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No. 41

House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
March 4, 2025.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DAVID ROUZER 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.

AMERICA DESERVES PRESIDENT TRUMP

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

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend President Donald Trump for the executive actions he has taken to secure our southern border. Thanks to his leadership, illegal crossings have dropped to the lowest level we have seen in decades. Our communities have suffered for too long under Joe Biden's failed open-border policies.

Crime has surged, fentanyl has poured in, and American jobs have been undermined. Biden's refusal to enforce our immigration laws created a national security crisis, but now with President Trump back in office, we are witnessing the power of real enforcement.

His executive actions are restoring order, protecting American families, and putting our country first. Biden let chaos reign while Trump is bringing security back to our borders.

We must never allow radical left policies to threaten our Nation's safety again. America deserves a leader who enforces the law, defends our borders, and stands up for its citizens, and that leader is Donald Trump.

REPUBLICANS STAND UP FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I should be standing here today celebrating the Senate's passage of the Protection of Women and Girls in Sports Act, a bill that simply ensures fairness and common sense in athletics. Instead, Senate Democrats made their priorities clear. Mr. Speaker, 45 Senate Democrats voted against protecting women's sports, 45 Senate Democrats voted against keeping women's spaces safe, and 45 Democrats voted against protecting women.

Despite the fact that 80 percent of Americans agree that men do not belong in women's sports, Senate Democrats still chose to ignore reality and put our daughters at risk.

This isn't about politics. This is about fairness, safety, and protecting the integrity of women's sports. This is about a level playing field. If it wasn't obvious before, now it is. Republicans are the party that stands for women. We are the party that defends their right to compete on a level playing field, and while Democrats try to erase the very definition of womanhood, we will never back down. They can slow us down, but they will not stop us. We will keep fighting until every woman and

girl in this country has the protections they deserve.

America's daughters deserve better than what Senate Democrats did last night.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

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

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Women's History Month by uplifting my dear friend, a powerful organizer, Erendira "Ere" Rendon.

Ere has dedicated her life to fighting for the dignity and liberation of immigrant communities.

Hailing from Oaxaca, Mexico, Ere immigrated to the United States in 1990 to be reunited with her father. Ere is 1 of 530,000 from the roughly 3.6 million Dreamers receiving DACA, a program that has been viciously attacked in this Chamber. Inspired by her family's and her own experiences, Ere has fought to expand and affirm immigrant rights, ensuring access to driver's licenses, healthcare regardless of legal status, and funding for necessary legal services.

For nearly 15 years, Ere has organized at the Resurrection Project helping to found the Immigrant Justice Department where she serves as vice president.

Ere is one of the countless "powerful women," "poderosas mujeres" leaders organizing to protect and unite our communities reminding us that immigrants make our communities stronger.

On behalf of Illinois' Third Congressional District, it is my honor to commend Erendira Rendon in this day for her lifelong commitment to ensuring that immigrant communities are seen and that immigrants are valued, uplifted, and loved just as she is.

Congratulations to Ere.

□ 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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POWERFUL WOMEN

Mrs. RAMIREZ. At a time of unserious efforts to establish English as the official language of the United States, I rise today to celebrate my constituent, Angelica Garcia Santos, in a language proudly spoken in Illinois' Third Congressional District.

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

In honor of Women's Month, I congratulate community leader and activist Angélica García Santos, my West Chicago constituent.

Angélica began volunteering at IL03's non-profit immigrant advocacy organization, Casa Michoacán, where she now serves as coordinator.

At Casa Michoacán, Angélica provides resources to connect her immigrant neighbors with their community and inform them about their rights.

As an activist, Angélica has also helped advocate for the expansion of healthcare for immigrants, inspired by her own experiences with the healthcare system.

Angélica is one of countless community leaders in my district who feel the urgency of this moment as my Republican colleagues move forward with devastating cuts to federal programs like Medicaid.

Angélica's activism reminds us how much our immigrants contribute to our communities and shape the change they know we need.

On behalf of Illinois' 3rd Congressional District, it is my great honor to congratulate Angélica García Santos for her activism, leadership, and advocacy.

Thank you, Angélica.

En honor al Mes de la Mujer, felicito a la líder comunitaria y activista Angélica García Santos, mi constituyente de West Chicago.

Angélica comenzó como voluntaria en la organización sin fines de lucro de defensa de los inmigrantes de IL03, Casa Michoacán, donde ahora se desempeña como coordinadora.

En Casa Michoacán, Angélica brinda recursos para conectar a sus vecinos inmigrantes con su comunidad e informales sobre sus derechos.

Como activista, Angélica también ha ayudado a defender la expansión del cuidado médico para inmigrantes, inspirada por sus propias experiencias con el sistema de salud.

Angélica es una de los innumerables líderes comunitarios de mi distrito que siente la urgencia de este momento en el que mis colegas republicanos avanzan con recortes devastadores a programas federales como Medicaid.

El activismo de Angélica nos recuerda cuánto contribuyen nuestros inmigrantes a nuestras comunidades y dan forma al cambio que saben que necesitamos.

A nombre del tercer distrito del Congreso de Illinois, es un gran honor para mí felicitar a Angélica García Santos por su activismo, liderazgo y defensa.

Gracias, Angélica.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SELF). The Chair asks the gentlewoman to provide a translation to the desk.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate Women's History Month and to celebrate the rich contributions of Ukrainians in Illinois—03 by uplifting my constituent, Dr. Mariya Dmytriv-Kapeniak, for her work to honor our shared humanity.

A family medicine doctor, Dr. Dmytriv-Kapeniak exemplifies putting together our vocation into service for humanity. As a proud member of the Illinois Chapter of Ukrainian Medical Association of North America and the president of the Illinois division of Ukrainian Congress Committee of North America, she has secured medical donations and supply donations to help save lives in Ukraine.

This past Sunday I had the honor to stand with her and Ukrainian Americans at a Chicago rally to send a clear message: We who stand for democracy will not be bullied by dictators, not in Ukraine, not in other parts of the world, and not in the United States.

On behalf of Illinois' Third Congressional District, home to thousands of Ukrainians and Ukrainian Americans, it is my honor to commend Dr. Mariya Dmytriv-Kapeniak for her tremendous leadership and commitment to human dignity, to peace, and to democracy.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mariya and congratulate her.

MAKING AMERICA SECURE: HOLDING LEFTIST SANCTUARY CITIES ACCOUNTABLE

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, before President Trump got into office recently, America's security was really, really in doubt, especially on our border, so the actions taken by us in this House as well as, very importantly, what President Trump has done to secure our border is incredible. The numbers are down dramatically from the amount of people coming across illegally daily to the mere small number that is still doing so now until such point as we complete the border fence and the other measures taken to have the border completely secure. It is a pretty amazing turnaround.

Tomorrow, the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform will question the mayors of several of our large cities who seem to be just more concerned about the benefits of illegal immigrants than of those of the American people. The mayors of Boston, Chicago, Denver, and New York who have been harboring illegal immigrants as sanctuary areas and have jeopardized the public safety of their own constituents and drained taxpayer resources will be held accountable in this hearing.

These so-called leaders have chosen to ignore Federal immigration laws. They are breaking the law. They brag about it, and they say they will con-

tinue to do so. They chose to shield the illegal immigrants, including criminals, rather than protect the people they were actually elected to serve.

They chose policies that have overwhelmed law enforcement, strained public services, and put American families at risk. They don't seem to care that these tax dollars come from the hardworking people who actually did have eligibility to vote for them.

We House Republicans refuse to let this continue and have continued to take action.

President Trump declared a national emergency and deployed the military to the border to slow down that massive tide. Indeed, it has worked.

He has ended catch and release where basically law enforcement catches somebody at the border, processes them as fast as they can, and turns them loose in the country maybe to come back for a hearing on asylum supposedly within a couple years.

He reestablished the remain in Mexico policy so they are not to just come into the country. If Mexico is going to let them in from the south, then they can deal with it. Remain in Mexico is not automatic passage into the U.S.

He has restarted the border wall construction. Indeed, that makes it so much easier for our law enforcement personnel, our border personnel, to be able to narrow down the tide coming in and focus on what is going to happen there.

He shut down the CBP One app. He has terminated taxpayer-funded benefits for illegal immigrants. We still have States like my home State of California who can't give it away fast enough, at one point \$9.5 billion for illegal immigrants in their health care program at the same time that the State is asking for \$40 billion to get bailed out after the horrific fire situation in southern California.

He has terminated taxpayer benefits overall for illegal immigrants via executive order. We need to back him up on that.

He began transferring criminal aliens to Guantanamo Bay so they don't get away. He classified cartels as foreign terrorist organizations, and indeed they are.

He suspended the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program. He has clawed back DHS funds that were being used for the benefit of housing illegal immigrants while at the same time we have people suffering from disasters.

Here we were able to pass the Laken Riley Act to keep violent criminals off our streets, especially those who are here as illegal immigrants. We passed the Violence Against Women by Illegal Aliens Act to protect these innocent lives.

We passed the HALT Fentanyl Act to stop deadly drugs from flowing across our border. Fentanyl is an existential crisis in this country for so many people. It is so deadly and yet so prevalent. It is sent through Mexico so much by China. Mexico is not being a good neighbor when they keep allowing this.

We passed the Agent Raul Gonzalez Officer Safety Act to give law enforcement the tools they need, as well.

The results are that illegal border crossings, as I mentioned, have dropped dramatically. Apprehensions have fallen by 93 percent because they don't have to apprehend this 93 percent, which is a major victory for border security.

We will not back down. I know President Trump will not back down. We need to move forward because we raise our right hand and swear allegiance to this country and its Constitution. It is our job to make our country strong, to make our country safe, and to serve our own citizens who are already struggling enough with inflation and with choking regulations in some cases. So much is going against the grain of what the founding of this country was about.

I am proud of the work we have been trying to do here on the House floor. I hope we can get more of a bipartisan effort on that as we see the common sense of what we are trying to do. The Senate can take this up and support the leadership President Trump has provided and the results we have seen so strongly so far.

□ 1015

A SERIOUS AND PROFOUND MOMENT

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

Ms. STEVENS. Mr. Speaker, within 12 hours, this very Chamber is going to witness a joint address to Congress. I will take my time and my privilege as a duly elected Member of this Chamber to share some of the sentiments about the state of the Union that is emerging very clearly and loudly from Michigan and on behalf of my constituents.

First and foremost, tariffs that are coming down today on Canada are wreaking havoc on autoworkers, our auto industry, and, frankly, the stock market.

Secondly, I am hearing very grave concerns about the state of Social Security and Social Security's ability to meet its fiduciary commitments to its millions and millions of recipients. Never once in the history of that program has a payment been missed, but the actions of DOGE are disrupting that very agency.

There is also a very palpable fear in my constituents. Veterans who are 100 percent disabled are concerned and fearful that they may or may not be able to continue to receive their medical care.

This is a serious and profound moment. This is a self-inflicted crisis.

I did serve this Nation during a time of real economic crisis during the Great Recession in the administration of Barack Obama. That was when I was in the Treasury Department, working to save General Motors and Chrysler

and millions of American automotive jobs as the companies were staring liquidation in the face.

Mr. Speaker, I will take a moment to share some words. On February 8, at the Sheet Metal Workers union in Oakland County, Michigan, I was joined by an incredible medical expert from Michigan, my friend, Dr. Preetha Iyengar, who happens to be in this very Chamber alongside her family here today.

She read these words, which I would like to share and read on her behalf, and on the behalf of the American people, in this Chamber.

Dr. Iyengar shared:

I am a pediatrician and epidemiologist. After residency, I trained for 2 years at the CDC and then worked in Washington, D.C., at an NGO and the D.C. Health Department.

I am here today to highlight the impact of recent policies and actions on scientific institutions and how that impacts us in Michigan.

Our scientific institutions are being attacked from many angles, but I wanted to highlight three areas: spreading of misinformation, purging of experts and destruction of scientific institutions, and destruction of critical infrastructure.

We are seeing that the current administration's agenda is misinformation and confusion. Federal healthcare and public health institutions are facing unprecedented censorship and harassment. Bans for external communications have crippled international collaborations, with special exceptions given at random and many that have not been restored. Websites with CDC healthcare guidelines used by doctors and public health information used by all of us in the medical community, like vaccine safety information sheets, were forced to be removed without warning.

Dr. Iyengar also mentioned that we now are less safe in protecting ourselves during the flu season, particularly with bird flu.

I may insert the question: How much are egg prices today in the United States of America? People are stealing eggs outside of delivery trucks and engaging in fights in supermarkets across this country. This is the United States of America, and we need an egg price plan.

Dr. Iyengar also went on to say that, as a woman in STEM, she is horrified to see the targeting of DEI programs, and let's say the words: diversity, equity, and inclusion. Equity, which is enshrined in our very Constitution, is something that all equal Members of this Chamber swore an oath to uphold. I will remind people of the rights and the tenets of Article I in our Constitution.

Dr. Iyengar says that she is horrified by the cuts to diversity, equity, and inclusion as a woman in STEM.

Frankly, as the leader of the Women in STEM Caucus, I founded this bipartisan caucus with four Members of this Chamber, two Republicans and two Democrats. It is Women's History Month, and we would like to do some things for women in STEM to meet the workforce challenges and needs of this great Nation. Of course, I cannot, at this present time, tragically, get a Re-

publican Member of Congress to join the Women in STEM Caucus for this term.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair reminds Members that the rules do not allow references to persons in the gallery.

RECOGNIZING PHIL GINN

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

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a truly remarkable individual, Phil Ginn, whose unwavering commitment to his community has been an inspiration to all of us who know him.

His lifetime of service to his family, to his faith, and to his country has made him an institution in his community, and his influence will be felt for generations to come.

Judge Ginn's pursuit of excellence began with his education. He graduated magna cum laude from Appalachian State University and earned his law degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. His legal career spanned over four decades, including 22 years as the senior resident superior court judge for the 24th Judicial District in North Carolina. Throughout his tenure, he upheld the rule of law with wisdom, with fairness, and with integrity.

Judge Ginn's influence extended far beyond the courtroom, where he not only delivered legal rulings but also mentored those around him, always striving to instill truth and justice.

After retiring from the bench in 2014, Judge Ginn transitioned to the business world as he purchased a struggling horizontal pump company in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Over the next 3 years, with the help of key employees and through exemplary leadership, he managed to turn the business into one of the largest privately owned horizontal pump companies in the United States.

In early 2018, Judge Ginn completed the sale of the company and returned to his beloved mountains of western North Carolina.

It is not just in law and business where Judge Ginn's legacy is found. His greatest passion has always been his faith. His devotion led him to serve as chairman of the Southern Evangelical Seminary board of trustees. In 2021, he assumed the role of the sixth president of the board. Under his leadership, the seminary has continued its vital mission to evangelize our culture as a defender and as a disciple of the Christian faith.

Founded in 1992 by Dr. Norman Geisler and Dr. Ross Rhoads, Southern Evangelical Seminary is widely recognized as one of the top 10 evangelical Christian seminaries in the country, offering accredited programs rooted in a classical philosophy of education.

Recently, SES has further enhanced its national standing as one of the premier evangelical seminaries in America through the establishment and

dedication of a new innovative training center in Rock Hill, South Carolina. The center includes a state-of-the-art, fully digital campus that serves as a thriving international body.

Throughout his accomplishments, Judge Ginn has remained a devoted husband, a devoted father, and a devoted grandfather. He and his wife, Lynn, have been married for over 40 years and have raised four daughters, three sons-in-law, and five grandchildren, imparting to them the same values of faith, service, and community that have helped shape his life and legacy.

Above all of his many accomplishments, it is Judge Ginn's unwavering faith in the Lord Jesus Christ that has truly defined his life. In his courtroom, in his office, and in his personal life, the Holy Bible has been a standard of truth, the source of all wisdom, and the promise upon which he stands.

In dealing with his fellow man, he is a person who knows no superiors. He is a person who knows no inferiors. He lives by the values instilled in him at a young age by his parents, the Reverend and Mrs. Charles Ginn, to treat others without regard for position or power, respect elders and love children, work hard, speak the truth, stand for the American flag and those who fight for our freedom, and give generously but quietly.

Judge Ginn's life is a master class in respect, honor, and kindness, and his legacy will be long remembered not just for his accomplishments but for his character.

Judge Ginn's legacy of leadership, compassion, and commitment to justice continues to inspire all who encounter him. He is a man who lives by the Bible and is proof of: "To whom much is given, much will be required."

On behalf of the people of South Carolina's Fifth Congressional District, I extend my deepest congratulations to Judge Ginn and his family on his well-deserved recognition. His life reminds us that true leadership begins with being a good and honorable person.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in giving heartfelt thanks to Judge Phil Ginn.

DISASTROUS IMPLICATIONS OF A YEARLONG CR

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

Mr. CISNEROS. Mr. Speaker, Republican leadership has called for a yearlong continuing resolution ahead of next week's government funding deadline.

That is a horrible idea. To be clear, the government funding bill should have been completed last year, but House Republicans made the political decision to punt it to this year because my colleagues wanted to wait for President Trump to move into the White House.

Mr. Speaker, House Republicans got what the majority wanted but still

haven't been able to pass any new funding because their party refuses to accept the responsibility of governing. That is what has led us to this yearlong CR.

Both the President and the Speaker have called for a "clean" CR, but neither of them can articulate what that means.

Not only is Republican leadership struggling to say what my Republican colleagues want to see in it, but a yearlong CR would negatively impact our economy. A yearlong CR creates economic uncertainty and job insecurity because it prevents Federal agencies from making new hires and starting new programs. It delays contracts and applications for grants, which reduce the level of services agencies provide while also increasing costs. It reduces funding for nearly every Federal program that America relies on, such as VA medical care and food assistance programs.

Donald Trump and shadow president Musk have already thrown hundreds of thousands of public employees in limbo. A CR would only exacerbate that uncertainty and endanger their livelihoods.

Mr. Speaker, that is not the only disastrous implication of a yearlong CR. A yearlong CR would undermine our military readiness and our national security. The Department of Defense would have to slow recruiting efforts and delay servicemember moves, throwing our military families into limbo, not to mention it would potentially negate the 14.5 percent pay raise for junior-enlisted servicemembers, delay military housing projects, and undercut initiatives to improve servicemember quality of life and mental health.

Also, since a yearlong CR would not account for inflation, thousands of DOD programs would see cuts. That includes programs that deal with nuclear triad modernization, shipbuilding and ship maintenance, munitions production and replenishment, and U.S. priorities in the Indo-Pacific.

Ultimately, a yearlong CR would force too much uncertainty and stress on our servicemembers and their families, and it would impede our ability to react to national security threats.

Even some of my Republican colleagues agree with me on this point. One Republican colleague has said: "A continuing resolution, CR, is bad for our military and weakens our national security. A CR means new weapons programs cannot get started." Shipbuilding will be delayed. "A yearlong CR means we are not serious about building a military that will deter China, Russia, and Iran."

The White House may be out of touch with reality when it comes to Ukraine and supporting our allies abroad, but their fealty to Vladimir Putin doesn't mean the United States can resign its role in standing for Ukraine and democracies around the world.

Washington Republicans need to get it together. My colleagues on the other

side of the aisle control the White House and Congress. If we have a government shutdown, it falls on the majority and their inability to govern.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JERRY "ICEMAN" BUTLER

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a dear friend, great vocalist, entertainer, outstanding civic and community leader, and a solid member for many years of the Cook County Board of Commissioners with a primary focus on healthcare, Jerry Butler.

Jerry was born in Sunflower, Mississippi, and his parents, like thousands of other Blacks, migrated to Chicago. As a matter of fact, we fondly sometimes call Chicago "northern Mississippi."

Jerry's family lived in the Cabrini-Green area, which was a large public housing development. That is where Jerry, Curtis Mayfield, and their friends, as young teenagers and young adults, sang spirituals and doo-wops, hung out, and had fun.

They ultimately formed a group called The Roosters and then The Impressions. The Impressions were sensational. Jerry performed with them for a bit, and then he went solo.

After leaving the group in 1960, Jerry achieved over 55 Billboard pop and rhythm and blues hits as a solo artist. Some of his top hits were "He Will Break Your Heart," "Let It Be Me," and "Only the Strong Survive." Jerry cowrote the song "For Your Precious Love," which is ranked No. 321 on Rolling Stone magazine's list of the 500 greatest songs of all time.

Jerry was known as the Iceman. He even played a small role in a movie.

Jerry was elected to the Cook County Board of Commissioners in 1985 and served there until he retired in 2018.

□ 1030

His last election was in 2014 in which he received 80 percent of the votes.

Jerry served as host of PBS' TV music specials such as "Doo Wop 50" and "Doo Wop 51"; "Rock, Rhythm & Doo Wop"; "Rhythm and Blues 40: A Soul Spectacular."

He also served as chairman of the board of the Rhythm & Blues Foundation.

In 1991, Jerry was inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, along with the other original members of The Impressions: Curtis Mayfield, Sam Gooden, Fred Cash, Richard Brooks, and Arthur Brooks.

When Jerry and I served on the Cook County Board together, I was walking down the hall one morning humming "Moon River," and I passed Jerry's door. He hollered out and said: I hear you. I said: Well, how am I doing? He said: Well, don't quit your day job.

Well, Jerry, I didn't quit my day job. I am still here, and I know that he is

up there in Heaven with all of the other soul singers. We are never going to give him up, and I know that he is up there leading them in glory, hallelujah, His truth is marching on.

The only thing that I can say is Jerry lived a life well done, and I will see him when I get there.

HONORING CHIEF OF STAFF, KARI OSMOND

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New Jersey (Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, ask any Member of Congress and they will tell you, none of us could adequately serve our constituents without staffers. They are a necessary component of our office.

Today, I will take a moment to thank my chief of staff, Kari Osmond, who will be leaving our office at the conclusion of today's work.

Kari has been working with me since I was first elected to represent the 12th Congressional District a decade ago, but I have known her since my time in the State assembly.

In fact, we spent so much time together during my first campaign, driving around the 12th Congressional District listening to gospel music, I nearly turned her into a Black Baptist. We preferred Hezekiah Walker's "Every Praise."

Her dedication and her commitment to the people in the four counties that I represent has never wavered in all of the time that I have known her.

Kari is not just a friend. Bill, my husband, and I consider her family. She has been a tremendous professional, a committed organizer, and a courageous leader who has always run toward the fight.

In her time as chief of staff, she also helped me to assemble a talented team committed to representing the values of the 12th Congressional District and fighting for everyday New Jerseyans.

A Congress Member is only as good as their staff, and she has led one of the best on the Hill for the last 4 years and the best in our district office in New Jersey.

I will miss her greatly. I will miss her dearly. I am certain, though, that she will carry her talent and her commitment to service to her new role at the College of New Jersey.

Mr. Speaker, I wish Kari Godspeed, best wishes, and know that she goes with my love.

SOCIAL SECURITY IS THE NUMBER ONE ANTIPOVERTY PROGRAM IN UNITED STATES

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

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak and address the Chamber about the Nation's

number one antipoverty program for the elderly and the Nation's number one antipoverty program for children. I speak, of course, of Social Security.

Social Security is currently under attack by the Trump administration with just this weekend, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Trump calling Social Security a scam and Mr. Musk calling Social Security a Ponzi scheme.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I am sure as you know in your district, you have 209,000 Social Security recipients: 157,000 are retirees; 25,000 plus are disabled workers; 10,000 are widows; 3,678 are spouses; and over 12,000 are children. I don't believe that you think that Social Security and the checks that these people receive is a scam or that Social Security is a Ponzi scheme.

In fact, in your district, \$377 million comes into your district monthly that goes to those individuals. Where do they spend that money? They spend that money right back in your district at the grocery store, at the pharmacy, at the dry cleaners, heating and cooling their homes, paying their rent, their mortgage, and putting gasoline in their car.

The brilliance of Franklin Delano Roosevelt still lives on. This is capitalism's answer to have a safety net for people, who through no fault of their own or because they work and ultimately end up retiring, have benefits that they can live on. It is especially more important as people are living longer. They need these benefits that are currently under siege by an administration who has asked Elon Musk to find \$2 trillion in cuts.

Where is he looking? He is looking right at your district, Mr. Speaker, and my district, and the 435 congressional districts, who, on average, receive \$200 million monthly from Social Security where, on average, the more than 145,000 people per district that receive these benefits go directly back to the local economy.

We are looking for three Republicans to stand with a unified Democratic Party and Congress to push forward a bill that was last extended in 1971. Richard Nixon was President of the United States the last time Social Security benefits were extended for your constituents as well as my constituents in Connecticut.

It is long overdue. We have a COLA that doesn't work. We have people that continue to work after they receive Social Security that are taxed on their benefits. We have had teachers and firefighters and police officers, as well, who have been denied benefits. Now, while they are eligible for them, they are not funded and so that money comes out of the trust fund.

President Trump has now proposed a tax cut for Social Security that is unpaid for. That is over a \$900 billion hit to Social Security and all the constituents who receive it.

Mr. Speaker, I know you to be a man of goodwill and you understand your district and what your people need, as

well. It is long overdue for the citizens of the United States to have their Social Security benefits enhanced, not cut.

RECESS

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

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

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

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

PRAYER

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

Great and awesome God, Your glory is too wonderful to be seen. Even Your servant Moses, whom You regarded worthy enough to bring forth Your law to Your people wandering in the desert, You covered his face that he would not perish in Your sight.

In our journey through at times the wilderness of faith, it seems You have hidden Your face from us, too. Is it because the brilliance of the righteousness that You demand for us is too great to bear witness to?

Or is it that You are not hidden, but it is we who have turned away from You? The events of these days, the inhumanity of war raging throughout the world, the conflict and controversy in our own country, not to mention the personal unrest in our own lives, all these have grabbed our attention.

Perhaps it is these things that have kept us from seeing Your face, from experiencing Your abiding presence. Perhaps we are looking in the wrong places, searching our social media or our social circles for our answers.

In this season, call us to search our hearts and, in Your mercy, may we find You there. Reveal in our spirits, by the power of Your own holy spirit, what You have always wanted us to see: Your great and wonderful love for us and Your desire for us to live righteously.

We lean on Your everlasting arms and call on Your name as we pray this day.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON)

come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

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

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

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

PROTECT DOMESTIC ENERGY PRODUCTION

(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, unhinged bureaucrats have stood in the way of American energy for too long. Overregulation, job-killing policies, and reliance on foreign nations have driven up costs and hurt American families, businesses, and farms.

That changes now as we take measures to unleash America's full energy potential. President Trump has already taken decisive action by declaring a national energy emergency to cut through the bureaucracy, red tape, and nonsense to finally get back on track.

He has rolled back the Biden administration's crippling regulations, ending the so-called Green New Deal policies, and withdrawn from agreements, such as the Paris climate accord, that put other countries first while holding us back and exporting our jobs to the Pacific Rim and others.

We are opening back up the 625 million acres for offshore drilling that were put in recklessly via a last-minute monument. That is a 1,000- by 1,000-mile square, to say no more. The President is opening that back up.

Lifting Biden's ban on liquefied natural gas exports helps get energy flowing again to Europe, helping our allies not be dependent on Russian gas.

We are backing it up in Congress. We are passing legislation to protect domestic energy production and ensure we never face these kinds of restrictions again, including three pieces of legislation this week alone that will be done.

The results are clear: Crude oil prices will have dropped 5 percent and will continue to drop.

RECOGNIZING BRANDON JOHNSON

(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 recognize the Honorable Brandon Johnson, vice chairman of the Greene County Board of Education, as my special guest for the President's address to the joint session of Congress.

Brandon is a Greene County native and has served on the school board since 2020. He was the youngest elected official in our county's history when he was first elected.

Brandon is also a special agent in law enforcement for our State, teaches part time in the basic law enforcement program at Pitt Community College, and serves at his home church of Ormondsville Original Free Will Baptist Church. He is passionate about education and public safety, topics essential for eastern North Carolina and our Nation.

Brandon's father serves on the county board of commissioners, and his greatest inspiration in life comes from his mother, who passed when he was 17.

When my colleagues see Brandon, Members will also see someone driven by his faith and dedicated to shaping the future of Greene County, eastern North Carolina, and America.

I welcome Brandon to our Nation's Capitol.

RECOGNIZING RED CROSS MONTH

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize March as national Red Cross Month.

Since its founding in 1881, the Red Cross has played a vital role in supporting our communities by providing disaster relief, emergency assistance, and critical health services.

One of the Red Cross' most essential initiatives is its nationwide blood donation program. Today, this program remains a cornerstone of public health, supplying more than 40 percent of the Nation's blood products, yet the need for donation remains urgent.

Every 2 seconds, someone in the United States requires a blood transfusion. However, less than 38 percent of the population is eligible to donate, and only 3 percent of those eligible give blood annually. The critical need for blood and the lifesaving potential that comes with a donation cannot be overstated.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all healthy Americans to consider giving blood or plasma. A single act of generosity can make all the difference for someone in need.

RECOGNIZING GLEANING FOR THE WORLD

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

Mr. McGUIRE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Gleaning For The World, a Christian-based nonprofit in my district, Virginia-05, that helps people recover from disasters.

Mr. Speaker, they have distributed over 100 million pounds of humanitarian aid around the globe. When dev-

astating floods hit southwest Virginia due to Hurricane Helene and when southwest Virginia was hit by harmful snowstorms, Gleaning For The World answered the call.

During my first district work period this year, I visited Gleaning For The World's headquarters in Appomattox County. I was moved by their compassion for their fellow man and their willingness to give to others.

Mr. Speaker, I am thankful for the cheerful givers of Gleaning For The World, and I am honored to have them as my constituents.

PROMISES MADE, PROMISES KEPT

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, President Donald Trump will deliver his first address tonight before a joint session of Congress since his historic mandate reelection.

Reversing damage caused by the policies of the Biden-Harris administration in order to make America secure and competitive, President Trump is already delivering major wins for American families, reducing illegal border crossings by 98 percent.

President Trump is restoring peace through strength; rooting out waste, fraud, and abuse of taxpayer dollars; and securing tremendous savings for taxpayers.

Led by Speaker MIKE JOHNSON, House Republicans are standing by President Trump to get America back on track, including through the passage of a single bill on the Trump agenda by providing a secure border, unleashing American energy, preventing the largest tax hike in history, creating jobs, and bringing common sense back with limited government, returning power to the people.

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. President Trump is reinstituting existing laws to protect American families with peace through strength.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.J. RES. 42, PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL OF THE RULE SUBMITTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY RELATING TO "ENERGY CONSERVATION PROGRAM FOR APPLIANCE STANDARDS: CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS, LABELING REQUIREMENTS, AND ENFORCEMENT PROVISIONS FOR CERTAIN CONSUMER PRODUCTS AND COMMERCIAL EQUIPMENT"; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.J. RES. 61, PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL OF THE RULE SUBMITTED BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY RELATING TO "NATIONAL EMISSION STANDARDS FOR HAZARDOUS AIR POLLUTANTS: RUBBER TIRE MANUFACTURING"; AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF S.J. RES. 11, PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL OF THE RULE SUBMITTED BY THE BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT RELATING TO "PROTECTION OF MARINE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES"

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 177 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 177

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 42) 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 for Appliance Standards: Certification Requirements, Labeling Requirements, and Enforcement Provisions for Certain Consumer Products and Commercial Equipment". All points of order against consideration of the joint resolution shall be considered as read. 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. 61) 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". 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. Upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the 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". 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 Natural Resources or their respective designees; and (2) one motion to commit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DESJARLAIS). The gentleman from New York is recognized for 1 hour.

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

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

□ 1215

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 177 provides for consideration of two measures, H.J. Res. 42 and H.J. Res. 61. The rule provides for both bills to be considered under closed rules, with 1 hour of debate each, equally divided and controlled by the chair and the ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce or their designees and provides for one motion to recommit.

Additionally, the rule provides for consideration of S.J. Res. 11 under a closed rule, with 1 hour of debate, equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Natural Resources or their designees and provides for one motion to recommit.

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

The rule before us provides an opportunity for Congress to reverse the last-minute attempts at regulatory overreach by the former Biden-Harris administration.

The rule includes consideration of H.J. Res. 42 to provide for congressional disapproval of an eleventh hour Biden Department of Energy rule relating to "Energy Conservation Program For Appliance Standards: Certification Requirements, Labeling Requirements, and Enforcement Provisions for Cer-

tain Consumer Products and Commercial Equipment."

This rule was rushed out by the Biden administration as they worked overtime in their final days to get a fresh round of burdensome product mandates out the door. The rule in question is just one example of the former administration's war on products that the American people used to take for granted: affordable, reliable home appliances.

In an effort to appease a woke mob, the Biden DOE foisted burdensome regulations atop a certification and efficiency standard process that was already drastically broken.

The rule in question requires additional certification, additional labeling, and for manufacturers to meet additional reporting requirements.

By the Department of Energy's own estimates, this one rule will increase annual costs for manufacturers by \$213,000 and result in thousands of hours spent on additional paperwork to meet the new requirements.

Now, make no mistake, with every new standard, rule, prohibition, and restrictions on manufacturers, the American people are left with fewer options that are more expensive and too often perform worse than previous models.

In the last 4 years alone, the Biden administration issued 31 regulations aimed at residential and commercial appliances and equipment with a total cost to industry, and ultimately to the consumer, of at least \$60 billion.

Mr. Speaker, the American people are fed up with the micromanaging regulatory agenda of the previous administration. Their voices were heard very loudly on election day and President Trump has already delivered on his promise to bring regulatory relief to Americans, pausing implementation of seven of the Biden administration's restrictive mandates on home appliances in an effort to undo the previous administration's burdensome policies that have driven up costs, reduced choice, and diminished the quality of Americans' home appliances.

Real financial pain is felt by Americans when rules like this one take effect, and it falls to Congress to ensure that the Department of Energy can course correct away from these anticonsumer and anti-choice requirements.

In that spirit, the rule also provides for consideration of H.J. Res. 61, providing for congressional disapproval of the rules submitted by the Biden EPA relating to the "National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants: Rubber Tire Manufacturing."

Section 112 of the Clean Air Act mandates emission controls for sources of 187 hazardous pollutants and the EPA is expected to establish technology-based emission standards for sources of these pollutants, as well as specify categories of sources subject to emission standards.

However, surprising to no one, the Biden administration's EPA, at the behest of a radical environmental group,

has disregarded a technology-based, fact-based approach, and completely weaponized this process against the industry.

In a flurry of regulatory activity in their final hours in power, the Biden EPA finalized a rule to impose unnecessary new regulations on our tire manufacturing industry, all with zero environmental benefit.

This is the legacy of not just the Biden administration, but also the Obama administration nearly a decade earlier, a weaponized EPA working at the behest of radical environmental groups to roll out regulation after regulation that drives up cost, kills jobs, and shuts domestic manufacturers all in the zealous pursuit of the left's Green New Deal agenda.

If the EPA's final rule is allowed to survive, we will see tire manufacturers sink millions of dollars into new compliance costs, spend thousands of additional hours in meeting requirements of this rule, and struggle to keep manufacturing here in the United States.

This rule shows us an agency that moved hastily to comply with frivolous lawsuits, using questionable data in the process. For decades, the left has used a sue-and-settle strategy to force the EPA to push for a more aggressive, more onerous, and less affordable set of standards on American job creators, American workers, and American families.

As a Representative of western New York and the Southern Tier, many of my constituents were recently laid off after a tire manufacturing facility announced its closure and decision to move overseas, where CO₂ emissions will almost certainly be higher and the requirements around environmental stewardship are far less stringent.

This is the reality that awaits America's domestic manufacturing base if we allow our regulatory agencies to cater to the radical left and asinine Green New Deal fantasies as they are doing with this rule. H.J. Res. 61 will ensure Congress, through the Congressional Review Act, can put a stop to these unnecessary new costs that threaten the viability of American manufacturing.

Finally, the rule before us provides for consideration of S.J. Res. 11, which provides for congressional disapproval of a rule submitted by the former Biden administration relating to "Protection of Marine Archaeological Resources."

Mr. Speaker, despite the innocuous name, the rule itself could not be more ridiculous. Federal agencies have spent hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars surveying the seabed of the Gulf of America and have identified to date approximately 4,000 shipwrecks and other sites. Yet this expensive and time-consuming work is apparently not enough.

Under this rule, oil and gas operators seeking to drill offshore in the resource-rich Gulf of America, are now required to do their own additional surveying to "better protect shipwrecks

and other cultural resources on the seabed."

It is lost on no one that this highly redundant, unnecessary regulation is nothing more than a last-ditch discriminatory action by the Biden administration aimed right at our Nation's oil and gas industry.

The mandate will force companies to spend untold resources scouring the seabed for potential shipwrecks, even without any previous indication that such sites may exist.

To be clear, there is already a regulatory framework to mandate a report on potential sites on the seabed when the regional director of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management has "reason to believe" that an archeological site may exist.

Let's stop pretending that this rule is anything more than a continued effort to bury companies in reporting, run up costs, eat away their time, and move the goalposts for American energy producers.

Time and again, we have seen these tactics used by Democratic administrations and Democrat-run States when it comes time for our oil and gas producers to get to business. In my own State of New York, the few oil and gas producers hanging on in a State that has made it very clear that they are unwelcome, face a deluge of unnecessary and redundant compliance costs like these meant to do one thing: put them out of business.

It is meant to shutter an industry, kill jobs, and leave our Nation more reliant than ever on foreign energy sources. That is what will come from the left's overzealous war on oil and gas production. We simply cannot allow these asinine rules and regulations to go forward at the Federal level.

S.J. Res. 11 will ensure that Congress, in lockstep with President Trump and his administration, can break down the barriers set up in the Biden years and bring down costs for everyday Americans.

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

Mr. NEGUSE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. LANGWORTHY) for the customary 30 minutes, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I will try to clarify for the American people, those who may be tuning in, certainly the individuals who have joined us in the gallery today, what this debate is all about.

Just by way of context, let's consider what is happening in the world today. I don't know if my colleague from New York has checked his phone, but the stock market is plummeting. The 401(k)'s of residents in New York and residents in Colorado are wiped out. The massive tariffs that the President of the United States applied to our neighbors at midnight we know will increase the price of everything: groceries, fuel, energy, you name it.

There were mass layoffs of Federal workers, mass purges of veterans at different Federal agencies, mass terminations of Forest Service employees in my district working on wildfire mitigation, scientists at NOAA, individuals doing cancer research, all of that is happening as we speak. Yet, here we are in this august body debating what? Labeling requirements for appliances.

That is what the Republicans have decided to spend today debating, labeling requirements for pool heaters. I don't know if the gentleman from New York has a pool. I don't have a pool. I don't understand why we are wasting time in the House of Representatives debating regulatory requirements for pool heaters or labeling requirements for coolers and air-conditioners. Seriously.

The stock market is crashing, and this is how House Republicans choose to spend their time. Government funding is about to dry out 10 days from now and we want to spend our time talking about pool heaters.

Give me a break, Mr. Speaker. Let's get serious. This isn't what the people of the United States elected us to do. I implore my Republican colleagues to come to the table, work with us in good faith, and stand up to the Trump administration that is dismantling Federal agencies in your own districts.

Social Security offices are being shut down. There are constituents who can't get services from the Federal Government because this President has decided to dismantle these agencies piece by piece.

It is time to get our priorities right, Mr. Speaker. I can assure you that the priorities that the House Republicans are pursuing today and have been pursuing for the better part of the last 2½ months are grossly out of step with the values of the American people.

It is why I would hope every Member of this body would oppose the rule.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I remind my Democratic colleague that the rule we are debating today provides for consideration of H.J. Res. 42 regarding a Department of Energy appliance rule, H.J. Res. 61 regarding an EPA National Emission Standards rule on rubber tire manufacturing, and S.J. Res. 11 regarding the EPA's Bureau of Ocean Energy Management rules requiring burdensome archaeological reports on energy producers.

There will be ample opportunities to debate, amend, and provide suggestions when the appropriate authorizing committees move forward when we begin our work on spending reforms in a budget reconciliation package. We should focus on the legislation before us this week.

I encourage my colleagues to engage in regular order as our authorizing

committees begin to work on our reconciliation and not prejudice their outcomes and make baseless assumptions.

□ 1230

My colleagues across the aisle have mentioned how they find these measures not worthy of our time. This certainly isn't the first time they have mocked House Republican efforts to curb regulations on appliances, from heating systems to dishwashers, refrigerators, and freezers.

If this were such an unserious endeavor as my colleagues across the aisle claim, then why did the administration they supported for 4 years issue at least 31 regulations covering a vast array of different appliances and other products out of the DOE and the EPA? Is \$60 billion foisted on to our Nation's manufacturers and consumers in new regulatory and compliance costs not serious enough for Congress to thoroughly scrutinize?

Democrats seem to be confused about what it is that the American people voted for in November, and one of those items was lowering day-to-day costs that are hurting workers and families. Reversing these regulations is something that House Republicans are deeply committed to doing, and we are working with the administration to actually get this done.

I would also recommend that my colleagues across the aisle speak with the fellow Democrats in their Caucus about how harmful these regulations are and why CRAs to reverse Biden's anti-energy and economically harmful regulations are so important.

Last Congress, Democrats voted with Republicans to pass at least five measures to halt Biden administration green energy regulations, including the following:

A CRA to halt the Biden definition of the Waters of the United States. Nine Democrats voted "yes."

A CRA to halt draconian emissions standards on heavy-duty vehicles. Four Democrats voted "yes."

A CRA to halt draconian emission standards on light- and medium-duty vehicles. Eight Democrats voted "yes."

In this Congress, a whopping 11 Democrats voted just last week in support of a CRA on the Biden administration's rule on conservation standards for consumer gas-fired instantaneous water heaters, one of those appliance-related regulations that my colleagues here today claim is not worth our time in the House, but their colleagues voted "yes."

Finally, six Democrats voted "yes" on last week's CRA to halt the Biden-era implementation of a natural gas tax that would harm our Nation's energy producers and consumers.

The Democratic Party is busy pulling their hair out over President Trump, Elon Musk, DOGE, whatever else is their outrage of the day. However, they have lost sight of the kitchen-table issues affecting everyday Americans. They ignore the rising costs hurting

workers and families in order to cater to their own extreme leftwing base. It is so bad that even Members in their own Caucus are breaking ranks to vote for commonsense reforms such as the rolling back of these radical anti-energy agenda items that the Biden administration foisted upon us in the eleventh hour of their administration.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, it feels like I am living in the twilight zone again. I understand the gentleman from New York very much wants to spend a half hour debating labeling requirements for pool heaters. I get it. We all get it. It is important to you. It is not important to me and not important to the people who I represent. In the 5 minutes that you just spent describing the reasons for this bill in your view, the stock market has continued to go down. More corporations have announced that they will be increasing prices later this week because of President Trump's tariffs. I don't understand how you believe that that is lowering costs.

Again, I would implore my colleagues, let's get serious. There are plenty of substantive challenges facing this country that merit and warrant the attention of lawmakers here in Washington. For the record, House Democrats are not scared to debate any single one of them.

Apparently, reports this morning indicate that in the Republican Conference meeting, a member of Republican leadership stood up in the meeting and supposedly told his Conference a simple instruction: Not a single one of you should attend or participate in a townhall.

Why? It is because they are scared of their own constituents, Mr. Speaker. They understand that if they hold a townhall with their community, they will hear outrage from everyday American citizens who are pissed off, who are angry that the prices for everything are going up because of this reckless Trump administration's policies.

Again, you want to spend a half hour, an hour, 8 hours debating labeling requirements for pool heaters? Be my guest. However, don't expect House Democrats to participate in it.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. TRAN), a veteran who served our country honorably who can speak to the reasons why this amendment is so important.

If we defeat the previous question, I will be offering an amendment to the rule to bring up H.R. 1637, the Protect Veteran Jobs Act.

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

Mr. TRAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Colorado for yielding. I rise to urge my colleagues across the aisle to show some humanity and compassion to the thousands of veterans

who have been recklessly dismissed from their civil service jobs at the political whim of this administration.

The men and women who serve our country deserve our unwavering support, not broken promises. The indiscriminate firing of veterans by the Trump administration and Elon Musk dishonors the unwavering commitment that these public servants have dedicated to our country. These heroes stepped up for us, and now we must stand up for them.

This issue is deeply personal to me. I am the son of Vietnamese refugees who fled war and persecution in search of safety and a better life in America. This country welcomed them and gave me the chance to succeed. I joined the Army out of a sense of duty to my country because I wanted to give back to the country that gave me so much. I wanted to protect the very principles of freedom, justice, and decency that we hold dear.

However, I don't see these values in the actions by the Trump administration. I see only chaos, fear, and cruelty.

I have a duty as a Congressman, a veteran, and a proud American to stand up for those who made the highest commitment to us. That is why last week I introduced my first bill, the Protect Veteran Jobs Act, to reinstate veterans who were recklessly terminated without cause under the Trump administration's purge of the Federal workplace. My bill will also hold the executive branch accountable for any future terminations that may occur.

This isn't about politics. This is about basic decency. This is about treating our veterans with the dignity they deserve. Veterans make up over 30 percent of the Federal workforce, and when they are unjustly removed, it impacts all of us. From delays in healthcare services and disability claims to staffing shortages at the VA, the consequences for American families and servicemembers are dire.

Veterans have always had our backs. It is time we step up to have theirs. I urge my Republican colleagues to join us in opposing the previous question so that we can take up this important measure to restore the livelihoods of veterans who have served our country honorably and who have continued to do so through civilian service. Let's reverse course immediately and get these veterans their jobs back.

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

Mr. Speaker, we listen to calls from our Democratic colleagues for compassion and concern. I must ask the question, where was the compassion and concern while they watched prices skyrocket over our constituents over the 4 years of the Biden administration?

Where was the compassion and concern where the Biden regulatory environment smothered the U.S. economy with regulation after regulation, trillions of dollars in off-budget spending,

which soared inflation for the American people? Where was the compassion then?

Where was the outrage when House Republicans were calling for relief for the American people in the last Congress?

They said that we were following the wishes of only President Trump. They followed the Green New Deal playbook to a t, and that is what we are here to debate today are these important rollbacks of the Green New Deal agenda.

We sat idly by and watched our country get invaded by at least 10 million people that came across our country's borders with the direct will of the President to do it. President Trump has proven in just less than 2 short months the ability for a President to roll this all back with executive orders. Yet, the cost to New York alone was \$7 billion in costs on New York taxpayers. Where was the outrage then?

For 8 years, this hysteria has cost them. While they persisted in their witch hunt of President Trump in 2022, Americans contended with 40-year high inflation, after Democrats and President Biden dumped trillions of dollars into a recovering post-COVID economy, which even one of their chief economists told us would create massive inflation. They ignored that guidance.

Did they seek to address everyday Americans' concerns about the direction of our economy? They did not. They doubled down on lawfare against President Trump, and it lost them the House in 2022. In 2024, when the world was on fire with our borders flung open to the invasion of millions of illegal aliens into this country that prompted a crisis in countless communities, including my own, Americans' top concerns coming back time and time again, poll after poll, were the economy and our border. Democrats did no work to address those concerns.

Did Vice President Kamala Harris address them? No, she did not. She didn't make that sale to the American people when she was campaigning across this country. Instead, all we heard was about Kamala brat summer and the last-ditch jittery attempt at once again trying to convince Americans that Trump was somehow a threat to democracy. Democrats lost, historically, on November 5, 2024. They lost the electoral vote, the popular vote, and they lost every swing State on the table.

Did Democrats learn from this smarting defeat since President Trump took office? They clearly have not. Instead, they focus their time again defending USAID slush funds, flat-out government waste, and pretty much every problem, trying to lay it at President Trump's feet, including what he is doing every single day as well as DOGE and how they are trying to fix the crisis and the mess that was left behind by the Biden years.

Mr. Speaker, the American people have time and again responded to

Democratic hair-pulling with, at best, disinterest. Yet, here we are today on the House floor with more of the same.

The rule before us considers legislation focused on ridding American consumers in an industry of harming regulations that are truly impacting their wallets and their financial well-being and our Nation's economic future. I urge my colleagues to quit the hysterics and for once listen to the voices of the American people after years of refusing to do so.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I have great respect for the gentleman from New York. We have a lot of folks who come to Washington, D.C., to observe these proceedings. I suspect it might seem a little rote to them. I would love to have an actual debate. Maybe there are some folks here from New York, some folks from Colorado who would like to see us engage in some substantive debate.

Therefore, I might ask the gentleman from New York because he ended his last remarks by appealing to the voices of the American people and that he and his Conference, in his view, are standing up for the voices of the American people.

I wonder if the gentleman might answer a question. Mr. LANGWORTHY, have you held a townhall this year? It is not a rhetorical question. I am just asking.

Mr. Speaker, if I might ask the gentleman from New York, I believe colloquies are permitted in this Chamber.

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Are you yielding me your time?

Mr. NEGUSE. I am not. I am asking, rather, through the Speaker to the gentleman from New York if he has held an in-person townhall with the people of New York that he represents this year. I am just curious.

He doesn't have to answer if he doesn't want to answer. It is a yes or no question. It is not a complicated question.

Okay, I will take it as a "no."

Clearly, he has not held a townhall in 2025. I would think he would be jumping up to clarify the record that he, in fact, had met with his constituents, Mr. Speaker, if that were the case. He clearly has not held a townhall. I understand why. I get it, because at this juncture, if House Republicans held townhalls, as their constituents express their outrage and indignation at the mass layoffs of Federal workers, of civil servants and at the tariffs that are increasing prices and at the stock market crashing, if their only response is: We took up a really important bill this week on labeling requirements for pool heaters, I could understand why one would have some trepidation about hosting a townhall under those circumstances.

Again, let us be serious about the work that we are called to do in this body. We are here to lower costs for

working families, to build safer communities, to ultimately ensure that the American people, the American taxpayers, the Constitution is vindicated. It is unfortunate that my colleagues don't feel the same way.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

□ 1245

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, we have seen a lot of masterful theatrics out of the Democratic Party recently, and we are seeing nothing different from that today. It is amazing that people who are so concerned about burdensome regulations and costs on people offer no solutions.

We are here doing the work of that today. We are taking price concerns off of the back of industries. We are preserving jobs. We are creating a brighter future for our communities by getting rid of this eleventh hour rulemaking that was put forward by the Biden administration.

They had all the power to make this country move in the right direction when Democrats controlled all of Congress and the White House following the 2020 elections. They had the ability to make those changes, but they took the country in the wrong direction.

That is why the country, at the ballot box, made the changes that they made. They took the House out of Democratic hands and made Republicans lead the House of Representatives. Then, they did the same with the Senate and the White House in 2024.

That is the report card that the Democratic Party earned because they prioritized the things that the American people did not want prioritized. They haven't read the room. They answer to their woke and angry mobs that they are foisting on Members of Congress and people all over the country right now. It is a very coordinated effort. They deny it, but make no mistake, every U.S. Senator today released a video that has the exact same script. It is very clearly a theatrical performance that the American people are seeing out of Democrats in the U.S. Senate.

We are here with solutions to problems created by the last administration. We are putting them forward to get the job done. We have a timeline that we have to focus on, and that is why these CRAs are so important for us to tackle right now. We have limited legislative days in order to roll back these unnecessary, burdensome regulations that no one asked for and no one wanted. We are getting the job done that we were sent here to do.

Let's look again at the numbers. The Biden administration has issued at least 31 regulations for residential and commercial appliances and equipment, totaling \$60 billion. If my friends on the other side of the aisle don't think that added regulatory costs filter into the price of new appliances, then we

have several bridges available for them to purchase.

Let's look further at some of the regulations that will reap financial savings for American consumers. In one example, under the Biden DOE's dishwasher efficiency standards, Americans are expected to save a whopping \$1.12 under that regulation. Was that necessary to put out there? Of course, it wasn't.

These are savings that the left expected the American people to be excited about as they racked up more regulations and more restrictions that cost us jobs from the results of the Biden years.

Under the latest DOE rule that H.J. Res. 42 would fortunately curb, home appliance manufacturers have already outlined how the rule requires their industry to provide a myriad of unnecessary information and data that is meaningless when demonstrating efficiency but simply is required to meet compliance with the rules.

It is regulations for the sake of regulations, and the American people are left to pay higher prices and have fewer choices.

At the end of the day, Mr. Speaker, my colleagues simply refuse to acknowledge the natural dynamics of the marketplace. When left to their own devices, the American people will seek out the most efficient model of an appliance that they can afford.

I agree with my colleagues when they say that the American people want cost savings, both at sale and with efficiency over the lifecycle of an appliance. What they don't want is government intervention that limits their ability to make those choices themselves. They want to have more affordable options available to fit tighter budgets, not fewer, more expensive choices because unelected bureaucrats at Biden's DOE needed to micromanage what refrigerators, dishwashers, heaters, air-conditioners, you name it, were permissible under unrealistic efficiency standards.

H.J. Res. 42 will help curb these costly, limiting, and anti-natural gas standards from the final days of the gasping Biden administration that were finalized at the behest of his radical climate lobby.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, we have heard a lot about so-called theatrical performances. I didn't realize that asking the simple question of whether or not the gentleman had held a townhall this year counts as theater. I understand it is a forbidden question in the House Republican Conference now as to whether or not one has held a townhall, for obvious reasons.

My constituents certainly don't find that to be an offensive question. We have held five townhalls in the last 2 months. We look forward to holding more because we are going to be re-

sponsive to the American people. I wish my colleagues would do the same.

What I won't do, and I think what the American people won't do, is be lectured by Republicans about rising costs when literally, as we speak, Trump's tariffs are taking hold and beginning the process of increasing prices, which already started 30 days ago, and putting it into overdrive.

These are just a couple of headlines from the last 8 hours. "New England, New York grid operators prepare to collect millions in tariffs on Canadian electricity." The New York Post says that car prices could potentially surge by \$12,000 because of these tariffs.

House Republicans have the audacity to lecture us about increased costs when they are increasing the costs of everything?

By the way, this is not some foreign debate. I represent Colorado. I am proud to represent the great State of Colorado. I have never been to the gentleman's district in upstate New York, but my understanding is that it is pretty close to the Canadian border. There are billions of dollars of economic development in New York and commerce that is transacted between Canada and the United States a mere few miles from the gentleman's district. He describes this as theater?

I am not so sure that the folks in his district and that the people of New York will feel that way as these tariffs begin to kick in. I am sure that the farmers and the ranchers in Colorado that I represent, I can assure you, won't call it theater.

Mr. Speaker, I understand that my colleagues on the other side of the aisle would like to spend every second of every minute of every day talking about the prior President. It has been a half hour now of my colleague on the other side of the aisle starting and ending every sentence with Joe Biden. Donald Trump is the President of the United States.

My colleague reminds us, yes, Republicans have a majority in the House and in the Senate. All I am suggesting is that maybe they should use that majority to do better things than waste everyone's time on labeling requirements for pool heaters. That is it. Maybe we ought to be a little bit more concerned with the 401(k)'s of our constituents, of working families in Buffalo and in Fort Collins, Colorado.

Mr. Speaker, I don't think that is too much to ask, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, the epiphany that those on the other side of the aisle now have—and they are so concerned about costs and economic concerns—when they fought us tooth and nail on every single action that we tried to take to curb the Biden administration's uncontrollable regulatory environment is just laughable.

We watched, warned, and fought in the 118th Congress to stop an adminis-

tration that created a regulatory environment that has added about \$1.5 trillion in needless regulations that have stifled the growth of industry and jobs in this country. Now, we are seeing them all of a sudden change their tune.

As our new administration is less than a month and a half old, things are moving in the right direction. People have a new view of what the future is. We are fighting hard to preserve a predictable tax code in this country. We are extending the current tax code so that we can have regulatory certainty, tax certainty, so that businesses can thrive and grow and not fear the hammer of government that they did in the Biden years.

There was an explosion after election day of people ready, willing, and able to invest in America. We have seen unprecedented investment come in from overseas, bringing new jobs, new opportunities, and new future creation here to the United States since election day. That will continue because that is what President Trump campaigned on. That is what House Republicans fight for and what we will achieve together.

Mr. Speaker, this epiphany that we have had on the other side of the aisle, that they are now all of a sudden concerned with the costs of everyday Americans, was nowhere to be found for 2 years in the 118th Congress, as we fought every day about the costs of gas and groceries and how it was pinching away because of Biden's inflation and what it had done to the purchasing power of everyday Americans' accounts.

People in probably both of our districts said the same exact thing, that they were watching the American Dream slip away from our kids and grandkids because we couldn't necessarily be certain that the future would be brighter under the current trajectory of this country.

We have saddled the country with \$36.5 trillion in debt. It is a debt service that is higher than what we spend on our national defense. It is an unacceptable legacy that we are leaving to our future generations. We are working every day toward our budget reconciliation to get that under control so that we can be the era that bent the curve on spending and got this country back on track.

Yet, we have other people on the other side of the aisle who want to keep spending levels at the COVID era. COVID fell upon us 5 years ago this week, yet they still want to spend like we are in the midst of an emergency.

It is time that we have a common-sense revolution in this country, commonsense like what we are doing here today: rolling back needless regulations that hurt jobs, hurt workers, and hurt consumers. That is what we were asked to do by our constituents.

These CRAs this week are important because they reinstitute choice in the marketplace. They take the bureaucrats that DOGE is fighting every single day out of the equation and put the

American consumer back in the driver's seat so that we can have choice in our consumer goods, not creating a standard just to justify someone's job in a cubicle somewhere. That is what this government has been about for far too long, but those days are over.

Mr. Speaker, we are now putting common sense in the driver's seat in this country. We are working toward a brighter future for our kids and grandkids.

Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, as expected, we have a rebuttal replete with references to the 118th Congress, what Democrats did in the last Congress, assigning blame, and all the rest. I remind my colleague that the Republicans are in charge. They have the majority. They have the ability to shape events. They have a Republican President and a Republican majority in the U.S. Senate.

I can certainly assure my colleague that my constituents, who are seeing their 401(k) balances vanish in real time, would not describe these policies as common sense. The stock market tanking, prices of fuel going up, prices of food going up, prices of cars and vehicles going up, car insurance, home insurance, you name it, under Trump's economy, everything goes up.

By the way, he is unabashed about it. I watched some of his press conference yesterday. He is not hiding it. He has acknowledged it. He has said outright that he knows these tariffs will increase prices in the short term, according to him, and he expects the Republican Conference to defend him tooth and nail as these prices go up.

The gentleman talks about economic growth. The Federal Reserve, the Atlanta branch, just yesterday forecasted negative GDP growth for this quarter. That is the first time in a long time there has been negative GDP growth under President Trump. This is the commonsense agenda that my colleague from New York sells to farmers and ranchers in Colorado? We are not buying it. The American people aren't buying it.

It is why I implore every Member of this body to oppose this rule.

□ 1300

Mr. Speaker, it is also why I would implore everyone to support the amendment to the rule that we would like to pursue by bringing up H.R. 1637, the Protect Veteran Jobs Act, which was brought up previously.

I ask unanimous consent, Mr. Speaker, 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 Colorado?

There was no objection.

Mr. NEGUSE. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

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

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

I will direct my comments to the Chair, to you, Mr. Speaker, to express my frustration, which is the frustration felt by so many of the hard-working people of the great State of Colorado that I have the privilege of representing in the House of Representatives. It is a frustration borne from the realities that they are facing each and every day.

As I mentioned, we have an economy that is in free fall, a stock market that is tanking. They are seeing their neighbors, their friends, public servants, being purged from Federal agencies, hardworking civil servants who do wildfire mitigation work in Colorado and across the Rocky Mountain West, unceremoniously fired.

There are scientists at the NOAA and NWS facilities in Boulder and elsewhere being subject to these mass terminations by a Federal executive who seems intent on dismantling agency after agency. We have a House Republican caucus that is walking with him in lockstep every step of the way as they prepare to slash Medicaid to the tunes of hundreds of billions of dollars.

The frustration that my constituents feel is justified, because notwithstanding every single one of those transgressions, every single one of those challenges, those obstacles that Republicans have manufactured and created in their daily lives, if they tune in to this debate, they will see that the focus is on none of that and instead on the matters that we have discussed today.

My constituents, Mr. Speaker, do not want to see me debating labeling requirements for pool heaters. They don't. I won't speak for what the people of New York have to say about their Representatives. I will just say for Colorado and Coloradans, they expect me to be here pursuing policies that will make their lives easier, that will promote economic growth and a better quality of life. They are not getting it from this House under Republican control. I can assure you of that.

I understand House Republicans, I am sure, will pass the rule and they will get their bill on water heaters and pool heaters and air conditioners passed through the House. They will have a big fancy signing ceremony at the White House where they will celebrate the fact that they repealed a labeling requirement rule that was promulgated a year ago.

I fear for what the broader economic trends will be when they have that signing ceremony. Who knows. But if past is prologue, I am reasonably confident that the economy will continue the free fall unless Republicans work with us, Democrats, in good faith, to pursue policies that would advance opportunity in our country.

That is my humble request, Mr. Speaker. The best way to get started is by opposing the previous question, opposing the rule, opposing the under-

lying bills, and getting back to the business of this House.

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

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

For 4 years, Democrats gaslit the American people in a vain attempt to convince them that costs weren't going up, inflation wasn't real, our economy wasn't in trouble, and there wasn't a crisis at our borders. The American people saw past that deception, and they voted for a President and a Congress that promised to put our country back on track.

Part of fulfilling that promise includes unwinding a slew of burdensome rules, prohibitions, restrictions, and other ticky-tacky attempts to micromanage everyday life for Americans. It also includes ensuring that the woke mob and their radical environmental NGOs can no longer call the shots at these Federal agencies at the expense of our manufacturers, our domestic energy producers, and good-paying jobs.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support the rule before us today.

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

AN AMENDMENT TO H. RES. 177 OFFERED BY
MR. NEGUSE OF COLORADO

At the end of the resolution, add the following:

SEC. 4. Immediately upon adoption of this resolution, the House shall proceed to the consideration in the House of the bill (H.R. 1637) to reinstate veteran Federal employees, to require reports from executive branch agencies of the Federal Government on the number of veteran employees fired from such agencies, and for other purposes. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The bill shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and on any amendment thereto, to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform or their respective designees; and (2) one motion to recommit.

SEC. 5. Clause 1(c) of rule XIX shall not apply to the consideration of H.R. 1637.

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair

declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 5 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. BOST) 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 177; and

Adoption of House Resolution 177, 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. 42, PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL OF THE RULE SUBMITTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY RELATING TO "ENERGY CONSERVATION PROGRAM FOR APPLIANCE STANDARDS: CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS, LABELING REQUIREMENTS, AND ENFORCEMENT PROVISIONS FOR CERTAIN CONSUMER PRODUCTS AND COMMERCIAL EQUIPMENT"; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.J. RES. 61, PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL OF THE RULE SUBMITTED BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY RELATING TO "NATIONAL EMISSION STANDARDS FOR HAZARDOUS AIR POLLUTANTS: RUBBER TIRE MANUFACTURING"; AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF S.J. RES. 11, PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL OF THE RULE SUBMITTED BY THE BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT RELATING TO "PROTECTION OF MARINE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES"

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. 177) providing for consideration of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 42) 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 for Appliance Standards: Certification Requirements, Labeling Requirements, and Enforcement Provi-

sions for Certain Consumer Products and Commercial Equipment"; providing for consideration of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 61) 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"; and providing consideration of the 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", 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 196, nays 187, not voting 49, as follows:

[Roll No. 56]

YEAS—196

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

Timmons
Turner (OH)
Valadao
Wagner
Weber (TX)

Webster (FL)
Westerman
Wied
Williams (TX)
Wittman

NAYS—187

Adams	Frost	Olszewski
Aguilar	Garcia (CA)	Omar
Amo	Garcia (IL)	Pallone
Ansari	Garcia (TX)	Panetta
Auchincloss	Gillen	Pappas
Balint	Golden (ME)	Pelosi
Barragan	Goldman (NY)	Perez
Bell	Gonzalez, V.	Peters
Bera	Goodlander	Pingree
Beyer	Gray	Pocan
Bishop	Green, Al (TX)	Pou
Bonamici	Harder (CA)	Pressley
Boyle (PA)	Hayes	Quigley
Brown	Himes	Ramirez
Brownley	Horsford	Randall
Budzinski	Hoyle (OR)	Riley (NY)
Bynum	Huffman	Rivas
Carbajal	Ivey	Ross
Carson	Jackson (IL)	Ruiz
Carter (LA)	Jacobs	Ryan
Casar	Jeffries	Salinas
Case	Johnson (TX)	Sanchez
Casten	Kaptur	Scanlon
Castor (FL)	Keating	Schneider
Castro (TX)	Kelly (IL)	Scholten
Cherfilus-	Kennedy (NY)	Schrier
McCormick	Khanna	Scott (VA)
Chu	Krishnamoorthi	Scott, David
Clark (MA)	Larson (CT)	Sherman
Cleaver	Latimer	Smith (WA)
Clyburn	Lee (PA)	Sorensen
Cohen	Leger Fernandez	Soto
Conaway	Levin	Stansbury
Connolly	Liccardo	Stanton
Correa	Lieu	Stevens
Costa	Loifgren	Strickland
Courtney	Lynch	Subramanyam
Craig	Magaziner	Suozi
Crow	Mannion	Swalwell
Cuellar	Matsui	Sykes
Davids (KS)	McBath	Thanedar
Davis (IL)	McClain Delaney	Thompson (CA)
Davis (NC)	McClellan	Thompson (MS)
Dean (PA)	McCollum	Tlaib
DeGette	McDonald Rivet	Tokuda
DeLauro	McGarvey	Tonko
DelBene	McGovern	Torres (CA)
Deluzio	McIver	Torres (NY)
DeSaulnier	Meeks	Trahan
Dexter	Menendez	Tran
Dingell	Mfume	Turner (TX)
Doggett	Min	Underwood
Elfreth	Moore (WI)	Vargas
Escobar	Morrison	Vasquez
Espallat	Moskowitz	Veasey
Evans (PA)	Moulton	Velázquez
Fields	Mrvan	Vindman
Figures	Mullin	Wasserman
Fletcher	Nadler	Schultz
Foster	Neal	Watson Coleman
Foushee	Neguse	Whitesides
Frankel, Lois	Norcross	Williams (GA)
Friedman	Ocasio-Cortez	Wilson (FL)

NOT VOTING—49

Aderholt	Gottheimer	Pettersen
Allen	Green (TN)	Raskin
Barr	Grijalva	Schakowsky
Beatty	Houlahan	Sewell
Bergman	Hoyer	Sherrill
Boebert	Jayapal	Simon
Cisneros	Johnson (GA)	Spartz
Clarke (NY)	Jordan	Takano
Cline	Kamlager-Dove	Titus
Comer	LaHood	Van Drew
Crockett	Landsman	Van Dwyne
Diaz-Balart	Larsen (WA)	Van Orden
Flood	Lee (NV)	Walberg
Franklin, Scott	McBride	Waters
Garamendi	McCormick	Wilson (SC)
Garbarino	Meng	
Gomez	Morelle	

□ 1353

Mr. CLEAVER changed his vote from "yea" to "nay."

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

Stated for:

Mr. McCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 56.

Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I missed the previous question vote as I was in a constituent meeting. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 56.

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 56.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I was otherwise detained off the floor. Had I been present I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 56.

Stated against:

Ms. McBRIDE. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 56.

Ms. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, My vote was not recorded today. Had it been recorded, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 56.

Ms. SIMON. Mr. Speaker, I missed the vote on ordering the previous question on H. Res. 177. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 56.

Mr. GOMEZ. Mr. Speaker, I was not recorded on Roll Call No. 56. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 56.

Mr. CISNEROS. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 56.

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from the floor and the roll call vote on Ordering the Previous Question to provide consideration of the joint resolutions H.J. Res. 42, H.J. Res. 61, and S.J. Res. 11. Had I been present, I would have voted: NO on Roll Call No. 56 on Ordering the Previous Question.

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. NEGUSE. 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 211, noes 209, not voting 13, as follows:

[Roll No. 57]

AYES—211

Aderholt	Calvert	Fallon
Alford	Cammack	Fedorchak
Amodei (NV)	Carey	Feenstra
Arrington	Carter (GA)	Finstad
Babin	Carter (TX)	Fischbach
Bacon	Ciscomani	Fitzgerald
Baird	Cline	Fitzpatrick
Balderson	Cloud	Fleischmann
Barr	Clyde	Flood
Barrett	Cole	Fong
Baumgartner	Collins	Foxx
Bean (FL)	Comer	Franklin, Scott
Begich	Crane	Fry
Bentz	Crank	Fulcher
Bergman	Crawford	Garbarino
Bice	Crenshaw	Gill (TX)
Biggs (AZ)	Davidson	Gimenez
Biggs (SC)	DesJarlais	Goldman (TX)
Bilirakis	Donalds	Gonzales, Tony
Boebert	Downing	Gooden
Bost	Dunn (FL)	Gosar
Brecheen	Edwards	Graves
Bresnahan	Emmer	Green (TN)
Buchanan	Estes	Greene (GA)
Burchett	Evans (CO)	Griffith
Burlison	Ezell	Grothman

Guest	Luna
Guthrie	Luttrell
Hageman	Mace
Hamadeh (AZ)	Mackenzie
Haridopolos	Malliotakis
Harrigan	Maloy
Harris (MD)	Mann
Harris (NC)	Massie
Harshbarger	Mast
Hern (OK)	McCaul
Higgins (LA)	McClain
Hill (AR)	McClintock
Hinson	McCormick
Houchin	McDowell
Hudson	McGuire
Huizenga	Messmer
Hunt	Meuser
Hurd (CO)	Miller (IL)
Issa	Miller (OH)
Jack	Miller (WV)
Jackson (TX)	Miller-Meeks
James	Mills
Johnson (LA)	Moolenaar
Johnson (SD)	Moore (AL)
Jordan	Moore (NC)
Joyce (OH)	Moore (UT)
Joyce (PA)	Moore (WV)
Kean	Moran
Kelly (MS)	Murphy
Kelly (PA)	Nehls
Kennedy (UT)	Newhouse
Kiggans (VA)	Norman
Kiley (CA)	Nunn (IA)
Kim	Obermole
Knott	Ogles
Kustoff	Onder
LaHood	Owens
LaLota	Palmer
Langworthy	Perry
Latta	Pfluger
Lawler	Reschenthaler
Lee (FL)	Rogers (AL)
Letlow	Rogers (KY)
Loudermilk	Rose
Lucas	Rouzer

NOES—209

Adams	Dexter	Lee (NV)
Aguilar	Dingell	Lee (PA)
Amo	Doggett	Leger Fernandez
Ansari	Elfreth	Levin
Auchincloss	Escobar	Liccardo
Balint	Espaillet	Lieu
Barragán	Evans (PA)	Lofgren
Beatty	Fields	Lynch
Bell	Figures	Magaziner
Bera	Fletcher	Mannion
Beyer	Foster	Matsui
Bishop	Foushee	McBath
Bonamici	Frankel, Lois	McBride
Boyle (PA)	Friedman	McClain Delaney
Brown	Frost	McClellan
Brownley	Garamendi	McCollum
Budzinski	Garcia (CA)	McDonald Rivet
Bynum	Garcia (IL)	McGarvey
Carbajal	Garcia (TX)	McGovern
Carter (LA)	Gillen	McIver
Casar	Golden (ME)	Meeks
Case	Goldman (NY)	Menendez
Casten	Gomez	Meng
Castor (FL)	Gonzalez, V.	Mfume
Castro (TX)	Goodlander	Min
Cherfilus-	Gray	Moore (WI)
McCormick	Green, Al (TX)	Morelle
Chu	Harder (CA)	Morrison
Cisneros	Hayes	Moskowitz
Clark (MA)	Himes	Moulton
Clarke (NY)	Horsford	Mrvan
Cleaver	Houlahan	Mullin
Clyburn	Hoyer	Nadler
Cohen	Hoyle (OR)	Neal
Conaway	Huffman	Neguse
Connolly	Ivey	Norcross
Correa	Jackson (IL)	Ocasio-Cortez
Costa	Jacobs	Olshewski
Courtney	Jayapal	Omar
Craig	Jeffries	Pallone
Crockett	Johnson (GA)	Panetta
Crow	Johnson (TX)	Pappas
Cueilar	Kamlager-Dove	Pelosi
Davids (KS)	Kaptur	Perez
Davis (IL)	Keating	Peters
Davis (NC)	Kelly (IL)	Pingree
Dean (PA)	Kennedy (NY)	Pocan
DeGette	Khanna	Pou
DeLauro	Landsman	Pressley
DelBene	Larsen (WA)	Quigley
Deluzio	Larson (CT)	Ramirez
DeSaulnier	Latimer	Randall

Raskin
Riley (NY)
Rivas
Ross
Ruiz
Ryan
Salinas
Sánchez
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schneider
Scholten
Schrier
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Sewell
Sherman
Simon
Smith (WA)

Sorensen
Soto
Stansbury
Stanton
Stevens
Strickland
Subramanyam
Suoizzi
Swalwell
Sykes
Takano
Thanedar
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tlaib
Tokuda
Tonko
Torres (CA)

Torres (NY)
Trahan
Tran
Turner (TX)
Underwood
Vargas
Vasquez
Veasey
Velázquez
Vindman
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Whitesides
Williams (GA)
Wilson (FL)

NOT VOTING—13

Allen	Gottheimer	Sherrill
Carson	Grijalva	Spartz
De La Cruz	Krishnamoorthi	Van Orden
Diaz-Balart	LaMalfa	
Ellzey	Petterson	

□ 1401

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.

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted NO on Roll Call No. 57.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 56 and AYE on Roll Call No. 57.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. GOTTHEIMER. Mr. Speaker, I missed the following votes, but had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 56, and NAY on Roll Call No. 57.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

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

RECRUITING FAMILIES USING DATA ACT OF 2025

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 579) to amend parts B and E of title IV of the Social Security Act to improve foster and adoptive parent recruitment and retention, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 579

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 “Recruiting Families Using Data Act of 2025”.

SEC. 2. STATE PLAN AMENDMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 422 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 622) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(7), by inserting “through the development and implementation of a family partnership plan which

meets the requirements of subsection (d) for identification, recruitment, screening, licensing, support, and retention of foster and adoptive families" after "are needed"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

"(d) FAMILY PARTNERSHIP PLAN REQUIREMENTS.—For purposes of subsection (b)(7), the requirements for a family partnership plan (in this subsection referred to as the 'plan') are the following:

"(1) The plan is developed in consultation with birth, kinship, foster and adoptive families, community-based service providers, technical assistance providers, and youth with lived experience with foster care and adoption.

"(2) The plan describes—

"(A) how the State plans to identify, notify, engage, and support relatives (and others connected to the child) as potential placement resources for children;

"(B) how the State plans to develop and implement child-specific recruitment plans for every child in or entering foster care who needs a foster or adoptive family;

"(C) how the State plans to authentically engage children and youth in recruitment efforts on their behalf;

"(D) how the State plans to use data to establish goals, assess needs, measure progress, reduce unnecessary placements in congregate care, increase permanency, improve placement stability, increase the rate of kinship placements, improve recruitment and retention of families for teens, sibling groups, and other special populations, and align the composition of foster and adoptive families with the needs of children in or entering foster care; and

"(E) how that State will stand up or support foster family advisory boards for the purpose of improving recruitment and retention of foster and adoptive families.

"(3) The plan provides that, not less than annually, the State shall collect and report on the State's actual foster family capacity and congregate care utilization, including the number, demographics, and characteristics of licensed foster families, including prospective adoptive families, the number of such families that haven't received a placement or are not being fully utilized and the reasons therefor, and the number, demographics, and characteristics of children placed in congregate care in-State and out-of-State.

"(4) The plan includes, and shall update not less than annually, a summary of the most recent feedback from foster and adoptive parents and youth regarding licensure, training, support, and reasons why parents stop fostering or why adoptive or legal guardianship placements out of foster care fail or foster and such adoptive of legal guardianship families struggle to meet children's needs.

"(5) The plan includes, and shall update annually, a report on the State's analysis of specific challenges or barriers to recruiting, licensing, and utilizing families who reflect the racial and ethnic background of children in foster care in the State, and the State's efforts to overcome those challenges and barriers.

"(6) The plan includes such other information relating to foster and adoptive parent recruitment and retention as the Secretary may require."

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the amendment made by this subsection shall take effect on October 1, 2026.

(2) DELAY PERMITTED IF STATE LEGISLATION REQUIRED.—In the case of a State plan approved under subpart 1 of part B of title IV of the Social Security Act which the Secretary of Health and Human Services deter-

mines requires State legislation (other than legislation appropriating funds) in order for the plan to meet the additional requirements imposed by this subsection, the State plan shall not be regarded as failing to comply with the requirements of such part solely on the basis of the failure of the plan to meet such additional requirements before the first day of the first calendar quarter beginning after the close of the first regular session of the State legislature that begins after the date of enactment of this subsection. For purposes of the previous sentence, in the case of a State that has a 2-year legislative session, each year of such session shall be deemed to be a separate regular session of the State legislature.

SEC. 3. INCLUSION OF INFORMATION ON FOSTER AND ADOPTIVE FAMILIES IN ANNUAL CHILD WELFARE OUTCOMES REPORT TO CONGRESS.

Section 479A(a) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 679b(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (6)(C), by striking "and" after the semicolon;

(2) in paragraph (7)(B), by striking the period and inserting "; and"; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

"(8) include in the report submitted pursuant to paragraph (5) for fiscal year 2025 or any succeeding fiscal year—

"(A) State-by-State data on the number, demographics, and characteristics of foster and adoptive families in the State, and the number of potential foster and adoptive families not being utilized in the State and the reasons why;

"(B) a summary of the challenges of, and barriers to, being a foster or adoptive parent, including with respect to recruitment, licensure, engagement, retention, and why parents stop fostering, adoptions disrupt or dissolve, or foster or adoptive families struggle, as reported by States based on surveys of foster and adoptive parents; and

"(C) a summary of the challenges and barriers States reported on efforts to recruit a pool of families that reflect the racial and ethnic background of children in foster care in the State, and efforts to overcome those barriers."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SMITH) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Recruiting Families Using Data Act introduced by my Ways and Means colleagues, Representatives RANDY FEENSTRA and BRENDAN BOYLE. This bill would make a relatively straightforward but needed update to current law to promote State-level recruitment of foster care families.

Thousands of loving parents open their homes every year to offer care

and support for children in need. By doing so, they provide shelter for children who would otherwise be forced to stay in caseworker offices, hospitals, or hotels. However, many of these same parents, for any number of reasons, stop serving as foster families after only 1 year.

In short, there is a dire need for more foster families in our communities. Much of the foster care system is coordinated at the State level, which means we need to enlist the States in helping expand the number of foster families.

Under current law, States are required, as a condition of receiving funding, to have a plan in place to recruit foster and adoptive families, but we know, based on an analysis by the Department of Health and Human Services, that many States continue to face challenges.

This bill would build on existing law by calling on States receiving Federal funding to develop family partnership plans that lay out their specific process for finding potential foster families and recruiting and retaining them in the foster care system.

The legislation also authorizes the evaluation of key data to ensure we identify what efforts have been successful in expanding the availability of foster families.

I thank Representatives FEENSTRA and BOYLE for introducing this legislation and for their bipartisan leadership on this issue.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all my colleagues to support this commonsense piece of legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 579, the Recruiting Families Using Data Act.

This legislation is a good example of Congress doing the work our constituents sent us here to do. Last Congress, my former colleague, Dan Kildee, worked closely with Representative FEENSTRA to introduce this bipartisan bill, which is based on solid research and the fundamental principle that if we want to know what is best for foster youth and their families, we should ask them.

The result was this bill, which would require States to create a new family partnership plan to explain how they are identifying, screening, engaging, and supporting foster and adoptive families, in consultation with people with lived experience.

To me, one of the most critical aspects of this will be engaging with the child's family, whether it is by placing foster children with family members directly or making space for kin who can't be foster parents to still support the child and the foster parents.

Last Congress, we marked up this bill in the Ways and Means Committee and sent it to the floor with our unanimous consent. While it passed the House on a strong bipartisan vote, I was disappointed that the bill did not become law. I am glad to support it again. I believe it is a strong complement to the

bipartisan legislation we enacted last year reauthorizing child welfare services, which included many good ideas from both sides of the aisle.

As we continue to hear that Elon Musk and his band of hackers are rampaging through Federal agencies, including the Department of Health and Human Services, firing policy experts, falsely accusing Americans of fraud, freezing and terminating investments that were directed by Congress, I hope we can return to the kind of partnership and genuine concern for vulnerable Americans that sparked both bills.

Move fast and break stuff might be a good model for technology companies, but it is wrong for the programs we have created to protect children.

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

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. FEENSTRA).

Mr. FEENSTRA. Mr. Speaker, as a father of four, I believe that every child deserves a safe and loving home.

Unfortunately, many vulnerable children in our foster care system lack a family that they can call their own due to the shortage of foster families.

This must change, and that is what this bill does.

My bill, the Recruiting Families Using Data Act, would help States uphold and strengthen their diligent recruitment plans by improving their processes with concrete facts and information that identifies, recruits, and retains qualified foster care homes.

If we are going to address the problems facing the foster care system, we need better data on those that are having a problem. That is why this bill is so important.

This legislation would also establish a family advisory board to share best practices, highlight financial obstacles facing foster families, and keep foster families at the center of the systematic changes for improvement.

With the right tools and right resources, we can find a caring home for every child in our foster care program. That is why this bill is so important.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to stand with me for foster families, and support our children and vote for this wonderful bill.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this good bill to help ensure that children in foster care are in safe, appropriate homes.

I further urge my colleagues to work with us to stop these indiscriminate, illegal layoffs and funding cuts which threaten to undermine the good bipartisan work we have done on behalf of vulnerable children.

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

□ 1415

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, nearly 400,000 American children today are in the Nation's child welfare sys-

tem and counting on us to help them secure access to a permanent, loving, and stable home. At the same time, thousands of parents across the Nation are ready and willing to provide that love and shelter for kids in need. However, more must be done to link those children with those families who will volunteer to help.

The Recruiting Families Using Data Act will give States the tools and incentives to grow the number of foster families able to care for kids who might otherwise remain stuck in other parts of our welfare system. It is a vote of confidence in the generosity and kindness of potential foster families, and I encourage all of my colleagues to support this legislation.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CRAWFORD). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 579.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CHRONIC DISEASE FLEXIBLE COVERAGE ACT

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 919) to codify Internal Revenue Service guidance relating to treatment of certain services and items for chronic conditions as meeting the preventive care deductible safe harbor for purposes of high deductible health plans in connection with health savings accounts.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 919

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 "Chronic Disease Flexible Coverage Act".

SEC. 2. SERVICES AND ITEMS FOR CHRONIC CONDITIONS TREATED AS PREVENTIVE CARE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The additional preventive care services and items for chronic conditions that may be treated as preventive care for purposes of section 223(c)(2)(C) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 as set forth in IRS Notice 2019-45 shall have the same force and effect as if included in the enactment of this Act.

(b) NO INFERENCE.—To the extent not inconsistent with this section, no inference shall be made from subsection (a) with respect to such other rules or guidance as the Secretary has provided, or may provide, with respect to preventive services for purposes of section 223(c)(2)(C) of such Code.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SMITH) and the gentleman from California (Mr. PANETTA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Chronic Disease Flexible Coverage Act, introduced by Ways and Means Health Subcommittee Chairman VERN BUCHANAN and our Ways and Means colleague, Representative JIMMY PANETTA.

This legislation provides employers and their employees with greater flexibility to design healthcare coverage options that expand access to treatments for chronic diseases.

The chronic disease epidemic has, unfortunately, impacted nearly every family in America and represents a significant share of our healthcare spending. In fact, 90 percent of the \$4.1 trillion this country spends each year on healthcare goes toward chronic disease. This is not surprising when you realize that 60 percent of Americans suffer from some form of chronic disease, whether it be heart disease, diabetes, or cancer.

So many Americans would benefit from having healthcare coverage that is not only more affordable but more responsive to their needs so that they can better manage their health.

Last Congress, the House of Representatives approved a version of this legislation, but unfortunately, we were not able to get the bill across the finish line. However, with President Trump back in the White House, we are moving this bill once again, a bill that further strengthens a policy put in place during the first Trump administration.

For the 53 percent of employers that offer high deductible health plans to their employees, they would now be able to improve those options by allowing predeductible coverage of critical chronic care management services, including beta blockers, blood pressure monitors, glucometers, inhalers, and medications and testing to help individuals with high cholesterol. While the bill includes 14 specific services that could be covered, it leaves the door open for the list to be expanded later, as well.

By providing flexible coverage options for more people living with chronic health conditions, we can help lower their costs and improve their health and well-being.

I thank Representatives BUCHANAN and PANETTA for their leadership on this issue, as well as recognize the work of our Ways and Means Health Subcommittee that held its first hearing this Congress on creating healthier options for families and raising awareness about the chronic disease epidemic we have in this country.

As HHS Secretary Kennedy is shining a light on the chronic disease epidemic, the Ways and Means Committee is leading the charge in Congress to examine the root causes and delivering solutions, including this bill before us today.

I encourage all of my colleagues to once again provide strong bipartisan support for this effort to address chronic disease. I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman of the Ways and Means Committee and, of course, my good friend, Representative VERN BUCHANAN, an excellent member of the Ways and Means Committee for their work on this bill.

With his work, I rise today to support this legislation, the Chronic Disease Flexible Coverage Act. This is bipartisan, commonsense legislation to allow predeductible health coverage for chronic disease patients with a high deductible health plan, otherwise known as HDHP.

This commonsense legislation, as you heard from the chairman, already passed Congress last session under the leadership of my friends and former colleagues, Brad Wenstrup and Earl Blumenauer. It is common sense mainly because, as you heard from the chairman, chronic disease is so common.

Mr. Speaker, 6 in 10 adult Americans have a chronic disease, which is the leading cause of disabilities in the United States of America. Mr. Speaker, 90 percent of our annual health spending goes to chronic disease and mental health management. While these chronic diseases are common, they are also manageable if we just do everything that we can to improve access to care.

In my 19th Congressional District on the central coast of California, the number one thing I hear about from constituents is access to healthcare or, I should say, the lack of access to healthcare. The one thing that is clear, though, is that insurance doesn't do you much good if you can't use it.

In 2023, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more than 43 percent of people with employer-based coverage had an HDHP. Moreover, 56 percent of employers offer an HDHP. However, nearly 59 percent of Americans—that is nearly 6 in 10 people—lack \$1,000 in savings to handle an emergency expense.

That is exactly why expanding HDHP coverage to offer critical care for some of our most medically vulnerable constituents isn't just the right thing to do. It is the smart thing to do.

The Chronic Disease Flexible Coverage Act codifies IRS guidance to expand the safe harbor for high deductible health plans offering predeductible care for chronic conditions. It lets employers offer first-dollar access to care for patients with diabetes, asthma, high blood pressure, and many more, as the chairman mentioned.

When this IRS guidance was originally issued in 2019, a survey found that 76 percent, or more than three-quarters, of employers expanded predeductible coverage for chronic diseases. Codifying this policy now will save countless lives by helping more patients manage their conditions and stay healthy.

That is why this bill is endorsed by so many, from chronic disease advocates to health benefit groups to small business associations. That is why I recommend my colleagues to vote for the Chronic Disease Flexible Coverage Act.

Again, I thank Congressman BUCHANAN, and I thank the chairman for bringing this bill forward.

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

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BUCHANAN).

Mr. BUCHANAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for his leadership, as well. I rise today in strong support of my bill, the Chronic Disease Flexible Coverage Act.

This important legislation will expand treatment options for Americans living with chronic diseases provided through their employer's healthcare coverage. My bill allows employers to offer predeductibility on 14 different chronic diseases, especially for those who are on high deductible health plans.

With 6 in 10 Americans living with at least one chronic disease, it is clear to me that we need to have many more options. The cost for chronic diseases in the American economy is enormous, accounting for over \$1 trillion a year, if you can imagine that. Chronic disease also accounts for the overwhelming percentages of preventable deaths in the United States. I believe this initiative will improve patients' health, also reducing costly hospitalizations.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend, Congressman PANETTA, for his leadership and friendship. I really appreciate his working with me on this. I also thank Leader SCALISE and Whip EMMER for bringing this to the floor today.

I urge my colleagues to support this commonsense bill to help give Americans the tools they need for a longer, healthier, and happier life.

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

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MURPHY).

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, we have heard from great speakers talking about the problem with chronic disease in the United States.

One of the issues that face people who have hypertension, kidney disease, and diabetes is that they can't get the medicines or the devices that they need to be able to regulate their condition.

This bill, H.R. 919, helps to solve that problem by giving individuals access to

those lifesaving devices prior to them fulfilling their deductible. This is critical, as we fight chronic disease in the United States. As we have heard, over 90 percent of the expenditures in this country are due to chronic disease.

I know that in my district in eastern North Carolina, the rate of diabetes, obesity, congestive heart failure, and high blood pressure are things that are really, truly killing our population. Being able to access devices so that we can monitor these things is crucial. We have to have availability for these devices for people before they have to pay their full deductible.

I applaud Representative BUCHANAN, Representative PANETTA, and Chairman SMITH for bringing this forward. This is common sense. President Trump tried to do this in his first term. I am very grateful that they are trying to do this again. We want to make America healthy again. That starts with being able to give patients the tools that they need to be healthy. I urge support for H.R. 919 to my colleagues.

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I yield myself the balance of my time for the purpose of closing.

Mr. Speaker, as you have heard, this legislation has bipartisan support and support from a broad coalition of employers and health stakeholders. I appreciate my colleagues on the other side being so concerned and so focused on this. Let's just hope they have that same concern when it comes to Medicaid and Medicare going forward, especially with the reconciliation package.

They understand, and we understand, that it is critical that we start expanding access to preventative care and chronic care management to stem the tide of chronic disease.

Passing the Chronic Disease Flexible Coverage Act will improve long-term health outcomes, let businesses offer superior health benefits, and strengthen healthcare for everyone.

Once again, I encourage my colleagues to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time for the purpose of closing.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation is long overdue, particularly given the enormous size, scope, and cost of America's chronic disease epidemic. It will put more patients in the driver's seat when it comes to managing their health, and open doors for folks to get the treatments that will not only save them money but improve their well-being.

High deductible healthcare plans are already a popular option for employers to offer their workers. Expanding what services can be provided under these plans, specifically to help treat chronic diseases, will only make this a more affordable and useful health coverage choice for patients.

I encourage my colleagues to support the passage of the Chronic Disease Flexible Coverage Act, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 919.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. After consultation among the Speaker and the majority and minority leaders, and with their consent, the Chair announces that, when the two Houses meet tonight in joint session to hear an address by the President of the United States, only the doors immediately opposite the Speaker and those immediately to his left and right will be open.

No one will be allowed on the floor of the House who does not have the privilege of the floor of the House. Due to the large attendance that is anticipated, the rule regarding the privilege of the floor must be strictly enforced. Children of Members will not be permitted on the floor. The cooperation of all Members is requested.

The practice of purporting to reserve seats prior to the joint session by placement of placards or personal items will not be allowed. Chamber Security may remove these items from the seats. Members may reserve their seats only by physical presence following the security sweep of the Chamber.

All Members are reminded to observe proper decorum as provided in the rules of the House and the Speaker's announced policies of January 3, 2025. Failure to adhere to the standards of decorum detracts from the dignity of the proceedings and presents security challenges for the House.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 8:35 p.m. for the purpose of receiving in joint session the President of the United States.

Accordingly, (at 2 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 2039

JOINT SESSION OF CONGRESS PURSUANT TO HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 11 TO RE- CEIVE A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 8 o'clock and 39 minutes p.m.

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms, Mrs. Seton Gardner, announced the Vice President and Members of the

U.S. Senate, who entered the Hall of the House of Representatives, the Vice President taking the chair at the right of the Speaker, and the Members of the Senate the seats reserved for them.

The SPEAKER. The joint session will come to order.

The Chair appoints as members of the committee on the part of the House to escort the President of the United States into the Chamber:

The gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. SCALISE);

The gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. EMMER);

The gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MCCLAIN);

The gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HUDSON);

The gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. RESCHENTHALER);

The gentleman from Utah (Mr. MOORE);

The gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. HOUCHIN);

The gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. HERN);

The gentleman from New York (Mr. JEFFRIES);

The gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. CLARK);

The gentleman from California (Mr. AGUILAR);

The gentleman from California (Mr. LIEU);

The gentleman from Colorado (Mr. NEGUSE);

The gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. DELBENE); and

The gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. DINGELL).

The VICE PRESIDENT. The President of the Senate, at the direction of that body, appoints the following Senators as members of the committee on the part of the Senate to escort the President of the United States into the House Chamber:

The Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE);

The Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO);

The Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON);

The Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD);

The Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO);

The Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT);

The Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER);

The Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN);

The Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR);

The Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER); and

The Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN).

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms announced the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, His Excellency Hersey Kyota, the Ambassador of the Republic of Palau.

The Dean of the Diplomatic Corps entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and took the seat reserved for him.

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms announced the Chief Justice of the United States and the Associate Justices of the Supreme Court.

The Chief Justice of the United States and the Associate Justices of the Supreme Court entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and took the seats reserved for them in front of the Speaker's rostrum.

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms announced the Cabinet of the President of the United States.

The members of the Cabinet of the President of the United States entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and took the seats reserved for them in front of the Speaker's rostrum.

At 9 o'clock and 13 minutes p.m., the Sergeant at Arms, the Honorable William P. McFarland, announced the President of the United States.

The President of the United States, escorted by the committee of Senators and Representatives, entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and stood at the Clerk's desk.

(Applause, the Members rising.)

The PRESIDENT. Speaker JOHNSON, Vice President VANCE, the First Lady of the United States, Members of the United States Congress, thank you very much.

And to my fellow citizens, America is back. Six weeks ago, I stood beneath the dome of this Capitol and proclaimed the dawn of the golden age of America. From that moment on, it has been nothing but swift and unrelenting action to usher in the greatest and most successful era in the history of our country.

We have accomplished more in 43 days than most administrations accomplished in 4 years or 8 years, and we are just getting started.

I return to this Chamber tonight to report that America's momentum is back. Our spirit is back. Our pride is back. Our confidence is back. And the American Dream is surging bigger and better than ever before.

The American Dream is unstoppable, and our country is on the verge of a comeback, the likes of which the world has never witnessed and perhaps will never witness again. There's never been anything like it.

The Presidential election of November 5th was a mandate like has not been seen in many decades. We won all seven swing States, giving us an electoral college victory of 312 votes. We won the popular vote by big numbers and won counties in our country—and won counties in our country 2,700 to 525 on a map that reads almost completely red for Republican.

Now, for the first time in modern history, more Americans believe that our country is headed in the right direction than the wrong direction. In fact, it is an astonishing record 27-point swing, the most ever.

Likewise, small business optimism saw its single largest 1-month gain ever recorded, a 41-point jump.

The SPEAKER. Members are directed to uphold and maintain decorum in the

House and to cease any further disruptions. That's your warning.

Members are engaging in willful and continuing breach of decorum, and the Chair is prepared to direct the Sergeant at Arms to restore order to the joint session.

Mr. GREEN, take your seat. Take your seat, sir. Take your seat.

Finding that Members continue to engage in willful and concerted disruption of proper decorum, the Chair now directs the Sergeant at Arms to restore order.

Remove this gentleman from the Chamber.

Members are directed to uphold and maintain decorum in the House.

Mr. President, you can continue.

The PRESIDENT. Thank you.

Over the past 6 weeks, I have signed nearly 100 executive orders and taken more than 400 executive actions, a record, to restore common sense, safety, optimism, and wealth all across our wonderful land. The people elected me to do the job, and I am doing it.

In fact, it has been stated by many that the first month of our Presidency—it's our Presidency—is the most successful in the history of our Nation, by many. And what makes it even more impressive is that you know who number two is? George Washington. How about that? How about that? I don't know about that list, but we'll take it.

Within hours of taking the oath of office, I declared a national emergency on our southern border, and I deployed the U.S. military and Border Patrol to repel the invasion of our country. And what a job they have done.

As a result, illegal border crossings last month were by far the lowest ever recorded, ever. They heard my words, and they chose not to come. Much easier that way.

In comparison, under Joe Biden, the worst President in American history, there were hundreds of thousands of illegal crossings a month, and virtually all of them, including murderers, drug dealers, gang members, and people from mental institutions and insane asylums, were released into our country. Who would want to do that?

This is my fifth such speech to Congress, and once again, I look at the Democrats in front of me, and I realize there is absolutely nothing I can say to make them happy or to make them stand or smile or applaud, nothing I can do. I could find a cure to the most devastating disease, a disease that would wipe out entire nations, or announce the answers to the greatest economy in history or the stoppage of crime to the lowest levels ever recorded, and these people, sitting right here, will not clap, will not stand, and certainly will not cheer for these astronomical achievements. They won't do it, no matter what. Five—five times I have been up here. It's very sad, and it just shouldn't be this way.

So, Democrats sitting before me, for just this one night, why not join us in

celebrating so many incredible wins for America? For the good of our Nation, let's work together, and let's truly make America great again.

Every day, my administration is fighting to deliver the change America needs to bring a future that America deserves, and we are doing it. This is a time for big dreams and bold action.

Upon taking office, I imposed an immediate freeze on all Federal hiring, a freeze on all new Federal regulations, and a freeze on all foreign aid.

I terminated the ridiculous green new scam. I withdrew from the unfair Paris climate accord, which was costing us trillions of dollars that other countries were not paying. I withdrew from the corrupt World Health Organization, and I also withdrew from the anti-American U.N. Human Rights Council.

We ended all of Biden's environmental restrictions that were making our country far less safe and totally unaffordable. And, importantly, we ended the last administration's insane electric vehicle mandate saving our autoworkers and companies from economic destruction.

To unshackle our economy, I have directed that for every 1 new regulation, 10 old regulations must be eliminated just like I did in my very successful first term.

And in that first term, we set records on ending unnecessary rules and regulations, like no other President had done before. We ordered all Federal workers to return to the office. They will either show up for work in person or be removed from their job.

And we have ended weaponized government where, as an example, a sitting President is allowed to viciously prosecute his political opponent, like me.

How did that work out? Not too good. Not too good.

And I've stopped all government censorship and brought back free speech in America. It's back.

And 2 days ago I signed an order making English the official language of the United States of America.

I renamed the Gulf of Mexico, the Gulf of America, and, likewise, I renamed for a great President, William McKinley, Mount McKinley again. Beautiful Alaska. We love Alaska.

We've ended the tyranny of so-called diversity, equity, and inclusion policies all across the entire Federal Government and, indeed, the private sector, and our military. And our country will be woke no longer.

We believe that whether you are a doctor, an accountant, a lawyer, or an air traffic controller, you should be hired and promoted based on skill and competence, not race or gender. Very important. You should be hired based on merit, and the Supreme Court in a brave and very powerful decision has allowed us to do so.

Thank you. Thank you very much. Thank you.

We have removed the poison of critical race theory from our public

schools. And I signed an order making it the official policy of the United States Government that there are only two genders, male and female.

I also signed an executive order to ban men from playing in women's sports.

Three years ago, Payton McNabb was an all-star high school athlete, one of the best, preparing for a future in college sports. But when her girls volleyball match was invaded by a male, he smashed the ball so hard in Payton's face, causing traumatic brain injury, partially paralyzing her right side and ending her athletic career. It was a shot like she's never seen before. She's never seen anything like it. Payton is here tonight in the gallery.

And, Payton, from now on schools will kick the men off the girls' team or they will lose all Federal funding.

And if you really want to see numbers, just take a look at what happened in the women's boxing, weightlifting, track and field, swimming, or cycling, where a male recently finished a long-distance race 5 hours and 14 minutes ahead of a woman for a new record by 5 hours. Broke the record by 5 hours. It's demeaning for women, and it's very bad for our country. We're not going to put up with it any longer.

What I have just described is only a small fraction of the commonsense revolution that is now, because of us, sweeping the entire world. Common sense has become a common theme, and we will never go back, never. Never going to let that happen.

Among my very highest priorities is to rescue our economy and get dramatic and immediate relief to working families. As you know, we inherited from the last administration an economic catastrophe and an inflation nightmare. Their policies drove up energy prices, pushed up grocery costs, and drove the necessities of life out of reach for millions and millions of Americans. They've never had anything like it. We suffered the worst inflation in 48 years, but perhaps even in the history of our country. They're not sure. As President, I'm fighting every day to reverse this damage and make America affordable again.

Joe Biden especially let the price of eggs get out of control. The egg price is out of control, and we're working hard to get it back down.

Secretary, do a good job on that. You inherited a total mess from the previous administration. Do a good job.

A major focus of our fight to defeat inflation is rapidly reducing the cost of energy. The previous administration cut the number of new oil and gas leases by 95 percent, slowed pipeline construction to a halt, and closed more than 100 power plants. We are opening up many of those power plants right now; and, frankly, we have never seen anything like it. That is why, on my first day in office, I declared a national energy emergency.

As you've heard me say many times, we have more liquid gold under our feet

than any nation on Earth, and by far, and now, I fully authorize the most talented team ever assembled to go and get it. It's called drill, baby, drill.

My administration is also working on a gigantic natural gas pipeline in Alaska, among the largest in the world, where Japan, South Korea, and other nations want to be our partner with investments of trillions of dollars each. There has never been anything like that one. It will be truly spectacular. It's all set to go. The permitting is gotten. And, later this week, I will also take historic action to dramatically expand production of critical minerals and rare earths here in the USA.

To further combat inflation, we will not only be reducing the cost of energy, but we'll be ending the flagrant waste of taxpayer dollars. And, to that end, I have created the brand-new Department of Government Efficiency, DOGE. Perhaps you've heard of it, perhaps, which is headed by Elon Musk, who is in the gallery tonight.

Thank you, Elon.

He's working very hard. He didn't need this. He didn't need this.

Thank you very much. We appreciate it, everybody here. Even this side appreciates it, I believe. They just don't want to admit that.

Just listen to some of the appalling waste we have already identified:

\$22 billion from HHS to provide free housing and cars for illegal aliens;

\$45 million for diversity, equity, and inclusion scholarships in Burma;

\$40 million to improve the social and economic inclusion of sedentary migrants—nobody knows what that is;

\$8 million to promote LGBTQI+ in the African nation of Lesotho, which nobody has ever heard of;

\$60 million for indigenous peoples and Afro-Colombian empowerment in Central America, \$60 million;

\$8 million for making mice transgender. This is real;

\$32 million for a leftwing propaganda operation in Moldova;

\$10 million for male circumcision in Mozambique;

\$20 million for the Arab "Sesame Street" in the Middle East—it's a program—\$20 million for a program;

\$1.9 billion to a recently created decarbonization of homes committee headed up—and we know she's involved—just at the last moment, the money was passed over—by a woman named Stacey Abrams. Have you ever heard of her?

A \$3.5 million consulting contract for lavish fish monitoring;

\$1.5 million for voter confidence in Liberia;

\$14 million for social cohesion in Mali;

\$59 million for illegal alien hotel rooms in New York City—he's a real estate developer. He's done very well;

\$250,000 to increase vegan local climate action innovation in Zambia;

\$42 million for social and behavior change in Uganda;

\$14 million for improving public procurement in Serbia;

\$47 million for improving learning outcomes in Asia. Asia is doing very well with learning. I don't know what we are doing. We should use it ourselves;

And \$101 million for DEI contracts at the Department of Education, the most ever paid, nothing even like it.

Under the Trump administration, all of these scams, and there are far worse, but I didn't think it was appropriate to talk about them, they are so bad. Many more have been found out and exposed and swiftly terminated by a group of very intelligent, mostly young people, headed up by Elon, and we appreciate it. We found hundreds of billions of dollars of fraud.

And we've taken back the money and reduced our debt to fight inflation and other things—taken back a lot of that money. We got it just in time. This is just the beginning.

The Government Accountability Office, a Federal Government office, has estimated annual fraud of over \$500 billion in our Nation, and we are working very hard to stop it. We're going to.

We're also identifying shocking levels of incompetence and probable fraud in the Social Security program for our seniors and that our seniors and people that we love rely on.

Believe it or not, government databases list 4.7 million Social Security members from people aged 100 to 109 years old.

It lists 3.6 million people from ages 110 to 119. I don't know any of them. I know some people that are rather elderly, but not quite that elderly;

3.47 million people from ages 120 to 129;

3.9 million people from ages 130 to 139;

3.5 million people from ages 140 to 149, and money is being paid to many of them, and we're searching right now.

In fact, Pam, good luck. Good luck. You are going to find it. But a lot of money is paid out to people because it just keeps getting paid and paid, and nobody does—and it really hurts Social Security and hurts our country.

1.3 million people from ages 150 to 159; and over 130,000 people, according to the Social Security databases, are aged over 160 years old—we have a healthier country than I thought, Bobby—including, to finish, 1,039 people between the ages of 220 and 229;

1 person between the age of 240 and 249;

And 1 person is listed at 360 years of age, more than 100 years—more than 100 years older than our country.

But we're going to find out where that money is going, and it's not going to be pretty. By slashing all of the fraud, waste, and theft we can find, we will defeat inflation, bring down mortgage rates, lower car payments and grocery prices, protect our seniors, and put more money in the pockets of American families.

And today, interest rates took a beautiful drop, a big, beautiful drop. It's about time.

And in the near future, I want to do what has not been done in 24 years, bal-

ance the Federal budget. We are going to balance it.

With that goal in mind, we have developed in great detail what we are calling the gold card, which goes on sale very, very soon. For \$5 million, we will allow the most successful, job-creating people from all over the world to buy a path to U.S. citizenship. It's like the green card but better and more sophisticated.

And these people will have to pay tax in our country. They won't have to pay tax from where they came. The money that they've made, you wouldn't want to do that, but they have to pay tax, create jobs. They'll also be taking people out of colleges and paying for them so that we can keep them in our country instead of having them being forced out, number one, at the top school, as an example, being forced out and not being allowed to stay and create tremendous numbers of jobs and great success for a company out there.

So while we take out the criminals, killers, traffickers, and child predators who were allowed to enter our country under the open-border policy of these people, the Democrats, the Biden administration, the open border, insane policies that you've allowed to destroy our country, we will now bring in brilliant, hardworking, job-creating people. They are going to pay a lot of money, and we're going to reduce our debt with that money.

Americans have given us a mandate for bold and profound change. For nearly 100 years, the Federal bureaucracy has grown until it has crushed our freedoms, ballooned our deficits, and held back America's potential in every possible way.

The Nation, founded by pioneers and risk takers, now drowns under millions and millions of pages of regulations and debt. Approvals that should take 10 days to get instead take 10 years, 15 years, and even 20 years before you're rejected.

Meanwhile, we have hundreds of thousands of Federal workers who have not been showing up to work. My administration will reclaim power from this unaccountable bureaucracy, and we will restore true democracy to America again.

And any Federal bureaucrat who resists this change will be removed from office immediately because we are draining the swamp. It's very simple. And the days of rule by unelected bureaucrats are over.

And the next phase of our plan to deliver the greatest economy in history is for this Congress to pass tax cuts for everybody. They're in there. They're waiting for you to vote, and I'm sure that the people on my right—I don't mean the Republican right, but my right, right here, I'm sure you're going to vote for those tax cuts because otherwise I don't believe the people will ever vote you into office, so I'm doing you a big favor by telling you that. But I know this group is going to be voting for the tax cut.

Thank you. It's a very, very big part of our plan. We had tremendous success at our first term with it. A very big part of our plan, we're seeking permanent income tax cuts all across the board. And to get urgently needed relief to Americans hit especially hard by inflation, I'm calling for no tax on tips, no tax on overtime, and no tax on Social Security benefits for our great seniors.

And I also want to make interest payments on car loans tax deductible, but only if the car is made in America.

And, by the way, we're going to have growth in the auto industry like nobody's ever seen. Plants are opening up all over the place. Deals are being made. Never seen—that's a combination of the election win and tariffs. It's a beautiful word, isn't it?

That, along with our other policies, will allow our auto industry to absolutely boom. It's going to boom. Spoke to the majors today, all three, the top people, and they're so excited.

In fact, already numerous car companies have announced that they will be building massive automobile plants in America, with Honda just announcing a new plant in Indiana, one of the largest anywhere in the world.

And this has taken place since our great victory on November 5th, a date which will hopefully go down as one of the most important in the history of our country.

In addition, as part of our tax cuts, we want to cut taxes on domestic production and all manufacturing. And just as we did before, we will provide 100 percent expensing. It will be retroactive to January 20th, 2025, and it was one of the main reasons why our tax cuts were so successful in our first term, giving us the most successful economy in the history of our country, first term. We had a great first term.

If you don't make your product in America, however, under the Trump administration, you will pay a tariff and, in some cases, a rather large one. Other countries have used tariffs against us for decades, and now it's our turn to start using them against those other countries.

On average, the European Union, China, Brazil, India, Mexico, and Canada—have you heard of them?—and countless other nations charge us tremendously higher tariffs than we charge them. It's very unfair.

India charges us auto tariffs higher than 100 percent. China's average tariff on our products is twice what we charge them. And South Korea's average tariff is four times higher—think of that, four times higher—and we give so much help militarily and so many other ways to South Korea, but that's what happens.

This is happening by friend and foe. The system is not fair to the United States and never was. And so, on April 2nd—I wanted to make it April 1st, but I didn't want to be accused of April Fools' Day. That's not—just one day will cost us a lot of money, but we're

going to do it on April—I'm a very superstitious person—April 2nd reciprocal tariffs kick in and whatever they tariff us, other countries, we will tariff them. That's reciprocal, back and forth. Whatever they tax us, we will tax them.

If they do nonmonetary tariffs to keep us out of their market, then we will do nonmonetary barriers to keep them out of our market. There's a lot of that, too. They don't even allow us in their market.

We will take in trillions and trillions of dollars that create jobs like we have never seen before. I did it with China and I did it with others, and the Biden administration couldn't do anything about it because there was so much money. They couldn't do anything about it.

We have been ripped off for decades by nearly every country on Earth, and we will not let that happen any longer.

Much has been said over the last 3 months about Mexico and Canada, but we have very large deficits with both of them. But even more importantly, they have allowed fentanyl to come into our country at levels never seen before, killing hundreds of thousands of our citizens, and many very young, beautiful people, destroying families. Nobody has ever seen anything like it.

They are, in effect, receiving subsidies of hundreds of billions of dollars. We pay subsidies to Canada and to Mexico of hundreds of billions of dollars. And the United States will not be doing that any longer. We're not going to do it any longer.

Thanks to our America First policies we're putting into place, we have had \$1.7 trillion of new investment in America in just the past few weeks. The combination of the election and our economic policies that people at SoftBank, one of the most brilliant anywhere in the world, announced a \$200 billion investment. OpenAI and Oracle, Larry Ellison, announced \$500 billion investment, which they wouldn't have done if Kamala had won. Apple announced \$500 billion investment. Tim Cook called me. He said, I cannot spend it fast enough. It's going to be much higher than that, I believe. They'll be building their plants here instead of in China.

And just yesterday, Taiwan Semiconductor, the biggest in the world, most powerful in the world—has a tremendous amount, 97 percent of the market—announced a \$165 billion investment to build the most powerful chips on Earth right here in the USA. And we're not giving them any money.

Your CHIPS Act is a horrible, horrible thing. We give hundreds of billions of dollars, and it doesn't mean a thing. They take our money, and they don't spend it.

All that meant to them—we're giving them no money. All that was important to them was they didn't want to pay the tariffs. So they came and they're building, and many other companies are coming. We don't have to

give them money. We just want to protect our businesses and our people. And they will come because they won't have to pay tariffs if they build in America. So it's very amazing.

You should get rid of the chip act, and whatever is left over, Mr. Speaker, you should use it to reduce debt or any other reason you want to.

Our new trade policy will also be great for the American farmer—I love the farmer—who will now be selling into our home market, the USA. Because nobody is going to be able to compete with you because there's goods that come in from other countries and companies, they're really, really in a bad position in so many different ways. They're uninspected. They may be very dirty and disgusting, and they come in, and they pour in, and they hurt our American farmers. The tariffs will go on agricultural product coming into America, and our—our farmers—starting on April 2nd—it may be a little bit of an adjustment period.

We had that before when I made the deal with China, \$50 billion of purchases, and I said, just bear with me, and they did. They did. Probably have to bear with me again, and this will be even better. That was great. The problem with it was that Biden didn't enforce it. He didn't enforce it. Fifty billion dollars of purchases, and we were doing great, but Biden did not enforce it, and it hurt our farmers.

But our farmers are going to have a field day right now. So to our farmers, have a lot of fun. I love you, too. I love you, too. It's all going to happen.

And I have also imposed a 25 percent tariff on foreign aluminum, copper, lumber, and steel because if we don't have, as an example, steel, and lots of other things, we don't have a military and, frankly, won't have—we just won't have a country very long.

Here today is a proud American steelworker, fantastic person from Decatur, Alabama. Jeff Denard has been working at the same steel plant for 27 years at a job that has allowed him to serve as the captain of his local volunteer fire department, raise 7 children with his beautiful wife, Nicole, and over the years provide a loving home for more than 40 foster children. So great, Jeff. Thank you, Jeff. Thank you, Jeff.

Stories like Jeff's remind us that tariffs are not just about protecting American jobs, they're about protecting the soul of our country. Tariffs are about making America rich again and making America great again, and it's happening, and it will happen rather quickly. There will be a little disturbance, but we're okay with that. It won't be much.

No, you're not. Oh, and look—and look where Biden took us. Very low, the lowest we've ever been.

Jeff, I want to thank you very much.

And I also want to recognize another person who has devoted herself to foster care community. She works so hard on it, a very loving person, our magnificent First Lady of the United

States. Melania's work has yielded incredible results, helping prepare our Nation's future leaders as they enter the workforce.

Our First Lady is joined by two impressive young women, very impressive: Haley Ferguson, who benefited from the First Lady's Fostering the Future initiative and is poised to complete her education and become a teacher and Elliston Berry, who became a victim of an illicit deepfake image produced by a peer. With Elliston's help the Senate just passed the TAKE IT DOWN Act, and this is so important.

Thank you very much, JOHN. JOHN THUNE. Thank you. Stand up, JOHN. Thank you, JOHN. Thank you all very much. Thank you. And thank you to JOHN THUNE and the Senate. Great job to criminalize. The publication of such images online is terrible. Terrible thing. And once it passes the House, I look forward to signing that bill into law. Thank you. And I'm going to use that bill for myself, too, if you don't mind. Because nobody gets treated worse than I do online. Nobody. That's great. Thank you very much to the Senate. Thank you.

But if we truly care about protecting Americans' children, no step is more crucial than securing America's borders. Over the past 4 years, 21 million people poured into the United States. Many of them were murderers, human traffickers, gang members, and other criminals from the streets of dangerous cities all throughout the world. Because of Joe Biden's insane and very dangerous open-border policies, they are now strongly embedded in our country. But we are getting them out and getting them out fast.

And I want to thank Tom Homan. And Kristi, I want to thank you and Paul of Border Patrol. I want to thank you. What a job they've all done. Everybody. Border Patrol, ICE. Law enforcement in general is incredible. We have to take care of our law enforcement. Have to.

Last year, a brilliant 22-year-old nursing student named Laken Riley, the best in her class, admired by everybody, went out for a jog on the campus of the University of Georgia. That morning, Laken was viciously attacked, assaulted, beaten, brutalized, and horrifically murdered. Laken was stolen from us by a savage, illegal alien gang member who was arrested while trespassing across Biden's open southern border and then set loose into the United States under the heartless policies of that failed administration. It was, indeed, a failed administration.

He had then been arrested and released in a Democrat-run sanctuary city, a disaster, before ending the life of this beautiful, young angel.

With us this evening are Laken's beloved mother, Allyson, and her sister, Lauren. Last year, I told Laken's grieving parents that we would ensure their daughter would not have died in vain. That's why the very first bill I

signed into law as your 47th President mandates the detention of all dangerous criminal aliens who threaten public safety. It is a very strong, powerful act. It's called the Laken Riley Act.

So Allyson and Lauren, America will never ever forget our beautiful Laken Hope Riley.

Thank you very much.

Since taking office, my administration has launched the most sweeping border and immigration crackdown in American history, and we quickly achieved the lowest numbers of illegal border crossers ever recorded.

Thank you.

The media and our friends in the Democrat Party kept saying we needed new legislation. We must have legislation to secure the border. But it turned out that all we really needed was a new President.

Thank you.

Joe Biden didn't just open our borders, he flew illegal aliens over them to overwhelm our schools, hospitals, and communities throughout the country. Entire towns like Aurora, Colorado, and Springfield, Ohio, buckled under the weight of the migrant occupation and corruption like nobody's ever seen before, beautiful towns destroyed.

Now just as I promised in my inaugural address, we are achieving the great liberation of America. But there still is much work to be done. Here tonight is a woman I have gotten to know, Alexis Nungaray from Houston, a wonderful woman. Last June, Alexis' 12-year-old daughter, her precious Jocelyn, walked to a nearby convenience store. She was kidnapped, tied up, assaulted for 2 hours under a bridge, and horrifically murdered.

Arrested and charged with this heinous crime are two illegal alien monsters from Venezuela, released into America by the last administration through their ridiculous open border. The death of this beautiful 12-year-old girl and the agony of her mother and family touched our entire Nation greatly.

Alexis, I promised that we would always remember your daughter, your magnificent daughter. And earlier tonight I signed an order, keeping my word to you.

One thing I have learned about Jocelyn is that she loved animals so much. She loved nature. Across Galveston Bay, from where Jocelyn lived in Houston, you'll find a magnificent national wildlife refuge, a pristine, peaceful, 34,000-acre sanctuary for all of God's creatures on the edge of the Gulf of America.

Alexis, moments ago I formally renamed that refuge in loving memory of your beautiful daughter, Jocelyn.

So, Mr. Vice President, if you would, may I have the order.

Thank you very much.

All three savages charged with Jocelyn and Laken's murders were members of the Venezuelan prison gang, the toughest gang, they say, in

the world, known as Tren de Aragua. Two weeks ago, I officially designated this gang, along with MS-13 and the bloodthirsty Mexican drug cartels, as foreign terrorist organizations. They are now officially in the same category as ISIS, and that's not good for them.

Countless thousands of these terrorists were welcomed into the U.S. by the Biden administration. But now every last one will be rounded up and forcibly removed from our country or, if they are too dangerous, put in jails, standing trial in this country because we don't want them to come back ever.

With us this evening is a warrior on the front lines of that battle, Border Patrol Agent Roberto Ortiz, a great guy. In January, Roberto and another agent were patrolling by the Rio Grande near an area known as cartel island—doesn't sound too nice to me—when heavily armed gunmen started shooting at them.

Roberto saw that his partner was totally exposed, in great danger, and he leapt into action, returning fire, and providing crucial seconds for his fellow agent to seek safety and just barely. I have some of the prints of that event, and it was not good.

Agent Ortiz, we salute you for your great courage and for your line of fire that you took and for the bravery that you showed. We honor you, and we will always honor you. Thank you, Roberto, very much. Thank you, Roberto.

And I actually got to know him on my many calls to the border. He is a great, great gentleman.

The territory to the immediate south of our border is now dominated entirely by criminal cartels that murder, rape, torture, and exercise total control. They have total control over a whole nation, posing a grave threat to our national security.

The cartels are waging war on America, and it is time for America to wage war on the cartels, which we are doing.

Five nights ago, Mexican authorities, because of our tariff policies being imposed on them—think of this—handed over to us 29 of the biggest cartel leaders in their country. That has never happened before. They want to make us happy. First time ever.

But we need Mexico and Canada to do much more than they have done, and they have to stop the fentanyl and drugs pouring into the USA. They're going to stop it.

I have sent Congress a detailed funding request, laying out exactly how we will eliminate these threats to protect our homeland and complete the largest deportation operation in American history, larger even than current record holder, President Dwight D. Eisenhower, a moderate man but someone who believed very strongly in borders. Americans expect Congress to send me this funding without delay so I can sign it into law.

So, Mr. Speaker, JOHN THUNE, both of you, I hope you are going to be able to do that.

Mr. Speaker, thank you.

Mr. Leader, thank you. Thank you very much.

And let's get it to me. I'll sign it so fast, you won't even believe it.

And as we reclaim our sovereignty, we must also bring back law and order to our cities and towns.

In recent years, our justice system has been turned upside down by radical left lunatics. Many jurisdictions virtually ceased enforcing the law against dangerous repeat offenders while weaponizing law enforcement against political opponents, like me.

My administration has acted swiftly and decisively to restore fair, equal, and impartial justice under the constitutional rule of law, starting at the FBI and the DOJ.

Pam, good luck.

Kash, wherever you may be, good luck. Good luck.

Pam Bondi, good luck.

So important. Going to do a great job.

Kash, thank you. Thank you, Kash.

They have already started very strong. They are going to do a fantastic job. You are going to be very proud of them.

We are also once again giving our police officers the support, protection, and respect they so dearly deserve. They have to get it. They have such a hard, dangerous job, but we're going to make it less dangerous. The problem is, the bad guys don't respect the law, but they're starting to respect it, and they soon will respect it.

This also includes our great fire departments throughout the country, our firemen and -women are unbelievable people, and I will never forget them. And besides that, they voted for me in record numbers, so I have no choice.

One year ago this month, 31-year-old New York Police Officer Jonathan Diller, unbelievably wonderful person and a great officer, was gunned down at a traffic stop on Long Island. I went to his funeral.

The vicious criminal charged with his murder had 21 prior arrests, and they were rough arrests, too. He was a real bad one. The thug in the seat next to him had 14 prior arrests and went by the name of "Killer." He was a killer. He killed other people, they say, a lot of them.

I attended Officer Diller's service, and when I met his wife and 1-year-old son, Ryan, it was very inspirational actually. His widow's name is Stephanie, and she is here tonight, Stephanie.

Thank you very much, Stephanie. Thank you very much.

Stephanie, we're going to make sure that Ryan knows his dad was a true hero, New York's finest, and we're going to get these cold-blooded killers and repeat offenders off our streets, and we're going to do it fast. Got to stop it.

They get out with 28 arrests. They push people into subway trains. They hit people over the head, back of the head, with baseball bats. We got to get them out of here.

I have already signed an executive order requiring a mandatory death pen-

alty for anyone who murders a police officer, and tonight, I'm asking Congress to pass that policy into permanent law.

I'm also asking for a new crime bill getting tough on repeat offenders while enhancing protections for America's police officers so they can do their jobs without fear of their lives being totally destroyed. They don't want to be killed. We're not going to let them be killed.

Joining us in the gallery tonight is a young man who truly loves our police. His name is DJ Daniel. He's 13 years old, and he has always dreamed of becoming a police officer. But in 2018, DJ was diagnosed with brain cancer. The doctors gave him 5 months at most to live. That was more than 6 years ago.

Since that time, DJ and his dad have been on a quest to make his dream come true, and DJ has been sworn in as an honorary law enforcement officer actually a number of times. The police love him, and the police departments love him.

And tonight, DJ, we are going to do you the biggest honor of them all. I am asking our new Secret Service Director, Sean Curran, to officially make you an agent of the United States Secret Service.

Thank you, DJ.

DJ's doctors believe his cancer likely came from a chemical he was exposed to when he was younger.

Since 1975, rates of child cancer have increased by more than 40 percent. Reversing this trend is one of the top priorities for our new Presidential Commission to Make America Healthy Again, chaired by our new Secretary of Health and Human Services, Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.

With the name "Kennedy," you would have thought everybody over here would have been cheering. How quickly they forget.

Our goal is to get toxins out of our environment, poisons out of our food supply, and keep our children healthy and strong.

As an example, not long ago—and you can't even believe these numbers—1 in 10,000 children had autism, 1 in 10,000, and now it is 1 in 36. There's something wrong, 1 in 36. Think of that. So we're going to find out what it is, and there's nobody better than Bobby and all of the people that are working with you. You have the best to figure out what is going on. Okay, Bobby? Good luck. It's a very important job.

Thank you.

My administration is also working to protect our children from toxic ideologies in our schools. A few years ago, January Littlejohn and her husband discovered that their daughter's school had secretly socially transitioned their 13-year-old little girl. Teachers and administrators conspired to deceive January and her husband while encouraging her daughter to use a new name and pronouns, they/them pronoun actually, all without

telling January who is here tonight and is now a courageous advocate against this form of child abuse.

January, thank you. Thank you. Thank you very much. Thank you.

Stories like this are why shortly after taking office I signed an executive order banning public schools from indoctrinating our children with transgender ideology. I also signed an order to cut off all taxpayer funding to any institution that engages in the sexual mutilation of our youth.

And now I want Congress to pass a bill permanently banning and criminalizing sex changes on children and forever ending the lie that any child is trapped in the wrong body. This is a big lie.

And our message to every child in America is that you are perfect exactly the way God made you, because we're getting wokeness out of our schools and out of our military. And it's already out, and it's out of our society. We don't want it. Wokeness is trouble. Wokeness is bad. It's gone. It's gone. And we feel so much better for it, don't we? Don't we feel better?

Our servicemembers won't be activists and ideologues. They will be fighters and warriors. They will fight for our country.

And, Pete, congratulations. Secretary of Defense, congratulations.

And he is not big into the woke movement, I can tell you. I know him well.

I am pleased to report that in January, the U.S. Army had its single best recruiting month in 15 years and that all armed services are having among the best recruiting results ever in the history of our services. What a difference.

And, you know, it was just a few months ago where the results were exactly the opposite. We couldn't recruit anywhere. We couldn't recruit. Now, we're having the best results, just about, that we've ever had. What a tremendous turnaround. It's really a beautiful thing to see. People love our country again. It's very simple. They love our country, and they love being in our military again. So it's a great thing, and thank you very much. Great job. Thank you.

We're joined tonight by a young man, Jason Hartley, who knows the weight of that call of duty. Jason's father, grandfather, and great-grandfather all wore the uniform. Jason tragically lost his dad, who was also a Los Angeles County Sheriff's deputy, when he was just a boy, and now he wants to carry on the family legacy of service. Jason is a senior in high school, a six-letter varsity athlete, a really good athlete they say, a brilliant student with a 4.46—that's good—GPA, and his greatest dream is to attend the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

And, Jason, that's a very big deal getting in. That's a hard one to get into, but I'm pleased to inform you that your application has been accepted. You will soon be joining the Corps of Cadets.

Thank you. Jason, you're going to be on the long, gray line, Jason.

As Commander in Chief, my focus is on building the most powerful military of the future. As a first step, I'm asking Congress to fund a state-of-the-art golden dome missile defense shield to protect our homeland, all made in the USA. And Ronald Reagan wanted to do it long ago, but the technology just wasn't there, not even close, but now we have the technology. It's incredible, actually. And other place they have it—Israel has it. Other places have it. And the United States should have it, too. Right, Tim, right? They should have it, too. So I want to thank you. But it's very important. This is a very dangerous world. We should have it. We want to be protected, and we're going to protect our citizens like never before.

To boost our defense industrial base, we are also going to resurrect the American shipbuilding industry, including commercial shipbuilding and military shipbuilding.

And for that purpose, I am announcing tonight that we will create a new Office of Shipbuilding in the White House and offer special tax incentives to bring this industry home to America where it belongs. We used to make so many ships. We don't make them anymore very much, but we're going to make them very fast, very soon. It will have a huge impact.

To further enhance our national security, my administration will be reclaiming the Panama Canal, and we've already started doing it. Just today, a large American company announced they are buying both ports around the Panama Canal and lots of other things having to do with the Panama Canal and a couple of other canals.

The Panama Canal was built by Americans for Americans, not for others, but others could use it. But it was built at tremendous cost of American blood and treasure. 38,000 workers died building the Panama Canal. They died of malaria. They died of snakebites and mosquitoes, not a nice place to work. They paid them very highly to go there, knowing there was a 25 percent chance that they would die. The most expensive project also that was ever built in our country's history if you bring it up to modern day costs.

It was given away by the Carter administration for \$1, but that agreement has been violated very severely. We didn't give it to China. We gave it to Panama, and we're taking it back.

And we have Marco Rubio in charge. Good luck, Marco. Now we know who to blame if anything goes wrong.

No. Marco's been amazing, and he's going to do a great job. Think of it. He got 100 votes. You know, he was approved with actually 99, but the 100th was this gentleman, and I feel very certain, so let's assume he got 100 votes. And I am either very, very happy about that, or I am very concerned about it, but he's already proven—I mean, he's a great gentleman.

He's respected by everybody, and we appreciate you voting for Marco. He's going to do a fantastic job. Thank you.

Thank you. He's doing a great job. Great job.

And I also have a message tonight for the incredible people of Greenland. We strongly support your right to determine your own future, and if you choose, we welcome you into the United States of America.

We need Greenland for national security and even international security, and we're working with everybody involved to try and get it. But we need it really for international world security, and I think we're going to get it. One way or the other, we're going to get it.

We will keep you safe. We will make you rich, and, together, we will take Greenland to heights like you have never thought possible before. It's a very small population, but very, very large piece of land and very, very important for military security. America is once again standing strong against the forces of radical Islamic terrorism.

Three and a half years ago, ISIS terrorists killed 13 American servicemembers and countless others in the Abbey Gate bombing during the disastrous and incompetent withdrawal from Afghanistan. Not that they were withdrawing. It was the way they withdrew, perhaps the most embarrassing moment in the history of our country.

Tonight, I am pleased to announce that we have just apprehended the top terrorist responsible for that atrocity, and he is right now on his way here to face the swift sword of American justice.

And I want to thank especially the government of Pakistan for helping arrest this monster. This was a very momentous day for those 13 families, who I actually got to know very well, most of them, whose children were murdered and the many people that were so badly—over 42 people so badly injured on that fateful day in Afghanistan. What a horrible day.

Such incompetence was shown that, when Putin saw what happened, I guess he said: Wow, maybe this is my chance. That's how bad it was. It should have never happened. Grossly incompetent people.

I spoke to many of the parents and loved ones, and they're all in our hearts tonight. I just spoke to them on the phone. We had a big call. Every one of them called, and everybody was on the line, and they did nothing but cry with happiness. They were very happy, as happy as you can be under those circumstances. Their child, brother, sister, son, daughter was killed for no reason whatsoever.

In the Middle East, we are bringing back our hostages from Gaza. In my first term, we achieved one of the most groundbreaking peace agreements in generations, the Abraham Accords, and now we're going to build on that foundation to create a more peaceful and prosperous future for the entire region.

A lot of things are happening in the Middle East. People haven't been talk-

ing about that so much lately with everything going on with Ukraine and Russia, but a lot of things are happening in the Middle East. It's a rough neighborhood, actually.

I am also working tirelessly to end the savage conflict in Ukraine. Millions of Ukrainians and Russians have been needlessly killed or wounded in this horrific and brutal conflict, with no end in sight. The United States has sent hundreds of billions of dollars to support Ukraine's defense, with no security, with no anything.

Do you want to keep it going for another 5 years? Yeah? Yeah. You would say. Pocahontas says: Yes.

Two thousand people are being killed every single week. More than that. They're Russian young people. They're Ukrainian young people. They're not Americans, but I want it to stop.

Meanwhile, Europe has, sadly, spent more money buying Russian oil and gas than they have spent on defending Ukraine, by far. Think of that. They've spent more buying Russian oil and gas than they have defending, and we've spent perhaps \$350 billion, like taking candy from a baby. That's what happened, and they've spent \$100 billion.

What a difference that is. And we have an ocean separating us, and they don't. But we're getting along very well with them, and lots of good things are happening.

Biden has authorized more money in this fight than Europe has spent by billions and billions of dollars. It's hard to believe that they wouldn't have stopped it and said at some point: Come on, let's equalize. You've got to be equal to us.

But that didn't happen.

Earlier today, I received an important letter from President Zelenskyy of Ukraine.

The letter reads: Ukraine is ready to come to the negotiating table as soon as possible to bring lasting peace closer. Nobody wants peace more than the Ukrainians, he said. My team and I stand ready to work under President Trump's strong leadership to get a peace that lasts. We do really value how much America has done to help Ukraine maintain its sovereignty and independence. Regarding the agreement on minerals and security, Ukraine is ready to sign it at any time that is convenient for you.

I appreciate that he sent this letter. Just got it a little while ago.

Simultaneously, we've had serious discussions with Russia and have received strong signals that they are ready for peace. Wouldn't that be beautiful? Wouldn't that be beautiful? Wouldn't that be beautiful?

It's time to stop this madness. It's time to halt the killing. It's time to end this senseless war. If you want to end wars, you have to talk to both sides.

Nearly 4 years ago, amid rising tensions, a history teacher named Marc Fogel was detained in Russia and sentenced to 14 years in a penal colony—

rough stuff. The previous administration barely lifted a finger to help him. They knew he was innocent, but they had no idea where to begin. But, last summer, I promised his 95-year-old mother, Malphine, that we would bring her boy safely back home.

After 22 days in office, I did just that, and they are here tonight.

To Marc and his great mom, we are delighted to have you safe and sound and with us.

As fate would have it, Marc Fogel was born in a small, rural town, in Butler, Pennsylvania—have you heard of it?—where his mother has lived for the past 78 years.

I just happened to go there last July 13th for a rally. That was not pleasant. And that is where I met his beautiful mom right before I walked onto that stage, and I told her I would not forget what she said about her son. And I never did, did I? I never forgot.

Less than 10 minutes later, at that same rally, gunfire rang out, and a sick and deranged assassin unloaded eight bullets from his sniper's perch into a crowd of many thousands of people. My life was saved by a fraction of an inch, but some were not so lucky.

Corey Comperatore was a firefighter, a veteran, a Christian, a husband, a devoted father, and, above all, a protector. When the sound of gunshots pierced the air—it was a horrible sound—Corey knew instantly what it was and what to do. He threw himself on top of his wife and daughters and shielded them from the bullets with his own body. Corey was hit really hard. You know the story from there. He sacrificed his life to save theirs.

Two others, very fine people, were also seriously hit, but thankfully, with the help of two great country doctors—we thought they were gone, and they were saved. So, those doctors had great talent. We're joined by Corey's wife, Helen, who was his high school sweetheart, and their two beloved daughters, Allyson and Kaylee. Thank you.

To Helen, Allyson, and Kaylee, Corey is looking down on his three beautiful ladies right now, and he's cheering you on. He loves you. He is cheering you on.

Corey was taken from us much too soon, but his destiny was to leave us all with a shining example of the selfless devotion of a true American patriot. It was love like Corey's that built our country, and it's love like Corey's that is going to make our country more majestic than ever before.

I believe that my life was saved that day in Butler for a very good reason. I was saved by God to make America great again. I believe that.

Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you very much.

From the patriots of Lexington and Concord to the heroes of Gettysburg and Normandy, from the warriors who crossed the Delaware to the trailblazers who climbed the Rockies, and from the legends who soared at Kitty

Hawk to the astronauts who touched the Moon, Americans have always been the people who defied all odds, transcended all dangers, made the most extraordinary sacrifices, and did whatever it took to defend our children, our country, and our freedom.

And as we have seen in this Chamber tonight, that same strength, faith, love, and spirit is still alive and thriving in the hearts of the American people.

Despite the best efforts of those who would try to censor us, silence us, break us, destroy us, Americans are today a proud, free, sovereign, and independent Nation that will always be free, and we will fight for it till death. We will never let anything happen to our beloved country because we are a country of doers, dreamers, fighters, and survivors.

Our ancestors crossed a vast ocean, strode into the unknown wilderness, and carved their fortunes from the rock and soil of a perilous and very dangerous frontier. They chased our destiny across a boundless continent. They built the railroads, laid the highways, and graced the world with American marvels like the Empire State Building, the mighty Hoover Dam, and the towering Golden Gate Bridge.

They lit the world with electricity; broke free of the force of gravity; fired up the engines of American industry; vanquished the Communists, Fascists, and Marxists all over the world; and gave us countless modern wonders sculpted out of iron, glass, and steel.

We stand on the shoulders of these pioneers who won and built the modern age, these workers who poured their sweat into the skylines of our cities, these warriors who shed their blood on fields of battle and gave everything they had for our rights and for our freedom.

Now, it is our time to take up the righteous cause of American liberty, and it is our turn to take America's destiny into our own hands and begin the most thrilling days in the history of our country.

This will be our greatest era. With God's help, over the next 4 years, we are going to lead this Nation even higher, and we are going to forge the freest, most advanced, most dynamic, and most dominant civilization ever to exist on the face of this Earth. We are going to create the highest quality of life, build the safest and wealthiest and healthiest and most vital communities anywhere in the world.

We are going to conquer the vast frontiers of science, and we are going to lead humanity into space and plant the American flag on the planet Mars and even far beyond.

And through it all, we are going to rediscover the unstoppable power of the American spirit, and we are going to renew unlimited promise of the American Dream.

Every single day, we will stand up and we will fight, fight, fight for the country our citizens believe in and for the country our people deserve.

My fellow Americans, get ready for an incredible future because the golden age of America has only just begun. It will be like nothing that has ever been seen before.

Thank you. God bless you, and God bless America.

(Applause, the Members rising.)

At 11 o'clock and 4 minutes p.m., the President of the United States, accompanied by the committee of escort, retired from the Hall of the House of Representatives.

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms escorted the invited guests from the Chamber in the following order:

The members of the President's Cabinet;

The Chief Justice of the United States and the Associate Justices of the Supreme Court;

The Dean of the Diplomatic Corps.

JOINT SESSION DISSOLVED

The SPEAKER. The Chair declares the joint session of the two Houses now dissolved.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 4 minutes p.m.), the joint session of the two Houses was dissolved.

The Members of the Senate retired to their Chamber.

MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HOUSE ON THE STATE OF THE UNION

Mr. SCALISE. Madam Speaker, I move that the message of the President be referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union and ordered printed.

The motion was agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. SCALISE. Madam Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 6 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, March 5, 2025, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

EC-504. A letter from the Acting Solicitor General, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's decision in *Dellinger v. Bessent*, No. 25-5028 (D.C. Cir.), pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 530D(a)(1); Public Law 107-273, Sec. 202(a); (116 Stat. 1771); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-505. A letter from the Manager, Legal Litigation and Support, AGC-010, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Modification of Class D and Class E Airspace; Abbotsford Airport, Abbotsford, BC [Docket No.: FAA-2024-2440; Airspace Docket No. 24-ANM-86] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received February 24, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law

104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-506. A letter from the Manager, Legal Litigation and Support, AGC-010, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; ATR-GIE Avions de Transport Regional Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2024-2418; Project Identifier MCAI-2024-00239-T; Amendment 39-22943; AD 2025-02-10] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received February 24, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-507. A letter from the Manager, Legal Litigation and Support, AGC-010, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Canada Limited Partnership (Type Certificate Previously Held by C Series Aircraft Limited Partnership (CSALP); Bombardier, Inc.) Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2024-1893; Project Identifier MCAI-2023-01050-T; Amendment 39-22953; AD 2025-03-05] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received February 24, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-508. A letter from the Manager, Legal Litigation and Support, AGC-010, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; DAHER AEROSPACE (Type Certificate Previously Held by SOCATA) Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2024-2413; Project Identifier MCAI-2023-00982-A; Amendment 39-22941; AD 2025-02-08] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received February 24, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-509. A letter from the Manager, Legal Litigation and Support, AGC-010, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Saab AB Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2024-2016; Project Identifier MCAI-2024-00111-T; Amendment 39-22948; AD 2025-02-15] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received February 24, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-510. A letter from the Manager, Legal Litigation and Support, AGC-010, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2024-2138; Project Identifier MCAI-2024-00124-T; Amendment 39-22955; AD 2025-03-07] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received February 24, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-511. A letter from the Manager, Legal Litigation and Support, AGC-010, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2024-2137; Project Identifier AD-2023-00297-T; Amendment 39-22932; AD 2025-01-08] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received February 24, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-512. A letter from the Manager, Legal Litigation and Support, AGC-010, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; FS 2001 Corp, FS 2002 Corporation, FS 2003 Corporation, Piper, and Piper Aircraft, Inc. Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2023-1893; Project Identifier AD-2023-00389-A; Amendment 39-22944; AD 2025-02-11] (RIN:

2120-AA64) received February 24, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-513. A letter from the Manager, Legal Litigation and Support, AGC-010, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2024-2145; Project Identifier MCAI-2024-00077-T; Amendment 39-22954; AD 2025-03-06] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received February 24, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-514. A letter from the Manager, Legal Litigation and Support, AGC-010, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Costruzioni Aeronautiche Tecnam S.P.A. Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2025-0202; Project Identifier MCAI-2024-00739-A; Amendment 39-22957; AD 2025-03-09] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received February 24, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-515. A letter from the Manager, Legal Litigation and Support, AGC-010, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2024-2408; Project Identifier AD-2024-00362-T; Amendment 39-22958; AD 2025-03-10] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received February 24, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

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

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee: Committee on Homeland Security. House Resolution 114. Resolution 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, adversely (Rept. 119-10). Referred to the House Calendar.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. CISCOMANI (for himself, Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. TIFFANY, Mr. FULCHER, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. CRENSHAW, Ms. TENNEY, and Ms. MALLIOTAKIS):

H.R. 1820. A bill to address the public safety issues and environmental destruction currently impacting Federal lands along the southern border, enhance border security through the construction of navigable roads on Federal lands along the southern border, provide U.S. Customs and Border Protection access to Federal lands to improve the safety and effectiveness of enforcement activities, allow States to place temporary barriers on Federal land to secure the southern border, reduce the massive trash accumulations and environmental degradation along the southern border, reduce the cultivation of illegal

cannabis on Federal lands, mitigate wildland fires caused by illegal immigration, and prohibit migrant housing on Federal lands; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committees on Agriculture, the Budget, and Homeland Security, 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. CALVERT:

H.R. 1821. A bill to deny Federal funding to any State or political subdivision of a State that has in effect any law, policy, or procedure that prevents or impedes a State or local law enforcement official from maintaining custody of an alien pursuant to an immigration detainer issued by the Secretary of Homeland Security, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. FEENSTRA (for himself, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, and Mr. MORAN):

H.R. 1822. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude from gross income interest received on certain loans secured by rural or agricultural real property; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BERGMAN (for himself and Mr. BOST):

H.R. 1823. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Comptroller General of the United States to report on certain funding shortfalls in the Department of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mrs. BICE (for herself, Ms. SHERILL, Ms. HOULAHAN, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, and Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina):

H.R. 1824. A bill to amend titles 10 and 38, United States Code, to extend certain benefits to members of the National Guard who incur disabilities while performing State active duty; to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, 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. BIGGS of Arizona:

H.R. 1825. A bill to direct the Secretary of Education to eliminate the Office of Enforcement within the Office of Federal Student Aid, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

By Mr. CARBAJAL (for himself, Mr. LAWLER, Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, and Mr. CISCOMANI):

H.R. 1826. A bill to implement or strengthen programs that increase the supply of quality child care services by enhancing the wages of child care workers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

By Mr. CARBAJAL (for himself, Mr. LAWLER, Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, and Mr. CISCOMANI):

H.R. 1827. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the employer-provided child care credit and the dependent care assistance exclusion; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. COHEN:

H.R. 1828. A bill to direct the Secretary of Transportation to issue rules requiring the inclusion of new safety equipment in school buses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Education and Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CRANE:

H.R. 1829. A bill to require the Secretary of Agriculture to convey certain lands within the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. FEDORCHAK:

H.R. 1830. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 840 Front Street in Casselton, North Dakota, as the "Commander Delbert Austin Olson Post Office"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. GOTTHEIMER:

H.R. 1831. A bill to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to carry out a pilot program for the prevention and mitigation of acts of terrorism using motor vehicles, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mr. MAGAZINER:

H.R. 1832. A bill to establish "Golden Sea Bream" as an acceptable market name for *Stenotomus chrysops*; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. MALLIOTAKIS:

H.R. 1833. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to rename the standard deduction the guaranteed deduction, and to add a bonus amount to the guaranteed deduction for taxable years 2026 and 2027; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MCGOVERN:

H.R. 1834. A bill to advance policy priorities that will break the gridlock; to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committees on Natural Resources, House Administration, Transportation and Infrastructure, Agriculture, Science, Space, and Technology, Education and Workforce, Foreign Affairs, Intelligence (Permanent Select), Small Business, the Judiciary, Homeland Security, Financial Services, Veterans' Affairs, Ways and Means, Rules, Ethics, Energy and Commerce, the Budget, and Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. MCIVER (for herself, Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. TITUS, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. NORTON, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mrs. FOUSHEE, Mr. THANEDAR, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. MANNION, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. GARCIA of California, Ms. TOKUDA, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Mr. TURNER of Texas, Mr. LANDSMAN, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. ANSARI, Mr. IVEY, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. SIMON, Mr. PANETTA, Ms. CROCKETT, Mr. BEYER, Mr. CARSON, Mr. EVANS of Pennsylvania, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. KENNEDY of New York, Ms. BROWN, Mr. POCAN, Ms. UNDERWOOD, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. BISHOP, Ms. MENG, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. TONKO, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Mr. OLSZEWSKI, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Mrs. TORRES of California, Mr. BELL, Mr. LATIMER, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mrs. TRAHAN, Ms. MCCLELLAN, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. HERNÁNDEZ, Ms. CHU, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Ms. JAYAPAL, Ms. WATERS, Ms. PETERSEN, and Mr. FIELDS):

H.R. 1835. A bill to require the reinstatement of recently terminated probationary Federal employees, and for other purposes;

to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. OBERNOLTE:

H.R. 1836. A bill to amend the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 to provide for an application for a Federal easement, right-of-way, or lease with respect to a communications facility installation to be deemed granted if not granted or denied by the specified deadline, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ONDER (for himself, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. NEHLS, Mr. GILL of Texas, Mr. HARRIS of Maryland, Mr. HARIDOPOLOS, and Mr. HARRIS of North Carolina):

H.R. 1837. A bill to require aliens seeking admission to the United States as non-immigrants to pay a bond or cash payment and to impose penalties on such aliens who fail to timely depart the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. PLASKETT (for herself and Mr. MOORE of Alabama):

H.R. 1838. A bill to amend the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 to improve access to broadband telecommunications services in rural areas, including by encouraging the provision of broadband loans and grants to increase broadband service in rural ports, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ROY:

H.R. 1839. A bill to prevent use of United Nations facilities located in the United States by the ICC, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. SANCHEZ:

H.R. 1840. A bill to provide for phase-out of de minimis treatment under the Tariff Act of 1930, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SHERMAN (for himself, Mr. BIGGS of Arizona, Ms. CHU, Mr. MIN, Mr. MOYLAN, Ms. NORTON, Mr. AMO, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. CASAR, Mr. CARSON, Mr. CORREA, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. FROST, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. JAYAPAL, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. LEVIN, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. OMAR, Ms. PINGREE, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. STRICKLAND, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. TITUS, Mr. TONKO, Mr. TRAN, and Mr. VARGAS):

H.R. 1841. A bill to review current restrictions on travel to North Korea, call for a formal end to the Korean War, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. TENNEY (for herself and Ms. ROSS):

H.R. 1842. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow certain veterinary expenses for pets and service animals to be treated as amounts paid for medical care for purposes of a health savings account or flexible savings account; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK (for herself and Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin):

H. Res. 185. A resolution recognizing the need of Congress to prevent, address, and treat obesity as a disease in the United States on this World Obesity Day, March 4, 2025; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

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, Mr. CASAR, Ms. CROCKETT, Ms. RANDALL, Mr. SUBRAMANYAM, Ms. ANSARI, Mr. BELL, Ms. SIMON, Mr. MIN, Ms. PRESSLEY, and Ms. TLAIB):

H. Res. 186. A resolution of inquiry requesting the President to transmit certain documents to the House of Representatives relating to the conflicts of interest of Elon Musk and related information; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. MFUME (for himself, Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. NORTON, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. BROWN, Ms. STANSBURY, Mr. GARCIA of California, Mr. FROST, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Mr. CASAR, Ms. CROCKETT, Ms. RANDALL, Mr. SUBRAMANYAM, Ms. ANSARI, Mr. BELL, Ms. SIMON, Mr. MIN, Ms. PRESSLEY, and Ms. TLAIB):

H. Res. 187. A resolution of inquiry requesting the President to transmit certain information to the House of Representatives referring to the termination, removal, placement on administrative leave, moved to another department of Federal employees and Inspectors General of agencies; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. MULLIN (for himself, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Ms. NORTON, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. TLAIB, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. THANEDAR, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. SOTO, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. SWALWELL, Mrs. TORRES of California, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mrs. MCIVER, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, and Mr. GREEN of Texas):

H. Res. 188. A resolution affirming the obligation of the President of the United States to comply with court orders; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

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

By Mr. CISCOMANI:

H.R. 1820.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. CALVERT:

H.R. 1821.
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, specifically clause 1 and clause 18.

By Mr. FEENSTRA:

H.R. 1822.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, clause 1
By Mr. BERGMAN:
H.R. 1823.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mrs. BICE:
H.R. 1824.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clauses 14, 16, and 18.
By Mr. BIGGS of Arizona:
H.R. 1825.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. CARBAJAL:
H.R. 1826.
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, clause 1 of the United States Constitution which provides Congress with the power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises to provide for the general Welfare of the United States.

By Mr. CARBAJAL:
H.R. 1827.
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, clause 1 of the United States Constitution which provides Congress with the power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises to provide for the general Welfare of the United States.

By Mr. COHEN:
H.R. 1828.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8

By Mr. CRANE:
H.R. 1829.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article IV, Section 3, clause 2

By Ms. FEDORCHAK:
H.R. 1830.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 7:

The Congress shall have Power . . . To establish Post Offices and post Roads; . . ."

By Mr. GOTTHEIMER:
H.R. 1831.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8

By Mr. MAGAZINER:
H.R. 1832.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Ms. MALLIOTAKIS:
H.R. 1833.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I Section 8 Clause 1

By Mr. MCGOVERN:
H.R. 1834.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8

By Mrs. MCIVER:
H.R. 1835.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Spending Clause, Article I, Section 8, Clause 1
Necessary and Proper Clause, Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. OBERNOLTE:
H.R. 1836.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8
By Mr. ONDER:
H.R. 1837.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution.

By Ms. PLASKETT:
H.R. 1838.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. ROY:
H.R. 1839.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8
By Ms. SANCHEZ:
H.R. 1840.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. SHERMAN:
H.R. 1841.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution
By Ms. TENNEY:
H.R. 1842.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

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

H.R. 173: Mr. LANDSMAN.
H.R. 307: Ms. WILSON of Florida.
H.R. 349: Mr. KHANNA, Ms. SCHOLTEN, Mr. LYNCH, Ms. NORTON, Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, Mr. LALOTA, Mr. CORREA, Mr. TONKO, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. MEUSER, Ms. CHU, Ms. SCANLON, and Ms. PINGREE.

H.R. 381: Ms. ADAMS.
H.R. 404: Mr. HARRIGAN.
H.R. 407: Ms. SCHOLTEN.
H.R. 425: Mr. LATTA.
H.R. 433: Ms. CHU and Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
H.R. 452: Mr. ROUZER, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, and Mr. PFLUGER.

H.R. 482: Mrs. LUNA and Mr. GILL of Texas.
H.R. 516: Ms. MALOY and Mr. MOORE of North Carolina.

H.R. 521: Mr. ISSA.
H.R. 633: Mr. KHANNA, Mrs. BICE, Mr. KEAN, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. GOLDMAN of Texas, and Ms. BOEBERT.

H.R. 690: Mr. OWENS.
H.R. 703: Mr. HARRIGAN.
H.R. 724: Mr. BEGICH.
H.R. 785: Mr. LALOTA.

H.R. 787: Ms. GOODLANDER.
H.R. 801: Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. BOST, and Mr. HARRIS of Maryland.

H.R. 821: Mr. CASE.
H.R. 833: Mr. HARRIGAN.

H.R. 842: Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mr. BAUMGARTNER, Mr. HARIDOPOLOS, Mr. BEAN of Florida, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. BENTZ, Mr. EVANS of Colorado, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. SORESENSEN, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. EVANS of Pennsylvania, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. TONKO, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mrs. BICE, and Mr. AUCHINCLOSS.

H.R. 846: Mr. POCAN.
H.R. 861: Mr. DOGGETT and Mr. RASKIN.
H.R. 862: Mr. LALOTA.

H.R. 909: Ms. DE LA CRUZ, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. GRAVES, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. LUCAS, Mr. LANDSMAN, Mr. BERGMAN, and Mr. DELUZZIO.

H.R. 973: Ms. FRIEDMAN.

H.R. 979: Mr. MRVAN, Ms. KAPTUR, and Mr. WOMACK.

H.R. 989: Mr. HOYER, Ms. STRICKLAND, and Ms. CHU.

H.R. 995: Mr. COURTNEY and Mr. CISNEROS.
H.R. 999: Mr. SUOZZI.

H.R. 1004: Mr. LANDSMAN.
H.R. 1013: Mr. MORELLE.

H.R. 1046: Mr. McDOWELL.
H.R. 1065: Ms. CHU.

H.R. 1086: Mr. LANDSMAN.
H.R. 1103: Mr. FINSTAD and Mr. BACON.

H.R. 1110: Ms. BOEBERT.
H.R. 1145: Mr. GRIJALVA.

H.R. 1151: Mr. SUOZZI, Ms. BUDZINSKI, Mr. GOLDEN of Maine, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. BISHOP, and Mr. VALADAO.

H.R. 1158: Mr. HOYER.
H.R. 1175: Mr. SHREVE.

H.R. 1177: Ms. MALLIOTAKIS and Mr. PANETTA.

H.R. 1181: Mr. FEENSTRA and Mr. SMITH of Nebraska.

H.R. 1193: Ms. PEREZ.
H.R. 1195: Mr. HARRIGAN.

H.R. 1196: Ms. MCCLELLAN, Mr. EVANS of Pennsylvania, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, and Ms. STRICKLAND.

H.R. 1206: Mr. KENNEDY of Utah.
H.R. 1207: Mr. HURD of Colorado.

H.R. 1229: Mr. PALLONE, Mr. KENNEDY of New York, Mr. GROTHMAN, Ms. MENG, Mr. BRESNAHAN, Mr. HARRIGAN, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mr. LALOTA, Mr. MEEKS, and Mr. LANGWORTHY.

H.R. 1232: Mr. ROUZER.
H.R. 1241: Mr. TAYLOR.

H.R. 1243: Mr. HARRIGAN.
H.R. 1251: Mr. THANEDAR.

H.R. 1262: Mr. CISCOMANI, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas.

H.R. 1278: Mr. BAIRD.
H.R. 1284: Mr. BISHOP, Ms. SHERRILL, and Mr. DELUZZIO.

H.R. 1285: Mr. NORCROSS.
H.R. 1300: Mr. MILLER of Ohio.

H.R. 1307: Ms. CHU.
H.R. 1314: Mr. KHANNA.

H.R. 1329: Mr. LATIMER, Ms. PELOSI, Mr. SHREVE, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Mr. EZZELL, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mrs. MCIVER, Mr. TONKO, and Mr. ALFORD.

H.R. 1361: Mr. MURPHY.
H.R. 1379: Mr. LANDSMAN.

H.R. 1383: Ms. STANSBURY, Mr. SIMPSON, Ms. SALINAS, Mr. DOWNING, Ms. BYNUM, Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ, Ms. BUDZINSKI, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H.R. 1410: Ms. HOYLE of Oregon and Mrs. HAYES.

H.R. 1422: Mr. HARRIGAN, Mr. BRESNAHAN, Mr. BAUMGARTNER, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. LALOTA, Ms. MENG, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. LANGWORTHY, and Mr. NORCROSS.

H.R. 1437: Mr. MRVAN, Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, Ms. CHU, Mr. COSTA, and Mr. MOULTON.

H.R. 1439: Mr. CASE.
H.R. 1443: Mrs. HAYES.

H.R. 1447: Mr. HARRIS of Maryland.
H.R. 1448: Mr. THANEDAR.

H.R. 1463: Mr. PFLUGER.
H.R. 1464: Mr. MORELLE.

H.R. 1470: Mr. FITZPATRICK.
H.R. 1477: Mr. CONAWAY.

H.R. 1479: Mr. GOLDMAN of Texas.
H.R. 1494: Mr. WESTERMAN.

H.R. 1505: Mrs. HAYES.

H.R. 1517: Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, Mr. BOST, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, and Mr. PANETTA.

H.R. 1524: Mr. FITZPATRICK.
H.R. 1529: Mr. VALADAO, Mr. COSTA, and Mr. BOST.

H.R. 1564: Mr. NEGUSE and Mr. MRVAN.
H.R. 1566: Mr. BENTZ and Mr. DELUZZIO.

H.R. 1576: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey and Mr. BAUMGARTNER.

H.R. 1585: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.
 H.R. 1603: Mr. GILL of Texas.
 H.R. 1611: Mr. LANDSMAN.
 H.R. 1627: Ms. PETTERSEN, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. TONKO, Mr. COHEN, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Ms. TENNEY, Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. KEATING, Ms. HOULAHAN, Mr. DELUZIO, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. OBERNOLTE, Mrs. TRAHAN, Ms. TOKUDA, Mr. HARDER of California, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. LAWLER, Mr. BACON, and Ms. BARRAGÁN.
 H.R. 1629: Mr. FITZPATRICK.
 H.R. 1637: Ms. CRAIG, Ms. CHU, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, and Mr. QUIGLEY.
 H.R. 1638: Ms. BONAMICI.
 H.R. 1645: Ms. JAYAPAL.
 H.R. 1651: Mr. GRAVES, Mrs. BICE, Mr. McDOWELL, Mr. GOSAR, and Ms. LEE of Florida.
 H.R. 1656: Mr. HUDSON.
 H.R. 1657: Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. STRICKLAND, Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, Mr. THANEDAR, Ms. MATSUI, and Mr. RYAN.
 H.R. 1668: Mrs. BIGGS of South Carolina and Mr. KENNEDY of Utah.
 H.R. 1674: Mr. NEGUSE.
 H.R. 1684: Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE.
 H.R. 1690: Mr. BAIRD.
 H.R. 1700: Ms. ANSARI.
 H.R. 1702: Mr. COLE.
 H.R. 1704: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, and Ms. WILSON of Florida.
 H.R. 1705: Ms. SALINAS.
 H.R. 1713: Ms. TOKUDA, Mr. BARR, Mr. NUNN of Iowa, Mr. ROUZER, and Ms. DE LA CRUZ.
 H.R. 1715: Ms. JOHNSON of Texas and Ms. KELLY of Illinois.
 H.R. 1718: Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. FIGURES, and Ms. WILSON of Florida.
 H.R. 1725: Ms. OMAR and Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.

H.R. 1733: Mr. FITZPATRICK.
 H.R. 1734: Mr. LAWLER.
 H.R. 1735: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.
 H.R. 1742: Ms. CHU, Ms. CLARKE of New York, and Ms. FRIEDMAN.
 H.R. 1772: Mrs. MILLER of Illinois.
 H.R. 1777: Mr. GRIFFITH.
 H.R. 1786: Mr. FROST, Ms. SALAZAR, Mr. MOSKOWITZ, Mr. WEBER of Texas, and Ms. CASTOR of Florida.
 H.R. 1788: Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. TLAIB, Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. FIELDS.
 H.R. 1793: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.
 H.R. 1810: Ms. MCBRIDE, Mr. LATIMER, and Mr. CORREA.
 H.R. 1811: Ms. OMAR.
 H.J. Res. 61: Mr. NUNN of Iowa.
 H.J. Res. 63: Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mrs. FOUSHEE, Mr. DOGETT, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. DEGETTE, Ms. STEVENS, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. MRVAN, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Ms. SHERRILL, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. THANEDAR, Ms. MENG, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. EVANS of Pennsylvania, Mr. COHEN, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. LYNCH, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Mr. GARCIA of California, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Ms. STRICKLAND, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Mr. POCAN, Mr. FROST, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. STANSBURY, Ms. BALINT, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. MOULTON, Ms. CHU, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Ms. JACOBS, Mr. MAGAZINER, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. BUDZINSKI, Mr. DELUZIO, Mr. CARSON, Mrs. MCBATH, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. MFUME, Mr. LIEU, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. SWALWELL, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. CASAR, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. TORRES of New York, Mr.

TONKO, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. OMAR, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK, Mr. HOYER, Mr. PETERS, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. GOMEZ, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. RASKIN, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Ms. ROSS, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. NORCROSS, Mrs. BEATTY, Ms. CROCKETT, Mr. HORSFORD, Mr. IVEY, Mr. NADLER, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Mrs. TRAHAN, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. CASE, Ms. TOKUDA, Ms. DELAURO, and Ms. ESCOBAR.

H.J. Res. 67: Ms. WILSON of Florida and Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK.

H. Con. Res. 4: Mr. ROSE, Mr. FINSTAD, Mr. NUNN of Iowa, Mr. BALDERSON, Mr. GOLDEN of Maine, Mr. LAWLER, and Mr. TIFFANY.

H. Con. Res. 16: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. MEUSER, Mr. BISHOP, and Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.

H. Res. 23: Ms. HOYLE of Oregon.

H. Res. 48: Mr. MIN.

H. Res. 64: Ms. MENG.

H. Res. 70: Mr. LIEU, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. HOYER, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. WHITESIDES, and Ms. JAYAPAL.

H. Res. 77: Mr. CASE.

H. Res. 106: Mr. QUIGLEY.

H. Res. 119: Ms. VELÁZQUEZ.

H. Res. 145: Mr. CLYDE.

H. Res. 154: Mr. AUCHINCLOSS.

H. Res. 173: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Ms. BROWN, and Ms. WILSON of Florida.

H. Res. 181: Mr. CORREA and Ms. FRIEDMAN.



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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, the opening prayer will be offered by Pastor Brad Graves, senior pastor of First Baptist Church from Ada, OK.

The guest Pastor offered the following prayer:

I want to thank you for this opportunity to pray. In front of you today is the vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention. As the senior pastor of the First Baptist Church, as a father, a husband, a grandfather, but most importantly, as a follower of the Lord Jesus Christ, let us pray together.

Father God of Heaven, we come to You today in the Name of Your one and only Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Countless men and women of faith in You have walked these halls over the last two-plus centuries. Ever since the setting of its cornerstone in 1793, this building has stood as a place not just of legislation but of morality and nobility. It has been a building that the nations of the world look toward with bated breath to learn what the United States of America would do, how they would respond to crises in our world, and how they would assist those in need.

Our own citizens have looked to this building, wondering with hope and prayers that the laws and decisions made in this room and in this building would better their lives, would protect their families, and would enable their God-given freedoms, and this day is no different.

This day, March 4, 2025, is no different than any other day. We may not be at war, we may not be on the cusp of social crisis, but the world is watching our next move, and our citizens need God-fearing leadership.

So now, before the gavel is struck, before the arguments are made, before

the debate begins, we beg You, God, for mercy on our Nation. God, be patient with us.

We ask for Your grace on our leadership. Lord, they carry a heavy burden for which they will stand in account someday.

We ask for the love of God to be displayed through our actions as a nation because we are called by Your Name, one Nation under God.

I have been praying for every man and woman in this Senate Chamber to come to know the love of God. I pray that every family represented in this room would experience the love of God. I pray for every American citizen to understand the depth of God's love for them.

So, God of Heaven, I claim the Scripture that love "bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things." I claim the Scripture that "everyone will know that you are [their] disciples, if [they] love one another." And I most certainly claim the Scripture that is so familiar to every one of us, that "God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whosoever believes in him will not perish but have everlasting life."

Guide these men and women today, dear God, by Your unending, overwhelming love, to do Your will and to follow Your ways and to especially protect the lives of the most vulnerable, to create legislation that supports families and morality and that shows the watching world the love of Jesus Christ is the only way to Heaven.

I ask these things in the Name of my Lord, my Savior, and my returning King, Jesus Christ.

And all God's people across the Nation say amen and 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 Repub-

lic 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.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business for debate only until 11 a.m.

The Senator from Iowa.

HAMAS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, October 7, 2023, will probably go down in history to Americans like December 7, 1941, Pearl Harbor Day.

On October 7, 2 years ago, Israel experienced a surprise attack from Hamas. As those under attack rushed to safe rooms and to bomb shelters, the terrorist group infiltrating the country began firing on homes and killing Israelis at random.

Those who have seen the footage of the attacks—in many cases, those films have been taken by the attackers themselves—have said that the glee and the pride Hamas showed in killing and mutilating and raping innocent civilians were particularly shocking. It is also very chilling and also very disgusting.

On October 7, Hamas also took roughly 250 residents hostage, even including babies, really old people, and even some Americans. The horror these individuals have faced under the brutal reign of Hamas is unimaginable. The hostages have been subjected to inhumane conditions, deprived of their basic human rights, and used as pawns in the cruel game of manipulation.

Now more than 500 days later, Hamas is still holding dozens of hostages captive, including five Americans. Of the

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



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five Americans in Hamas's captivity, four have been confirmed to have been murdered.

As the families have spent over a year in anguish, waiting for any sign of their loved ones, desperate for their safe return, Hamas has kept their bodies and refused to return them to family and friends, compounding the grief of loved ones. All Americans would say this cannot stand.

The United States must remain steadfast in its commitment to securing the release of these hostages and holding Hamas accountable for these atrocities. Under President Trump's leadership, that is exactly what our country is doing because of President Trump's support for the State of Israel and his stand against hostage taking.

To the families of these hostages, we grieve with you. We share in your pain, and we share in your hope as well.

To the hostages still in captivity, we want them to know they are not forgotten.

The world is watching, and we will not rest until justice is served and you are safely returned home. God bless you all.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

JOINT SESSION OF CONGRESS

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, this evening, President Trump will come to the Capitol to address Congress. I am looking forward to hearing the President discuss his accomplishments so far and outline his vision for our country.

President Trump may have been in office for a matter of weeks, but he has already built a considerable record of success. Chief among his successes, of course, is the work he has been doing to confront illegal immigration and restore order to our southern border.

Over the weekend, it emerged that there were just 8,450 encounters, approximately, at our southern border for the entire month of February—at least a 25-year low. That is a stunning turnaround. To put that number in perspective, under President Biden, the Border Patrol sometimes saw that number in a single day. It is incredible what President Trump has accomplished in just 6 weeks.

I haven't even mentioned how his administration has been making our communities safer by arresting and deport-

ing criminals here illegally. In just 6 weeks, they have taken a lot of dangerous people off of our streets.

It all goes to show what is possible when you have a President committed to protecting our border and our Nation's security.

Of course, that is not all the President has accomplished during his first 6 weeks in office. Among other things, he has also been laying the groundwork for unleashing American energy. While Democrats may not like to admit it, the United States is rapidly heading toward an energy crisis where we simply don't have the supply to meet the demand.

The Washington Post noted last March:

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.

That is a pretty serious situation.

Instead of taking steps to increase our energy supply, the Biden administration pushed us further toward crisis with measures designed to restrict conventional energy development and force Americans to adopt electric cars, putting a vast new burden on our electric grid.

Fortunately, President Trump recognizes the precarious situation we are facing, and he is already demonstrating his commitment to increasing our Nation's supply and promoting a secure and affordable energy future. I look forward to hearing from him as he discusses the work he has been doing tonight.

Here in the Senate, we have been working to support President Trump's agenda first and foremost by getting his Cabinet in place. I am proud to report we have confirmed 20 of the President's 22 Cabinet nominees—a substantially faster pace of confirmations than in any of the three previous administrations.

In addition to Cabinet nominations, we have also been laying the groundwork for making the tax cuts we passed during the first Trump administration permanent as well as delivering a transformational investment in our border, national, and energy security.

Of course, we are currently working to overturn burdensome Biden administration regulations using the Congressional Review Act.

This week, we are taking up two rules that infringe on Americans' financial freedom. First, we will vote on Senator CRUZ's resolution to stop the Biden administration's digital asset broker rule, which puts at risk the privacy and security of tens of millions of Americans who trade digital assets. This rule could also mean forfeiting American leadership in financial innovation by giving the advantage to foreign companies that do not have to comply with the rule and driving innovation overseas.

Later this week, we will vote on Senator RICKETTS' resolution to prevent an unnecessary expansion of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, or CFPB. The Biden administration made a last-ditch effort to increase government supervision of nonbank payment apps like Venmo and PayPal by expanding the CFPB's authority. But these types of apps are already regulated, and they accounted for just 1 percent of the CFPB's consumer complaints in 2023. Why add another layer of bureaucracy?

Apparently, Democrats can't help but see innovation as an opportunity for regulation. All told, the Biden administration saddled Americans with \$1.8 trillion in regulatory burdens. That is a big weight on the economy and on crucial industries like American energy, and we will continue our work to alleviate these burdens. The Biden administration left our Nation facing a lot of challenges, but we are turning the page on the Biden administration's failed policies, and I firmly believe there is a brighter future ahead.

I look forward to hearing from President Trump tonight as he outlines his vision for American greatness.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

JOINT SESSION OF CONGRESS

Mr. SCHUMER. So, Mr. President, tonight, Donald Trump will address the Nation before a joint session of Congress. This will be the fifth time Donald Trump speaks from the House Chamber, and by now, the American people know just what to expect.

They can expect Donald Trump to launch a deluge of mistruths and falsehoods. But tonight, we won't hear one peep from Donald Trump about his broken promise to bring inflation down on "day one." We won't hear one syllable about how Donald Trump's policies are making inflation and the costs that average American families pay worse.

So this morning, let's start with that here, starting with tariffs. Last night, for the first time in decades, the President of the United States imposed 25 percent tariffs on nearly all goods coming from Canada and Mexico.

What does this mean for the American people? What do Donald Trump's tariffs mean for the American people? They are going to pay more. Everyday

costs are about to become more expensive. It means, according to the CEO of Target, to take one example, consumers could see higher prices within days. This is not something 6 months out. That includes everything: the price of gas, produce, cars, cheese, dairy products, coffee, even chocolate.

American farmers will pay more for fertilizer, which means food prices go up. New furniture will become more expensive, as Canada is a major supplier of lumber. Refrigerators, washers, microwaves, laptops, smartphones, clothing, and shoes all will likely see increases.

Hold on to your hat, Mr. and Mrs. America. When you bring it all together, the average U.S. household could see \$2,000 in increased expenses a year, and that is a conservative estimate. Let me repeat that. The average American family—\$2,000 more out of their pockets, their hard-earned dollars that they are struggling to stretch. And now another added increase, all that didn't have to happen, because Donald Trump is imposing tariffs on Canada and Mexico.

It has been clear that in the past, when applied intelligently and precisely, tariffs can be a useful tool against adversaries that engage in unfair trade practices that harm American workers. The tariffs against China years ago are one example of this. But the situation today is completely different. It makes no sense to start a trade war with America's closest trade partners because the casualty of that trade war will be consumers and American households.

So let's get it straight: Donald Trump's tariffs are a tax on working Americans to the tune of \$2,000 or more a year.

Why are they doing this? Why are they doing this? Well, he says fentanyl, but less than 1 percent of the fentanyl that comes into the country comes from Canada.

It is one of the ways they can close that budget hole when they take huge tax breaks for billionaires. This is another place—another place—where Donald Trump and the Republicans are raising your costs so they can cut taxes for billionaires. It is unbelievable. I don't think this is going to be seen very positively by the American people.

Now let's talk about 1 month into the Trump administration. So, on his first day in office, Donald Trump promised a golden age was coming over the horizon. But when Donald Trump speaks tonight, his promise of a golden age will feel like ancient history.

So this morning, let's talk about Donald Trump's many broken promises. As a candidate, Donald Trump promised, "When I win, I will immediately bring prices down, starting on day one."

"Grocery prices will come tumbling down," he said, when he gets elected.

Instead, what has happened? Inflation has gone not down but up. Gas

prices were 2 percent up from the previous month. Chicken, pork, beef—all more expensive. Eggs, 15 percent higher than last month.

And what is Donald Trump's solution to all of this? The Secretary of Agriculture said yesterday Americans should just buy their own chickens to lay their own eggs. Is he serious? This is the Agriculture Secretary? Americans should buy their own chickens to lay their own eggs? Whom are they kidding?

As a candidate, Donald Trump also said, "Vote Trump and your incomes will soar. Your net worth will skyrocket."

Now, to be fair, if you are a billionaire, he is telling you the truth. But if you are not rich, Donald Trump and Republicans' signature legislation is to cut Medicaid and Social Security and other programs by hundreds of billions of dollars in order to pay for tax breaks for the billionaires club.

Let's look at another claim by Donald Trump:

The next economic boom will begin the instant . . . Donald J. Trump has won 4 more years.

That is his quote. He said:

The next economic boom will begin the instant . . . Donald J. Trump has won 4 more years.

Well, let's look at what has actually happened. Last month, consumer confidence took its biggest nosedive in years. Retail sales dropped unexpectedly by 0.5 percent. Unemployment filings hit their highest levels since last fall. The S&P 500, one of Donald Trump's favorite measuring sticks, has erased all the gains this year, and now Donald Trump has started a trade war with our closest trading partners. That is not what an economic boom looks like.

This is economic anemia created by Donald Trump's own policies.

I could go on because there are so many people being hurt and such policies of foolishness. Donald Trump promised to take care of veterans. Yet DOGE tried to fire hundreds of critical staffers from the VA, including crisis hotline staff and funding for cancer treatments. Housing costs are up. Electricity bills are up.

If there is any golden age to be had under Donald Trump, it is a golden age for lawlessness; it is a golden age for billionaires and their club. It is not a golden age for Americans who work hard every day to live an honest life to make ends meet. But I doubt we will hear any of that from Donald Trump tonight.

Finally, I am proud to welcome seven New Yorkers to tonight's joint meeting of Congress. These New Yorkers are examples of some of the very people whom Donald Trump promised to help but whom he has left behind.

First, I am honored to welcome Emma Larson, a 12-year-old middle school student from Long Island with a rare genetic disease which has been treated thanks to NIH-funded research.

Emma was diagnosed with spinal muscular atrophy as a 1-year-old. At the time, there was no cure. Her parents were anguished. But thanks to research at an NIH-funded lab in Cold Spring, NY, Emma received a breakthrough drug that changed SMA's prognosis.

Emma's story shows why NIH funding is lifesaving, and we should stand up against efforts to slash funding. Imagine slashing funding to NIH, which helps people like Emma live, so you can give a tax break to billionaires who are already doing very well, thank you.

I am also proud to welcome Alissa Ellman, a disabled Army veteran recently fired from the VA in Lockport, NY, in Western New York. Alissa served honorably in Afghanistan and was diagnosed with a rare cancer associated with toxic burn pit exposure.

Even while receiving treatment, she wanted to work; she wanted to serve her fellow veterans. She got a job at the Buffalo VA.

But guess what, last week, Alissa found herself locked out of her computer and later found out DOGE eliminated her position. This woman served our country, working in the Veterans Administration to help other veterans. All of a sudden—no word, no notice—locked out of her computer, and found that DOGE eliminated her position.

Is that the golden age? For whom? Alissa is 1 of 2,500 VA employees who were fired by DOGE, putting the care of our Nation's veterans at risk.

Tonight, I also welcome Tiffany Ramos from Rome, NY, who worked at the USDA office in Syracuse and was fired from her job helping rural farmers and businesses across Upstate New York. Tiffany is just one of many USDA employees fired with no notice despite years of service, leaving farmers across America wondering who is left to help.

It is amazing. These people worked hard. There was nothing against them. They didn't get a notice saying: You didn't do this, this, this; you can improve this way, this way, that way. They were just fired. It is cruel. It is heartless. It is nasty. It is lacking knowledge and fact-based, and it hurts America—in this case, our farmers.

I am also proud to welcome two Medicaid recipients, Jessica Martinez and Ana Medina Garcia. Jessica and Ana are both cancer survivors who depended on Medicaid to afford their medication and receive treatment.

And, finally, it is truly my honor to welcome Oran Neutra, mother of Omer Neutra, and Ruby Chen, father of Itay Chen. As we all know now, Omer and Itay were tragically murdered by vicious Hamas thugs right on October 7, the day of the massacre, the day of the invasion of Israel.

In the case of Omer's family, it wasn't until a year later they learned he was murdered by Hamas on October 7—how cruel. Hamas let them worry. I met with them numerous times: Is our

son alive? Is he dead? Is he OK? Is he wounded? Viciousness of Hamas—the viciousness.

As for Itay, he was taken hostage and tragically murdered by Hamas on the border of Gaza on October 7. After months of fighting for his return, Itay's family learned that he was also murdered that terrible day.

This is the depths of Hamas' cruelty. For months, they refused to even acknowledge that Omer and Itay had been murdered. They kept these families in anguish, in the dark. What a horrible feeling to wonder if your child is alive or dead. Hamas knowing it, dangled cruelly the possibility of maybe they are alive when they weren't.

The families wondered over and over again: Are our children alive? Are they dead? And, of course, tragically, their worst fears happened. What Omer and Itay's family have endured is beyond comprehension.

I am inspired by their perseverance, by their resolve to keep calling for the safe return of remaining hostages, even though their loved ones are gone, and for the return of the bodies of their loved ones, which is essential by Jewish law.

There is no time to waste. I will continue working for as long as it takes to finally bring every last hostage and the remains of the hostages no longer with us home to us. It is an honor to welcome all my guests to the Capitol.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

JOINT SESSION OF CONGRESS

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, tonight President Trump will take the podium, and he will have a joint address to Congress, and, clearly, to the Nation.

I just heard the minority leader of the Senate come to the floor and talk about President Trump's promises. Well, let me talk about those promises—promises made, promises kept by President Trump.

He has only been in the office now for 7 weeks, and he has a very strong record of accomplishment in those 7 weeks. What did he promise he would do? He said he would cut wasteful Washington spending. Well, that is a promise that he has kept.

What we are seeing is the most comprehensive audit of Federal spending of money in history. This administration already, in just these short weeks, has identified \$55 billion of savings.

President Trump promised to secure the border. Well, he has kept that promise as well. He immediately began deporting criminal illegal immigrants. They are here in the country illegally, and they were criminals—heinous crimes. We are talking about murderers, rapists, drug dealers. The word got out around the world. Illegal border crossings in February dropped to an alltime low.

President Trump said he would unleash American energy. He has kept that promise as well. On day one, President Trump declared a national energy emergency. Now, this is going to unlock America's full energy potential. He withdrew from the Paris climate accord. Did it once before, but Joe Biden put us back in.

What we saw in the Biden administration is they applied handcuffs to American energy producers and American energy production. President Trump said: No, we are not doing that. He has opened Alaska's vast amounts of energy for the American people.

He pulled the plug on Biden's electric vehicle mandates. He reopened 625 million acres of offshore drilling. Remember, Joe Biden, in the final days of his administration, with his midnight regulation to ban that exploration for American energy.

President Trump promised to protect women who participate in sports. He kept that promise. The Trump administration marks the return to common sense.

We have seen that return to common sense, also, Mr. President, in here in the U.S. Senate because we are determined to get America back on track. There is no time to waste.

One measure of our rapid start is the historic pace with which we have been able to confirm members of President Trump's Cabinet.

Senate Republicans have now confirmed 20—20—members of President Trump's Cabinet. We confirmed President Trump's Education Secretary just last evening. So compared to previous Presidents, this is a remarkable pace. More confirmations than President Obama had at this point in 2009; more confirmations than President Biden had in 2021. It surpasses the timeline of any President in recent history.

President Trump's nominees are strong. They are smart. They have a history of success, and that history is going to continue now that they are members of the Cabinet.

Our success has had a direct impact on President Trump's agenda. With his team in place, President Trump has been able to execute effectively and efficiently.

The Senate has also acted decisively to secure the border. Within days of taking office, Senate Republicans passed the Laken Riley Act. The Laken Riley Act is named after a young nursing student in Georgia. She was murdered by an illegal immigrant. She was just out for a jog. We named the bill in her honor. The Laken Riley Act saves American lives. It requires illegal immigrant criminals to be deported. It was bipartisan legislation. And 12 Democrats voted with us to pass this legislation, and it is now law of the land.

The Laken Riley Act sends a clear message that tragedies like this never be allowed to happen again in the United States of America, that the era of open borders is over.

Senate Republicans mean business. After years of crises, we are now securing the border. The numbers tell the story. We are deporting illegal immigrant criminals on a daily basis, and we are also working with the House of Representatives on our shared agenda. We are delivering on the promises that we made to the American people. We are going to secure the border, we will restore peace through strength, we are unleashing American energy, and we are going to stop the Democrats' oncoming freight train of a \$4 trillion tax increase.

Democrats oppose all of these things. They want to raise American public taxes by \$4 trillion. Mr. President, we are going to stop that. President Trump is only 43 days in this office in his historic Presidency, an incredible comeback victory—the comeback king, as I call him from his ability to win this election. He won 312 electoral votes, every one of the battleground States, and this President has not wasted a second, a minute, an hour, or a day in office because he knows how important it is to act quickly.

He is doing that. He is solving the urgent problems facing our Nation, what American people elected him to do, what the American people expect, and it is what the American people are seeing. So the President is working with the House and the Senate, all of us working together to get America back on track, and we are going to deliver what the Americans have asked for: safety and prosperity for the people of this great country.

I yield the floor.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

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

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

The Senator from Illinois.

JANUARY 6 PARDONS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I have been honored to serve in the U.S. Senate for a number of years, and I carry with that service a great number of memories. But there is one that is particularly personal that I will never forget. The year was 2021, and the day was January 6.

The Senate Chamber was filled with Members who were witnessing a meeting required by our Constitution, where the Vice President presided over the Senate where the Presiding Officer is sitting. We gathered here and counted the electoral votes to determine who was the President as a result of the 2020 election. It is a fairly routine undertaking, but there is some solemnity to it because the Constitution requires it.

And I can recall that episode because it was a hectic day. It was the same

day that President Trump, leaving the Office because he lost that election in 2020, had called a rally down at the end of the Mall. Thousands of people showed up, and they decided to march on the Capitol at the President's urging and invitation.

It is not unusual in this town or even in this building that protesters would gather to state their purpose, as they are entitled to in a democracy. But this was different. The group that was coming up here was not protesting or gathering for speeches. They had some other intent, and we weren't sure what it was.

I can recall it was a few minutes after 2 in the afternoon on that day. Vice President Pence was sitting where the Presiding Officer is, and in the midst of the proceedings, some group—I believe now that it was the Secret Service—came in and literally physically removed Vice President Pence from where the Presiding Officer is sitting, leaving the chair empty while we were in session. It was a startling moment: What is going on here?

In a few minutes, a representative of the Capitol Police stood at the podium where the Presiding Officer is sitting and made an announcement.

Now, for those that don't know the Capitol Police, they are our security force. They are the ones that keep us safe as we do the duties of our government, and they protect everyone in the building—tourists, staff, everyone. They literally risk their lives for us.

So one of them came and stood before us in uniform and said: There is a group approaching the Capitol, and we ask you all to stay in your seats. This is going to be a safe place here in the Senate Chamber. Others will join you along the walls, and don't worry about it. We are all going to be safe in this building.

It wasn't 10 minutes later that another Capitol policeman came before us and said: Plans have changed. Everyone evacuate the Chamber as quickly as possible.

We went outside and saw through the windows the demonstrators with their signs coming toward the Capitol. Some were beating at the windows, and some were approaching the Capitol from different directions. And we were spirited off to another office building on Capitol Hill where we were protected.

That is a day you will never forget—I will never forget. I have been coming into this building since I was a college student at Georgetown, years ago. This is a special place to me. It is not my office building. It is the U.S. Capitol Building. It carries with it not only a history but a significance as a symbol.

It means something to have a mob take over the Capitol, as happened that day, pushing Members of the House and Senate to hide in broom closets and to leave the building for their own personal safety. I never dreamed that would happen in the United States of America, but I lived it. It happened, and the American people know it hap-

pened because the videos are quite graphic. They tell the story of what was going on that day.

At the end of the day, many of us were in different places, watching as C-SPAN broadcast the rioters coming into this Chamber, spiriting, going through my desk—not just mine but many others—posing for pictures in the Presiding Officer's chair. It was a scene that was sad, tragic, infuriating.

I thought to myself, at the time: What if we had just heard a notice that at the Houses of Parliament—the House of Commons in Parliament—in London, England, the door had been beaten down and a mob had overtaken the Members of Parliament?

You wouldn't believe it. That doesn't happen. This is a civilized country. England—it couldn't happen there.

Well, it didn't. It happened here. As a result of it, the Department of Justice took those people, those violent rioters, seriously and prosecuted almost 1,600 of them of wrongdoing—some of them very serious sentences, some just trespassing. But they were all taken seriously and treated appropriately. They answered under the law for their conduct that fatal day.

So what happened when this new President came to office?

He decided: That isn't what happened at all on January 6. These tourists, these demonstrators, were assaulted by the police.

He ignored the fact that 140 law enforcement officials were injured on that day protecting this building and the people in it. He ignored the fact that three or four people died shortly thereafter because of that experience. He decided that the people who needed our sympathy were the rioters and not the police. And so the President, in one of his first acts of office—President Trump—signed the pardon of some 1,600 individuals.

I have come to the floor to report to you what has happened since, in the few weeks that have passed since that mass pardon by President Trump.

I want to tell you the story, today, of several of the people who were involved in January 6 and pardoned by President Trump. Last week, body camera video was released depicting a traffic-related felony arrest during which a sheriff's deputy fatally shot former January 6 defendant Matthew Huttles—not the first to be shot by a policeman after he was pardoned by President Trump.

The video footage confirmed that there was a struggle during the incident, during which Huttles, a January 6 defendant, raised an object that the sheriff's deputy believed to be a firearm. At the beginning of the traffic stop, Huttles can be seen on video stating:

I just want to let you know that I am a January 6 defendant.

I stormed the Capitol. I'm waiting on my pardon.

Investigators later recovered a loaded 9mm handgun and ammunition in

Huttles's vehicle. Huttles was among the 1,600 individuals involved in the January 6 Capitol riot pardoned by President Trump. Huttles had pleaded guilty to one count of entering and remaining in a restricted building or grounds for his role in the insurrection. He was sentenced to 6 months in prison.

Peter Schwartz was sentenced to 14 years in prison on charges that included four counts of assaulting police officers during the January 6 attack on the Capitol. Schwartz was seen on body camera footage spraying officers with pepper spray and wielding a baton, and prosecutors allege he threw the first chair at officers, creating an opening that enabled hundreds of rioters to push back the police lines.

Prior to January 6, Schwartz had amassed criminal convictions in more than four different States for crimes including domestic violence, threatening his girlfriend, and assaulting security officers. One of Schwartz's former girlfriends, Shantelle Holeyton, a 43-year-old factory worker who has voted for President Trump three times, she says, recently told CBS News that she fears for her safety now that Schwartz has been pardoned and released. Holeyton reports that Schwartz persistently beat her during their months-long relationship until she called the police in July of 2019, alleging that Schwartz was threatening to kill her and her son.

In reacting to Schwartz's involvement in the insurrection, Holeyton stated:

He found an opportunity to go and be violent. The man thrives on violence. He thrives on people fearing him.

Another of Schwartz's girlfriends, Shelly Stallings, filed a police report in 2020 alleging that Schwartz bit her forehead and punched her in the head.

Schwartz was one of those who was pardoned by President Trump.

Jeremy Brown, one of the last January 6 defendants remaining behind bars since President Trump's blanket pardon, was released from the Federal correctional institution in Atlanta on Wednesday. Brown had not yet been released because prosecutors did not consider one of his two criminal cases to be related to January 6 and thus covered by the pardon.

However, the Justice Department has since reversed course. In April of 2023, Brown was convicted in Tampa, FL, of possessing a short-barrel rifle, a shotgun, and explosive grenades—explosive grenades—and willful retention of a national defense document, all resulting from a January 6-related law enforcement search of his residence in September of 2021. He was sentenced to 87 months in prison for those charges and released by the pardon of President Trump.

This is a horrible situation, and sadly, tragically, these are people who never should have been pardoned by the President. They attacked the police here in this building. They desecrated this Capitol. They were not the

victims. They victimized innocent people who were doing their jobs under the Constitution.

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, instead of improving lives or lowering prices for Americans, we are seeing policies in the Trump administration do exactly the opposite.

The President has spent his time trying to systemically dismantle the Federal Government, creating rifts with our closest allies and now imposing restrictive tariffs on our biggest trading partners. The tariffs that he has unleashed—25 percent on Canada and Mexico as well as an additional 10 percent on China—will hurt American consumers and supply chains and undermine American manufacturing.

Illinois is the fourth largest exporter in the Nation. In 2023, our exports to Canada totaled more than \$21 billion—billion. These tariffs will hurt Illinois farmers, workers, and manufacturers, not to mention consumers. Additional tariffs on our three biggest trading partners will add to the economic strain that is already beginning to show under the new administration.

A survey of consumer sentiment published last month recorded this largest month of decline in 4 years due, in large part, to concerns about trade and tariffs. Tariffs are taxes. They are taxes the consumers of America will have to pay. These levels of concern have not been seen since the trade wars in President Trump's first term.

As Americans already struggle under the weight of high housing costs, these tariffs will make things worse. Much of the lumber used to build new homes in the United States comes from Canada, and more than 70 percent of the imports of two essential materials that homebuilders rely on, softwood lumber and gypsum, come from Canada and Mexico. With a 25-percent tariff on imported goods from those two countries, American homebuilders will need to pay more and so will the consumers.

While the President claims that foreign countries will pay for U.S. tariffs, that isn't the truth, and we know what the truth is: The burden of tariffs is carried by American companies and passed on to American consumers.

Indiscriminately slapping tariffs on the goods American consumers need means higher costs, higher costs on groceries, gas, cars, while inspiring retaliatory tariffs and even boycotts on American-made products, further hurting our economy.

I understand we are probably having a rollcall. I see a number of Members coming to the floor.

But President Trump's economic chaos isn't just happening overseas. You see, right now, Congress is in the midst of doing its most basic and essential job: Funding the government. But under the direction of President Trump, instead of coming to the negotiating table to pass a serious, full-year

spending bill that serves the interests of everyday Americans, Congressional Republicans are bargaining away the well-being of working families to pay for tax breaks for billionaires.

And what is the most egregious example of this? Their plan to slash health coverage for millions of Americans who rely on Medicaid.

House Republicans have proposed \$880 billion in cuts to the Medicaid program, and Senate Republicans have similarly put this health program in the crosshairs. Why? Not because they want to lower health care costs or improve our health care system, but because they want to use Medicaid cuts as a piggy-bank for tax breaks to billionaires.

The richest man in the world, Elon Musk, can dance around on stage with a chainsaw, cheering cuts to basic health care programs, but let me explain to you what that means for working families. Medicaid covers 30 million children—nearly half of all children in America—60 percent of seniors in nursing homes, and is the largest funder of addiction and mental health treatment.

In Illinois, 3.4 million people are enrolled in Medicaid, including 1.5 million children. Under Republican plans to slash Medicaid, 775,000 adults who gained health insurance coverage under the Affordable Care Act could lose coverage almost overnight. And for other children, elderly, or disabled Illinoisans who depend on it, they may no longer be able to access lifesaving medical treatment.

Republicans are ignoring the obvious: Medicaid is a lifeline for children's hospitals and rural hospitals in their communities. In Illinois, 60 percent of our 102 counties are rural. Rural hospitals are the backbone of communities in central and southern Illinois. Rural hospitals anchor the local economy—they often are the largest employer in town. And they are a critical access point for health care. If you suffer a farm accident or face a complication with your birth, you cannot afford to drive hours to the nearest hospital.

That's why I have worked for years to improve access to health care in rural areas—working to strengthen rural hospitals and recruit more doctors, dentists, and nurses. But rural hospitals in Illinois and nationwide could be at risk of closure if Republicans put Medicaid on the chopping block. Already, half of rural hospitals in America operate in the red. And for many rural hospitals, Medicaid covers a large percentage of their patients and accounts for a large portion of the hospital's budget.

For HSHS St. Francis Hospital in Litchfield, IL, Medicaid pays for 53 percent of the hospitalizations. For OSF St. Clare Hospital in Princeton, IL, Medicaid pays for 45 percent of hospitalizations. It is 42 percent for SSM St. Mary's Hospital in Centralia, IL.

Do you see the picture? Cuts to Medicaid put rural hospitals in jeopardy.

And if rural hospitals close because of Republican budget cuts, communities will suffer. Children seeking cancer treatment won't be able to access the local care they need. Pregnant women will have to drive further to deliver their babies. And your grandparent will have to wait months to get in to see that diabetes specialist.

If Republicans push forward with their cruel and unpopular funding plan, working families will lose and billionaires will win. It is simple and devastating math. If Americans cannot access health care because funding was slashed to fund tax cuts for the wealthy, if they cannot afford groceries because of an ill-conceived trade war, know that it is because President Trump is the billionaire's president.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SHEEHY). The majority whip.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL UNDER CHAPTER 8 OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, OF THE RULE SUBMITTED BY THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE RELATING TO "GROSS PROCEEDS REPORTING BY BROKERS THAT REGULARLY PROVIDE SERVICES EFFECTUATING DIGITAL ASSET SALES"—Motion To Proceed

Mr. BARRASSO. I move to proceed to Calendar No. 11, S.J. Res. 3.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 11, S.J. Res. 3, providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Internal Revenue Service relating to "Gross Proceeds Reporting by Brokers That Regularly Provide Services Effectuating Digital Asset Sales".

VOTE ON MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

Mr. BARRASSO. 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 Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Michigan (Ms. SLOTKIN) is necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 70, nays 28, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 101 Leg.]

YEAS—70

Alsobrooks	Boozman	Collins
Banks	Britt	Cornyn
Barrasso	Budd	Cortez Masto
Blackburn	Capito	Cotton
Booker	Cassidy	Cramer

Crapo	Kennedy	Rosen
Cruz	Kim	Rounds
Curtis	King	Schatz
Daines	Lankford	Schiff
Ernst	Lee	Schmitt
Fetterman	Lujan	Schumer
Fischer	Marshall	Scott (FL)
Gallego	McConnell	Scott (SC)
Gillibrand	McCormick	Sheehy
Graham	Moody	Sullivan
Grassley	Moran	Thune
Hagerty	Moreno	Tillis
Hawley	Mullin	Tuberville
Heinrich	Murkowski	Warner
Hoeven	Ossoff	Warnock
Husted	Padilla	Wicker
Hyde-Smith	Paul	Young
Johnson	Ricketts	
Justice	Risch	

NAYS—28

Baldwin	Hirono	Sanders
Bennet	Kaine	Shaheen
Blumenthal	Kelly	Smith
Blunt Rochester	Klobuchar	Van Hollen
Cantwell	Markley	Warren
Coons	Merkley	Welch
Duckworth	Murphy	Whitehouse
Durbin	Murray	Wyden
Hassan	Peters	
Hickenlooper	Reed	

NOT VOTING—2

Lummis	Slotkin
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The motion was agreed to.

PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL UNDER CHAPTER 8 OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, OF THE RULE SUBMITTED BY THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE RELATING TO "GROSS PROCEEDS REPORTING BY BROKERS THAT REGULARLY PROVIDE SERVICES EFFECTUATING DIGITAL ASSET SALES"

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the joint resolution.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (S.J. Res. 3) providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Internal Revenue Service relating to "Gross Proceeds Reporting by Brokers That Regularly Provide Services Effectuating Digital Asset Sales".

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CURTIS). The Senator from Maine.

(The remarks of Ms. COLLINS and Mr. BALDWIN pertaining to the introduction of S. 830 are printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Ms. BALDWIN. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

NOMINATION OF ELBRIDGE COLBY

Mr. SCHMITT. Mr. President, I rise today to argue for a swift and decisive confirmation of Elbridge Colby as Under Secretary of Defense for Policy.

It is common today to hear leaders in the foreign policy establishment talk of upholding the rules-based international order and promoting liberal values and norms. What is much less common is to hear anyone talk about tangible, concrete American interests. Mr. Colby is a welcome exception. He believes that America is a real, concrete nation and people with real, concrete interests and that the fundamental purpose of our foreign policy is to protect and advance those interests.

For the past 30 years, American foreign policy has lurched from disaster to disaster. To be a friend of the reigning consensus is to be an advocate of the same failed ideas that led us to spend trillions of dollars and countless young Americans' lives for causes and conflicts that were not ours, while leaving us woefully unprepared for the ones that are.

America does not need more of the same. What America needs is a new approach, a new strategy, a new philosophy of strength for the 21st century. That is what Elbridge Colby will deliver.

No one could argue that Mr. Colby isn't qualified for this role. He spent well over 20 years working in defense and foreign policy, serving in the Department of State, the Department of Defense, and various national security positions at different think tanks.

He served faithfully in the first Trump administration as the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Strategy and Force Development, where he was the lead author of the 2018 National Defense Strategy. From there, he founded a think tank, the Marathon Initiative, and wrote a book called the "Strategy of Denial" outlining his vision for confronting the true geopolitical challenge of our time: deterring—and if necessary, defeating—the threats posed by a rising China.

President Trump's decision to nominate Mr. Colby to this position was not a mistake. It was intentional. This administration wants to carry out a fundamental and long-overdue reorientation of our Nation's foreign policy, and Elbridge Colby is a critical component of that mission.

The media tells us that he is controversial. Why? Well, he believes that our foreign policy must prioritize our core interests, and that means that we can't be everywhere at once, doing everything all the time. His critics say that makes him weak. In reality, it is exactly the opposite. The quickest and most certain path to weakness is to waste our blood and treasure on Wilsonian adventurism abroad as the real threats and enemies of America grow unchecked. For years, Mr. Colby has been one of the lone voices in the foreign policy establishment with a real and viable vision for American strength.

It is true that Mr. Colby believes that the Iraq war was a mistake. He does not believe that a hot war with Iran would serve America's long-term interests. He believes that a costly and unwinnable proxy war in Ukraine is an obstacle to our ability to rebuild our military and revitalize our industrial base here at home and that our European allies must step up and do more to defend their own continent as the United States transitions to our focus in the Indo-Pacific. On all of these things, the decisive majority of Americans are on his side even if the foreign policy establishment isn't.

The political class in this city must come to terms with the fact that the

world most of us grew up in no longer exists. President Trump intends to drag this city—kicking and screaming if necessary—into the 21st century. That is what we saw at the White House last week—a new foreign policy centered around uncompromising and unapologetic pursuit of the interests of the American people.

Mr. Colby will play a key role in that project, and I look forward to watching him serve as our next Under Secretary of Defense for Policy.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

DEPARTMENT OF GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY

Mr. REED. Mr. President, on day one, President Trump lit the fuse on Elon Musk's plan to hollow out the Federal Government by changing the name of an obscure technical office within the White House, the U.S. Digital Services, USDS, and called it DOGE, without congressional authorization, and giving it extraordinary reach into the operations of the Federal Agencies.

Since then, we have heard report after report about how Mr. Musk and DOGE have rammed their way into Agencies not to make smart decisions, not to improve efficiency, not to eliminate waste, fraud, and abuse, but to disrupt, denigrate, and demoralize.

And along the way, DOGE has made incredible blunders such as firing and then scrambling to rehire employees at the National Nuclear Security Administration.

Let me repeat that. Mr. Musk and his minions fired the people who keep nuclear weapons safe, and then someone realized, fortunately, within a few days that they had to come back.

And here is another example: Musk and his hackers made the CIA send an unclassified email with the names of its recent hires. Boy, if I was in the Russian Security Service, I would love to get a list—which they did—of everyone who is going into the CIA.

They also cut staff from the Federal Aviation Administration and the National Weather Service who prevent and warn every American of travel and weather dangers. It goes beyond that. Agricultural interests listen daily to the reports, the accurate reports of the Weather Service, so they can plan their crops, so they can plan everything—and that is being withered away. And I think the ultimate goal is to privatize it, which is not the best way to go.

These actions don't just reflect incredible incompetence; they are dangerous. They undermine national security and increase risks for American citizens.

In any other setting, blunders like these would be grounds for firing, but Musk and DOGE operate with arrogance, impunity, and zero transparency. Millions of Americans are asking: Who are these people?

As the ranking member of the Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Subcommittee, the subcommittee that ostensibly oversees the

budget for the White House, USDS, and DOGE, I am asking the same question. Because Congress, like the American people, is being kept in the dark.

As appropriators, we typically work together on a bipartisan basis—no matter which party is in the White House—to get information, to conduct oversight, to ensure that Federal dollars are spent in accordance with the laws passed by Congress. But now, without authorization from Congress, DOGE is recklessly slashing its way through virtually every Federal Agency, from the Office of Personnel Management to Treasury to HUD to State to USAID to the Department of Defense and more.

It is vital that we understand what DOGE is and isn't. While Elon Musk tells us and the American people that DOGE is "maximally transparent," it is not. We still do not have answers to fundamental questions like: What is the scope of DOGE's work? How many people work at DOGE? And who are they? Do they also hold jobs outside the Federal Government? What are their financial holdings and potential conflicts of interest?

Do they have allegiances to foreign governments? Will DOGE respond to requests under the Freedom of Information Act? What are its plans to reform Agencies? Who is DOGE firing and why? And many, many other questions.

And, unfortunately, when DOGE shares information, it is frequently wrong. As the New York Times reported, five of DOGE's biggest claimed savings were deleted from its website because they were inaccurate.

This includes a canceled USAID contract for \$650 million, which was counted by DOGE three times; a canceled Social Security contract was erroneously listed as being worth \$232 million, instead of the actual \$560,000; and a canceled ICE contract was listed as saving \$8 billion instead of \$8 million.

If you are going to name something the Department of Government Efficiency, don't you owe it to the taxpayers to actually do a good job? On top of having zero accountability, DOGE's legal authority to operate is dubious.

DOGE has, essentially, taken over the USDS, which was originally established to help Federal Agencies more adeptly utilize technology to serve the American people. Over the years, USDS helped establish everything from Direct File, which helps taxpayers file their taxes for free, to direct-mail COVID tests to a successful online passport renewal program.

DOGE is now using the hollowed shell of USDS to illegally undo the American Federal Government, moving from Agency to Agency, cutting congressionally appropriated Federal spending, priorities, and even dismantling entire Agencies.

The bottom line is that DOGE, without congressional authorization and without direct funding from Congress, is acting to undermine the Federal Government. And, frankly, contempt

to the U.S. Congress as a constitutional body who creates the law.

The President's challenge in the Constitution is to enforce the laws, not to circumvent the Congress of the United States. Based on press reports, DOGE appears to be populated by a mixture of unelected billionaires, tech executives, and unvetted, inexperienced people, including an individual who was found to have posted racist tweets.

This gang is being granted access to America's most sensitive data like your bank accounts, your Social Security accounts, and, it would seem, a host of classified intelligence. And how are they using this information? How are they protecting this information from our enemies? Is it being shared with outside entities? Is DOGE simply being used to give Mr. Musk, his companies, and his billionaire friends an advantage when competing for government contracts?

We simply don't know what this gang is doing inside the government. Every single day that passes without transparency and congressional access to information about DOGE's funding, staffing, and scope of work is a moment too long.

With the current continuing resolution due to expire on March 14, we have big decisions to make. My hope is that these decisions can be made on a bipartisan basis informed by the facts, but we cannot responsibly fund the government if we do not understand how DOGE has infiltrated it, made it less efficient and less responsive to taxpayers, and, essentially, has circumvented the constitutional responsibilities of the U.S. Congress.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the following Members be permitted to speak prior to the lunch recess: Myself, for up to 15 minutes; Senator MURRAY, up to 10 minutes; Senator CANTWELL, up to 5 minutes; and Senator BRITT, for up to 10 minutes.

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

JOINT SESSION OF CONGRESS

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, as everybody knows, tonight, President Trump will give an address to a joint session of Congress. I look forward to attending the President's address, and I am happy to welcome my friend Abraham George, who will join me as a guest tonight.

In addition, three other Texans will be joining the President tonight as his guests. Alexis Nungaray from Houston, TX, is an angel mom who lost her lovely 12-year-old daughter Jocelyn. Jocelyn was tragically murdered by two illegal immigrants who, just weeks before, were apprehended and released by the Biden administration.

Next from Texas, Roberto Ortiz from Weslaco is one of our brave veterans who has served nearly a decade in the

U.S. Border Patrol. Roberto's courage in the face of danger has been tested repeatedly as he has been shot on multiple occasions by cartel members while on the line of duty near the Rio Grande River in my home State.

And, finally, Elliston Berry from Aledo, TX, is a 15-year-old victim of computer-generated deepfakes. I applaud Elliston for her courage in joining us here tonight and for using her voice to speak out against the dangers posed by new technologies.

BORDER SECURITY

Mr. President, President Trump has rightfully turned the page on a wide array of President Biden's disastrous policies, from reforming our runaway spending through DOGE, the Department of Government Efficiency, to prioritizing investment in semiconductors and manufacturing, to bringing our hostages held in Gaza back home to their families. But perhaps one of his most significant accomplishments thus far—and it has only been about 6 weeks—has been when it comes to border security, something near and dear to my heart and the heart of my 31 million constituents who call Texas home.

Border security played a significant role in the mandate that the President got last November. The past 4 years were marked by President Biden's failure to enforce the law and to secure our border. And this was, without a doubt, a crisis—a humanitarian and public safety crisis—of the former administration's own making. This was truly a manmade crisis.

Starting from the campaign trail, President Biden invited the massive wave of migration by promising a "surge to the border" for asylum seekers. Can you imagine a President inviting a surge to the U.S. border of asylum seekers? This is one promise that, unfortunately, he kept.

But President Biden's failures went far beyond just his rhetoric. In the early days of his Presidency, President Biden basically reversed every policy President Trump had put in place, including the "Remain in Mexico" policy, which has been remarkably effective. In other words, people seeking asylum need to remain in Mexico while their claim is being processed.

And the truth is, only about 15 percent of people who claim asylum in America who appear in front of an immigration judge ultimately are granted asylum. They meet the legal criteria; whereas, the other 85 percent do not.

The Biden administration also halted construction of President Trump's border wall and instead used Federal funds to store already-paid-for wall materials. So not only did the taxpayer pay for those materials, they had to pay for the storage of those materials when they weren't used for their intended purpose.

As the border crisis continued to evolve for the worse, President Biden ended title 42, the COVID 19-era policy that was our last line of defense to keep a lid on the migrant crisis when

President Biden refused to enforce other laws.

After undoing the successful Executive orders made by the first President Trump administration, President Biden then decided to circumvent Congress and attempt to make illegal immigration legal using temporary programs that were never intended for that purpose. His Department of Homeland Security created the CBP One app—short for Customs and Border Protection—an app for your phone which allowed migrants to literally schedule a visit to a port of entry so they could then claim asylum and then enter the country.

Another Biden-Harris administration program allowed up to 30,000 migrants a month to enter from four countries—Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua, and Venezuela. So that was 360,000 migrants who were basically told, if you come, you can stay in the United States. But they were conferred a temporary status that left them all in legal limbo.

Let's not forget the Biden White House cooking the books on illegal immigration by abusing the parole system. "Parole" is a word that people who are familiar with the criminal justice system understand. But this is different. In immigration terms, parole means simply you were released into the United States even if you didn't claim a right to be able to stay—for example, a right to asylum. You are just simply released as a border control measure to avoid bad publicity at the border when people were sleeping in the streets and lines were stacking up.

Of course, we know what the tragic consequences of these misguided policies look like—a crisis of mass illegal immigration, human trafficking, drug trafficking across our southern border.

Approximately, 100,000 Americans die each year as a result of drugs that come across the southern border—approximately, 70,000 from synthetic opioids, like fentanyl, which is the leading cause of death for young people between the ages of 18 and 45. During all 4 years of the Biden administration, a number of illegal migrant encounters with CBP totaled over 10 million. That is basically 10 million people showing up and saying let me into your country, and the Biden administration said: Come on in.

But on top of that, there were about 1.7 million "got-aways." "Got-aways" are people who were evading law enforcement who appear on some sensor—a camera or some other sensor—and evade law enforcement. Of course, now we know they are freely roaming the interior of the United States.

Let me ask you this. If you know that you could show up at the border and be allowed to enter—basically, ushered into the country—why in the world would you evade Border Patrol? Well, I think the simple answer is these are people who knew that they would not be able to enter because of criminal records because they were transporting drugs or engaged in some other illegal activity. Yet they made their way into the interior of the United States.

Fentanyl, which I mentioned a moment ago, was manufactured from Chinese precursor chemicals, smuggled through the open border, which has taken tens of thousands of lives. And the people in Texas—the 31 million people that I am honored to represent—have felt the burden of President Biden's disastrous border policies most acutely because we are closest to the problem. We are ground zero.

Governor Abbott, our outstanding Governor, and the Texas Legislature filled the gap when the Federal Government refused to do its job along the border. An international border is the responsibility of the Federal Government, not the State government. But what is the State supposed to do if the Federal Government says: "We don't care about the law. We are not going to enforce it. It is up to you?"

Well, Governor Abbott and the Texas Legislature stepped up, and they spent roughly \$11.1 billion to fill the gap that should have been filled by the Federal Government. For that reason, I am insisting that Congress fulfill Governor Abbott's request to be reimbursed \$11.1 billion that the State taxpayers had to spend, that rightfully should have been the expense of the Federal Government and Federal taxpayers all across the country.

There can be no doubt that this historic crisis was the direct result of President Biden's policies. That is one of the reasons why I believe not only did he not run but that Vice President Harris lost the election. It was a rejection of those open-border policies.

I am looking forward to hearing the President discuss tonight the incredible strides his administration has made in just about 6 weeks since his inauguration. Nowhere is that success more apparent than when it comes to border security.

After 4 years of record highs, CBP is now facing record lows. The Border Patrol tells me: Now we can do our job. We are not relegated to changing diapers or transporting migrants from one facility to another. We can actually keep out the worst of the worst and enforce the laws when it comes to border security.

As soon as President Trump was elected, even before he took office, the migrant flows began to subside. That is called deterrence. If you know the law is going to be enforced and you know you are not going to be successful making your way into the country, why would you spend thousands of dollars in order to pay off a cartel member to smuggle you up to the border?

During November and December of last year after the election, encounters were at their lowest levels between the ports of entries—the lowest levels since August of 2020. In the first 2 weeks of January, Customs and Border Protection encounters were nearly 50 percent lower than they were at the same point in January 2021—50 percent lower. During the latter half of the month, when President Trump actually took office,

apprehensions fell by a staggering 85 percent compared to the same period in 2024.

You know, the statement is often said: Elections have consequences. One of the most important consequences of President Trump's election on November 5 was we are now reestablishing border security. And the people of this great country are safer for it.

During the entire month of January, there were less than 1,500 apprehensions a day, a nearly 40-percent decline from December of last year. And just 1 week ago, Customs and Border Protection hit a 15-year low of only 200 encounters in 1 day at the southern border. These numbers are pretty impressive, but they are not at all surprising. They are a direct result of the deterrent effect created by President Trump and Secretary Noem's policy changes. Migrants know that a Trump administration means our laws will be enforced.

If you can make your way into our country using legal means, by all means, do so. As I mentioned earlier, our country is the most generous in the world when it comes to legal immigration. We naturalize about a million people a year. So if you have a desire to come to America, do it through legal means, not through illegal means.

Instead of rolling out the welcome mat like President Biden, President Trump started his second administration by turning the traffic light red instead of green. On day one, President Trump declared a national emergency—which it was—at the southern border, giving him greater flexibility to implement his Executive orders. He reinstated the "Remain in Mexico" policy and ended President Biden's disastrous catch-and-release policies.

Secretary Noem, our new Secretary of Homeland Security, began her tenure in the President's Cabinet by sending a clear video message to migrants that she intends to enforce the laws that prevent illegal immigration. But she didn't stop there. Under President Trump and his administration, ICE arrests—Immigration and Customs Enforcement—ICE arrests have increased more than 600 percent, which include arrests of criminal migrants which have doubled. They returned to a commonsense, case-by-case approach to humanitarian parole, which had been abused under the Biden administration, where it was used as a way to have mass releases of migrants at the border who had made no legitimate claim to be able to stay. They were just released.

Secretary Noem has also clawed back the \$80 million a month spent by FEMA to house illegal migrants in luxury hotels in New York City. That is where your tax dollars went—to put people who had no legal claim to stay in the United States in hotels in New York City to the tune of \$80 million.

These policies are welcome. They are good news to my constituents in Texas and I believe to people across the country.

There is a reason why Secretary Mayorkas, the former Secretary of Homeland Security who was responsible for implementing the border security measures of the Biden administration—there was a reason why he was impeached by the House of Representatives. He simply did not do the job he had sworn to do. Well, Texans have had to bear the brunt of open borders for 4 years, which includes rampant crime and deadly fentanyl.

I look forward to working with President Trump and Secretary Noem to continue the important work they have begun to keep Americans and Texans safe.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, no one wants a shutdown—well, actually, no one except Elon Musk, who recently said that sounds great, or Donald Trump or Russ Vought.

That is why I have been at the table this entire time ready to pass a bill that protects key investments and makes sure that Congress—Congress, not Donald Trump or Elon Musk—decides whether or not our public schools or our lifesaving cancer research gets funded.

Unfortunately, Republican leadership told their Members last week to walk away from the negotiating table—which raises the risk of a shutdown—in an attempt to pass a clean yearlong continuing resolution that would actually give Trump and Musk exactly what they want, fewer restraints and more power over Federal spending so they can pick winners and losers as they see fit, which would hurt all of our constituents.

Nonetheless, I am urging Republican leadership to come back to the table, if they are willing to do that, and work with us on full-year funding bills, the type of work we do together every year and prevent a shutdown while we do that.

We cannot stand by and accept a yearlong power grab CR that would help Elon take a chain saw to programs that families rely on like yours or keeps our Agencies together, that keep our communities safe.

We actually have a job to do here, Republicans and Democrats, to be a voice for our constituents, to advocate for the funding they need, and to get support back to our communities.

I heard my House Republican colleagues say they will not restrict a Republican President's powers. I want to be clear. What I am asking for is to work together to make sure, as we write and negotiate these full-year spending bills, that our laws get followed. I welcome and I want everyone to know I am open to any and all ideas about how we can work together to do that.

I am confident we can get this done. I am ready to pass a short-term CR immediately to take down the risk of a

shutdown so that we can finish our negotiations and write our full-year spending bills, which is our job to do. Today, on a topic I believe appropriators actually on both sides of the aisle would agree with, we need far more information and transparency and accountability from the Trump administration in order to write these bills because here is one big problem: How are we supposed to fund the government when many of our Agencies today are not responding to our questions and we have no picture—clear picture—of what is actually or who is actually in charge of many of our Agencies?

It is clear as day there have been a lot of dramatic changes made across the government. Agencies are being illegally shuttered; workers are being fired by the thousands—again, often in direct violation of laws we have passed—and hundreds of billions of dollars in Federal programs and grants have been frozen, unfrozen, and frozen again. We have had contracts that have been recklessly canceled, some accidentally and then restarted, not to mention the workers who were fired and rehired.

It is incredibly chaotic, and it makes it much harder to write our legislation that actually responds to these latest developments when programs are switching on and off again like a 2-year-old who is playing with a light switch and when the number of people and programs illegally terminated remains unclear. It is much more difficult to write funding bills for Department programs when we have no idea what the Department is actually doing or what the actual plan is for next year or if it is actually they or, perhaps, DOGE making the plans in the first place. We are seeing decisions made and reversed and made and ignored—made by people who have no authority to make them, and yet they are seemingly being implemented.

It is not just the whirlwind of decisions that is causing this chaos; it is the complete lack of transparency and accountability surrounding these decisions from Trump and Musk that makes it all but impossible to get a straight answer.

When we have questions that urgently need answers, like: Why has this energy program been frozen or when will the NIH grants start up again or which VA contracts have actually been scrapped or how many workers have been pushed out? then it helps if we know who is actually in charge.

When our constituents have problems that require solutions quickly or they will have to close a business or lay people off or lose their family farms, then it matters that we can get the right person on the phone to get things resolved.

Yet, when there is information we urgently need so we can write our funding bills and avoid a shutdown, like Agencies' priorities or unexpected challenges or just the basic nuts and bolts of stuff—to say nothing of the in-

formation we need to address the very extraordinary circumstances and decisions of the past few weeks—it is totally unclear who we should actually be talking to if we want answers that actually reflect the reality of what is happening. It is totally unclear who is actually making these decisions and who is actually in charge. Appropriators have now sent over 30 letters to Agencies since January 20, asking just to understand Agency actions, and that is to say nothing of the efforts from me and my staff to get answers to our emails and our calls, but the answers have been few and very far between.

What is more, just because we hear something from someone who should know and just because we hear from someone who should be in charge, we have found that it does not mean it is actually true. There has been more than one time in the past few weeks when we have been told one thing only to see the reality is entirely different. Like, for example, when the OMB funding freeze was implemented and we were told it wouldn't affect Head Start, except that it did affect Head Start. Providers in my State were locked out of that payment system for days even after the funding freeze itself was rescinded.

It seems like the only thing that has been consistent about the last few weeks is that every time there has been chaos, every time I see actions that fly in the face of laws we have passed—not to mention common sense—or contradict what I have heard from Agency leaders, DOGE has been at the center of it. We have seen DOGE absolutely trample the authority of Congress and other Federal Agencies, including officials Congress confirmed.

For example, while Secretary Rubio instituted a recklessly broad and illegal freeze of all foreign assistance funding, he publicly announced exceptions for a limited set of programs, including lifesaving aid, the basic idea being that we probably shouldn't let HIV spread rampant, and we probably shouldn't let food grown right here in America rot in ports while children starve. Causing mass death through pointless negligence is not really a good strategy for bolstering our global reputation. It is cruel, and it is self-defeating.

So, as Secretary of State, he made the exception, but DOGE had other plans, because on the rare occasion that what was left of USAID staff who had not been sidelined was able to clear these payments through the Agency's interim leadership—surprise—DOGE staffers would veto those payments anyway. Keep in mind, we know about this not because DOGE disclosed it or State disclosed it. We know only because of reporting.

That is not how this works. Congress and the American people we represent should not be out of the loop, especially given the serious stakes here and the serious questions that remain, like: On what authority did they veto those

payments? Whose orders did they use to overrule the Secretary?

I, for one, would very much like to know, because while the Secretary is guilty of plenty of attacks on his workforce and programs, it certainly seems like the Secretary of State got steamrolled on numerous occasions without even knowing it. If that is the case, who are we supposed to talk to with questions about States' funding needs—the Secretary or the two DOGE minions who actually have their hands directly on the levers of power here?

And let's not forget about what happened at Treasury. DOGE wanted access to our most secure systems. Agency officials told them no, and then the Agency officials were told they are fired. That sent a chilling message to our Federal workers: You stand up to DOGE at your own peril.

It is not just Treasury. DOGE has been worming its way into Department after Department, making a beeline for the most sensitive systems, including ones storing my constituents' sensitive financial data, and bulldozing over anyone who stands in their way for any reason. We don't even know who all of these people are or whether they even have security clearances. They have even had people fired for denying them access to classified material beyond their security levels. That is how completely unchecked their power has become. We have incredibly little insight into what they are actually doing with those sensitive systems. We have seen DOGE claim they can only view some data. That is already deeply concerning, but there are also plenty of indications they have been given more power at times. They are interested in tinkering around with some of these systems, too, or are unaccountably blocking payments like we saw at USAID.

Let's talk about the Defense Department because, first, Secretary Hegseth was saying he wanted to revive the "warrior spirit" at the Department, but now he is telling employees to reply to DOGE's weekly emails. He is firing thousands of defense personnel, and he is asking every corner of DOD to propose major cuts.

So, as an appropriator trying to write full-year bills that fund our military, which is it—major increases or major cuts? And who do I ask about Department needs? Is it up to the Secretary or up to DOGE? Who at DOGE is even steering this ship? We need to know this kind of thing, and we really needed to, like, know yesterday because we have a deadline coming up for funding the military.

We have some serious questions for whoever is in charge about how the administration is approaching things. When I say "whoever is in charge," I don't mean who is in charge on paper, because it seems like there is a big disconnect. I mean, Who is actually making decisions and driving actions at our Agencies and at DOGE for that matter?

Look. First, Elon was running DOGE with Vivek. Then it was just Elon.

Then it supposedly wasn't Elon at all, but then Elon kept right on posting about hiring decisions like someone in charge and rehiring an individual who resigned after their blatant racism came to light. He kept right on doing press availabilities with the President in the Oval Office to discuss his work at DOGE like someone in charge. So it sure looks like Elon is still the head of DOGE. Even after we were all finally told, with great supposed certainty, that DOGE was actually being run by another person no one had ever mentioned, we then promptly learned, oh, she is on vacation, and the very next day, we saw Elon briefing the Cabinet on what he is doing at DOGE.

If that all seems confusing or contradictory, I don't think it is an accident as much as a smokescreen—one that seems designed to hide the obvious fact that Elon Musk is the one who is calling the shots at DOGE. All of us here in Congress really need to know that because he is the richest man in the world, with billions, actually, in government contracts on the line. He is, apparently, in charge of his own conflicts of interest. And we are just supposed to trust him? Has he recused himself from a single decision? We haven't heard anything about that.

As a steward of taxpayer dollars who wants to make sure the bills we write are implemented to help my constituents, not Elon Musk's bottom line, I would like to know: Did the owner of SpaceX recuse himself from decisions gutting NASA? Did the owner of Tesla interfere at all in the funding freezes that hurt his competition in the electric vehicle market? Does the guy who posted criticizing of Verizon's work for FAA and pitching his own company's Starlink as an alternative have anything to do with the reports the government may reverse course now on the Verizon contract? Did the guy selling satellite internet have any role in halting funds that were helping my constituents have access to broadband?

What about all of the watchdogs who have been fired—people reviewing Neuralink devices at the FDA? people at the Agency that reviews the safety of Tesla's self-driving cars? or the inspector general looking into Elon's connections to foreign governments?

Despite what Musk likes to pretend, it is not in the slightest bit transparent for him alone to be deciding what he hides and what he shares about his role in government, nor is it transparent when DOGE is posting updates that are often completely inaccurate—from getting basic math wrong to getting wrong basic timelines of what Trump did versus Biden to not understanding how our contracts work and counting the same cuts over and over and over again. They aren't being transparent. They are muddying up the waters with falsehoods and disinformation and making it that much harder for us to write meaningful funding bills in the next few days.

I mean, if DOGE doesn't even know what programs they have cut and how

much they have cut, how are we supposed to understand how these decisions hurt our constituents? How are we supposed to write legislation that rejects the cuts we find harmful or even aligns if there are areas of agreement?

We need real answers from DOGE, and we need them as soon as possible. So, once again, I am requesting that Elon Musk come before Congress for a hearing in order to be held accountable to the American people. Tell us: What exactly are you doing? Why are you firing Federal employees whose salaries are covered by fees, not by taxpayer dollars? Why are you firing our veterans by the thousands who are doing work to support our communities? Why are you planning to fire the people who make sure seniors get their Social Security checks? Who are the people who work for you? How were they vetted? What are your long-term plans for this Agency? Based on what authority are you overruling our Secretaries, directing Federal workers, and ignoring the laws we have passed here in Congress?

America is waiting. We are losing valuable time. Congress and the American people deserve answers, and we need them to do their jobs.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I rise to speak today on important public policy issues related to my State's economy and appreciate the opportunity to follow our senior Senator, Senator MURRAY, who is articulating the impact of some of these so important public policy issues on the State of Washington.

Trade is the lifeblood of the State of Washington and our economy. Farmers in my State export \$7.5 billion worth of agriculture products a year. That was the number from 2023—\$7.5 billion. So anytime somebody starts a trade war, I guarantee you, you are going to get our attention.

Under the President's trade war, the farmers in my State are going to be the first victims. Trump said to our farmers yesterday on Truth Social, "Tariffs will go on external products on April 2. Have fun!"

Have fun? Have fun? When retaliatory tariffs strike our farmers, just as they did in the first Trump administration, it is not going to be fun; it is going to be a nightmare for our farmers. And many of the farmers in my State worry that they will be able to farm at all.

It is not like they are going to lose farmland. There are rich people, billionaires, software executives who will buy farmland. We are going to lose farmers. I know this because we have already been through this trade war, with many of my farmers struggling to overcome the damage that was wrought during the first Trump administration.

The last time we went down this road, we lost the apple market because

of retaliatory tariffs. We had a \$120 million market that basically collapsed, practically overnight, in India. And I traveled to India and worked hard over several years to lift those tariffs, and now, we finally are back growing our exports exponentially, but the market still isn't fully recovered, and now, people are questioning what is going to happen next.

I heard from a grower in my State who said, "The alarms in ag are sounding. The band has stopped playing, and the last lifeboats are leaving the ship. We cannot endure another cycle similar to the one that was started seven years ago when tariffs were first put in place. And without meaningful, long-lasting solutions, you may very well be looking at the last generation of farm families."

That is just one of my constituents. He doesn't sound like he is having fun. These family legacies, built on generations of work, cannot be lost in a trade war. You can't get them back once they are gone.

I hope my colleagues will slow down on this tariff tirade. Under article I, section 8 of the U.S. Constitution, Congress has the power to set duties and regulate foreign commerce. However, Congress has spent the last 80 years delegating its tariff authority to Presidents.

You can say, okay, well, that might have been okay because previous Democrat and Republican Presidents worked to lower tariffs and to open up markets. I have voted for many of those trade agreements. But this President, I believe, is abusing this authority. He calls it an emergency. He is using the trade wars to supposedly force countries to do things like changing their border policies.

I believe it is time for Congress to start taking back some of that power and considering how we are going to protect the family farm.

We know this—that in my State, families are paying more for groceries. They are paying more at the gas pump. They are paying more for electricity bills. And they are seeing the stock market plummet because, as businesses grapple with Trump's unnecessary trade war, businesses are concerned about the long-term impacts of the supply chain and the cost of those tariffs.

The American people want to see the administration tackle inflation and the high cost of everything. When President Trump was on the campaign trail, he talked about inflation. He said, "Starting day one, we will end inflation and make sure that America is affordable again and bring down prices on all goods." Well, I don't think that is what is happening today.

The Wall Street Journal editorial board put it well this morning when they wrote: "Trump takes the dumbest tariff plunge." I agree. We don't need to be doing this.

These tariffs are attacks on groceries bought by every American. Canada is

the largest exporter of meat to the United States, while 77 percent of fresh vegetables are imported from Mexico and 11 percent are imported from Canada. So costs are going up on every American who is buying, and that means they will also buy less.

The tariffs on Canada and Mexican goods that President Trump is planning would cost American families an estimated up to \$2,000 per year. According to Anderson Economic Group, tariffs could raise the price of a new car as much as \$12,000. I am pretty sure nobody has extra money for a new car.

Housing costs—one of the biggest drivers on inflation, but President Trump's tariffs would drive up the cost of construction material, making it even more expensive to address our housing shortage, slow our new home construction, and one analysis found that tariffs could push home construction up by 4 to 6 percent over the next 12 months.

I can tell you, we already have expensive housing in the Northwest. We can't afford another 4 to 6 percent. And the tariffs also create supply chain disruptions, making it harder to find alternative sources of materials, delaying projects that are already underway, and these short-term sticker shocks will put long-term pressure on housing affordability, making the problem worse—not solving it.

Just last week, when people want to talk about GDP and where this is going, it was amazing that the Atlanta Fed was forecasting GDP growth over 2 percent for the first quarter of 2025. That is literally what this line here was discussing, that the consensus was 2 percent, and even the Fed was weighing in on that.

But we can see when we got to February, we fell off a cliff. We fell off a cliff. And why? Because now the Atlanta Fed is saying we had one swing of 5 percent in just 1 week. And now, this drop is the representation of a cliff that President Trump is pushing the American economy over.

So you can see they are going down to negative—not just zero growth, but negative. We can't afford that, and we can't afford the stock market dropping 700 points yesterday.

The only way that we can work together is that if my colleagues here will start talking about these tariff issues. We don't need to weaken our institutions here; we need to strengthen them. And our colleagues need to work together to resolve these issues.

I would say, too, that as my colleagues start to plan how we deal with these budget issues, that we should also keep in mind that some of the cuts that these Agencies have been facing are really the cuts to some of the most technical jobs the U.S. Government has.

Whether you are talking about NOAA or the National Weather Service or the National Institutes of Health or the National Science Foundation or the U.S. Department of Agriculture—they

have all been targeted for reductions. These Agencies are critical to our economic growth and to our security. And at a time when we are seeing more extreme weather events or more floods or more wildfires, why shouldn't we be investing more in weather forecasting, not less?

And when you look at NOAA workers who support our commercial and recreation and Tribal fisheries—they employ 1.7 million people, including thousands in the State of Washington. Why would you cut specialized workforce that are helping support the growth of GDP? Because you want to basically cut those technical workers at the same time you are putting on tariffs?

In 2023, the National Institute of Health awarded \$1.2 billion in highly competitive grants to the State of Washington—65 different organizations. This supported 12,000 jobs and generated \$3 billion in economic activity. But DOGE wants to cap the overhead expenses of research. University of Washington Medicine tells me that this would leave them with shortfalls and that they might have to stop clinical trials that are underway. You can't just stop medical research like it is a faucet.

Once halted, the research, the data, the clinical trials, the patients, the laboratories, the equipment, all that led to innovation—will be lost. You think you just turn that back on? You know, these kinds of ideas sound great, but they are not well thought out. It is literally throwing tax dollars away.

Tonight, my guest at the State of the Union will be Dr. Paul Lange from the University of Washington. With support of Federal funding, Dr. Lange helped develop early detection tests for prostate cancer. Because of these tests and other treatment breakthroughs, we have seen a decrease in the death rate from prostate cancer. From 1993 to 2022, it dropped by one-half—significant progress.

That is why we need research dollars to save lives. Similarly, Washington State University researchers actively test on novel drug treatment for advanced prostate cancer at Sharma Lab. If its work is disrupted, they say that "risk potentially is high, not being able to replace data, and endangering the ultimate viability of potentially lifesaving treatments."

There are lives that might not be saved because of these budget cuts. So it is time that Congress gets involved, that we fight for the science that we believe will save lives, move our country forward and grow our GDP, and help our farmers by stopping these trade wars, and putting our farmers back in charge of growing an economy for the future.

I hope that we don't cut ARS funding that USDA depends on. I hope that we will give hope to our future constituents and the growth that we need to grow our economy instead of cutting our opportunity.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

(The remarks of Mrs. BRITT pertaining to the submission of S. 846 and S. 847 are printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

Mrs. BRITT. I yield the floor.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 1:20 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 INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE RELATING TO "GROSS PROCEEDS REPORTING BY BROKERS THAT REGULARLY PROVIDE SERVICES EFFECTUATING DIGITAL ASSET SALES"—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 151

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Madam President, I come to the floor today because I am concerned about President Trump's actions to, I believe, start a trade war with our top two trading partners, Canada and Mexico.

All goods coming from Canada and Mexico, as of midnight last night—I guess midnight today—face a 25-percent tax; that is, all except Canadian energy, which is taxed at 10 percent. Trump's tariffs will make everything from gas to heating, to groceries, to lumber and more, more expensive for everyday Americans.

I think it bears repeating that tariffs are paid by consumers. They are paid by Americans, not by other countries. And what the President is doing amounts to a new tax for Americans. For example, heating oil and propane that keeps hundreds of thousands of Granite Staters warm in the winter is going to cost more. We are going to add about \$150 to \$250 to the cost of heating homes in New Hampshire.

And gas prices are going to go up. In New Hampshire, half of the fuel in our cars and trucks comes from Canada, and U.S. refineries across the Midwest use Canadian oil.

The United States imports 80 percent of its potash fertilizer from Canada, and this tariff makes farming and food more expensive.

It is unclear how the American auto industry is going to continue to operate. Ford's CEO said these tariffs will "blow a hole in the U.S. industry that we have never seen," with up to \$12,000 added to the cost of a car.

And this will make lumber and electrical equipment that we need to build housing—at a time when housing is al-

ready in short supply—it will make them more expensive and harder to find.

Those are just a few examples.

There are countless other imports that American businesses and families rely on that are going to be hit hard, and these tariffs do nothing to bring down those costs. They do just the opposite.

These tariffs could add \$1,200 to an average household's yearly cost, and we won't have to wait very long for the impact to be felt. It is already being felt on Wall Street and the stock market. Target's CEO said this morning that the consumer "will likely see price increases over the next couple of days." And for small businesses, these tariff taxes will be felt by small businesses in all of our States.

I was here, a month ago today, sharing stories from businessowners in New Hampshire who weren't sure how they were going to keep operating if specialized machinery that they can only get from Canada suddenly costs 25 percent more. Since that time, I have heard from even more people in New Hampshire, more small businesses.

Last week, I heard from a small company in Windham, NH, that makes allergen-free cookies, and they can only get certain ingredients for those cookies from Canada. The CEO built her business, which now employs 30 people, and now she can't be sure if they are even going to be able to keep going, let alone keep growing.

When I spoke with business representatives across New Hampshire last month, the theme they kept coming back to was "uncertainty." As a former small businessowner, I know that uncertainty is the most destabilizing aspect of running and growing a business. Yet that is what this administration keeps creating.

Yesterday, we learned that new orders from manufacturers dropped in February for the first time in 22 years. For the first time in 22 years, new orders from manufacturers dropped because companies can't work with this level of uncertainty.

Last Wednesday, the President was talking about Canadian tariffs going into effect April 2. The very next morning, he announced 25 percent tariffs would go into effect today. The whiplash is hard to imagine.

I spoke, last month, about a bus company, C&J Bus Lines, in New Hampshire that was worried about these tariffs and what it would mean for the bottom line. Well, the CEO moved up his delivery date to get three buses in late March before these taxes were set to go into effect, but his costs just went up more than \$450,000.

Businesses plan months, quarters, or years in advance. They need to place orders and plot out their growth in order to succeed. How can they plan when they can't even know whether their costs are going to go up 25 percent overnight? How can a developer know if they can start building the

housing that New Hampshire desperately needs if their lumber costs 25 percent more overnight? And how can a family already struggling with high costs continue to pay the rent or put food on the table if their household costs are going to go up \$1,200 this year?

I want families and businesses to know that the whims of this President are not going to cause them to break the bank on everyday items they need to get by. That is why I introduced the Protecting Americans from Tax Hikes on Imported Goods Act. It is a simple change, really. It says that the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, or IEEPA, can no longer be used to place taxes on imports.

If the President needs to block some dangerous product, he still can. But if there is a real threat, we would want to stop it, not just add a tariff tax. That is what my bill does. It would stop these tariffs on goods and energy coming from Canada and Mexico, and it would give businesses and families more certainty to plan for the future and to keep their hard-earned dollars in their pockets.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be discharged from further consideration of S. 151 and that the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration; 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 South Carolina.

Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina. Madam President, reserving the right to object, IEEPA is a powerful tool that provides the President with a range of authorities to protect our national security. With all the challenges facing our Nation, now is not the time to be limiting Presidential power, and that is exactly what Senator SHAHEEN's bill would do.

Instead, we must use every tool available to combat these threats, and we are already seeing results. As an example, Colombia accepted migrant return flights. We have seen Mexico and Canada take initial credible steps to combat fentanyl and illegal immigration. Now is not the time to tie the hands of President Trump.

Thank you, and I look forward to working with my colleagues in the Senate through regular order to ensure that we take every step to protect our national security.

Therefore, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Madam President, I know that my colleague from Oregon wants to speak to this issue, but I just want to respond in a couple of ways.

I know my colleague from South Carolina cares about the issues that I am going to address, but he mentioned fentanyl, and that is what the President has used to justify the tariffs. He

says this is a way to stop the flow of fentanyl into our country, but he has forgotten a few inconvenient facts.

First, it is that, in 2024, CBP, or Customs and Border Protection, seized about 43 pounds of fentanyl along our northern border—about 1 percent of the fentanyl coming into this country. Now, it has long been known that fentanyl is not coming from Canada, and that hard drugs and firearms flow north from the United States into Canada.

In fact, on February 25, the Canada Border Services Agency announced the seizure of 410 pounds of methamphetamine and 42 pounds of cocaine from two commercial trucks seeking entry into Canada at the Coutts port of entry. Seizures like this are not uncommon. Wouldn't it make more sense if we agreed to work together with our Canadian allies instead of putting a tariff on them?

The second fact that bears mentioning is that the vast majority of the fentanyl crossing the southwest border is transported by Americans, hidden in their cars and trucks. That is why I have supported—like most of my colleagues in this body have supported—more money for technology and personnel to better find these drugs before they enter the United States. That is why I supported the border bill last year that this President stopped because he wanted a political issue.

On China, we can debate another time whether this is actually the right long-term strategy with China. But more important than that, my bill does not prevent tariffs against countries like China that have unfair trade practices. Both President Trump, in his first term, and President Biden have already placed tariffs on numerous imports from China to respond to its unfair trade practices, exactly what section 301 of the Trade Act is for. That tool remains available.

My bill only addresses the ability of the President to tax imports on a whim. And I want to note that, thanks to this President, we now have higher taxes on imports from Canada than from China. I don't know how that makes sense—that we are taxing our allies more than we are taxing our adversaries.

So I would say: Is this really about China, or is a more important motivation here to raise costs on American families to pay for tax cuts for the wealthy?

As the ranking member of the Foreign Relations Committee, I take very seriously our ability to use sanctions or other tools in foreign policy. This bill does nothing to limit the use of sanctions under IEEPA, nor does it prevent an embargo or fully blocking dangerous imports.

But I don't think a tax is the right solution for those issues. In fact, this is breaking the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement that President Trump negotiated just 6 years ago. And if we are going to break the very deal we have

negotiated—I think, one of the most important achievements of the first Trump administration—why would people want to work with us in the future? Why would they want to work with a Trump administration? How does being an unreliable partner to our closest allies help our national security?

I think it is important to be clear on this: Donald Trump's trade war doesn't create any manufacturing jobs tomorrow in the United States. In fact, it is far more likely to cost us tens or hundreds of thousands of jobs. Half of the goods that America imports are intermediate components, that means parts that our companies manufacture into finished goods. Every one of those items coming from Canada or Mexico just got 25 percent more expensive.

And we have already heard from automakers. They are not sure how much this is going to add to the bottom line of cars. I think that is a lot of risk for tariffs that President Trump can't justify for any other reason, other than because he wants to get funding to support a tax cut for the wealthiest Americans.

Yet the President is talking about wanting to cut deals with Russia for economic development. I don't see the logic in going half way around the world to deal with a dictator—a murderous dictator, by the way—like Vladimir Putin. At the same time, we are damaging relationships and cutting off trade with our closest allies right here in North America.

I am happy to listen to somebody's explanation here, but I don't think it makes sense, and it seems entirely contrary to American values to me. So I hope that my colleagues on the other side of the aisle will see the folly in what the President is doing, will recognize the impact on the economy and American families because of these increased costs, and agree that these tariffs should be rolled back.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. WYDEN. Madam President, my colleague from New Hampshire is being way too logical for some of what passes as trade debate here. And it is my hope that her excellent proposal will be back on this Senate floor sometime soon for unanimous consent to pass a very important bill protecting Americans from tax hikes on imported goods.

This is, as she has stated, a straightforward proposition. All it does is clarify that the President's emergency powers can't be used to put tariffs on the things Americans buy from other countries.

Now, Donald Trump calls himself a "tariff man"—his quote, not mine. It is the only answer he seems to have to any problem under the sun. Instead of taking time to think through actual solutions, he is willing to use any authority he can find to slap tariffs on our trading partners.

Just today, he announced he was slapping 25 percent tariffs on Canada

and Mexico, which are two of our three largest trading partners and closest allies.

That alone is going to raise costs for Americans on gas, on cars, on fruits and vegetables, and many other products. It is also going to cost America jobs because Canada and Mexico have announced plans to retaliate against our exports.

That is the opposite of what Donald Trump pledged to the American people.

It is disturbing that Donald Trump is going rogue and using emergency powers to pursue his tariffs. The American people voted for lower—not higher—prices. Donald Trump campaigned on the promise that he would lower costs on day one of his Presidency. But just a month in, all Trump has managed to do is gut the agencies in charge of protecting consumers and going after predatory corporations, and he's landed us in trade wars that are going to drive up the cost of goods people use every day.

Whether it is to punish a country that he doesn't like or to settle scores with foreign leaders, the only answer Donald Trump has ever had is tariffs. And as the ranking Democrat on the Senate Finance Committee, I have heard him play that card again and again, no matter how many times we have said: Look, tariffs should be one of the tools in the trade toolbox, but it shouldn't be the universal answer to everything.

Trump's approach is going to drive up prices and costs for American families, businesses, and farmers in the process.

He does it, in my view, because he and his billionaire friends aren't going to feel the impacts, and they don't care about the millions of Americans who will.

These higher costs essentially add up to a Trump Tax on everything from food to clothes and cars. And to those who voted for Donald Trump because they wanted lower prices and a fairer economy—it sure seems to me that these policies are a betrayal. The Shaheen bill that we are trying to pass today would rein in some of Donald Trump's worst impulses and clarify that the laws on the books were never meant to be a blank check for the President to abuse tariffs by using them as a punishment against any country that hurts his feelings.

A number of our Republican colleagues have supported the Shaheen proposal in the past because putting a check on the President's power to land us in trade wars should not be, as my colleague has said, partisan or controversial. It is Shaheen common sense. I want to thank her for an excellent bill, and for her leadership that I have watched from my vantage point on the Finance Committee.

And when we can get this bill back on the floor for unanimous consent, I hope it will be met with a resounding bipartisan showing of support, and I look forward to working with her until that day comes to be.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BANKS). The Senator from Connecticut.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. RES. 105

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, tragically and totally unnecessarily, what we are seeing in real time is an assault on the veterans of America. It is an assault that is part of a campaign by Elon Musk, who has been empowered by President Trump supposedly to eliminate waste in our Federal Government.

Instead of eliminating waste, Elon Musk is laying waste to the Department of Veterans Affairs, and it is unfolding in real time, with real-life impacts on our veterans. Not only is he firing veterans at the VA—many of the 2,400 already terminated are veterans, one-third of them—but across Agencies in the U.S. Government, where 30,000 members of the Federal workforce have been indiscriminately terminated. Thirty percent of them are veterans as well.

Almost 50 percent of everybody in the Department of Defense who has been fired are veterans, and they may be probationary employees who have been promoted to positions where they are in probationary status because they have done such a great job. They are being fired.

Younger members of the Federal workforce—there for up to 2 years, the future of our civil service—they are firing, and so many of them are veterans who have worn the uniform, served and sacrificed, and want to continue to benefit the country with the skills and dedication they have demonstrated as members of our U.S. Armed Forces.

Public service has long been a preferred path for military-affiliated populations. Whether it is in our local police force or as emergency medical personnel, joining the Federal workforce has enabled them to continue serving our country while it offers competitive wages, benefits, and much needed stability for them as veterans and tremendous benefits for taxpayers.

Now what Elon Musk is doing—relying on his tech bros and his algorithms and his AI formulas—is to cut across the board, leaving those veterans as disposable trash or roadkill in his campaign to eliminate waste.

Well, let me tell you, Elon Musk, if you were serious about eliminating waste, you wouldn't have fired the inspectors general of these Agencies, who are the watchdogs. They have records of eliminating waste, fraud, and abuse.

Exhibit A is Michael Missal, the inspector general of the VA, hired and appointed first by President Obama. He served under President Trump for 4 years and then under President Biden. He has ruffled feathers of Republican and Democrat administrations because he has uncovered waste and fraud in a very bipartisan way, and he regards his job as bipartisan. He would be the one to eliminate waste, not with a meat-ax but with a scalpel.

I wish my colleagues had been in the hearing today, the joint hearing of the

House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committees, to hear Commander Al Lipphardt of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the VFW—a really heroic Vietnam veteran, injured there, with shrapnel in his arm. As he told us, the surgeon removed the shrapnel piece by piece; he didn't cut off his arm. That is the approach that we need, as he said, in eliminating waste—not cutting off arms or legs but removing the waste carefully, deliberately, cautiously.

Among the illegally terminated—and I should stress “illegally terminated”—are 2,400 VA employees, many of them veterans themselves, members of the Guard or Reserves now, caregivers, military spouses. In the DOD, many of them—45 percent—are former veterans. The overall impact will be disastrous on the 640,000 veterans who are public servants.

Musk and Trump have already upended the lives of so many thousands of veterans who were casually discarded, illegally fired without notice or justification—all for cheap headlines. The impacts in real life are undeniable. Stories from newspapers, from broadcast media, from all kinds of outlets, tell the story of those real-life impacts.

I know my colleagues are hearing from their constituents about the mental health services that are delayed, about the surgeries that can't be provided, and about the Veterans Crisis Line, serving veterans who may be taking their own lives—all reduced. These real-life impacts are undeniable. We are talking about the people who make sure that veterans have transportation to those appointments, who assist with benefits claims, who ensure that the VA hospitals are maintained and that they are safe, who clean operating rooms and sterilize instruments in between procedures. It may not be the surgeon who is fired, but the surgeon who is walking into the operating room needs a staff and a team to assist him. He needs the housekeeping staff to make sure that it is clean. These people have dedicated their careers to serving veterans and their Nation, and all have been indiscriminately and illegally terminated.

These short headlines tell a story, and so does this visual from Springfield, MA:

Due to abrupt and unplanned staff shortages, we are not able to greet you at this time. If you have a scheduled appointment, your counselor will be out to get you at the time of your appointment. If you are here for any other reason, please call and leave a message, and a staff member will return your call.

We apologize—

“We apologize”—

for any inconvenience and impact on your care.

Donald Trump and Elon Musk owe veterans an apology. Right now, Elon Musk is giving veterans the middle finger. Veterans won't stand for it.

So, Mr. President, I am introducing a resolution today and asking that we approve it to uphold the contract, to

uphold the promise, to uphold the commitment we made to our veterans when they raised their right hands and promised to serve and sacrifice even at the risk of dying.

I am joined by Senators HIRONO, SLOTKIN, LUJÁN, MURRAY, DURBIN, WHITEHOUSE, WARNOCK, KLOBUCHAR, SHAHEEN, KAINE, ROSEN, CORTEZ, MASTO, ALSOBROOKS, KELLY, WARREN, HASSAN, SCHIFF, BALDWIN, DUCKWORTH, GALLEG0, PETERS, VAN HOLLEN, SANDERS, BOOKER, WYDEN, MERKLEY, WARNER, SMITH, PADILLA, HEINRICH, SCHATZ, and HICKENLOOPER in this effort. I wish—I really wish—it were bipartisan because veterans' issues have been bipartisan. I have worked with veterans, including the chairman, whom I respect, Senator MORAN, on these issues.

This resolution acknowledges that veterans, who make up less than 7 percent of Americans but approximately 30 percent of public service, have been really disrespected and disserved in just these weeks, with such destructive and repugnant effects on them, on the veterans they serve, and on American values. Our Nation and they deserve better.

I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 105, which is at the desk; further, that the resolution be agreed to, 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. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, in my conversations with Kansans, I frequently point to the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs as proof that we can still work together, that unity is attainable, and that we are able to set aside our partisan differences and frustrations to find a way to work together to put our Nation's veterans first because they did that for us when they put on the uniform and took a vow to defend and protect our country.

The Senate has to work together with the administration, with the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs, veterans service organizations, and the broad veteran community across the country. This resolution divides the Congress and the administration and makes it more difficult for us to find consensus. We should work together. We should work together to determine what is the right kind of workforce at the VA—a workforce that enables the Department to better care for veterans.

Approving this resolution drives a wedge between this body—this Senate, this Congress—and the executive branch, and I don't see how that helps veterans.

Additionally, this resolution was designed to lock in at the VA the status quo as of January 19. I don't know if any of my colleagues believe the VA

was doing everything just right prior to this administration.

I commit today to all my colleagues to work with them to make certain the VA retains an effective workforce that can deliver our promises to veterans, but we will only achieve that by working together and working with the Department of Veterans Affairs to find the desirable outcomes. We need more information, and we need to be working together to achieve that. Therefore, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, first, let me say I am hopeful that we can work together—if the chairman of the VA Committee is willing to do it—to try to arrive at language that calls for the rehiring of these veterans, rescinding the layoffs.

I must say that we are joined today by a number of guests of my colleagues as well as myself, veterans who have been terminated. They are with us today. They are going to be with us tonight at the address offered by President Trump.

I am more than happy to work on this resolution if there is a way to make it bipartisan, but the basic principle that we owe our veterans that contract and commitment and that we need to bring them back so that these kinds of consequences can be avoided I think is fundamental to the effort today.

We know that more than 50 patient appointments were canceled at a VA facility just this past week because they can't hire staff needed to care for those veterans.

We know that in the first round of terminations, Secretary Collins terminated nine Veterans Crisis Line employees. Then he hired some back, and then he fired more.

We know that a pregnant spouse of a disabled veteran who was hired under the military spouse appointing authority was terminated.

We know that a 25-year Marine Corps veteran with a 100-percent service-connected disability rating and 15 years of service was terminated.

We know that a VA researcher working on treatments for substance use disorders among veterans was terminated.

We know that the cyber security lead for the VA website—the digital hub that connects veterans with their benefits and holds sensitive, personal data—was terminated.

These kinds of impacts—and I have mentioned just a tiny fraction of all of them—are ongoing. They are real. They are urgent.

I am more than happy to work on the language of this resolution, but the goal is indisputable and unavoidable.

I am going to turn now to some of my colleagues who have joined me today. I thank them for doing so.

First, Senator WHITEHOUSE, if I may yield to him.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, first, let me thank Senator BLUMENTHAL for this effort. It really matters. Even if it fails, it matters to our veterans to know that we tried, to know that we did not leave them out there at the mercy of Elon Musk and his little muskrats that have been running around through all of our government Agencies breaking Agencies, violating court orders, prowling through your data—Americans, prowling through your data—and, of course, firing veterans.

No President has fired more veterans than Donald Trump just in his first few weeks in office, and what it is doing to the VA and to services for veterans is deeply wrong and deeply unfortunate.

In Rhode Island, we have our Providence VA health center, which is a first-class operation. Our veterans love it. It is well run. It has all sorts of new services and facilities that Senator REED and I have worked to make sure got to the hospital. Also, it has nearly 2,500 employees. It is a big operation.

We also have the Providence VA benefits office, which is such a good benefits office that if a program is being rolled out and not working someplace, they call in the Providence benefits office to try to get it working. If they are about to roll out a new program and they want to beta test it, they go to the Providence benefits office because they are good at what they do. I can't think of anything that makes them more proud than the customers they serve. They love the folks they work for.

So to go through this group and slash and burn without the least logic or care from, like, these little tech bro muskrat types who have never served, have no idea what they are doing, but are just taking delight in moving fast and breaking things, to use the tech bro talk—well, that is fine if you are a tech bro and you are playing around with equipment, but when you are dealing with our veterans and you are dealing with people's lives, running around fast, not knowing what you are doing, and breaking stuff sounds more like Thing One and Thing Two from "The Cat in the Hat." This is not the responsible way veterans should be treated.

I will mention just two while I am here.

There is a Rhode Islander who works for our Veterans Crisis Line. It is the hotline that veterans can call in to when they are having an acute crisis of some kind, perhaps even feeling suicidal. This is not easy work. When that phone goes, you have to be on, and you have to be expert. You have to understand how to support the people who are calling in. You have to understand how to get them to the services they need. It is a life-and-death matter.

This individual was fired and then rehired a few days later—or at least told they were reinstated just a few days

later. But with all the scrambling going on at the VA, the VA has not reissued work credentials, and they still do not have a return-to-work date for the improper firing that never should have happened and then was rescinded but now doesn't have a proper end to the termination. It is administrative malpractice, it is stupid, and it is wrong.

We have another Rhode Islander who worked at the local vet center who was also abruptly and unjustifiably terminated.

As I said, it really means a lot to these people to be working for veterans. They really put their hearts into it, and they really want to do a very good job. They actually get rated on whether or not they are, in fact, doing a good job.

This individual received outstanding performance ratings. It wasn't just that they threw their heart and soul into their work, their peers reviewed them and their supervisors reviewed them and said that they were outstanding performers at their work.

So a letter comes to them saying that they were terminated due to poor performance. Among other things, that was a lie because they weren't poor performers. They were excellent performers.

When you lie to people who are working for veterans just so you can fire them, that is a pretty loathsome way to go about serving veterans, and it is certainly a loathsome way to treat the people who dedicate their lives to taking care of veterans.

If you want to go find the people who have poor performance and fire them, go find the people who have poor performance and fire them, but don't just randomly accuse high performers of poor performance, lie to them about their performance, and fire them. It is a really offensive state of affairs.

It means now that vet center calls are being routed out to Colorado in a different time zone. Rhode Island—a little bit like Connecticut—is a small State. Connecticut is a little bigger. We have our own character, we have our own nature, and we have our own, often, way of speaking. And it matters, when you pick up the phone to call the vet center, that you are not talking to somebody several time zones away in Colorado, particularly not because the phone isn't being answered because a high-performing worker was lied to about their performance and wrongly fired. There is really no excuse for that.

I want to say to the folks at the Providence benefits office: Thank you. God bless you. We admire and respect what you do. We recognize that the entire VA organization has treated you as particularly expert and able, and the work you do to make sure our vets get the benefits they are due is first class. Thank you for what you do. We are grateful. And I apologize that this President and this whatever he is and his little muskrats are doing this kind

of damage to the institution you so proudly serve.

To the folks at the Providence VA hospital: God bless you, and thank you. You do great work.

I deal with veterans all the time. Our veterans love our hospital. They are proud of our hospital. They think it is well run. They think they are well treated. The services are good. You can even get rides there. There is good parking. I mean, this hospital runs the way you would want a veterans hospital to run.

So keep those little muskrats out of Rhode Island. Don't damage the services to our veterans.

I hope that, as the chairman said, we can come together and fix this, but it is hard to hear about how we should come together when nobody came together from "Muskland," and those little muskrats didn't check in with anybody before they went in to break stuff at these Agencies. It is a little late for togetherness when there has been none in terms of defending the work that these wonderful people do.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, we are going to be joined by others of my colleagues, but I want to follow Senator WHITEHOUSE's very eloquent remarks by just making a couple of quick points.

You know, tonight, the President is going to speak to Members of both the House and the Senate, and he is going to make a lot of claims, many of them untethered in any way to the facts. But if he does nothing else, what I would like to see him do is show some respect for our veterans. He has called them suckers and losers. They have been called swamp creatures or deep-staters by members of this administration. Part of the mindset here that is responsible for these firings is that disrespect for our veterans.

Two of my sons are veterans—one, a Marine Corps first lieutenant who served in Afghanistan; another, a Navy SEAL. They value the VA.

Americans see in their real lives how the VA helps our veterans.

When the President speaks tonight, I want him to look at the guests whom we have brought—not only my guest, Michael Missal, the former inspector general of the VA, but also a U.S. Air Force veteran with more than 30 years of military service who retired from a lifetime of dedicated service to his country in November and immediately rededicated himself to serving his fellow veterans at the Department of Veterans Affairs. He started work on January 13. He was illegally terminated barely 1 month later. He is the soul breadwinner of his family. And Tony Ruiz, a disabled Army veteran—until he was illegally terminated, he worked at the VA Benefits Administration to assist veterans with their benefits claim. He was cut just 10 days before his probationary period ended. He was serving in his dream job.

These veterans and other courageous former members of our Armed Forces are going to be with us tonight, and they will be speaking out. They will be sharing their stories. They are not faceless bureaucrats. They are not suckers. They are not losers. They are hard-working public servants who have willingly sacrificed everything for this country, have been willing to give even their lives, and now have rededicated themselves to continue their service now that their military time is complete.

I want to yield to my colleague from Michigan, Senator PETERS, who himself is a veteran and a great colleague and friend of ours.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I rise today to speak in opposition to the mass termination of veterans that is taking place all across our Federal Government.

I was proud to serve more than a decade in the U.S. Navy Reserve, where I rose to the rank of lieutenant commander. During this time, I had the absolute privilege to work with some of the most patriotic, hard-working, and inspiring individuals that I have ever met. I know firsthand that veterans are a vital source of talent to our workforce.

So let's just think for a moment. Let's just think about the qualities that make a valuable employee: leadership, work ethic, problem-solving abilities, and of course, integrity. These are not just abstract qualities; they are tangible assets that veterans bring to our businesses, our communities, and to our government. They are qualities that drive innovation. They boost productivity and foster a culture of excellence. Employing our Nation's veterans when they transition to civilian life is not just a responsibility; it is a smart business decision. That is why the Federal Government has long taken advantage of this absolutely remarkable talent pool.

Veterans now make up roughly 30 percent of our Federal workforce—or more than 640,000 veterans in the civil service—and I rise today to express my absolute outrage over the indiscriminate firings of nearly 6,000 of these veterans—from the VA to the Defense Department to the Department of the Treasury.

At the VA, where veterans' input is particularly critical to shaping policies that support our Nation's robust veteran population, Elon Musk and DOGE have fired more than 600 veteran employees. They are part of more than 2,400 individuals fired all across the VA.

I have heard from numerous veterans and VA workers in Michigan who are absolutely devastated and confused by why this administration would turn their back on them like this. My staff met with a veteran who has worked for the VA in Michigan for nearly 30 years. Last year, they were moved to a new

role within the VA and promoted—promoted—to supervisor shortly thereafter. And no surprise because they had never received less than an excellent performance review over 30 years. But because they were relatively new to that specific role, they were swept up in the widespread firings, both within the VA and across government, of all probationary employees. They were one of many veterans fired abruptly, without cause, without reason.

In another case, a veteran with 8 years of Active Duty service in the Air Force was fired from the VA in Michigan after receiving an "outstanding" performance review. His probationary period was set to expire last week, just 12 days after he was let go.

These cuts are not based on fact. They are not based on logic. They are just cruel. And our country will not be better off. As a result of these mass layoffs, Americans can expect longer wait times to receive important documents like passports and Social Security benefits, fewer food safety inspections, and higher risks during air travel.

These are Americans who put their lives on the line to defend this country. They took up a job to continue to serve the people of this country. They represent the very best of our Nation, and we need them in our Federal workforce.

I am calling today on the administration to reinstate these veteran employees immediately.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. KELLY. Mr. President, we made a sacred promise to our veterans that after their service, they would get the care and support that they earned. That promise did not come with an expiration date. And as a combat veteran myself, I take this responsibility personally on behalf of Arizona's more than 500,000 veterans and veterans across the country. But with these mass firings of staff at the VA, President Trump and Elon Musk are breaking that promise.

In the last month, thousands of VA employees, people who care for our Nation's veterans, were fired with no warning, no phone call, no meeting—just an email telling them that they no longer had a job, that they were no longer wanted. These aren't just nameless, faceless bureaucrats; these are Americans who signed up to serve our country by taking care of veterans. They deserve to be treated with respect. These are the people on the frontlines of veterans' care and services, and they were fired without even a thought.

We can all agree that the VA can do a better job, but aimlessly firing thousands of people will do nothing to help speed up veterans' healthcare—nothing. It will just make accessing care more difficult.

Secretary Collins and the VA claim that these were "non-mission critical" jobs. Well, that is simply not true. In

Arizona, we have seen VA workers and the families who rely on the VA impacted in a real way—like Brandy and David, who shared their story with Arizona's Family News and are both veterans themselves who became loan specialists to help fellow veterans navigate financial hardships and avoid homelessness. Before they were fired, each of them was handling 1,500 cases. Each of those cases represents one veteran who needs help. How much longer will it take veterans in need to get answers?

Another Arizona family reached out to my office, afraid to speak out publicly because of fear of retaliation. The husband is a doctor at the Tucson VA. He treats patients with lung disease. But last week he got an email—not a meeting, no conversation—just an email telling him to resign. Is that who Secretary Collins calls “non-mission critical”? His wife now fears that her job could be next. They have two young kids, and now they are being forced to rethink everything because this administration—this administration—kicked them to the curb.

Donald Trump claims to care about veterans but then turns around and fires the very people whose job it is to ensure that veterans get the care that they need, the care that they earned from serving our Nation, for keeping us safe. These are real people. These terminations, they are not just numbers on a spreadsheet; they are real people who execute a mission serving veterans. And these layoffs—these layoffs are going to mean longer wait times for appointments, fewer options for mental health care, fewer options for pain management, more delays in processing benefits.

Is this really where Elon Musk and Donald Trump want to save a buck? Off the backs of veterans who have risked everything for us?

This is not how the United States should treat our veterans. That is why I stand here today as a veteran myself, with Senator BLUMENTHAL and our colleagues, to support this resolution.

Let's get the folks back to work serving our veterans. The work they do is mission critical. Veterans in Arizona and across the country are counting on them, and they are counting on us.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I am going to close this colloquy by, first of all, thanking my colleagues who have come today, especially veterans like Senator KELLY, who served for decades, and Senator PETERS and all the veterans who have joined in this resolution—Senators GALLEGO and others who have served this country—Senator SLOTKIN, Senator PETERS, who was here, and others.

But we don't have to be veterans to appreciate what members of our military do for our country. My own service in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve pales in comparison to many of theirs

and many who have appeared before the Veterans' Committee over these past 7, 10 days, many of them decrying these kinds of cuts. Again, these are real people, affected in real ways, unnecessarily harmed.

And these headlines speak volumes about how they have been hurt:

DOGE finds zero fraud, waste, or abuse, just new ways to harm veterans.

Veterans fired in federal layoffs say they were “stabbed in the back.”

These are just a scattering of the kinds of real-life stories that bring us to the floor today.

I plead with the President: Please make this resolution unnecessary. Do the right thing. But if you don't, I ask my colleagues on the other side of the aisle: Join us from that other side of the aisle; join us in decrying these cuts, the freezes, the firings, the terminations. They are illegal and immoral.

And we will move forward. We will continue to fight because American values are at stake.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. RES. 21

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, last November, the American people returned President Donald Trump to the Oval Office with a mandate to restore common sense in government, and in many ways, this common sense was most needed on the issue of protecting women and girls.

After 4 years where President Biden waged a war on women's sports, the message from voters was clear: no more biological men competing in women's athletics, no more stolen records and medals, and no more invasions of privacy, humiliation, and harm for our Nation's incredible female athletes.

To be certain, President Trump has delivered on the mandate. On Inauguration Day, the President issued an Executive order that affirms the Federal Government's position that there are only two sexes, male and female.

This is a position grounded in biological reality, not gender ideology. Last month, the President also signed an Executive order that bans biological males from competing in women's sports.

It was an honor to join President Trump at the signing ceremony along with the brave young women and girls who have spoken out for fairness, safety, equal opportunity, including one of those female athletes, Tennessee's Riley Gaines.

The terms of the order are simple: If you allow men to compete in women's athletics, you will lose your Federal funding.

To no one's surprise, the order is getting results. Right after President Trump signed it, the NCAA, which oversees more than 530,000 student athletes, announced that it would comply with the order.

For more than a decade, the Nation's largest athletic association allowed

men to compete in women's events. It will be a top priority of mine to ensure that this injustice never happens again and that the NCAA will fully adhere to the Executive order.

While the vast majority of States are complying, there are some States, blue States like California and Maine, that are vowing to fight President Trump over the order.

The message they are sending is clear: Democrats are willing to risk millions in Federal funding for schools to uphold their radical, far-left ideology that claims there are no differences between men and women.

The American people know better, and so do the more than 3 million female high school and college athletes who deserve every single opportunity to succeed. They work hard; they train hard; they set their goals; they compete; and they work to succeed.

To celebrate all of these incredible accomplishments from these 3 million high school and college athletes, I am asking for unanimous consent for my resolution to establish October 10—the 10th month, 10th day—recognized by the Roman numerals XX, like the female sex chromosome, as American Girls in Sports Day, setting aside a day to recognize the accomplishments of 3 million high school and college female athletes.

In addition to celebrating female athletes, this resolution calls on sports governing bodies across the country to protect women and girls in sports. There is absolutely zero reason for Senate Democrats to oppose this resolution, and here is the reason why: We have a New York Times Ipsos poll that tells the story on this. Seventy-nine percent of the American people, including 67 percent of Democrats, want to make certain that female sports are for girls and women. Those numbers—67 percent of Democrats, 79 percent of all Americans—say they are with us.

They want to protect women and girls in sports. They want to make certain that they have the right to compete, the right to train, the right to do team building, and the right to succeed and be recognized for it.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be discharged from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 21; further, that the resolution be agreed to; the preamble be agreed to; and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, as I understand it, this bill—this resolution seeks to establish an American Girls in Sports Day.

Obviously, that sounds like a really good idea until you read the resolution, and you realize that this resolution actually has virtually nothing to do with the history and the current reality of girls playing sports.

Instead, it is just another attempt by Republicans to pretend that the biggest threat to this country is transgender kids or gay kids or drag shows. Republicans don't want to talk about rising costs, rising grocery prices, rising gas costs. They don't want to talk about the cratering reputation of America in the world. They don't want to talk about the fact the stock market is crashing because of the disastrous economic policies of this President.

No. As usual, it is transgender kids and drag shows that are causing all the problems in America. How do I know that this bill isn't an honest attempt to celebrate girls in sports? Well, first, if you really cared about girls in sports, you would know that we actually already have a national day. It is February 7. It is called National Women and Girls in Sports Day. It was signed into law 40 years ago by President Reagan.

The sponsors of this resolution were so eager to shame transgender kids that they didn't even check to see if there was already a day. Now, folks are going to say Democrats objected to an American Girls in Sports Day. That is like bringing a resolution before the floor to declare June 27 Christmas, and when Democrats object, Democrats are anti-Christmas.

Second, if this bill were really about girls in sports, it would celebrate girls in sports. But this resolution isn't about that. The resolution, if you read it, is just about this one issue; transgender athletes. Frankly, that is an insult to the thousands of girls who do play sports. Ninety-nine percent of them are never going to compete against a transgender athlete.

I am not saying this isn't an issue that is worth spending a little bit of time on, but let's be clear: A female high school athlete in this country is more likely to be killed by a falling object than to lose a competition to a biological male.

If this resolution were really about celebrating girls in sports instead of just trying to bully and shame transgender kids, then maybe somewhere in the resolution it might talk about Patsy Mink, who successfully championed the passage of title IX. Maybe it would mention iconic women athletes who broke barriers like Billie Jean King or Althea Gibson or Kathrine Switzer or Pat Summitt. Maybe they would talk about the iconic sports teams that put women in sports on the national stage, like Louisiana Tech or the U.S. Women's Soccer Team.

Maybe it would actually tell the story of how over the last 50 years, we have gone from 300,000 girls in high school sports to 3.4 million today, but it doesn't do any of that. The text of this resolution isn't about the history of girls and women entering high school and college sports. It is not a celebration of those iconic teams and athletes. Instead, this resolution is just

a tactic, another one, to scare and mislead the public and to bully vulnerable kids. That is the reason that I am on the floor, once again, to object. Therefore, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The Senator from Tennessee.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, I find my colleague's comments so very interesting, and I think it would have served him well to actually read the resolution. So I am going to read part of it so that my colleagues know what this does because it does talk about celebrating these athletes.

Here you go:

Whereas athletic participation has an important, positive impact on young girls, improving their physical health, self-confidence, and discipline;

Whereas women have been responsible for some of the greatest athletic feats in the sports history of the United States, from the Olympic games to professional competition;

He wanted to make certain that some of these greats like Pat Summitt and our Lady Vols are recognized. Absolutely. That is what we are doing:

Whereas female athletes have served as inspirations for generations of women and girls;

And then we talk about title IX. We talk about:

Whereas there are fundamental biological differences between men and women that put women at a competitive disadvantage in sports and jeopardize their safety during competition;

And 79 percent of the American people agree with this.

Then we go through:

Whereas, since 2003, biological men have displaced women and girls from 950 championship titles, medals, scholarships, and records they should have rightly won, including at least 28 women's sports titles in volleyball, swimming, mountain biking, track and field, weightlifting, and cycling.

We look at the policies that have been enacted to protect women and the imperative to make certain they are athletically protected and then setting up October 10 as the day that would be American Girls in Sports Day and continuing to recognize that year after year.

Now, my colleague from Connecticut probably knows that this issue of protecting women and girls in sports is very, very popular in Connecticut. One of Connecticut's biggest track stars is a Conrad High School senior there, a male-to-female athlete who holds the State's top 2023–2024 rankings in the girls outdoor high jump, long jump, and triple jump according to athletic.net.

Then you look at—there are two individuals, two boys who identify as female, they competed on a Connecticut high school track team from 2017 to 2020, and there were—and I want to be sure we look at what this does to girls who are trying to compete. This is why this issue is so popular.

Here are the stats. There were 93 times when a girl was denied an individual or relay championship because

of these two male athletes who were competing as females—93 times. A girl who had trained, who had worked out, who sought to win, to represent her team—they were denied because two boys were competing as females. Ninety-three times.

There were 52 times when a girl was denied the advancement to a championship meet. Now, think about that. We all have children. We know the heartbreak when someone has trained and trained and trained, not just for days or weeks or months but for years, and they are denied the ability to move forward because there is a boy competing in a female category.

There were 39 times when a girl was denied an opportunity to advance to finals, 17 times when a girl was denied an All-New England honor, 11 times when a girl lost a meet record, and 23 girls—23—were denied a Connecticut State Open team championship.

In other words, allowing these two boys to compete as females and compete against girls denied girls opportunities and awards 235 times. That is one State.

So I would remind my colleagues they are on the wrong side of this issue. Seventy-nine percent of the American people say it is wrong for men to compete in women's athletics. Sixty-seven percent of Democrats say it is wrong to have men compete in women's athletics.

It is lost opportunity. It is lost recognition. It is lost success for women.

What ever happened to people on the left that supported women's rights, women's safety, supported title IX? Obviously, they have thrown it to the wayside.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

FEDERAL DISASTER TAX RELIEF ACT

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I want to talk for a few moments about income tax filing season. I realize the Presiding Officer would probably prefer to be condemned to hearing O.J. jokes for the rest of eternity than to hear me talk about Federal income tax filing, but it is important for Americans and my people back in Louisiana because we have a new deduction for people who have uninsured losses from natural disasters. It is really important in my State because many of my people have suffered damages, for which they did not receive insurance payments, from Hurricanes Laura, Delta, Ida, and Francine.

We passed this new deduction in December. It is called the Federal Disaster Tax Relief Act. What it does is the following: It changes the law. It now says that if you are a victim of a natural disaster like a hurricane and you have a loss that is not paid for by your insurance, you can now deduct off your income tax dollar for dollar any uninsured property damage in excess of \$500.

Why is that important? Well, under the old rules, you were limited in your

deduction. You could only deduct your uninsured property losses that were in excess of 10 percent of your adjusted gross income. I know that sounds complicated, and it is kind of complicated. But rather than belaboring the point, the bottom line is this: As a result of this bill that we all worked on and we passed, you can now deduct more, and this is the first time people will be able to do this.

Let me say it again. If you had an uninsured property loss, you can now deduct any of that loss above \$500. This also applies in addition to the standard deduction. So if you take the standard deduction, as most Americans do, you can take this additional deduction on top of it.

I would also like to point out to all Americans but especially my people back home in Louisiana that this tax deduction is retroactive. It goes all the way back to 2020. So that means that going back to 2020, if you had uninsured losses, you can now deduct them if they exceed \$500.

I know folks are thinking, well, I already filed my income taxes for 2021 and 2022 and 2023. You can file an amended return. It is very simple to do. You just file an amended return that says: There has been a change in the law, and I am entitled to have this higher deduction, and therefore the Federal Government owes me money, and therefore please send me my check.

So I wanted to make sure that Americans knew about this new tax provision we passed.

INFLATION

Mr. President, the second thing I want to talk about is a subject that some people want to avoid, but I don't, and the American people don't. It is on the minds of every American. That is high prices. I know there are other issues that are important that we are talking about: male athletes in women's sports—that is important; immigration—that is important; national security—we are talking about that, and that is important; the Middle East; Ukraine. I could go on. But the single most important issue that moms and dads worry about in America today when they lie down to sleep at night and can't is inflation, high prices.

I don't want to dwell on the past, but President Biden's administration was an inflation machine. We saw inflation get as high at one point as 10 percent. What does that mean? That means that prices were going up every day, every month, at the rate of 10 percent annualized. Bidenomics, in most people's minds, became paying more to live worse. I mean, inflation just was gutting the American people like a fish. It happened because of all this breathtaking amount of money President Biden's administration spent, trillions of dollars—the American Rescue Plan, the CHIPS Act, the Inflation Reduction Act. They injected trillions of dollars into the economy, frankly, as we are finding out now, most of it in wasteful spending that caused too

many dollars to chase too few goods. Unless you are master class dumb, you know that every single time, that leads to inflation.

Thanks to the efforts of the Federal Reserve, inflation came down. It went down from 10 percent to—today, it is between 2 and 3 percent, depending on whose numbers you believe. And that is good. I am happy it happened. That is called disinflation.

When inflation goes from 10 percent to 3 percent, that means prices are still rising, but they are just not rising as quickly as they were. And that is a good thing, but it doesn't lower prices. It doesn't mean that we have now lower prices. They just aren't as high as they would have been if we hadn't tried to control inflation. That is called disinflation. Deflation is when prices actually go down. Deflation is when prices actually go down.

What the American people are wondering every single day as they sell blood plasma to go to the grocery store is, when am I going to get some relief from these high prices? And we do need to provide them relief.

I want to talk about three ways that we are in the process of trying to reduce those prices that my Democratic colleagues caused. And I don't mean to pick on all my Democratic colleagues, but as I have said before, I like breakfast food and straight answers. No economist in America believes that this inflation happened as a result of happenstance. It happened because of the breathtaking amount of money that President Biden spent.

There are three things we are doing to try to get these prices down. No. 1, reduce spending. You see it every single day from President Trump. He said he was going to audit Federal spending, and that is exactly what he is doing.

Now, there are some people that are mad. There are people that are very mad at President Trump and Mr. Musk and others for discovering all of this waste. The people that are mad don't seem to be mad at the people who caused the waste; they are mad at the President and Mr. Musk for finding the waste. I find that a little bit ironic.

But the point is that we are trying to reduce spending, and you are going to see it in our reconciliation bill that we are going to pass, as the Presiding Officer knows. You are going to see it in our budget, if we ever pass one. We are trying to reduce spending because our debt is \$36 trillion, and it is going up at the rate of \$7 million a minute. I have been talking 5 minutes, maybe; it has grown \$35 million while I was talking.

So we are trying to reduce government spending to get this debt down but also to reduce high prices. Why does it matter? Because the less money that government spends, the less stimulative government is on the private sector. When government spends money—there is a finite amount of money—when government spends money, it is money that we are spending instead of the private sector to create jobs and to increase wages.

So the first thing we are doing—the new administration and the new Congress—is to try to reduce spending, and if we are successful, that will lower these prices.

No. 2, deregulation. The Federal Government wants to regulate every breath we take—every breath we take.

I wish you could see all of the Federal regulations. If you stacked them right here—if you stack every single Federal regulation right here, you could probably stand on this thing and paint the ceiling. It is just amazing.

Each one of these regulations has a cost. The cost of all of our regulations today is in excess of \$2 trillion—not billion, not million—\$2 trillion. What does that mean? That means when a business produces a product or it delivers a service and it has to comply with a meaningless, gnarly Federal regulation which costs money, that extra expense is added to the cost of the product of the service.

Duh.

I mean, businesses have to stay in business. They can't eat the cost. So they pass it on. That leads to higher prices.

So the second thing that we are doing—we are working on it every day. It hasn't been talked about a lot. We passed some bills here on the floor of the Senate, but the administration is doing even more. We are deregulating. We are getting rid of all of these excess regulations whose costs are greater than their benefit. I think the President said he has a new rule that if you are in the bureaucracy and you want to promulgate a new rule, you can do it if it is really necessary, but you have to get rid of 10 others. If we do that successfully, that will reduce prices.

So the first thing we are doing is cutting spending to get down these high prices. The second thing we are doing is implementing Federal deregulation. The third thing we are doing—we are working on it as we speak, as you know, Mr. President.

We have to grow this economy. I mentioned the high spending and the debt that has led to higher prices. Think about this. Since 2019, 5 years ago, the American population increased 2 percent. The Federal budget has increased 55 percent—2 percent population increase, Federal spending is up 55 percent. That is just a fact. The numbers are the numbers. I know we have had some inflation. We haven't had 55-percent worth of inflation. That is just a fact.

Every dollar that the Federal Government spends is a dollar that business people don't have to invest. Why is that important? Because they invest; they grow their business; they add more jobs; the business becomes more profitable; and wages rise.

The third way we are attacking these high prices is by trying to stimulate the economy to increase wages so that we actually can grow out of these high prices so that people will have more money to spend when they buy a car or

go to the grocery store. We are not going to do that with tepid GDP growth.

If you go back to 2010—what, 15 years now? America has experienced average gross domestic product growth—that means how much your economy is growing, as you know, Mr. President. Average GDP growth is a little over 2 percent. That is not going to get it. That is not going to get it. In fact, now when we have 2.5 percent GDP growth, we get so excited. We are so happy we want to have a toga party. Well, 2.5 percent is not going to get it. In order to grow out of these high prices and increase wages, we are going to have to increase GDP growth to at least 3 percent. And that used to be normal for America. That used to be very, very doable and very normal.

How are we going to do that? We are going to do that through the Tax Code. We have about \$4.5 trillion worth of tax cuts that we implemented back in 2017 that caused the economy to grow and wages to go up until COVID hit. Those tax cuts are expiring here very shortly, and we are going to extend them. If we don't, it will be, in effect, a tax increase by \$4.5 trillion. That will send our growth down, not up.

We are also going to change some other provisions of the Tax Code; and in doing so, we are not going to add to our deficit. We are going to match those tax decreases with spending savings so that we do not add to the national debt. That is what we are doing on inflation.

I didn't want this to be lost in translation because of all the other important things we are talking about.

We are well aware that high prices are gutting the American people like a fish. But by reducing spending, by deregulating the economy, and by designing a Tax Code that looks like somebody designed it on purpose, we are going to get those high prices down.

Point 3, I am speaking of saving money. I talked a little bit about public radio and public television in America—the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, NPR, PBS. These are public TV and radio stations. The American people spend about a half billion dollars a year and give it directly to public TV. They give it to the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

Corporation for Public Broadcasting picks its favorite local TV stations and radio stations, gives money to them, and local TV and radio stations buy programming from NPR and PBS, which is loosely affiliated with Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

There was a time when it was necessary because we only had three TV stations and few radio stations. And people in rural areas depended on the government for the media. Those days are long gone, as we know. We now have a breathtaking array of ways to get information, everything from podcasts to Facebook to Twitter to Google News to cable TV to streaming. We no longer need to spend half a bil-

lion dollars a year or half a trillion dollars a year—we spent \$14.5 billion since we started funding public radio and television. We no longer need to do it.

I mean, we don't fund CNN. We don't subsidize CNN, and if somebody proposed to, I would vote against it. We don't subsidize FOX News. If somebody introduced a bill to subsidize FOX News, I would vote against it. Why are we subsidizing these radio and television stations? They need to compete with everybody else.

The final point I want to make on this subject, the audience for public radio and public television is declining. Let me say that again. The audience for public radio and public television, which your tax dollars pay for, is declining. Why is that? There are a lot of reasons for it, but I will tell you one. People used to tune into PBS and NPR and Corporation for Public bias—Public Broadcasting—Freudian slip there—because those stations played it right straight down the middle. But they don't anymore. They are very, very biased in their reporting. We all know that. I mean, all you have to do is listen to them.

This is America. You are entitled—I despise opinion journalists, but it is constitutional. On the First Amendment, you can say what you want, within reason. I support that. You are not free if you can't say what you think, so I don't want you to misconstrue what I am saying. These local stations that are getting money from the taxpayers have every right to report what they want. But they don't have a right to do it and offer a jaundiced point of view using taxpayer dollars. That is my point.

I just wanted to, as I have done in the past, I wanted to read a few more headlines. This is the kind of reporting that is being done today with your tax money on NPR, National Public Radio, and PBS. I will start with NPR. Here is one of the headlines of NPR: "Arguments that trans athletes have an unfair advantage lack evidence to support."

That is opinion journalism. Here is another headline from NPR: "A Brief History of How Racism Shaped Interstate Highways."

I did not know our interstate highways were racists. I thought they were concrete. Not according to NPR.

Here is another NPR headline: "Trump 'Embodies Nearly Every Aspect of a Racist,' Author Says."

Another: "The Nation: Confronting Trump's Coded Racism."

And another: "Is Trump's Call For 'Law And Order' A Coded Racial Message?"

As I said, these are your tax dollars at work.

"Sexism Is Out In The Open In The 2016 Campaign. That May Have Been Inevitable." That is another headline.

"Is Trump Really That Racist?" Another headline.

And another headline: "FRONTLINE traces the 'ambition and revenge' driv-

ing SCOTUS Justice Clarence Thomas." NPR is reporting that Justice Thomas is motivated by revenge and ambition.

Another headline from NPR: "What can the White House do to confront the narrative around Biden's ability?"

It wasn't a narrative. I mean, I don't hate anybody, and I am sorry this was the case, but President Biden had neurodegenerative disease. It wasn't a narrative; it was just a fact. I am sorry, but it was just a fact.

Last headline from NPR: "Scientists Start to Tease Out the Subtler Ways Racism Hurts Health."

Your tax dollars at work. I don't want to just pick on NPR. Here are a couple which you saw on television, PBS, paid for with your tax dollars. First headline: "Talking to Young Children About Race and Racism."

Another headline: "How America's history of racism connects to divisions today." Another headline from PBS: "The hidden racism of young white Americans."

Your tax dollars. Another headline: "AP FACT CHECK: Trump seeds race animus with COVID falsehood."

Another headline: "Biden trumpets economic gains, but struggles to get credit."

Another headline from PBS: "'The Other Olympians': Transgender Athletes in the Nazi Era."

Come on, give me a break. Gag me with a spoon.

The final headline I will read: "Debunking common myths about gender-affirming care for youth."

Let me say it again, Mr. President, these television stations and radio stations that are getting money from the Federal Government—your tax dollars—they have every right under the First Amendment to say these things. They do and I support the First Amendment. But they don't have an inalienable right to report these things using opinion journalism that no fair-minded American can construe as anything but representing one point of view with your tax dollars. I am going to try to stop subsidizing media, not just PBS and not just NPR but any form of media that somehow is getting Federal taxpayer dollars. It is just not right. It is not fair. I have a bill to do that. We are also going to pursue it through reconciliation. I think President Trump and Mr. Musk are going to pursue it on their own, and I think that is a very good thing.

With that, 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.

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

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

S.J. RES. 3

Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, today's vote to proceed on this Congressional

Review Act resolution should be renamed the “Elon Musk ‘Get Out of Jail Free’ Card.”

This resolution gives Elon Musk the ability to launch his xMoney site without worrying about breaking the law and getting caught. Of course, this is also a “get out of jail free” card for others like, Apple Pay and Google Pay and other online platforms that handle people’s money, and there is a good reason to oppose it.

This bill is another example of how Republicans in Congress, in conjunction with President Trump and Elon Musk in the White House, are sticking it to families and middle-class consumers all over America and declaring it open season for fraudsters. In fact, just a few hours ago, Trump and Elon dropped the Agency’s lawsuit against Zelle and the big banks that own Zelle for failing to protect consumers from being scammed out of nearly \$1 billion on their app. Now Republicans are trying to roll back the CFPB’s ability to protect Americans from getting scammed on payment apps like Venmo and Cash App, and they are making it easier for unelected billionaire Elon Musk to cheat American consumers and line his own pockets.

So here is the back story: Musk bought Twitter, lost buckets of money, then decided he could recover and make more money by setting up a new financial services arm called xMoney. Now, in ordinary times, he could do that, but the CFPB would be responsible for enforcing consumer financial laws for xMoney. It would also be authorized to examine the books and records to prevent illegal practices and make sure that consumers are getting a fair shake. But co-President Musk doesn’t want that, and Donald Trump and Senate Republicans are willing to do Elon’s bidding, and that is what brings us here today.

They want to roll back a rule called the larger participant rule that was put in place to protect consumers from abuses on these apps and to ensure that these apps are being monitored for following the law, just like banks get monitored for doing the same kinds of things.

The rules protect consumers’ privacy when they use digital wallets like Apple Pay or Google Pay. The rules also help companies get their money back when they get defrauded on PayPal or Cash App or Venmo.

Frankly, the rule is great for consumers. It cracks down on tens of millions of dollars of fraud—fraud that has surged in recent years. It protects consumers’ privacy, ensuring that apps are not taking your private spending data and selling it to anybody who comes along. It helps prevent debanking, a problem that my colleagues on the opposite side of the aisle have spent a lot of time talking about.

The CFPB rule protects consumers’ peer-to-peer accounts from being closed or frozen without notice or justification. It prevents these apps from

unfairly depriving consumers of funds that they need to be able to buy stuff. Three-quarters of all Americans have used these peer-to-peer apps, and millions of Americans have had the sad experience of getting ripped off on peer-to-peer payments apps like Venmo and Cash App and PayPal.

Now, if you think that you are dealing with a legitimate person on the other side and then the next thing you know your money is gone and you are left without any recourse, that is wrong, and it is even worse if it happens because a payment app isn’t meeting its basic responsibilities of preventing fraud on its own platform. The CFPB rule helps to protect those millions of Americans who use payment apps, making sure that both their personal data and their money are safe.

This is a rule that is good for consumers, but it is not good for billionaires, who have figured out how to make money by defrauding those consumers. It is a very familiar story now. President Trump and the Republicans are on the side of the billionaires. They are acting to help out their pals Elon and Jeff and Mark. Hard-working people who just want their payment apps to work and who don’t want to get cheated as part of the deal are the ones who will lose.

Never mind that this is the Agency that works so hard for the little guy. Never mind that the CFPB has returned more than \$21 billion directly to American consumers who were cheated. Never mind that Elon Musk and Donald Trump are trying to kill this rule, and they are trying to kill the entire Agency.

Musk and Republicans in Congress are moving quickly to take the financial cop off the beat. They are hoping that people across this country won’t notice or that people are so distracted and overwhelmed by everything else that is going on that they won’t try to stop them.

But your eyes are not fooling you. It is happening in plain sight.

Ahead of Donald Trump’s speech tonight at the Capitol, Republicans are voting to hurt millions of American consumers. Why? Just to protect Elon Musk’s business ventures from a financial cop on the beat who would make sure that he follows the law.

I hope the American public is paying attention tonight. I hope my Republican colleagues are paying attention here in the Senate as well. It is not too late for them to reconsider this vote.

Make no mistake, Elon Musk locked the CFPB’s staff out of the building to protect his own payment app boondoggle, and now he wants Congress to block this rule to legalize his boondoggle.

And, next week, Republicans intend to mark up legislation that would clear the decks for Elon to issue xMoney as his own stablecoin without guardrails to protect consumers, to protect national security, or to protect the financial stability of our entire country.

The line between right and wrong is clear. On one side, Senate Democrats are standing up for Americans who just don’t want to get cheated when they use a financial app, and on the other side, we have got con men, rip-off artists, Elon Musk, and Big Tech billionaires. Which side will our Senate Republicans choose?

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. RICKETTS. Mr. President, following their election loss, the Biden-Harris administration rushed an eleventh-hour rule through the Federal Government to allow the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau to start regulating nonbank entities, specifically, around digital consumer payment systems.

These payment systems are applications—think about it—like PayPal or Zelle. Consumers have widely had positive experiences with these payment systems. According to the CFPB’s own database, only about 1 percent of the 1.3 million complaints last year involved these payment systems. These payment system companies, actually, are already being regulated at the State or Federal level. In other words, this eleventh-hour regulation the Biden administration rushed through is pointless. The Biden-Harris rule is a regulation in search of a problem. It is a rule without a reason. Furthermore, the cost-benefit analysis that the CFPB did—an audit by the CFPB—said that it would only cost \$25,000. Now, having come from the business sector myself, that probably is the first day of outside attorneys’ fees at \$25,000. It is widely off the mark.

This one-size-fits-all solution in search of a problem expands the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau’s authority unnecessarily. In fact, I would argue that this is in a way that was unintended by Congress. The CFPB is supposed to be looking over the financial services sector with regard to banking, not over these nonbank payment systems.

The CFPB even failed to define the market they are seeking to supervise, much like how the Biden EPA and Obama before that tried to expand the EPA’s authority under the waters of the United States rule. This is an expansion of the CFPB’s authority that is beyond what we want to allow.

I am proud to be able to lead the pushback with the Congressional Review Act to stop this unnecessary rule. I am also honored to work with my fellow Nebraskan, Congressman MIKE FLOOD, who is leading the same effort over in the House. This is an opportunity for us to ease the regulatory

burden the previous administration put upon the American people.

Thank you to Leader THUNE for bringing this resolution to the floor for a vote.

I urge my colleagues in the Senate to vote yes to overturn and stop this unnecessary rule that is expanding the authority of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau unnecessarily and despite the intent of Congress. The CFPB's overregulation of nonbank digital consumer payment applications should stop. We can do it here.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CURTIS). The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, the decentralized finance industry is in its infancy. It is a new technology in the digital asset space which enables two individuals to exchange cryptocurrencies without a third party sitting in between them. Although that sounds straightforward, the technology holds potential for technological and financial innovation that we are just beginning to explore. In that sense, DeFi is a microcosm of the crypto revolution, which is unleashing innovation and economic growth and, indeed, personal liberty.

I think of my home State of Texas when it comes to cryptocurrencies. Texas is becoming an oasis for Bitcoin and for cryptocurrency worldwide. In Texas, we have abundant, low-cost energy, and as the energy capital of the world, Texas has both the expertise and the ethos of Texas.

The Lone Star State was founded by a bunch of wildcatters who were guys with fourth grade educations who began drilling holes in the ground. One after the other, they became the richest men on Earth. That is Texas, the spirit of Texas, and that is the spirit of crypto as well.

So what is the rule that Congress is in the process of repealing? At its core, DeFi was designed to allow individuals to freely buy, sell, and exchange digital assets without reliance on third-party intermediaries. It is ironic, therefore, that in the final hours of the Biden administration, the IRS finalized a new rule attacking America's cryptocurrency industry and more specifically DeFi.

Under the gross proceeds reporting by brokers that regularly provide services effectuating digital asset sales—that is a mouthful—the Biden administration expanded the definition of “broker” to include the software developers who create DeFi software, protocols, technology, and so on. They define “coders”—computer programmers—as “brokers.”

The IRS rule is untenable on its face. These software developers—they never touch any of the cryptocurrency being exchanged. DeFi interfaces are neutral technological tools, not financial intermediaries. They do not facilitate transactions. The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act could not have been intended for software developers to be

classified as financial intermediaries for the simple reason that their software never holds or controls user funds.

In fact, the rule is not just ironic, but it is incoherent. The software these developers are creating is designed to facilitate crypto exchanges between two individuals without a third party in between. What we have here are software developers—not brokers—developing software to facilitate peer-to-peer exchanges without brokers. That is the entire point.

If left in place, this rule would undermine innovation by turning developers into brokers and through reporting requirements that are incredibly onerous for crypto startups to meet. Those developers would inevitably go overseas instead.

If we were to allow this rule to stand, we would be handing China the opportunity to tighten its grip on the digital asset industry, stifling innovation, economic freedom, and financial sovereignty.

In that sense, this issue isn't just about crypto; it is about stopping unchecked Federal overreach. The Federal Government can do a lot of damage to crypto if the government screws it up.

The requirements, in turn, would risk the privacy of millions of Americans because software developers would be required to collect personal information and pass it on to the IRS.

Just for emphasis, this rule would compel DeFi developers—people who are creating cutting-edge technology to enhance the privacy of Americans—to collect, to store, and to report the personal identifying information of tens of millions of Americans and then hand it over to the IRS—an Agency with a long and well-documented history of mishandling sensitive taxpayer information.

These are serious privacy and surveillance risks. The IRS has already proven to the American people that it cannot be trusted, and it has already demonstrated its reckless disregard for privacy. Just last year, a former IRS contractor was sentenced to 5 years in prison for disclosing thousands of tax returns and return information for high-ranking government officials and related entities and individuals. These private taxpayer files were stolen and subsequently leaked to the press.

Indeed, DeFi is a powerful technology precisely because it undermines bureaucrat control over American citizens. The foundation of financial freedom is the right to engage in financial transactions without unnecessary government interference. The American people should be free to spend their money the way they see fit.

Far too often, we are increasingly seeing and hearing the opposite: threats to individual freedom, enforced through financial control. Banks are denying services to Americans because of their political beliefs or their line of work. We saw it first under Obama

with Operation Choke Point, and we saw it again, tragically, under the Biden administration.

These actions aren't just abuses of power; they strike at the very foundation of a free society.

DeFi isn't controlled by Washington bureaucrats. Indeed, by design, it can't be. That is one of the many things I love about it. DeFi's noncustodial technology lets citizens hold and spend their own money, securely, without needing permission from some government-backed institution.

It is no wonder the Chinese Communist Party hates crypto in general and DeFi in particular. China has already banned cryptocurrency within its borders because it operates beyond government control, and central governments hate that. And, of course, the Chinese Government is one of the most dystopian, authoritarian regimes in the world, and so they have made cryptocurrency transactions illegal because they view those transactions—they rightly view those transactions—as threats to their authoritarian power.

So, yes, every time we create a new ecosystem using something like DeFi, that is an ecosystem insulated from China, and it is an ecosystem that China views as a threat. That is exactly why we must ensure that Americans have access to this technology. We should make sure it thrives right here in the United States.

There has been a lot of talk on both sides of the aisle about supporting cryptocurrency. We now have an opportunity to deliver results for the American people. Earlier this afternoon, we cast the initial vote on moving to proceed to the CRA to repeal this rule. I have to say, I was incredibly heartened that 70 Senators voted together in support of my legislation, and 18 Democratic Senators crossed the aisle and voted in support of repealing this ridiculous and abusive rule.

That is a powerful statement. It is a powerful statement to bitcoin and crypto that Congress is not going to let Washington crush the innovation that is driving so much prosperity. I thank the 18 Democratic Senators who crossed over, and on this final vote I urge even more: Come join us.

I will say—it is an interesting note—if you look at the list of the Democratic Senators who voted with us, it is almost every single Democratic Senator under the age of 60. There is a clear delineating line, and I think there is a reason for that.

Let's stand on the side of innovation. Let's stand on the side of jobs. Let's stand on the side of prosperity. Let's stand on the side of freedom. Let's foster innovation, cut government overreach, and unleash the full potential of the American economy. Let's rescind this rule, and let's unleash the future.

Mr. President, I yield back all time on Calendar No. 11, S.J. Res. 3.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All time is yielded back.

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. 3

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The joint resolution having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the joint resolution pass?

Mr. CRUZ. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. JUSTICE) and the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS) would have voted "yea."

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Michigan (Ms. SLOTKIN) is necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 70, nays 27, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 102 Leg.]

YEAS—70

Alsobrooks	Graham	Ossoff
Banks	Grassley	Padilla
Barrasso	Hagerty	Paul
Blackburn	Hawley	Ricketts
Booker	Heinrich	Risch
Boozman	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Britt	Hoeven	Rounds
Budd	Husted	Schatz
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Schiff
Cassidy	Johnson	Schmitt
Collins	Kennedy	Schumer
Cornyn	Kim	Scott
Cortez Masto	King	Scott (FL)
Cotton	Lankford	Scott (SC)
Cramer	Lee	Sheehy
Crapo	Lujan	Sullivan
Cruz	Marshall	Thune
Curtis	McConnell	Tillis
Daines	McCormick	Tuberville
Ernst	Moody	Warner
Fetterman	Moran	Warnock
Fischer	Moreno	Wicker
Gallo	Mullin	Young
Gillibrand	Murkowski	

NAYS—27

Baldwin	Hirono	Reed
Bennet	Kaine	Sanders
Blumenthal	Kelly	Shaheen
Blunt Rochester	Klobuchar	Smith
Cantwell	Markey	Van Hollen
Coons	Merkley	Warren
Duckworth	Murphy	Welch
Durbin	Murray	Whitehouse
Hassan	Peters	Wyden

NOT VOTING—3

Justice	Lummis	Slotkin
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The joint resolution (S.J. Res. 3) was passed as follows:

S.J. RES. 3

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 Internal Revenue Service relating to "Gross Proceeds Reporting by Brokers That Regularly Provide Services Effectuating Digital Asset Sales" (89 Fed. Reg. 106928 (December 30, 2024)), and such rule shall have no force or effect.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 25.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Troy Edgar, of California, to be Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security.

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. 25, Troy Edgar, of California, to be Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security.

John Thune, Roger Marshall, Tommy Tuberville, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Tim Sheehy, Katie Britt, Pete Ricketts, Tom Cotton, Kevin Cramer, John Barrasso, James Lankford, Rick Scott of Florida, Jon Husted, Markwayne Mullin, John R. Curtis, Roger F. Wicker, Bernie Moreno.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 29.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Lori Chavez-DeRemer, of Oregon, to be Secretary of Labor.

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. 29, Lori Chavez-DeRemer, of Oregon, to be Secretary of Labor.

John Thune, Markwayne Mullin, Cindy Hyde-Smith, John Barrasso, Mike Lee, Katie Britt, Mike Crapo, Bill Hagerty, Steve Daines, Jim Banks, Eric Schmitt, Tommy Tuberville, Chuck Grassley, Ashley B. Moody, Roger Marshall, John R. Curtis, Bernie Moreno.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

HALT ALL LETHAL TRAFFICKING OF FENTANYL ACT—Motion To Proceed

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 18, S. 331.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion to proceed.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 18, S. 331, a bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act with respect to the scheduling of fentanyl-related substances, and for other purposes.

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 motion to proceed to Calendar No. 18, S. 331, a bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act with respect to the scheduling of fentanyl-related substances, and for other purposes.

John Thune, Roger Marshall, Tommy Tuberville, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Tim Sheehy, Katie Britt, Tom Cotton, Pete Ricketts, Kevin Cramer, John Barrasso, James Lankford, Rick Scott of Florida, Jon Husted, Markwayne Mullin, John R. Curtis, Roger F. Wicker, Bernie Moreno.

DISAPPROVING THE RULE SUBMITTED BY THE BUREAU OF CONSUMER FINANCIAL PROTECTION RELATING TO "DEFINING LARGER PARTICIPANTS OF A MARKET FOR GENERAL-USE DIGITAL CONSUMER PAYMENT APPLICATIONS"—Motion To Proceed

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 20, S.J. Res. 28.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the joint resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 20, S. J. Res. 28, a joint resolution disapproving the rule submitted by the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection relating to "Defining Larger Participants of a Market for General-Use Digital Consumer Payment Applications".

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion to proceed.

Mr. THUNE. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. JUSTICE) and the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Michigan (Ms. SLOTKIN) is necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 50, nays 47, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 103 Leg.]

YEAS—50

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

NAYS—47

Alsobrooks	Heinrich	Reed
Baldwin	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Bennet	Hirono	Sanders
Blumenthal	Kaine	Schatz
Blunt Rochester	Kelly	Schiff
Booker	Kim	Schumer
Cantwell	King	Shaheen
Coons	Klobuchar	Smith
Cortez Masto	Lujan	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Markey	Warner
Durbin	Merkley	Warnock
Fetterman	Murphy	Warren
Gallego	Murray	Welch
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Hassan	Padilla	Wyden
Hawley	Peters	

NOT VOTING—3

Justice	Lummis	Slotkin
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The motion was agreed to.

DISAPPROVING THE RULE SUBMITTED BY THE BUREAU OF CONSUMER FINANCIAL PROTECTION RELATING TO "DEFINING LARGER PARTICIPANTS OF A MARKET FOR GENERAL-USE DIGITAL CONSUMER PAYMENT APPLICATIONS"

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. 28) disapproving the rule submitted by the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection relating to "Defining Larger Participants of a Market for General-Use Digital Consumer Payment Applications".

MORNING BUSINESS

REPUBLICAN MEMBERS OF THE SENATE NATO OBSERVER GROUP

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, for the 119th Congress, I ask that the Republican cochair of the Senate NATO Observer Group be Senator TILLIS, and, at his recommendation, the following Republican Senators participate in the group: Senators ROUNDS, BARRASSO, ERNST, MORAN, SCOTT of South Carolina, and CURTIS.

PROBATION ACT OF 1925

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, today, Tuesday March 4, is the 100th anniversary of the Probation Act of 1925. The act created our Nation's Federal probation system and, for the first time, authorized Federal judges to impose a sentence of probation as an alternative to incarceration. Alternatives to incarceration like probation facilitate the fair administration of justice, enhance public safety, and positively impact the lives of individuals who become involved with the Federal courts. Our Nation's probation officers and staff do deeply difficult and too-often unheralded work that plays a critical role in the functioning of our criminal justice system, and I am committed to doing what I can in the U.S. Senate to support them in what they do. I firmly believe that we owe them a debt of gratitude for their service, and I am especially grateful for the incredible work of Delaware's probation officers and staff working to make Delaware safer every day.

USAID

Mr. WELCH. Mr. President, every President of the United States has a right to review and realign programs funded by Congress, but only if the President acts in a way that complies with the law.

In the past 5 weeks, President Trump, Elon Musk, and Secretary of State Rubio have done away with even the pretense that they are conducting a review of programs administered by the U.S. Agency for International Development. It is not a review, and it never was. It is the destruction of an entire Agency.

If it was, in fact, an honest review, I would support it. We should be looking for ways to maximize the results we get from spending taxpayer funds across the Federal Government.

If this was an honest review, they would not have announced the closure

of USAID and put virtually the entire domestic staff on leave. The Trump administration cut off their communication with the global workforce and required staff who were temporarily reinstated by court order to work remotely because they were locked out of the—now former—headquarters.

If this was an honest review, the Trump administration would not have recalled 95 percent of USAID's global workforce after cutting off their email access without warning and putting their security at risk, while those staff were waiting for instructions to conduct the so-called "review."

They would not have, prior to any review, forced American businesses and nongovernmental organizations to lay off thousands of workers by illegally withholding funds previously appropriated for USAID programs.

USAID supports programs that serve U.S. national interests overseas, but it is farmers here in America who grow the corn, wheat, beans, and peanuts. It is dairy farmers in Vermont who produce the powdered milk that USAID uses to feed millions of hungry children in Africa, Central America, and Asia.

It is American companies that manufacture the generators, water pumps, trucks, and computers for USAID's programs, and American workers—in blue States and red States—that implement those programs.

Thanks to Elon Musk—an unelected billionaire—those American farmers and companies have lost their business with USAID, and the workers are losing their jobs.

If the administration was serious about rooting out wasteful spending, they would not have stopped programs in countries like Somalia where USAID is a key partner in counterterrorism efforts with the U.S. military.

They would not have shut down the Famine Early Warning System, risking medicines and American-grown food aid to spoil in the supply chain.

They would not have put more than a half dozen USAID lawyers on leave, including its ethics lawyers.

They would not delay payment of invoices for work already completed on behalf of the U.S. Government, incurring needless fees for violating the Prompt Payment Act.

If this were truly about preventing waste, fraud, and abuse, if this were truly about rooting out corruption, they would not empty U.S. Embassies, leaving virtually no one trained in financial management and oversight.

If there were any truth to their hyperbolic claims of corruption, for which they have offered no credible evidence, they should have asked the USAID Inspector General to investigate, rather than fire him without cause.

And if they actually did discover programs they don't support, they could have reprogrammed the funds consistent with congressional requirements and past practice. They also could have asked Congress to change the law.

What is taking place right now is not about conducting a review, policy realignment, or addressing waste, fraud, and abuse. The administration instead has made every one of those goals impossible to achieve.

President Trump, who claims a mandate but who won by the narrowest of margins, does not have a mandate to illegally destroy Federal Agencies and the careers of thousands of dedicated Federal employees. He does not have a mandate to break the law.

But President Trump and Secretary Rubio are forging ahead, using Elon Musk to provide cover through lies and misinformation on the social media platform he bought and broke.

They highlight select examples of programs they deem wasteful which amount to a fraction of a penny of the foreign aid budget—some of which began under the first Trump administration—and they make baseless claims of fraud and insubordination, blaming anyone else but themselves for the chaos they are causing.

And while they say they favor transparency, they are doing this after taking USAID's website down with all its previously publicly available reports and data. Congress, the media, and the public are in the dark about what they are doing.

We don't know which congressional spending directives they are violating when they say they have terminated \$1 billion in programs. It could impact every single state.

We don't know how many HIV/AIDS patients have become sick because the administration cut off funding for treatment or how many children are sick with malaria or other preventable causes or how many malnourished women and children have no emergency food rations because the funding was stopped. We don't know how many thousands of girls can no longer go to school in countries where they are traditionally denied access to education because the funding was frozen. We don't know how many organizations working to stop sex trafficking, child labor, and gang violence are no longer functioning because the funding was cut off. We don't know how many deminers we have trained and equipped to locate and destroy unexploded mines and bombs in Vietnam, Laos, Lebanon, and Ukraine are no longer working because the funding was stopped.

But before long, we will know, and our constituents will know. And they will know that this administration is responsible for the chaos and life and death impacts that are reverberating in the United States and around the world.

How does cutting off infectious disease surveillance and treatment during outbreaks of Ebola, bird flu, and the deadly hemorrhagic Marburg virus disease make Americans safer? It doesn't. How does abandoning our allies and partners and ceding ground to Russia and China and to ISIS and other terrorist organizations make America

stronger? It doesn't. How does cutting off funding for joint USAID-DOD programs with Vietnam, on the 30th anniversary of the normalization of relations with that former enemy, which is now a Comprehensive Strategic Partner, advance U.S. national security? It doesn't.

Anyone can see that Moscow is celebrating these reckless actions, while Beijing plots how to fill the void to advance China's interests.

This wholesale, thoughtless, and illegal destruction of USAID is playing out across the government. DOGE has told the U.S. African Development Foundation and the Inter-American Foundation, agencies established and funded with direct appropriations by Congress, that their budgets are being slashed.

Elon Musk doesn't know and doesn't care why Congress established these Agencies, what they do, or the positive impact they are having on the lives of millions of people. To Musk and his DOGE agents, the law be damned. Congress be damned. The American people be damned. The world be damned.

The precedent being set by these illegal actions is a lasting threat to the American people, to our global leadership, our national security, our reputation around the world, and to the checks and balances that are the foundation of our democracy.

Vermonters are outraged by what is happening. Dozens have already lost their jobs. They want the United States to be a leader for good in the world. They care about the image of the United States as the world's oldest democracy. They are smart enough to know that abandoning friends and allies is how you lose friends and allies.

The destruction of USAID and these other Agencies will reverberate around the world and cause lasting damage. I urge Secretary Rubio, senior Pentagon officials who know the invaluable role that USAID plays in preventing conflict, and my Republican colleagues who in the past have supported USAID, the Inter-American Foundation, and the U.S. African Development Foundation, to stop this.

Because if the Congress, especially my friends in the majority party, allow this to happen, people will soon realize that it wasn't China or Russia that did this; we did it to ourselves.

TRIBUTE TO RIYA MYNENI

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Riya for her hard work as an intern in my Washington, DC, office. I recognize her efforts and contributions to my office, as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Riya is a native of Virginia. She is currently a junior at Madeira School in McLean, VA. She has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made her an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of her work is reflected in her great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Riya for the dedication she has shown while working for me and my staff. It is a pleasure to have her as part of our team. I know she will have continued success with all of her future endeavors. I wish her all my best on her journey.

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT DELIVERED TO A JOINT SESSION OF CONGRESS ON MARCH 4, 2025—PM 12

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States which was ordered to lie on the table:

To the Congress of the United States:

Speaker JOHNSON, Vice President VANCE, the First Lady of the United States, members of the United States Congress, and my fellow citizens:

America is back! Six weeks ago, I stood beneath the dome of this Capitol and proclaimed the dawn of the Golden Age of America. From that moment on, it has been nothing but swift and unrelenting action to usher in the greatest and most successful era in the history of our country.

We have accomplished more in 43 days than most administrations accomplish in 4 years or 8 years—and we are just getting started.

I return to this chamber tonight to report that America's MOMENTUM is back. Our SPIRIT is back. Our pride is back. Our confidence is back. And the American Dream is surging—bigger and better than ever before. The American Dream is unstoppable, and our country is on the verge of a comeback the likes of which the world has never witnessed, and perhaps will never witness again.

The presidential election of November 5th was a mandate like has not been seen in many decades. We won all 7 swing states, giving us an Electoral College victory of 312 votes. We won the popular vote by millions, and won counties in our country 2,700 to 525—on a map it reads almost completely red for Republican.

Now, for the first time in modern history, more Americans believe that our country is headed in the right direction than the wrong direction—an astonishing record 27-point swing since Election Day alone. Likewise, small business optimism saw its single largest one-month gain ever recorded—a 41-point jump.

Over the past 6 weeks, I have signed nearly 100 Executive Orders and taken more than 400 Executive Actions to restore common sense, safety, optimism, and wealth all across our wonderful land. The People elected me to do the job, and I am doing it. In fact, it has been stated by many that the first month of our presidency is the most successful in the history of our nation.

What makes it even more impressive is that number two on the list is the late, great George Washington.

Within hours of taking the oath of office, I declared a National Emergency on our Southern Border, and I deployed the U.S. Military and Border Patrol to repel the invasion of our country. As a result, illegal border crossings last month were by far the lowest ever recorded! They heard my words, and they chose not to come. In comparison, under Joe Biden, the worst president in American History, there were hundreds of thousands of illegals crossing a month, and virtually ALL of them, including murderers, drug dealers, gang members, and people from mental institutions and insane asylums were released into our Country.

This is my fifth such speech to Congress—and once again, I look at the Democrats in front of me, and I realize that there is absolutely nothing I can say to make them happy, or to make them stand, smile, or applaud. I could find a cure to the most devastating disease, a disease that would wipe out entire nations, or announce the answers to the greatest economy in history, or the stoppage of crime to the lowest levels ever recorded, and these people sitting right here will not clap, will not stand, and certainly will not cheer for these astronomical achievements. It's very sad, and it shouldn't be this way. Democrats sitting before me, for just this one night, why not join us in celebrating so many incredible wins for America? And for the good of our nation, let's work together, and truly Make America Great Again!

Every day, my administration is fighting to deliver the change America needs, and the future Americans deserve. This is a time for big dreams, and bold action.

Upon taking office, I imposed an immediate freeze on all Federal hiring, a freeze on all new Federal regulations, and a freeze on all foreign aid.

I terminated the ridiculous Green New Scam, I withdrew from the unfair Paris Climate Accord, I withdrew from the corrupt World Health Organization, and I withdrew from the anti-American U.N. Human Rights Council. We ended all of Biden's environmental restrictions that were making our country far less safe, and totally unaffordable. And importantly, we ended the last administration's insane Electric Vehicle Mandate, saving our autoworkers and companies from economic ruination.

To unshackle our economy, I have directed that for every 1 new regulation, 10 old regulations must be eliminated, just like I did in my very successful first term, when we set records on ending unnecessary rules and regulations.

We ordered all Federal workers to return to the office—they will either show up for work, in person, or be removed from their job.

We have ended weaponized government, where as an example, a sitting president is allowed to viciously prosecute his political opponent—how did

that work out? And I have stopped all government censorship, and brought back free speech in America.

I also signed an order making English the official language of the United States.

I renamed the Gulf of Mexico the Gulf of America, and we are restoring the name of a great president, William McKinley, to Mount McKinley in beautiful Alaska.

We have ended the tyranny of so-called "Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion" policies across the entire Federal government and private sector. Our country will be "woke" no longer. We believe that whether you are a doctor, an accountant, a lawyer, or an air traffic controller, you should be hired and promoted based on skill and competence, not race or gender. You should be hired based on merit—and the Supreme Court, in a brave and very powerful decision, has allowed us to do so.

We have removed the poison of Critical Race Theory from our public schools. And I signed an order making it the official policy of the United States Government that there are only two genders, male and female.

I also signed an Executive Order to ban men from women's sports. 3 years ago, Payton McNabb was an all-star high school athlete preparing for a future in college sports. But when her girls' volleyball match was invaded by a male, he smashed the ball in Payton's face, causing traumatic brain injury, partially paralyzing her right side, and ending her athletic career. Payton is here tonight in the gallery—and Payton, from now on, schools will kick the men off the girls' teams, or they will lose all Federal funding. And if you really want to see numbers, just take a look at what happened in women's boxing, weight lifting, track and field, swimming, or cycling, where a male recently finished a long-distance race 5 hours and 14 minutes ahead of the women. It's demeaning for women, and it's bad for our country.

What I have just described is only a small fraction of the Common-Sense revolution that is now, because of us, sweeping the world. Common Sense has become a Common Theme—and we will never go back.

Among my very highest priorities is to rescue our economy and get dramatic and immediate relief to working families. As you know, we inherited, from the last administration, an economic catastrophe and an inflation nightmare. Their policies drove up energy prices, pushed up the cost of groceries, and drove the necessities of life out of reach for millions of Americans. We suffered the worst inflation in 48 years, but perhaps even in the history of our country. As President, I am fighting every day to reverse this damage and Make America affordable Again.

Joe Biden especially let the price of eggs get out of control—and we are working hard to get it back down.

A major focus of our fight to defeat inflation is rapidly reducing the cost of

energy. The previous administration cut the number of new oil and gas leases by 95%, slowed pipeline construction to a halt, and closed more than 100 power plants. We have never seen anything like it.

That is why on my first day in office, I declared a National Energy Emergency.

We have more liquid gold under our feet than any nation on earth, by far, and I have fully authorized a very powerful program. It's called Drill, Baby, Drill.

My administration is also working on a gigantic natural gas pipeline in Alaska, among the largest in the world, where Japan, South Korea, and other nations want to be our partner—with trillions of dollars being spent by them. It will truly be spectacular.

Later this week, I will also take historic action to dramatically expand production of critical minerals and rare earths here in USA.

To further quench the fires of inflation, we will not only be reducing the cost of energy, but will be ending the flagrant waste of taxpayer dollars. To that end, I have created the brand-new Department of Government Efficiency—headed by Elon Musk, who is in the gallery tonight.

Just listen to some of the appalling waste we have already identified: \$22 billion dollars from H.H.S. to provide free housing and cars for illegal aliens. \$45 million dollars for Diversity Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) scholarships in Burma. \$40 million dollars to improve the "social and economic inclusion of sedentary migrants." \$8 million dollars to promote "L.G.B.T.Q.I. Plus" in the African nation of Lesotho, which nobody ever heard of. \$60 million dollars for Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Colombian Empowerment in Central America. \$8 million dollars for making mice transgender. \$32 million dollars for a left-wing propaganda operation in Moldova. \$10 million dollars for male circumcision in Mozambique. \$20 million dollars for the Arab Sesame Street programming in the Middle East. \$1.9 billion dollars to a recently-created "decarbonization of homes" committee of Stacey Abrams. A \$3.5 million dollar consulting contract for "larval fish monitoring." \$1.5 million dollars for "voter confidence" in Liberia. \$14 million dollars for "social cohesion" in Mali. \$59 million dollars for illegal alien hotel rooms in New York City. \$250,000 to increase "Vegan Local Climate Action Innovation" in Zambia. \$42 million dollars for "social and behavior change" in Uganda. \$14 million dollars for "improving public procurement" in Serbia. \$47 million dollars for "improving learning outcomes in Asia." And \$101 million dollars for DEI contracts at the Department of Education.

Under the Trump Administration, all of these scams, and many more, have been found out, exposed, and swiftly terminated. We have taken back the money, and reduced our debt to fight

inflation. This is just the beginning—the Government Accountability Office has estimated annual fraud of over \$500 billion dollars, and we are going to stop it. When people criticize us, they never talk about where the money is going to, they only claim it's supposedly a violation of the Constitution, which it's not. But they don't mean that, they don't care about our Constitution. They only care about the money. The whole thing is a scam.

We are also identifying shocking levels of incompetence and probable fraud in the Social Security program our seniors rely on. Believe it or not, Government databases list 4.7 million Social Security numbers from people aged 100 to 109 years old, 3.6 million from ages 110 to 119, 3.47 million from ages 120 to 129, 3.9 million from ages 130 to 139, 3.5 million from ages 140 to 149, 1.3 million from ages 150 to 159. And over 130,000 over age 160. Including 1,039 people between the ages of 220 to 229. One person between the age of 240 to 249. And one person at 360 years of age.

By slashing all of the fraud, waste, and theft we can find, we will defeat inflation, bring down mortgage rates, lower car payments and grocery prices, protect our seniors, and put more money in the pockets of American families. And in the near future, I want to do what has not been done in 24 years: balance the Federal budget.

With that goal in mind, we have developed in great detail what we are calling the Gold Card, which goes on sale very soon. For \$5 million dollars, we will allow the most successful, job-creating people from all over the world to buy a path to U.S. citizenship. So while we take out the criminals, killers, traffickers, and child predators, who were allowed to enter our country under the open border policy of the Biden Administration, we will now bring in brilliant, hardworking, job-creating people.

Americans have given us a mandate for bold and profound change. For nearly 100 years, the Federal bureaucracy has grown until it has crushed our freedoms, ballooned our deficits, and held back America's potential in every possible way. The nation founded by pioneers and risk-takers now drowns under millions of pages of regulations and debt. Approvals that should take 10 days instead take 10 years. Meanwhile, we have hundreds of thousands of Federal Workers who have not been showing up to work. My Administration will reclaim power from this unaccountable bureaucracy, and we will restore true democracy to America again. Any Federal bureaucrat who resists this change will be removed from office. We are draining the swamp. The days of rule by unelected bureaucrats are over.

The next phase of our plan to deliver the greatest economy in history is for this Congress to pass tax cuts for everybody. We are seeking permanent income tax cuts across the board. And to get urgently needed relief to Americans hit especially hard by inflation, I

am calling for no tax on tips. No tax on overtime. And no tax on Social Security benefits for our great seniors. I also want to make interest payments on car loans tax deductible—but only if the car is made in America. That, along with our other policies, will allow our auto industry to boom. In fact, already, numerous car companies have announced that they will be building massive automobile plants in America, with Honda just announcing a new plant in Indiana, one of the largest in the world. This has taken place since our great Election victory on November 5th, a date which will hopefully go down as one of the most important in the history of our country.

In addition, as part of our tax cuts, we want to cut taxes on domestic production and manufacturing. This will reward businesses that build in America, hire American workers, and stamp their products with those beautiful words, Made in the USA. And just as we did before, we will provide 100% expensing—it will be retroactive to January 20th, 2025, and it was one of the reasons why our tax cuts were so successful in the first term.

If you don't make your product in America, however, under the Trump Administration, you will pay a TARIFF, and in some cases, a rather large one. Other countries have used tariffs against us for decades, now it is our turn to start using them against those other countries. On average, the EU, China, Brazil, India, and countless other nations charge us tariffs many times higher than ours. India charges us auto tariffs higher than 100%. China's average tariff on our products is twice what we charge them, and South Korea's average tariff is 4 times higher. This system is not fair to the United States, and never was, so on April 2nd, reciprocal tariffs kick in.

Whatever they tariff us, we tariff them. Whatever they tax us, we tax them. If they do non-monetary tariffs to keep us out of their market, then we do non-monetary barriers to keep them out of our market. We will take in trillions of dollars, and create jobs like we have never seen before. We have been ripped off for decades by nearly every country on earth, both friend and foe alike. We are not going to allow that to happen anymore. Much has been said about Mexico and Canada, but we have large deficits with them. They are in effect receiving subsidies of hundreds of billions of dollars, and the United States will not be doing that any longer.

Thanks to the America First policies we are putting into place, we have had \$1.7 trillion dollars of new investment in America in the past few weeks: SoftBank announced \$200 billion, OpenAI and Oracle announced \$500 billion, Apple announced \$500 billion, and just yesterday, Taiwan Semiconductor, the biggest in the world by far, announced \$165 billion dollars to build the most powerful chips on earth, right here in the USA.

Our new trade policy will also be great for the American farmer—who will now be selling into our home market, because nobody is going to be able to compete with you. Tariffs will go on agricultural product coming into America on April 2nd. Have fun farmers, I love you too! And I have also imposed a 25% tariff on foreign aluminum, copper, lumber, and steel—because if we don't have steel, and lots of other things, we don't have a military, and frankly, we don't have a country.

Here today is a proud American steelworker from Decatur, Alabama. Jeff Denard has been working at the same steel plant for 27 years, in a job that has allowed him to serve as the captain of his local volunteer fire department, raise 7 children with his wife Nicole, and over the years, provide a loving home to more than 40 foster children.

Stories like Jeff's remind us that tariffs are not just about protecting American jobs—they're about protecting the soul of our country. Tariffs are about Making America rich again and Making America Great Again. Jeff, thank you.

I also want to recognize another person who has devoted herself to the foster care community—our magnificent First Lady. Melania's work has yielded incredible results, helping prepare our nation's future leaders as they enter the workforce. Our First Lady is joined by two impressive young women: Haley Ferguson, who benefitted from the First Lady's Fostering the Future Initiative, and is poised to complete her education and become a teacher; and Elliston Berry, who became a victim of an illicit Deepfake image produced by a peer. With Elliston's help, the Senate just passed the "Take it Down Act," to criminalize the publication of such images online—and once it passes the House, I look forward to signing that bill into law.

But if we truly care about protecting America's children, no step is more crucial than securing America's borders. Over the past 4 years, 21 million people poured into the United States—many of them were murderers, drug dealers, gang members, and other criminals from the streets of dangerous cities all throughout the world. Because of Joe Biden's insane and very dangerous open border policies, they are now strongly embedded in our country, but we are getting them out.

Last year, a brilliant 22-year-old nursing student named Laken Riley, the best in her class, went out for a jog on the campus of the University of Georgia. That morning, Laken was viciously attacked, assaulted, beaten, brutalized, and horrifically murdered. Laken was stolen from us by a savage illegal alien gang member who was arrested while trespassing across Biden's open southern border, and then set loose into the United States under the heartless policies of that failed administration. He had then been arrested

and released in a Democrat-run Sanctuary City, before ending the life of this beautiful angel.

With us this evening are Laken's beloved mother, Allyson, and her sister Lauren. Last year, I told Laken's grieving parents that we would ensure their daughter would not have died in vain. That is why the very first bill I signed into law as our 47th president mandates the detention of all dangerous criminal aliens who threaten public safety. It is called the Laken Riley Act. Allyson and Lauren, America will never, ever forget our beautiful Laken Hope Riley.

Since taking office, my administration has launched the most sweeping border and immigration crackdown in American history—and we quickly achieved the lowest numbers of illegal border crossers ever recorded.

The media and our friends in the Democrat Party kept saying we needed new legislation to secure the border—but it turned out that all we really needed was a new president.

Joe Biden didn't just open our borders, he flew illegal aliens over them to overwhelm our schools, hospitals, and communities throughout the country. Entire towns like Aurora, Colorado and Springfield, Ohio, buckled under the weight of the migrant occupation and corruption. Now, just as I promised in my inaugural address, we are achieving the Great Liberation of America.

But there still is much work to be done. Here tonight is a woman I have gotten to know, Alexis Nungaray from Houston. Last June, Alexis's 12-year-old daughter, her precious Jocelyn, walked to a nearby convenience store. She was kidnapped, tied up, assaulted for two hours under a bridge, and horrifically murdered. Arrested and charged with this heinous crime are two illegal alien monsters from Venezuela released into America by the last administration.

The death of this beautiful 12-year-old girl and the agony of her mother and family touched our entire nation, greatly. Alexis, I promised you that we would always remember your daughter, and earlier tonight I signed an order keeping my word to you. One thing I have learned about Jocelyn is that she loved animals, and loved nature. Across Galveston Bay from where Jocelyn lived in Houston, you will find a National Wildlife Refuge—a pristine, peaceful 34,000-acre sanctuary for all God's creatures on the edge of the Gulf of America. Alexis, moments ago, I formally renamed that refuge in loving memory of your daughter, Jocelyn Nungaray. Mr. Vice President, please present the order.

All three savages charged with Jocelyn and Laken's murders were members of the Venezuelan prison gang known as Tren de Aragua. Two weeks ago, I officially designated this gang, along with MS-13 and the bloodthirsty Mexican drug cartels, as Foreign Terrorist Organizations. They are now officially in the same category as ISIS.

Countless thousands of these terrorists were welcomed into the U.S. by the last administration. But now, every last one will be rounded up and forcibly removed from our country.

With us this evening is a warrior on the front lines of that battle: Border Patrol Agent Roberto Ortiz. In January, Roberto and another agent were patrolling by the Rio Grande near an area known as "cartel island," when heavily armed gunmen started shooting. Roberto saw that his partner was totally exposed, and he leapt into action, returning fire, and providing crucial seconds for his fellow agent to seek safety. Agent Ortiz, we salute your courage in the line of fire.

The territory to the immediate South of our border is now dominated entirely by criminal cartels that murder, rape, torture, and exercise total control—posing a grave threat to our national security. The Cartels are waging war on America, and it is time for America to wage war on the cartels.

5 nights ago, Mexican Authorities, because of the tariffs being imposed on them, handed over to us 29 of the biggest cartel leaders in their country—it has never happened before. But we need Mexico and Canada to do much more—they have to stop the fentanyl and drugs pouring into our country.

I have sent Congress a detailed funding request laying out exactly how we will eliminate these threats, protect our Homeland, and complete the largest deportation operation in American history, larger even than current recordholder Dwight D. Eisenhower—a moderate man but someone who believed very strongly in borders. Americans expect Congress to send me this funding without delay, so I can sign it into law.

As we reclaim our sovereignty, we must also bring back LAW and ORDER to our cities and towns.

In recent years, our justice system has been turned upside down by Radical Left lunatics. Many jurisdictions virtually ceased enforcing the law against dangerous repeat offenders, while weaponizing law enforcement against political opponents, like me.

My administration has acted swiftly and decisively to restore fair, equal, and impartial justice under the Constitutional Rule of Law—starting at the FBI and DOJ.

We are also once again giving our police officers the support, protection, and respect they so dearly deserve. This also includes our great fire departments throughout the country, who are likewise under siege.

One year ago this month, 31-year-old New York Police Officer Jonathan Diller was gunned down at a traffic stop on Long Island. The vicious criminal charged with his murder had 21 prior arrests. The thug in the seat next to him had 14 prior arrests and went by the name "Killer." I attended Officer Diller's funeral, and met his one-year-old son Ryan and his 29-year-old widow Stephanie—and she is here tonight.

Stephanie, we are going to make sure Ryan knows his dad was a Hero—and we are going to get these cold-blooded killers and repeat offenders off our streets, and fast.

I have already signed an Executive Order requiring a mandatory death penalty for anyone who murders a police officer—and tonight I am asking Congress to pass that policy into permanent law. I am also asking for a new Crime Bill getting tough on repeat offenders, while enhancing protections for America's police officers—so they can do their jobs without fear of their lives being destroyed.

Joining us in the Gallery tonight is a young man who truly loves our police. His name is D.J. Daniel, he is 13 years old, and he has always dreamed of becoming an officer. But in 2018, D.J. was diagnosed with brain cancer—the doctors gave him 5 months to live. That was more than 6 years ago. Since that time, D.J. and his dad have been on a quest to make his dream come true. D.J. has been sworn in as an honorary law enforcement officer a number of times. And tonight, D.J., we're going to do you the biggest honor of them all. I am asking our new Secret Service Director, Sean Curran, to officially make you an agent of the United States Secret Service. Sean, please present D.J. with his badge. Thank you, D.J.

D.J.'s doctors believe his cancer likely came from a chemical he was exposed to when he was younger. Since 1975, rates of child cancer have increased more than 40%. Reversing this trend is one of the top priorities for our new Presidential Commission to Make America Healthy Again, chaired by our new Secretary of Health and Human Services, Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. Our goal is to get toxins out of our environment, poisons out of our food supply, and keep our children healthy and strong. As an example, not long ago, 1 in ten thousand children had autism. Now it's 1 in 36. Something is wrong, and we are going to find out what it is.

My administration is also working to protect our children from toxic ideologies in our schools. A few years ago, January Littlejohn and her husband discovered that their daughter's school had secretly "socially transitioned" their 13-year-old girl. Teachers and administrators conspired to deceive January and her husband, while encouraging her daughter to use a new name and "they/them" pronouns—all without telling January, who is here tonight, and is now a courageous advocate against this child abuse.

Stories like this are why shortly after taking office, I signed an Executive Order banning public schools from indoctrinating our children with transgender ideology. I also signed an order to cut off all taxpayer funding to any institution that engages in the sexual mutilation of our youth.

Now, I want Congress to pass a bill permanently banning and criminalizing sex changes on children, and forever ending the lie that any child is

trapped in the wrong body. Our message to every child in America is that you are perfect exactly the way God made you.

We are getting wokeness out of our schools—and also out of our military. Our service members won't be activists and ideologues—they will be fighters and warriors. I am pleased to report that in January, the U.S. Army had its single best recruiting month in 15 years—and all of our Armed Services are having among the best recruiting results in modern history.

We are joined tonight by a young man, Jason Hartley, who knows the weight of that call of duty. Jason's father, grandfather, and great-grandfather all wore the uniform. Jason tragically lost his dad, who was also a Los Angeles County Sheriff's Deputy, when he was just a boy, and now he wants to carry on the family legacy of service. Jason is a senior in high school, a 6-letter varsity athlete, a brilliant student with a 4.46 (GPA), and his greatest dream is to attend the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. Jason, I am pleased to inform you that your application has been accepted,—you will soon be joining the Corps of Cadets and the proud ranks of the Long Gray Line.

As Commander-in-Chief, my focus is on building the most powerful military of the future. As a first step, I am asking Congress to fund a state-of-the-art, Golden Dome Missile Defense shield to protect our homeland—all made in the USA. Ronald Reagan wanted to do it long ago, but the technology just wasn't there.

To boost our defense industrial base, we are also going to resurrect the American shipbuilding industry, including commercial shipbuilding. For that purpose, I am announcing tonight that we will create a new Office of Shipbuilding in the White House, and offer special tax incentives to bring this industry home to America, where it belongs.

To further enhance our national security, my administration will be reclaiming the Panama Canal—and we've already started. Just today, a large American company announced they are buying both ports around the Panama Canal. The Canal was built by Americans, for Americans, at tremendous cost of American blood and treasure—38,000 workers died building the canal, the most expensive project ever built in our country's history. It was given away by the Carter administration for \$1 dollar, but that agreement has since been severely violated. We didn't give the Canal to China, we gave it to Panama, and we're taking it back.

I also have a message tonight for the incredible people of Greenland: we strongly support your right to determine your own future, and if you choose, we welcome you into the United States of America. We will keep you safe, we will make you rich, and together we will take Greenland to heights like you have never seen before.

America is once again standing strong against the forces of Radical Islamic Terrorism. Three and a half years ago, ISIS terrorists killed 13 American servicemembers and countless others in the Abbey Gate bombing during the disastrous withdrawal from Afghanistan, perhaps the most embarrassing moment in the history of our country. Tonight, I am pleased to announce that we have just apprehended the top terrorist responsible for that atrocity, and he is right now on his way here to face the swift sword of American Justice. I want to thank the government of Pakistan for helping arrest this monster. This is a momentous day for those 13 families whose children were murdered, and the many so badly injured on that fateful day in Afghanistan. I spoke to many of them today, and they are all in our hearts tonight.

In the Middle East, we are bringing back our hostages from Gaza. In my first term, we achieved one of the most groundbreaking peace agreements in generations, the Abraham Accords—and now, we are going to build on that foundation to create a more peaceful and prosperous future for the entire region.

I am also working tirelessly to end the savage conflict in Ukraine. Millions of Ukrainians and Russians have been needlessly killed or wounded in this horrific and brutal conflict, with no end in sight. The United States has sent hundreds of billions of dollars to support Ukraine's defense. Meanwhile, Europe has sadly spent more money buying Russian oil and gas than they have spent on defending Ukraine—by far! And Biden has authorized more money in this fight than Europe has spent. Earlier today, I received an important letter from President Zelensky of Ukraine. The letter reads: "Ukraine is ready to come to the negotiating table as soon as possible to bring lasting peace closer. Nobody wants peace more than Ukrainians. My team and I stand ready to work under President Trump's strong leadership to get a peace that lasts. We do really value how much America has done to help Ukraine maintain its sovereignty and independence. Regarding the agreement on minerals and security, Ukraine is ready to sign it at any time and in any convenient format." I appreciate this letter. Simultaneously we've had serious discussions with Russia, and have received strong signals that they are ready for peace. It is time to stop this madness. It is time to halt the killing. And it is time to end this war.

If you want to end wars, you have to talk to both sides.

Nearly four years ago, amid rising tensions, a history teacher named Marc Fogel was detained in Russia and sentenced to 14 years in a penal colony. The previous administration barely lifted a finger to help. But last summer, I promised his 95-year-old mother Malphine that we would bring her boy

safely back home. After 22 days in office, I did just that—and they are here tonight. To Marc and his mom, we are delighted to have you safe and sound.

As fate would have it, Marc Fogel was born in the small rural town of Butler, Pennsylvania, where his mother has lived for the past 78 years. I just happened to go there last July 13th for a rally, and that is where I met his mom, right before I walked out on stage. I told her I would not forget her son, and I never did.

Less than 10 minutes later at that same rally, gunfire rang out, and a sick and deranged assassin unloaded 8 bullets from his sniper's perch into a crowd of many thousands of people. My life was saved by a fraction of an inch, but some were not so lucky.

Corey Comperatore was a firefighter, a veteran, a Christian, a husband, a devoted father, and above all, a protector. When the sound of gunshots pierced the air, Corey knew instantly what to do. He threw himself on top of his wife and daughters, and shielded them from the bullets with his own body. Corey was hit, and he was hit hard. He sacrificed his life to save theirs. Two others were also seriously hit, but thankfully they have recovered.

We are joined by Corey's wife, Helen, who was his high school sweetheart, and their two beloved daughters, Allyson and Kaylee. To Helen, Allyson, and Kaylee, Corey is looking down on his three beautiful ladies right now, and he is cheering you on.

Corey was taken from us much too soon—but his destiny was to leave us all with a shining example of the selfless devotion of an American Patriot. It was love like Corey's that built our country—and it is love like Corey's that is going to make our country more majestic than ever before.

I believe that my life was saved that day in Butler for a reason: I was saved by God to Make America Great Again.

From the patriots of Lexington and Concord to the heroes at Gettysburg and Normandy—from the warriors who crossed the Delaware to the trailblazers who climbed the Rockies—and from the legends who soared at Kitty Hawk, to the astronauts who touched the Moon, Americans have always been the people who defied all odds, transcended all dangers, made the most extraordinary sacrifices, and did whatever it took to defend our children, our country, and our freedom. And as we have seen in this chamber tonight, that same strength, faith, love, and spirit is still alive and thriving in the hearts of the American People.

Despite the best efforts of those who would try to censor us, silence us, break us, and destroy us, Americans are today a proud, free, sovereign, and independent nation, and that, we will always be.

We are a country of doers, dreamers, fighters, and survivors. Our ancestors crossed a vast ocean, strode into the unknown wilderness, and carved their

fortunes from the rock and soil of a perilous frontier. They chased our destiny across a boundless continent. They built the railroads, laid the highways, and graced the world with American marvels like the Empire State Building, the mighty Hoover Dam, and the towering Golden Gate Bridge. They lit the world with electricity, broke free of the force of gravity, fired up the engines of American industry, vanquished the communists, fascists, and marxists all over the world, and gave us countless modern wonders sculpted out of iron, glass, and steel.

We stand on the shoulders of these pioneers who won and built the modern age, these workers who poured their sweat into the skylines of our cities, these warriors who shed their blood on fields of battle, and gave everything they had for our rights and our freedom.

Now, it is our time to take up the righteous cause of American Liberty. And it is our turn to take America's destiny into our own hands, and begin the most thrilling days in the history of our country. This will be our greatest era.

With God's help, over the next four years, we are going to lead this nation even higher—and we are going to forge the freest, most advanced, most dynamic, most dominant civilization ever to exist on the face of this earth. We are going to create the highest quality of life, build the safest, wealthiest, healthiest, and most vital communities. We are going to conquer the vast frontiers of science, and we are going to lead humanity into space, and plant the American flag on the planet Mars, and even far beyond.

Through it all, we are going to rediscover the unstoppable power of the American Spirit. And we are going to renew the unlimited promise of the American Dream.

Every single day, we will stand up, and we will fight, fight, fight for the country our citizens believe in, and for the country our people deserve.

My fellow Americans, get ready for an incredible future because the Golden Age of America has only just begun. It will be like nothing that has ever been seen before!

Thank you, God Bless You, and God Bless America.

DONALD J. TRUMP.
THE WHITE HOUSE, March 4, 2025.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED JOINT RESOLUTION SIGNED

At 10:05 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following joint resolution:

H.J. Res. 35. 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".

The enrolled joint resolution was subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

At 12:07 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 758. An act to direct the United States Postal Service to issue regulations requiring Postal Service employees and contractors to report to the Postal Service traffic crashes involving vehicles carrying mail that result in injury or death, and for other purposes.

H.R. 856. An act to require the Director of the Office of Management and Budget conduct a review to determine the impact of the lowest price technically acceptable source selection process on national security, and for other purposes.

H.R. 872. An act to require covered contractors implement a vulnerability disclosure policy consistent with NIST guidelines, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1515. An act to increase access to agency guidance documents.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 758. An act to direct the United States Postal Service to issue regulations requiring Postal Service employees and contractors to report to the Postal Service traffic crashes involving vehicles carrying mail that result in injury or death, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 856. An act to require the Director of the Office of Management and Budget conduct a review to determine the impact of the lowest price technically acceptable source selection process on national security, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 872. An act to require covered contractors implement a vulnerability disclosure policy consistent with NIST guidelines, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 1515. An act to increase access to agency guidance documents; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

MEASURES DISCHARGED PETITIONS

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with chapter 8 title 5, United States Code, hereby direct that the Senate Committee on Banking Housing and Urban Affairs be discharged from further consideration of S.J. Res. 28, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection relating to "Defining Larger Participants of a Market for General-Use Digital Consumer Payment Applications" and, further, that the joint resolution be immediately placed upon the Legislative Calendar under General Orders.

Pete Ricketts, Steve Daines, Tom Cotton, James Lankford, John Cornyn, John Barrasso, Kevin Cramer, James C. Justice, Marsha Blackburn, Katie Boyd Britt, Tommy Tuberville, Ashley

Moody, Rick Scott, Rand Paul, Mike Crapo, Jon Husted, John Thune, Markwayne Mullin, Bill Cassidy, Mike Rounds, Thom Tillis, John R. Curtis, David McCormick, Ron Johnson, John Hoeven, Roger F. Wicker, James E. Risch, Susan M. Collins, Bernie Moreno, Tim Scott.

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with chapter 8 title 5, United States Code, hereby direct that the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be discharged from further consideration of S.J. Res. 30, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the National Park Service relating to "Glen Canyon National Recreation Area; Motor Vehicles" and, further, that the joint resolution be immediately placed upon the Legislative Calendar under General Orders.

John R. Curtis, Pete Ricketts, Mike Crapo, Jon Husted, John Barrasso, Tim Sheehy, Roger F. Wicker, Bernie Moreno, James Lankford, Joni Ernst, Kevin Cramer, Thom Tillis, John Cornyn, Tommy Tuberville, Ted Budd, Mike Rounds, Jim Banks, John Kennedy, Josh Hawley, Ashley Moody, Katie Boyd Britt, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Chuck Grassley, Tom Cotton, Ted Cruz, Lindsey Graham, Todd Young, Steve Daines, Markwayne Mullin, Eric Schmitt.

MEASURES DISCHARGED

The following joint resolution was discharged from the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, by petition, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 802(c), and placed on the calendar:

S.J. Res. 28. Joint resolution disapproving the rule submitted by the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection relating to "Defining Larger Participants of a Market for General-Use Digital Consumer Payment Applications".

The following joint resolution was discharged from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, by petition, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 802(c), and placed on the calendar:

S.J. Res. 30. Joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the National Park Service relating to "Glen Canyon National Recreation Area; Motor Vehicles".

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Ms. ERNST, from the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 298. A bill to require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to relocate 30 percent of the employees assigned to headquarters to duty stations outside the Washington metropolitan area, and for other purposes.

S. 300. A bill to improve accountability in the disaster loan program of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes.

By Ms. ERNST, from the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, without amendment:

S. 371. A bill to require certain reports on small business disaster assistance to be published on the website of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself and Mr. CASSIDY):

S. 824. A bill to reauthorize the National Flood Insurance Program; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. COONS, Mr. YOUNG, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. OSSOFF, Ms. ERNST, and Mr. WARNOCK):

S. 825. A bill to require the Attorney General to propose a program for making treatment for post-traumatic stress disorder and acute stress disorder available to public safety officers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida:

S. 826. A bill to amend title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to prohibit discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance on the ground of religion, to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for rigorous enforcement of prohibitions against discrimination by institutions of higher education on the basis of antisemitism, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CRAMER (for himself, Mr. KING, and Mr. SULLIVAN):

S. 827. A bill to extend and modify the transportation grant program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. DUCKWORTH:

S. 828. A bill to direct the Secretary of Transportation to issue rules requiring the inclusion of new safety equipment in school buses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. CRAMER (for himself and Mr. HOEVEN):

S. 829. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 840 Front Street in Casselton, North Dakota, as the "Commander Delbert Austin Olson Post Office"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Ms. BALDWIN):

S. 830. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the program relating to lifespan respite care, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself and Ms. HIRONO):

S. 831. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to improve telephone communication by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. TILLIS (for himself, Mr. BUDD, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. DAINES, and Mr. LANKFORD):

S. 832. A bill to amend title XI of the Social Security Act to equalize the negotiation period between small-molecule and biologic candidates under the Drug Price Negotiation Program; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LEE:

S. 833. A bill to prevent use of United Nations facilities located in the United States by the ICC, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself and Mr. CRUZ):

S. 834. A bill to call for the immediate extradition or return to the United States of convicted felon Joanne Chesimard, William "Guillermo" Morales, and all other fugitives who are receiving safe haven in Cuba to escape prosecution or confinement for criminal offenses committed in the United States; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. 835. A bill to amend the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 to establish a voluntary program to reduce food loss and waste, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. SCHATZ, Mrs. CAPITO, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. WELCH, Mr. KING, Mr. KELLY, Mrs. BRITT, and Mr. HEINRICH):

S. 836. A bill to amend the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act of 1998 to strengthen protections relating to the online collection, use, and disclosure of personal information of children and teens, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WELCH, Ms. HIRONO, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. COONS, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. REED):

S. 837. A bill to repeal certain executive orders; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. MORAN (for himself, Mr. KING, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. GALLEG0, and Mr. CRAMER):

S. 838. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude from gross income interest received on certain loans secured by rural or agricultural real property; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself and Mr. BUDD):

S. 839. A bill to prohibit the use of funds to implement, administer, or enforce measures requiring certain employees to refer to an individual by the preferred pronouns of such individual or a name other than the legal name of such individual, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. WELCH (for himself, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. LUJÁN):

S. 840. A bill to hold accountable operators of social media platforms that intentionally or knowingly host false election administration information; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself and Mr. HICKENLOOPER):

S. 841. A bill to require online dating service providers to provide fraud ban notifications to online dating service members, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. CURTIS (for himself and Ms. ROSEN):

S. 842. A bill to counter efforts by Hezbollah to conduct terrorist activities in Latin America, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 843. A bill to require the Secretary of Commerce to establish the Sea Turtle Rescue Assistance Grant Program; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. HAWLEY (for himself, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. PETERS, Mr. MORENO, and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 844. A bill to accelerate workplace time-to-contract under the National Labor Relations Act; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. BALDWIN (for herself and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. 845. A bill to amend the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978 to remove the limitation on the amount of a civil penalty, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mrs. BRITT (for herself, Mr. KAINE, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. KING, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 846. A bill to implement or strengthen programs that increase the supply of quality child care services by enhancing the wages of child care workers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. BRITT (for herself, Mr. KAINE, Ms. ERNST, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. CURTIS, Mr. KING, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Mrs. CAPITO):

S. 847. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the employer-provided child care credit and the dependent care assistance exclusion; to the Committee on Finance.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. SLOTKIN, Mr. LUJÁN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WARNOCK, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. KAINE, Ms. ROSEN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. ALSOBROOKS, Mr. KELLY, Ms. WARREN, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. GALLEG0, Mr. PETERS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. WARNER, Ms. SMITH, Mr. PADILLA, and Mr. HEINRICH):

S. Res. 105. A resolution condemning the mass terminations of employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs carried out with no justification or analysis of the impact on veterans and their families; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 85

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 85, a bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to partner and collaborate with the Secretary of Agriculture and the State of Hawaii to address Rapid Ohia Death, and for other purposes.

S. 94

At the request of Mr. CRAMER, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN), the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER), the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) and the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 94, a bill to award 3 Congressional Gold Medals to the members of the 1980 United

States Olympic Men's Ice Hockey Team, in recognition of their extraordinary achievement at the XIII Olympic Winter Games where, being comprised of amateur collegiate players, they defeated the dominant Soviet ice hockey team in the historic "Miracle on Ice", revitalizing morale in the United States at the height of the Cold War, inspiring generations, and transforming the sport of ice hockey in the United States.

S. 100

At the request of Mr. TUBERVILLE, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 100, a bill to repeal the Corporate Transparency Act.

S. 117

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. JUSTICE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 117, a bill to provide remedies to members of the Armed Forces discharged or subject to adverse action under the COVID-19 vaccine mandate.

S. 151

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. ALSOBROOKS) 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. 197

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. JUSTICE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 197, a bill to require the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States to review any purchase or lease of real estate near a military installation or military airspace in the United States by a foreign person connected to or subsidized by the Russian Federation, the People's Republic of China, the Islamic Republic of Iran, or the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and for other purposes.

S. 214

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. JUSTICE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 214, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to increase the rate of the special pension payable to Medal of Honor recipients, and for other purposes.

S. 338

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. KIM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 338, a bill to award posthumously a Congressional Gold Medal to Fred Korematsu, in recognition of his contributions to civil rights, his loyalty and patriotism to the United States, and his dedication to justice and equality.

S. 339

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the names of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) were added as cosponsors of S. 339, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act

to provide for Medicare coverage of multi-cancer early detection screening tests.

S. 356

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 356, a bill to extend the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000.

S. 398

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 398, a bill to transfer and limit Executive Branch authority to suspend or restrict the entry of a class of aliens.

S. 410

At the request of Mr. WARNOCK, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. ALSOBROOKS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 410, a bill to amend titles 10 and 38, United States Code, to improve benefits and services for surviving spouses, and for other purposes.

S. 554

At the request of Mr. SULLIVAN, the names of the Senator from Utah (Mr. CURTIS), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. GALLEGGO) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) were added as cosponsors of S. 554, a bill to enhance bilateral defense cooperation between the United States and Israel, and for other purposes.

S. 556

At the request of Mr. SULLIVAN, the names of the Senator from Utah (Mr. CURTIS), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. GALLEGGO) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) were added as cosponsors of S. 556, a bill to impose sanctions with respect to persons engaged in logistical transactions and sanctions evasion relating to oil, gas, liquefied natural gas, and related petrochemical products from the Islamic Republic of Iran, and for other purposes.

S. 703

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. GALLEGGO) was added as a cosponsor of 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.

S. 752

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 752, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to streamline enrollment under the Medicaid program of certain providers across State lines.

S. 761

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 761, a bill to establish the Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies in the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 766

At the request of Ms. ERNST, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 766, a bill to require an annual report of taxpayer-funded projects that are over budget and behind schedule.

S.J. RES. 3

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. MCCORMICK) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 3, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Internal Revenue Service relating to "Gross Proceeds Reporting by Brokers That Regularly Provide Services Effectuating Digital Asset Sales".

S.J. RES. 18

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 18, a joint resolution disapproving the rule submitted by the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection relating to "Overdraft Lending: Very Large Financial Institutions".

S.J. RES. 24

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) was added as a cosponsor of 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".

S.J. RES. 28

At the request of Mr. RICKETTS, the names of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) were added as cosponsors of S.J. Res. 28, a joint resolution disapproving the rule submitted by the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection relating to "Defining Larger Participants of a Market for General-Use Digital Consumer Payment Applications".

S. RES. 47

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. KIM) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 47, a resolution designating January 30, 2025, as "Fred Korematsu Day of Civil Liberties and the Constitution".

S. RES. 100

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 100, a resolution dissenting from the United States delegation's February 24, 2025, vote at the United Nations General Assembly.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED
BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Ms. BALDWIN):

S. 830. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the program relating to lifespan respite care, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce legislation with my colleague from Wisconsin, Senator BALDWIN, to reauthorize the Lifespan Respite Care Program.

Every day, an estimated 53 million family caregivers attend to loved ones across all age groups, disabilities, and chronic conditions. Respite care gives these full-time caregivers a much-needed opportunity to take a temporary break from their important responsibilities.

Caregivers help their loved ones remain at home, and the decision to assume these responsibilities full time often delays the need for nursing home care. While many of these individuals care for an older adult, almost one-third of caregivers attend to family members under the age of 50. The value of their efforts is tremendous, amounting to more than \$600 billion in uncompensated care each year.

This compassionate task, however, can take a tremendous toll. Caregivers experience higher mortality rates and are more likely to acquire acute and chronic health conditions themselves.

Respite care helps reduce mental stress and physical health problems that they may experience, thus helping to keep caregivers healthy and families intact. Yet almost 85 percent of America's caregivers have never received any respite services.

As a Senator representing the State with the oldest median age in the Nation, the well-being of our older citizens and their caregivers is among my top priorities.

Since the Lifespan Respite Care Act was enacted in 2006, 38 States and the District of Columbia have received grants to increase the availability and quality of respite services. Our legislation would extend this programming for another 5 years, through fiscal year 2030.

In Maine, there are approximately 166,000 family caregivers who provide 155 million hours of care to loved ones each year. The Maine Department of Health highlighted the importance of respite care in a report released earlier this year that evaluates the Maine State Respite Care Program. Participants shared how assistance made available through this program has enabled them to take much-needed breaks, reduce their anxiety, and even reenergize their enthusiasm for caregiving.

One Mainer shared that access to respite care has meant that she has been able to truly visit with her parents when she spends time with them in-

stead of using all of that time just to do their chores, their yard work, and other tasks. She says that it has been wonderful to have someone help her parents with their chores and shopping for their needs, and it has meant that she, herself, is far less tired.

Stories such as these emphasize the importance of respite care, of a break for these caregivers who are giving so much to their family members.

Although most caregivers are adults, there are also more than 5 million young people in our country who provide care for grandparents, parents, or siblings with disabilities. Studies have found that approximately one in five young adults who dropped out of school did so to care for a family member. These children often choose to give up activities that other teens should enjoy, such as extracurricular activities—sports, outside activities—and they may experience depression or anxiety. Our legislation would clarify that young people who are caregivers, including those who are under age 18, are also able to access respite care services.

There is a large gap between caregivers who need respite services, who need a break from the 24-hour care of their loved ones, and those who actually receive this kind of assistance. Our bill would help close that gap by reauthorizing funding for this program that has helped States establish or strengthen respite services. This funding can be used to assist caregivers in finding available respite services, to train and recruit volunteers to provide temporary caregiving, and to provide financial support through vouchers so that caregivers can better afford respite services.

Our bill is widely supported by leading caregiver and respite organizations, including the ARCH National Respite Network and Resource Center, the Alzheimer's Association, and the Alzheimer's Impact Movement.

Our bipartisan legislation will provide the necessary resources to ensure that more caregivers have access to the respite services they need. I urge all of our colleagues to support this important, bipartisan legislation. It will make a real difference for the caregivers, the family caregivers, in our States.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wisconsin.

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, today, I rise to reaffirm my partnership with Senator SUSAN COLLINS in the Lifespan Respite Care Reauthorization Act of 2025.

Senator COLLINS and I recognize the challenges that family caregivers face. We have worked together over many years to advance legislation to support the essential role that caregivers play in our communities. We were successful in passing legislation that establishes a national strategy to support family caregivers, the RAISE Family Caregivers Act, and we are committed to reauthorizing the Lifespan Respite

Care Program that supports the health and well-being of family caregivers.

Every day, family caregivers in Wisconsin and across our country tend to the needs of their loved ones. Although this work can be very, very rewarding, it can also be emotionally and physically challenging.

After serving as my grandmother's primary caregiver as she got older, I know firsthand the time, the dedication, and the sacrifice involved to keep our aging, disabled, or sick loved ones safe and well. Caregiving can be a 24/7 job, and too often, family caregivers compromise their own health to ensure that their loved ones are not left in limbo.

Respite care offers family caregivers a necessary break to focus on their own mental health and well-being. That is why I was proud to reintroduce our bipartisan legislation so that our family caregivers can access the support and the relief they need. This bill would support family caregivers by reauthorizing the Lifespan Respite Care Program, which allows full-time caregivers to take a temporary break from their responsibilities caring for aging or disabled loved ones.

Across the country, there are over 53 million Americans who currently provide uncompensated care for their families, which provides an estimated \$600 billion in uncompensated care each year. Let that sink in.

By protecting the health of caregivers, respite care decreases the need for professional long-term care and allows individuals who require care to remain at home.

I look forward to continuing to work with Senator COLLINS to advance this important legislation in the 119th Congress.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. 835. A bill to amend the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 to establish a voluntary program to reduce food loss and waste, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

Mr. DURBIN. 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. 835

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Reduce Food Loss and Waste Act of 2025".

SEC. 2. FOOD LOSS AND WASTE CERTIFICATION PROGRAM.

Subtitle A of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1621 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"SEC. 210B. FOOD LOSS AND WASTE CERTIFICATION PROGRAM.

"(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

"(1) APPARENTLY WHOLESOME FOOD.—The term 'apparently wholesome food' has the meaning given the term in subsection (b) of

the Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act (42 U.S.C. 1791(b)).

“(2) **CERTIFIED PARTICIPANT.**—The term ‘certified participant’ means an eligible participant that has been certified under subsection (d).

“(3) **ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANT.**—The term ‘eligible participant’ means—

“(A) a contractor that has entered into a contract with an executive agency, the Senate, or the House of Representatives for the provision, service, or sale of food in the United States;

“(B) a State, local, municipal, or Tribal government;

“(C) a corporation, partnership, organization, or association;

“(D) a farm or a food producer, manufacturer, processor, holder, or packer;

“(E) a retail grocer;

“(F) a restaurant or similar food service establishment;

“(G) an institution of higher education or a consortium of those institutions; or

“(H) a primary or secondary school or a consortium of those institutions.

“(4) **EXCESS.**—The term ‘excess’, with respect to food, means that the food would otherwise be discarded.

“(5) **FOOD.**—The term ‘food’ means food (as defined in section 201 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 321)) that is intended for human consumption.

“(6) **PROGRAM.**—The term ‘program’ means the Food Loss and Waste Reduction Certification Program established under subsection (b).

“(7) **SECRETARY.**—The term ‘Secretary’ means the Secretary of Agriculture.

“(b) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—The Secretary shall establish a voluntary program, to be known as the ‘Food Loss and Waste Reduction Certification Program’—

“(1) to certify eligible participants in accordance with subsection (d); and

“(2) to promote certified participants in accordance with subsection (e).

“(c) **PURPOSES.**—The purposes of the program are—

“(1) to reduce food loss and waste;

“(2) to increase donations of excess, apparently wholesome food to nonprofit organizations that provide food assistance to individuals in need; and

“(3) to increase the use of alternative disposal methods for food, such as redirection to animal feed, anaerobic digestion, and composting.

“(d) **CERTIFICATION.**—

“(1) **CRITERIA.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—

“(i) **ESTABLISHMENT AND PUBLICATION.**—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of the Reduce Food Loss and Waste Act of 2025, the Secretary shall establish and publish in the Federal Register criteria for the certification of an eligible participant under the program.

“(ii) **INCLUSIONS.**—Criteria described in clause (i) shall include the submission to a third-party certifier accredited under paragraph (3) of documentation from 12 consecutive months on the quantity of food that the eligible participant—

“(I) has donated to nonprofit organizations that provide food assistance for individuals in need; or

“(II) has sent to be disposed of.

“(B) **STAKEHOLDER INPUT.**—The Secretary shall solicit comments from interested parties prior to the establishment or revision of the criteria described in subparagraph (A).

“(C) **REVISIONS.**—

“(i) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall revise the criteria described in subparagraph (A) on a periodic basis.

“(ii) **PUBLICATION.**—The Secretary shall publish in the Federal Register criteria re-

vised under clause (i) not later than 270 days before the effective date of the revised criteria, including an explanation of the revisions.

“(2) **ACCREDITATION BODIES.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of the Reduce Food Loss and Waste Act of 2025, the Secretary shall establish a process to recognize accreditation bodies to accredit third-party certifiers under paragraph (3)(A).

“(B) **STANDARDS.**—The Secretary shall recognize an accreditation body under subparagraph (A) if the accreditation body meets such standards as the Secretary shall establish.

“(3) **THIRD-PARTY CERTIFIERS.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of the Reduce Food Loss and Waste Act of 2025, the Secretary shall establish a process for accreditation bodies recognized under paragraph (2) to accredit third-party certifiers to review and certify eligible participants under the program.

“(B) **STANDARDS.**—An accreditation body recognized under paragraph (2) shall accredit a third-party certifier under subparagraph (A) if the third-party certifier meets such standards as the Secretary shall establish.

“(C) **PREFERENCE.**—In accrediting third-party certifiers under subparagraph (A), an accreditation body recognized under paragraph (2) shall give preference to institutions of higher education that have expertise in food loss and waste reduction.

“(D) **CERTIFICATION.**—A third-party certifier accredited under subparagraph (A) shall review and certify an eligible participant under the program if the eligible participant meets the criteria established under paragraph (1).

“(4) **PUBLICATION.**—The Secretary shall maintain on a publicly available website of the Department of Agriculture—

“(A) a list of accreditation bodies recognized under paragraph (2); and

“(B) a list of third-party certifiers accredited under paragraph (3).

“(e) **PROMOTION.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall promote a certified participant under the program, including through—

“(A) voluntary labeling established under paragraph (2); and

“(B) such other communications as the Secretary determines to be appropriate relating to the products, buildings, practices, and policies of the certified participant, such as—

“(i) publication on the website of the Department of Agriculture of information relating to the certified participant; and

“(ii) holding events to promote the certified participant or otherwise relating to the program.

“(2) **VOLUNTARY LABELING.**—The Secretary shall establish 1 or more voluntary labels that indicate that a certified participant is certified under the program.

“(f) **INTERAGENCY COORDINATION.**—The Secretary shall carry out this section in coordination with the Commissioner of Food and Drugs and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, in accordance with the memorandum of understanding revised under section 3 of the Reduce Food Loss and Waste Act of 2025.

“(g) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section, including for the hiring of additional personnel, \$3,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2030, to remain available until expended.”

SEC. 3. MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.

The Secretary of Agriculture, the Commissioner of Food and Drugs, and the Adminis-

trator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall revise, in accordance with section 210B of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (as added by section 2), the agreement signed on December 17, 2020, relating to cooperation and coordination on food loss and waste.

By Mrs. BRITT (for herself, Mr. KAINE, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. KING, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 846. A bill to implement or strengthen programs that increase the supply of quality child care services by enhancing the wages of child care workers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. BRITT (for herself, Mr. KAINE, Ms. ERNST, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. CURTIS, Mr. KING, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Mrs. CAPITO):

S. 847. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the employer-provided child care credit and the dependent care assistance exclusion; to the Committee on Finance.

Mrs. BRITT. Mr. President on November 5, President Donald J. Trump was elected to a second term on the back of a big-tent coalition. In 2024, this election showed us that we needed to put the finishing touches on a shift that we have seen occurring in our party and our Nation.

The Republican Party is the party of parents, we are the party of families, and we are the party of hard-working Americans. We have an opportunity to prove it, starting with addressing our country's childcare crisis.

Anyone who has kids can attest to this: It is incredibly difficult to find affordable, accessible, high-quality childcare.

When I was a student in Tuscaloosa—I had gone back to school with essentially a newborn and an 11-month-old; decided, why not? Law school sounds good. I joked that on the scale of bad ideas I have had in my life—and I have had a few—that one is without a doubt No. 1.

In the midst of trying to figure out my 1L year, I also had to figure out childcare, and it was challenging for me to find a place where I could get both of my kids in. So at the very beginning, there I was, taking one child to one place and one child to another, all hoping to show up at torts on time and then get back before you get fined, picking them both up and hoping traffic didn't keep me from being late.

When my husband and I had the opportunity to move to Birmingham, where he began his new career and I had 1 more year of law school left, we got them immediately—both of our kids—into one childcare facility. But the check that we wrote—wow—it felt like I was writing a check for college tuition and not a check for a 3- and 4-year-old to be cared for and loved and educated during the day.

Well, I will tell you what. The problem—that was, what, 13 years ago—has

only gotten worse. Childcare costs have been increasing. They have actually increased 36 percent over the last 10 years, actually outpacing inflation. It has gotten to the point where parents, on average, are spending 22 percent of their income on childcare. The median annual price of childcare in this country is about \$15,600. The cost is crushing for so many parents. It is also prohibitive.

Ask yourself this: How many married couples, do you think, think about having another child; they want to, and they start looking at the dollars and cents and feel like they can't financially afford it?

To my fellow Republicans: Don't we want to incentivize rather than deter parents from starting their families? And how can we, as the party of life and the party of families and the party of parents and the party of workers, neglect to make that easier? If our goal is creating a comprehensive culture of life—and that should absolutely be our goal—then we have a role to play in the childcare space.

But families are not the only ones that are affected by the current state of childcare in this country. The amount of money that the American economy loses annually because of childcare, the challenges that we face as a result of the affordability and accessibility, are staggering. Our economy loses \$122 billion a year, and 74 percent of mothers and 66 percent of fathers either have to leave work early, arrive late, or be absent because of last-minute changes in childcare. Also, 59 percent of part-time or nonworking parents say they would go back to work—they want to go back to work—but, unfortunately, they don't have access to quality childcare at a reasonable cost. That isn't good for the broader economy, and it isn't good for American workers.

President Trump has made it clear he wants America to be a place that builds things once again. He wants to unleash a golden era for made-in-America excellence, where the skill, hard work, and ingenuity of our people accomplish the impossible and changes the world. To accomplish that goal, which I wholeheartedly agree with, we need to tackle the childcare affordability crisis.

Ultimately, this is a workforce crisis as well. That is where the two-pronged approach that I have introduced today, alongside a number of my colleagues, comes into play. With the Child Care Workforce Act and the Child Care Availability and Affordability Act, it consists of targeted investments in families and small businesses. It modernizes our existing tax credits so that our policy reflects our current economic reality. It is a good example of commonsense policymaking.

We are not creating or growing another entitlement. We are letting Americans keep more of their hard-earned taxpayer dollars in a manner that grows our economy and gives peo-

ple an opportunity for their American dream. And we are offering job creators an incentive to invest directly into hard-working people with childcare-related benefits.

We will help couples who want to have more children. We will help parents be able to reenter the workforce after having kids. And we will help our job creators—especially small businesses—recruit and retain workers.

This legislation is pro-family. It is pro-Main Street. It is pro-growth.

For the first time in years, the Republican Party controls both Chambers of Congress and the White House. We have an opportunity we can't afford to waste. If we truly are the party of parents and families and hard-working Americans, we have an opportunity to prove it. Let's address the childcare crisis in this year's tax package. I think America will be better for it.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 105—CONDEMNING THE MASS TERMINATIONS OF EMPLOYEES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS CARRIED OUT WITH NO JUSTIFICATION OR ANALYSIS OF THE IMPACT ON VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES

Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. SLOTKIN, Mr. LUJÁN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WARNOCK, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. KAINE, Ms. ROSEN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. ALSOBROOKS, Mr. KELLY, Ms. WARREN, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. PETERS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. WARNER, Ms. SMITH, Mr. PADILLA, and Mr. HEINRICH) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs:

S. RES. 105

Whereas veterans make up approximately 30 percent of the Federal workforce, including nearly 26 percent of the workforce of the Department of Veterans Affairs and 45 percent of the workforce of the Department of Defense;

Whereas more than 642,000 veterans are continuing their public service through careers in the Federal Government;

Whereas veterans bring invaluable experience, including technical expertise, training, security clearances, and commitment to service, to their work as Federal employees;

Whereas, on February 13, 2025, the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs, Doug Collins, announced the termination of 1,000 employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs;

Whereas, on February 24, 2025, Secretary Collins terminated an additional 1,400 employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs;

Whereas United States Senators have, in pursuit of their oversight duties, attempted to obtain detailed information from the Department of Veterans Affairs regarding these terminations, including any analysis of the impacts on veterans, confirmation that the

terminations did not affect essential services like call centers, homeless programs, mental health care, transition assistance, claims processing, tribal health, and veterans education benefits, involvement of unelected, unauthorized, non-Department of Veterans Affairs personnel in the decisionmaking process, and how much the Department of Veterans Affairs spent recruiting and hiring these employees and will now spend covering their workloads, but have yet to receive that information;

Whereas the mass terminations of employees of the Federal Government are damaging the economic security and morale of veterans and their families;

Whereas these terminations are harming the trust of veterans in the Department of Veterans Affairs, and harming the ability of the Department to recruit and retain employees;

Whereas gainful employment and economic security is a chief social determinant of health; and

Whereas veterans and employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs have expressed concerns regarding the effect of these terminations, including—

(1) the suspension of service lines, beds, and operating rooms at hospitals and clinics of the Department;

(2) the cancellation or postponement of mammogram and other time-sensitive appointments;

(3) the reduction of support lines for caregivers;

(4) the termination of Veterans Crisis Line employees;

(5) the termination of employees performing critical research at the Department;

(6) the termination of cyber security personnel protecting websites of the Department; and

(7) the termination of Vet Center staff.

Now, therefore, be it
Resolved, That is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) mass terminations of employees at the Department of Veterans Affairs carried out with no justification or analysis of the impact on veterans and their families should be condemned; and

(2) all affected employees should be reinstated.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mrs. BRITT. Mr. President, I have three 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 in open session during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 4, 2025, at 9:30 a.m., to consider a nomination.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 4, 2025, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

The Committee on Veterans Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March

4, 2025, at 10 a.m., to conduct a joint hearing.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the following interns and law clerks in my office be granted floor privileges until May 5, 2025: John Mark Huff, Jr., John Paul Doucet, Alexandra Grace Davis, and Maura Elaine Schlee.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5, 2025

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate recess until 8:20 p.m. today and proceed as a body to the Hall of the House of Representatives for the joint session of Congress provided under the provisions of H. Con. Res. 11; that upon the dissolution of the joint session, the Senate stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on Wednesday, March 5; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, morning business be closed, and the Senate resume consideration of Calendar No. 20,

S.J. Res. 28; further, that if cloture is invoked on the Blanche nomination, all time be expired at 3:45 p.m. and the Senate vote on confirmation; that following confirmation of the Blanche nomination, the Senate proceed to legislative session and resume consideration of S.J. Res. 28 and that all time be expired and the Senate vote on passage of the joint resolution; finally, that if any nominations are confirmed during Wednesday's session, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, for the information of all Senators, Senators should expect one vote at 11 a.m. on cloture on the Blanche nomination and two votes at 3:45 p.m.: confirmation of the Blanche nomination and passage of S.J. Res. 28, Senator RICKETTS' digital consumer payments CRA.

RECESS

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand in recess under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:40 p.m., recessed until 8:20 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. MORENO).

JOINT SESSION OF THE TWO HOUSES—ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed as a body to the Hall of the House of Representatives to receive a message from the President of the United States.

Thereupon, the Senate, preceded by the Chief of Staff, Sergeant at Arms, Betsy Holahan; the Secretary of the Senate, Jackie Barber; and the Vice President of the United States, JD Vance, proceeded to the Hall of the House of Representatives to hear the address by the President of the United States, Donald J. Trump.

(The address delivered by the President of the United States to the joint session of the two Houses of Congress is printed in the proceedings of the House of Representatives in today's RECORD.)

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5, 2025, AT 10 A.M.

At the conclusion of the joint session of the two Houses, and in accordance with the order previously entered, at 11:04 p.m., the Senate adjourned until Wednesday, March 5, 2025, at 10 a.m.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF STEVEN D. FOLKS, SR. AS CITY MANAGER OF ANNISTON, ALABAMA

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 4, 2025

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of Steven Folks as City Manager for Anniston, Alabama.

Mr. Folks received an associate's degree from Gadsden State Community College and a bachelor's degree from Jacksonville State University. He spent 21 years honorably serving our country in the United States Army Military Police Corp/Regiment. During his service, his assignments included Military Police instructor, Platoon Sergeant, Senior Drill Sergeant, First Sergeant and Battalion Operations Sergeant. He was honorably retired in 1995.

Mr. Folks came to work for the City of Anniston on April 10, 1995, as Recreation Leader. In July of 1996, he was promoted to Recreation Center Director at Carver Community Center and established the Good Choices Program. In March of 2007, Mr. Folks was promoted to Parks and Recreation Director. He was appointed interim City Manager in June of 2019 and became City Manager on October 28, 2019. He is an active member of the International City/County Management Association and the Alabama City/County Management Association.

Mr. Folks has been married to his wife, Vickie, for 42 years. They were blessed with three sons: Shannon (deceased), Dewan and Steven, Jr. They are the proud grandparents of nine grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Mr. Folks serves as an ordained Deacon with Mission Church of God by Faith Ministry, where his wife serves as the Pastor.

On April 10, 2025, Mr. Folks will retire from the City of Anniston after 30 years of service.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing Steven Folks for his retirement and thanking him for his dedication and service to our country and to the City of Anniston. I congratulate Mr. Folks.

HONORING DIDIER WILLIAM

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 4, 2025

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the extraordinary artistic achievements and cultural contributions of internationally acclaimed artist Didier William. Born in Haiti and raised in North Miami, Mr. William has made an indelible mark on the art world, using his talent to elevate stories of identity, resilience, and heritage.

In 2022, the Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA) in North Miami hosted Didier William's first major museum exhibition. The exhibit garnered widespread acclaim, receiving prominent coverage in *The New York Times*, *The Financial Times*, and *The Miami Herald*. As part of his deep commitment to giving back to the community that nurtured him, Mr. William generously created a limited-edition print, distributing it to 200 North Miami families and organizations—a testament to his dedication to accessibility and engagement in the arts.

Mr. William holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts in painting from The Maryland Institute College of Art and a Master of Fine Arts in Painting and Printmaking from Yale University's School of Art. His passion for education and mentorship has led him to teach at some of the Nation's most prestigious institutions, including the Yale School of Art, Vassar College, Columbia University, the University of Pennsylvania, and SUNY Purchase. He currently serves as an Assistant Professor at Rutgers University.

His remarkable work has been featured in esteemed institutions such as the Bronx Museum of the Arts, The Carnegie Museum, Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, and The Figge Art Museum. His artistic excellence is recognized globally, with representation by James Fuentes Gallery in New York, Altman Siegel Gallery in San Francisco, and Galerie Peter Kilchmann in Zurich, Switzerland.

Didier William's profound impact on the art world and his unwavering commitment to community engagement exemplify the power of art to inspire, connect, and transform. His work continues to challenge perspectives and celebrate cultural narratives that resonate far beyond North Miami.

Mr. Speaker, please join me as I am honored to recognize Didier William for his exceptional contributions to the arts and his dedication to enriching the cultural fabric of our Nation and beyond.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 4, 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. 54, and YEA on Roll Call No. 55.

RECOGNIZING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF EDUCATORS RISING

HON. JENNIFER L. McCLELLAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 4, 2025

Ms. McCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 10th anniversary of Educators Rising.

Established in 1937, Educators Rising, formally known as the Future Teachers of America, serves as a nationwide movement dedicated to eliminating the teacher shortage in America by recruiting, preparing, and inspiring the next generation of educators. The Future Teachers Association evolved into the Future Educators Association and was acquired by PDK International in 1994 and rebranded as Educators Rising in 2015.

Educators Rising is a community-based Career and Technical Student Organization within Phi Delta Kappa (PDK) International that develops middle and high school students in rural, urban, and suburban communities to become highly skilled educators in the communities where they live.

As a "Grow Your Own" initiative, Educators Rising helps create diverse teaching workforces that reflect communities where students live. Teachers who share similar backgrounds and experiences with their students foster stronger student-teacher relationships and improved academic outcomes, including higher test scores, rates of high school graduation and college enrollment, more inclusive school climates, fewer suspensions, and lower rates of chronic absenteeism.

With over 1,400 school chapters and 38 state-level partnerships, Educators Rising has a presence in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. It continues to work with institutions of higher education and State Departments of Education to create seamless transitions into the education field.

In Virginia, over 70 schools have an Educators Rising Chapter that contributes to ending the teacher shortage in America, including eight in Virginia's 4th District. Since 1994, over 325,000 students have participated in Educators Rising, including nearly 145,600 students since its 2015 rebranding.

With over 60 percent of K–12 educators in the United States teaching within 20 miles of the high school they attended, creating pathways for local talent to enter the teaching profession plays a critical role in addressing our nation's shortage of teachers. PDK International awards nearly 100 scholarships annually, ranging from \$500 to \$5,000, to students pursuing careers in education through Educators Rising and other PDK International programs.

I commend Educators Rising's work to recruit local and diverse talent while building career pathways for educators as a solution to addressing teacher shortages in communities across the country. Their hard work and commitment to producing driven teachers is remarkable and essential to the development of a student's academic success.

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

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

HONORING JUDY REPKING'S PRO-LIFE ADVOCACY

HON. MIKE BOST

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 4, 2025

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Judy Repking of Effingham County, Illinois, my special guest for President Trump's Joint Address to Congress this evening. Judy and her husband, Paul, have been tireless advocates for the cause of innocent, unborn babies for more than 20 years.

Judy rose to the level of chairman of the Bishop's Pro-Life Committee in 2016, where she kept her community informed on key legislative and policy issues. Since 2018, she has served on the board of Effingham Area Right to Life, leading efforts to educate the public, organize events, and oppose policies that threaten innocent life.

Since 2010, Judy and Paul have traveled to regional parades with Effingham Area Right to Life's float and helped run the pro-life booth at the Effingham County Fair. Judy also plays a key role organizing the Annual Pro-Life Fundraising Breakfast, raising critical funds for organizations supporting moms, families, and unborn children.

She has attended the annual March for Life in Springfield, Illinois, and organized major pro-life events, including the Illinois Right to Life Advocacy Update and the Prayer for America event at the Cross at the Crossroads in Effingham.

Due to her steadfast leadership on a cause that is near and dear to my heart, I knew Judy would be an ideal guest to join us for President Trump's historic first address to Congress of his second term.

Please join me in welcoming Judy and Paul Repking to the People's House for this very special occasion. She has inspired many with her work educating, inspiring, and mobilizing her community in defense of life.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF SERGEANT CHRISTINE BETTIS

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 4, 2025

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to congratulate Sergeant Christine Bettis on her retirement after twenty-seven years of dedicated service to the Michigan State Police. I thank Sergeant Bettis for her tireless work to keep the citizens of Northern Michigan safe.

After graduating from the Michigan State Police 117th Recruit School in 1998, Sergeant Bettis began her distinguished career in law enforcement with her first assignment at Reed City Post 62. Setting a standard of commitment and excellence, Sergeant Bettis's service extended to a variety of assignments, includ-

ing time with Governor Rick Snyder's Detail in 2011, Houghton Lake Post 72, West Branch Post 32, and Tri-City Post 31. Eventually, Sergeant Bettis returned to West Branch Post 32, where she served her final assignment.

Throughout her career, Sgt. Bettis was often recognized for her professionalism, excellence, kindness, and fairness. Her approach to policing was always rooted in integrity and understanding, qualities that were exemplified in her interactions with the public and her peers. Fellow officers remember fondly her compassion for animals which extended into the line of duty.

Beyond her law enforcement duties, Sgt. Bettis has been a consistent mentor and friend to her colleagues. Known as "Mom" at West Branch Post 32, she provided unwavering support to her peers, always ready with a smile and her characteristic wit. Her presence brought warmth and camaraderie to the department, leaving a lasting impact on those who had the privilege of working alongside her.

Mr. Speaker, let us all join in congratulating Sergeant Christine Bettis for a remarkable career with the Michigan State Police. I wish her great happiness in retirement and thank her once more for keeping Michigan's First Congressional District safe.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF BEVERLY DENISE BUCKHANNAN GRABEN

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 4, 2025

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of Beverly Graben from my Oxford District Office.

Beverly, a native of Clay County, Alabama, was born on May 6, 1959, to W.T. and Eulene Buckhannan. She graduated from Lineville High School in 1977 and married Andy Dale Graben on April 8, 1979. Beverly obtained a cosmetology degree from Ayers State Technical College. She and Andy have been blessed with two sons: Adam (married to Jayme) and Kevin (married to Kimberly). They have five grandchildren who are the light of Beverly's life: Seth, Ella Jaymes, William, Charlotte and Joseph.

Beverly is a former member of Center West Baptist Church and currently attends Barfield Baptist Church.

Beverly has worked at Burger Quick, RL Harris Dam, Graben Wood Products, Midway Ford, Wright and Sprayberry Insurance and former Congressman Bob Riley. Beverly has worked for me since I took office in 2003. She is an outstanding employee and has a heart for the people of Alabama's Third Congressional District. She will be greatly missed.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing Beverly for her retirement and thanking her for her dedication and service to our great State of Alabama. I congratulate Beverly.

HONORING WILLIAM LEHMAN, JR.

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 4, 2025

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor William M. Lehman, Jr., a distinguished businessman, philanthropist, and dedicated community leader. Born and raised in Miami, Florida, Mr. Lehman is a graduate of Miami Edison High School. He furthered his education at the University of Alabama and obtained an MBA from Harvard Business School before serving two years in the United States Army.

In 1967, Mr. Lehman took over the management of his family-owned Buick dealership in North Miami, originally established by his father in 1936. Over the years, he expanded his business ventures to include a variety of automobile dealerships, selling brands such as Toyota, Hyundai, Buick, GMC, Pontiac, Oldsmobile, Saab, Mazda, Opel, Mitsubishi, Isuzu, Subaru, and Suzuki, among others. His leadership also led to the establishment of several automobile finance and leasing companies, including William Lehman Leasing (since 1968), Affiliated Financial Corporation, and Local Finance, a subprime automobile lending company founded in 2001.

By 2017, sales by Mr. Lehman's affiliated companies exceeded \$550 million, with retail and lease contract financing reaching nearly \$30 million. His contributions to the automotive industry have been a significant driver of South Florida's economic growth.

Beyond his business acumen, Mr. Lehman is an avid philanthropist and art collector. He currently serves as Chair Emeritus of the Board of the Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA) in North Miami. His father, Congressman William Lehman, played a pivotal role in securing a \$2.5 million HUD grant to build MOCA, while his mother, Joan Lehman, donated artworks to the museum's permanent collection and has her name on the building. Under Mr. Lehman's leadership, MOCA has expanded its board, hosted internationally recognized exhibitions, and built upon its 28-year legacy of offering free art-making programs for all ages.

Mr. Lehman is also a dedicated community leader, having served as President of the Greater Miami Jewish Federation, Executive Vice President of the Board of Directors of Florida International University, and President of both the South Florida Auto Dealers Association and the Michael Ann Russell Jewish Community Center. His civic contributions have left an indelible mark on South Florida and its residents.

Mr. Speaker, please join me as I am honored to recognize the extraordinary contributions of William M. Lehman, Jr. His legacy of business excellence, philanthropic generosity, and community service continues to inspire us all.

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

House and Senate met in Joint Session to receive an address from the President of the United States.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S1465–S1501

Measures Introduced: Twenty-four bills and one resolution were introduced, as follows: S. 824–847, and S. Res. 105. **Page S1496**

Measures Reported:

S. 298, to require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to relocate 30 percent of the employees assigned to headquarters to duty stations outside the Washington metropolitan area, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

S. 300, to improve accountability in the disaster loan program of the Small Business Administration, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

S. 371, to require certain reports on small business disaster assistance to be published on the website of the Small Business Administration. **Page S1495**

Measures Passed:

Gross Proceeds Reporting by Brokers That Regularly Provide Services Effectuating Digital Asset Sales: By 70 yeas to 27 nays (Vote No. 102), Senate passed S.J. Res. 3, providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Internal Revenue Service relating to “Gross Proceeds Reporting by Brokers That Regularly Provide Services Effectuating Digital Asset Sales”. **Page S1470**

During consideration of this measure today, Senate also took the following action:

By 70 yeas to 28 nays (Vote No. 101), Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to consideration of the joint resolution. **Pages S1470–77**

Measures Considered:

Halt All Lethal Trafficking of Fentanyl Act—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 331, to amend the

Controlled Substances Act with respect to the scheduling of fentanyl-related substances. **Page S1488**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Lori Chavez-DeRemer, of Oregon, to be Secretary of Labor. **Page S1488**

Prior to the consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S1488**

Defining Larger Participants of a Market for General-Use Digital Consumer Payment Applications-Agreement: Senate began consideration of S.J. Res. 28, disapproving the rule submitted by the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection relating to “Defining Larger Participants of a Market for General-Use Digital Consumer Payment Applications” **Pages S1488–89**

During consideration of this measure today, Senate also took the following action:

By 50 yeas to 47 nays (Vote No. 103), Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to consideration of the joint resolution. **Page S1489**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the joint resolution at approximately 10 a.m., on Wednesday, March 5, 2025; that if cloture is invoked on the nomination of Todd Blanche, of Florida, to be Deputy Attorney General, all time be considered expired at 3:45 p.m., and Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination; that following the vote on confirmation of the nomination of Todd Blanche, Senate resume consideration of S.J. Res. 28, and that all time be expired and Senate vote on passage of the joint resolution. **Page S1501**

Message from the President: Senate received the following message from the President of the United States:

Transmitting an address by the President delivered to a Joint Session of Congress on March 4, 2025; which was ordered to lie on the table. (PM-12) **Pages S1490-95**

Edgar Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Troy Edgar, of California, to be Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security. **Page S1488**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Todd Blanche, of Florida, to be Deputy Attorney General. **Page S1488**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S1488**

Chavez-DeRemer Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Lori Chavez-DeRemer, of Oregon, to be Secretary of Labor. **Page S1488**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Troy Edgar, of California, to be Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security. **Page S1488**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S1488**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S1488**

Messages from the House: **Page S1495**

Measures Referred: **Page S1495**

Measures Discharged: **Page S1495**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S1496-97**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S1498-S1500**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Pages S1500-01**

Privileges of the Floor: **Page S1501**

Record Votes: Three record votes were taken today. (Total—103) **Pages S1470-71, S1488, S1489**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 11:04 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Wednesday, March 5, 2025. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S1501.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

NOMINATION

Committee on Armed Services: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nomination of Elbridge Colby, of the District of Columbia, to be Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, after the nominee, who was introduced by Vice President Vance and Senator Banks, testified and answered questions in his own behalf.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Christopher Landau, of Maryland, to be Deputy Secretary, Michael Rigas, of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary for Management and Resources, and Matthew Whitaker, of Iowa, to be United States Permanent Representative on the Council of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, with the rank and status of Ambassador, who was introduced by Senators Grassley and Ernst, all of the Department of State, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 23 public bills, H.R. 1820-1842; and 4 resolutions, H. Res. 185-188, were introduced. **Pages H974-75**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H976-77**

Report Filed: A report was filed today as follows:

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, adversely (H. Rept. 119-10). **Page H974**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Rouzer to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H949**

Recess: The House recessed at 10:39 a.m. and reconvened at 12 p.m. **Page H953**

Recess: The House recessed at 1:05 p.m. and reconvened at 1:30 p.m. **Pages H960–61**

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 for Appliance Standards: Certification Requirements, Labeling Requirements, and Enforcement Provisions for Certain Consumer Products and Commercial Equipment”, 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”, and 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”—Rule for Consideration: The House agreed to H. Res. 177, providing for consideration of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 42) 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 for Appliance Standards: Certification Requirements, Labeling Requirements, and Enforcement Provisions for Certain Consumer Products and Commercial Equipment”; providing for consideration of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 61) 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”; and providing for consideration of the 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”, by a recorded vote of 211 ayes to 209 noes, Roll No. 57, after the previous question was ordered by a yea-and-nay vote of 196 yeas to 187 nays, Roll No. 56. **Pages H955–961**

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Recruiting Families Using Data Act of 2025: H.R. 579, to amend parts B and E of title IV of the

Social Security Act to improve foster and adoptive parent recruitment and retention; and **Pages H962–64**

Chronic Disease Flexible Coverage Act: H.R. 919, to codify Internal Revenue Service guidance relating to treatment of certain services and items for chronic conditions as meeting the preventive care deductible safe harbor for purposes of high deductible health plans in connection with health savings accounts. **Pages H964–66**

Recess: The House recessed at 2:30 p.m. and reconvened at 8:39 p.m. **Page H966**

President Trump’s Address to the Joint Session of Congress: President Donald J. Trump delivered a message to a joint session of Congress, pursuant to the provisions of H. Con. Res. 11. He was escorted into the House Chamber by a committee comprised of Representatives Scalise, Emmer, McClain, Hudson, Reschenthaler, Moore (UT), Houchin, Hern (OK), Jeffries, Clark (MA), Aguilar, Lieu, Neguse, DelBene, and Dingell, and Senators Thune, Barrasso, Cotton, Lankford, Capito, Scott, Schumer, Durbin, Klobuchar, Booker, and Baldwin. The President’s message was referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered printed (H. Doc. 119–1). **Pages H966–73**

Quorum Calls—Votes: One yea-and-nay vote and one recorded vote developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H961, H962.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 11:06 p.m.

Committee Meetings

THE STATE OF THE LIVESTOCK INDUSTRY: PRODUCER PERSPECTIVES

Committee on Agriculture: Subcommittee on Livestock, Dairy, and Poultry held a hearing entitled “The State of the Livestock Industry: Producer Perspectives”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

MOVING THE GOALPOSTS: HOW NAME IMAGE LIKENESS (NIL) IS RESHAPING COLLEGE ATHLETICS

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade held a hearing entitled “Moving the Goalposts: How NIL is Reshaping College Athletics”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 1618, the “Precision Agriculture Satellite Connectivity Act”; H.R. 1455, the “Institute for Telecommunication Sciences Codification Act”; H.R. 1737, to direct the Secretary of

Commerce to submit to Congress a report containing an assessment of the value, cost, and feasibility of a trans-Atlantic submarine fiber optic cable connecting the contiguous United States, the United States Virgin Islands, Ghana, and Nigeria; H.R. 1709, the “Understanding Cybersecurity of Mobile Networks Act”; H.R. 1679, the “Global Investment in American Jobs Act”; H.R. 1721, the “Critical Infrastructure Manufacturing Feasibility Act”; H.R. 1766, the “NTIA Policy and Cybersecurity Coordination Act”; H.R. 1765, the “Promoting United States Wireless Leadership Act of 2025”; H.R. 1770, the “Consumer Safety Technology Act”; and H.R. 1767, the “Awning Safety Act of 2025”. H.R. 1618 was ordered reported, as amended. H.R. 1455, H.R. 1766, H.R. 1765, H.R. 1737, H.R. 1709, H.R. 1679, H.R. 1770, H.R. 1721, and H.R. 1767 were ordered reported, without amendment.

EXAMINING MONETARY POLICY AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

Committee on Financial Services: Task Force on Monetary Policy, Treasury Market Resilience, and Economic Prosperity held a hearing entitled “Examining Monetary Policy and Economic Opportunity”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

BUILDING OUR FUTURE: INCREASING HOUSING SUPPLY IN AMERICA

Committee on Financial Services: Subcommittee on Housing and Insurance held a hearing entitled “Building Our Future: Increasing Housing Supply in America”. Testimony was heard from Tara Vasicek, City Administrator, Columbus, Nebraska; and public witnesses.

FUTURE OF FEMA: PERSPECTIVES FROM THE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMUNITY

Committee on Homeland Security: Subcommittee on Emergency Management and Technology held a hearing entitled “Future of FEMA: Perspectives from the Emergency Management Community”. Testimony was heard from Jeff Smitherman, Director, Emergency Management Agency, Alabama; and public witnesses.

THE DIGITAL BATTLEFIELD: HOW TERRORISTS USE THE INTERNET AND ONLINE NETWORKS FOR RECRUITMENT AND RADICALIZATION

Committee on Homeland Security: Subcommittee on Counterterrorism and Intelligence held a hearing entitled “The Digital Battlefield: How Terrorists Use the Internet and Online Networks for Recruitment and Radicalization”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

MEMBER DAY: COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION

Committee on House Administration: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Member Day: Committee on House Administration”. Testimony was heard from Representatives Frost, Salinas, Panetta, Ramirez, Olszewski, Magaziner, Roy, and Carter of Georgia.

THE RIGHT TO SELF DEFENSE

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Crime and Federal Government Surveillance held a hearing entitled “The Right to Self Defense”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

LEGISLATIVE REFORMS TO END LAWFARE BY STATE AND LOCAL PROSECUTORS

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on the Constitution and Limited Government held a hearing entitled “Legislative Reforms to End Lawfare by State and Local Prosecutors”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

UNDERSTANDING THE CONSEQUENCES OF EXPERIMENTAL POPULATIONS UNDER THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing entitled “Understanding the Consequences of Experimental Populations Under the Endangered Species Act”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

LEVERAGING TECHNOLOGY TO STRENGTHEN IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform: Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Information Technology, and Government Innovation held a hearing entitled “Leveraging Technology to Strengthen Immigration Enforcement”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

AMERICA BUILDS: AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL SYSTEM INFRASTRUCTURE AND STAFFING

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Subcommittee on Aviation held a hearing entitled “America Builds: Air Traffic Control System Infrastructure and Staffing”. Testimony was heard from Heather Krause, Managing Director, Physical Infrastructure, Government Accountability Office; and public witnesses.

Joint Meetings

VSO LEGISLATIVE PRESENTATIONS

Joint Hearing: Senate Committee on Veterans’ Affairs concluded a joint hearing with the House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs to examine the legislative

presentation of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and multiple VSOs: Paralyzed Veterans of America, Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, Student Veterans of America, Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors, The Elizabeth Dole Foundation, and National Coalition for Homeless Veterans, after receiving testimony from Alfred J. Lipphardt, Patrick Murray, Kristina Keenan, Michael Figlioli, and Mitch Fuller, all of Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States; Robert Thomas, Paralyzed Veterans of America; Allison Jaslow, Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America; Jared S. Lyon, Student Veterans of America; Bonnie Carroll, Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors; Meredith Beck, The Elizabeth Dole Foundation; and Kathryn Monet, National Coalition for Homeless Veterans.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5, 2025

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support, to hold hearings to examine the posture of the United States Transportation Command in review of the Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2026 and the Future Years Defense Program; to be immediately followed by a closed session in SVC-217, 2:30 p.m., SD-106.

Committee on the Budget: to hold hearings to examine the nomination of James Bishop, of North Carolina, to be Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget, 10 a.m., SD-608.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: business meeting to consider an authorization to subpoena the production of memoranda, documents, records, and other materials from the Massachusetts Port Authority, and an authorization to subpoena the production of memoranda, documents, records, and other materials from NewPoint Strategies, LLC, 10 a.m., SR-253.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: to hold hearings to examine the nominations of David Fotouhi, of Virginia, to be Deputy Administrator, and Aaron Szabo, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Administrator, both of the Environmental Protection Agency, 10 a.m., SD-406.

Committee on Foreign Relations: to hold hearings to examine advancing American interests in the Western Hemisphere, 10 a.m., SD-419.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Jayanta Bhattacharya, of California, to be Director of the National Institutes of Health, Department of Health and Human Services, 10 a.m., SD-562.

Committee on Indian Affairs: business meeting to consider S. 105, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to complete all actions necessary for certain land to be held in restricted fee status by the Oglala Sioux Tribe and Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, S. 240, to amend the Crow

Tribe Water Rights Settlement Act of 2010 to make improvements to that Act, S. 241, to provide for the settlement of the water rights claims of the Fort Belknap Indian Community, S. 390, to require Federal law enforcement agencies to report on cases of missing or murdered Indians, S. 546, to amend the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 to make a technical correction to the water rights settlement for the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Reservation, S. 550, to provide for the equitable settlement of certain Indian land disputes regarding land in Illinois, S. 562, to approve the settlement of water rights claims of the Pueblos of Acoma and Laguna in the Rio San Jose Stream System and the Pueblos of Jemez and Zia in the Rio Jemez Stream System in the State of New Mexico, S. 563, to approve the settlement of water rights claims of Ohkay Owingeh in the Rio Chama Stream System, to restore the Bosque on Pueblo Land in the State of New Mexico, S. 564, to approve the settlement of water rights claims of the Zuni Indian Tribe in the Zuni River Stream System in the State of New Mexico, to protect the Zuni Salt Lake, S. 565, to approve the settlement of water rights claims of the Navajo Nation in the Rio San Jose Stream System in the State of New Mexico, S. 612, to amend the Native American Tourism and Improving Visitor Experience Act to authorize grants to Indian tribes, tribal organizations, and Native Hawaiian organizations, S. 620, to provide public health veterinary services to Indian Tribes and Tribal organizations for rabies prevention, S. 621, to accept the request to revoke the charter of incorporation of the Lower Sioux Indian Community in the State of Minnesota at the request of that Community, S. 622, to amend the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Reservation Restoration Act to provide for the transfer of additional Federal land to the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, S. 632, to amend the Indian Health Care Improvement Act to allow Indian Health Service scholarship and loan recipients to fulfill service obligations through half-time clinical practice, S. 637, to amend the Northwestern New Mexico Rural Water Projects Act to make improvements to that Act, S. 640, to amend the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 to make a technical correction to the Navajo Nation Water Resources Development Trust Fund, to amend the Claims Resolution Act of 2010 to make technical corrections to the Taos Pueblo Water Development Fund and Aamodt Settlement Pueblos' Fund, S. 642, to provide compensation to the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community for the taking without just compensation of land by the United States inside the exterior boundaries of the L'Anse Indian Reservation that were guaranteed to the Community under a treaty signed in 1854, S. 673, 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, S. 689, to approve the settlement of the water right claims of the Tule River Tribe, S. 719, to amend the Tribal Forest Protection Act of 2004 to improve that Act, S. 723, 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, S. 748, to reaffirm the applicability of the Indian Reorganization Act to the Lytton Rancheria of California, S. 761, to establish the Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies in the United States, and H.R. 165, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to complete all actions necessary for certain land to be held in restricted fee status by the Oglala Sioux Tribe and Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, 2:30 p.m., SD-628.

Committee on the Judiciary: to hold hearings to examine stemming the tide of antisemitism in America, 10:15 a.m., SD-226.

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship: to hold hearings to examine reforming SBIR-STTR for the 21st century, 2:30 p.m., SR-428A.

Select Committee on Intelligence: to receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH-219.

House

Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government, hearing entitled “Member Day”, 10:15 a.m., 2362-B Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies, hearing entitled “Member Day”, 10:30 a.m., 2358-C Rayburn.

Committee on Education and Workforce, Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Development, hearing entitled “Strengthening WIOA: Improving Outcomes for America’s Workforce”, 10:15 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Energy, hearing entitled “Scaling for Growth: Meeting the Demand for Reliable, Affordable Electricity”, 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Communications and Technology, hearing entitled “Fixing Biden’s Broadband Blunder”, 2 p.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, Full Committee, markup on H.J. Res. 59, disapproving the rule submitted by the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection relating to “Overdraft Lending: Very Large Financial Institutions”; H.R. 747, the “Stop Chinese Fentanyl Act of 2025”; H.R. 910, the “Taiwan Non-Discrimination Act of 2025”; H.R. 1474, the “International Nuclear Energy Financing Act of 2025”; H.R. 1549, the “China Financial Threat Mitigation Act of 2025”; H.R. 1577, the “Stop Fentanyl Money Laundering Act of 2025”; H.R. 1602, the “Financial Privacy Act of 2025”; H.R. 1713, the “Agricultural Risk Review Act of 2025”; H.R. 1716, the “Taiwan Conflict Deterrence Act of 2025”; H.R. 1450, the “OFAC Licensure for Investigators Act”; and legislation on the Aligning SEC Regulations for the World Bank’s International Development Act, 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, Europe Subcommittee, hearing entitled “Bridging the Gap: Turkey Between East and West”, 2 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Committee on Homeland Security, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Countering Threats Posed by the Chinese Communist Party to U.S. National Security”, 10 a.m., 310 Cannon.

Committee on the Judiciary, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 1789, the “Promptly Ending Political Prosecutions and Executive Retaliation Act”; H.R. 1526, the “No Rogue Rulings Act”; H.R. 1702, the “JUDGES Act of 2025”; and H.R. 1605, the “Separation of Powers Restoration Act of 2025”, 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on Indian and Insular Affairs, hearing entitled “Examining the Office of Insular Affairs’ Role in Fostering Prosperity in the Pacific Territories and Addressing External Threats to Peace and Security”, 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Full Committee, hearing entitled “A Hearing with Sanctuary City Mayors”, 10 a.m., HVC-210.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight, hearing entitled “Assessing the Threat to U.S. Funded Research”, 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Small Business, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 1642, the “Connecting Small Businesses with Career and Technical Education Graduates Act of 2025”; H.R. 789, the “Transparency and Predictability in Small Business Opportunities Act”; H.R. 787, the “Plain Language in Contracting Act”; H.R. 1621, the “Entrepreneurs with Disabilities Act of 2025”; H.R. 1634, the “Think DIFFERENTLY About Disabilities”; H.R. 1816, the “WOSB Accountability Act”; and H.R. 1804, the “7(a) Loan Agent Oversight Act”, 9:45 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management, hearing entitled “America Builds: Making Federal Real Estate Work for the Taxpayer”, 2 p.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation, hearing entitled “America Builds: Coast Guard Acquisitions and Infrastructure”, 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs, hearing on legislation on the Governing Unaccredited Representatives Defrauding VA Benefits Act; legislation on the Preserving Lawful Utilization of Services for Veterans Act of 2025; and legislation to amend title 38, United States Code, to allow for certain fee agreements for services rendered in the preparation, presentation, and prosecution of initial claims and supplemental claims for benefits under laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes, 10:15 a.m., 360 Cannon.

Select Committee on the Strategic Competition Between the United States and the Chinese Communist Party, Full Committee, hearing entitled “End the Typhoons: How to Deter Beijing’s Cyber Actions and Enhance America’s Lackluster Cyber Defenses”, 9:15 a.m., 390 Cannon.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10 a.m., Wednesday, March 5

Senate Chamber

Program for Wednesday: Senate will continue consideration of S.J. Res. 28, disapproving the rule submitted by the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection relating to “Defining Larger Participants of a Market for General-Use Digital Consumer Payment Applications”.

At 11 a.m., Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Todd Blanche, of Florida, to be Deputy Attorney General.

If cloture is invoked on the nomination, Senate will vote on confirmation thereon at 3:45 p.m. Following disposition of the nomination, Senate will vote on passage of S.J. Res. 28.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Wednesday, March 5

House Chamber

Program for Wednesday: Consideration of H.J. Res. 42—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 for Appliance Standards: Certification Requirements, Labeling Requirements, and Enforcement Provisions for Certain Consumer Products and Commercial Equipment”.

Consideration of H.J. Res. 61—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”.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

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