of this section.”

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 53 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 5336 the following:

“5337. Virtual currency kiosk fraud prevention.”

#### SEC. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE.

The amendments made by this Act shall take effect 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SANDERS, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 720. A bill to establish an Office of Environmental Justice within the Department of Justice, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the Empowering and Enforcing Environmental Justice Act of 2025. This bill would establish in statute the Office of Environmental Justice within the Environment and Natural Resources Division of the Department of Justice.

The principles of environmental justice call for environmental fairness, regardless of race, color, national origin or income, and the meaningful involvement of communities in the development of laws and regulations that affect every community's natural surroundings and the places people live, work, play, and learn. California was one of the first States in the Nation to codify a definition of “environmental justice” in statute, understanding the disproportionate impact that frontline communities face.

This reality could not be more relevant today in light of the recent firings of environmental justice and ENRD employees at the Department of Justice. During the 117th Congress, I was proud to work with my colleague Representative BARRAGÁN on a bill that called for the creation of an Environmental Justice Office at the DOJ, and we were pleased that the Department moved forward to establish this office in May 2022.

However, on her first day as Attorney General, Pam Bondi eliminated all en-

vironmental justice efforts at the DOJ, in line with President Trump's orders to eliminate all DEI initiatives at Federal Agencies. Her order effectively terminated the office and halted all programs designed to fight pollution and enforce environmental laws.

I therefore urge my colleagues to join me in working to codify this office so that environmental enforcement does not fall victim to political agendas. The work that this office did made a real impact, making progress in ensuring that all people can breathe clean air, drink clean water, and live in healthy, resilient environments.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself, Ms. SMITH, and Mr. ROUNDS):

S. 723. A bill to require the Bureau of Indian Affairs to process and complete all mortgage packages associated with residential and business mortgages on Indian land by certain deadlines, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 723

*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 “Tribal Trust Land Homeownership Act of 2025”.

#### SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) APPLICABLE BUREAU OFFICE.—The term “applicable Bureau office” means—  
(A) a Regional office of the Bureau;  
(B) an Agency office of the Bureau; or  
(C) a Land Titles and Records Office of the Bureau.

(2) BUREAU.—The term “Bureau” means the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

(3) DIRECTOR.—The term “Director” means the Director of the Bureau.

(4) FIRST CERTIFIED TITLE STATUS REPORT.—The term “first certified title status report” means the title status report needed to verify title status on Indian land.

(5) INDIAN LAND.—The term “Indian land” has the meaning given the term in section 162.003 of title 25, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act).

(6) LAND MORTGAGE.—The term “land mortgage” means a mortgage obtained by an individual Indian who owns a tract of trust land for the purpose of—

- (A) home acquisition;
- (B) home construction;
- (C) home improvements; or
- (D) economic development.

(7) LEASEHOLD MORTGAGE.—The term “leasehold mortgage” means a mortgage, deed of trust, or other instrument that pledges the leasehold interest of a lessee as security for a debt or other obligation owed by the lessee to a lender or other mortgagee.

(8) MORTGAGE PACKAGE.—The term “mortgage package” means a proposed residential leasehold mortgage, business leasehold mortgage, land mortgage, or right-of-way document submitted to an applicable Bureau office under section 3(a)(1).

(9) RELEVANT FEDERAL AGENCY.—The term “relevant Federal agency” means any of the following Federal agencies that guarantee or make direct mortgage loans on Indian land:



(A) The Department of Agriculture.

(B) The Department of Housing and Urban Development.

(C) The Department of Veterans Affairs.

(10) **RIGHT-OF-WAY DOCUMENT.**—The term “right-of-way document” has the meaning given the term in section 169.2 of title 25, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act).

(11) **SUBSEQUENT CERTIFIED TITLE STATUS REPORT.**—The term “subsequent certified title status report” means the title status report needed to identify any liens against a residential, business, or land lease on Indian land.

### SEC. 3. MORTGAGE REVIEW AND PROCESSING.

#### (a) REVIEW AND PROCESSING DEADLINES.—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—As soon as practicable after receiving a proposed residential leasehold mortgage, business leasehold mortgage, land mortgage, or right-of-way document, the applicable Bureau office shall notify the lender that the proposed residential leasehold mortgage, business leasehold mortgage, or right-of-way document has been received.

#### (2) PRELIMINARY REVIEW.—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 10 calendar days after receipt of a proposed residential leasehold mortgage, business leasehold mortgage, land mortgage, or right-of-way document, the applicable Bureau office shall conduct and complete a preliminary review of the residential leasehold mortgage, business leasehold mortgage, land mortgage, or right-of-way document to verify that all required documents are included.

(B) **INCOMPLETE DOCUMENTS.**—As soon as practicable, but not more than 2 calendar days, after finding that any required documents are missing under subparagraph (A), the applicable Bureau office shall notify the lender of the missing documents.

#### (3) APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL.—

(A) **LEASEHOLD MORTGAGES.**—Not later than 20 calendar days after receipt of a complete executed residential leasehold mortgage or business leasehold mortgage, proof of required consents, and other required documentation, the applicable Bureau office shall approve or disapprove the residential leasehold mortgage or business leasehold mortgage.

(B) **RIGHT-OF-WAY DOCUMENTS.**—Not later than 30 calendar days after receipt of a complete executed right-of-way document, proof of required consents, and other required documentation, the applicable Bureau office shall approve or disapprove the right-of-way document.

(C) **LAND MORTGAGES.**—Not later than 30 calendar days after receipt of a complete executed land mortgage, proof of required consents, and other required documentation, the applicable Bureau office shall approve or disapprove the land mortgage.

(D) **REQUIREMENTS.**—The determination of whether to approve or disapprove a residential leasehold mortgage or business leasehold mortgage under subparagraph (A), a right-of-way document under subparagraph (B), or a land mortgage under subparagraph (C)—

(i) shall be in writing; and

(ii) in the case of a determination to disapprove a residential leasehold mortgage, business leasehold mortgage, right-of-way document, or land mortgage shall, state the basis for the determination.

(E) **APPLICATION.**—This paragraph shall not apply to a residential leasehold mortgage or business leasehold mortgage with respect to Indian land in cases in which the applicant for the residential leasehold mortgage or business leasehold mortgage is an Indian tribe (as defined in subsection (d) of the first section of the Act of 1955 (69 Stat. 539, chapter 615; 126 Stat. 1150; 25 U.S.C. 415(d))) that has been approved for leasing under sub-

section (h) of that section (69 Stat. 539, chapter 615; 126 Stat. 1151; 25 U.S.C. 415(h)).

#### (4) CERTIFIED TITLE STATUS REPORTS.—

##### (A) COMPLETION OF REPORTS.—

(i) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 10 calendar days after the applicable Bureau office approves a residential leasehold mortgage, business leasehold mortgage, land mortgage, or right-of-way document under paragraph (3), the applicable Bureau office shall complete the processing of, as applicable—

(I) a first certified title status report, if a first certified title status report was not completed prior to the approval of the residential leasehold mortgage, business leasehold mortgage, land mortgage, or right-of-way document; and

(II) a subsequent certified title status report.

(ii) **REQUESTS FOR FIRST CERTIFIED TITLE STATUS REPORTS.**—Notwithstanding clause (i), not later than 14 calendar days after the applicable Bureau office receives a request for a first certified title status report from an applicant for a residential leasehold mortgage, business leasehold mortgage, land mortgage, or right-of-way document under paragraph (1), the applicable Bureau office shall complete the processing of the first certified title status report.

##### (B) NOTICE.—

(i) **IN GENERAL.**—As soon as practicable after completion of the processing of, as applicable, a first certified title status report or a subsequent certified title status report under subparagraph (A), but by not later than the applicable deadline described in that subparagraph, the applicable Bureau office shall give notice of the completion to the lender.

(ii) **FORM OF NOTICE.**—The applicable Bureau office shall give notice under clause (i)—

(I) electronically through secure, encryption software; and

(II) through the United States mail.

(iii) **OPTION TO OPT OUT.**—The lender may opt out of receiving notice electronically under clause (ii)(I).

##### (b) NOTICES.—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—If the applicable Bureau office does not complete the review and processing of mortgage packages under subsection (a) (including any corresponding first certified title status report or subsequent certified title status report under paragraph (4) of that subsection) by the applicable deadline described in that subsection, immediately after missing the deadline, the applicable Bureau office shall provide notice of the delay in review and processing to—

(A) the party that submitted the mortgage package or requested the first certified title status report; and

(B) the lender for which the mortgage package (including any corresponding first certified title status report or subsequent certified title status report) is being requested.

(2) **REQUESTS FOR UPDATES.**—In addition to providing the notices required under paragraph (1), not later than 2 calendar days after receiving a relevant inquiry with respect to a submitted mortgage package from the party that submitted the mortgage package or the lender for which the mortgage package (including any corresponding first certified title status report or subsequent certified title status report) is being requested or an inquiry with respect to a requested first certified title status report from the party that requested the first certified title status report, the applicable Bureau office shall respond to the inquiry.

(c) **DELIVERY OF FIRST AND SUBSEQUENT CERTIFIED TITLE STATUS REPORTS.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any first certified title status report and any

subsequent certified title status report, as applicable, shall be delivered directly to—

(1) the lender;

(2) any local or regional agency office of the Bureau that requests the first certified title status report or subsequent certified title status report;

(3) in the case of a proposed residential leasehold mortgage or land mortgage, the relevant Federal agency that insures or guarantees the loan; and

(4) if requested, any individual or entity described in section 150.303 of title 25, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act).

(d) **ACCESS TO TRUST ASSET AND ACCOUNTING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (TAAMS).**—Beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, the relevant Federal agencies and Indian Tribes shall have read-only access to portals containing the relevant land documents from the Trust Asset and Accounting Management System (commonly known as “TAAMS”) maintained by the Bureau.

##### (e) ANNUAL REPORT.—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than March 1 of each calendar year, the Director shall submit to the Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives a report describing—

(A) for the most recent calendar year, the number of requests received to complete residential leasehold mortgage packages, business leasehold mortgage packages, land mortgage packages, and right-of-way document packages (including any requests for corresponding first certified title status reports and subsequent certified title status reports), including a detailed description of—

(i) requests that were and were not successfully completed by the applicable deadline described in subsection (a) by each applicable Bureau office; and

(ii) the reasons for each applicable Bureau office not meeting any applicable deadlines; and

(B) the length of time needed by each applicable Bureau office during the most recent calendar year to provide the notices required under subsection (b)(1).

(2) **REQUIREMENT.**—In submitting the report required under paragraph (1), the Director shall maintain the confidentiality of personally identifiable information of the parties involved in requesting the completion of residential leasehold mortgage packages, business leasehold mortgage packages, land mortgage packages, and right-of-way document packages (including any corresponding first certified title status reports and subsequent certified title status reports).

(f) **GAO STUDY.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives a report that includes—

(1) an evaluation of the need for residential leasehold mortgage packages, business leasehold mortgage packages, land mortgage packages, and right-of-way document packages of each Indian Tribe to be digitized for the purpose of streamlining and expediting the completion of mortgage packages for residential mortgages on Indian land (including the corresponding first certified title status reports and subsequent certified title status reports); and

(2) an estimate of the time and total cost necessary for Indian Tribes to digitize the records described in paragraph (1), in conjunction with assistance in that digitization from the Bureau.

#### SEC. 4. ESTABLISHMENT OF REALTY OMBUDSMAN POSITION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall establish within the Division of Real Estate Services of the Bureau the position of Realty Ombudsman, who shall report directly to the Secretary of the Interior.

(b) FUNCTIONS.—The Realty Ombudsman shall—

(1) ensure that the applicable Bureau offices are meeting the mortgage review and processing deadlines established by section 3(a);

(2) ensure that the applicable Bureau offices comply with the notices required under subsections (a) and (b) of section 3;

(3) serve as a liaison to other Federal agencies, including by—

(A) ensuring the Bureau is responsive to all of the inquiries from the relevant Federal agencies; and

(B) helping to facilitate communications between the relevant Federal agencies and the Bureau on matters relating to mortgages on Indian land;

(4) receive inquiries, questions, and complaints directly from Indian Tribes, members of Indian Tribes, and lenders in regard to executed residential leasehold mortgages, business leasehold mortgages, land mortgages, or right-of-way documents; and

(5) serve as the intermediary between the Indian Tribes, members of Indian Tribes, and lenders and the Bureau in responding to inquiries and questions and resolving complaints.

#### SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 93—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT THE OPERATIONS OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH SHOULD NOT EXPERIENCE ANY INTERRUPTION, DELAY, OR FUNDING DISRUPTION IN VIOLATION OF THE LAW AND THAT THE WORKFORCE OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH IS ESSENTIAL TO SUSTAINING MEDICAL PROGRESS

Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. ALSOBROOKS, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. SMITH, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. COONS, Mr. WELCH, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. KING, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. REED) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 93

*Resolved*, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) to protect the health, economic vitality, and national security of the people of the United States, the operations of the National Institutes of Health, including funding research on childhood cancers, Alzheimer's disease, diabetes, heart disease, infectious disease, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, and other diseases and conditions, should not be subject to any interruption, delay, or funding disruption in violation of the law; and

(2) the workforce of the National Institutes of Health, comprised of scientists, researchers, and medical professionals, is essential to sustaining medical progress, and any inter-

ference with its work undermines efforts to develop life-saving treatments, weakens the biomedical research enterprise, and threatens the Nation's ability to respond to public health challenges.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 94—AUTHORIZING EXPENDITURES BY COMMITTEES OF THE SENATE FOR THE PERIODS MARCH 1, 2025, THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2025, OCTOBER 1, 2025, THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2026, AND OCTOBER 1, 2026, THROUGH FEBRUARY 28, 2027

Mr. MCCONNELL submitted the following resolution; from the Committee on Rules and Administration which was placed on the calendar:

S. RES. 94

*Resolved*,

#### SECTION 1. AGGREGATE AUTHORIZATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of carrying out the powers, duties, and functions under the Standing Rules of the Senate, and under the appropriate authorizing resolutions of the Senate, there is authorized for the period March 1, 2025, through September 30, 2025, in the aggregate of \$90,988,230, for the period October 1, 2025, through September 30, 2026, in the aggregate of \$155,979,823, and for the period October 1, 2026, through February 28, 2027, in the aggregate of \$64,991,593, in accordance with the provisions of this resolution, for standing committees of the Senate, the Special Committee on Aging, the Select Committee on Intelligence, and the Committee on Indian Affairs.

(b) AGENCY CONTRIBUTIONS.—There are authorized to be paid from the appropriations account for "Expenses of Inquiries and Investigations" of the Senate such sums as may be necessary for agency contributions related to the compensation of employees of the committees for the period March 1, 2025, through September 30, 2025, for the period October 1, 2025, through September 30, 2026, and for the period October 1, 2026, through February 28, 2027.

(c) EXPENSES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), expenses of each standing committee of the Senate, the Special Committee on Aging, the Select Committee on Intelligence, and the Committee on Indian Affairs under this resolution shall be paid from the contingent fund of the Senate upon vouchers approved by the chairman of the applicable committee.

(2) VOUCHERS NOT REQUIRED.—Vouchers shall not be required for—

(A) the disbursement of salaries of employees paid at an annual rate;

(B) the payment of telecommunications provided by the Office of the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper;

(C) the payment of stationery supplies purchased through the Keeper of the Stationery;

(D) payments to the Postmaster of the Senate;

(E) the payment of metered charges on copying equipment provided by the Office of the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper;

(F) the payment of Senate Recording and Photographic Services; or

(G) the payment of franked and mass mail costs by the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper.

#### SEC. 2. COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY.

(a) GENERAL AUTHORITY.—In carrying out its powers, duties, and functions under the Standing Rules of the Senate, in accordance with its jurisdiction under rule XXV of the Standing Rules of the Senate, including

holding hearings, reporting such hearings, and making investigations as authorized by paragraphs 1 and 8 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry is authorized from March 1, 2025, through February 28, 2027, in its discretion, to—

(1) make expenditures from the contingent fund of the Senate;

(2) employ personnel; and

(3) with the prior consent of the Government department or agency concerned and the Committee on Rules and Administration, use on a reimbursable, or nonreimbursable, basis the services of personnel of any such department or agency.

(b) EXPENSES FOR PERIOD ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2025.—The expenses of the committee for the period March 1, 2025, through September 30, 2025, under this section shall not exceed \$4,464,935, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed \$200,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$40,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

(c) EXPENSES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026 PERIOD.—The expenses of the committee for the period October 1, 2025, through September 30, 2026, under this section shall not exceed \$7,654,174, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed \$200,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$40,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

(d) EXPENSES FOR PERIOD ENDING FEBRUARY 28, 2027.—The expenses of the committee for the period October 1, 2026, through February 28, 2027, under this section shall not exceed \$3,189,239, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed \$200,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$40,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

#### SEC. 3. COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES.

(a) GENERAL AUTHORITY.—In carrying out its powers, duties, and functions under the Standing Rules of the Senate, in accordance with its jurisdiction under rule XXV of the Standing Rules of the Senate, including holding hearings, reporting such hearings, and making investigations as authorized by paragraphs 1 and 8 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee on Armed Services is authorized from March 1, 2025, through February 28, 2027, in its discretion, to—

(1) make expenditures from the contingent fund of the Senate;

(2) employ personnel; and

(3) with the prior consent of the Government department or agency concerned and the Committee on Rules and Administration, use on a reimbursable, or nonreimbursable, basis the services of personnel of any such department or agency.

(b) EXPENSES FOR PERIOD ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2025.—The expenses of the committee for the period March 1, 2025, through

September 30, 2025, under this section shall not exceed \$6,092,832, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed \$37,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$12,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

(c) **EXPENSES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026 PERIOD.**—The expenses of the committee for the period October 1, 2025, through September 30, 2026, under this section shall not exceed \$10,444,856, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed \$65,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$20,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

(d) **EXPENSES FOR PERIOD ENDING FEBRUARY 28, 2027.**—The expenses of the committee for the period October 1, 2026, through February 28, 2027, under this section shall not exceed \$4,352,023, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed \$27,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$8,500 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

#### **SEC. 4. COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS.**

(a) **GENERAL AUTHORITY.**—In carrying out its powers, duties, and functions under the Standing Rules of the Senate, in accordance with its jurisdiction under rule XXV of the Standing Rules of the Senate, including holding hearings, reporting such hearings, and making investigations as authorized by paragraphs 1 and 8 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized from March 1, 2025, through February 28, 2027, in its discretion, to—

(1) make expenditures from the contingent fund of the Senate;

(2) employ personnel; and

(3) with the prior consent of the Government department or agency concerned and the Committee on Rules and Administration, use on a reimbursable, or nonreimbursable, basis the services of personnel of any such department or agency.

(b) **EXPENSES FOR PERIOD ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2025.**—The expenses of the committee for the period March 1, 2025, through September 30, 2025, under this section shall not exceed \$5,141,314, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed \$11,666 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$875 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

(c) **EXPENSES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026 PERIOD.**—The expenses of the committee for the period October 1, 2025, through September 30, 2026, under this section shall not exceed \$8,813,681, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed \$20,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of indi-

vidual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$1,500 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

(d) **EXPENSES FOR PERIOD ENDING FEBRUARY 28, 2027.**—The expenses of the committee for the period October 1, 2026, through February 28, 2027, under this section shall not exceed \$3,672,367, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed \$8,334 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$625 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

#### **SEC. 5. COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET.**

(a) **GENERAL AUTHORITY.**—In carrying out its powers, duties, and functions under the Standing Rules of the Senate, in accordance with its jurisdiction under rule XXV of the Standing Rules of the Senate, including holding hearings, reporting such hearings, and making investigations as authorized by paragraphs 1 and 8 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee on the Budget is authorized from March 1, 2025, through February 28, 2027, in its discretion, to—

(1) make expenditures from the contingent fund of the Senate;

(2) employ personnel; and

(3) with the prior consent of the Government department or agency concerned and the Committee on Rules and Administration, use on a reimbursable, or nonreimbursable, basis the services of personnel of any such department or agency.

(b) **EXPENSES FOR PERIOD ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2025.**—The expenses of the committee for the period March 1, 2025, through September 30, 2025, under this section shall not exceed \$4,630,478, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed \$23,333 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$17,500 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

(c) **EXPENSES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026 PERIOD.**—The expenses of the committee for the period October 1, 2025, through September 30, 2026, under this section shall not exceed \$7,937,962, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed \$40,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$30,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

(d) **EXPENSES FOR PERIOD ENDING FEBRUARY 28, 2027.**—The expenses of the committee for the period October 1, 2026, through February 28, 2027, under this section shall not exceed \$3,307,484, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed \$16,667 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$12,500 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of

such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

#### **SEC. 6. COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION.**

(a) **GENERAL AUTHORITY.**—In carrying out its powers, duties, and functions under the Standing Rules of the Senate, in accordance with its jurisdiction under rule XXV of the Standing Rules of the Senate, including holding hearings, reporting such hearings, and making investigations as authorized by paragraphs 1 and 8 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized from March 1, 2025, through February 28, 2027, in its discretion, to—

(1) make expenditures from the contingent fund of the Senate;

(2) employ personnel; and

(3) with the prior consent of the Government department or agency concerned and the Committee on Rules and Administration, use on a reimbursable, or nonreimbursable, basis the services of personnel of any such department or agency.

(b) **EXPENSES FOR PERIOD ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2025.**—The expenses of the committee for the period March 1, 2025, through September 30, 2025, under this section shall not exceed \$6,259,693, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed \$100,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$100,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

(c) **EXPENSES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026 PERIOD.**—The expenses of the committee for the period October 1, 2025, through September 30, 2026, under this section shall not exceed \$10,730,903, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed \$100,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$100,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

(d) **EXPENSES FOR PERIOD ENDING FEBRUARY 28, 2027.**—The expenses of the committee for the period October 1, 2026, through February 28, 2027, under this section shall not exceed \$4,471,210, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed \$100,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$100,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

#### **SEC. 7. COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES.**

(a) **GENERAL AUTHORITY.**—In carrying out its powers, duties, and functions under the Standing Rules of the Senate, in accordance with its jurisdiction under rule XXV of the Standing Rules of the Senate, including holding hearings, reporting such hearings, and making investigations as authorized by paragraphs 1 and 8 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized from March 1, 2025, through February 28, 2027, in its discretion, to—

(1) make expenditures from the contingent fund of the Senate;

(2) employ personnel; and

(3) with the prior consent of the Government department or agency concerned and the Committee on Rules and Administration, use on a reimbursable, or nonreimbursable, basis the services of personnel of any such department or agency.

(b) EXPENSES FOR PERIOD ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2025.—The expenses of the committee for the period March 1, 2025, through September 30, 2025, under this section shall not exceed \$4,394,583, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed \$17,500 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$8,750 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

(c) EXPENSES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026 PERIOD.—The expenses of the committee for the period October 1, 2025, through September 30, 2026, under this section shall not exceed \$7,533,571, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed \$30,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$15,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

(d) EXPENSES FOR PERIOD ENDING FEBRUARY 28, 2027.—The expenses of the committee for the period October 1, 2026, through February 28, 2027, under this section shall not exceed \$3,138,988, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed \$12,500 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$6,250 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

#### SEC. 8. COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS.

(a) GENERAL AUTHORITY.—In carrying out its powers, duties, and functions under the Standing Rules of the Senate, in accordance with its jurisdiction under rule XXV of the Standing Rules of the Senate, including holding hearings, reporting such hearings, and making investigations as authorized by paragraphs 1 and 8 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee on Environment and Public Works is authorized from March 1, 2025, through February 28, 2027, in its discretion, to—

(1) make expenditures from the contingent fund of the Senate;

(2) employ personnel; and

(3) with the prior consent of the Government department or agency concerned and the Committee on Rules and Administration, use on a reimbursable, or nonreimbursable, basis the services of personnel of any such department or agency.

(b) EXPENSES FOR PERIOD ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2025.—The expenses of the committee for the period March 1, 2025, through September 30, 2025, under this section shall not exceed \$4,107,247, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed \$4,666 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$1,166 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such

committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

(c) EXPENSES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026 PERIOD.—The expenses of the committee for the period October 1, 2025, through September 30, 2026, under this section shall not exceed \$7,040,996, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed \$8,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$2,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

(d) EXPENSES FOR PERIOD ENDING FEBRUARY 28, 2027.—The expenses of the committee for the period October 1, 2026, through February 28, 2027, under this section shall not exceed \$2,933,748, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed \$3,334 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$834 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

#### SEC. 9. COMMITTEE ON FINANCE.

(a) GENERAL AUTHORITY.—In carrying out its powers, duties, and functions under the Standing Rules of the Senate, in accordance with its jurisdiction under rule XXV of the Standing Rules of the Senate, including holding hearings, reporting such hearings, and making investigations as authorized by paragraphs 1 and 8 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee on Finance is authorized from March 1, 2025, through February 28, 2027, in its discretion, to—

(1) make expenditures from the contingent fund of the Senate;

(2) employ personnel; and

(3) with the prior consent of the Government department or agency concerned and the Committee on Rules and Administration, use on a reimbursable, or nonreimbursable, basis the services of personnel of any such department or agency.

(b) EXPENSES FOR PERIOD ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2025.—The expenses of the committee for the period March 1, 2025, through September 30, 2025, under this section shall not exceed \$7,638,723, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed \$17,500 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$5,833 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

(c) EXPENSES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026 PERIOD.—The expenses of the committee for the period October 1, 2025, through September 30, 2026, under this section shall not exceed \$13,094,954, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed \$30,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$10,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

(d) EXPENSES FOR PERIOD ENDING FEBRUARY 28, 2027.—The expenses of the committee for the period October 1, 2026, through February

28, 2027, under this section shall not exceed \$5,456,231, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed \$12,500 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$4,166 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

#### SEC. 10. COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS.

(a) GENERAL AUTHORITY.—In carrying out its powers, duties, and functions under the Standing Rules of the Senate, in accordance with its jurisdiction under rule XXV of the Standing Rules of the Senate, including holding hearings, reporting such hearings, and making investigations as authorized by paragraphs 1 and 8 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized from March 1, 2025, through February 28, 2027, in its discretion, to—

(1) make expenditures from the contingent fund of the Senate;

(2) employ personnel; and

(3) with the prior consent of the Government department or agency concerned and the Committee on Rules and Administration, use on a reimbursable, or nonreimbursable, basis the services of personnel of any such department or agency.

(b) EXPENSES FOR PERIOD ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2025.—The expenses of the committee for the period March 1, 2025, through September 30, 2025, under this section shall not exceed \$6,068,289, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed \$250,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$30,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

(c) EXPENSES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026 PERIOD.—The expenses of the committee for the period October 1, 2025, through September 30, 2026, under this section shall not exceed \$10,402,781, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed \$250,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$30,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

(d) EXPENSES FOR PERIOD ENDING FEBRUARY 28, 2027.—The expenses of the committee for the period October 1, 2026, through February 28, 2027, under this section shall not exceed \$4,334,492, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed \$250,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$30,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

#### SEC. 11. COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS.

(a) GENERAL AUTHORITY.—In carrying out its powers, duties, and functions under the Standing Rules of the Senate, in accordance with its jurisdiction under rule XXV of the Standing Rules of the Senate, including holding hearings, reporting such hearings,

and making investigations as authorized by paragraphs 1 and 8 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions is authorized from March 1, 2025, through February 28, 2027, in its discretion, to—

(1) make expenditures from the contingent fund of the Senate;

(2) employ personnel; and

(3) with the prior consent of the Government department or agency concerned and the Committee on Rules and Administration, use on a reimbursable, or nonreimbursable, basis the services of personnel of any such department or agency.

(b) **EXPENSES FOR PERIOD ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2025.**—The expenses of the committee for the period March 1, 2025, through September 30, 2025, under this section shall not exceed \$7,767,027, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed \$75,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$25,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

(c) **EXPENSES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026 PERIOD.**—The expenses of the committee for the period October 1, 2025, through September 30, 2026, under this section shall not exceed \$13,314,904, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed \$75,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$25,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

(d) **EXPENSES FOR PERIOD ENDING FEBRUARY 28, 2027.**—The expenses of the committee for the period October 1, 2026, through February 28, 2027, under this section shall not exceed \$5,547,877, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed \$75,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$25,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

#### **SEC. 12. COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS.**

(a) **GENERAL AUTHORITY.**—In carrying out its powers, duties, and functions under the Standing Rules of the Senate, in accordance with its jurisdiction under rule XXV of the Standing Rules of the Senate and Senate Resolution 445 (108th Congress), agreed to October 9, 2004, including holding hearings, reporting such hearings, and making investigations as authorized by paragraphs 1 and 8 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized from March 1, 2025, through February 28, 2027, in its discretion, to—

(1) make expenditures from the contingent fund of the Senate;

(2) employ personnel; and

(3) with the prior consent of the Government department or agency concerned and the Committee on Rules and Administration, use on a reimbursable, or nonreimbursable, basis the services of personnel of any such department or agency.

(b) **EXPENSES FOR PERIOD ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2025.**—The expenses of the com-

mittee for the period March 1, 2025, through September 30, 2025, under this section shall not exceed \$8,380,388, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed \$400,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$20,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

(c) **EXPENSES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026 PERIOD.**—The expenses of the committee for the period October 1, 2025, through September 30, 2026, under this section shall not exceed \$14,366,379, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed \$400,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$20,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

(d) **EXPENSES FOR PERIOD ENDING FEBRUARY 28, 2027.**—The expenses of the committee for the period October 1, 2026, through February 28, 2027, under this section shall not exceed \$5,985,991, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed \$400,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$20,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

(e) **INVESTIGATIONS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The committee, or any duly authorized subcommittee of the committee, is authorized to study or investigate—

(A) the efficiency and economy of operations of all branches of the Government including the possible existence of fraud, misfeasance, malfeasance, collusion, mismanagement, incompetence, corruption or unethical practices, waste, extravagance, conflicts of interest, and the improper expenditure of Government funds in transactions, contracts, and activities of the Government or of Government officials and employees and any and all such improper practices between Government personnel and corporations, individuals, companies, or persons affiliated therewith, doing business with the Government, and the compliance or noncompliance of such corporations, companies, or individuals or other entities with the rules, regulations, and laws governing the various governmental agencies and the Government's relationships with the public;

(B) the extent to which criminal or other improper practices or activities are, or have been, engaged in the field of labor-management relations or in groups or organizations of employees or employers, to the detriment of interests of the public, employers, or employees, and to determine whether any changes are required in the laws of the United States in order to protect such interests against the occurrence of such practices or activities;

(C) organized criminal activity which may operate in or otherwise utilize the facilities of interstate or international commerce in furtherance of any transactions and the manner and extent to which, and the identity of the persons, firms, or corporations, or other entities by whom such utilization is being made, and further, to study and investigate the manner in which and the extent to

which persons engaged in organized criminal activity have infiltrated lawful business enterprise, and to study the adequacy of Federal laws to prevent the operations of organized crime in interstate or international commerce, and to determine whether any changes are required in the laws of the United States in order to protect the public against such practices or activities;

(D) all other aspects of crime and lawlessness within the United States which have an impact upon or affect the national health, welfare, and safety, including investment fraud schemes, commodity and security fraud, computer fraud, and the use of offshore banking and corporate facilities to carry out criminal objectives;

(E) the efficiency and economy of operations of all branches and functions of the Government with particular reference to—

(i) the effectiveness of present national security methods, staffing, and processes as tested against the requirements imposed by the rapidly mounting complexity of national security problems;

(ii) the capacity of present national security staffing, methods, and processes to make full use of the Nation's resources of knowledge and talents;

(iii) the adequacy of present intergovernmental relations between the United States and international organizations principally concerned with national security of which the United States is a member; and

(iv) legislative and other proposals to improve these methods, processes, and relationships;

(F) the efficiency, economy, and effectiveness of all agencies and departments of the Government involved in the control and management of energy shortages including their performance with respect to—

(i) the collection and dissemination of accurate statistics on fuel demand and supply;

(ii) the implementation of effective energy conservation measures;

(iii) the pricing of energy in all forms;

(iv) coordination of energy programs with State and local government;

(v) control of exports of scarce fuels;

(vi) the management of tax, import, pricing, and other policies affecting energy supplies;

(vii) maintenance of the independent sector of the petroleum industry as a strong competitive force;

(viii) the allocation of fuels in short supply by public and private entities;

(ix) the management of energy supplies owned or controlled by the Government;

(x) relations with other oil producing and consuming countries;

(xi) the monitoring of compliance by governments, corporations, or individuals with the laws and regulations governing the allocation, conservation, or pricing of energy supplies; and

(xii) research into the discovery and development of alternative energy supplies; and

(G) the efficiency and economy of all branches and functions of Government with particular references to the operations and management of Federal regulatory policies and programs.

(2) **EXTENT OF INQUIRIES.**—In carrying out the duties provided in paragraph (1), the inquiries of this committee or any subcommittee of the committee shall not be construed to be limited to the records, functions, and operations of any particular branch of the Government and may extend to the records and activities of any persons, corporation, or other entity.

(3) **SPECIAL COMMITTEE AUTHORITY.**—For the purposes of this subsection, the committee, or any duly authorized subcommittee of the committee, or its chairman, or any other member of the committee

or subcommittee designated by the chairman is authorized, in its, his, her, or their discretion—

(A) to require by subpoena or otherwise the attendance of witnesses and production of correspondence, books, papers, and documents;

(B) to hold hearings;

(C) to sit and act at any time or place during the sessions, recess, and adjournment periods of the Senate;

(D) to administer oaths; and

(E) to take testimony, either orally or by sworn statement, or, in the case of staff members of the committee and the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, by deposition in accordance with the committee Rules of Procedure.

(4) **AUTHORITY OF OTHER COMMITTEES.**—Nothing contained in this subsection shall affect or impair the exercise of any other standing committee of the Senate of any power, or the discharge by such committee of any duty, conferred or imposed upon it by the Standing Rules of the Senate or by the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946.

(5) **SUBPOENA AUTHORITY.**—All subpoenas and related legal processes of the committee and any duly authorized subcommittee of the committee authorized under Senate Resolution 59 (118th Congress), agreed to February 15, 2023, are authorized to continue.

### SEC. 13. COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY.

(a) **GENERAL AUTHORITY.**—In carrying out its powers, duties, and functions under the Standing Rules of the Senate, in accordance with its jurisdiction under rule XXV of the Standing Rules of the Senate, including holding hearings, reporting such hearings, and making investigations as authorized by paragraphs 1 and 8 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee on the Judiciary is authorized from March 1, 2025, through February 28, 2027, in its discretion, to—

(1) make expenditures from the contingent fund of the Senate;

(2) employ personnel; and

(3) with the prior consent of the Government department or agency concerned and the Committee on Rules and Administration, use on a reimbursable, or nonreimbursable, basis the services of personnel of any such department or agency.

(b) **EXPENSES FOR PERIOD ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2025.**—The expenses of the committee for the period March 1, 2025, through September 30, 2025, under this section shall not exceed \$9,064,180, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed \$100,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$10,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

(c) **EXPENSES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026 PERIOD.**—The expenses of the committee for the period October 1, 2025, through September 30, 2026, under this section shall not exceed \$15,538,595, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed \$125,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$15,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

(d) **EXPENSES FOR PERIOD ENDING FEBRUARY 28, 2027.**—The expenses of the committee for the period October 1, 2026, through February

28, 2027, under this section shall not exceed \$6,474,414, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed \$80,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$10,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

(e) **ADDITIONAL COMMITTEE AUTHORITY.**—For the purposes of carrying out its investigative powers, duties, and functions under the Standing Rules of the Senate and in accordance with Committee Rules of Procedure, the committee is authorized to require by subpoena the attendance of witnesses at depositions of the committee, which may be conducted by designated staff.

### SEC. 14. COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION.

(a) **GENERAL AUTHORITY.**—In carrying out its powers, duties, and functions under the Standing Rules of the Senate, in accordance with its jurisdiction under rule XXV of the Standing Rules of the Senate, including holding hearings, reporting such hearings, and making investigations as authorized by paragraphs 1 and 8 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee on Rules and Administration is authorized from March 1, 2025, through February 28, 2027, in its discretion, to—

(1) make expenditures from the contingent fund of the Senate;

(2) employ personnel; and

(3) with the prior consent of the Government department or agency concerned and the Committee on Rules and Administration, use on a reimbursable or nonreimbursable basis the services of personnel of any such department or agency.

(b) **EXPENSES FOR PERIOD ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2025.**—The expenses of the committee for the period March 1, 2025, through September 30, 2025, under this section shall not exceed \$2,354,135, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed \$200,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$40,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

(c) **EXPENSES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026 PERIOD.**—The expenses of the committee for the period October 1, 2025, through September 30, 2026, under this section shall not exceed \$4,035,660, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed \$200,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$40,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

(d) **EXPENSES FOR PERIOD ENDING FEBRUARY 28, 2027.**—The expenses of the committee for the period October 1, 2026, through February 28, 2027, under this section shall not exceed \$1,618,525, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed \$200,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$40,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

### SEC. 15. COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP.

(a) **GENERAL AUTHORITY.**—In carrying out its powers, duties, and functions under the Standing Rules of the Senate, in accordance with its jurisdiction under rule XXV of the Standing Rules of the Senate, including holding hearings, reporting such hearings, and making investigations as authorized by paragraphs 1 and 8 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship is authorized from March 1, 2025, through February 28, 2027, in its discretion, to—

(1) make expenditures from the contingent fund of the Senate;

(2) employ personnel; and

(3) with the prior consent of the Government department or agency concerned and the Committee on Rules and Administration, use on a reimbursable, or nonreimbursable, basis the services of personnel of any such department or agency.

(b) **EXPENSES FOR PERIOD ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2025.**—The expenses of the committee for the period March 1, 2025, through September 30, 2025, under this section shall not exceed \$2,769,908, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed \$50,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$10,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

(c) **EXPENSES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026 PERIOD.**—The expenses of the committee for the period October 1, 2025, through September 30, 2026, under this section shall not exceed \$4,748,413, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed \$50,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$10,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

(d) **EXPENSES FOR PERIOD ENDING FEBRUARY 28, 2027.**—The expenses of the committee for the period October 1, 2026, through February 28, 2027, under this section shall not exceed \$1,978,505, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed \$50,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$10,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

### SEC. 16. COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS.

(a) **GENERAL AUTHORITY.**—In carrying out its powers, duties, and functions under the Standing Rules of the Senate, in accordance with its jurisdiction under rule XXV of the Standing Rules of the Senate, including holding hearings, reporting such hearings, and making investigations as authorized by paragraphs 1 and 8 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee on Veterans' Affairs is authorized from March 1, 2025, through February 28, 2027, in its discretion, to—

(1) make expenditures from the contingent fund of the Senate;

(2) employ personnel; and

(3) with the prior consent of the Government department or agency concerned and the Committee on Rules and Administration,



use on a reimbursable, or nonreimbursable, basis the services of personnel of any such department or agency.

(b) **EXPENSES FOR PERIOD ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2025.**—The expenses of the committee for the period March 1, 2025, through September 30, 2025, under this section shall not exceed \$2,673,928, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed \$58,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$40,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

(c) **EXPENSES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026 PERIOD.**—The expenses of the committee for the period October 1, 2025, through September 30, 2026, under this section shall not exceed \$4,583,876, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed \$100,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$70,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

(d) **EXPENSES FOR PERIOD ENDING FEBRUARY 28, 2027.**—The expenses of the committee for the period October 1, 2026, through February 28, 2027, under this section shall not exceed \$1,909,948, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed \$42,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$30,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

#### **SEC. 17. SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING.**

(a) **GENERAL AUTHORITY.**—In carrying out its powers, duties, and functions imposed by section 104 of Senate Resolution 4 (95th Congress), agreed to February 4, 1977, and in exercising the authority conferred on it by such section, the Special Committee on Aging is authorized from March 1, 2025, through February 28, 2027, in its discretion, to—

(1) make expenditures from the contingent fund of the Senate;

(2) employ personnel; and

(3) with the prior consent of the Government department or agency concerned and the Committee on Rules and Administration, use on a reimbursable, or nonreimbursable, basis the services of personnel of any such department or agency.

(b) **EXPENSES FOR PERIOD ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2025.**—The expenses of the committee for the period March 1, 2025, through September 30, 2025, under this section shall not exceed \$2,060,695, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed \$1,500 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$1,500 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

(c) **EXPENSES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026 PERIOD.**—The expenses of the committee for the period October 1, 2025, through September 30, 2026, under this section shall not exceed \$3,532,620, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed \$1,500 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$1,500 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

(d) **EXPENSES FOR PERIOD ENDING FEBRUARY 28, 2027.**—The expenses of the committee for the period October 1, 2026, through February 28, 2027, under this section shall not exceed \$1,471,925, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed \$1,500 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$1,500 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

#### **SEC. 18. SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE.**

(a) **GENERAL AUTHORITY.**—In carrying out its powers, duties, and functions under Senate Resolution 400 (94th Congress), agreed to May 19, 1976, in accordance with its jurisdiction under sections 3(a) and 17 of such Senate Resolution, including holding hearings, reporting such hearings, and making investigations as authorized by section 5 of such Senate Resolution, the Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized from March 1, 2025, through February 28, 2027, in its discretion, to—

(1) make expenditures from the contingent fund of the Senate;

(2) employ personnel; and

(3) with the prior consent of the Government department or agency concerned and the Committee on Rules and Administration, use on a reimbursable, or nonreimbursable, basis the services of personnel of any such department or agency.

(b) **EXPENSES FOR PERIOD ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2025.**—The expenses of the committee for the period March 1, 2025, through September 30, 2025, under this section shall not exceed \$5,261,497, of which not to exceed \$10,208 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))).

(c) **EXPENSES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026 PERIOD.**—The expenses of the committee for the period October 1, 2025, through September 30, 2026, under this section shall not exceed \$9,019,709, of which not to exceed \$17,500 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))).

(d) **EXPENSES FOR PERIOD ENDING FEBRUARY 28, 2027.**—The expenses of the committee for the period October 1, 2026, through February 28, 2027, under this section shall not exceed \$3,758,212, of which not to exceed \$7,292 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))).

#### **SEC. 19. COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS.**

(a) **GENERAL AUTHORITY.**—In carrying out its powers, duties, and functions imposed by section 105 of Senate Resolution 4 (95th Congress), agreed to February 4, 1977, and in exercising the authority conferred on it by that section, the Committee on Indian Affairs is authorized from March 1, 2025, through February 28, 2027, in its discretion, to—

(1) make expenditures from the contingent fund of the Senate;

(2) employ personnel; and

(3) with the prior consent of the Government department or agency concerned and the Committee on Rules and Administration, use on a reimbursable, or nonreimbursable, basis the services of personnel of any such department or agency.

(b) **EXPENSES FOR PERIOD ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2025.**—The expenses of the committee for the period March 1, 2025, through September 30, 2025, under this section shall not exceed \$1,858,378, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed \$50,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$20,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

(c) **EXPENSES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026 PERIOD.**—The expenses of the committee for the period October 1, 2025, through September 30, 2026, under this section shall not exceed \$3,185,791, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed \$50,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$20,000 may be expended for training consultants of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

(d) **EXPENSES FOR PERIOD ENDING FEBRUARY 28, 2027.**—The expenses of the committee for the period October 1, 2026, through February 28, 2027, under this section shall not exceed \$1,327,413, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed \$50,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$20,000 may be expended for training consultants of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

#### **SEC. 20. SPECIAL RESERVE.**

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—Within the funds in the account “Expenses of Inquiries and Investigations”, there is authorized to be established a special reserve to be available to any committee funded by this resolution as provided in subsection (b) of which amount—

(1) for the period March 1, 2025, through September 30, 2025, an amount shall be available, not to exceed 7.6 percent of the amount equal to  $\frac{1}{12}$ th of the appropriations for the account that are available for the period October 1, 2024, through September 30, 2025;

(2) for the period October 1, 2025, through September 30, 2026, an amount shall be available, not to exceed 7.9 percent of the appropriations for the account that are available for that period; and

(3) for the period October 1, 2026, through February 28, 2027, an amount shall be available, not to exceed 6.9 percent of the amount equal to  $\frac{1}{12}$ th of the appropriations for the account that are available for the period October 1, 2026, through September 30, 2027.

(b) **AVAILABILITY.**—The special reserve authorized in subsection (a) shall be available to any committee—

(1) on the basis of special need to meet unpaid obligations incurred by that committee during the periods referred to in paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) of subsection (a); and

(2) at the request of a Chairman and Ranking Member of that committee subject to the

approval of the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Committee on Rules and Administration.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 95—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF FEBRUARY 23, 2025, TO MARCH 1, 2025, AS “NATIONAL FENTANYL AWARENESS WEEK” AND RAISING AWARENESS OF THE NEGATIVE IMPACTS OF FENTANYL IN THE UNITED STATES**

Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself and Mr. JUSTICE) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 95

Whereas, as of August 2024, drug overdoses during the previous 12 months claimed a reported 86,678 lives in the United States;

Whereas countless families in the United States are now facing the unimaginable pain of losing a child, mother, father, sibling or loved one taken by deadly, illegal fentanyl;

Whereas the life expectancy in the United States remains impacted by the opioid crisis, with people born in 2023 estimated to live 78.4 years;

Whereas social isolation and poor support systems contribute to increased overdose risk among older adults;

Whereas, from 2022 to 2023, adults aged 65 and older experienced the largest percentage increase in the rate of drug overdose deaths, with an increase of 11.4 percent;

Whereas fentanyl is 50 times more potent than heroin, and is considered the deadliest drug threat in the United States;

Whereas drug traffickers use illicit fentanyl to produce fake or counterfeit pills; Whereas drug traffickers are using fentanyl-laced fake or counterfeit pills to exploit the opioid crisis in the United States;

Whereas, without laboratory testing, there is no safe way to know how much fentanyl is concentrated in a pill or powder;

Whereas those illicit drugs are primarily made in secret factories in Mexico with chemicals mostly from China;

Whereas the Drug Enforcement Agency has issued warnings about brightly-colored fentanyl-laced pills being used to target young individuals in the United States;

Whereas less than 2 milligrams is considered a deadly dose of fentanyl;

Whereas the Drug Enforcement Agency announced that in 2024 alone, the Drug Enforcement Agency seized over 367,000,000 doses of potentially deadly fentanyl, enough to kill every individual in the United States, which included—

(1) more than 55,000,000 fentanyl-laced pills; and

(2) 7,800 pounds of fentanyl powder;

Whereas U.S. Customs and Border Protection seized more than 21,889 pounds of fentanyl in fiscal year 2024;

Whereas fentanyl has also been found in street drugs such as cocaine, heroin, and methamphetamine; and

Whereas, according to data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, fentanyl-related poisonings are currently the leading cause of death for individuals in the United States ages 18 to 45: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) applauds the work of Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies for their work in combating the fentanyl crisis;

(2) applauds the work of treatment and recovery organizations that help individuals with substance use disorder;

(3) encourages all individuals to only use medication prescribed through their physician;

(4) encourages anyone suffering from substance use disorder to seek assistance; and

(5) designates February 23, 2025, through March 1, 2025, as “National Fentanyl Awareness Week”.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 96—DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 24 THROUGH FEBRUARY 28, 2025, AS “PUBLIC SCHOOLS WEEK”**

Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. REED, Mr. KAINE, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KING, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. GALLEGO, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. WELCH, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. PETERS, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. CANTWELL, Ms. BALDWIN, and Mr. PADILLA) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 96

Whereas public education is a significant institution in a 21st-century democracy;

Whereas public schools in the United States educate students about the values and beliefs that hold the individuals of the United States together as a nation;

Whereas public schools prepare young individuals of the United States to contribute to the society, economy, and citizenry of the country;

Whereas 87 percent of children in the United States attend public schools;

Whereas Federal, State, and local lawmakers should—

(1) prioritize support for strengthening the public schools of the United States;

(2) empower superintendents, principals, and other school leaders to implement, manage, and lead school districts and schools in partnership with educators, parents, and other local education stakeholders; and

(3) support services and programs that are critical to helping students engage in learning, including counseling, extracurricular activities, and mental health support;

Whereas public schools should foster inclusive, safe, and high-quality environments in which children can learn to think critically, problem solve, and build relationships;

Whereas public schools should provide environments in which all students have the opportunity to succeed beginning in their earliest years, regardless of who a student is or where a student lives;

Whereas Congress should support—

(1) efforts to advance equal opportunity and excellence in public education;

(2) efforts to implement evidence-based practices in public education; and

(3) continuous improvements to public education;

Whereas every child should—

(1) receive an education that helps the child reach the full potential of the child; and

(2) attend a school that offers a high-quality educational experience;

Whereas Federal funding, in addition to State and local funds, supports the access of students to inviting classrooms, well-prepared educators, and services to support healthy students, including nutrition and afterschool programs;

Whereas teachers, paraprofessionals, and principals should provide students with a well-rounded education and strive to create joy in learning;

Whereas superintendents, principals, other school leaders, teachers, paraprofessionals,

and parents make public schools vital components of communities and are working hard to improve educational outcomes for children across the country; and

Whereas the week of February 24 through February 28, 2025, is an appropriate period to designate as “Public Schools Week”: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate designates the week of February 24 through February 28, 2025 as “Public Schools Week”.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 97—HONORING THE LIFE OF NEBRASKA COMMUNITY LEADER HOWARD L. HAWKS**

Mr. RICKETTS (for himself and Mrs. FISCHER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 97

Whereas, in 1935, Howard L. Hawks (referred to in this preamble as “Hawks”) was born in Carleton, Nebraska;

Whereas, in 1987, Hawks co-founded Tenaska Energy, where Hawks served as—

(1) Chairman and CEO until 2010; and

(2) Chairman until 2022;

Whereas Hawks grew Tenaska Energy from a small business out of Omaha, Nebraska, to 1 of the largest private companies in the United States;

Whereas Hawks remained active in Tenaska Energy even after transitioning to Chairman Emeritus in 2022;

Whereas, through his dedication to the community around him, Hawks served as—

(1) a Regent at the University of Nebraska for 18 years; and

(2) a Board Member of Creighton University for 12 years;

Whereas, among his many philanthropic efforts, Hawks transformed the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in both athletics and academics and, in 2023, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln honored Hawks and his wife with the Regents Medal to recognize their contributions;

Whereas Hawks supported various efforts and projects across the University of Nebraska system, including—

(1) Howard L. Hawks Hall;

(2) a business ethics and leadership chair for the University of Nebraska-Lincoln College of Business;

(3) Kiewit Hall for the University of Nebraska-Lincoln College of Engineering;

(4) the Hawks Championship Center and Hawks Field at Haymarket Park for University of Nebraska-Lincoln athletics;

(5) Baxter Arena and the baseball and softball complex for University of Nebraska-Omaha Athletics;

(6) the renovation to the Durham Science Center for University of Nebraska-Omaha;

(7) the Tim Hawks Chair in Cancer Prevention and Population Science in the University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Public Health;

(8) the Rhonda and Howard Hawks Movement Disorders Fellowship in the University of Nebraska Medical Center Department of Neurological Sciences;

(9) the Sharing Clinic, a University of Nebraska Medical Center student-run clinic; and

(10) student scholarships;

Whereas Hawks served on the executive committee for “Campaign for Nebraska: Unlimited Possibilities”, a fundraising campaign conducted from 2005 to 2014 that raised \$1,800,000,000 in private support for the University of Nebraska-Lincoln; and

Whereas Hawks’ philanthropic commitment extended well beyond the University of

Nebraska system, supporting initiatives addressing homelessness and mental health, and supporting education and the arts: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) has heard with profound sorrow and deep regret the announcement of the death of Howard L. Hawks;

(2) honors the life and legacy of Howard L. Hawks for his unwavering dedication to Nebraska as a civic leader and philanthropist; and

(3) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to the family of Howard L. Hawks.

#### AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Ms. LUMMIS. Mr. President, I have seven 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 ARMED SERVICES

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, February 25, 2025, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing on a nomination.

##### COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, February 25, 2025, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

##### COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, February 25, 2025, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing on a nomination.

##### COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

The Committee on Rules and Administration is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, February 25, 2025, at 2 p.m., to conduct a business meeting.

##### COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

The Committee on Veterans' Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, February 25, 2025, at 10 a.m., to conduct a joint hearing.

##### SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, February 25, 2025, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a closed briefing.

##### SUBCOMMITTEE ON CYBERSECURITY

The Subcommittee on Cybersecurity of the Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet in closed session during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, February 25, 2025, at 4 p.m. to receive a briefing.

#### PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Ms. LUMMIS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the following interns in my office be granted floor privileges until February 26, 2025: Jazmine Wildcat and Karli Woodruff.

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

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that privileges of the floor be granted to the following member of my staff: Jack K. Uhl for today.

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

Mr. BOOKER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the privileges of the floor be granted to the following members of my staff: Durva Trivedi, during the pendency of her legal fellowship, until September 12, 2025; and Zachary Rosenfeld and Rachelle Domond, during the pendency of their legal clerkships until April 23, 2025.

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

#### APPOINTMENTS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, and upon the recommendation of the Majority Leader, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2761, as amended, appoints the following Senator as Chairman of the Senate Delegation to the British-American Interparliamentary Group Conference during the 119th Congress: the Honorable JOHN BOOZMAN of Arkansas.

The Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, and upon the recommendation of the Majority Leader, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2761, as amended, appoints the following Senator as Vice Chairman of the Senate Delegation to the British-American Interparliamentary Group Conference during the 119th Congress: the Honorable SHELDON WHITEHOUSE of Rhode Island.

The Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2761, 276d-276g, as amended, appoints the following Senator as Vice Chairman of the Senate Delegation to the Canada-U.S. Interparliamentary Group Conference during the 119th Congress: the Honorable AMY KLOBUCHAR of Minnesota.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF NEBRASKA COMMUNITY LEADER HOWARD L. HAWKS

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 97, which was submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 97) honoring the life of Nebraska community leader Howard L. Hawks.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. 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. 97) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

#### PUBLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 96, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 96) designating the week of February 24 through February 28, 2025, as "Public Schools Week".

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. KENNEDY. I know of no further debate on the resolution.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

Hearing no further debate, the question is on adoption of the resolution.

The resolution (S. Res. 96) was agreed to.

Mr. KENNEDY. I ask unanimous consent that the preamble be agreed to and that 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 preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

#### ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2025

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on Wednesday, February 26; 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 order of February 18 in relation to S.J. Res. 10 be executed; further, I ask unanimous consent that at 12 noon the Senate proceed to executive session and vote on confirmation of the Greer nomination, as provided under the previous order, and that following disposition of the Greer nomination, the Senate resume consideration of S.J. Res. 10.

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

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, for the information of all Senators, Senators should also expect two votes tomorrow evening: passage of S.J. Res. 10, and No. 2, motion to proceed to Calendar No. 14, S.J. Res. 12, Senator HOEVEN's CRA.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M.  
TOMORROW

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:32 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, February 26, 2025, at 10 a.m.

## CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate February 25, 2025:

## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

DANIEL DRISCOLL, OF NORTH CAROLINA, TO BE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY.

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

## BLACK HISTORY MONTH

SPEECH OF

**HON. STEVEN HORSFORD**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 24, 2025*

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleagues in the Congressional Black Caucus to honor my history—our history—American history . . .

I'm here to honor Black history during Black History Month.

This is a time to honor our elders, and the struggles they endured bringing us to this moment.

My home of Las Vegas is rich with contributions, milestones and heroes that advanced equity in our society.

People like Hattie Canty—who led the Culinary Workers Union Local 226 to fight for better wages and job security, including the longest strike in American history against unfair labor conditions—six and a half years.

Places like West Las Vegas, which became the heart of the city's Black community during segregation.

Black-owned businesses and venues along the Black Strip on Jackson Avenue allowed culture to thrive . . .

. . . while entrepreneurship and homeownership helped local community members begin to accumulate wealth.

And breakthroughs, like the Sands Hotel allowing Nat King Cole to stay and perform there in 1955, challenging racial segregation to its core at the time.

Las Vegas is one of so many, pillars of progress—progress made over generations—and progress that is under threat right now by forces who want to take our country backwards.

. . . Denigrating civil rights . . .  
. . . Undermining racial diversity . . .  
. . . Eroding opportunities to grow wealth and better oneself with an education.

What the forces against progress don't seem to realize, is the spirit of progress is alive and well today—every bit as much as it was for my parents' generation, and the generations before them.

I mentioned Hattie Canty—I stand on her shoulders to this day.

I spent a decade leading the Culinary Training Academy of Las Vegas that she helped found in 1993.

It trains thousands of people every year with vocational skills that help local youths, adults, and displaced workers find work in the hospitality industry.

The spirit of Black History Month is the spirit of progress—it's a flame that cannot be blown out.

I am grateful for all of the leaders who came before me.

And my commitment is to stand steadfast for future generations in this time of need, just as past generations did for me.

HONORING THE ROSWELL FIRE  
DEPARTMENT ON EARNING THE  
SENATOR PAUL SARBANES  
AWARD

**HON. RICHARD MCCORMICK**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2025*

Mr. MCCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Fire Chief Joe Pennino and the brave men and women of the City of Roswell Fire Department on being awarded the 2025 Senator Paul S. Sarbanes Fire Service Safety Leadership Award by the Congressional Fire Safety Institute.

The Senator Paul S. Sarbanes Fire Service Safety Leadership Award honors organizations that have made noteworthy contributions to firefighter health and safety. The award celebrates those who have demonstrated exceptional leadership, innovation, and dedication in promoting a safer environment for firefighters.

The City of Roswell's Fire Department is recognized for its collaboration with researchers in the analysis of the impact that new shift schedules and adjusted start times have on the performance and well-being of firefighters. The study evaluates both the immediate and long-term effects of these changes on the health, responsiveness, and capability of these firefighters.

Through their collaboration in this study, the Roswell Fire Department has shown a strong commitment to the well-being of their firefighter personnel and dedication to assuring that they are well-rested and in peak condition for the daunting schedule that those who wear the uniform face. This innovative leadership shows Roswell Fire Department's commitment to not only their firefighters but also to the well-being of firefighters throughout the United States.

The mission of the Roswell Fire Department is to protect life, property, and enhance the quality of life by providing dynamic services, including emergency response. Through these thoughtful studies, they are taking that seriously by ensuring their personnel are at peak performance capability.

On February 13, 2025, the Roswell Fire Department will be honored here in Washington, D.C., during the 35th Annual National Fire and Emergency Services Dinner for then leadership and commitment to innovation and safety.

As their Representative in Congress, I am proud to have these types of leaders who strive to serve the public residing in my district. I have no doubts that the City of Roswell and its Fire Department will continue their trajectory of excellence, and I wish them all the best in the future.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2025*

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, on the morning of February 24, 2025, I was attending the University of Minnesota's National Security Research & Innovation Day in my district, and the flight I took back to Washington, D.C. was delayed departing from Minnesota. This resulted in my absence from the House during three suspension votes on February 24, 2025. Had I been present, I would have voted AYE on Roll Call No. 43, H.R. 825, the Assisting Small Businesses Not Fraudsters Act; Roll Call No. 44, H.R. 832, the Small Business Advocacy Improvements Act; and Roll Call No. 45, H.R. 818, the SPUR Act.

## RECOGNIZING EMILY TUTTLE-MILLARD

**HON. ZACHARY NUNN**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2025*

Mr. NUNN of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the incredible accomplishments of Emily Tuttle-Millard our Deputy Chief of Staff. Over the course of her tenure, she served in numerous roles, consistently demonstrating professionalism and an extraordinary work ethic with a steadfast dedication to excellence. Emily was not only a vital member of our team but also an integral force behind our success.

As Deputy Chief of Staff, Emily tackled our strategic goals, including passage of legislation to address Veteran Suicide with the "Adam Lambert Act," helping support couples start a family with the "HOPE Act," and delivered on U.S. security priorities enshrined in the National Defense Authorization Act. As a fighter for folks in the heart of the heartland, Emily worked with our legislative team to ensure Iowa garnered the most priorities in the Farm Bill. Further, Emily worked across the State and across the aisle to earn our team the Top 10 most bipartisan member of Congress distinction.

As Communications Director, Emily's tenacity ensured Iowa's priorities always received national attention, from in-depth coverage ranging from "Face the Nation" to "Fox & Friends," as well as a commitment to local journalism showcasing Iowa's best accomplishments as a roadmap for national solutions. Her focus on individual constituents became legend, earning her the Congressional Administrative Office's model for tailored mail engagement. Emily navigated challenges with grace and mastered the art of turning vision into reality.

Equally, Emily was an original plank holder on Team Nunn. Coming aboard from the very

• 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.

beginning as Director of Operations, where she scheduled hundreds of meetings and listening sessions for Iowans visiting Washington, D.C. and in the district.

Most importantly, though, Emily is a mentor and friend to the team. Her ability to foster collaboration and encourage growth made our team stronger and more united. Despite her University of Illinois pedigree, Emily is as Iowa as they come, from corn dogs at the State Fair, to winning friends under the Golden Dome in Des Moines, to the marble steps of the U.S. Capitol.

We wish Emily success in her next endeavors and have no doubt she will continue to make a difference. The distinctive accomplishments of her service reflect effect greatly herself, the people of Iowa, and the United States.

#### RECOGNIZING THE RECIPIENTS OF THE 2025 NORTHERN VIRGINIA LEADERSHIP AWARDS

##### HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2025*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 2025 recipients of the Northern Virginia Leadership Awards presented by Leadership Fairfax.

Leadership Fairfax is a nonprofit corporation whose mission is to inspire, connect, develop and engage the next generation of leaders in Northern Virginia so that they are prepared to serve and strengthen our community. Over 2,500 alumni from their programs have become part of a fast-growing network of civic and business leaders in the region.

Each year, Leadership Fairfax recognizes individuals or organizations that have demonstrated exceptional leadership and made extraordinary contributions to our community. It is my honor to include in the RECORD the following names of the 2025 Northern Virginia Leadership Awards recipients:

The Non-Profit Organization Leadership Award will be presented to BetterALife, a trailblazing nonprofit committed to addressing critical social issues such as education, food insecurity, and access to essential life skills.

The Non-Profit Individual Leadership Award will be presented to Michelle Sullivan, the Executive Director of All Ages Read Together (AART). Michelle has transformed the organization into a thriving program that provides early literacy support to disadvantaged children in Fairfax and Loudoun counties.

The Regional Leadership Award will go to Dr. Sharmaine McCoy, DNP, ACNP. At Inova, she has led efforts to address health disparities by organizing health fairs and community outreach programs.

The Trustee Leadership Award will be presented to Ellen Dyke, the Chair of both the NOVA Education Foundation and SPARC (Specially Adapted Resource Clubs). She is an innovative leader who has pioneered initiatives that create better opportunities for individuals with disabilities.

The Educational Leadership Award will be presented to Dr. Herman Mizell, Principal of Langston Hughes Middle School. In just one year of being at LHMS, Dr. Mizell has revitalized staff morale, improved student engage-

ment, and addressed safety concerns that existed at the school.

The Youth Leadership Award will be presented to Avery McCusker and LucyLynn Tombul. At Just 14 and 15 years old, Avery and LucyLynn dedicated over 140 hours of service to the Fairfax County community while completing their Girl Scout Silver Award project.

Mr. Speaker, the contributions of these individuals and organizations are one of the reasons why Fairfax is such a sought-after community in which to live and work, and this year's honorees highlight the legacy of Leadership Fairfax in preparing our community's future leaders to address the challenges we face. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating these honorees and thanking them for their service to Northern Virginia.

#### CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF J. ROGER RICE

##### HON. GEORGE LATIMER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2025*

Mr. LATIMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of James Roger Rice, a devoted husband, father, grandfather, attorney, and man of deep faith, who went to be with the Lord on February 16, 2025.

Born on January 1, 1950, in Buffalo, New York, to James Albert Rice and Frankie Jones Rice, Roger was raised in a home shaped by Christian values, instilled in him by his mother. Roger was a standout student-athlete at Hutchinson Technical High School in Buffalo, where he excelled on the basketball court, earning All-City honors for his skill and leadership. He earned a full basketball scholarship to Kings College in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, where he played the game with heart, discipline, and excellence—qualities he carried into his career and family life. Beyond his own playing, he became a dedicated youth basketball coach, pouring into his sons and other youth. For many, he was more than a coach; he was a guiding force, building lifelong friendships and lasting lessons both on and off the court.

While pursuing his Juris Doctor degree at the University of Buffalo, Roger's life took a beautiful turn when he met Gail, the love of his life, on the first day of law school. Their first date was legendary—crossing borders to the Canadian side of Niagara Falls. That fateful meeting led to a lifetime of love, partnership, and purpose. They married in 1978; two sons were born of this union.

In 1982, Roger and Gail took a leap of faith, founding their own law firm, Rice & Rice, Attorneys-at-Law. Their firm, which later included both sons, became a pillar of the community, serving countless clients with integrity, wisdom, and compassion. With the founding partners' retirement in 2019, Rice & Rice closed after more than 35 years of service.

Roger was a storyteller and no-nonsense advice giver, who could be both profoundly wise and hilariously unpredictable, often in the same conversation. He was known for his affectionate teasing and clever nicknames. He loved food, music, movies, and showing off his dance moves. Above all, Roger was a family man. He took immense pride in the achieve-

ments of his wife, children, and grandchildren, celebrating their victories and supporting them in every endeavor. His love for his family was unwavering, and his presence was a source of strength, encouragement, and wisdom.

Roger's faith was central to who he was, and he often spoke about the help, direction, and friendship of the Holy Spirit in pivotal moments of his life. After his marriage, he became a member of Shiloh Baptist Church of Tuckahoe where he was ordained as a deacon. Over the years, he also worshiped at Bethesda Baptist Church of New Rochelle, and, until the time of his passing, was a founding member of Renaissance Church in Harlem. His commitment to his faith was evident in how he lived serving his community, mentoring others, and walking in integrity. Roger was pre-deceased by his parents Frankie and James Rice; brother Lawrence C. Brown; sister Frances Marshall; daughter-in-law, Danielle Williams Rice; and his parents-in-law, Mabel and Herman Whitaker.

He leaves behind a legacy of love and devotion, cherished by his wife, Gail Rice; his sons, Jared and Jordan Rice; his daughter-in-law, Jasmine and Jessica Rice; and his treasured grandchildren, Jocelyn, Jayden, Jameson, and Josiah Rice. He is also survived by his siblings-in-law Sandra and Glen McGhee, Quincy and Gail Brooks, and Joyce and Keno Johnson, and Margo Clarke; uncles and aunt Prince Allen Whetstone and Arnold and Esther Brooks; nieces and nephews Paula and Charles Barber, Spencer and Helen Rodriguez, Luis, Alexander, and Jasmine Rodriguez, Taila and Edward Faustin, and Darren and Christine Brooks. Additionally, a host of great-nieces and nephews, cousins, extended family members, friends, colleagues and Rice & Rice family, and former clients who will forever remember his kindness, wisdom, and generosity.

Roger Rice was well-loved and lived well. He will be deeply missed, but his footprint will endure forever in New York's 16th Congressional District.

#### RECOGNIZING CORRINE SERVIS

##### HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2025*

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Corrine Servis of Salida, Colorado for being named the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Department's 2024 Park Ranger of the Year. She was chosen from over 115 rangers statewide.

As Operations Manager for the Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area (AHRA), Corrine helps oversee the day-to-day operations and upkeep of the park. She has gone above and beyond to educate and engage young Coloradans. She spearheaded programming for school groups and established internships and apprenticeships at the park. The AHRA and the Salida community are lucky to have Corrine's passion and dedication as she helps to inspire an appreciation for public lands in the next generation of Coloradans.

On behalf of the people of Colorado's Seventh Congressional District, it is my honor to thank Corrine Servis for her service and congratulate her on earning this award.



HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE  
OF REVEREND PHIL LAWSON**HON. JOHN GARAMENDI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2025*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today along with Representative MARK DESAULNIER to pay tribute to the Reverend Phil Lawson, a distinguished civil rights leader, pastor, and tireless advocate for social justice. Reverend Lawson passed away on January 26, 2025, at the age of 92.

Throughout his life, Reverend Lawson dedicated his life to the pursuit of equality, compassion, and nonviolence. Growing up in a family deeply committed to faith and social justice, Reverend Lawson was instilled with values that would guide his life's work. He diligently pursued higher education, earning degrees from Kent State University, Butler University, Methodist Theological Seminary, and Colgate Rochester Divinity School.

Starting at the age of 15, Reverend Lawson committed himself to justice and peace movements, participating in the Fellowship Reconciliation and studying non-violent direct action (NVDA) interventions under the leadership of Bayard Rustin and George Houser in Washington, D.C. Later, he joined the Army band in a non-combatant status and served from 1953 to 1956.

In the late 1960's and 1970's, Reverend Lawson emerged as a powerful voice for the civil rights movement. He participated in significant events such as the historic 1965 Selma to Montgomery marches alongside Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., a testament to his unwavering commitment to justice.

In addition, he served as the director of the Methodist Inner City Parish in Kansas City, Missouri, where under his leadership, the Inner City Parish played a pivotal role in organizing community initiatives, including working with the Black Panther Party and the Welfare Rights Organization to support and empower Black youth. Following his time in Kansas City, he transitioned to public service, working for the City of Berkeley as the Director of Program Development and Contract Administration from 1974 to 1980. Further, Reverend Lawson broke racial barriers as the first Black pastor of both El Cerrito UMC and First UMC in Vallejo.

In 1992, Reverend Lawson was appointed to lead the Easter Hill United Methodist Church (UMC) in Richmond, California, where he served with distinction for decades. He was instrumental in founding and supporting numerous organizations dedicated to social equity, including the East Bay Housing Organization (EBHO), the Greater Richmond Interfaith Program (GRIP), and the Black Alliance for Just Immigration. His advocacy encompassed a broad spectrum of issues, from racial equality to immigration reform and homelessness.

Reverend Lawson's commitment to non-violence and social justice was evident throughout his life. He often emphasized that nonviolence was not merely an option but the only path toward true community. His contributions were recognized in 2003 when he was honored as Contra Costa County's Humanitarian of the Year.

Reverend Lawson will be remembered for his outstanding character and for the incred-

ible impact he's had on our community. Please join us in recognizing Reverend Phil Lawson for his many contributions to our community.

RECOGNIZING SHARON LAVONNE  
HARRIS RISCHER**HON. MARC A. VEASEY**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2025*

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I honor Sharon Lavonne Harris Rischer, a beloved member of our Fort Worth community, who passed away on February 12, 2025, at the age of 70. Sharon was a dedicated daughter, mother, sister, aunt, and friend, whose impact will be felt for generations to come.

Born on October 7, 1954, in Fort Worth, Texas, Sharon was a proud graduate of the Lake Como Class of 1973, having attended both Lake Como High School and Western Hills High School. She further pursued her education at Tarrant County College before beginning a distinguished career that spanned several decades. Sharon worked with unwavering commitment at Standard Meat Company from 1979 to 1993 and then with Tarrant County MHMR from 1993 until her retirement in 2014.

Sharon's faith was an integral part of her life. She was baptized at an early age and remained a devoted member of the Lake Como Church of Christ, where she was a constant source of love and encouragement to those around her. Beyond her professional and spiritual dedication, Sharon found joy in the simple pleasures of life. She was an avid cook, enjoyed shopping, and brought warmth and laughter to family gatherings, particularly during friendly card games that brought her loved ones together.

Her life was characterized by her deep care for others, and she will be deeply missed by all who had the privilege of knowing her. I would also like to extend the family's gratitude to the Advanced Heart and Lung Disease Center at Baylor Scott & White Fort Worth Campus and Dr. Salmon Gohar for their compassionate care during Sharon's final days.

Sharon Lavonne Harris Rischer was truly a pillar of our community, and her legacy of kindness, faith, and family will endure in the hearts of those she leaves behind. May she rest in peace, and may her memory continue to inspire all who knew her.

RECOGNIZING THE CITY OF  
DOUGLASVILLE, GEORGIA ON ITS  
SESQUICENTENNIAL BIRTHDAY**HON. LUCY MCBATH**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2025*

Mrs. MCBATH. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize the City of Douglasville on the occasion of its Sesquicentennial Birthday. For 150 years, Douglasville has contributed to the rich history of the state of Georgia, and I am honored to uplift today's remarkable milestone. Back home in my district, constituents will gather this evening at the Douglas County Mu-

seum of History & Art for a reflection on the history of the city and a celebration of the progress they hope to make in the future.

I want to commend Mayor Rochelle Robinson, the Douglasville City Council, and every resident who made this week's celebration possible. It is thanks to the devotion of public servants like them who make Douglasville such a wonderful community in which to live, work, and raise a family.

I congratulate the City of Douglasville on reaching 150 years, and Happy Birthday.

## RECOGNIZING ANNETTE STOLBA

**HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2025*

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Annette Stolba of Buena Vista, Colorado for her 42 years of service with the Chaffee County Communications Center.

Annette began her career as a public safety dispatcher in 1983 before 911 emergency services were available. Over the next 40 years, Annette helped countless Chaffee County residents in their time of need. The Chaffee County community will remember Annette's role in keeping them and their loved ones safe.

On behalf of the people of Colorado's Seventh Congressional District, it is my honor to thank Annette Stolba for her four decades of service to the citizens of Chaffee County.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JOSEPH  
M. BRISTOW**HON. THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2025*

Mr. KEAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the legacy of Joseph M. Bristow, a former Councilman from Hackettstown. Joseph Bristow brought his passion for preservation and community to Fredon Township, New Jersey.

He was a true New Jersey icon whose legacy of kindness, service, and dedication to his community will be remembered by all who had the privilege of knowing him. A graduate of the University of Connecticut, Joseph earned a Bachelor's degree followed by a Master's degree from Villanova University. He also pursued doctoral courses at the New School for Social Research, reflecting his lifelong dedication to education.

Joseph spent over four decades as a professor at County College of Morris (CCM), where his belief in the transformative power of knowledge inspired generations of students. Inspired by change, he saw the potential for enhancing his community. He was a founding member of the Committee for Crime Prevention (known as the DARE program), demonstrating his commitment to creating a safer and more just environment. His dedication extended to the younger generation as a devoted Little League coach, where he taught not just the fundamentals of the game, but also the values of teamwork and determination.

As a Town Councilman, a member of the Board of Adjustment, and a member of the Library Board, Joseph was known for working tirelessly to be a beacon of change for his community. Faith was central to Joseph's life and influenced everything he pursued. He was a dedicated member of Trinity United Methodist Church and an active participant in the United Methodist Men's group. His unwavering belief in the power of community and spirituality was evident in all that he did.

Our hearts go out to his wife, Patricia, and his three children—Joseph, Laurie, and Thomas—and all who knew and loved him. May his memory continue to inspire us all and live in the heart of our city.

#### CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF JAY DUNLAP

#### HON. MIKE FLOOD

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2025*

Mr. FLOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember the life of Jay Dunlap, whose work in financial services helped create hundreds of great jobs and strengthened communities across the Cornhusker State.

Born in Douglas, Nebraska, Jay completed college and then spent two years of service in the United States Navy. After leaving the military, he put his experience to work finding remarkable success in Nebraska's banking sector.

Jay was instrumental in the growth of two prominent Nebraska banks, each of which continues to carry forward his legacy of hard work, dedication, and a deep commitment to giving back to the communities they serve.

Jay's life's work was not just about banking. It was about building relationships and investing in the future of Nebraskans. He will be deeply missed, not only as a pillar of Nebraska's economic success, but also as an inspiring example of integrity and generosity.

Our hearts and prayers go out to Shirley and the entire Dunlap family as we all celebrate his life and legacy.

#### HONORING COACH BEN REAVES, JR. AND THE MILTON HIGH SCHOOL EAGLES FOOTBALL TEAM

#### HON. RICHARD McCORMICK

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2025*

Mr. McCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a true leader in our community. It is my distinct privilege to honor him and his team by sharing their achievements.

Ben Reaves, Jr. is the Head Football Coach of the Milton High School Eagles, who on December 17, 2025, beat Langston Hughes High School Panthers scoring 56–35 to clinch back-to-back State Championship titles in the highly competitive 5A Division of Georgia High School Football.

Their high-powered offense, led by starting Quarterback and Miami University bound Luke Nickel, University of Georgia commit Tight-End Ethan Barbour, and electric Running Back T.J.

Lester, steamrolled opponents over the previous two seasons. Football is in genetics. Coach Reaves inherited his passion for coaching and mentoring young athletes from his father, who was a longtime coach at Newton High School. After playing for his father in high school as a standout wide receiver, Coach Reaves played for a season at the University of Georgia before he transitioned to his true calling: coaching. After making multiple coaching stops on his journey, Coach Reaves joined Milton High School's staff as an offensive coordinator in 2017. As a member of the football coaching staff, he helped turn Milton High School into a football powerhouse building on top of the three region titles and playoff games the team has won since 1950.

In 2022, Coach Reaves took over the program from his successor, Coach Adam Clack, and has since led the Eagles to a strong 23–6 record. Coach Reaves exemplifies the tradition of football excellence in our community and is known by all as an incredible mentor, coach, father, husband, and friend. The success of the Milton High School team is a culmination of efforts, from the players to the coaches, parents, teachers, and training staff. However, there is no question about who the glue is that holds the program together and drives it toward excellence. I extend my best wishes to Coach Reaves and the entire Milton High School team going into the next season, Go Milton Eagles.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2025*

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I recently gave birth and am unable to travel to D.C. to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 43; YEA on Roll Call No. 44; and YEA on Roll Call No. 45.

#### NEWSLETTER FROM CONGRESSMAN CHUCK EDWARDS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2025*

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following newsletter to give an update to my constituents on Hurricane Helene recovery efforts and legislation to protect U.S. communities.

Dear Friend,

The 119th Congress is well underway, and I'm excited to continue serving the people of Western North Carolina from my seats on the House Appropriations and Budget committees.

In addition to serving on the Appropriations Committee's Financial Services and General Government Subcommittee, I am honored to have been appointed to the role of vice chairman of the National Security, Department of State, and Related Programs Subcommittee.

Under a unified government, the new majority has a rare opportunity to reverse America's spiraling debt and create a safer and stronger future for our Nation. I'm eager to walk with my colleagues to make real

changes that will better the lives of the American people, continue to bring federal resources to aid in WNC's recovery, and fix how Washington works.

#### THE PEOPLE OF WNC ARE NOT FORGOTTEN

It was a privilege to welcome U.S. Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy to our mountains and accompany him to see the devastation brought by Hurricane Helene as well as our efforts to clean up and rebuild.

During his time in Haywood County, we surveyed the damage at I-40 near the Tennessee line, and it was confirmed that I-40 is set to partially reopen on March with one lane available in each direction.

The people of Western North Carolina continue to be reminded that we are not forgotten, and I appreciate Secretary Duffy for his attention to helping out mountain folk rebuild.

#### FIXING A BROKEN AGENCY

It's an honor to be named by President Trump to the FEMA task force to fix how this broken agency works.

After being on the ground throughout the Hurricane Helene response, it's clear that an overhaul of FEMA is necessary to more effectively and efficiently respond to natural disasters.

I'll be lending the insights I've gained so that our Nation will be fully prepared to prevent and respond to future disasters, and to save lives.

#### PROTECTING U.S. COMMUNITIES FROM THE FENTANYL AND BORDER CRISIS

In the House, we have voted on and passed multiple bills—including the HALT Fentanyl Act and the Agent Raul Gonzalez Officer Safety Act—to make our communities safe again by combatting the fentanyl and border crises wrought by the previous administration's open border policies.

The temporary order designating fentanyl-related substances (FRS) as a Schedule I drug is set to expire soon. If this designation expires and is not made permanent, these substances will become street-legal, taking away law enforcement's authority to seize fentanyl and allowing drug traffickers to continue funneling deadly drugs into our country.

I voted in support of the HALT Fentanyl Act to permanently classify FRS as Schedule I drugs as defined by the Controlled Substances Act. Schedule I drugs have high potential for abuse with no accepted medical uses, and this bill would make sure that law enforcement has the resources to keep these drugs off our streets and allow for further research of FRS.

In addition to the fentanyl epidemic, many Americans have paid the price for illegal immigrants breaking our laws and engaging in high-speed chases to avoid detention. The Agent Raul Gonzalez Officer Safety Act would make it a criminal offense to operate a vehicle within 100 miles of the southern border while fleeing from Border Patrol agents or any law enforcement officer assisting Border Patrol, including jail time and being prohibited from ever receiving legal status in the U.S.

#### STREAMLINING THE FEMA APPLICATION PROCESS FOR DISASTER VICTIMS

After Helene hit Western North Carolina, I saw how complicated and difficult the disaster recovery assistance applications were. Many folks had to apply to multiple agencies, including FEMA, the SBA and USDA, for disaster assistance, each of which had its own extensive applications.

That's why I introduced the Disaster Survivors Fairness Act, which would streamline FEMA's application process and improve coordination among federal agencies to more effectively aid disaster victims.

*February 25, 2025*

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — *Extensions of Remarks*

**E161**

This bill would direct the FEMA administrator to develop a universal application for federal disaster assistance to be used across agencies and authorizes information sharing across these agencies. This is an important step toward making sure we are prioritizing the people and not the bureaucracy after disaster strikes.

With my warmest regards,

CHUCK EDWARDS,  
*Member of Congress.*

# Daily Digest

## Senate

### Chamber Action

*Routine Proceedings, pages S1317–S1360*

**Measures Introduced:** Thirty-five bills and nine resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 700–734, S.J. Res. 24–27, and S. Res. 93–97. **Pages S1344–46**

#### Measures Reported:

S. Res. 94, authorizing expenditures by committees of the Senate for the periods March 1, 2025, through September 30, 2025, October 1, 2025, through September 30, 2026, and October 1, 2026, through February 28, 2027. **Page S1344**

#### Measures Passed:

**Rule Submitted by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management:** By 54 yeas to 44 nays (Vote No. 92), Senate passed S.J. Res. 11, 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”. **Pages S1322–33**

During consideration of this measure today, Senate also took the following action:

By 54 yeas to 42 nays (Vote No. 91), Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to consideration of the joint resolution. **Page S1322**

**Honoring the Life of Howard L. Hawks:** Senate agreed to S. Res. 97, honoring the life of Nebraska community leader Howard L. Hawks. **Page S1359**

**Public Schools Week:** Senate agreed to S. Res. 96, designating the week of February 24 through February 28, 2025, as “Public Schools Week”. **Page S1359**

#### Appointments:

**Canada-U.S. Interparliamentary Group Conference:** The Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 276d–276g, as amended, appointed the following Senator as Vice Chairman of the Senate Delegation to the Canada-U.S. Interparliamentary Group Conference during the 119th Congress: Senator Klobuchar. **Page S1359**

**British-American Interparliamentary Group Conference:** The Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, and upon the recommendation of the

Majority Leader, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2761, as amended, appointed the following Senator as Vice Chairman of the Senate Delegation to the British-American Interparliamentary Group Conference during the 119th Congress: Senator Whitehouse. **Page S1359**

**British-American Interparliamentary Group Conference:** The Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, and upon the recommendation of the Majority Leader, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2761, as amended, appointed the following Senator as Chairman of the Senate Delegation to the British-American Interparliamentary Group Conference during the 119th Congress: Senator Boozman. **Page S1359**

**Terminating the National Emergency Declared With Respect to Energy and Greer Nomination—Agreement:** A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that at approximately 10 a.m., on Wednesday, February 26, 2025, the order of Tuesday, February 18, 2025, in relation to S.J. Res. 10, terminating the national emergency declared with respect to energy, be executed; that at 12 noon, Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination of Jamieson Greer, of Maryland, to be United States Trade Representative, with the rank of Ambassador, as provided under the previous order of Monday, February 24, 2025; and that following disposition of the nomination at Jamieson Greer, Senate resume consideration of S.J. Res. 10. **Page S1359**

**McMahon Nomination—Cloture:** Senate began consideration of the nomination of Linda McMahon, of Connecticut, to be Secretary of Education. **Pages S1333–36**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur on Thursday, February 27, 2025. **Page S1333**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

By 51 yeas to 47 nays (Vote No. 93), Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S1333**

**Nomination Confirmed:** Senate confirmed the following nomination:

By 66 yeas to 28 nays (Vote No. EX. 90), Daniel Driscoll, of North Carolina, to be Secretary of the Army. **Pages S1317–22**

**Messages from the House:** **Page S1343**

**Measures Referred:** **Page S1343**

**Executive Communications:** **Pages S1343–44**

**Additional Cosponsors:** **Pages S1346–47**

**Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:** **Pages S1347–59**

**Additional Statements:** **Pages S1337–43**

**Authorities for Committees to Meet:** **Page S1359**

**Privileges of the Floor:** **Page S1359**

**Record Votes:** Four record votes were taken today. (Total—93) **Pages S1321–22, S1332–33**

**Adjournment:** Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 7:32 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Wednesday, February 26, 2025. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on pages S1359–60.)

## Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

### NOMINATION

*Committee on Armed Services:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nomination of Stephen Feinberg, of New York, to be Deputy Secretary of Defense, after the nominee, who was introduced by Senator Hagerty, testified and answered questions in his own behalf.

### DOD CYBER OPERATIONS

*Committee on Armed Services:* Subcommittee on Cybersecurity received a closed briefing on Department of Defense cyber operations from Ashley Manning, Acting Assistant Secretary for Cyber Policy, Brigadier General D. Brian Vile, USA, Deputy Director of Future Operations, J–3, United States Cyber Com-

mand, and Colonel Alan M. Haedge, USSF, Chief, Cyber and Electronic Warfare Division, J–39, Joint Staff, all of the Department of Defense.

### NOMINATIONS

*Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Michael Kratsios, of South Carolina, to be Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, who was introduced by Senator Hagerty, and Mark Meador, of Virginia, to be a Federal Trade Commissioner, who was introduced by Senator Lee, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

### BUSINESS MEETING

*Committee on Foreign Relations:* On Monday, February 24, 2025, Committee ordered favorably reported an original resolution (S. Res. 90) authorizing expenditures by the Committee for the 119th Congress.

### NOMINATIONS

*Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Troy Edgar, of California, to be Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security, who was introduced by Senator Johnson, and James Bishop, of North Carolina, to be Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget, who was introduced by Senator Budd, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

### BUSINESS MEETING

*Committee on Rules and Administration:* Committee ordered favorably reported an original resolution (S. Res. 94) entitled, "Omnibus Committee Funding Resolution"; and adopted its rules of procedure for the 119th Congress.

### 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:** 38 public bills, H.R. 1550–1587; and 5 resolutions, H.J. Res. 61; and H. Res. 162–165, were introduced.

Pages H835–36

**Additional Cosponsors:**

Pages H837–38

**Reports Filed:** Reports were filed today as follows:

H. Res. 161, providing for consideration of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 20) 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 Conservation Standards for Consumer Gas-fired Instantaneous Water Heaters”; providing for consideration of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 35) 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”; and providing for consideration of the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 14) establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2025 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2026 through 2034 (H. Rept. 119–5); and

H.R. 1156, to amend the CARES Act to extend the statute of limitations for fraud under certain unemployment programs, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 119–6).

Pages H834–35

**Speaker:** Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Carter (GA) to act as Speaker pro tempore for today.

Page H771

**Recess:** The House recessed at 11:12 a.m. and reconvened at 12 p.m.

Page H779

**United States Holocaust Memorial Council—Appointment:** The Chair announced the Speaker’s appointment of the following members of the House to the United States Holocaust Memorial Council: Representatives Kustoff, Bacon and Miller (OH).

Page H780

**Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe—Appointment:** The Chair announced the Speaker’s appointment of the following member of the House to the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe: Representative Wilson (SC), Co-Chair.

Pages H780–81

**Canada-United States Interparliamentary Group—Appointment:** The Chair announced the

Speaker’s appointment of the following member of the House to the Canada-United States Interparliamentary Group: Representative Huizenga, Chair.

Page H781

**British-American Interparliamentary Group—Appointment:** The Chair announced the Speaker’s appointment of the following members of the House to the British-American Interparliamentary Group: Representatives Kim, Meuser, Aderholt, Smucker, Cole and Kean.

Page H781

**Recess:** The House recessed at 1:21 p.m. and reconvened at 1:30 p.m.

Page H790

**Committee Elections:** The House agreed to H. Res. 162, electing Members to certain standing committees of the House of Representatives.

Page H791

**Suspensions—Proceedings Resumed:** The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures. Consideration began Monday, February 24th.

**DOE and SBA Research Act:** H.R. 788, to provide for Department of Energy and Small Business Administration joint research and development activities, by a  $\frac{2}{3}$  yeas-and-nays vote of 427 yeas to 3 nays, Roll No. 48; and

Pages H823–24

**Rural Small Business Resilience Act:** H.R. 804, to require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to improve access to disaster assistance for individuals located in rural areas, by a  $\frac{2}{3}$  yeas-and-nays vote of 415 yeas to 8 nays, Roll No. 49.

Page H824

**Establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2025 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2026 through 2034:** The House agreed to H. Con. Res. 14, as amended, establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2025 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2026 through 2034, by a yeas-and-nays vote of 217 yeas to 215 nays, Roll No. 50.

Pages H791–H823, H824–25

Pursuant to the Rule, the amendment printed in H. Rept. 119–5 shall be considered as adopted in the House and in the Committee of the Whole.

Page H818

H. Res. 161, the rule providing for consideration of the joint resolutions (H.J. Res. 20) and (H.J. Res. 35), and the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 14) was agreed to by a recorded vote of 217 yeas to 211 noes, Roll No. 47, after the previous question was ordered by a yeas-and-nays vote of 216 yeas to 210 nays, Roll No. 46.

Pages H781–90, H790–91



**Quorum Calls—Votes:** Four yea-and-nay votes and one recorded vote developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H90–91, H791, H823–24, H824, and H824–25.

**Adjournment:** The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

## *Committee Meetings*

### **AMERICAN INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE PUBLIC WITNESS HEARING DAY 1**

*Committee on Appropriations:* Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies held a hearing entitled “American Indian and Alaska Native Public Witness Hearing Day 1”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

### **THE STATE OF THE CIVIL WORKS PROGRAM**

*Committee on Appropriations:* Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies held a hearing entitled “The State of the Civil Works Program”. Testimony was heard from the following U.S. Army Corps of Engineers officials: Lieutenant General William H. Graham, Jr., Chief of Engineers and Commanding General; Major General Mark C. Quander, Commanding General, Great Lakes and Ohio River Division; Brigadier General Daniel Hibner, Commanding General, South Atlantic Division; Colonel James J. Handura, Commander, South Pacific Division; and Colonel George H. Walter, Commander, Southwestern Division.

### **AMERICAN INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE PUBLIC WITNESS HEARING DAY 1**

*Committee on Appropriations:* Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies held a hearing entitled “American Indian and Alaska Native Public Witness Hearing Day 1”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

### **MEMBER DAY**

*Committee on Appropriations:* Subcommittee on Defense held a hearing entitled “Member Day”. Testimony was heard from Representative Yakym.

### **BUSINESS MEETING**

*Committee on Energy and Commerce:* Full Committee held a business meeting on the Committee’s Authorization and Oversight Plan. The Committee’s Authorization and Oversight Plan was agreed to, without amendment.

### **EXAMINING POLICIES TO COUNTER CHINA**

*Committee on Financial Services:* Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Examining Policies to Counter China”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

### **MISSED MILESTONES: EVALUATING THE LAST FOUR YEARS IN THE EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC REGION AND UNSEIZED OPPORTUNITIES UNDER PRESIDENT TRUMP**

*Committee on Foreign Affairs:* East Asia and Pacific Subcommittee held a hearing entitled “Missed Milestones: Evaluating The Last Four Years in the EAP Region and Unseized Opportunities Under President Trump”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

### **BUSINESS MEETING**

*Committee on House Administration:* Full Committee held a business meeting on the Committee’s Oversight and Authorization Plan. The Committee’s Authorization and Oversight Plan passed.

### **JUSTICE DELAYED: THE CRISIS OF UNDERMANNED FEDERAL COURTS**

*Committee on the Judiciary:* Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property, Artificial Intelligence, and the Internet held a hearing entitled “Justice Delayed: The Crisis of Undermanned Federal Courts”. Testimony was heard from Timothy Tymkovich, Circuit Judge, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit, Judicial Conference of the United States.

### **‘SUBJECT TO THE JURISDICTION THEREOF’: BIRTHRIGHT CITIZENSHIP AND THE FOURTEENTH AMENDMENT**

*Committee on the Judiciary:* Subcommittee on the Constitution and Limited Government held a hearing entitled “‘Subject to the Jurisdiction Thereof’: Birthright Citizenship and the Fourteenth Amendment”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

### **ENTERING THE GOLDEN AGE: ENDING THE WEAPONIZATION OF THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT**

*Committee on the Judiciary:* Subcommittee on Oversight held a hearing entitled “Entering the Golden Age: Ending the Weaponization of the Justice Department”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

**FULL BLAST: CONTRASTING MOMENTUM IN THE SPACE MINING ECONOMY TO THE TERRESTRIAL MINING REGULATORY MORASS**

*Committee on Natural Resources:* Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing entitled “Full Blast: Contrasting Momentum in the Space Mining Economy to the Terrestrial Mining Regulatory Morass”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

**FEDERAL INDIAN TRUST ASSET MANAGEMENT: PROGRESS MADE BUT IMPROVEMENT NEEDED**

*Committee on Natural Resources:* Subcommittee on Indian and Insular Affairs held a hearing entitled “Federal Indian Trust Asset Management: Progress Made But Improvement Needed”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

**EMERGING GLOBAL THREATS: PUTTING AMERICA’S NATIONAL SECURITY FIRST**

*Committee on Oversight and Government Reform:* Subcommittee on Military and Foreign Affairs held a hearing entitled “Emerging Global Threats: Putting America’s National Security First”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

**BUSINESS MEETING**

*Committee on Oversight and Government Reform:* Full Committee held a business meeting on the Committee’s Authorization and Oversight Plan. The Committee’s Authorization and Oversight Plan was agreed to, as amended.

**THE GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE’S 2025 HIGH RISK LIST**

*Committee on Oversight and Government Reform:* Full Committee held a hearing entitled “The Government Accountability Office’s 2025 High Risk List”. Testimony was heard from Gene L. Dodaro, Comptroller General, Government Accountability Office.

**PROMOTING AND IMPROVING SAFETY AND EFFICIENT PIPELINE INFRASTRUCTURE**

*Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure:* Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials held a hearing entitled “Promoting and Improving Safety and Efficient Pipeline Infrastructure”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

**LEGISLATIVE MEASURES**

*Committee on Veterans’ Affairs:* Full Committee held a hearing on H.R. 472, the “Restore VA Accountability Act of 2025”; H.R. 1041, the “Veterans 2nd Amendment Protection Act”; legislation to amend

title 38, United States Code, 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; H.R. 740, the “Veterans’ ACCESS Act of 2025”; and legislation on the Student Veteran Benefit Restoration Act of 2025. Testimony was heard from Chairman Bost and Representative Ramirez; Beth Murphy, Acting Principal Deputy Undersecretary for Benefits, Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs; and public witnesses.

**HEARING ON AMERICAN TRADE ENFORCEMENT PRIORITIES**

*Committee on Ways and Means:* Subcommittee on Trade held a hearing entitled “Hearing on American Trade Enforcement Priorities”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

## *Joint Meetings*

**LEGISLATIVE PRESENTATIONS**

*Joint Hearing:* Senate Committee on Veterans’ Affairs concluded a joint hearing with the House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs to examine the legislative presentations of Disabled American Veterans, AMVETS, Vietnam Veterans of America, Military Order of the Purple Heart, Blinded Veterans Association, Veterans Education Success, Gold Star Wives of America, Inc., and Reserve Organization of America, after receiving testimony from Daniel Contreras, Jim Marszalek, Joy Ilem, Edward R. Reese, Jr., Barry Jesinoski, John Kleindienst, Lamarr Couser, and Christopher Easley, all of Disabled American Veterans; Horace Johnson, AMVETS; Jack McManus, Vietnam Veterans of America; Robert Olivarez, Jr., Military Order of the Purple Heart; Paul L. Mimms, Blinded Veterans Association; William Hubbard, Veterans Education Success; Nancy Menagh, Gold Star Wives of America, Inc.; and Matthew L. Schwartzman, Reserve Organization of America.

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**COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2025**

*(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)*

**Senate**

*Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry:* to hold hearings to examine perspectives from the field, focusing on farmer and rancher views on the agricultural economy, 10:30 a.m., SH–216.

*Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:* Subcommittee on Digital Assets, to hold hearings to examine

bipartisan legislative frameworks for digital assets, 2:30 p.m., SD-538.

*Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:* to hold hearings to examine interdicting illicit drug trafficking, focusing on a view from the front lines, 11 a.m., SR-253.

*Committee on Environment and Public Works:* to hold hearings to examine Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act implementation and case studies, 10 a.m., SD-406.

*Committee on the Judiciary:* to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Dean Sauer, of Missouri, to be Solicitor General of the United States, and Harmeet Dhillon, of California, and Aaron Reitz, of Texas, both to be an Assistant Attorney General, all of the Department of Justice, 10:15 a.m., SD-226.

*Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship:* to hold hearings to examine managing risk for the long-term in the 7(a) loan program, focusing on hearing from lenders, 2:30 p.m., SR-428A.

*Committee on Veterans' Affairs:* to hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of The American Legion and multi VSOs: Minority Veterans of America, Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A., National Association of County Veterans Services Officers, Military Officers Association of America, National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs, D'Aniello Institute for Veterans and Military Families, and Wounded Warrior Project, 10 a.m., 390-CHOB.

*Select Committee on Intelligence:* closed business meeting to consider pending intelligence matters; to be immediately followed by a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH-219.

*Special Committee on Aging:* to hold hearings to examine combating the opioid epidemic, 3:30 p.m., SD-106.

### House

*Committee on Appropriations,* Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, hearing entitled "American Indian and Alaska Native Public Witness Hearing Day 2", 9:30 a.m., 2008 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies, hearing entitled "Federal Investments in Elementary Education", 10:30 a.m., 2358-C Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, hearing entitled "American Indian and Alaska Native Public Witness Hearing Day 2", 1:30 p.m., 2008 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies, oversight hearing on the Federal Bureau of Prisons, 2 p.m., 2362-A Rayburn.

*Committee on Armed Services,* Full Committee, hearing entitled "Strengthening America's Defense Industrial Base, Workforce, and Production Lines to Deter War", 10 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Intelligence and Special Operations, hearing entitled "The Role of Special Operations in Great Power Competition", 1:30 p.m., 2118 Rayburn.

*Committee on Education and Workforce,* Full Committee, hearing entitled "Unleashing America's Workforce and

Strengthening Our Economy", 10:15 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

*Committee on Energy and Commerce,* Subcommittee on Health, hearing entitled "An Examination of How Reining in PBMs Will Drive Competition and Lower Costs for Patients", 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled "Examining the Biden Administration's Energy and Environment Spending Push", 10:30 a.m., 2322 Rayburn.

*Committee on Financial Services,* Subcommittee on Capital Markets, hearing entitled "The Future of American Capital: Strengthening Public and Private Markets by Increasing Investor Access and Facilitating Capital Formation", 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

*Committee on Homeland Security,* Full Committee, markup on the Committee's Oversight Plan; H.R. 1000, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to provide for education and training programs and resources of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes; H. Res. 113, directing the Secretary of Homeland Security to transmit to the House of Representatives certain documents relating to Department of Homeland Security policies and activities related to the security of Department information and data and the recruitment and retention of its workforce; and H. Res. 114, directing the Secretary of Homeland Security to transmit to the House of Representatives certain documents relating to Department of Homeland Security policies and activities related to domestic preparedness and collective response to terrorism and the Department's cybersecurity activities, 10 a.m., 310 Cannon.

*Committee on the Judiciary,* Full Committee, markup on H.R. 875, the "Protect Our Communities from DUIs Act"; H.R. 176, the "No Immigration Benefits for Hamas Terrorists Act"; H.R. 1071, the "No Censors on our Shores Act"; and the Committee's Authorization and Oversight Plan, 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

*Committee on Natural Resources,* Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Fisheries, hearing entitled "Evaluating the Implementation of the Marine Mammal Protection Act and the Endangered Species Act", 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

*Committee on Oversight and Government Reform,* Subcommittee on Economic Growth, Energy Policy, and Regulatory Affairs, hearing entitled "Leading the Charge: Opportunities to Strengthen America's Energy Reliability", 9:30 a.m., 2247 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Delivering on Government Efficiency, hearing entitled "America Last: How Foreign Aid Undermined U.S. Interests Around the World", 11 a.m., 210 Capitol.

*Committee on Science, Space, and Technology,* Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics, hearing entitled "Step by Step: The Artemis Program and NASA's Path To Human Exploration of the Moon, Mars, and Beyond", 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

*Committee on Small Business,* Full Committee, hearing entitled "Fostering American Innovation: Insights into SBIR and STTR Programs", 10 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.

*Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure*, Full Committee, markup on the Committee's Authorization and Oversight Plan; H.R. 1182, the "Compressed Gas Cylinder Safety and Oversight Improvements Act of 2025"; H. Con. Res. 9, authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the National Peace Officers Memorial Service and the National Honor Guard and Pipe Band Exhibition; H.R. 501, the "Promoting Resilient Buildings Act of 2025"; H.R. 744, the "Disaster Management Costs Modernization Act"; and H.R. 1382, to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act with respect to San Francisco Bay restoration, and for other purposes, 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

*Committee on Ways and Means*, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 1491, the "Disaster Related Extension of Deadlines Act"; H.R. 517, the "Filing Relief for Natural Disasters Act"; H.J. Res. 25, disapproving the rule sub-

mitted by the Internal Revenue Service related to "Gross Proceeds Reporting by Brokers That Regularly Provide Services Effectuating Digital Asset Sales", 10 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

### Joint Meeting

*Joint Hearing*: Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, to hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of The American Legion and multi VSOs: Minority Veterans of America, Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A, National Association of County Veterans Services Officers, Military Officers Association of America, National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs, D'Aniello Institute for Veterans and Military Families, and Wounded Warrior Project, 10 a.m., 390-CHOB.

*Next Meeting of the SENATE*

10 a.m., Wednesday, February 26

## Senate Chamber

**Program for Wednesday:** Senate will begin consideration of S.J. Res. 10, terminating the national emergency declared with respect to energy.

At 12 noon, Senate will vote on confirmation of the nomination of Jamieson Greer, of Maryland, to be United States Trade Representative, with the rank of Ambassador. Following disposition of the nomination, Senate will continue consideration of S.J. Res. 10.

Senators should expect two roll call votes in the evening on passage of S.J. Res. 10, and on the motion to proceed to consideration of S.J. Res. 12, 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”.

*Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES*

10 a.m., Wednesday, February 26

## House Chamber

**Program for Wednesday:** Consideration of H.J. Res. 35—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”. Consideration of measures under suspension of the Rules.

## Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

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# Congressional Record

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