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No. 45

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. DE LA CRUZ).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,

March 11, 2025.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MONICA DE LA CRUZ 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.

CONGRATULATING JUUSO YOUNG ON MILITARY ACADEMY APPOINTMENT

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Juuso Young of Port Allegany, Pennsylvania.

Juuso recently accepted a fully qualified appointment to the United States Military Academy in West Point, New York. Juuso is the son of Ink and Andrew Young and the grandson of Pat

and Paul Young of Clearfield, Pennsylvania.

As a student at Port Allegany High School, Young is active in the classroom, on the athletic field, and on the stage. He is the senior class president, a member of the chorus, a varsity athlete in two sports, the captain of the varsity football team, and a member of the Keystone Boys State.

Outside of the school, Juuso is an active volunteer with the YMCA, earning him the Youth Volunteer of the Year Award.

I thank Juuso for his commitment to service and wish him the very best of luck as he embarks on this exciting phase of life at West Point.

CONGRATULATING AVARY POWELL ON NAVAL ACADEMY APPOINTMENT

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Avary Powell of Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania.

Avary recently accepted a fully qualified appointment to the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

Avary is the daughter of Melissa and Mark Powell, and she is the granddaughter of Margaret and David Young of Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania, and Carol and Gary Stonbraker of Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania.

Avary is a senior at Punxsutawney Area High School, where she has excelled in and out of the classroom. As captain of the varsity basketball and softball teams, Avary is a strong leader. She also serves as the senior class secretary and vice president of the National Honor Society.

Avary is an outstanding young woman who excels academically and demonstrates strong leadership in her community. Her dedication and work ethic as a student will undoubtedly serve her well as she embarks on her military career at the United States Naval Academy.

Madam Speaker, I wish Avary the best in Annapolis, and I look forward to seeing all that she achieves.

CONGRATULATING CORY MATEJOVICH ON AIR FORCE ACADEMY APPOINTMENT

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Cory Matejovich of Howard, Pennsylvania. Cory accepted a fully qualified appointment to the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Cory is a senior at Middletown Valley Academy. He is the son of Elizabeth and Todd Matejovich. He is the grandson of Marlene and Terry Matejovich of Johnstown, Pennsylvania, and Judy Fredericks of Huntington Beach, California.

Cory is a cadet colonel with the Civil Air Patrol. He is also a licensed private pilot, an Eagle Scout, and a member of the cross-country and swimming teams. Cory is also one of only 2,567 individuals to earn a Spaatz Award since its inception in 1964.

Colonel Matejovich's years of hard work, discipline, and leadership have exemplified the core values of the Civil Air Patrol and will serve him well at the academy.

Madam Speaker, I thank Cory for his commitment to the Nation, and I wish him the best of luck in Colorado Springs.

Madam Speaker, it was an honor to nominate these young students. Their dedication to serving our country is inspirational. I look forward to seeing their successes in the years to come.

I thank them all again for their commitment to our Nation.

COMMUNITY LEGAL AID SOCIETY OF DELAWARE

(Ms. MCBRIDE of Delaware was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

□ 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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H1071

Ms. McBRIDE. Madam Speaker, on the evening of February 27, the Community Legal Aid Society of Delaware, CLASI, was informed that the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development was immediately terminating their fair housing enforcement grant at the direction of DOGE.

This funding, which amounts to nearly half a million dollars, represents roughly 4 percent of CLASI's entire annual budget. It is a devastating blow to a well-respected, beloved, and vital organization that has been the sole enforcer of Federal fair housing laws in Delaware for decades.

Since 2004, CLASI has been a critical player in protecting Delawareans from discrimination in housing transactions, whether they are buying, selling, renting, or simply trying to secure a safe place to live.

For many of our most vulnerable residents, including individuals with disabilities, survivors of domestic violence, and low-income families, CLASI has been a beacon of hope and a lifeline in pursuit of safe, quality, and affordable housing.

Before CLASI began receiving HUD funding, much of this mistreatment went undetected, with only a small number of complaints filed and investigated each year. Yet, in just the first 2 years of receiving HUD support, the number of discrimination investigations in Delaware doubled. That number only continued to rise as CLASI expanded their work.

Let me share some recent examples of the vital work of CLASI. This is work that has now been jeopardized by President Trump's cuts.

A Delaware woman was injured in a horrible act of domestic violence. As she missed work for medical appointments and struggled financially, her landlord threatened eviction. CLASI stepped in, preventing the eviction, securing funds for the landlord, and ensuring this survivor of domestic violence was able to remain safely in her home.

Another Delaware woman was facing life-threatening harassment from an abuser. She was in urgent need of a safe place to live but was trapped by a landlord refusing to let her end her lease. CLASI was able to negotiate an early termination of her lease and helped her preserve her section 8 voucher, enabling her to escape her abuser and find a safe home for herself and her children.

There is an elderly woman who, after becoming wheelchair bound, was confined to her apartment on the third floor of a building that lacked an elevator. For nearly a year, she struggled to get the building to address her need for a safer, accessible unit. It wasn't until CLASI intervened that she was able to secure a transfer to a ground-floor unit, finally allowing her to live with dignity and safety.

These are just a few of the examples of the impacts that CLASI has had on individuals and families in Delaware.

Across the country, other fair housing organizations are facing the same fate, the same heartbreaking cuts by this administration.

As of the current grant year, CLASI has handled 163 fair housing cases. That is 163 families, individuals, and neighbors who are able to access support and the protections guaranteed by Federal law. That is 163 instances where CLASI's expertise and commitment have kept someone in their home or ensured that they could have housing that met their needs.

Since the actions of President Trump took effect, all of that is at risk. At a time when the American Dream remains unaffordable and inaccessible for many and when housing, even basic shelter, remains out of reach for working people, this administration's actions make that problem worse. The termination of this funding is not just a fiscal hit. It is an attack on the principle of fairness.

Housing isn't a luxury. It is a basic need. I will continue to fight to restore these funds. I will fight for the future of CLASI and other fair housing programs, and I will fight to ensure that every person in Delaware and across the country can rent or buy a safe, quality, and affordable home.

The Delawareans' lives touched by CLASI's work should know that I stand with them. I will fight for them. Together, we will continue the work of guaranteeing fair housing for all.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LUTTRELL). Members are reminded to refrain from trafficking the well while other Members are under recognition.

CONGRATULATING HECTOR MORENO, JR., ON HIS RETIREMENT

(Ms. DE LA CRUZ of Texas was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. DE LA CRUZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Border Patrol Agent Hector Moreno, Jr., for his 27 years of service.

Born and raised in McAllen, Texas, Mr. Hector Moreno, Jr., pursued a career of selfless service to our community. He joined the Border Patrol in 1997 and, for nearly three decades, has set a high standard for his fellow agents by upholding their core values of service to our country, integrity, and vigilance.

During his tenure, he successfully led specialized operations in the Rio Grande Valley to combat transnational crime and tackle illicit drug trafficking at our southern border.

I had the opportunity to join Mr. Moreno in south Texas to participate in a ride-along and hear from Border Patrol agents and experience their daily work of protecting our communities.

Last summer, Mr. Moreno retired as a division chief for the Rio Grande Valley Sector. We are grateful for his honorable service and exemplary leadership to fellow agents and our commu-

nity. In his retirement, he continues to serve others as a criminal justice teacher at Nikki Rowe High School in McAllen, Texas, and leads the Student Criminal Justice Club.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. Moreno for his selfless service. I congratulate him on his well-deserved retirement.

RECOGNIZING TEXAS INDEPENDENCE DAY AND LIEUTENANT COLONEL WILLIAM B. TRAVIS

Ms. DE LA CRUZ. Mr. Speaker, earlier this month, we celebrated Texas Independence Day and the brave efforts of Texas revolutionaries and Tejanos who fought to secure their independence from Mexico.

I rise today to recognize the heroes of the Texas Revolution and share the brave words of Lieutenant Colonel William B. Travis to rally the Texans' army at the Alamo nearly 200 years ago:

"Bejar, February 24, 1836.

"To the people of Texas and all Americans in the world.

"Fellow citizens and compatriots:

"I am besieged by a thousand or more of the Mexicans under Santa Anna. I have sustained a continual bombardment and cannonade for 24 hours and have not lost a man.

"The enemy has demanded a surrender at discretion, otherwise, the garrison are to be put to the sword, if the fort is taken. I have answered the demand with a cannon shot, and our flag still waves proudly from the walls. I shall never surrender or retreat.

"Then, I call on you in the name of liberty, of patriotism, and everything dear to the American character to come to our aid with all dispatch. The enemy is receiving reinforcements daily and will no doubt increase to 3,000 or 4,000 in 4 or 5 days.

"If this call is neglected, I am determined to sustain myself as long as possible and die like a soldier who never forgets what is due to his own honor and that of his country.

"Victory or death.

"William Barret Travis, Lieutenant Colonel Commandant.

"P.S., the Lord is on our side. When the enemy appeared in sight, we had not three bushels of corn. We have since found in deserted houses 80 or 90 bushels and got into the walls 20 or 30 head of beeves.

"Travis."

Though we know Texans lost this battle, Lieutenant Travis' words were heard for miles.

"Remember the Alamo" became a battle cry, and revolutionaries joined the Texan forces to win the war and secure freedom for Texas.

I rise today to proudly honor our great State and the brave men and women who built Texas on values of family, faith, and freedom.

□ 1015

MOURNING THE LOSS OF MICHAEL "MICKEY" HARMON AND JORDAN CELOTTO

(Mr. KENNEDY of New York was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise with a heavy heart to join Buffalo's LGBTQ+ and arts communities in mourning the tragic and senseless deaths of Michael "Mickey" Harmon and Jordan Celotto.

We remember these two extraordinary artists, activists, and partners for the impact they made on the lives of countless people. Mickey Harmon's art captured the heart and soul of Buffalo: its beauty, its grit, its history, and its potential.

Mickey's vision and skill, in partnership with his fellow artist and activist Ari Moore, told the story of Buffalo's LGBTQ+ heroes on a mural in the heart of Buffalo's gay nightlife neighborhood. Mickey showcased his art at The Good Stuff, his store on beloved Allen Street, selling everything from prints of Buffalo's architectural beauty to his famous Metallica-inspired Cheektowaga T-shirt.

His talent can be seen in murals across Buffalo, including most recently the beautiful work he completed at the Friends of Night People.

Mickey thrived as a leader in Buffalo's LGBTQ+ and arts communities. For 7 years, he organized Allentown's First Fridays, leading to the galleries and shops on Allen Street to stay open late on the first Friday of every month to promote small businesses.

He organized innumerable festivals, celebrations, and other programming such as Exist and Intersect that celebrated and showcased the work of queer artists.

Just the weekend after his tragic and untimely death, he was scheduled to debut his newest event featuring performance art, music, and dancing. That event instead became a celebration of life for Mickey and Jordan, a heart-breaking yet fitting tribute to their legacies.

Jordan, too, was a fixture on the arts scene, working with Mickey to pull off event after event, selflessly giving back to the community. He found his professional home at Remedy House, a unique cafe on Buffalo's west side, where he was known for his warm smile, his can-do attitude, and his commitment to his colleagues.

Jordan came to Buffalo from Canada about 5 years ago, after meeting Mickey. The two of them truly completed each other, building a home filled with love, complete with their beloved cats, Beef and Chicken.

Mr. Speaker, I will close with some of Mickey's own words to the city he loved which he released in a series of postcards at the height of the pandemic: "Let us be reminded of our community's past and present so we can all look forward to a more positive future." "It is your Buffalo. It is my Buffalo. We are all neighbors."

Mr. Speaker, may the families and friends of Mickey Harmon and Jordan Celotto be comforted by the joyful memories they each leave behind, and may we all do more to build a world they would be proud of. May they rest in peace.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THEODORE W. "TED" LINA

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Theodore W. "Ted" Lina on receiving the 2025 St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute Man of the Year award.

Ted is an educator, mentor, and institution in the St. Joe's community, striving for excellence and inspiring generations of students, including myself.

Mr. Lina has dedicated his career to instilling a deep respect for history, a nuanced understanding of government, and a reverence for civic engagement in his students.

Since 1983, Mr. Lina has brought his passion and expertise to his AP government class, however, his impact extends far beyond the classroom.

In 1984, Mr. Lina hosted the very first St. Joe's political debate. The event stemmed from Mr. Lina's passion for local politics and American Government.

For more than 40 years, the SJCI Political Debate has grown into one of the seminal, annual public forums for political discourse in the entire region.

Through his leadership in the SJCI Political Debate, Mr. Lina has helped cultivate a generation of informed, engaged citizens.

During the debates, students serve as panelists, fact checkers, and time-keepers, but learn lessons that are applied later in life as many go on to serve in public life, law, business, and beyond.

Mr. Lina embodies the Lasallian spirit of faith, service, and community. His commitment to St. Joe's and its mission is evident in the countless students he has inspired over so many years.

At a time when our political discourse has deteriorated such that finding common ground seems impossible, this work is more important than ever.

On behalf of western New York and a proud Marauder, and student of his myself, I extend my deepest gratitude and congratulations to Mr. Lina. This honor is well deserved.

Mr. Speaker, I thank him for his unwavering dedication to our alma mater and for shaping the future leaders of our community. Enjoy the celebration, and as always, let's go St. Joe's.

RECOGNIZING BRAIN AWARENESS WEEK

(Mr. LUTTRELL of Texas was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. LUTTRELL. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize March 10 through March 16 as Brain Awareness Week.

During Brain Awareness Week, neuroscientists around the world educate young students and the public on the wonders of the human brain. These activities will contribute to a public understanding of brain function, scientific research, and bring awareness to the brain disorders and diseases that

directly affect the lives of nearly 100 million Americans.

Groups such as the Society for Neuroscience meet with legislators across Capitol Hill to educate us on the biggest issues facing scientists today, including the importance of robust funding for research agencies and programs such as the NIH and the BRAIN Initiative.

Researchers across the country rely on this funding to be able to conduct their groundbreaking work into a variety of neurological diseases such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's, traumatic brain injuries, and mental health disorders.

It is our responsibility to ensure funding continues because the potential to find a cure isn't a matter of if, but absolutely when.

One of the leading programs in advancing our understanding of the brain has been the Brain Research Through Advancing Innovative Neurotechnologies, the BRAIN Initiative.

The BRAIN Initiative has been instrumental in developing tools and technologies revolutionizing the field of neuroscience. For more than a decade, research supported by the BRAIN Initiative has led to major breakthroughs. For example, researchers have gained new knowledge on how the brain encodes, stores, and retrieves information. Basic research such as this is critically important to find cures and treatments for disease and brain disorders.

The BRAIN Initiative has resulted in numerous key accomplishments that have fundamentally changed our understanding of the brain's neural circuits. The BRAIN Initiative Cell Census Network revealed the genetic, cellular, and structural makeup of the human brain and nonhuman primate brain, paving the way for a new generation of precision treatments for people with brain disorders.

Researchers have been able to develop the first complete cell atlas of a whole mouse brain through the BRAIN Initiative which characterizes more than 32 million cells across the mouse's brain and provides critical information that extends to the study of neural circuits and how they underpin behavior in health and disease.

The impact of BRAIN Initiative is far-reaching. Through separate research projects, BRAIN-funding cells census tools are being used to actively investigate disorders of the brain such as Alzheimer's disease and opioid use disorder.

The BRAIN Initiative has also transformed the way we do science, fostering collaborations among large teams of researchers. This collaborative approach has enabled researchers to tackle large problems and deliver knowledge and resources on a scale not previously possible in neurosciences. These accomplishments are expanding our fundamental knowledge of brain function and paving the way

for novel approaches to diagnose, treat, and ultimately prevent neurological disorders.

BRAIN is lifting all boats, ranging from basic science to disease-focused research in a complex neuroscience research ecosystem involving government, industry, philanthropy, and healthcare systems.

Building on a remarkable decade of innovation and discovery, the BRAIN Initiative is now setting its sights high with large-scale projects aiming to break current barriers in knowledge and technology related to human brain science, and it is critical we continue to support and invest in this initiative moving forward.

In addition to all the amazing work being done in brain disease and disorders, we should also, as a forward-thinking, innovative country, become citizen scientists curious about how to sustain brain health, even in the absence of disease or disorder.

Viewing the brain from more than a medical perspective to include thinking proactively about optimizing its daily performance is what Brain Awareness Week can inspire.

Imagine a world where information and tools that can benefit the brain of every American, regardless of age or stage, were accessible to all. The impact on education, industry, and military would be profound. It is vital that we inspire the next generation of scientists to continue brain research. The discoveries made by these future scientists will shape the next frontier of medicine, unlocking new treatments, therapies, and ultimately cures for conditions that affect millions of families across our Nation.

Madam Speaker, as co-chair of the Congressional Neuroscience Caucus, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Brain Awareness Week and the contributions that thousands of dedicated scientists are making to unlock these mysteries behind the human brain.

BUDGET AND DEBT

(Mr. KHANNA of California was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. KHANNA. Madam Speaker, last week, President Trump came in this Chamber and said he was going to balance the budget immediately. I will just go over some facts, not politically speaking, just facts.

We have got a \$36 trillion debt. That is where we stand.

Currently, we are running a \$1.8 trillion deficit. If you were to balance the budget, that would be zero and we should stay at a \$36 trillion debt.

What does President Trump do with the Republicans? What is their budget? Their budget actually is going to add \$28 trillion of debt over the next 10 years.

Here is the kicker. It is not just that they aren't balancing it to keep it at \$36 trillion; it is that they are adding

more debt by adding to the deficits more than the current deficits.

The current deficit projection would add \$23.9 trillion of debt, but the Republicans want to add \$28.5 trillion of debt, \$4.6 trillion more of debt spending than the current deficit spending.

I just ask for some math. You want to deficit spend to have tax breaks for the wealthy because you think that will help the economy, fine, but every American should look at this chart because the Republican budget is making the deficit and the debt worse. It is not balancing the budget.

Now I will speak about my second chart.

Madam Speaker, many of us want to cut waste, fraud, and abuse from government, so where should we look first? Well, how about the Pentagon, which has 13 percent of the Federal budget.

Mr. Musk, who I have known for 15 years, is firing all these veterans. Is he saving money? Let's look at this chart. All of the DOGE firings, 0.004 percent of the budget, is where Mr. Musk's cuts have come. That is 455 times less than the Republican tax breaks, which are 1.82 percent of the budget.

I don't understand it.

Elon, you are an engineer. You are cutting 0.004 percent, while the Republicans are providing 455 times that in a tax break and you are not touching the main budget of 13 percent of the Pentagon.

I have a proposal for you. You can either come to Congress to explain this chart while you are going after 0.004 percent or USAID, which is 0.7 percent, as opposed to going to the 13 percent of the Pentagon budget while you are allowing tax breaks of 455 times more than the savings you are finding at DOGE—YOU can either come to Congress or you can go to Jon Stewart.

Jon Stewart called you out and said: Why not, if you want to cut waste, cut the Pentagon defense contract budget? Why not cut the fossil fuel subsidies? Why not cut the drug manufacturers who are ripping off the government?

Let's talk math about how you get actual cuts because right now you are cutting 0.004 percent while not going after any of the real "holy cows" in our government.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. DE LA CRUZ). Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair and not to a perceived viewing audience.

□ 1030

REMEMBERING JOHN BILLINGSLEY

(Mr. ARRINGTON of Texas was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. ARRINGTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the life of a west Texas giant, a proud Texas Tech Red Raider, a loving husband and father, and my dear friend, John Billingsley.

From humble beginnings in O'Donnell, Texas, John's entrepreneurial spirit and west Texas work ethic propelled him to a series of successful ventures, becoming one of the most accomplished business leaders in the entire country.

A common man with uncommon character, endless vision, and a love for God and people as big as the west Texas horizon, John was the epitome of the American Dream. His life was proof that greatness is often found in the most obscure places and within the most unassuming people.

John was a true gentleman whose uncanny business acumen was matched only by his humility, integrity, and authenticity.

John's story reminds us that with big dreams, hard work, and determination, the opportunities in this great country of ours are endless.

We grieve this great loss with his loving wife, Harriett, and the entire Billingsley family. We pray God's comfort for them, but we celebrate alongside them, as well. We celebrate John's amazing life and legacy and all the tremendous contributions he made to his friends, family, community, and our beloved country.

God bless the Billingsley family, and go west Texas.

HONORING JONATHAN NICHOLAS WILLIAMS

Mr. ARRINGTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor the life of Jonathan Nicholas Williams, beloved husband, father, true west Texan, and dear friend of mine.

When I first met Jon at a Farm Bureau meeting in Terry County, he was brutally honest, direct, and plainspoken, like a lot of ag producers. While the meeting was tension filled, we became fast friends.

Jon was the epitome of a west Texas farmer, no doubt: hardworking, God-fearing, and humble, a man who was totally dedicated to his family, community, and friends.

Anyone who knew Jon would tell you that his greatest source of joy was his family, his beautiful children, Paisley, Lexi, Owen, and Willow, whom he raised with the love and support of his wife, Melissa. A proud and committed father, he instilled in his children the values of personal responsibility, perseverance, and, of course, a love of the land.

I know I speak for the entire community of west Texas when I say that the Williams family is in our prayers, and our entire community stands ready to care for them in the same way that Jon cared for us, his community, and his friends.

May God comfort the Williams family, and may He give all of us the courage and character that Jon had to live up to his legacy of truth-telling, servant leadership, and fighting for all we believe is good and right in this world.

May God bless my friend, Jon, and may he rest in peace. Blessings on his family. Go west Texas.

SPEAKING TRUTH TO POWER

(Mr. AMO of Rhode Island was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. AMO. Madam Speaker, I rise today because something is rotten in the state of our government.

Over the past 50 days, Donald Trump, Elon Musk, and DOGE have willfully spread chaos and confusion inside Federal agencies. They have gleefully fired thousands of employees. By taking out their chain saw and cutting down to the bone, this Republican administration is maliciously hurting the American people. We also know they have their sights on Social Security and Medicare, per Elon Musk's statement that it is the "big one" to cut.

This isn't fear-mongering. It gives me no pleasure to report these facts, but we need to be honest. The speed, scope, and scale with which these bad-faith actors are disrupting lives is unprecedented.

While attention has been on the impact of firings in Washington, this is not a Washington story—far from it. In fact, fewer than one in five Federal workers live in D.C., Maryland, or Virginia. That is right, the ongoing efforts to cut back the Federal Government are falling on the over 80 percent of workers who live outside the beltway. They are falling on everyday Americans who rely on our government in countless ways, big and small.

Today, I would like to share some stories from Rhode Island of those being hurt by Donald Trump's callous disregard for public service.

I will start with a constituent of mine from Barrington, Rhode Island, who works in international development. Since December, she has been employed by a nonprofit organization that helps children with disabilities outside of the United States. The way she explains it: "Eliminating USAID in its entirety has hollowed out what used to be the largest bilateral aid agency in the world. When these programs stop, kids suffer. They lose access to shelter, medical care, clean water, food, and education."

Cuts to U.S. foreign aid have forced the nonprofit to start laying off people. They have lost thousands in the field and terminated hundreds more on the international programs team. This hurts our humanitarian and national security goals.

Every day, my constituent goes to work worried that their job will be next on the chopping block. Worse still, because of potential cuts to Medicaid that Republicans are pursuing in their budget resolution, she is worried whether her family, including her two young sons, will have health insurance if she loses her job.

My question is: Is the cruelty worth it, Madam Speaker?

It is not just those who project American influence abroad. It is also those who carry their service forward after serving in uniform. The Federal Government is the largest employer of

our brave veterans. Thirty percent of the Federal workforce are veterans, including one of my constituents from Bristol, Rhode Island. As a disabled veteran with 23 years of service, my constituent was unceremoniously fired from his position at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration on February 27.

In his letter, he had asked the Department of Commerce if he could receive a letter of displacement to acquire another Federal position versus having to apply as a member of the public. He received no answer, but then again no longer had the access to find out. Thankfully, we learned yesterday that he was reinstated and will report to work tomorrow.

The question is, though, how many veterans have not been so lucky? How many are now scrambling for a job, wondering if their "thank you for your service" is an unceremonious pink slip?

It is shameful. It is un-American. It is wrong.

I want to end on a hopeful note. Recently, I heard from Stephanie, a constituent from North Smithfield, Rhode Island.

Stephanie isn't a Federal employee. She is a researcher who went into the field after personally experiencing and seeing her loved ones experience diseases with few treatment options available.

Stephanie earned her Ph.D. in experimental and molecular science. Today, she is a post-doctoral research fellow working to find treatments for neurofibromatosis type 1. Currently, her job is safe. Cuts to research through the National Institutes of Health have been halted by a Federal judge. I proudly led more than 150 of my colleagues in a letter to support this bipartisan—yes, bipartisan—funding priority.

The overall point remains, though: Cuts to Federal funding and Federal workers affect millions of Americans across the country.

Our community is lucky to have researchers, veterans, international aid workers, agricultural experts, and meteorologists. They work to find cures, promote American interests, predict the weather, and keep us healthy, fed, and safe. Their jobs aren't just a line item on a budget. They are about people. They are about Americans who care about our country and the direction of where we are going. Each one of them has done the most American thing possible. They have dedicated their lives to making our Nation a better place.

FIGHTING MEDICAID FRAUD

(Ms. MALLIOTAKIS of New York was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. MALLIOTAKIS. Madam Speaker, I rise to highlight the rampant fraud, waste, and abuse in Medicaid that is draining American taxpayers and hurting our most vulnerable seniors, dis-

abled, and other Americans who rely on this program.

Yesterday, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, Russell Vought, told us something shocking, that one out of four Medicaid payments are improper payments—one out of every four.

This echoes a 2024 report from the Biden administration's Office of Management and Budget that designated Medicaid and Medicare as a high priority for susceptibility to fraud, waste, abuse, improper payments, and overpayments.

In 2024, the Government Accountability Office released a report estimating over \$100 billion in improper payments were made in the Medicare and Medicaid programs for the fiscal year 2023.

Now, I could read some of these headlines that highlight it in the media. There was a CNBC report that detailed how Medicare and Medicaid programs are being brazenly targeted by sophisticated criminals to the tune of \$100 billion a year.

"Lack of State oversight spurs Medicaid fraud," says Spectrum New York.

"Scammers ripped off NY's controversial Medicaid home care program to the tune of \$68 million," from the New York Post.

The New York Times says: "Staggering Rise in Catheter Bills Suggests Medicare Scam."

"Florida Man Indicted for [Medicare and] Wire Fraud . . . in \$97 Million Scheme."

"Medicaid program suspended from two south Jersey nursing homes," after being "accused of taking \$83 million from nursing homes funded by New York Medicare and Medicaid."

"Fiscal year 2023 proved to be a high-value one for healthcare frauds and settlements, with the DOJ totaling \$2 billion in illicit activity."

In California: "Attorney General Bonta Announces Indictment of Southern California Healthcare Provider for Medi-Cal Fraud of Nearly \$60 Million."

CEO of "Digital Health Company Arrested for \$100M Adderall Distribution and Healthcare Fraud Scheme."

In New York: "Doctor Convicted of \$24M Medicaid Fraud Scheme."

"Attorney General James Announces Convictions and Sentences of Five Taxi Company Owners in Orange and Rensselaer Counties for Stealing Millions from Medicaid."

"Florida Telemarketer Sentenced to 15 Years in Prison for \$67 Million in Medicare Fraud Scheme."

In San Antonio: "Hill County doctor sentenced 10 years in prison, \$26 million in restitution for Medicaid fraud scheme."

I can go on and on, reading headline after headline about the rampant fraud and abuse in this program that is actually taking away—that is what is hurting our vulnerable Americans who rely on this program, the fraudsters who are stealing the money.

My Governor, Kathy Hochul, lied to New Yorkers about what Republicans

are really trying to do. Our real goal is to root out this waste, fraud, and abuse to protect benefits for our eligible recipients.

Kathy Hochul said it herself in her own words. She pointed out how fraudulent the program is. In July 2024, the Governor said that the State's Medicaid Consumer Directed Personal Assistance Program has "become a racket." She said it is "one of the most abused programs in the entire history of the State of New York." She said that the current trajectory of Medicaid spending is "not sustainable."

Other Democrats have pointed out the same things. Attorney General Garland, President Biden's Attorney General, in a 2024 speech regarding healthcare fraud, announced charges against 193 defendants for over \$2.75 billion in false Medicare and Medicaid claims, and that was just one event.

New York Attorney General Letitia James, in a January 2025 speech, said: "Companies that illegally profit by exploiting Medicaid patients steal taxpayer money and undermine the healthcare system that all New Yorkers rely on."

To my colleagues, Republicans and Democrats, let's work together to actually fix this. Let's work together to go after those fraudsters to eliminate this abuse that we are seeing in this system so we can preserve this very important program that our seniors, our disabled, our children with developmental disabilities, and vulnerable Americans rely on. Let's not play partisan politics with something that is so critically important to so many New Yorkers and Americans across the country.

ISAIAH MISALEGALU'S VOICE IS SAMOAN SILK

(Ms. LEE of Nevada was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. LEE of Nevada. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate who I believe will be the next winner of "American Idol," Sierra Vista High School's own and Nevada Third District constituent Isaiah Misalegalu.

Over the weekend, I watched Isaiah get his golden ticket to Hollywood after singing "A Song for You," with his uncle playing the guitar by his side. With a voice like his, it is no wonder they are calling him Samoan Silk.

Not only is Isaiah a powerful and talented singer, but he also shines on the football field and volleyball court and in leading his school's Polynesian Club.

No matter what Isaiah does, I hope he knows that the entire southern Nevada community is behind him chasing his dreams. I wish him the best of luck on his "American Idol" journey.

□ 1045

CR FUNDING FOR DEFENSE AND VETERAN PROGRAMS

(Mr. LAMALFA of California was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, as we take on the continuing resolution, once again it is not the best way of doing business around here. We should be grinding through the twelve different points that the appropriations process has.

At least there is good news as CRs go in that part of it that is being plussed up includes the issue with our military.

A lot of times when CRs occur, our military is the one that gets shorted on that. They have to plan for the long term for weapons systems, what they need in upgraded facilities, and take care of the personnel in the process. This does boost up our military needs to an extent in the CR.

It will upgrade all four branches—Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines—that are on the front lines. It will strengthen their readiness and help modernize some of their infrastructure. Delays, of course, put these projects at risk. That is why it is important that the CR be done timely.

As I mentioned, family housing is a very important aspect for the comfort and efficiency of our personnel. It is directed towards improvements in the living conditions for the servicemembers and their families. Stable funding makes sure these projects stay on track.

The Arlington National Cemetery, of course, has amazing meaning to our whole country, especially those that have fallen and would be interred there. There are improvements there for a better process for people to be able to get in and out of the facility, as well as the ceremonies that might be held there.

We have a significant improvement in veterans' healthcare, medical services, community care, and facility improvements to ensure veterans can get the good healthcare that they need and deserve. Uncertainty does not help that to remain. That is why passing the CR at this time is important.

For retirement homes for veterans, it ensures they will have facilities that continue to stay on track, whether new ones are built or continued upgrades and maintenance is not passed over.

One of the aspects that we are disappointed with not getting into the continuing resolution has bipartisan support. I am pleased to work with my colleague from Colorado (Mr. NEGUSE) on what is known as Secure Rural Schools. That is a fund that we do every single year. It is nothing new. It is nothing that is going to plus-up spending around here or require additional budget effort. It is something that is basically there to supplement the income at the local level, for counties.

It is called SRS, Secure Rural Schools. A large part of it goes to help local schools, as well as county roads. This funding used to come from the timber industry which overlaps so many of the areas that the SRS fund would go to.

With the decimation of the timber industry starting really in the late sev-

enties and the eighties, and the spotted owl movement and other environmental concerns that have made it just nearly impossible in some cases to do the timber harvest that is really needed to be done, this program came along and replaced those receipts.

It is fairly tough every year to come here. Our county supervisors come here hat in hand every year and ask us to support the SRS one more time. These are dollars that have to come from the U.S. Treasury rather than from the forest and the industry.

Until such point as we can get a much more viable timber industry going again in this country with a much more streamlined process of permitting, especially on Federal Forest Service land, why should it be difficult to do things that make good sense as far as thinning our forests and harvesting from it? It is a renewable resource. We plant it back, and the trees grow again.

What we do instead is we seem to ignore that fact and just let them burn year after year, especially in the Western States. In my own district, we had a million-acre fire 3 years ago; a 400,000-acre fire last year; a 600,000-acre fire a couple of years before that, time after time.

All my colleagues in the Western States pretty much can point to that same thing happening in their States as well, millions of acres burned every year in the West. For some reason, the U.S. is now the number one importer of wood and paper products and the number one importer of lumber. What are we doing here?

We have to come hat in hand each year and ask for funding from the Treasury to replace an industry that we need and to replace wood and paper products that we use regularly in our daily lives. Heaven knows, this place goes through a lot of paper. Why should we have that come from foreign forests somewhere?

When I am at the railroad crossing back home waiting on a train, I see all these loads of lumber and Canadian wheat coming south. Why aren't we doing that at home? We need to get SRS in the next round.

MAKING OUR VOICES HEARD

(Ms. KELLY of Illinois was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today in defiance of the House Republicans' partisan funding bill.

Democrats pulled up a seat for Republican leadership at the negotiating table to discuss a bipartisan solution, but Republicans walked away.

What did Republicans propose instead?

A blank check to Donald Trump and Elon Musk to take money away from you and spend as they will.

For years, I have heard my Republican colleagues talk about the power of the purse and how that power belongs to Congress and Congress alone.

Republicans loved to talk about Article I of the Constitution and insisted on clear checks and balances.

What do I hear now? Silence.

Now that Republicans are in control of Congress, they decide to bend the knee to Donald Trump. Republicans are giving Donald Trump and Elon Musk the power to decide who gets money and who doesn't. Based on these last 8 weeks, we know who Trump prioritizes: his billionaire friends and big corporations. He does not care for veterans, workers with disabilities, children, senior citizens, farmers, or families just trying to make ends meet.

Republicans will try to call this a clean continuing resolution. Believe me, that is a bunch of fill-in-the-blanks because this is far from clean. The Republican funding bill has dirt all over it.

With this bill, the Trump administration will decide construction funding by the Army Corps of Engineers. Trump will cut funds for lead pipe replacements for schools, better water mains to prevent flooding, and better streets for our communities.

Elon Musk and DOGE have proven how little they care for our veterans. They made sweeping staffing cuts to veterans' centers across the country, including in Danville, Illinois. My office has gotten calls from workers and some vets who were fired for no justifiable reason, impacting their own families and the veterans they care for.

The Republican funding bill goes even further, cutting \$23 billion in veterans' benefits. It gives Trump permission to eliminate programs for veterans, including homelessness prevention programs, which could lead to more than 32,000 veterans losing their homes. These are people who defended our country.

Trump would also have the power to reallocate funding dedicated to maternal and child health programs, including Healthy Start, rural maternal health initiatives, and maternity care training.

For over a decade, I have rolled up my sleeves to save mothers who are dying from preventative pregnancy-related causes. In the middle of a maternal mortality crisis, Trump would sign away all the programs that help mothers and babies.

Trump likes to talk a big game about border control and our country's fentanyl crisis. He plays as the world's biggest bully and hits our closest allies with tariffs. Meanwhile, Republicans give Trump the power to steer funding dedicated to stopping the flow of fentanyl and instead spend that money on mass deportation initiatives.

Last September, Kankakee County in my district received funding to help law enforcement crack down on illicit drug trafficking and address the overdose epidemic. That funding would stop under the Republican bill.

You heard at the joint address to Congress last week that RFK, Jr., is free to run with his conspiracy theories

and anti-vaccination lies. This bill would give him broad discretion to spend money as he wishes at the CDC, ignoring critical lifesaving programs like ending the HIV epidemic initiative, Alzheimer's disease programs, and cancer prevention.

If you are not part of the 1 percent, House Republicans and Donald Trump simply do not care about you. It does not matter if you are Democrat, Republican, or Independent. This partisan funding bill proves it. Republicans are giving Donald Trump the green light to do as he wishes, and we all know that he does not have the American people in mind.

I, alongside House Democrats, have also been at the negotiation table, but we will never negotiate away veterans' benefits, healthcare, or people's Social Security. I refuse to betray my constituents. Please stand up, speak out, and make your voices heard.

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

CELEBRATING ACCESS INDEPENDENCE'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY

(Mr. CLINE of Virginia was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 40th anniversary of Access Independence, a dedicated organization serving people with disabilities in Virginia's Northern Shenandoah Valley.

For four decades, Access Independence has been a beacon of hope and empowerment, promoting independent living through essential services and resources.

Founded in 1985 as one of 17 centers for independent living in Virginia, Access Independence has continuously expanded its impact, offering independent living skills training, peer mentoring, information and referral, and advocacy services to the counties of Clarke, Frederick, Page, Shenandoah, Warren, and the city of Winchester.

Led by Middletown Mayor Charles Harbaugh and guided by core values of empowerment, integrity, respect, and equal rights, Access Independence's dedicated team has touched thousands of lives. Last year alone, it served 678 clients and generously provided over 200 pieces of medical equipment to those in need.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Access Independence on this significant milestone and wishing them continued success in the years ahead.

REPUBLICANS' EMPTY PROMISES

(Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK of Florida was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, over the last few weeks, Americans have actively watched the

dismantling of Social Security and direct attacks on our seniors, our families, and also our veterans.

I have heard directly from my constituents, and they are scared. They are worried about their next meal. They are worried if they will be able to see their doctors. They are worried if they will be able to retire with dignity. They are worried about the skyrocketing cost of living and the price of groceries. It is because they have heard so much about the cuts to Medicaid, the cuts to SNAP, and the cuts to the VA, all being proposed by the House Republicans.

Let's take a closer look at what the House Republicans are proposing. House Republicans are proposing Medicaid cuts of \$880 billion, SNAP cuts of \$230 billion, Social Security cuts of \$1.5 trillion, Medicare premiums raised by 22 percent, and 83,000 veteran employees being fired.

Let's take a closer look at what they actually promised the American people.

House Republicans have promised the American people to actually put forward bills that will make their life better.

Let's take it to the board. Nothing, nada, nothing has been proposed to help them with their financial situation. To make a visual of it, nothing has been proposed for the American people.

I dare my House Republicans to join House Democrats to put forth bills that will actually help the American people. The American people do not want \$880 billion cut from their healthcare. The American people do not want \$230 billion cut from SNAP and other assistance programs. They want to actually live the American Dream, and they want opportunities.

Right now, House Republicans have offered nothing but a blank piece of paper.

Why, you may ask? Elon Musk says the only way to save America is by jeopardizing our most vulnerable. It is by eliminating entitlement programs. In fact, Mr. Musk said that the biggest issue that he has and what he must do is eliminate these programs.

What types of programs are we talking about?

It is Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, and veterans' benefits.

For the American people, this is ridiculous. These are our most vulnerable populations. We had promised our warriors and our heroes that we would be there for them and that we would provide their benefits for them.

What are we doing? I dare House Republicans to join the Democrats and stand up for the American people and to stand with us as we fight for the American people.

□ 1100

I dare House Republicans to stand up for Social Security, to stand up for Medicaid, to stand up for our heroes.

The time is now. Let's stop the madness and make sure that all Americans

have a real opportunity to live with dignity and pursue the American Dream.

CONGRATULATING PUSCH RIDGE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

(Mr. CISCOMANI of Arizona was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Pusch Ridge Christian Academy men's basketball team for winning their first championship in the history of the program.

The 11th ranked Lions beat the 5th ranked Palo Verde Titans with a score of 69-46, an incredible performance by all players.

From being four games under 0.500 just 6 weeks ago to clinching their goal as champions, this victory is an incredible underdog story.

This championship caps off a monumental achievement for second-year coach Steve Solita, who has transformed the Lions into a winning program during his short tenure.

To the players, coaches, family members, and anyone who played a part in this special season, I congratulate them on this historic achievement. They have made their school and our community extremely proud. Mr. Speaker, may they know that we all look forward to rooting for them next season again.

RECOGNIZING WOLFGANG WEBER

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the incredible contributions Wolfgang Weber has given to the soccer community in southern Arizona.

Born in Germany in 1944, Wolfgang distinguished himself as a talented soccer player before immigrating to the United States in 1973.

In 1977, he was the cofounder and head coach of Tucson United Soccer Club and the Tucson Soccer Academy. During this time, his team made it to eight finals and won three state championships.

In 1982, he became head coach of Salpointe Catholic High School men's soccer program and has amassed an outstanding record of 888 games, 793 wins, went to the State finals 12 times, becoming State champions 10 times. He is the longest tenured head coach in Tucson's history, coaching 43 seasons.

In fact, Coach Weber just led the Salpointe men's soccer team to a championship this year, their fifth title in a row.

For his passion, devotion to all student athletes that he has coached, and his genuine love for the game of soccer, Wolfgang was rightfully inducted into the Pima County Sports Hall of Fame in 2005 and the Arizona High School Athletic Coaches Hall of Fame. Wolfgang Weber is known as the father of soccer in southern Arizona, and rightfully so.

Wolfgang's legacy reminds us of the incredible impact one person can have

in a community. Through his passion for soccer, he has enriched southern Arizona in ways that will be felt for generations to come.

HONORING MARK SCHMITT

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mark Schmitt on his retirement as the director of the Small Business Development Center at Cochise College and thank him for his outstanding leadership and support for small businesses, the backbone of our local economy.

As a former businessowner himself, Mark leveraged his deep knowledge of the trials and triumphs of running a small business to help others. Through his 17 years as the SBDC, he was more than willing to help out those chasing their own American Dream.

The center not only helps prospective owners launch their businesses, it also provides a variety of cost-free classes and services, such as forming a business plan, designing a website, and much, much more.

Throughout his time as director, Mark was instrumental in hosting workshops, pursuing grants, and advocating for the small business economy to thrive.

Mark's unwavering commitment to this purpose has truly made a long-lasting impact. I know we are all thankful for Mark's leadership and service to southern Arizona. His legacy and the invaluable contributions he has made will continue to positively influence his community and the lives of countless people. Once again, I thank him for his service.

HONORING WALTER B. GONSOLIN, JR.

(Ms. SEWELL of Alabama was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. SEWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Jefferson County Schools superintendent Dr. Walter Gonsoulin, who was just named the 2025 National Superintendent of the Year.

Superintendent Gonsoulin was celebrated at the AASA's National Conference on Education for his leadership within Alabama's Jefferson County School system.

He helped to create over 20 signature academies in the school district that exposed students to potential careers, all while increasing the district's college readiness rates and dual enrollment participation.

He is the first Alabama educator to win this national title.

As the daughter of two educators, I am forever grateful for Superintendent Gonsoulin's efforts and all of the teachers, administrators, and parents who share his mission to provide the best education possible to our next generation of leaders.

On behalf of Alabama's Seventh Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Superintendent Walter Gonsoulin. We are all so proud of him, and we are grateful for

the work that he does each and every day to create opportunities for our students to thrive.

MONTGOMERY GREYHOUND BUS STATION

(Mr. FIGURES of Alabama was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. FIGURES. Mr. Speaker, today I rise with a deep sense of responsibility to highlight an issue that is disappointing that we have to highlight.

We just spent the weekend, myself and colleagues on both sides of the aisle from both the Senate and the House and people from around the country and around the world, down in Selma, Alabama, and Montgomery, Alabama, commemorating the 60th anniversary of Bloody Sunday, which recognizes the importance of voting rights. We reflected on the lives of the people who marched across that bridge 60 years ago for me to be able to stand here today and for people who look like me to be able to have a fair opportunity to participate in our electoral process.

They were led on that day by a former colleague of many Members here, Congressman John Lewis. Before Mr. Lewis was nearly killed in Selma, Alabama, in 1965, he was nearly killed a few years earlier in Montgomery, Alabama. He was a Freedom Rider, and he was on the bus of Freedom Riders himself with other young college students at the time, both Black and White, as they came from Birmingham into Montgomery, Alabama.

They were abandoned by the State highway patrol escort that they had on that day. When they got to the Montgomery Greyhound Bus Station, there were hundreds of Klansmen and Klan supporters awaiting them who unleashed a brutal and savage attack on them nearly killing them, including a U.S. Department of Justice official who had been sent to monitor the freedom rides.

The reason I stand here today is because several years ago we had the wisdom to designate that Montgomery Greyhound Bus Station as a national historic landmark, and it was added to the National Register of Historic Places here in the United States, and the National Freedom Rides Museum is now housed in that building.

Last week, just before we went down to Alabama, DOGE, in its infinite wisdom, decided to list that building for sale. That strikes a chord with people in the State of Alabama, both Democrats and Republicans. That strikes a chord with me as someone who sits here today who is the product of the Voting Rights Act.

We think we will win on this one. We hope that they will see the logic in preserving American history. After all, just a few years ago we saw people literally lose their minds over efforts to remove the monuments that have been

placed around this country in recognition of those who fought to keep people who look like me enslaved.

I think we will win this one, but we shouldn't have to keep doing this. We shouldn't have to stand up for pieces of history in this country. We shouldn't have to stand up for pieces of history related to our civil rights, related to voting rights. We shouldn't have to deal with an administration where it seems every single week we are having to stand up again, whether it is talking about the Tuskegee Airmen and their rightful place in history, whether it is repealing an equal opportunity executive order that has been in place since the 1960s, whether it is seeing this administration hit pause on Federal scholarship funding to land-grant institutions for historically Black colleges but not hitting pause on the same funding for land-grant schools that were not historically Black colleges.

It is a shame. We should not be doing this. We have to do better. We cannot keep running the clock back in an effort to appease this administration's efforts to whitewash history.

Mr. Speaker, today, I rise in honor of John Lewis, in honor of the civil rights workers, both known and unknown. We will stand with you. We will fight for you because we will not sell our history. We will not go down silently. We will not go down quietly, and we certainly will not go backwards.

CELEBRATING 314 DAY

(Mr. BELL of Missouri was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. BELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise as this week on March 14 in my hometown of St. Louis we are celebrating 314 Day.

This day is much more than just our area code or an excuse to celebrate our hometown sports teams: the Cardinals, the Blues, St. Louis City Soccer Club, the Battlehawks. I am also going to acknowledge Mathews-Dickey and a huge shout-out to the St. Louis Stars, our Negro league baseball team back in the day, and St. Louis' own James "Cool Papa" Bell. God rest his soul.

It is not just about what high school you attended, which is also a St. Louis thing, or it is not just about the beer, which we are known to make a lot of. It is not about the gooey butter cakes. It is not just about Imo's Pizza, Vess soda, and Ted Drewes. God rest his soul. It is not about the fact that many St. Louisans sincerely believe that our Chinese food is better than Chinese food in China.

I won't even quiz you on what a chicken St. Paul with cheese is, which is also a St. Louis thing.

It is about recognizing and renewing the powerful bonds and resilience that define our community.

St. Louis is a city of complexity, a rich history, and deep contrasts. From neighborhoods in Webster Groves, Normandy, and the 24-1 communities to historic neighborhoods in North City and Ferguson and Florissant, from

Saint Ann to Soulard and South City, our city encapsulates both the beauty and the struggle of America.

We have faced challenges, economic inequality, racial injustice, and public health crises, but we have never backed down from confronting hard truths or demanding necessary change.

That is why 314 Day matters. In a country that feels deeply divided, days like today remind us of the power of community. Families in Tower Grove Park, the immigrant communities of the Hill and our Bosnian brothers and sisters in South City and South County, businesses thriving in the Central West End in Clayton all remind us of the collective strength we gain from unity and cooperation.

St. Louisans know what it means not to fall in the shadow of hateful rhetoric, but instead to rise in the face of adversity. Whether it is organizing for justice, rebuilding neighborhoods, or simply coming together to support each other through difficult times, our community exemplifies resilience and compassion every day.

On 314 Day, let's not just celebrate our history, our food, and our iconic art. Let's celebrate our city's extraordinary spirit, the unwavering belief that our greatest challenges can become opportunities for growth, justice, and meaningful change.

Today, we recommit to that ideal because St. Louis deserves nothing else.

On a solemn note, rest in peace Berkeley, Missouri, Mayor Babatunde Deinbo and his fierce passion for his community.

I wish a happy birthday to Jordan Sanders and to Justin Tatum, a former St. Louis University basketball star and father of St. Louis-born and bred NBA champion Jason Tatum. Boston, you are welcome.

Finally, I wish a very special—and I won't say the number because I don't think she wants me to—but a very special birthday to my mother, Sharon Gardner, our matriarch, the primary reason that I rise in these Halls so that I could rise before you today.

Happy birthday to my mom.

□ 1115

REMOVING CORRUPTION

(Mr. SUBRAMANYAM of Virginia was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, our Founding Fathers had a pretty clear principle when it came to corruption. Thomas Jefferson, a fellow Virginian, warned of the fate of our country if corruption prevailed. He said: "The time to guard against corruption and tyranny is before they shall have gotten hold on us. It is better to keep the wolf out of the fold than to trust to drawing his teeth and talons after he shall have entered."

There are wolves in our government and in governments all around the world. Look at Russia, where the wolf,

Vladimir Putin, has become the richest person in the country and maybe the world. It is a country where if you speak out against him, you will pay the price. If you make a lot of money, he better get half.

We see what a democracy can become. It will cease to be a democracy. The people will cease to govern, and those in power will enrich themselves.

We cannot let that happen in our country, but we are trending in the wrong direction today. The U.S. recently received the lowest ever Corruption Perceptions Index score in recent history.

For all the things this administration has done, we cannot turn a blind eye to the corruption it has endorsed.

Let's start with the profiting off of the Presidency. From the time President Trump got elected, he has used the office to actively profit from Amazon deals, branded Bibles, shoes, and digital trading cards. Then there are the meme coins, which are a perfect way for Russia, the CCP, and anyone else with an interest in influencing U.S. policy to conveniently pad the President's personal pockets. It sends a message to our adversaries that America is for sale.

How can we ever trust that decisions are being made in the best interests of the American people and not as a financial quid pro quo?

Then there is DOGE. The first thing it did was fire the very people in charge of rooting out corruption and protecting whistleblowers. Why? They would never have signed off on the administration's actions.

It doesn't stop with the administration. They have green-lighted corruption abroad by getting rid of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, a law to prevent bribery of foreign officials. Companies will now have to put corruption experts on their payrolls, and they will pass along those costs to consumers.

Then there is the normalization of corruption by pardoning corrupt politicians across the political spectrum.

Mayor Eric Adams was in a bind, facing indictment on charges of corruption, conspiracy, wire fraud, and bribery, but President Trump directed prosecutors to drop the charges. Conveniently, Mayor Adams is now steering his city's policies at the whims of this administration.

When Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich, convicted for essentially selling a U.S. Senate seat, asked for a pardon for his corruption, he got it. Blagojevich even had a name for a corrupt Democrat bailed out by an administration, a "Trumpocrat."

These actions are hurting the American people. They steal from the American people. They erode our trust, raise costs on working families, and steer us into bad policy.

Thomas Jefferson also liked to say that when "a republic is corrupted, there is no possibility of remedying any of the growing evils but by removing the corruption and restoring its

lost principles. Every other correction is either useless or a new evil."

We have the power to remedy this. With decisions like Citizens United and the actions of this administration, it is not going to be easy, but my constituents and the American people have the power to stand up and make their voices heard. They should keep speaking out and sharing stories.

Do not let this be normal. Together, we must remove corruption and restore its lost principles.

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

60TH ANNIVERSARY OF BLOODY SUNDAY

(Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, we are in a dark time, but this is no time to retreat or to despair because we have been in dark times in this country before.

This past weekend, along with dozens of my colleagues and hundreds of others, I had the opportunity, the chance, to travel to Selma, Alabama, to recall and reflect on the 60th anniversary of Bloody Sunday, where courageous Americans, many of them just children, protested for the right to vote.

In his "Letter from Birmingham Jail," Martin Luther King teaches us of the danger of indifference and shallow understanding, and yet he teaches us of the power of collective action. King warned us not just of the "hateful words and actions of the bad people," but also "the appalling silence of the good people."

This must not be a time of shallow understanding, not a time for lukewarm acceptance. I call out the appalling silence of so many of my colleagues in the face of what we will vote on today, in the face of what we have seen from this administration: cuts to veterans, cuts to families, and a threat to eliminate Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid.

I first crossed the Edmund Pettus Bridge back in 2019 with our late colleague, Congressman John Lewis. He told us then and is telling us now that when we see something that is not right, not fair, not just, we have to speak up. We have to say something. Why else would we be here? We have to do something. We have to act.

Let us recommit ourselves to the cause of justice. Let us remember the lessons of King, of Lewis, and of so many others who sacrificed so much, including their very lives, and let us do something.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 21 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

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

PRAYER

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

Holy God, You have chosen us, each of us, and called us holy and beloved. When we let that sink in, that You, the Lord of all creation would love us, we either cannot fathom why You do, or we boast in our presumed worthiness.

In the hearts of those who doubt they are loveable, let alone that You would deign to love them, through our acts of compassion, our words of kindness, our willingness to forgive whatever wrong they may have done to us, may we plant seeds that bear the fruit of Your acceptance, of Your mercy, and of Your desire to convey to them that nothing can separate them from Your love.

And in the hearts of those who believe they have a leg up on others, who assume superiority or entitlement, through our acts of compassion, words of kindness, and our willingness to forgive whatever wrong they may have done to us, may we plant seeds that bear the fruit of Your humility, Your forbearance, and Your desire that they separate themselves from anything that does not reflect Your love.

May we all be renewed in the knowledge that we are each made in the image of our creator. And may we accept Your mercy, reflect Your grace, and reveal Your love this day.

In Your eternal name, we pray.
Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. MCGUIRE led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

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

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests

for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ANNE MOORE-SPARKS

(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, we have some amazing people in Virginia's Fifth Congressional District that spend their life helping others.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to wish happy birthday to the president of the Danville Pittsylvania County Chamber of Commerce, Anne Moore-Sparks, who celebrated her birthday on March 1.

Anne is a native of Danville and graduate of Averett University and the Sorensen Institute for Political Leadership at the University of Virginia. She has lived her entire life in service to the citizens of Danville and Pittsylvania County.

As President of the Chamber, she has led the charge to build a secure economy in southside Virginia.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Anne on her success and wish her a happy birthday.

HONORING LIFE AND LEGACY OF DR. HAZEL N. DUKES

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

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of Dr. Hazel Dukes, a former civil rights champion and the former president of the NAACP New York State Conference.

After her family migrated to New York from the South, Dr. Dukes became involved in the fight for racial justice and spent more than seven decades tirelessly fighting for voting rights, economic development, fair housing, and education.

She was ultimately selected by Lyndon B. Johnson to head the Head Start program.

Dr. Dukes was an active and dynamic leader. She was someone that you will never forget. If I could describe her, I would say that Dr. Dukes was Harlem, and in many ways, Harlem was her.

Mr. Speaker, we will always remember her as an icon and the heartbeat of Harlem and the NAACP. She will always be with us in thought. May she rest in power. Harlem loves her.

VOTING ON A CONTINUING RESOLUTION

(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, today, House Republicans will vote on a continuing resolution which

will avoid a government shutdown and fund core government services.

President Trump backs the legislation so that “we can continue to put the country’s financial house in order.”

Among the benefits today, it maintains government operations without increasing borrowing more of taxpayers’ money. It increases border security. It supports veterans and ensures full funding for their healthcare services and benefits. It enhances defense investments and includes the largest pay raise for junior enlisted troops in over 40 years.

The continuing resolution is necessary to support the agenda of President Trump on behalf of American families and allows Congress to address Federal waste, fraud, and abuse.

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

HER NAME WAS BREONNA TAYLOR

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

Mr. MCGARVEY. Mr. Speaker, 5 years ago, a young Louisville woman was killed in the middle of the night by police officers who forced entry into her home without warning.

Her name was Breonna Taylor.

While we will never forget how Breonna Taylor died, we get to choose to remember how she lived. Breonna was a sister, a daughter, and a girlfriend.

Breonna was a caregiver, working at Louisville’s emergency room to save lives. Breonna was a 26-year-old with her whole life in front of her. She had dreams, including of becoming a mom someday.

Breonna loved her family, her community, and more than anything, she loved life.

In the face of injustice, we cannot be silent. We must speak up. We must say her name: Breonna Taylor.

TAXPAYERS SHOULD KNOW HOW THE GOVERNMENT IS SPENDING THEIR HARD-EARNED MONEY

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

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, over the past few weeks, DOGE has been hard at work locating wasteful spending and improving the efficiency of the Federal Government, something that has been a priority for me during my time in Congress.

For many years, I have worked in a bipartisan manner to highlight and target government waste, fraud, and abuse.

Over 4 years ago, my legislation, the Taxpayers Right-to-Know Act, passed the House and became law.

This bipartisan legislation required the Office of Management and Budget to publish an online inventory of each agency’s Federal programs to streamline duplicative programs and prevent wasteful spending on ineffective programs.

Last year, the OMB officially launched the Federal Program Inventory, representing a vital first step in increasing transparency and providing us with the tools necessary to eliminate government waste.

Along with OMB Director and DOGE, I remain committed to ensuring that taxpayers know how the government is spending their hard-earned money.

HONORING RICHARD “RICHY” PERLMAN WITH THE KEY TO THE CITY OF WORCESTER

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, on January 25, I had the honor of joining Worcester Mayor Joe Petty, former State Senate President Harriette Chandler, and other community leaders to present Richard “Richy” Perlman with the Key to the city of Worcester.

It was a moving ceremony for a man who has spent his life quietly serving others.

For over 110 years, three generations of Perlmans, have provided care and comfort to families during their most difficult moments.

As a funeral director, Richy has ensured that every person is treated with dignity and respect, honoring sacred traditions that have stood the test of time, including the sacred Jewish ritual of Tahara.

Richy’s service has strengthened our community and upheld the values of compassion, faith, and humanity. Worcester is better because of him. I was proud to stand with so many local leaders to celebrate Richy’s contributions, and I congratulate him, once again, on receiving this great honor.

RECOGNIZING MARCH 13 AS K9 VETERAN’S DAY

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize March 13 as K9 Veteran’s Day, honoring the courageous dogs who serve alongside our men and women in uniform.

The legacy of military working dogs dates back to Sergeant Stubby, the most decorated war dog of World War I.

Stubby served in 17 battles, warning his unit of poison gas attacks, detecting incoming artillery, and finding wounded soldiers.

On March 13, 1942, the U.S. military officially established the K9 Corps, recognizing the importance of war dogs.

Since then, these highly-trained canines have served in conflicts from Korea and Vietnam to Iraq and Afghanistan.

Today, over 3,000 military working dogs are deployed worldwide protecting our troops and supporting critical missions. For decades, however, these heroic dogs were classified as “equipment” and often left behind after service.

Thankfully, since the year 2000, retired military dogs can be adopted, usually by their handlers, ensuring they receive the care and the love that they deserve and have earned.

Our canine veterans have served our country with loyalty and bravery. Today, we recognize them as the heroes that they are.

REMEMBERING THE LEGENDARY DR. HAZEL DUKES

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

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the life, the legacy, and the leadership of the legendary Hazel Dukes.

Dr. Dukes was a New York icon, a remarkable role model, and an American hero who helped to breathe life into the principles of liberty and justice for all and equal protection under the law.

As an iconic president of the NAACP and the leader of our New York chapter for decades, Dr. Dukes was a fierce civil rights champion, a defender of democracy, and a powerful voice for the voiceless.

She never hesitated to speak truth to power and always fought for a nation designed to be the best version of herself.

The lasting impact of Dr. Dukes will be felt for decades to come, including through her work to launch the Head Start program nationally and her continued support for children and families all across the United States of America, fighting to make sure that every single child had access to a high-quality education so they could experience the American Dream.

I pray for Hazel’s son, Ronald, the entire Dukes family, and all who loved her. May she forever rest in peace.

Mr. Speaker, God bless Hazel Dukes, God bless New York, and may God continue to bless the United States of America.

WARNING TO COLLEGE BASKETBALL TEAMS ACROSS THE COUNTRY

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

Mr. McDOWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer a warning to college basketball teams across our country: The Panthers are coming.

For the first time in history, the High Point University men’s and women’s basketball teams have both

punched their tickets to the March Madness tournament.

The men's team clinched their spot with a Sunday night victory over Winthrop, coming back from a 15-point deficit.

The women's team punched their ticket by winning the Big South tournament against Longwood University.

Together, these teams have made history, and they are not stopping now. To anyone unfortunate enough to be facing the Panthers later this month, good luck. You are going to need it.

Mr. Speaker, I say to both teams that Guilford County and the entire Sixth District of North Carolina are with them. May they remember their values: God, family, and country. Let's choose to be extraordinary and bring it home.

□ 1215

HONORING REVEREND PHIL LAWSON

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

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Reverend Phil Lawson, a civil rights leader, pastor, tireless advocate for social justice, mentor, and friend.

From a young age, Reverend Lawson committed himself to faith and peace, studying nonviolent direct action under the leadership of Bayard Rustin. He emerged as a powerful voice for civil rights, participating in events like the historic 1965 Selma to Montgomery marches alongside his friend, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

After leading a Methodist parish in Kansas City, Reverend Lawson took a job with the city of Berkeley, California. He later served in roles at two local Methodist parishes before being appointed to lead the Easter Hill United Methodist Church in Richmond, California. His work on social justice issues earned him recognition as the Contra Costa County Humanitarian of the Year in 2003.

After a distinguished life of service, Reverend Lawson passed away earlier this year at the age of 92. He will be remembered for his outstanding character and his deep impact on this country and our community in California.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Reverend Phil Lawson.

GOOD ASPECTS OF CONTINUING RESOLUTION

(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, one of the good aspects in the continuing resolution for California, and nationally for those who like California-grown food, is a portion that will be in there

through the WIIN Act regarding Bureau of Reclamation funding for water projects in California, mainly the Sites Reservoir.

What you see here is the Shasta Reservoir and all that water going over that is actually going nowhere except out to the Pacific Ocean. Sites Reservoir's existence will mean we will have the ability to impound up to 1.5 million acre-feet of saved water that the whole State can use instead of being lost.

We have lost so much water this year due to, I think, not great management of that resource. At least 800,000 acre-feet, maybe up to 2 million acre-feet, have been lost just from Lake Shasta down the river out to the ocean.

This funding here will help build a good project. It will help California's water supply go much further than what we see happening right now. We see farms being cut to 35 percent of their allocation. We see people in urban areas being cut to 42 gallons per day because we can't manage this water supply.

Build the storage, manage the water better, and we will get a lot more wins.

CUTS TO NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

Mrs. MCCLAIN DELANEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in defense of the National Park Service, whose payroll and costs may be cut up to 30 percent by the administration in the coming weeks.

For over a century, the National Park Service has protected and preserved the stunning beauty of our country for all Americans, and these parks have further generated tens of billions of dollars for our local economies.

My district is the Sixth District of Maryland, and we are home to seven national parks, including Antietam and the C&O Canal, which has over 4 million visitors annually. This supports thousands of jobs, hotels, and restaurants.

Cuts to the National Park Service just don't hurt its employees, like my constituent Carrie Schmitt, who was laid off by the Catoctin Mountain Park 2 weeks ago. They also hurt the millions of small businesses that depend on our parks to keep the lights on.

Equally important, our future generations, like my first grandbaby, 7-week-old Charlie, deserve to see the beauty and grandeur of our geography. We must protect our parks and the dedicated public servants who take care of them.

ENSURING AMERICAN STEEL STAYS RESILIENT

(Mr. MILLER of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House

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

Mr. MILLER of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend President Trump for his position that the United States Steel Corporation must remain an American company.

Steel is foundational to our Nation's economic and national security. We must maintain a strong domestic steel industry.

U.S. Steel was once the largest steel producer in the world, a symbol of our global competitiveness, but over decades, it was weakened by an onslaught of subsidized steel dumped from overseas.

Instead of auctioning off critical manufacturing assets to the highest foreign bidder, President Trump is focused on policies to ensure our American steel industry stays resilient.

This is not about being anti-Japan or any other nation but about being pro-America and protecting our economic future and national security.

We shouldn't sell out our workers or our future to foreign corporations.

GIVE SENIORS THE CARE THEY DESERVE

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

Ms. MORRISON. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize Bob Christianson, a resident of a local nursing home in Bloomington, Minnesota.

Bob is 85 years old. He bravely served our country in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve. He, like millions of seniors across the country, gets his nursing home coverage through Medicaid. When I met Bob, he said he would not be here today were it not for Medicaid.

Now, congressional Republicans are proposing to gut Medicaid in order to pay for tax cuts for billionaires, which would mean less access to services, less access to care, and worse quality of life for seniors everywhere.

Bob told me he is fighting this proposed budget with all the effort he can muster, calling his representatives, joining local organizations, and going to protests, all at 85 years old.

It shouldn't be this way. Bob should not have to be spending his days protesting just to get the healthcare and nursing home coverage he needs.

Remember, 62 percent of all nursing home residents in the United States are covered by Medicaid. We cannot put our seniors' care on the chopping block to pay for tax cuts for billionaires.

I implore my Republican colleagues to work with us on a budget that will give our seniors the care they need and deserve.

HONORING DR. HAZEL DUKES

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

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a towering figure in the fight for justice, civil rights, and equality, Dr. Hazel Dukes, a trailblazer whose impact will be felt for generations to come and a dear friend and mentor.

For decades, Dr. Dukes was a force of nature, dedicating her life to the advancement of people of color and all Americans in the unyielding pursuit of social and economic justice.

As the longtime president of the NAACP New York State Conference, she led with extraordinary courage, wisdom, and an unwavering commitment to the cause of equality. From 1990 to 1992, she carried that leadership to the national stage as president of the NAACP, steering the organization through a pivotal era in the ongoing struggle for civil rights.

She was not just an advocate. She was a warrior fighting on the front lines for fairness, dignity, and opportunity for all. From her early days pushing for desegregation to her tireless work empowering marginalized communities, Dr. Dukes was a guiding light, illuminating the path toward justice for countless Americans.

Dr. Dukes' influence extended far beyond the NAACP. She shaped policy, broke down barriers, and lifted up those who too often had been left behind. She never wavered, never backed down, and never stopped believing in the power of collective action to change the world.

New York and our entire Nation are stronger because of her relentless dedication to equality and fairness. Her legacy is one of courage, resilience, and an unshakable belief in what is right.

Let us honor her memory not just with words but with action by continuing her fight and working toward a future where justice is not just an aspiration but a reality for all.

May Dr. Hazel Dukes rest in peace and power.

CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF MA DUKES

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

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I am deeply saddened today for the passing of Dr. Hazel Dukes. We called her Ma Dukes.

Ma Dukes' lifelong commitment to equality, from breaking racial barriers in New York to leading the NAACP at the national and State levels, has left an indelible mark on our society. She was a trailblazer. For many of us, she was our present-day Sojourner Truth.

In 1966, Ma Dukes became the first Black woman employed at the Nassau County Attorney's Office. Her tireless work for voting rights, fair housing, education, and economic development uplifted countless individuals and communities. Through her leadership and determination, she not only changed policies but also inspired generations to continue the fight for justice.

While words cannot fully ease the pain of such great loss, I find comfort in the extraordinary legacy that she leaves behind. May her memory continue to inspire us all to carry forward the work she so passionately championed.

As all of us grieve in the State of New York and across America, we find peace in the words of Psalms 34:18: "The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit."

May His presence bring strength, wisdom, and healing to all who are mourning the loss of the great Ma Dukes, a woman of warmth, wisdom, and unwavering dedication to those she served. Her impact has extended beyond her advocacy. She was a mentor, friend, and guiding force to me and so many others.

THANKING DR. HAZEL DUKES

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

Mr. MANNION. Mr. Speaker, like many who have met Dr. Hazel Dukes, you will remember the first time that you meet her, for she is a force and her presence is pronounced.

For me, it was at a dinner at the Rome, New York, NAACP, which was an area that was new to me. When I had a chance to speak with Dr. Dukes, she was warm and welcoming. She held my hands and said to me: "You are on the right side of history, and it is always the right time to do what is right. I am confident that you will be successful." Like many words that Dr. Dukes spoke in her lifetime, she was also correct, just, and right.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Dr. Dukes for her service, her faith in me, and her faith in the American Dream and American values.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.J. RES. 25, PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL OF THE RULE SUBMITTED BY THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE RELATING TO "GROSS PROCEEDS REPORTING BY BROKERS THAT REGULARLY PROVIDE SERVICES EFFECTUATING DIGITAL ASSET SALES"; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1156, PANDEMIC UNEMPLOYMENT FRAUD ENFORCEMENT ACT; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1968, FULL-YEAR CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS AND EXTENSIONS ACT, 2025; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 211 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 211

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the

House the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 25) 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". 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 Ways and Means 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 bill (H.R. 1156) to amend the CARES Act to extend the statute of limitations for fraud under certain unemployment programs, and for other purposes. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Ways and Means now printed in the bill shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any further 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 Ways and Means 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 bill (H.R. 1968) making further continuing appropriations and other extensions for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025, and for other purposes. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The amendment printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any further 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 Appropriations or their respective designees; and (2) one motion to recommit.

SEC. 4. Each day for the remainder of the first session of the 119th Congress shall not constitute a calendar day for purposes of section 202 of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622) with respect to a joint resolution terminating a national emergency declared by the President on February 1, 2025.

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

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

□ 1230

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members

may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, we are here to debate the rule providing for consideration for H.J. Res. 25, H.R. 1156, and the continuing resolution.

The rule provides for H.J. Res. 25 and H.R. 1156 to be considered under a closed rule. One hour of debate for each bill shall be equally divided and controlled by the chair and the ranking member of the Ways and Means Committee, or their designees. The rule provides for a motion to recommit for both bills.

The rule also provides for H.R. 1968 to be considered under a closed rule. One hour of debate shall be equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking member of the Appropriations Committee or their designees. The rule provides for one motion to recommit for this bill.

Mr. Speaker, House Republicans want to keep America open for business. I would like to believe nobody in this Chamber wants a government shutdown, and the bill we are considering today would keep the government fully funded through September 30. This will ensure that there are no disruptions to veterans' healthcare services and benefits or to Social Security, Medicare, or Medicaid.

It invests in defense personnel with the largest pay raise for junior enlisted troops in over 40 years. It includes funding for the Toxic Exposures Fund to treat veterans who have experienced service-related exposure to toxic substances. This bill fully funds the program that provides key nutrition assistance for mothers, infants, and children and increases funding for the WIC program. It increases funding for the FAA.

There are no poison pills in this bill. It is a clean CR that fully funds the government. A shutdown would mean small businesses cannot get their Federal loans, national parks would close, and assistance programs for families would quickly run out.

There is nothing controversial in here for my Democrat colleagues to vote against, but I am certain many of them will. My colleagues on the other side of the aisle have taken to fear-mongering. They are okay with the chaos of a government shutdown because they cannot see past their blind hatred for President Trump.

We are also here today to discuss legislation to repeal a misguided Biden rule that requires decentralized finance platforms to file a Form 1099-DA. This would include disclosing taxpayer information and transaction details these platforms currently do not collect. This rule demonstrates a lack of understanding about how decentralized

currencies and the platforms they are traded on actually work. Misguided policies like this need to be repealed, and that is what this CRA will do.

Finally, we are here to debate the Pandemic Unemployment Fraud Enforcement Act, which was introduced by the Ways and Means chairman, Mr. JASON SMITH, to extend the statute of limitations for prosecuting unemployment insurance fraud that took place under the CARES Act. Currently, the statute of limitations is 5 years, which means many of these would expire at the end of this month. Unfortunately, we saw a wide range of fraud and abuse taking place in this federally funded unemployment insurance program, and more time is needed to root it all out.

This bill, which extends the statute of limitations to 10 years, is a clear example of the House's commitment to removing waste, fraud, and abuse from the Federal Government. Anyone who is serious about protecting taxpayer dollars should agree that simply giving law enforcement the ability to continue to investigate and prosecute fraudsters is a commonsense proposal.

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I thank the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Mrs. FISCHBACH) for yielding me the customary 30 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, as we speak, prices are going up, inflation is up, groceries are up. I saw eggs for \$10 recently. Used car prices are up, other than Teslas. Those seem much cheaper these days for some reason.

Energy prices are up 25 percent in the gentlewoman's home State of Minnesota. Energy prices have increased 25 percent for her constituents thanks to Trump's tariffs that she is supporting by bringing this rule to the floor. Boy, I am just glad she is not my Representative.

Meanwhile, Elon Musk was on Fox Business this morning. He is not talking about food prices or energy prices. He is talking about how he wants to eliminate entitlements. This is the guy that called Social Security a Ponzi scheme and the guy that is laying off people at Social Security offices already. Maybe Elon doesn't know this, but Social Security is not an entitlement. It is a program that people have spent their entire life paying into. Shame on him.

Mr. Speaker, maybe Elon needs to watch the news instead of going on it because what else is going down is consumer confidence. People are waking up to the fact that Trump's trade war is going to hurt them in their pocketbooks. The stock market is going down. People in this country are starting to panic because their retirement accounts are dropping.

Planes are going down. We have had several major accidents and several close calls. We just learned that Elon Musk, the guy whose rocket just exploded in midair this weekend, wants

to fire air traffic controllers. Make that make sense.

Republicans are doing nothing about any of it. Trump spent 2 minutes in his 2-hour lecture last week talking about lowering prices. Republicans now bring to the floor this CR, basically a blank check to Trump and Musk, that says keep doing what the President and Musk are doing. We are all fine with it. No way.

My Republican friends want to pretend like this is a clean CR. It is 99 pages, for God's sake. A CR is pretty simple. The government gets funded at the same levels. Calling this CR clean is laughable. This bill cuts healthcare for veterans. Mr. Speaker, \$23 billion is ripped away from veterans exposed to burn pits and Agent Orange.

This bill defunds the police. I guess my Republican friends only care about the police when they need their votes because this CR takes money away from the police. What is another word for taking money away? It is defunding.

This CR helps fire thousands of Social Security workers, forcing seniors to wait longer for their benefits that they have earned. That is what House Republicans are trying to jam through on the floor right now. The brazenness that Musk and Trump have when going after Social Security takes my breath away.

They tried to close down a Social Security office in Chairman TOM COLE's district in Oklahoma. That is nuts. He is one of the most senior Republicans in Congress, a Republican, the chairman of the House Committee on Appropriations, and Elon went after his constituents. Chairman COLE was able to stop it.

What about the rest of the country? God help them if their Congressman doesn't run a powerful committee because that means there is nothing to stop Elon Musk from coming after their Social Security.

Republicans are really, really hoping I don't bring up this last part. Guess what they tucked into this rule, hoping nobody would notice? They did this after everyone went home. They slipped in a little clause, letting them escape from ever having to debate or vote on Trump's tariffs. Isn't that clever?

Trump's trade war will result in one of the largest, if not the largest, tax increase on American families ever. This rule gives him the ability to do it without a vote in Congress.

I get it. They are already hiding from their voters, running away from their own townhalls, slipping out the back doors because they are afraid of being held accountable for their own's actions.

Guess what, Mr. Speaker. People don't send us here to hide. They send us here to fight for them, and they send us here to vote.

Democrats are not going to be complicit in voting to screw over America's veterans. We are not going

to be complicit in voting to screw over our senior citizens on Social Security. We are not going to be complicit in taking money away from first responders. We are sure as hell not going to be silent when it comes to this administration's BS and their corruption.

What we are going to do is we are going to show up in our communities. We going to stand up for veterans. We are going to speak up for people on Medicaid and Social Security. We are going to put up one hell of a fight when it comes to the middle-class families who are counting on us to fight for them. I urge a "no" vote on this disgraceful rule and a "no" vote on the underlying legislation.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I would just like to take a minute to address one thing out of that entire rant because it is categorically false.

The Community Oriented Policing Services, COPS, program maintains a consistent level under this CR. The only variation in levels reflects the removal of previously enacted FY24 community project funding allocations which are separate from the main programming.

Claims that the COPS program has been defunded to zero are categorically false. Unlike the Democrats, Republicans remain committed to supporting law enforcement and ensuring public safety. I wanted to address that one thing.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. NORMAN), my Rules Committee colleague.

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is really laughable for the listening audience and those watching on TV to hear my good friend, Mr. MCGOVERN, talk about defunding the police. They are the party that wanted to defund the police. Their Vice Presidential candidate put up money to pay the rioters to get out of jail.

Mr. MCGOVERN talked about the military. We have had 4 years of a Biden administration that ran the military off with the wokeness in DEI. Enrollments are up at record levels. President Trump has been in office now for 49 days. Look what he has done.

My friend mentioned cutting Social Security. There is nothing about Social Security that is in this bill. My friend mentioned or I guess will mention cutting Medicaid. There is nothing about cutting Medicaid in here.

What they are doing is using scare tactics, but the American people aren't buying it. The Democrats had 4 years to have their way with the government and look what it brought. It brought high taxes, high gas prices, and high egg prices.

Why did 77 million people vote them out of office? It was because of their policies. President Trump in 49 days is bringing it back.

If the Democrats get back in control, the main thing they will try to get a concession on is to defund—they keep saying "billionaire Elon Musk." I am sorry. Elon Musk didn't make it from government. He made it from producing a product.

Guess what he has had the mind and the genius to find. The Democrats support these things that he found in the different agencies, mainly leading off with USAID.

Mr. Speaker, I want everybody to listen to see if they agree with this. For the taxpayers, what Elon Musk found was \$2 billion, which was part of a greenhouse gas emission fund. Guess where it went. It went to Stacey Abrams. Is that where the taxpayers want their money spent?

There was \$1 million to the Social Security Administration's Gender X initiative marker. Is that where the taxpayers want their money to go?

There was \$45 million for a diversity, equity, and inclusion scholarship in Burma. How does that work?

There was \$182 million in Health and Human Services contracts including \$168,000 for an Anthony Fauci exhibit at the NIH.

□ 1245

Folks, this would be funny if it wasn't so serious, \$2.5 million to promote inclusion in Vietnam.

I am not going to waste the time, but this is just a short list of how this President under Elon Musk is identifying waste, fraud, and abuse.

All the things that you are saying are just not true. I sat through this. You mentioned this was like needles in your eyes. Hearing you say these things is worse than that because it is just untrue.

What this bill does is it extends funding—and I am typically not for CRs; it is no way to do business—but it extends funding with fixed spending at 2024 levels. It includes anomalies requested by the Trump administration to support immigration enforcement efforts to deport criminals.

Their party was the one that opened the gates to America. How is that working out? How about the deaths occurring? We had the mothers and fathers of victims in this audience for the joint session, and guess who didn't stand. Nobody in your party stood. No one had the decency to stand up for the little boy with cancer who wanted to be a police officer.

These anomalies increase defense discretionary spending by \$6 billion. It cuts nondefense discretionary spending by \$13 billion. It reduces the overall Federal spending for fiscal year '25 below the '24 levels. Guess what. Do you remember the 87,000 IRS agents that were going to harass the taxpayers? This bill cuts \$20 billion out of it. It does away with it.

This President is just getting started.

I doubt we will have any support from the Democratic side, which I

don't expect. This bill is going to pass, and the country is in better shape. You had your time 4 years ago, and how did that work out for the American people? It didn't work out too good. I fully support this bill.

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman wants to talk about grocery prices? Read the room, man, or better yet, visit a grocery store. Give me a break.

Mr. Speaker, if we defeat the previous question, I will offer an amendment to the rule to bring up H.R. 1974, a short-term continuing resolution that keeps the government funded through April 11.

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, to discuss our proposal, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. MCCOLLUM).

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this full-year CR.

This bill abdicates our constitutional responsibilities to direct funding and it gives it to Elon Musk and Mr. Trump. It undercuts the separations of powers in our Constitution.

This CR cuts \$13 billion from domestic priorities that Americans rely on. Let's talk specifically about the \$2.2 billion reduction to healthcare. Here are a few examples: \$280 million cut from NIH means cuts to research and clinical trials. Fewer lives will be saved.

The bill removes congressional directions for CDC funding. That is how we detect and control health threats at home and abroad.

There is an \$891 million reduction to HHS investments. That will lead to more healthcare workforce shortages.

The ramifications of these cuts will be felt everywhere but especially by the most vulnerable Americans who are already hurting from the illegal cuts Elon Musk is making to healthcare grants and research.

This CR includes a \$17 million reduction to Indian Health Service facilities, which are already falling apart.

The bill shortchanges our veterans by failing to include \$22 billion in advance funding for the VA Toxic Exposure Fund. That jeopardizes the healthcare of our veterans exposed to burn pits and Agent Orange.

The bill cuts DOD medical research by over \$850 million. This will obstruct new cures for cancer and infectious diseases. These just aren't funding cuts. The Republicans are cutting cures and treatments and hopes for healthier American families.

This is before we know what Elon Musk has in store for Social Security disability, Medicaid, and Medicare. A full-year CR is a disaster, and it does not have to be this way.

The American people deserve better.

I urge my colleagues to defeat this PQ and bring forward a short-term CR, and let's get to work.

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ROY), my colleague from the Rules Committee.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

So here we are again. My colleagues on the other side of the aisle, who constantly always talk about the need to support a CR to "keep the lights on" now find themselves in the curious position of not wanting to have the lights on because they don't like what is happening. So they don't want the lights to be on because you have got people in the executive branch who have taken seriously the election mandate that was given to the President of the United States to end the absurdity of nonstop wasteful spending and the ridiculousness of expenditures like \$32,000 for a transgender comic book in Peru.

That is the kind of stuff that makes the American people's heads explode. There are hundreds of these examples. I can sit here and list them. The fact is this stuff is getting exposed in real time. The American people are seeing it, and now my colleagues on the other side of the aisle are trying to run from it.

That is why they don't like this bill. That is why they want to have a shutdown. After all of these years of decrying the possibility of a shutdown, you are seeing all over the news today talk about the possibility of a Schumer shutdown. What you are talking about there are news article after news article such as *The Hill*, February 11, "Democrats step up talk about using shutdown as leverage against Donald Trump": "A Democratic Senator who requested anonymity . . . said . . . the March 14 deadline may be the best 'leverage' they have," and *The Guardian*, February 15, "Democrats in Congress see potential shutdown as leverage to counter Trump."

I can insert into the RECORD dozens of these stories because the fact of the matter is the gig is up. It is much like how the American people were able to see the absolute and rampant corruption of our education system during COVID. When everything was shut down, they were watching their kids and they saw these screens, and they said what on Earth are they being taught? Suddenly the American people saw the reality of our broken education system. They saw the fraud that was perpetrated by Anthony Fauci on the American people in shutting down their way of life.

Now, you have got Democrats who are being exposed for having continuously funded this largess and this bu-

reaucracy that is completely indefensible. The American people are tired of having their tax dollars taken and dollars being borrowed by an endless stream of borrowing by this Congress. Now, you have got a Congress that is willing to work with the President to stop it, to stand up and say this is enough.

What are we putting in place? We are putting in place, oh, the horror, a spending freeze. Oh, can you believe that the Federal Government might need to tighten its belt and have a spending freeze? My colleagues on the other side of the aisle want to bring out these parades of horrors, that somehow this is a massive number of cuts because only in Washington is that a cut. You have got a spending freeze and holding basically spending in check for 2024. We have a bill that, by the way, pulls out earmarks, which are often replete with special wish lists. By the way, that is both sides of the aisle. We have got a bill here that is going to hold spending in check to allow us to do our job for the fiscal year '26 appropriations cycle between now and September.

By the way, it was Republicans who passed 5 appropriations bills off of the House floor last year and 12 appropriations bills out of committee last year. The previous year it was Republicans who passed 7 appropriations bills off the floor and all 12 out of committee. The Democrat-led Senate passed zero.

Do you want to know why we are where we are right now? It is because our Democratic colleagues in the Senate passed zero appropriations bills, not one.

So we came in here, and now Republicans have control of the House, the Senate, and the White House, and now we are trying to get things moving in the right direction, and our Democratic colleagues don't want to have any part of it. We are putting forward a commonsense measure. I understand why some of my conservative flank fiscal conservatives have concerns about a CR. I don't love CRs, but when you can have a CR that extends spending at 2024 levels for the next 6 months and empowers the President to be able to continue to do what they are doing, shining the light on spending restraint, shining the light on waste so that we can do our job and implement that—and, by the way, I will say that to both sides of the aisle. Both sides of the aisle need to take in that information and implement it when we do appropriations this year. We will move spending down, eliminate the waste. We will try to do something about the fact that in 2019 our entire budget was \$4.5 trillion, and today it is \$7 trillion.

My colleagues on the other side of the aisle have no answer to that besides, oh, magic tax cuts. You could literally confiscate the wealth of the wealthiest 1 percent of America and not dent what we have got in terms of \$36 trillion in debt. You would kill jobs and destroy the economy in the process.

That is the only answer my colleagues have to \$7 trillion in spending.

The fact of the matter is, this CR is responsible. It is fiscally appropriate. It will leave the lights on so the President and DOGE and Elon and Russ Vought of OMB can do their job, and I hope that my colleagues on this side of the aisle will support the rule.

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, that was an awful lot of words from the gentleman to announce that is he is caving and changing his position and finally supporting a CR.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MOSKOWITZ).

Mr. MOSKOWITZ. Mr. Speaker, that is exactly right. It is CR day on Capitol Hill, and what is going on with Republicans? I mean, President Trump puts out a tweet and says please and all a sudden they just flip-flop.

Let me mention some mean tweets about how Republicans feel about CRs when they are in the minority only. The first one is actually from the gentleman from Texas. It says: "It is Groundhog Day in the House Chamber—all the time, every day. Yet again, spending money we don't have" apparently only when he is in the minority.

Here is another one from a colleague comparing continuing resolutions to attending a P. Diddy party. In any given year, another colleague said that if Congress raises the debt ceiling, passes the CR, and rams through an omnibus bill, no Member of Congress should receive a paycheck. That is awkward for you guys. How many of you are going to give back your paycheck?

Another colleague said: I have never voted for a CR. You sent me to Congress to cut wasteful spending, and I am a woman of my word. You can guess who that is.

This is my favorite. What does a CR stand for? It stands for capitulating Republicans, caving Republicans. That was said by a Republican. You know what? I am going to miss the never CR group. I mean, they were great, but they are breaking up. It was great to see them live while there were together. They had lots of fans. I am going miss them. I mean, they were mostly a boy band. Some of them are going solo. It appears it is only THOMAS MASSIE. Something tells me there will be a reunion but only when they are in the minority.

To quote Representative MASSIE talking about Republicans: "I guess deficits only matter when we are in the minority." So, listen, go home to your families, turn in your voting cards, and give Trump the gavel because that is what has happened to your entire party. You don't need to be here. He tells you to do something, you jump.

What is going on in the world? Another Representative brought up what is going on in the world in the last 30 days. Let's see. Egg prices are up. Goods are up. The stock market is down.

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

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ROY), my colleague from the Rules Committee.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the sudden religion my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have found on spending restraint and the need to cut spending. I look forward to all the proposals that my colleagues will put forward on reducing significant amounts of spending and waste, fraud, and abuse. I will look for that press conference they will no doubt have some time this week.

I would also note that when we talk about continuing resolutions, what my colleague just failed to mention was the fact that literally every single Democrat voted for the CR that we just had in December, like literally every single Democrat except for one who I think maybe took a “present” vote.

The fact of the matter is it has nothing to do with that. The fact of the matter is for those of us who do not like CRs as a general principle, the fact is because Democrats literally wouldn't pass an appropriations bill out of the Senate, we are left doing the cleanup work of trying to figure out how to move forward while we have an administration that isn't at war with its own people when the previous administration was blatantly disregarding the well-being of the American people to have wide-open borders letting fentanyl and letting all manners of evil come into our country leading to the death and destruction of the people that I represent, people like Jocelyn Nungaray who lost her life to the hands of the Tren de Aragua because Joe Biden decided it was more important to let millions of people into this country in violation of our laws endangering the people.

That is why our bill has additional funding for ICE to make sure that we have got the beds to undo the damage that the Biden regime has carried out on the American people. Those are the actual facts. The fact of the matter is, no, you don't want to have a CR to continue the funding under Joe Biden because Joe Biden was at war with the American people.

Now, we have a present administration that is trying to do the job that they sent him there to do: secure the border of the United States; hold back spending; eliminate waste, fraud, and abuse; get this economy going again; get the regulations out of the way of the American people; and do the job they want us to do.

□ 1300

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS).

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, the fact of the matter is that Donald Trump's policies are collapsing our economy. Unemployment is rising. The NASDAQ

had its worst day since the COVID crash. Millions of dollars in retirement savings have been wiped out in just weeks. The reason is clear: the Trump administration's reckless tariffs on our allies.

To impose these tariffs, Trump declared a made-up national emergency under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, or IEEPA, but the law has a safeguard. Any Member can force a vote to terminate the emergency.

What happened? Speaker JOHNSON doesn't want a vote. Why? It would force Republicans to go on the record about Trump's tariffs. Instead, Speaker JOHNSON has rewritten the law in real time.

Here is what the rule says: “Each day for the remainder of the first session of the 119th Congress shall not constitute a calendar day.” What? If you don't think that makes any sense, neither do I.

House Republicans are declaring that the days are no longer days and that time has literally stopped.

The Speaker is petrified that Members of this House will actually have to take a vote on lowering costs for the American people.

This is what the American people elected us to do, but now, because of Donald Trump's tariffs and because Republicans would have to take a tough vote, Speaker JOHNSON is stopping us from voting.

If Congress can't act to lower prices, protect retirement savings, and hold the President accountable, why are we even here? What are we doing here?

A “yes” vote on this rule is a vote for Trump's tariffs. A “yes” vote on this rule is a vote to keep prices high for American families. A “yes” vote is a vote to block Congress from doing its job to lower costs.

If you actually care about lowering costs, you should vote “no” on this rule.

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

Mr. Speaker, I just want to point out that Democrats love to claim foul on Republicans for shutting off national emergencies, but they are cherry-picking the facts.

Let's take a look back at when we were in charge in the 117th Congress. They never allowed a vote on terminating the COVID national emergency. Mr. GOSAR introduced two separate national emergency disapproval resolutions, and Democrats, who were in control at the time, not only shut off consideration of those resolutions without a single vote, but they shut them off for the remaining 18 months of the Congress. Even 2 years after the COVID emergency was declared, Democrats still silenced the voices of Republicans who wanted to take a vote.

What is that saying again? Rules for three but not for me.

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, the gentlewoman just conceded that this

rule would prevent the House from voting on Trump's tariffs, thereby resulting in the biggest tax increase on middle-class families that we have ever seen.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. STANSBURY).

Ms. STANSBURY. Mr. Speaker, sometimes when I am standing in this Chamber, I literally cannot believe my ears, and I have to say that today is one of those days.

As we stand here on the floor today, I am hearing Members of the other side of the aisle who said they would never vote for a continuing resolution, that they would never vote to raise the debt, and that they would never vote for a bill that extends the debt ceiling say that we have to pass this bill.

I literally cannot believe my ears today because the GOP today is here with a great American bait and switch.

Let me explain what exactly is going on. Donald Trump spent the weekend calling our colleagues across the aisle, asking them to keep the government open until the end of the fiscal year so that they can get on with their real agenda. You all know what the real agenda is. The real agenda is that they are dismantling the Federal Government. They are firing tens of thousands of Federal workers, teachers, firefighters, veterans, military, and members of our community who are in crisis right now, and they are illegally impounding funds.

Meanwhile, my Republican colleagues who said they would never vote for anything like this are saying that they are going to vote for it because, on the side, Donald Trump is winking at them, and his people are telling them not to worry, if you pass this bill, we are going to continue to do all of that illegal activity. We can get on to the real work, which is dismantling our basic programs that support our communities.

They want to take away your Medicaid. This weekend, Elon Musk said he wants to take away your Social Security. They want to dismantle housing programs. They want to dismantle food assistance programs. They are literally bait and switching the American people and abdicating their fundamental responsibility as Representatives of the people.

The people have spoken, my friends, and there is no number of townhalls that you can run away from to know that your people in your communities do not support your bait and switch.

I say to my GOP colleagues: Do your jobs.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. I want to commend the previous speaker on setting an excellent example on addressing remarks to the Chair. Thank you very much.

Add to that list now: Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

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

Mr. Speaker, I want to remind everyone that the people have spoken. They spoke in November. The Republicans are the majority in the House. The Republicans are the majority in the Senate. They elected President Trump. The people have spoken.

I would like to bring it back to what we are actually talking about today, and that is the rule in front of us. We are discussing the rule and the continuing resolution.

As my colleague from Texas mentioned, there was not a single “no” vote from Democrats for the continuing resolution in December. They are standing here today willing to shut down the government not because of anything substantive in the bill but because they believe that as long as they are acting against the Trump administration, against the elected President’s and Republicans’ agenda, then they must be doing the right thing.

Motivation by blind hatred, that is the Democratic Party that we have before us today.

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, this rule contains tariffs, and I don’t understand why the gentlewoman supports these tariffs. She represents a district with over 50,000 farmers, the second most of any Member of Congress.

During the last trade war started by Trump, American farmers lost \$27 billion in agricultural exports. It is farmers in the gentlewoman’s district who are being harmed by these tariffs, so I don’t understand why she supports them.

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

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I think it is interesting that anytime my colleagues want to defend horrible moves by the Trump administration, whether they are trying to cut Medicare or cut Medicaid, they keep saying the people have spoken, without realizing that the people are speaking. That is why they continue to cancel their townhalls. They don’t want to hear what the people are saying right now.

Costs are at an all-time high. I came down here to tell people that if you are struggling to afford food, can’t pay rent, or the medical bills are stacking up, this bill will make your life worse. Why? To give tax cuts to billionaires and big corporations.

This bill sets up major cuts to Medicaid, which 60,000 children in my district rely on for healthcare. It steals from veterans, ripping away benefits. It steals from working people and families. It gives even more unchecked power to president Elon Musk and DOGE.

Recently, Musk said that Social Security is a Ponzi scheme. Every vote in favor of this bill endorses those words.

If my colleagues on the other side vote for this, go to your constituents and be loud and proud. Tell them that the program that they have paid into and worked on their entire life so they

can retire with dignity is a Ponzi scheme.

Republicans have been told by their leadership to stop doing townhalls. Why? The people are pissed off. They are scared. Many have been sold this BS lie that if we just give all the power to billionaires like Elon Musk, we will all be okay.

I have breaking news: The billionaires have always had immense power in this country, and it hasn’t worked out for us.

I am opposing today’s rule so we can stop the House from voting on the Republican Party spending bill that works to cut Medicaid and Medicare, Social Security, veterans benefits, and school lunches, all in favor of the ultrarich.

I know what it is like to not be able to pay for housing, to go into debt to just survive. We are not in this because people have lived beyond their means but because we have been denied the means to live.

Vote “no” on this rule.

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

This is just another example of how talking points are written before they actually read the bill because this is about a government shutdown, plain and simple. We have to have the rule to pass the CR so that we can avoid a government shutdown.

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. RAMIREZ).

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, this is about the rule so that we can get to this continuing resolution or so-called continuing resolution.

Mr. Speaker, let me tell you what continuing resolutions are. They give Congress time to negotiate budget bills in the interest of the American people.

Let me be very clear that is not what Republicans want to do here. They are proposing we skip budget negotiations and give the Musk-Trump administration a slush fund.

Their actions prove that they have more respect for their billionaire bosses than they do for the Constitution. They are more willing to hand over their power to Trump and Musk than they are to defend the power of the people. They are more committed to enabling a bully than to standing up for their constituents.

That is what Trump and Musk are. They are bullies who use intimidation and retribution to get what they want. Trump under Musk, as my colleague said, they want it all. They want to disregard the law. They want to dismantle the agencies that serve the American people. They want to destroy the programs and services that Americans rely on.

□ 1315

The bottom line is this: Republicans are using a shutdown to bully us into

giving Trump a blank check, no guardrails, Mr. Speaker, and 6 months to plunge us into further chaos. Yes, if we are in chaos, it is their fault. You control the House, you control the Senate, and you have your guy in the White House.

So let me be honest. I will not be bullied. The full-year slush fund CR is the red line.

I call on my colleagues to vote “no” on the rule and on the Republicans’ slush fund CR.

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Mr. Speaker, the House Appropriations Committee worked in good faith throughout the FY25 process, and it was the Democrats who weaponized this process, holding up negotiations on demands that were completely unrelated to funding. If my colleagues choose a Democrat shutdown simply because they hate Donald Trump and his administration, then they are showing they have still learned nothing from the results of last year’s elections.

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

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, we are opposed to the tariffs and the tax increase on American families.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. SCANLON), who is a distinguished member of the Rules Committee.

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, today House Republicans are trying to avert a funding crisis of their own making by passing a partisan Republican spending bill they drafted behind closed doors. It cuts \$13 billion from programs like low-income housing, agricultural inspections, and election security.

This bill would allow President Trump and Elon Musk to supercharge their attacks on essential Federal programs and workers, including Social Security and the FAA, with no input from Congress.

I will highlight how this bill impacts our Nation’s veterans, particularly in light of the administration’s recent actions.

Due to the success of the PACT Act, more veterans than ever before have enrolled in VA care, and we should celebrate that success. Instead, this bill reneges on a commitment of \$23 billion in healthcare funding for veterans who were exposed to burn pits and Agent Orange.

It also fails to guarantee essential programs within the Veterans Health Administration. Programs like homelessness assistance, mental health care, rural health initiatives, opioid and substance abuse treatment, oncology services, and caregiver support are left undefined and, therefore, subject to cuts or elimination by DOGE and Trump.

This is not an oversight. Our Republican colleagues are supporting this bill because it allows Musk to eliminate more programs without congressional approval.

Mr. Speaker, in just 6 weeks, over 6,000 veterans have been fired from the VA and other Federal programs. Veterans comprise 30 percent of our Federal workforce. They are among the hardest working and most patriotic employees in our country. Nonetheless, Trump has allowed Elon Musk and DOGE to fire thousands of them without cause, and more jobs are on the chopping block; 80,000 at the VA, tens of thousands at the IRS, and 7,000 at Social Security. When DOGE destroys Federal programs, it is not just cutting essential services for American families. It is also firing veterans.

Between deep VA cuts, eliminating funding for veterans' healthcare, and job cuts that disproportionately hit veterans, it appears that the Trump White House has declared war on veterans. Our veterans and their families deserve better than this.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to reject this travesty of a bill and instead pass the clean CR offered by the ranking member on the Appropriations Committee.

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON).

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly oppose this rule and the full-year continuing resolution. The CR is an act of fiscal sabotage against D.C. and is an abuse of power over a disenfranchised jurisdiction, the consequences be damned.

For the last 20 years, D.C. has been able to operate under the local budget enacted by D.C. for the next fiscal year for the duration of every CR, including full-year CRs and the first two fiscal year 2025 CRs. The CR under consideration does not allow D.C. to do so.

Instead, the CR effectively repeals the fiscal year 2025 local budget enacted by D.C., which D.C. has been operating under for the last 6 months, and it restores the fiscal year 2024 local budget enacted by D.C., which D.C. stopped operating under 6 months ago.

This unprecedented budget substitution will result in an immediate cut of more than \$1 billion from D.C.'s \$21 billion budget. This cut will likely force D.C. to immediately terminate programs and to lay off or furlough police officers, firefighters, other first responders, and teachers. This cut does not save the Federal Government any money because D.C.'s local budget consists entirely of locally raised revenue such as taxes and fees.

The CR also fails to exempt D.C. from a Federal Government shutdown in fiscal year 2026. Since the 2013 Federal government shutdown, Congress has exempted D.C. from Federal Government shutdowns because Congress recognized that shutting down a city of more than 700,000 people was harmful to the operations of both D.C. and the Federal Government.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to include in the RECORD a memo-

randum from D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser's office detailing the impact of this CR on D.C.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia? There was no objection.

REQUEST TO CONGRESS REGARDING DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA BUDGET AND SHUTDOWN AUTHORITY

OUR ASK

We are asking Congress not to reduce the District's spending levels for the District's own locally generated revenues.

We are asking Congress to include the language that was already included in the prior two prior CRs: authorizing the District to spend its locally generated revenue at the FY25 levels that the District adopted in July 2024.

BACKGROUND INFO

In July 2024, the District Government adopted its Fiscal Year 2025 budget and sent it to Congress for approval.

As part of each previous Continuing Resolution for FY25, Congress authorized the District to spend at the FY 25 budgeted level. (See, e.g., section 128 of the first CR.)

Since October 1, 2024, the District has been operating under and spending at its FY25 approved budget: This is different than federal agencies, which were approved in the CRs at their FY24 budgeted levels and have been spending at those levels since October 1, 2024.

The federal government saves no money from reducing DC's locally funded expenditures.

DRAFT CONTINUING RESOLUTION & DC LOCAL BUDGET FACTS

The draft full-year CR would reverse Congress's approval of the District FY25 spending levels and—six months into the current fiscal year—require the District to spend at its FY24 budgeted level.

This drastic funding change would have devastating impacts on the District.

The District's FY25 general funds budget (the portion solely supported by locally raised taxes, fees and fines) was almost \$1.1 billion dollars higher than its FY24 local budget.

Nearly 75% of DC's budget is made up of locally generated revenues; 24.3% comes from federal grants that all other states received.

DC's federal payment represents just 0.8% of our total budget, it is separate from the federal grants. Yet it supports critical functions, including in FY25's approved budget of \$47 million for the costs incurred to support the inauguration of President Donald Trump and \$50 million to the District's Emergency Security and Planning Fund (EPSF) which supports costs incurred by the District to support federal activities. In FY 24, DC had no funds appropriated to support President Trump's inauguration and less funding for the EPSF.

As part of its FY26 Budget formulation, DC is already making significant spending cuts. Recently revised revenue estimates from DC's Chief Financial Officer showed a \$1 billion drop in revenues across our four-year financial plan. The drop in revenues is driven by the significant federal job losses and continued impacts of remote work on commercial office market. DC is preparing to make significant reductions across its budget to ensure we can maintain a balanced four-year budget and financial plan.

IMPACTS OF DRAFT CONTINUING RESOLUTION

The draft CR would force the District to cut almost \$1.1 billion from its FY25 general fund spending halfway into the fiscal year.

So far, DC has expended, obligated or encumbered \$6.3 billion, which is 48% of the total local appropriation:

If we now had to reduce local spending by \$1.1 billion it would require a 16% cut to all remaining funds that are not expended.

It would decimate critical services DC delivers every day to support its more than 700,000 residents, 26 million tourists, and 782,200 employees that work in the public and private sectors within the District.

The vast majority of the District's workforce are people who directly interact and serve residents and visitors, there are far less overhead and administrative positions. A cut of this magnitude, by definition, would result in immediate and unanticipated layoffs of direct service workers and reduction or elimination of direct services residents and visitors rely on.

Enacting the draft CR would have immediate impacts on people, contracts, fixed costs and capital projects:

People: Many of the most critical agencies in the District have a budget that almost entirely funds people. For example, 90% of the Metropolitan Police Department, 87% of the Fire and Emergency Medical Services, and 84% of DC Public Schools budgets are for people. If the District is forced to reduce remaining spending by 16%, it will require reductions in force, furloughs, and hiring freezes across government including for our critical front-line services.

Contracts: The District enters into contracts during the fiscal year based on appropriated funding levels. If forced to reduce spending by 16%, DC would immediately have to reduce contracts that have already been awarded for a variety of goods and services.

Fixed costs: The District enters into leases, pays utility bills, and provides security and janitorial services across DC facilities. If forced to reduce spending by 16%, DC would need to immediately look at renegotiating or terminating leases and may not be able to continue to provide the same level of security and janitorial services at our facilities. It would also force deeper cuts elsewhere in the budget to maintain our ability to pay our energy bills.

IMPACTS ON DC CAPITAL PROJECTS AND BOND RATINGS

DC has a statutory debt cap limit of 12 percent of our general funds budget spent on debt service:

If we had to revert to FY 24 spending levels, it would reduce general funds expenditures by \$ 1.1 billion dollars and immediately require us to cut approximately \$600 million in projects before FY 2029 in our approved 6-year capital improvements plan.

Moody's has said it is taking another look at DC's current Aaa credit rating because of the significant federal layoffs and impacts on commercial property values:

If the draft CR is enacted, it will cause DC's bond rating to be downgraded resulting in more expensive borrowing costs:

This would also lead to immediate cuts from our current CIP.

DC's CIP is largely for horizontal infrastructure (roads, bridges, sidewalks, alleys, road safety improvements, WMATA support) (37.2%) and school improvements and modernizations (18 percent). Importantly, it also includes a \$515 million investment in the modernization of our Capital One Arena across FY 25–FY 27.

IMPACTS OF CONTINUING RESOLUTION ON CRITICAL AGENCIES & SERVICES

Ten agencies make up 70% of DC's local funds budget:

- Metropolitan Police Department
- Fire and Emergency Medical Services
- DC Public Schools
- DC Public Charter Schools

- Debt Service (payments on bonds to support capital projects)

Department of Healthcare Finance
Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA)

Department of Human Services
Department of General Services
Department of Behavioral Health

Making a \$1B cut this late in the fiscal year means large cuts in these agencies:

Being forced to cut police officers, teachers, bus/rail service, and first responders would contravene the Trump Administration's vision of making DC a world class national capital.

The federal government saves no money from reducing DC's locally funded expenditures.

THE DISTRICT'S SHUTDOWN AUTHORITY

A second critical ask is to add back the language that provided the District with the ability to spend its local resources in the event of a federal government shutdown.

The removal of the District shutdown authority provision will create significant legal uncertainty about the District's budget, which in turn will create financial uncertainty—and may create substantial operational issues for the Districts and the services it provides to District residents, visitors, and commuters, including public safety, public education, and clean city services. Since there is no benefit to removing the District shutdown provision, and great risks are created by removing it, we respectfully request that the District shutdown authority be restored in the full-year CR.

For over a decade, through both Republican and Democratic Congresses and Republican and Democratic administrations, the federal government's annual appropriations act has included a specific and detailed provision authorizing the District of Columbia to remain fully operational, and to spend at its locally approved funding levels, in the event of a federal government shutdown in the next fiscal year. (This has been referred to as the District having “shutdown authority.”)

The FY24 Appropriations Act contains the following provision:

SEC. 816. (a)(1) During fiscal year 2025, during a period in which neither a District of Columbia continuing resolution or a regular District of Columbia appropriation bill is in effect, local funds are appropriated in the amount provided for any project or activity for which local funds are provided in the Act referred to in paragraph (2) (subject to any modifications enacted by the District of Columbia as of the beginning of the period during which this subsection is in effect) at the rate set forth by such Act.

(2) The Act referred to in this paragraph is the Act of the Council of the District of Columbia pursuant to which a proposed budget is approved for fiscal year 2025 which (subject to the requirements of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act) will constitute the local portion of the annual budget for the District of Columbia government for fiscal year 2025 for purposes of section 446 of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act (sec. 1–204.46, D.C. Official Code).

(b) Appropriations made by subsection (a) shall cease to be available—

(1) during any period in which a District of Columbia continuing resolution for fiscal year 2025 is in effect; or

(2) upon the enactment into law of the regular District of Columbia appropriation bill for fiscal year 2025.

(c) An appropriation made by subsection (a) is provided under the authority and conditions as provided under this Act and shall be available to the extent and in the manner that would be provided by this Act.

(d) An appropriation made by subsection (a) shall cover all obligations or expendi-

tures incurred for such project or activity during the portion of fiscal year 2025 for which this section applies to such project or activity.

(e) This section shall not apply to a project or activity during any period of fiscal year 2025 if any other provision of law (other than an authorization of appropriations)

(1) makes an appropriation, makes funds available, or grants authority for such project or activity to continue for such period; or

(2) specifically provides that no appropriation shall be made, no funds shall be made available, or no authority shall be granted for such project or activity to continue for such period.

(f) Nothing in this section shall be construed to affect obligations of the government of the District of Columbia mandated by other law.

The shutdown authority provision allows local services to continue to be provided to District residents, commuting workers, and visitors: garbage can be picked up, MPD and other public safety agencies are able to operate at full capacity, schools can operate as usual, businesses and homeowners can get building permits, roads can be repaired, etc.

The current draft of the full-year CR eliminates the shutdown authority provision.

We have been told by a congressional staff person that the District will continue to have shutdown authority under section 1112 of the draft CR, which reads as follows:

SEC. 1112. With respect to any discretionary account for which advance appropriations were provided for fiscal year 2025 or 2026 in an appropriations Act for fiscal year 2024, in addition to amounts otherwise made available by this division, advance appropriations are provided in the same amount for fiscal year 2026 or 2027, respectively, with a comparable period of availability.

However, relying on section 1112 for the District's shutdown authority will create significant legal and financial questions and risks.

Most importantly, it is not at all clear from the language of section 1112 that the intent of that provision is to provide the District with shutdown authority.

First, it is not clear that the District's budget is a “discretionary account”—which are the only advance appropriations to which section 1112 applies. The term “discretionary account” isn't defined, and there is no obvious reason why the District's budget would be considered a “discretionary account”.

Second, even if the District's budget is a “discretionary account”, it is not clear how the shutdown authority transfers from fiscal year 2025 to fiscal year 2026, since the fiscal year 2025 authority is contingent on there being a shutdown in fiscal year 2025. And it is not clear what year's budget authorization would apply, since the appropriation is not for a specific dollar amount (which is how other advance appropriations are generally structured) but instead is based on the District's own fiscal year 2025 budget act. Would the District's fiscal year 2026 act apply in fiscal year 2026 as the advance appropriation, or would the fiscal year 2025 act still apply?

It is important to note that the District's shutdown authority provision is much different and much more complex than the typical advance appropriation provision, which would simply state a fiscal year, dollar amount, and purpose (e.g., “and further, for fiscal year 2026, \$XXX million, for continued modernization of information technology resources”).

In addition, the removal of the District shutdown provision from the CR would itself create legal uncertainty, because the courts, attorneys, and financial staff will likely believe that there was a specific reason why

Congress removed it (particularly since it has been included for over a decade in other CRs and appropriations acts).

A very possible interpretation will be that Congress removed the District shutdown provision because it wanted to remove the District's shutdown authority (not that section 1112 is a replacement for that).

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I urge Members to vote “no.”

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. GOLDMAN).

Mr. GOLDMAN of New York. Mr. Speaker, I thank the ranking member for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to the Republicans' partisan sham of a government funding bill which is nothing more than a blank canvas for Donald Trump and Elon Musk to continue their smashing and looting of our Federal Government.

There are too many things that are wrong with this bill to mention in just 2 minutes, including cuts to safety net programs for housing, food, veterans, and law enforcement, as well as essential community projects for every district in the country. What is really shocking is that Republicans rejected any and all input from Democrats, even though they need Democratic votes to pass this bill in the Senate.

If the Republicans want to go it alone, then go it alone, but they can't blame anyone but themselves when it fails.

If the government shuts down with a Republican House, Republican Senate, and Republican President, then it will be solely because the Republicans have moved forward with a terrible and partisan, take-it-or-leave-it bill.

In November, the clear number one issue on voters' minds was the economy and the cost of living. However, since he has taken over, President Trump has increased costs significantly and tanked the economy.

It gets even worse. The President has not only failed to keep his promise to help working Americans, but he has enlisted a corrupt, unelected billionaire to slash essential programs that hundreds of millions of Americans depend on.

Elon Musk isn't cutting waste, fraud, and abuse. He doesn't even know what he is cutting.

Unlike regular appropriations bills, this bill does not include the usual language to fund specific programs. What that means is that Elon Musk has unfettered discretion to cut whatever he wants.

You don't need to take my word for it, Mr. Speaker. The House Freedom Caucus issued a press release supporting this bill because of that very reality.

With this bill, Republicans are handing the power of the purse to Congress and not working with Democrats. We continue to stand ready to work together, but this bill does not do that.

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire how much time is remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Massachusetts has 5½ minutes remaining.

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

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

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, Americans across the country are angry about Elon Musk illegally firing employees and freezing Federal funds.

Rather than stand up to Musk, Republicans are giving him the power to shut down the government programs Musk doesn't like. Remember, just last night Musk said that he wants to eliminate the big programs like Social Security and Medicare. Musk also wants to fire thousands of VA employees. This bill cuts \$22.8 billion for veterans' care. It cuts housing, and it cuts programs that protect our food supply so we can bring down the cost of eggs.

This rule also endorses Trump's tariffs under the guise of a national emergency. Yesterday Trump's tariffs caused the markets to plummet, taking Americans' retirement savings with them. That is the real national emergency. A vote for this rule is a vote for Trump tariffs.

Is that why Republicans are hiding from their constituents? Is it because they are backing unpopular tariffs that will cost the average family \$2,000 a year?

Or maybe they are hiding because their funding bill cuts \$15 billion from community projects. We are losing first responder and water infrastructure projects in New Mexico.

Republicans are also defunding the police in Hazleton, Pennsylvania, in Representative BRESNAHAN's district, and they are eliminating a clean water project in Lehigh County in Representative MACKENZIE's district, just to name a few of the many projects that are being gutted in Republican and Democratic districts alike.

This is not a clean CR. It is as dirty as it gets.

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), who is the Speaker emerita.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding and for his extraordinary leadership.

Mr. Speaker, today Republicans will vote to pass a continuing resolution that hollows out our Nation's commitment to the health, education, and economic security of America's working families. Instead of working constructively in a bipartisan way to meet the needs of the American people, Republicans are trying to starve the domestic budget with a partisan bill—I am going to focus on veterans here—that cuts nearly \$23 billion in veterans' benefits in addition to slashing even more money from healthcare and affordable housing.

Indeed, the Republican CR is a betrayal of America's veterans with devastating cuts to initiatives that care for our veterans exposed to burn pits, Agent Orange, and other toxic substances.

Our Nation's sacred promise is just as the military says: On the battlefield we leave no soldier behind, and when they come home we leave no veteran behind. With this bill, Republicans have broken that promise.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on this betrayal of our veterans, and I urge my Republican colleagues to join Democrats at the negotiating table to get serious about the peoples' business. Vote "no."

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

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

Mr. Speaker, if you vote for this rule, then you own the tariffs.

Republicans snuck in a provision that blocks this House from voting on resolutions that could end the tariffs. They know these tariffs will cost families an extra \$1,200 a year, and they are scared to vote for them. So instead of letting Congress do its job, they are shutting down debate. They are hiding, and they are shielding themselves from any accountability.

Do you know who is going to feel the pain, Mr. Speaker?

It is working families and small businesses who are already struggling with high costs. It is farmers who are already the victim of retaliatory tariffs.

Meanwhile, the stock market was in a free fall yesterday, and today it is going down again. Retirement accounts have taken a huge hit. Ontario is already hitting us with a 25 percent electricity surcharge hurting families in Minnesota.

In fact, I saw a breaking news story this morning that Trump is now escalating his trade war by doubling tariffs on Canadian steel and aluminum. He and his enablers are pushing forward full steam ahead into a possible recession with no regard for the chaos he is causing in this country. That is why House Democrats, led by Representative MEEKS, introduced resolutions to end Trump's devastating tariffs.

According to the National Emergencies Act, these resolutions should be fast-tracked for a vote on the House floor. Republicans are using this rule to shut them down. I would love to hear them explain to their constituents why they are standing by while prices are skyrocketing, but Republicans are scared of their constituents too, hiding in their offices instead of holding town-halls.

□ 1330

Let me be perfectly clear. If your Representative votes for this rule, they are voting to ratify the Trump tariffs. They are hoping you won't notice while they let our economy burn.

That is not leadership. That is cowardice. A vote against this CR is not a

vote to shut down the government. We have offered a 1-month CR to fund the government while appropriators finish the budget process instead of giving up on everything and handing the reins back to Trump and Musk.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, now that we have finished listening to the Democrats' talking points, the same talking points that they use over and over to mislead the American people and demonize Republicans and demonize President Trump, I will actually focus on what we are talking about today and what is actually in front of the body. That is the rule to deal with the CR and two other bills.

Even with the additional funding for veterans and the FAA and families in this bill, it will cost less than last year. It won't be by gutting programs, as my Democratic colleagues have so wrongfully claimed, but by removing projects from the fiscal year 2024 bill so that they are not double funding projects that have already received funds in fiscal year 2024.

My Democratic colleagues must be confused because I certainly would not want to be accused of calling them liars. This bill upholds the responsibility of our veterans and ensures full funding for healthcare services and benefits. It includes the largest pay raise for junior enlisted troops in over 40 years. It supports Federal wildland firefighters. It increases funding for air traffic controller priorities.

It does not cut grants for law enforcement. It does not cut spending on family assistance programs. In fact, it increases spending for WIC by more than \$500 million, and it includes an additional \$6 billion for the Toxic Exposures Fund to treat veterans who have experienced service-related exposure to toxic substances.

This bill can increase spending on these critical needs by making sure that we are not double funding existing programs. It is really that simple.

Avoiding government shutdowns ensures that the administration can continue to identify waste, fraud, and abuse. It also allows ICE to continue deporting criminal migrants. This clean CR will allow us to focus on one big, beautiful reconciliation bill.

Furthermore, this rule provides a way for us to continue to remove waste, fraud, and abuse right now by extending the time to prosecute those who committed unemployment insurance fraud during the COVID CARES programming.

I would ask my Democratic colleagues to spare us the speeches about President Trump and the Department of Government Efficiency trimming some of the bloated bureaucracy from our Federal departments. They are about to vote against a continuing resolution in the hopes of shutting our

government down and sending every single Federal employee home without a paycheck. Maybe my Democratic colleagues just don't think DOGE is going far enough.

The truth is that there are more than 25,000 Federal employees in the State of Massachusetts whose paycheck will be put on an indefinite hold if the government shuts down. That is what my Democratic colleagues are going to vote for.

My Democratic colleagues keep complaining about how unfair this CR is to the D.C. residents, but there are over 160,000 Federal employees in the District of Columbia. Quite frankly, there are more than there should be. Yet, Democrats are going to make every one of their paychecks go away if my colleagues on the other side of the aisle succeed in shutting the government down.

I thank my colleagues, Mr. CAREY, Mr. COLE, and Mr. SMITH from Missouri, for introducing these thoughtful pieces of legislation, and I encourage every single one of my colleagues to vote for this nonpartisan continuing resolution to keep our government fully funded and hold fraudsters accountable.

Mr. Speaker, I will make it very clear: A “no” vote on this rule is actually a vote to shut down government.

Mr. Speaker, I support the rule and the underlying legislation.

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

AN AMENDMENT TO H. RES. 211 OFFERED BY

MR. MCGOVERN OF MASSACHUSETTS

At the end of the resolution, add the following:

SEC. 5. Immediately upon adoption of this resolution, the House shall proceed to the consideration in the House of the bill (H.R. 1974) making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025, 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 Appropriations or their respective designees; and (2) one motion to recommit.

SEC. 6. Clause 1(c) of rule XIX shall not apply to the consideration of H.R. 1974.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BOST). The question is on ordering the previous question.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, the Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the minimum time for any electronic vote on the question of adoption of the resolution.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 216, nays 212, not voting 4, as follows:

[Roll No. 66]

YEAS—216

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

NAYS—212

Adams	Carbajal	Connolly
Aguilar	Correa	Correa
Amo	Carter (LA)	Costa
Ansari	Casar	Courtney
Auchincloss	Case	Craig
Balint	Casten	Crockett
Barragán	Castor (FL)	Crow
Beatty	Castro (TX)	Cuellar
Bell	Cherfilus-	Davids (KS)
Bera	McCormick	Davis (IL)
Beyer	Chu	Davis (NC)
Bishop	Cisneros	Dean (PA)
Bonamici	Clark (MA)	DeGette
Boyle (PA)	Clarke (NY)	DeLauro
Brown	Cleaver	DelBene
Brownley	Clyburn	Deluzio
Budzinski	Cohen	DeSaulnier
Bynum	Conaway	Dexter

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

NOT VOTING—4

Grijalva	Pressley
Mills	Salazar

□ 1357

Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas changed his vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Ms. LETLOW changed her vote from “nay” to “yea.”

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BERGMAN). The question is on the resolution.

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

RECORDED VOTE

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

A recorded vote was ordered.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 216, noes 214, not voting 2, as follows:

[Roll No. 67]

AYES—216

Aderholt	Balderson	Bergman
Alford	Barr	Bice
Allen	Barrett	Biggs (AZ)
Amodei (NV)	Baumgartner	Biggs (SC)
Babin	Bean (FL)	Bilirakis
Bacon	Begich	Boebert
Baird	Bentz	Bost

Brecheen
Bresnahan
Buchanan
Burchett
Burlison
Calvert
Cammack
Carey
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Ciscomani
Cline
Cloud
Clyde
Cole
Collins
Comer
Crane
Crank
Crawford
Crenshaw
Davidson
De La Cruz
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Donalds
Downing
Dunn (FL)
Edwards
Ellzey
Emmer
Estes
Evans (CO)
Ezell
Fallon
Fedorchak
Feenstra
Finstad
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Flood
Fong
Foxy
Franklin, Scott
Fry
Fulcher
Garbarino
Gill (TX)
Gimenez
Goldman (TX)
Gonzales, Tony
Gooden
Gosar
Graves
Green (TN)
Greene (GA)
Griffith
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hageman
Hamadeh (AZ)
Haridopolos

NOES—214

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

Harrigan
Harris (MD)
Harris (NC)
Harshbarger
Hern (OK)
Higgins (LA)
Hill (AR)
Hinson
Houchin
Hudson
Huizenga
Hunt
Hurd (CO)
Issa
Jack
Jackson (TX)
James
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (SD)
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Kean
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy (UT)
Kiggans (VA)
Kiley (CA)
Kim
Knott
Kustoff
LaHood
LaLota
LaMalfa
Langworthy
Latta
Lawler
Lee (FL)
Letlow
Loudermilk
Lucas
Luna
Luttrell
Mace
Mackenzie
Malliotakis
Maloy
Mann
Mast
McCauley
McClain
McClintock
McCormick
McDowell
McGuire
Messmer
Meuser
Miller (IL)
Miller (OH)
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Mills
Moolenaar
Moore (AL)
Moore (NC)

Moore (UT)
Moore (WV)
Moran
Murphy
Nehls
Newhouse
Norman
Nunn (IA)
Oberholte
Ogles
Onder
Owens
Palmer
Perry
Pfluger
Reschenthaler
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Rouzer
Roy
Rulli
Rutherford
Salazar
Scalise
Schmidt
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Self
Sessions
Shreve
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smucker
Spartz
Stauber
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Strong
Stutzman
Taylor
Tenney
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Turner (OH)
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Dwyne
Van Orden
Wagner
Walberg
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Westerman
Wied
Williams (TX)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Yakym
Zinke

Kamlager-Dove
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy (NY)
Khanna
Krishnamoorthi
Landsman
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latimer
Lee (NV)
Lee (PA)
Leger Fernandez
Levin
Liccardo
Lieu
Lofgren
Lynch
Magaziner
Mannion
Massie
Matsui
McBath
McBride
McClain Delaney
McClellan
McCollum
McDonald Rivet
McGarvey
McGovern
McIver
Meeks
Menendez
Meng
Mfume
Min
Moore (WI)
Morelle
Morrison

Arrington

Moskowitz
Moulton
Mrvan
Mullin
Nader
Neal
Neguse
Norcross
Ocasio-Cortez
Olszewski
Omar
Pallone
Panetta
Pappas
Pelosi
Perez
Peters
Pettersen
Pingree
Pocan
Pou
Pressley
Quigley
Ramirez
Randall
Raskin
Riley (NY)
Rivas
Ross
Ruiz
Ryan
Salinas
Sánchez
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schneider
Scholten
Schrier
Scott (VA)
Scott, David

NOT VOTING—2

Grijalva

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

□ 1404

So the resolution was agreed to.
The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.
A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1415

RETURNING SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 3 TO THE SENATE

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I offer a resolution constituting a question of the privileges of the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DESJARLAIS). The Clerk will report the resolution.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 212

Resolved, That Senate Joint Resolution 3, entitled “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’”, in the opinion of this House, contravenes the first clause of the seventh section of the first article of the Constitution of the United States and is an infringement of the privileges of this House and that such joint resolution be respectfully returned to the Senate with a message communicating this resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The resolution presents a question of the privileges of the House.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PANDEMIC UNEMPLOYMENT FRAUD ENFORCEMENT ACT

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 211, I call up the bill (H.R. 1156) to amend the CARES Act to extend the statute of limitations for fraud under certain unemployment programs, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 211, the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Ways and Means, printed in the bill, is adopted and the bill, as amended, is considered read.

The text of the bill, as amended, is as follows:

H.R. 1156

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 “Pandemic Unemployment Fraud Enforcement Act”.

SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF THE STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS FOR FRAUD BY INDIVIDUALS UNDER CERTAIN UNEMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS.

(a) PANDEMIC UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE.—Section 2102 of the CARES Act (15 U.S.C. 9021) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (h) as subsection (i); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (g) the following new subsection:

“(h) STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law and subject to paragraph (2), any criminal prosecution or civil enforcement action for a violation of, or conspiracy to violate, section 371, 641, 1028A, 1029, 1341, 1343, 1344, 1349, 1956, or 1957 of title 18, United States Code, or section 3729 or 3801 of title 31, United States Code, with respect to any unemployment compensation claim funded in whole or in part by pandemic unemployment assistance under this section shall be brought not later than 10 years after the date of the violation or conspiracy.

“(2) EXCEPTION.—Paragraph (1) shall not apply with respect to a criminal prosecution or civil enforcement action if the statute of limitations applicable to such criminal prosecution or civil enforcement action expired prior to the date of enactment of the Pandemic Unemployment Fraud Enforcement Act.”.

(b) FEDERAL PANDEMIC UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION AND MIXED EARNER UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION.—Section 2104(f) of the CARES Act (15 U.S.C. 9023(f)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(5) STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law and subject to subparagraph (B), any criminal prosecution or civil enforcement action for a violation of, or conspiracy to violate, section 371, 641, 1028A, 1029, 1341, 1343, 1344, 1349, 1956, or 1957 of title 18, United States Code, or section 3729 or 3801 of title 31, United States Code, with respect to any unemployment compensation claim funded in whole or in part by Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation or Mixed Earner Unemployment Compensation under this section shall be brought not later than 10 years after the date of the violation or conspiracy.

“(B) EXCEPTION.—Subparagraph (A) shall not apply with respect to a criminal prosecution or civil enforcement action if the statute of limitations applicable to such criminal prosecution or civil enforcement action expired prior to the

date of enactment of the Pandemic Unemployment Fraud Enforcement Act.”.

(C) **PANDEMIC EMERGENCY UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION.**—Section 2107(e) of the CARES Act (15 U.S.C. 9025(e)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(5) **STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of law and subject to subparagraph (B), any criminal prosecution or civil enforcement action for a violation of, or conspiracy to violate, section 371, 641, 1028A, 1029, 1341, 1343, 1344, 1349, 1956, or 1957 of title 18, United States Code, or section 3729 or 3801 of title 31, United States Code, with respect to any unemployment compensation claim funded in whole or in part by Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation under this section shall be brought not later than 10 years after the date of the violation or conspiracy.

“(B) **EXCEPTION.**—Subparagraph (A) shall not apply with respect to a criminal prosecution or civil enforcement action if the statute of limitations applicable to such criminal prosecution or civil enforcement action expired prior to the date of enactment of the Pandemic Unemployment Fraud Enforcement Act.”.

SEC. 3. BUDGET OFFSET.

Out of the unobligated balances of amounts made available by section 2118(a) of title II of division A of Public Law 116-136, as added by section 9032 of Public Law 117-2, \$5,000,000 are hereby rescinded.

SEC. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE.

The amendments made by this Act shall take effect on the date of enactment of this Act.

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

The gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SMITH) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 30 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, the American people supported President Trump in November because he pledged to eliminate waste and fraud in government.

There is no better example of what President Trump is talking about than the rampant fraud the Ways and Means Committee has uncovered in the COVID-era unemployment insurance program.

This money was supposed to help workers and their families through a crisis. Instead, it was stolen. It was stolen by fraudsters and criminals. According to government estimates, between \$100 billion and \$135 billion of UI benefits were stolen during the pandemic.

Outside estimates range as high as \$400 billion. That is higher than the

economy of my home State of Missouri and about 20 other States. It is the greatest theft of tax dollars in U.S. history. So far, the government has only recovered about \$5 billion. As we stand here, there are over 157,000 open UI fraud hotline complaints and more than 1,600 ongoing fraud investigations.

This is a must-pass bill. The statute of limitations for these investigations starts to run out in 16 days on March 27. If we don't extend it, the criminals who stole money from the pockets of taxpayers, and continue to do so to this day, will get away.

The Pandemic Unemployment Fraud Enforcement Act is simple. It doubles the statute of limitations from 5 to 10 years so we can prosecute and recover hundreds of billions of stolen tax dollars. We did this in the 117th Congress when Republicans and Democrats voted unanimously to extend the statute of limitations for fighting fraud and other COVID-era programs plagued by criminal theft. This legislation deserves the same strong bipartisan support. Yet during our markup, not a single Ways and Means Democrat voted for this bill. Let me preview some of the fear-mongering you are going to hear today on this floor.

First, committee Democrats will argue that giving law enforcement more time to prosecute fraud will lead to surprise bills or targeting of innocent Americans who accidentally received an overpayment. This is completely false.

DOJ is focused on prosecuting sophisticated criminals who maliciously defrauded the government, including international crime rings, online scammers, and gangs that are using tax dollars to illegally purchase firearms and commit crimes.

This is not about going after grandma who made a mistake on her form. Anyone making that claim is simply not telling the truth. That isn't happening today, and it won't happen tomorrow. All this bill does is simply extend the investigations ongoing today.

Second, Democrats claim that rescinding \$5 million to offset the cost of this bill is a bridge too far. This is unused money sitting over at the Department of Labor. With over 1,600 open investigations, Democrats should be more concerned about what their constituents and American taxpayers have to lose if this doesn't get done.

Third, Mr. Speaker, you will hear complaints about items unrelated to this bill like DOGE or the streamlining of the Federal Government to make it work better for the American taxpayer.

I understand that my colleagues on the other side may want to use their floor time to discuss those issues, but that is not what the bill in front of us is all about. It is simply about continuing ongoing efforts to recoup tens of billions of dollars criminally taken from the American taxpayer.

A “no” vote is a vote to allow these criminals to keep the money they stole from taxpayers. It is a vote to sur-

render to fraudsters. It is a vote that says to Americans we don't care about their hard-earned taxpayer dollars.

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to reluctantly oppose H.R. 1156 that would extend the statute of limitations for pandemic unemployment insurance fraud for 5 years.

During the pandemic, criminal actors and fraud rings took advantage of overwhelmed State unemployment offices and unqualified contractors to steal billions of dollars from American taxpayers. Like the rest of my Democratic colleagues, I have strongly supported the Department of Labor Inspector General's, or OIG, efforts to serve justice and recover taxpayer dollars.

We opposed Republican cuts to the OIG budget that slowed their work. Then 2 years ago, when the inspector general recommended we extend the statute of limitations for specific crimes to allow more time for prosecution of criminal rings, we tried to work with our Republican colleagues on a bill to accomplish that.

Why then am I opposing this bill today? Just before this bill was introduced, President Trump illegally fired the very inspector general who recommended this extension of the statute of limitations and who led the OIG's work to prosecute criminal rings, securing 1,400 convictions and over \$1 billion in court-ordered restitution. President Trump also illegally fired 16 other nonpartisan inspectors general, the same officials we depend on to fight fraud and hold agencies accountable.

Since that time, we have seen Elon Musk and his DOGE team sweep through Federal agencies, firing experts, demanding access to American citizens' most sensitive identity and financial information, and levying unfounded accusations of fraud at Federal program beneficiaries, even at Social Security recipients.

One in four Americans received pandemic unemployment benefits. Many of them unknowingly received modest overpayments, often because of State or contractor errors. For example, Arkansas businesses received specific instructions from the Arkansas unemployment office about how their workers should report income on their pandemic unemployment applications. Unfortunately, this guidance was incorrect, resulting in overpayments.

Consequently, the Arkansas unemployment office applied to the Department of Labor for permission to waive overpayments to employees whose employers gave them incorrect information. These workers did nothing wrong, but the bill today would allow the DOGE team to falsely claim these workers defrauded the government and file criminal charges 10 years after they spent the funds on rent and food to survive the pandemic.

Extending the statute of limitations without a Senate-confirmed non-partisan inspector general and without any guardrails limiting the extension to serious criminals could put every American who lost their job during the pandemic at risk of harassment and accusations of fraud.

Given the false accusations of rampant fraud by Federal program beneficiaries, coupled with the administration's stopping enforcement against criminal activity by certain foreign adversaries, any extension of the statute of limitations needs guardrails in the law to protect workers who were unemployed during the pandemic.

I filed an amendment to limit the extension to cases with an expected recovery of at least \$100,000, which is standard practice at the Office of Inspector General right now. I am deeply disappointed that my amendment that would simply codify current practice was not made in order so that I could support the bill.

This bill will also cut the Department of Labor's limited budget to support State fraud prevention, including criminal identity verification tools.

As unemployment surges across the country due to the DOGE firing of Federal employees and contractors, due to the Trump administration's illegal cuts to nonprofits and theft of Federal funding, and due to the Trump trade wars, States will need all the help they can get to pay benefits accurately and to protect against the same bad actors that targeted us during the pandemic.

Mr. Speaker, given the failure of this Republican bill to protect the tens of millions of unemployed workers during the pandemic from the DOGE witch hunt, I urge my colleagues to oppose this bill until language is included that ensures that the prosecution focus remains on criminal rings and large-scale fraud rather than overpayments due to State individual errors.

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

□ 1430

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LAHOOD), the chairman of the Work and Welfare Subcommittee.

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman SMITH for his leadership on this very important topic.

I rise in strong support of H.R. 1156, the Pandemic Unemployment Fraud Enforcement Act. This bill extends the statute of limitations for CARES Act unemployment fraud from 5 to 10 years to provide law enforcement agencies with more time to go after the fraudsters and international criminal organizations.

Nearly 5 years after the CARES Act was signed into law, we are facing the expiration of the statute of limitations for holding criminals accountable.

Congress must act quickly. We cannot retroactively change criminal liability for Federal crimes.

As chairman of the Work and Welfare Subcommittee, we have done considerable oversight to investigate the size and scope of unemployment fraud throughout the pandemic.

GAO estimates between \$100 billion and \$135 billion, with a b, was lost to fraud, yet only \$5 billion has been recovered.

This February, our subcommittee held a hearing with fraud experts from across the country. One of our witnesses said that as much as 70 percent of the fraudulent unemployment benefits went to Russian mobsters, Chinese hackers, and Nigerian scammers.

A recent DOJ case involved a Pennsylvania man obtaining \$59 million in public benefits and laundering the proceeds to China. As a member of the House Select Committee on China, cases like this are deeply concerning to me and confirm our worst fears regarding the attacks on our institutions by hostile nations such as China and the CCP.

Witnesses also told us that fraud is continuing to happen. Fraudsters are now targeting the disaster unemployment benefits using stolen identities of California fire victims.

The Pandemic Unemployment Fraud Enforcement Act is a commonsense bill that doubles the statute of limitations so we can recover hundreds of billions of stolen taxpayer dollars.

Prosecuting bad actors has a ripple effect that will deter crime and prevent additional losses to the Federal Government and American taxpayers.

The DOJ has more than 1,600 open, uncharged COVID-19 criminal matters, and the Department of Labor inspector general has yet to investigate 157,000 UI fraud hotline complaints.

This bill is simple. Once the statute of limitations expires, these cases will go cold and criminals will go unpunished.

Let me be clear. A vote against this bill is a vote to surrender to fraudsters and criminals. Don't let the criminals and fraudsters win.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DOGGETT).

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, today Republicans offer a truly remarkable answer to unemployment insurance fraud, and that is to make a big cut in those who are already fighting unemployment insurance fraud and abuse.

Likely gone will be the resources for providing the States access to databases that they use to prevent fraud by confirming identities.

Once again, arithmetic is just simply not a Republican friend. They cut \$5 million from antifraud efforts that are going on today to produce a savings of \$500,000 over a 10-year period according to the independent, nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, which estimates that any additional recoveries from their sorry bill of overpaid benefits would be insignificant.

This rash Republican move comes on top of Elon Musk's slash-and-burn rampage through our government. Who knows how many civil servants have already been fired whose principal responsibility is to fight fraud; not only the fraud that has occurred in the past but some shyster who has come up with a new approach?

As the sponsor of antifraud legislation myself, legislation which Mr. SMITH has refused to consider to prevent some bilking of Medicaid, I can tell the difference between a real antifraud measure and one advanced on behalf of administration extremists who don't believe in unemployment insurance in the first place.

This bill's true objective is to penalize working Americans who, through no fault of their own, both lost their jobs during the pandemic and then received mistaken amounts of overpayment thereafter. Now, years later, instead of accepting responsibility for the failure of the first Trump administration in improperly making those overpayments done first by the Trump administration itself and in failing to establish safeguards so that there would not be overpayments, Republicans instead are shifting the blame from Trump's wrongs to workers that did not commit the wrongs in the first place.

This bill is just another part of the Trump-Musk fake war on fraud, waste, and abuse—big claims, big, big claims, no proof of genuine savings. Really it is all about wrecking programs like unemployment insurance that the extremist Project 2025 said they wanted to eliminate even though they don't actually help taxpayers.

One thing we can be sure of is that with Trump we have no accountability, no transparency, and no watchdogs. That is why he moved quickly to fire at least 17 inspectors general in different agencies, including the Department of Labor Inspector General Larry Turner.

At the very time he was fired, Mr. Turner received no cause for being fired, of course, because the real cause was they didn't want a watchdog there. He was about fighting fraud. He was prosecuting large, sophisticated criminal rings responsible for stealing hundreds of millions of dollars in other ways.

Make no mistake, if they had really wanted to target those who are taking this money unfairly in a criminal way, they would have taken Mr. DAVIS' amendment to prioritize those who are doing the most damage. I believe that Trump, Musk, and House Republican enablers here today are much more interested in brash declarations than in genuine savings.

They have made clear that their number one priority in our committee is not unemployment fraud but more tax breaks for plutocrats by shifting more of the tax burden to working families and irresponsibly increasing by trillions of dollars the size of our national debt.

I would urge rejection of this bill.

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

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

Yesterday, my colleagues introduced an amendment that would limit prosecution of fraud cases with at least \$100,000 in stolen funds.

Apparently, Mr. Speaker, Democrats want to give some criminals a get-out-of-jail-free card.

Let me give you an example of what that looks like. A woman from Rockford, Iowa, was sentenced to more than a year in prison for receiving \$45,000 in unemployment benefits from eight different States using stolen identities and laundering the proceedings through cryptocurrency.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a September 20, 2022, release from the United States Attorney's Office Northern District of Iowa titled: "Iowa Woman Sentenced to Federal Prison for COVID-19 Related Benefit Fraud and Money Laundering."

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2022.

IOWA WOMAN SENTENCED TO FEDERAL PRISON FOR COVID-19 RELATED BENEFIT FRAUD AND MONEY LAUNDERING

MENDENHALL RECEIVED OVER \$45,000 IN FRAUDULENTLY OBTAINED BENEFITS AND LAUNDERED MOST OF THE FUNDS BY PURCHASING CRYPTOCURRENCY

A Rockford, Iowa woman who received unemployment benefits in other people's names, and laundered most of those funds through cryptocurrency transactions, was sentenced September 20, 2022, to more than a year in federal prison.

Stephanie Mendenhall, age 53, from Rockford, Iowa, received the prison term after a March 24, 2022, guilty plea to four counts of theft of government funds and one count of money laundering conspiracy. At the plea hearing, Mendenhall admitted to facilitating false claims for unemployment insurance benefits, which were intended for those in need due to the COVID-19 pandemic, in the names of other people and allowing those funds to be deposited into bank accounts she owned or controlled. Mendenhall received fraudulent unemployment benefits paid through the states of Maine, Michigan, Washington, Arizona, Colorado, Texas, Kansas, and Illinois, including benefits related to COVID-19 relief funds, to which she was not entitled. Mendenhall received at least \$35,985 in false unemployment benefits. Mendenhall spent some of the money on herself, but laundered the majority of it by purchasing cryptocurrency and sending it to a co-conspirator. After being indicted in this case, while on pretrial release, Mendenhall attempted to deposit counterfeit checks into other bank accounts she owned.

Mendenhall was sentenced in Sioux City by United States District Court Chief Judge Leonard T. Strand. Mendenhall was sentenced to 15 months' imprisonment. She was also ordered to make \$46,378.31 in restitution to the states of Maine, Michigan, Washington, Arizona, Colorado, Texas, Kansas, and Illinois. She must also serve a 2-year term of supervised release after the prison term. There is no parole in the federal system.

On May 17, 2021, the Attorney General established the COVID-19 Fraud Enforcement

Task Force to marshal the resources of the Department of Justice in partnership with agencies across government to enhance efforts to combat and prevent pandemic-related fraud. The Task Force bolsters efforts to investigate and prosecute the most culpable domestic and international criminal actors and assists agencies tasked with administering relief programs to prevent fraud by, among other methods, augmenting and incorporating existing coordination mechanisms, identifying resources and techniques to uncover fraudulent actors and their schemes, and sharing and harnessing information and insights gained from prior enforcement efforts. For more information on the Department's response to the pandemic, please visit <https://www.justice.gov/coronavirus>.

Anyone with information about allegations of attempted fraud involving COVID-19 can report it by calling the Department of Justice's National Center for Disaster Fraud (NCDF) Hotline at 866-720-5721 or via the NCDF Web Complaint Form at: <https://www.justice.gov/disaster-fraud/ncdf/disaster-complaint-form>.

Mendenhall is to surrender to the Bureau of Prisons on a date yet to be set.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Ron Timmons and Tim Vavricek and was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Department of Labor's Office of Inspector General.

Court file information at <https://ecf.iand.uscourts.gov/cgi-bin/login.pl>. The case file number is 21-3028.

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. A criminal, Mr. Speaker, is a criminal no matter how much they steal from the American taxpayers. H.R. 1156 is a must-pass bill for anyone interested in enforcing the rule of law.

I yield such time as she may consume to the gentleman from New York (Ms. MALLIOTAKIS).

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

It is unconscionable to me that our colleagues on the other side are actually continuing to fight to protect fraudsters, going so far as to even say that if they just stole \$500,000 that they should not be prosecuted.

We House Republicans are fighting for transparency. We are fighting to protect taxpayers. We are exposing the waste, the fraud, and the abuse, including an estimated \$100 billion to \$135 billion in pandemic unemployment fraud, money that was paid for by the hard-working taxpayers of this country to help people who are going through a tough time during the COVID pandemic.

Sadly, my State of New York ranks near the top of the list with an estimated \$11 billion in fraudulent unemployment benefits. The precious taxpayer dollars went to fraudsters, many overseas, including China, Russia, and Nigeria. They even went to dead people and inmates in prison.

Criminals spent their money on luxury items like Rolex watches; fancy furnishings; items from Louis Vuitton, Burberry, and Gucci; and even a \$10 million villa in the Dominican Republic. One spent \$3.5 million on a mansion in New Jersey; a chartered private jet; Porsches, Ferraris, Bentleys, BMWs,

and Mercedes-Benz. Another received over \$1.5 million over a span of 10 months.

Meanwhile, my district offices in Staten Island and Brooklyn had to help dozens of constituents who had their identities stolen and could not get the unemployment benefits they desperately needed. This is about fixing something that went badly wrong to not just recoup taxpayers' money but to ensure it doesn't happen again.

This bill will help crack down on this type of fraud and would extend the statute of limitations that law enforcement needs to pursue criminal charges or civil actions and also incentivizes States to help us crack down and recover these fraudulent payments, and it puts in checks and balances to stop future unemployment insurance payments from going to incarcerated and deceased people.

To date, only \$5 billion or less, about 4 percent of this massive fraud, has been recovered. This statute of limitations for prosecuting fraud in COVID-19 pandemic-era unemployment insurance will expire on March 27, and there are roughly 1,000 open cases investigating that fraud. We must allow law enforcement to do their work.

I gladly support this bill because I am on the side of the hardworking, tax-paying American who have had to foot this bill while my colleagues on the other side of the aisle continue to defend and protect the criminals and the fraudsters.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Alabama (Ms. SEWELL).

Ms. SEWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this bill. This partisan-charged bill targets innocent workers who lost their jobs during the pandemic, received unemployment benefits, spent them in good faith to pay for necessities, and had no idea that their States made mistakes in paying their benefits.

Sadly, my Republican colleagues are using this bill to throw millions of Americans' lives and livelihoods into instability.

This financial attack on my constituents required them to then reimburse the Federal Government for a mistake that they did not make, upending their ability to pay their rent, leaving families homeless, upending their ability to purchase school supplies or make a car payment resulting in the loss of transportation that gets them to their jobs.

For people living on the margins of poverty, they don't have a financial cushion to fall back on when a surprise bill like this one is thrown into their family. It will cause major disarray.

This bill is not about addressing fraud. Republicans are simply using this opportunity to wage war on individuals themselves who did no wrong.

I encourage my colleagues to vote against this bill.

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

Mr. ESTES. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I thank him for introducing this commonsense piece of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Pandemic Unemployment Fraud Enforcement Act. Before I get into my planned remarks, I want to fact check some of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle attacking President Trump, claiming that laid off Federal workers are being prevented from receiving unemployment.

□ 1445

We have been in touch with the Department of Labor. They have published documented guidelines describing filing and eligibility requirements that make it clear Federal workers are eligible for unemployment.

The biggest risk to Federal workers is not being able to claim their benefits at all because fraudsters got there first. There have been multiple data breaches at agencies across the government, including the Office of Personnel Management, exposing the personal information of millions of Federal workers.

Democrats should be supporting this bill to catch fraudsters that are still out there using stolen identities to file illegitimate claims.

My colleagues on the other side of the aisle have insisted, despite their pushback on the Trump administration's actions, that they want to cut waste, fraud, and abuse. Today, they can prove it.

The bill we are debating is really pretty simple. We know that during the COVID-19 pandemic, many Americans benefited from unemployment insurance, but fraudsters took advantage of an overwhelmed system, resulting in more than \$100 billion in sham UI payments, including \$466 million of UI fraud in my home State of Kansas. The statute of limitations is fast approaching, on March 27, and if Congress doesn't act, these scammers are off the hook.

Our legislation today extends the statute of limitations from 5 to 10 years. With nearly 1,700 open cases, this bill gives the Labor and Justice Departments the tools they need to go after these criminals.

This should be an easy "yes" for everyone in the Chamber.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. CHU).

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to H.R. 1156.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic's start, Democrats have gone after the criminal fraud rings that stole from our pandemic unemployment insurance programs and empowered our partners across the Federal Government.

Today's Republican bill is so hypocritical. It completely ignores President Trump's illegal termination of the nonpartisan inspector general responsible for that very work. Before he was fired, it was Inspector General Larry

Turner's leadership investigating UI fraud that resulted in over 2,000 individuals charged, 1,400 convictions, and more than \$1 billion in taxpayer dollars recovered.

In fact, it was IG Turner who had recommended that Congress extend the statute of limitations in the first place. It is outrageous that Republicans now want to act on the IG's recommendation but refuse to address the illegal firing of IG Turner and 18 other non-partisan inspectors general across the Federal Government.

Further, Republicans refuse to even consider my and Congress Member DELBENE's amendment, which would have extended the statute of limitations for 6 additional months and would have allowed for the full 10-year extension only if the President either reappoints IG Turner or appoints another Senate-confirmed individual for the role.

This would have been the responsible thing for Congress to do. Keep the door open for now on investigating and prosecuting this fraud while also ensuring we have a competent, Senate-confirmed inspector general leading the charge.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on this bill.

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

Mr. YAKYM. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1156, the Pandemic Unemployment Fraud Enforcement Act.

Unemployment insurance, or UI, fraud ran rampant during the pandemic. The Government Accountability Office estimates that pandemic-era unemployment insurance fraud totaled \$135 billion. That is about 15 percent of total UI benefits during the pandemic. Other estimates estimate that UI fraud ran up to \$400 billion.

California alone accounts for \$20 billion to \$33 billion of fraudulent pandemic UI payments. One estimate put the State's improper payment rate at almost 37 percent during the first 6 months of the pandemic.

This fraud isn't just a blatant waste of hardworking taxpayer dollars. It completely undermines Americans' faith in the system, in our management of taxpayer-funded programs.

The Hoosiers who I represent expect more from their government, as they should.

Despite these egregious levels of fraud, we have recovered only \$5 billion, or less than 4 percent, of fraudulent payments. As of January, the Department of Justice had over 1,600 open, uncharged criminal matters relating to COVID-19 fraud. Additionally, the Department of Labor has approximately 157,000 open UI fraud complaints assigned to its hotline office.

Unfortunately, the statute of limitations for prosecuting these fraudsters expires at the end of March. This bill would extend that deadline for another

5 years so that we can continue to hold these criminals accountable and recover the stolen funds.

One of our most important responsibilities as Members of Congress is to be good stewards of taxpayer money. It would be irresponsible not to take every possible step to recover these fraudulent funds.

This is a commonsense bill, and I am proud to be a cosponsor of it. I urge its support. I thank Chairman SMITH for his leadership on this bill.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. 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. BEAN).

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, the COVID pandemic is over and so are many of our problems that disappeared with it, but the mushroom cloud of fraud still lingers in the air.

The COVID-19 pandemic didn't just reveal cracks in the U.S. relief programs. It turned them into sinkholes. Due to a lack of guardrails, fraudsters stole hundreds of billions of taxpayer dollars from numerous pandemic-era programs.

Mr. Speaker, \$135 billion is how much was stolen from the American people in unemployment insurance programs alone. As of today, only a paltry \$5 billion has been recovered. Meanwhile, the statute of limitations is set to expire on March 27.

Mr. Speaker, letting cheats get away with stealing taxpayer money would truly be a tragedy.

To the fraudsters, con men, and outright thieves, I have a message to you from the American people: We want our money back, and this bill is going to help us get it.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud today to rise in favor of my colleague from Missouri, Ways and Means Committee Chairman JASON SMITH's bill, H.R. 1156, the Pandemic Unemployment Fraud Enforcement Act. This must-pass bill will extend the statute of limitations for criminal prosecution and civil enforcement actions from 5 to 10 years so the Justice Department can deliver justice and go after these fraudsters and recover our money.

The only answer, Mr. Speaker, is to vote "yes." Let's go get them.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. 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 Texas (Mr. MORAN).

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1156, the Pandemic Unemployment Fraud Enforcement Act, introduced by our chairman, JASON SMITH.

It is clearer by the day that the COVID pandemic gave rise to widespread financial fraud. A prime example of that is the fraudulent unemployment insurance claims that were filed, which totaled between \$100 billion and \$150 billion, most of which happened as a result of organized crime.

Incredibly, to date, less than 4 percent of these stolen funds have been recovered. If we do nothing before March 27, the statute of limitations to bring these criminal cases against these fraudsters will come to an end, and the rest of these taxpayer funds will be lost forever. We cannot allow this to happen, and we must make best efforts to recover these stolen funds.

Mr. Speaker, make no mistake, the Pandemic Unemployment Fraud Enforcement Act is supported by both red and blue States across the country. The National Association of State Workforce Agencies, a nonpartisan association representing all States, endorsed extending the statute of limitations so that criminal prosecutions and civil enforcement actions could continue uninterrupted.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a letter from the National Association of State Workforce Agencies, dated February 11, 2025, supporting passage of H.R. 1156.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE
WORKFORCE AGENCIES,

Washington DC, February 11, 2025.

Re Support for H.R. 1156.

Hon. JASON SMITH,

Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

Hon. RICHARD E. NEAL,

Ranking Member, Committee on Ways and
Means,

House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN SMITH AND RANKING MEM-
BER NEAL,

I am writing on behalf of the National Association of State Workforce Agencies (NASWA), a non-profit and non-partisan association, whose membership is comprised of workforce agencies in all states, the District of Columbia, and U.S. territories. We are writing to support H.R. 1156, the Pandemic Unemployment Fraud Enforcement Act.

State unemployment insurance program administrators are dedicated to fighting fraud in both state and federal unemployment insurance programs. With the statute of limitations expiring at the end of March for federal pandemic unemployment insurance programs, we support an extension as proposed in H.R. 1156 to ensure that both criminal prosecutions and civil enforcement can continue uninterrupted. While an extension of the statute of limitations is critical, it is also important to our members that states continue to receive the resources needed to pursue fraud cases and support federal investigations.

Thank you for your efforts to improve the integrity of unemployment insurance.

Sincerely,

SCOTT B. SANDERS,
NASWA President & CEO.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, this bill gives States the time they need to go after criminals who commit acts of malice and intentional fraud against American taxpayers.

As a proud cosponsor of this legislation, I strongly urge my colleagues to stand in support of the American taxpayer and stand in support of passage of this important piece of legislation.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. 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. EDWARDS).

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman SMITH for his leadership on this important piece of legislation.

During the pandemic, Congress created three new unemployment benefits and issued \$675 billion in benefits to folks who lost their jobs because of the pandemic. Since then, the Government Accountability Office estimates up to \$135 billion in fraud nationwide, with some of the more egregious States, like California and New York, reporting \$18 billion and \$11 billion, respectively, in fraud alone.

Despite such rampant fraud, only \$5 billion, less than 4 percent, has been recovered.

Without H.R. 1156, the statute of limitations to recover fraud will expire in just 2 weeks.

Simply put, we cannot let criminals who defrauded the Federal Government retain over \$100 billion of improper payments. That money rightfully belongs to the American people and must be recovered.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge support of this bill.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. 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 California (Mr. KILEY).

Mr. KILEY of California. Mr. Speaker, I am quite astonished. I had every expectation I would be coming to the floor for what would be a bill with overwhelming bipartisan support. After all, COVID-era unemployment fraud was the largest fraud of taxpayer dollars in U.S. history. In California alone, it amounted to some \$32 billion.

By the way, California made it really easy. People would submit claims with the name "Mickey Mouse," or something along those lines, and it was given no scrutiny as the State ignored the basic fraud detection procedures that were recommended by the Federal Government.

Because of the scale of this fraud, there is a very small percentage of the cases that have been prosecuted, and thousands remain unresolved, so there is the need to extend the statute of limitations.

The question with this bill is: Are we going to allow those cases to go forward, or are they all going to be dismissed?

□ 1500

Are we going to hold the perpetrators accountable, or are we going to let them all go free?

Are we going to try to recover these funds for taxpayers, or are we going to allow the international criminal syndicates to keep it?

By the way, Mr. Speaker, what do you think they are going to do with the money? Give it to charity? No. They are going to use it for further criminal activity.

This is a commonsense measure. I am sure 99.9 percent of Americans support it, and I sure hope 100 percent of our

friends on the other side of the aisle don't oppose it when it comes for a vote.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. SCHMIDT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman of the committee for bringing this bill, and I rise in strong support of H.R. 1156, the Pandemic Unemployment Fraud Enforcement Act.

There is an old expression that we have all heard at one time or another about the somewhat famous bank robber Willie Sutton. He was asked: Why do you rob banks? His answer was: Because that is where the money is.

That is exactly what happened with expanded pandemic unemployment insurance during the pandemic. We all lived through it. We saw it. I had a front-row seat as a State law enforcement official at the time. We saw enormous and unprecedented amounts of money shoveled from this town out into State unemployment systems that were ill-equipped to handle it.

Do you know what, Mr. Speaker? We didn't just know that. The fraudsters, the criminals, and the organized criminal enterprises knew it, too. They saw opportunity. They saw that is where the money was, chased it, and stole enormous amounts of money. In the case of my State of Kansas, a subsequent forensic audit suggests it was about \$466 million in documentable stolen pandemic funds.

The question is, what are we going to do about it?

Mr. Speaker, I will tell you what we did about it as State officials at the time. We looked to our Federal partners. We worked closely. Everybody was dealing with a circumstance we hadn't seen before. We were assured that our Federal partners had the tools, capacity, and reach to exceed our borders and reach out and touch these transnational criminal organizations operating from overseas that stole money from our taxpayers right here at home. We deferred. We relied on the assurances that the Federal Government was going to step up and enforce the law to its full extent.

Now, here we are, 5 years later, not just by happenstance but because of decisions made in this body by people who came before us. The sun is about to set on the ability of the Federal Government to do what it promised to do because there is a statutorily enacted statute of limitations that shuts the door on further prosecutions in only a few short days.

It is within our power to change that decision and to let the Federal Government follow through on its promise to bring to bear whatever tools we have to try to recover whatever portion of that remaining stolen money is able to be recovered.

Why on Earth would we not do that? It is the right thing to do for our taxpayers, and it is the right thing to do

for the rule of law. It is just the right thing to do.

We should abandon the “see no evil, hear no evil, speak no evil” approach that is the status quo. We should adopt this bill, extend the statute of limitations, and let our dedicated Federal law enforcement authorities do their jobs to keep chasing this money and bring back whatever they can find.

Mr. Speaker, I support the bill, and I am grateful for the leadership.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

Mr. Speaker, after listening to the comments of Chairman SMITH and my Republican colleagues, it is pretty clear to me that they don't intend to stay the course, the course that led to 1,400 convictions. It appears that they really intend to prosecute everybody, the whole group, everybody involved.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my Democratic colleagues for their thoughtful comments and ongoing efforts to fight fraud while protecting workers from harassment.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote “no” on the bill so that we can incorporate the guardrails needed to balance our goals of prosecuting criminals and protecting innocent workers from harassment by DOGE or others who might misuse this authority. I trust that those individuals will not have to endure the harassment that often comes.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, the folks on the other side of the aisle were referring to President Trump firing the Department of Labor inspector general earlier. President Trump campaigned on changing Washington. He is well within his power to remove members of the executive branch at will, and it is understandable, Mr. Speaker, that he wants people in his administration who reflect his views.

The Labor Department's inspector general plays an important role in identifying fraud but does not charge cases or decide which ones to prosecute. The Department of Justice and the U.S. Attorney's Offices handle prosecution of Federal crimes. This bill extends the statute of limitations to ensure the Department of Justice has the time they need to go after criminals who committed acts of malice and intentional fraud against American taxpayers.

The criminal activity in the COVID-era unemployment insurance program represents the largest theft of tax dollars in U.S. history. This money was supposed to help American families through a once-in-a-lifetime crisis. Instead, thousands of criminals, including foreign crime rings, made off with hundreds of billions of dollars.

We know that some of these same groups are continuing to perpetrate UI fraud targeting disaster victims.

Fraudsters are filing claims on behalf of individuals impacted by fires in your State, Mr. Speaker, and the North Carolina floods, and then using the money for criminal activity.

The statute of limitations to prosecute these crimes is set to expire this month with just 4 percent of the stolen funds having, so far, been recovered. Criminals are going to get away scot-free unless we pass this legislation.

Over the past few weeks, Democrats have sued and stonewalled President Trump, Elon Musk, and DOGE over the broader investigation into how our tax dollars are being spent.

The American people are tired of words. It is time for action. The Pandemic Unemployment Fraud Enforcement Act will buy prosecutors and law enforcement more time to go after criminals and recoup the money taxpayers are rightfully owed. It is no wonder this legislation is widely supported by Federal law enforcement agencies and States.

The American people deserve justice, and now it is up to Congress to deliver it.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MCCLINTOCK). All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 211, the previous question is ordered on the bill, as amended.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL OF THE RULE SUBMITTED BY THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE RELATING TO “GROSS PROCEEDS REPORTING BY BROKERS THAT REGULARLY PROVIDE SERVICES EFFECTUATING DIGITAL ASSET SALES”

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 211, I call up the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 25) 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”, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 211, the joint resolution is considered read.

The text of the joint resolution is as follows:

H.J. RES. 25

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 SPEAKER pro tempore. The joint resolution shall be debatable for 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking member of the Committee on Ways and Means or their respective designees.

The gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SMITH) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days 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 a Congressional Review Act resolution repealing the last-minute, unfair, and unworkable Biden IRS rule that places a bureaucratic burden on the Americans who own cryptocurrency and the platforms that allow them to own it.

Congress gave the IRS clear instructions in the 2021 infrastructure law regarding digital asset reporting. The IRS was given an inch and took a mile, writing a rule that is overly broad and downright sloppy in the process.

The rule subjects decentralized finance platforms, or DeFi exchanges, to the same reporting requirements as a centralized bank or traditional securities broker. Under President Biden, the IRS traded congressional intent for a politically motivated mandate.

The Biden administration made no secret of its opposition to digital assets and America's leadership in this booming industry. Bureaucrats weaponized every tool in the toolbox, including finalizing this rule at the eleventh hour, crippling the digital asset industry and threatening American leadership and innovation in the process.

Approximately one in four Americans own cryptocurrency. This rule puts a huge burden on these regular folks and could discourage participation in the digital asset market altogether.

While workers lose, foreign countries win. Since only American companies and taxpayers have to comply with the burdensome rules, only American companies and taxpayers will need to spend billions of dollars to change their business models and report billions of pieces of taxpayer data.

America risks losing our edge to foreign companies as a result. The rule disincentivizes the very innovation that has powered American leadership in the digital asset industry. In a global economic competition with China, this rule chips away at a source of American economic strength.

There are real questions if the rule can even be administered. DeFi exchanges are not the same as centralized crypto exchanges or traditional banks or brokers. DeFi platforms do not and cannot even collect the information from users needed to implement this rule. Their software never controls the digital assets. DeFi platforms cannot exchange currencies, hold assets in escrow, or maintain third-party records of financial transactions like their counterparts, yet the Biden administration wanted to treat them the same.

As former IRS Commissioner Rettig said himself, these new IRS crypto regulations require millions of taxpayers to file new Form 1099s in a way that would “overwhelm the agency and have little or no value to effective and efficient tax administration.”

The lesson here is simple: Laws passed by Congress should be interpreted and implemented fairly, not used as a pretext to gain more control over the economy at the expense of individual taxpayers.

The repeal of this misguided rule would remove a barrier preventing American consumers from participating in crypto and help cement America’s digital asset leadership.

I thank my Ways and Means colleague, Congressman MIKE CAREY, for leading the effort to protect taxpayers from an unjustified overreach from the Biden administration.

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, back in 2021, when we passed the bipartisan infrastructure law, Congress felt it was necessary to pay for what we spent. That is a novel concept around here these days, I know. As part of the offsets to that truly bipartisan bill, we made some changes around tax reporting for the sale of cryptocurrency.

Under the tax system, taxpayers are required to pay tax when they sell an asset, such as stocks or securities, at a gain. I know that some of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle bristle at that notion, but that is how our income tax works.

Nothing in the bipartisan infrastructure law changed anything about the

tax that cryptocurrency sellers owe. Instead, we created a reporting requirement relating to the sales of these assets. When you sell stock with a stockbroker, the broker reports the proceeds of the sale to both you and the Internal Revenue Service.

□ 1515

Probably to no one’s surprise, when there is independent reporting on these sales, taxpayers are more likely to report their income to the Internal Revenue Service. It is simple human nature. When there is an independent check on one’s financial gain, taxpayers are more honest in their reporting of that gain.

This resolution today would repeal some but not all of the Treasury regulations by the Biden administration regarding the new reporting requirements related to sales of cryptocurrency. Although cryptocurrency is exchanged on both centralized and decentralized platforms, the bill today only repeals the regulation related to decentralized exchanges.

This inconsistent treatment of cryptocurrency exchanges leaves a significant gap in this reporting system. If this CRA passes, while redundant, taxpayers, who would rather avoid paying taxes on the gains of their cryptocurrency sale, can now move to a decentralized exchange knowing that the transaction would not be subject to reporting.

In fact, the Joint Committee on Taxation estimates that this bill will cost the Federal Government \$4 billion in tax revenue. That is, this bill is expected to cause \$4 billion in tax cheating. It is clear to me that this bill weakens the Internal Revenue Service’s ability to detect and reduce cheating.

Further, I am deeply troubled by the potential of this bill to bolster nefarious criminal activity. Decentralized exchanges are far less regulated than other exchanges. They are known for being a method of laundering the sales of fentanyl and human trafficking.

At the Rules Committee hearing yesterday, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle suggested that nothing is stopping Congress from coming back and modifying the rules to ensure tax compliance.

Unfortunately, given that my Republican colleagues have repeatedly promoted tax cheating by the wealthy by their repeated efforts to cut funding for IRS enforcement, this claim that they would take action to ensure tax compliance in the deregulated crypto world rings hollow.

In short, this is an unpaid-for \$4 billion giveaway to wealthy crypto traders with the potential for side-effects that are much worse.

Mr. Speaker, for that reason, I do not support this joint resolution, 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 Ohio (Mr. CAREY).

Mr. CAREY. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman SMITH for his work on bringing this legislation to the floor.

I also thank the staff of the Committee on Ways and Means for their efforts in moving this very important legislation forward. This commonsense, bipartisan resolution would overturn the IRS’ Digital Assets Sale and Exchanges Rule, otherwise known as the “DeFi broker rule.”

This legislation has broad bipartisan support. How do we know this? Last week in the Senate, 51 Republicans were joined by 18 Democrats and 1 Independent who favored it.

The DeFi broker rule, which came out at the end of 2024, implements stringent reporting requirements on decentralized finance exchanges, or DeFi exchanges.

DeFi exchanges were subject to the same reporting requirements as traditional brokers in centralized exchanges, despite the fact that DeFi exchanges don’t have the ability to collect any information that the IRS requires from individuals using their platforms. This goes well beyond the scope of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act instructions to the IRS and Treasury regarding establishing rules for digital asset exchanges.

Through this ruling, the IRS effectively imposed consumer and technology-related regulatory policies through the tax code in absence of an explicit delegation of legislative authority.

The DeFi broker rule invades the privacy of tens of millions of Americans, hinders the development of an important new industry in the United States, and would overwhelm the IRS with over 8 billion new information returns on Form 1099-DA. “DA” stands for “digital asset.”

To put this into perspective, this is more than double the amount of information returns the IRS currently receives on all forms of 1099 combined. This rule would push American companies, jobs, and tax revenue overseas into foreign countries because American cryptocurrency owners would seek DeFi platforms outside of the United States.

It is essential that we pass this legislation today to avoid this nightmare for the IRS and for the American taxpayers while ensuring that the United States is in a position to lead the world in innovation with the digital asset and cryptocurrency sector.

Mr. Speaker, that is why I am proud to have introduced H.J. Res. 25, and I encourage my colleagues on both sides to vote “yes” on this important legislation.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DOGGETT).

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, brokers who sell stocks and mutual funds have long been required to file a report in January of each year on Form 1099. They send it to their customers. They

send it to the Internal Revenue Service.

Many honest taxpayers out there right now have been collecting their 1099s from a bank or a securities broker to attach when they pay their taxes. Well-established crypto exchanges, like Coinbase and Binance, are required to do the same thing this year.

Why is it that Republicans are coming here today and saying: We want these decentralized finance crypto exchanges to be exempt from what everyone else in the financial service industry does?

The answer is two words. The answer is the same answer as to why it is we are about to see a new spending bill approved tonight.

It is the same answer as to why Republicans are insistent on a reconciliation bill that will add literally trillions of dollars to our national debt as they boast about being fiscal conservatives who are cutting healthcare in this country.

It is the same answer as to why Republicans cannot find their tongue when Elon Musk goes rampaging through our civil service. The President is responsible for dismissing more veterans than any President in the history of the United States.

It is the same answer that exists when the same rampage is undermining Social Security and the ability of the Social Security system to pay those checks that have been the lifeline for so many individuals who are seniors or individuals with disabilities.

The answer, in short, is: Donald Trump.

Shortly before he became President, Mr. Trump began raking in tens of millions of dollars in fees by launching his own meme coin, and the Trump family launched World Liberty Financial, which seeks to become a future decentralized finance.

As usual, the Trumps don't want to play by the rules that apply to mere commoners. King Trump, as he has described himself, plays by different rules for the royalty. Of course, disclosure and transparency are an absolute anathema to this administration, for whom lies are the currency of the realm.

Getting a special interest exemption from a pesky 1099 disclosure makes tax evasion and money laundering so much easier for the wealthy Republican donors who have been using these decentralized exchanges.

This bill, designed to exempt crypto fraud, is consistent with the sudden decision last week of Trump's SEC to halt prosecuting fraud against a Chinese businessman who, just coincidentally, invested \$75 million in the Trump family's World Liberty Financial. In this administration, friends don't prosecute friends, or certainly not friendly investors.

Despite President Trump's claim that he must launch a trade war and impose a 25 percent tax on Americans who purchase anything from Canada in

order to stop the estimated fraction of 1 percent of the fentanyl that enters our country from that longtime ally, today's bill opens the door to rewarding drug traffickers in fentanyl, cocaine, and whatever, as well as terrorists.

My colleagues need not take my word for it. We can turn to a Republican, Senator BILL CASSIDY of Louisiana, who said: "Cryptocurrency has played an increasingly prominent role in the global fentanyl trade . . . both in terms of . . . manufacturing and trafficking of fentanyl and in laundering drug cartels' criminal proceeds."

He says: "This is particularly true of so-called 'decentralized' crypto exchanges," for which this bill provides a totally unjustified special treatment.

According to the nonpartisan FACT Coalition, cryptocurrency is becoming attractive to hostile actors like Hamas, who seek ways to sidestep sanctions. The risks are especially severe with decentralized finance platforms, which are enabled to operate outside the traditional regulatory oversight that applies to others.

I further note that, when we talk about fiscal responsibility, this bill will add \$4 billion to our national debt. Republicans can't even question that. It is like the \$8 billion in one of the gifts the majority gave to the oil industry last week.

With \$4 billion here, \$8 billion there, and \$4 trillion or so with the Republican tax bill to provide more tax breaks to people like Elon Musk and the people who were seated in the front row at the President's inauguration, it adds up. Those Republicans who have been telling us that we have a great national security problem with our national debt are so concerned about it that they are going to add trillions of dollars more, and \$4 billion is nothing to ignore, which this bill does and does not pay for.

We should reject this new Trump special interest legislation that will just result in more corruption in this administration, a loophole that would be exploited by wealthy tax cheats, drug traffickers, and terrorist financiers, for which there is absolutely no reasonable justification.

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

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

Mr. MILLER of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman SMITH for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, the IRS' DeFi broker rule is a misguided and overreaching attempt to impose financial reporting requirements, which represents a fundamental misunderstanding of digital assets and its underlying technology.

DeFi protocols are not brokers. They don't facilitate transactions like traditional financial institutions, nor can they collect and report user information. DeFi protocols provide infrastructure.

Expecting them to track and report user activity is both impractical and misaligned with the core function of what they do. Yet, the IRS wants to force software developers, validators, and even everyday users into compliance with regulations that simply don't fit.

This is the equivalent of requiring the builders of our interstate highways to report the identity of every driver who uses them. It is unworkable, it is unfair, and it completely misses the mark.

This rule would drive U.S. blockchain innovation overseas, killing jobs and stifling economic growth, while doing little to increase tax compliance. Congress should lead in crafting clear, workable regulations that protect consumers, ensuring that innovation isn't stifled and compliance remains practical.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" and do away with this unworkable rule.

□ 1530

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. 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. MOORE).

Mr. MOORE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.J. Res. 25, which overturns the Biden administration's misguided attempt to impose unworkable reporting requirements on the digital asset industry.

In November, the American people sent a very clear message. They were tired of the far-left policies of the Biden administration. They gave President Trump a mandate to turn our country around.

Despite this clear mandate and warnings from committees, the Biden administration pressed forward with partisan midnight rulemaking.

Last December, the Internal Revenue Service finalized a rule requiring decentralized platforms to facilitate digital asset transactions to report user data to the IRS.

While the Biden administration claimed this rule was about improving tax compliance, in reality, it goes far beyond what Congress ever intended.

This rule would place impossible burdens on software developers, threaten American leadership in digital asset innovation, and ultimately drive entrepreneurs and investors overseas.

We cannot continue the Biden-era policies that crush innovation and put American companies at a disadvantage. That is why I support H.J. Res. 25, which repeals this harmful IRS rule and allows Congress to develop a targeted, commonsense framework that protects both consumer privacy and American innovation.

This resolution is backed by over 117 industry leaders, including the Blockchain Association, Coinbase, and the Crypto Council for Innovation.

Empowering innovation, not stifling it, is key to keeping America competitive.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to stand with American entrepreneurs and innovators by supporting H.J. Res. 25.

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

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the heartfelt arguments from my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, but at the end of the day, it is hard for me to overcome the fact that this bill would add \$4 billion to the deficit solely due to taxpayer noncompliance.

If Republicans have a meaningful solution to address this noncompliance, we look forward to working with them on it, but embracing tax cheating by completely throwing these rules out is simply not the answer.

Mr. Speaker, for that reason, I do not support this joint resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Earlier this afternoon, the other Chamber was reminded that the Constitution says all revenue measures must originate in the House of Representatives.

The Senate must have been just so excited about this bipartisan CRA that they couldn't wait another minute, but that is okay. Whether it is the CRA or the budget, I guess they will just have to vote again.

Mr. Speaker, the repeal of the Biden IRS rule is a victory for common sense. The Federal Government shouldn't demand decentralized finance platforms, used by ordinary Americans to buy and sell cryptocurrency, to fill out forms when those platforms don't collect the information needed for the form. Neither the American people nor the IRS are equipped to handle the demands of this unworkable rule.

These platforms are not like banks. They are not like security brokers, yet this rule treats them as if they are.

In order to justify the burden placed on ordinary people, Mr. Speaker, the Biden IRS stretched and twisted congressional intent to enact regulations designed to cripple the digital asset industry.

I urge all of my colleagues to vote for this bill and help dismantle the politically motivated regulations from the last administration.

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

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, there are concerns with the IRS Final Rule, in that it may exceed the scope provided for in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. The rule also raises important issues that warrant further scrutiny, including its potential impact on innovation and privacy.

However, as the Congressional Review Act (CRA) would not only repeal the current rule but also prohibits the agency from issuing any similar regulation in the future without explicit congressional authorization, I think a "Yes" vote goes too far. While I acknowledge flaws in the current rule, I believe that additional

study could be useful. It is impossible that a more tailored rule aimed at appropriate tax compliance in the digital assets space could be appropriate. At a minimum, we should not completely forgo that possibility, without further study.

For these reasons, I will be voting "Present" on H.J. Res 25.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 211, the previous question is ordered on the joint resolution.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the joint resolution.

The joint resolution was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MOORE of North Carolina). The question is on passage of the joint resolution.

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

FULL-YEAR CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS AND EXTENSIONS ACT, 2025

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 211, I call up the bill (H.R. 1968) making further continuing appropriations and other extensions for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 211, the amendment printed in House Report 119-15 is adopted, and the bill, as amended, is considered read.

The text of the bill, as amended, is as follows:

H.R. 1968

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 "Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025".

SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title.

Sec. 2. Table of contents.

Sec. 3. References.

DIVISION A—FULL-YEAR CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2025

TITLE I—GENERAL PROVISIONS

TITLE II—AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES

TITLE III—COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES

TITLE IV—DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TITLE V—ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES

TITLE VI—FINANCIAL SERVICES AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT

TITLE VII—DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

TITLE VIII—DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES

TITLE IX—DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES

TITLE X—LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

TITLE XI—MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED AGENCIES

TITLE XII—DEPARTMENT OF STATE, FOREIGN OPERATIONS, AND RELATED PROGRAMS

TITLE XIII—TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES

DIVISION B—HEALTH

TITLE I—PUBLIC HEALTH EXTENDERS

Sec. 2101. Extension for community health centers, National Health Service Corps, and teaching health centers that operate GME programs.

Sec. 2102. Extension of special diabetes programs.

Sec. 2103. National health security extensions.

TITLE II—MEDICARE

Sec. 2201. Extension of increased inpatient hospital payment adjustment for certain low-volume hospitals.

Sec. 2202. Extension of the Medicare-dependent hospital (MDH) program.

Sec. 2203. Extension of add-on payments for ambulance services.

Sec. 2204. Extension of funding for quality measure endorsement, input, and selection.

Sec. 2205. Extension of funding outreach and assistance for low-income programs.

Sec. 2206. Extension of the work geographic index floor.

Sec. 2207. Extension of certain telehealth flexibilities.

Sec. 2208. Extending acute hospital care at home waiver authorities.

Sec. 2209. Extension of temporary inclusion of authorized oral antiviral drugs as covered part D drugs.

Sec. 2210. Medicare improvement fund.

Sec. 2211. Medicare sequestration.

TITLE III—HUMAN SERVICES

Sec. 2301. Sexual risk avoidance education extension.

Sec. 2302. Personal responsibility education extension.

Sec. 2303. Extension of funding for family-to-family health information centers.

TITLE IV—MEDICAID

Sec. 2401. Delaying Medicaid DSH reductions.

DIVISION C—OTHER MATTERS

Sec. 3101. Commodity futures trading commission whistleblower program.

- Sec. 3102. Protection of certain facilities and assets from unmanned aircraft.
- Sec. 3103. Additional special assessment.
- Sec. 3104. National cybersecurity protection system authorization.
- Sec. 3105. Extension of temporary order for fentanyl-related substances.
- Sec. 3106. Budgetary effects.

SEC. 3. REFERENCES.

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

DIVISION A—FULL-YEAR CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2025

The following sums are hereby appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, and out of applicable corporate or other revenues, receipts, and funds, for the several departments, agencies, corporations, and other organizational units of Government for fiscal year 2025, and for other purposes, namely:

TITLE I—GENERAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 1101. (a) Such amounts as may be necessary, at the level specified in subsection (c) and under the authority and conditions provided in applicable appropriations Acts for fiscal year 2024, for projects or activities (including the costs of direct loans and loan guarantees) that are not otherwise specifically provided for, and for which appropriations, funds, or other authority were made available in the following appropriations Acts:

(1) The Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2024 (division B of Public Law 118–42).

(2) The Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2024 (division C of Public Law 118–42), except section 510 shall be applied by substituting “\$1,900,000,000” for “\$1,353,000,000”, except section 521(a)(1) shall be applied by substituting “\$30,000,000” for “\$35,000,000”, except section 521(a)(4) shall be applied by substituting “\$9,560,000,000” for “\$12,440,000,000”, except section 521(b)(3) shall be applied by substituting “\$15,000,000” for “\$5,000,000”, except section 521(b)(4) shall be applied by substituting “\$125,000,000” for “\$120,000,000”, except section 521(b)(5) shall be applied by substituting “\$20,000,000” for “\$15,000,000”, except section 521(c)(1) shall be applied by substituting “\$300,000,000” for “\$131,572,000”, except section 521(c)(2) shall be applied by substituting “\$250,000,000” for “\$500,000,000”, except section 521(f) shall be applied by inserting “ or title II of division C of Public Law 118–42” after “117–328”, and except sections 222, 521(a)(2), 521(a)(3), 521(a)(5), 521(b)(1), and 521(b)(2).

(3) The Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2024 (division A of Public Law 118–47).

(4) The Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2024 (division D of Public Law 118–42), except the third proviso under the heading “Corps of Engineers—Civil—Construction”, and except sections 307, 311, and 312.

(5) The Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act, 2024 (division B of Public Law 118–47), except section 635 shall be applied by substituting “\$400,000,000” for “\$387,500,000”, except the last proviso under the heading “Federal Payment for Defender Services in District of Columbia Courts” shall be applied by substituting “\$12,000,000” for “\$25,000,000”, and except sections 636, 637, 638, and 639.

(6) The Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2024 (division C of Public Law 118–47), except sections 543 through 546,

and including sections 102 through 105 of title I of division G of Public Law 118–47.

(7) The Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2024 (division E of Public Law 118–42), except the fourth and fifth paragraphs under the heading “National Park Service—Administrative Provisions”, except the eighteenth proviso under the first paragraph under the heading “Environmental Protection Agency—State and Tribal Assistance Grants”, and except sections 446 through 448.

(8) The Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2024 (division D of Public Law 118–47), except section 240 shall be applied by substituting “\$1,471,000,000” for “\$1,250,000,000” and by substituting “2025, except that no amounts may be rescinded from amounts that were previously designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to a concurrent resolution on the budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985” for “2024” in such section, except sections 241 and 310, except the amount included in section 528 shall be applied by substituting “\$13,059,000,000” for “\$14,224,000,000”, and except the amount included in section 529 shall be applied by substituting “\$160,000,000” for “\$4,309,000,000”.

(9) The Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2024 (division E of Public Law 118–47), except the matter under the heading “Joint Items, Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies of 2025”, and including section 7 in the matter preceding division A of Public Law 118–47.

(10) The Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2024 (division A of Public Law 118–42), except the second provisos under the headings “Veterans Health Administration, Medical Services”, “Veterans Health Administration, Medical Community Care”, and “Veterans Health Administration, Medical Support and Compliance”.

(11) The Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2024 (division F of Public Law 118–47), except sections 7074(e) and 7075(a).

(12) The Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2024 (division F of Public Law 118–42), except sections 108, 109B, 119G, 125, 154, 165, 171, and 236.

(b) For purposes of this division, the term “level” means an amount.

(c) The level referred to in subsection (a) shall be the amounts appropriated in the appropriations Acts referred to in such subsection, including transfers and obligation limitations.

SEC. 1102. Appropriations made by section 1101 shall be available to the extent and in the manner that would be provided by the pertinent appropriations Act.

SEC. 1103. Appropriations provided by this division that, in the applicable appropriations Act for fiscal year 2024, carried a multiple-year or no-year period of availability shall retain a comparable period of availability.

SEC. 1104. No appropriation or funds made available or authority granted pursuant to section 1101 shall be used to initiate or resume any project or activity for which appropriations, funds, or other authority were specifically prohibited during fiscal year 2024.

SEC. 1105. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this division, the requirements, authorities, conditions, limitations, and other provisions of the appropriations Acts referred to in section 1101 shall continue in effect through the date specified in section 1106.

SEC. 1106. Unless otherwise provided for in this division or in the applicable appropria-

tions Act, appropriations and funds made available and authority granted pursuant to this division shall be available through September 30, 2025.

SEC. 1107. Expenditures made pursuant to the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2025 (Public Law 118–83) shall be charged to the applicable appropriation, fund, or authorization provided by this division.

SEC. 1108. Funds appropriated by this division may be obligated and expended notwithstanding section 10 of Public Law 91–672 (22 U.S.C. 2412), section 15 of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2680), section 313 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1994 and 1995 (22 U.S.C. 6212), and section 504(a)(1) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3094(a)(1)).

SEC. 1109. (a) For entitlements and other mandatory payments whose budget authority was provided in appropriations Acts for fiscal year 2024, and for activities under the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, the levels established by section 1101 shall be the amounts necessary to maintain program levels under current law and under the authority and conditions provided in the applicable appropriations Acts for fiscal year 2024.

(b) In addition to the amounts otherwise provided by section 1101, the following amounts shall be available for the following accounts for advance payments for the first quarter of fiscal year 2026:

(1) “Department of Labor—Office of Workers’ Compensation Programs—Special Benefits for Disabled Coal Miners”, for benefit payments under title IV of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977, \$6,000,000, to remain available until expended.

(2) “Department of Health and Human Services—Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services—Grants to States for Medicaid”, for payments to States or in the case of section 1928 on behalf of States under title XIX of the Social Security Act, \$261,063,820,000, to remain available until expended.

(3) “Department of Health and Human Services—Administration for Children and Families—Payments to States for Child Support Enforcement and Family Support Programs”, for payments to States or other non-Federal entities under titles I, IV–D, X, XI, XIV, and XVI of the Social Security Act and the Act of July 5, 1960 (24 U.S.C. ch. 9), \$1,600,000,000, to remain available until expended.

(4) “Department of Health and Human Services—Administration for Children and Families—Payments for Foster Care and Permanency”, for payments to States or other non-Federal entities under title IV–E of the Social Security Act, \$3,600,000,000.

(5) “Social Security Administration—Supplemental Security Income Program”, for benefit payments under title XVI of the Social Security Act, \$22,100,000,000, to remain available until expended.

SEC. 1110. (a) Each amount incorporated by reference in this Act that was previously designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 or as being for disaster relief pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(D) of such Act is designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of such Act or as being for disaster relief pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(D) of such Act, respectively.

(b) Section 6 of Public Laws 118–42 and 118–47 and section 11206(4) of this Act shall apply to amounts designated in subsection (a).

(c) Each amount incorporated by reference in this Act that was previously designated in division B of Public Law 117–159, division J of Public Law 117–58, or in section 443(b) of division G of Public Law 117–328 by the Congress

as an emergency requirement pursuant to a concurrent resolution on the budget shall continue to be treated as an amount specified in section 103(b) of division A of Public Law 118–5.

SEC. 1111. Any language specifying an earmark in an appropriations Act for fiscal year 2024, or in a committee report or joint explanatory statement accompanying such an Act, shall have no legal effect with respect to funds appropriated by this division. For purposes of this section, the term “earmark” means a congressional earmark, community project funding, or congressionally directed spending item, as defined in clause 9(e) of rule XXI of the Rules of the House of Representatives and paragraph 5(a) of rule XLIV of the Standing Rules of the Senate.

SEC. 1112. With respect to any discretionary account for which advance appropriations were provided for fiscal year 2025 or 2026 in an appropriations Act for fiscal year 2024, in addition to amounts otherwise made available by this division, advance appropriations are provided in the same amount for fiscal year 2026 or 2027, respectively, with a comparable period of availability.

SEC. 1113. (a) Not later than 45 days after the date of the enactment of this division, each department and agency in subsection (c) shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate a spending, expenditure, or operating plan for fiscal year 2025—

(1) at the program, project, or activity level (or, for foreign assistance programs funded in the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, at the country, regional, and central program level, and for any international organization); or

(2) as applicable, at any greater level of detail required for funds covered by such a plan in an appropriations Act referred to in section 1101, in the joint explanatory statement accompanying such Act, or in committee report language incorporated by reference in such joint explanatory statement.

(b) If a sequestration is ordered by the President under section 254 of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, the spending, expenditure, or operating plan required by this section shall reflect such sequestration.

(c) The departments and agencies to which this section applies are as follows:

- (1) The Department of Agriculture.
- (2) The Department of Commerce, including the United States Patent and Trademark Office.
- (3) The Department of Defense, other than for amounts made available in section 1101(a)(3) and title IV of this division.
- (4) The Department of Education.
- (5) The Department of Energy.
- (6) The Department of Health and Human Services.
- (7) The Department of Homeland Security.
- (8) The Department of Housing and Urban Development.
- (9) The Department of the Interior.
- (10) The Department of Justice.
- (11) The Department of Labor.
- (12) The Department of State and United States Agency for International Development.
- (13) The Department of Transportation.
- (14) The Department of the Treasury.
- (15) The Department of Veterans Affairs.
- (16) The National Aeronautics and Space Administration.
- (17) The National Science Foundation.
- (18) The Judiciary.

(19) With respect to amounts made available under the heading “Executive Office of the President and Funds Appropriated to the President”, agencies funded under such heading.

(20) The Federal Communications Commission.

(21) The General Services Administration.

(22) The Office of Personnel Management.

(23) The National Archives and Records Administration.

(24) The Securities and Exchange Commission.

(25) The Small Business Administration.

(26) The Environmental Protection Agency.

(27) The Indian Health Service.

(28) The Smithsonian Institution.

(29) The Social Security Administration.

(30) The Corporation for National and Community Service.

(31) The Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

(32) The Food and Drug Administration.

(33) The Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

(34) The United States International Development Finance Corporation.

(35) The Architect of the Capitol.

SEC. 1114. Not later than May 15, 2025, and each month thereafter through November 1, 2025, the Office of Management and Budget shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate a report on all obligations incurred in fiscal year 2025, by each department and agency, using funds made available by this division. Such report shall—

- (1) set forth obligations by account; and
- (2) compare the obligations incurred in the period covered by the report to the obligations incurred in the same period in fiscal year 2024.

SEC. 1115. During the period covered by this Act, section 235(b) of the Sentencing Reform Act of 1984 (18 U.S.C. 3551 note; Public Law 98–473; 98 Stat. 2032), as such section relates to chapter 311 of title 18, United States Code, and the United States Parole Commission, shall be applied by substituting “37” for “36” each place it appears.

SEC. 1116. Any amount appropriated by this Act, designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, and subsequently so designated by the President, and transferred pursuant to transfer authorities provided by this division shall retain such designation.

TITLE II—AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES

SEC. 1201. Notwithstanding section 1101 of this Act, the level for each of the following accounts shall be as follows:

(1) \$0 for “Department of Agriculture—Agricultural Programs—Agricultural Research Service—Buildings and Facilities”.

(2) \$1,147,750,000 for “Department of Agriculture—Agricultural Programs—Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service—Salaries and Expenses”.

(3) \$895,754,000 for “Department of Agriculture—Farm Production and Conservation Programs—Natural Resources Conservation Service—Conservation Operations”.

(4) \$14,650,000 for “Department of Agriculture—Farm Production and Conservation Programs—Natural Resources Conservation Service—Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations”.

(5) \$478,487,000 for “Department of Agriculture—Rural Development Programs—Rural Utilities Service—Rural Water and Waste Disposal Program Account”.

(6) \$40,000,000 for “Department of Agriculture—Rural Development Programs—Rural Utilities Service—Distance Learning, Telemedicine, and Broadband Program”, for grants for telemedicine and distance learning services in rural areas, as authorized by 7 U.S.C. 950aaa et seq.

(7) \$90,000,000 for “Department of Agriculture—Rural Development Programs—Rural Utilities Service—Distance Learning, Telemedicine, and Broadband Program”, for the cost to continue a broadband loan and grant pilot program established by section 779 of division A of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (Public Law 115–141) under the Rural Electrification Act of 1936, as amended (7 U.S.C. 901 et seq.).

SEC. 1202. Notwithstanding section 1101 of this Act, the level for each of the following accounts shall be as follows:

(1) \$1,214,009,000 for “Department of Agriculture—Agricultural Programs—Food Safety and Inspection Service”.

(2) \$516,070,000 for “Department of Agriculture—Domestic Food Programs—Food and Nutrition Service—Commodity Assistance Program”, of which \$425,000,000 shall be for the Commodity Supplemental Food Program.

(3) \$7,597,000,000 for “Department of Agriculture—Domestic Food Programs—Food and Nutrition Service—Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)”.

SEC. 1203. (a) Section 260 of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1636i) is amended by striking “2024” and inserting “2025”.

(b) Section 942 of the Livestock Mandatory Reporting Act of 1999 (7 U.S.C. 1635 note; Public Law 106–78) is amended by striking “2024” and inserting “2025”.

SEC. 1204. Section 778 of division B of Public Law 118–42 is amended by striking paragraph (1).

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

SEC. 1205. Notwithstanding section 1101, amounts made available under the heading “Agricultural Programs, Farm Service Agency, Agricultural Credit Insurance Fund Program Account” may be reprogrammed as necessary between allocations for loan categories to ensure that overall program levels are equal to, to the maximum extent practicable, the fiscal year 2024 program levels, notwithstanding section 346(b)(2)(A)(i)(I) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1994(b)(2)(A)(i)(I)).

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

SEC. 1206. Notwithstanding section 1101, amounts may be transferred among accounts of the Department of Agriculture under the heading “Rural Development Programs” to allow for the program levels to be equal to, to the maximum extent practicable, the levels enacted for fiscal year 2024: *Provided*, That \$34,000,000 shall be transferred from such accounts to “Rural Development Programs, Rural Housing Service, Rental Assistance Program”.

SEC. 1207. Title I of division N of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (Public Law 117–328), is amended in the last proviso under the heading “Agricultural Programs—Processing, Research and Marketing—Office of the Secretary”, by adding at the end the following: “, except that the Secretary shall allow producers to retain payments not to exceed 90 percent of the producer’s revenue losses (as determined by the Secretary) if the Secretary determines a *de minimis* amount, as defined by the Secretary, of a producer’s revenue loss is attributable to crops for which the producer did not insure or obtain coverage under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program under section 196 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (7 U.S.C. 7333): *Provided further*, That amounts repurposed pursuant to this section that were previously designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to a concurrent resolution on the budget are designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to section

251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.”.

TITLE III—COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES

SEC. 1301. Notwithstanding section 1101 of this Act, the level for the following accounts shall be as follows:

(1) \$857,159,000 for “Department of Commerce—National Institute of Standards and Technology—Scientific and Technical Research and Services”.

(2) \$87,758,000 for “Department of Commerce—National Institute of Standards and Technology—Construction of Research Facilities”.

(3) \$4,408,986,000 for “Department of Commerce—National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration—Operations, Research and Facilities”.

(4) \$2,000,033,000 for “Department of Justice—State and Local Law Enforcement Activities—Office of Justice Programs—State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance”, and amounts provided under paragraph (1) shall be \$499,033,000, amounts provided under subparagraph (Q) of paragraph (1) shall be \$0, and amounts provided under subparagraph (R) of paragraph (1) shall be \$0.

(5) \$417,168,839 for “Department of Justice—Community Oriented Policing Services—Community Oriented Policing Services Programs”, and amounts provided under paragraph (7) shall be \$0.

(6) \$3,092,327,000 for “National Aeronautics and Space Administration—Safety, Security and Mission Services”.

SEC. 1302. Notwithstanding section 1101 of this Act, the level for the following accounts shall be as follows:

(1) \$38,460,240 for “Department of Justice—Justice Operations, Management, And Accountability—Justice Information Sharing Technology”.

(2) \$2,236,000,000 for “Department of Justice—United States Marshals Service—Federal Prisoner Detention”.

TITLE IV—DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

SEC. 1401. Notwithstanding section 1101, the level for appropriations accounts under title I of division A of Public Law 118-47 shall be as follows:

(1) \$51,181,397,000 for “Military Personnel, Army”.

(2) \$38,813,378,000 for “Military Personnel, Navy”.

(3) \$16,151,382,000 for “Military Personnel, Marine Corps”.

(4) \$37,023,437,000 for “Military Personnel, Air Force”.

(5) \$1,312,347,000 for “Military Personnel, Space Force”.

(6) \$5,490,830,000 for “Reserve Personnel, Army”.

(7) \$2,566,620,000 for “Reserve Personnel, Navy”.

(8) \$944,225,000 for “Reserve Personnel, Marine Corps”.

(9) \$2,597,273,000 for “Reserve Personnel, Air Force”.

(10) \$10,019,623,000 for “National Guard Personnel, Army”.

(11) \$5,287,499,000 for “National Guard Personnel, Air Force”.

SEC. 1402. Notwithstanding section 1101, the level for appropriations accounts under title II of division A of Public Law 118-47 shall be as follows:

(1) \$57,968,853,000 for “Operation and Maintenance, Army”.

(2) \$73,657,268,000 for “Operation and Maintenance, Navy”.

(3) \$10,183,272,000 for “Operation and Maintenance, Marine Corps”.

(4) \$63,239,279,000 for “Operation and Maintenance, Air Force”.

(5) \$5,070,915,000 for “Operation and Maintenance, Space Force”.

(6) \$53,376,465,000 for “Operation and Maintenance, Defense-Wide”.

(7) \$528,699,000 for “Counter-ISIS Train and Equip Fund”.

(8) \$3,233,517,000 for “Operation and Maintenance, Army Reserve”.

(9) \$1,316,518,000 for “Operation and Maintenance, Navy Reserve”.

(10) \$334,258,000 for “Operation and Maintenance, Marine Corps Reserve”.

(11) \$4,029,224,000 for “Operation and Maintenance, Air Force Reserve”.

(12) \$8,408,317,000 for “Operation and Maintenance, Army National Guard”.

(13) \$7,249,086,000 for “Operation and Maintenance, Air National Guard”.

(14) \$21,035,000 for “United States Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces”.

(15) \$283,069,000 for “Environmental Restoration, Army”.

(16) \$343,591,000 for “Environmental Restoration, Navy”.

(17) \$330,524,000 for “Environmental Restoration, Air Force”.

(18) \$9,480,000 for “Environmental Restoration, Defense-Wide”.

(19) \$236,475,000 for “Environmental Restoration, Formerly Used Defense Sites”.

(20) \$115,335,000 for “Overseas Humanitarian, Disaster, and Civic Aid”.

(21) \$296,076,000 for “Cooperative Threat Reduction Account”.

(22) \$56,176,000 for “Defense Acquisition Workforce Development Account”.

SEC. 1403. Notwithstanding section 1101, the level for appropriations accounts under title III of division A of Public Law 118-47 shall be as follows:

(1) \$3,472,891,000 for “Aircraft Procurement, Army”.

(2) \$5,998,293,000 for “Missile Procurement, Army”.

(3) \$3,688,870,000 for “Procurement of Weapons and Tracked Combat Vehicles, Army”.

(4) \$2,857,276,000 for “Procurement of Ammunition, Army”.

(5) \$8,677,094,000 for “Other Procurement, Army”.

(6) \$15,918,954,000 for “Aircraft Procurement, Navy”.

(7) \$6,348,511,000 for “Weapons Procurement, Navy”.

(8) \$1,598,584,000 for “Procurement of Ammunition, Navy and Marine Corps”.

(9) \$15,142,773,000 for “Other Procurement, Navy”.

(10) \$3,803,608,000 for “Procurement, Marine Corps”.

(11) \$19,899,019,000 for “Aircraft Procurement, Air Force”.

(12) \$4,258,672,000 for “Missile Procurement, Air Force”.

(13) \$550,646,000 for “Procurement of Ammunition, Air Force”.

(14) \$30,978,191,000 for “Other Procurement, Air Force”.

(15) \$3,900,769,000 for “Procurement, Space Force”.

(16) \$5,719,307,000 for “Procurement, Defense-Wide”.

(17) \$463,377,000 for “Defense Production Act Purchases”.

(18) \$850,000,000 for “National Guard and Reserve Equipment Account”.

SEC. 1404. Notwithstanding section 1101, the level for “Shipbuilding and Conversion, Navy” shall be \$33,331,952,000, as follows:

(1) Columbia Class Submarine, \$3,364,835,000;

(2) Columbia Class Submarine (AP), \$6,215,939,000;

(3) Carrier Replacement Program (CVN-80), \$1,123,124,000;

(4) Carrier Replacement Program (CVN-81), \$674,930,000;

(5) Virginia Class Submarine, \$3,615,904,000;

(6) Virginia Class Submarine (AP), \$3,720,303,000;

(7) CVN Refueling Overhauls, \$811,143,000;

(8) DDG-1000 Program, \$61,100,000;

(9) DDG-51 Destroyer, \$7,951,890,000;

(10) DDG-51 Destroyer (AP), \$83,224,000;

(11) FFG-Frigate, \$233,200,000;

(12) LPD Flight II, \$1,561,963,000;

(13) LHA Replacement (AP), \$61,118,000;

(14) Medium Landing Ship, \$29,668,000;

(15) Ship to Shore Connector, \$480,000,000;

(16) Service Craft, \$41,426,000;

(17) Auxiliary Personnel Lighter, \$76,168,000;

(18) LCAC SLEP, \$45,087,000;

(19) Auxiliary Vessels, \$204,939,000;

(20) For outfitting, post delivery, conversions, and first destination transportation, \$585,967,000; and

(21) Completion of Prior Year Shipbuilding Programs, \$2,390,024,000.

SEC. 1405. Notwithstanding section 1101, the level for appropriations accounts under title IV of division A of Public Law 118-47 shall be as follows:

(1) \$14,322,031,000 for “Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Army”.

(2) \$25,967,177,000 for “Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Navy”.

(3) \$46,811,425,000 for “Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Air Force”.

(4) \$18,553,363,000 for “Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Space Force”.

(5) \$35,238,856,000 for “Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Defense-Wide”.

(6) \$348,709,000 for “Operational Test and Evaluation, Defense”.

SEC. 1406. Notwithstanding section 1101, the level for “Revolving and Management Funds” shall be \$1,840,550,000.

SEC. 1407. Notwithstanding section 1101, the level for appropriations accounts under title VI of division A of Public Law 118-47 shall be as follows:

(1) \$40,395,072,000 for “Defense Health Program”: *Provided*, That the amounts included under such heading shall be applied to funds appropriated by this Act by substituting “\$38,300,769,000” for “\$36,639,695,000”, “\$20,599,128,000” for “\$19,757,403,000”, “\$398,867,000” for “\$381,881,000”, “\$1,695,436,000” for “\$2,877,048,000”, and “\$650,000,000” for “\$1,509,000,000”.

(2) \$775,507,000 for “Chemical Agents and Munitions Destruction, Defense”: *Provided*, That the amounts included under such heading shall be applied to funds appropriated by this Act by striking “\$57,875,000” and substituting “\$20,745,000” for “\$89,284,000”, “\$13,945,000” for “\$23,676,000”, “\$6,800,000” for “\$34,199,000”, and “\$754,762,000” for “\$1,002,560,000”.

(3) \$1,110,436,000 for “Drug Interdiction and Counter-Drug Activities, Defense”: *Provided*, That the amounts included under such heading shall be applied to funds appropriated by this Act by substituting “\$653,702,000” for “\$702,962,000”, “\$135,567,000” for “\$138,313,000”, “\$295,000,000” for “\$305,786,000”, and “\$26,167,000” for “\$30,000,000”.

(4) \$539,769,000 for “Office of the Inspector General”: *Provided*, That the amounts included under such heading shall be applied to funds appropriated by this Act by substituting “\$536,533,000” for “\$524,067,000”, “\$1,336,000” for “\$1,098,000”, and “\$1,900,000” for “\$3,400,000”.

SEC. 1408. Notwithstanding section 1101, the level for “Related Agencies, Intelligence Community Management Account” under title VII of division A of Public Law 118-47 shall be \$629,128,000.

SEC. 1409. No appropriation or funds made available or authority granted pursuant to section 1101(3) for the Department of Defense shall be used to initiate or resume any project or activity unless provided for in H.R. 8774 (as engrossed in the House of Representatives on June 28, 2024) or S. 4921 (as

reported by the Senate Committee on Appropriations on August 1, 2024).

SEC. 1410. The levels for appropriations accounts specified in sections 1401 through 1408 for classified programs shall conform to the direction included in the classified annex accompanying this title and shall be implemented in a manner consistent with Public Law 118-47.

SEC. 1411. Section 8004 of division A of Public Law 118-47 shall be applied by substituting “40 percent” for “20 percent”.

SEC. 1412. (a) Section 8005 of division A of Public Law 118-47 is amended by striking “\$6,000,000,000” and inserting “\$8,000,000,000”: *Provided*, That any transfer made pursuant to such section may not extend the period of availability of funds transferred beyond the period of availability for obligation of such funds as provided to such funds in division A of Public Law 118-47.

(b) Notwithstanding section 1101, section 8005 of division A of Public Law 118-47 shall be applied to funds appropriated by this Act by substituting “\$8,000,000,000” for the dollar amount in such section.

SEC. 1413. Section 8026 of division A of Public Law 118-47 shall be applied by substituting “\$2,886,300,000” for “\$2,857,803,000” and “\$461,300,000” for “\$456,803,000”. Subsection (e) of such section shall not apply to funds appropriated by this Act.

SEC. 1414. Notwithstanding section 1101, section 8109 of division A of Public Law 118-47 shall be applied by substituting “\$1,362,809,000” for “\$1,406,346,000”, section 8110 of such division shall be applied by substituting “\$350,000,000” for “\$380,000,000”, and section 8117 of such division shall be applied by substituting “\$50,406,000” for “\$15,000,000”.

SEC. 1415. Section 8046 of division A of Public Law 118-47, shall not apply to funds made available under this Act.

(RESCISSIONS)

SEC. 1416. The following amounts are permanently rescinded:

- (1) “Afghanistan Security Forces Fund”, 2022/2025, \$80,000,000;
- (2) “Aircraft Procurement, Army”, 2023/2025, \$25,000,000;
- (3) “Aircraft Procurement, Navy”, 2023/2025, \$3,700,000;
- (4) “Other Procurement, Navy”, 2023/2025, \$45,000,000;
- (5) “Aircraft Procurement, Air Force”, 2023/2025, \$125,373,000;
- (6) “Procurement Ammunition, Air Force”, 2023/2025, \$23,000,000;
- (7) “Operation and Maintenance, Defense-Wide”, 2024/2025, \$25,000,000;
- (8) “Counter-ISIS Train and Equip Fund”, 2024/2025, \$50,000,000;
- (9) “Cooperative Threat Reduction Account”, 2024/2026, \$91,000,000;
- (10) “Aircraft Procurement, Navy”, 2024/2026, \$48,050,000;
- (11) “Aircraft Procurement, Air Force”, 2024/2026, \$65,000,000;
- (12) “Other Procurement, Air Force”, 2024/2026, \$188,300,000;
- (13) “Procurement, Space Force”, 2024/2026, \$46,300,000;
- (14) “Procurement, Defense-Wide”, 2024/2026, \$14,777,000;
- (15) “Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Navy”, 2024/2025, \$51,395,000;
- (16) “Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Air Force”, 2024/2025, \$408,942,000;
- (17) “Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Space Force”, 2024/2025, \$111,665,000; and
- (18) “Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Defense-Wide”, 2024/2025, \$31,800,000.

SEC. 1417. Of the amounts appropriated in section 1404 of this Act, \$2,390,024,000 shall be available until September 30, 2025, to fund

prior year shipbuilding costs increases for the following programs:

- (1) Under the heading “Shipbuilding and Conversion, Navy”, 2013/2025: Carrier Replacement Program, \$236,000,000;
- (2) Under the heading “Shipbuilding and Conversion, Navy”, 2016/2025: DDG-51 Program, \$10,509,000;
- (3) Under the heading “Shipbuilding and Conversion, Navy”, 2016/2025: Towing, Salvage, and Rescue Ship Program, \$60,000,000;
- (4) Under the heading “Shipbuilding and Conversion, Navy”, 2017/2025: Virginia Class Submarine Program, \$219,370,000;
- (5) Under the heading “Shipbuilding and Conversion, Navy”, 2017/2025: DDG-51 Program, \$115,600,000;
- (6) Under the heading “Shipbuilding and Conversion, Navy”, 2017/2025: Littoral Combat Ship Program, \$8,100,000;
- (7) Under the heading “Shipbuilding and Conversion, Navy”, 2017/2025: LHA Replacement Program, \$115,397,000;
- (8) Under the heading “Shipbuilding and Conversion, Navy”, 2018/2025: Virginia Class Submarine Program, \$73,634,000;
- (9) Under the heading “Shipbuilding and Conversion, Navy”, 2018/2025: DDG-51 Program, \$107,405,000;
- (10) Under the heading “Shipbuilding and Conversion, Navy”, 2018/2025: Littoral Combat Ship Program, \$12,000,000;
- (11) Under the heading “Shipbuilding and Conversion, Navy”, 2018/2025: LPD 17 (Flight II) Amphibious Transport Dock Program, \$19,158,000;
- (12) Under the heading “Shipbuilding and Conversion, Navy”, 2018/2025: Oceanographic Ships Program, \$18,000,000;
- (13) Under the heading “Shipbuilding and Conversion, Navy”, 2018/2025: Ship to Shore Connector Program, \$14,694,000;
- (14) Under the heading “Shipbuilding and Conversion, Navy”, 2019/2025: Littoral Combat Ship Program, \$27,900,000;
- (15) Under the heading “Shipbuilding and Conversion, Navy”, 2019/2025: T-AO Fleet Oiler Program, \$49,995,000;
- (16) Under the heading “Shipbuilding and Conversion, Navy”, 2019/2025: Ship to Shore Connector Program, \$33,345,000;
- (17) Under the heading “Shipbuilding and Conversion, Navy”, 2020/2025: CVN Refueling Overhauls, \$669,171,000;
- (18) Under the heading “Shipbuilding and Conversion, Navy”, 2020/2025: FFG-Frigate Program, \$105,413,000;
- (19) Under the heading “Shipbuilding and Conversion, Navy”, 2020/2025: T-AO Fleet Oiler Program, \$151,837,000;
- (20) Under the heading “Shipbuilding and Conversion, Navy”, 2020/2025: Towing, Salvage, and Rescue Ship Program, \$978,000;
- (21) Under the heading “Shipbuilding and Conversion, Navy”, 2021/2025: FFG-Frigate Program, \$76,580,000;
- (22) Under the heading “Shipbuilding and Conversion, Navy”, 2021/2025: Towing, Salvage, and Rescue Ship Program, \$17,375,000;
- (23) Under the heading “Shipbuilding and Conversion, Navy”, 2022/2025: FFG-Frigate Program, \$64,940,000;
- (24) Under the heading “Shipbuilding and Conversion, Navy”, 2022/2025: T-AO Fleet Oiler Program, \$13,222,000;
- (25) Under the heading “Shipbuilding and Conversion, Navy”, 2022/2025: Towing, Salvage, and Rescue Ship Program, \$4,234,000;
- (26) Under the heading “Shipbuilding and Conversion, Navy”, 2023/2025: FFG-Frigate Program, \$54,308,000;
- (27) Under the heading “Shipbuilding and Conversion, Navy”, 2023/2025: T-AO Fleet Oiler Program, \$12,100,000; and
- (28) Under the heading “Shipbuilding and Conversion, Navy”, 2024/2025: FFG-Frigate Program, \$98,759,000.

SEC. 1418. The last paragraph in section 8010 of division A of Public Law 118-47 shall be applied by striking “Naval Strike Missile” and all that follows before the period and inserting “CH-53K Heavy Lift helicopters, T408 engines, and USS Virginia Class (SSN-774)”.

SEC. 1419. During the period covered by this Act, section 8092 of division A of Public Law 118-47 shall be applied by substituting “\$204,939,000” for “\$142,008,000”.

SEC. 1420. For an additional amount there is appropriated to the “Department of Defense Credit Program Account” established pursuant to section 149(e)(5) of title 10, United States Code, as amended by section 905(a) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2025 (Public Law 118-159), \$89,049,000, to remain available until expended, to carry out a pilot program on capital assistance to support defense investment in the industrial base as authorized by section 149(e) of such title, of which up to \$7,900,000 may be used for administrative expenses and project-specific transaction costs: *Provided*, That costs of loans and loan guarantees, including the cost of modifying such loans and loan guarantees, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974: *Provided further*, That such amounts are available to subsidize gross obligations for the principal amount of loans, and total loan principal, any part of which is to be guaranteed, not to exceed \$4,000,000,000: *Provided further*, That, for the purposes of carrying out the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the Director of the Congressional Budget Office may request, and the Secretary shall promptly provide documentation and information relating to a project receiving capital assistance as authorized under section 149(e) of such title: *Provided further*, That section 8140 of division A of Public Law 118-47 shall not apply to funds appropriated by this Act.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 1421. For an additional amount for the Department of Defense, \$8,000,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, for transfer to military personnel accounts, operation and maintenance accounts, and the Defense Working Capital Funds, in addition to amounts otherwise made available only for U.S. military operations, force protection, and deterrence led by Commander, United States Central Command and Commander, United States European Command: *Provided*, That none of the funds provided under this section may be obligated or expended until 30 days after the Secretary of Defense provides to the congressional defense committees an execution plan: *Provided further*, That not less than 15 days prior to any transfer of funds, the Secretary of Defense shall notify the congressional defense committees of the details of any such transfer: *Provided further*, That the transfer authority provided under this section is in addition to any other transfer authority provided elsewhere in this Act: *Provided further*, That upon transfer, the funds shall be merged with and available for the same purposes, and for the same time period, as the appropriation to which transferred: *Provided further*, That upon a determination that all or part of the funds transferred from this appropriation are not necessary for the purposes provided herein, such amounts may be transferred back and merged with this appropriation.

SEC. 1422. (a) Not later than 45 days after the date of the enactment of this division, the Department of Defense, after consultation with the Subcommittees on Defense of the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate, shall submit to such Subcommittees a spending, expenditure, or operating plan for fiscal

year 2025 for appropriations or funds made available pursuant to section 1101(a)(3) or any other provision of this title for the Department of Defense at the same level of detail required for the report outlined by section 8007 of division A of Public Law 118-47.

(b) No program, project, or activity may be included in the expenditure plan submitted pursuant to subsection (a) unless such program, project, or activity was provided for in H.R. 8774 (as engrossed in the House of Representatives on June 28, 2024) or S. 4921 (as reported by the Senate Committee on Appropriations on August 1, 2024) or in the reports accompanying those Acts.

(c) The plan submitted pursuant to subsection (a) shall serve as the baseline for reprogramming and transfer authorities for fiscal year 2025 under the authorities and conditions of sections 8005 and 8006 of division A of Public Law 118-47.

(d) If a sequestration is ordered by the President under section 254 of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, the spending, expenditure, or operating plan required by this section shall reflect such sequestration.

TITLE V—ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES

SEC. 1501. Notwithstanding section 1101 of this Act, the level for the following accounts shall be applied as follows:

(1) \$1,710,806,000 for “Department of the Interior—Bureau of Reclamation—Water and Related Resources”: *Provided*, That the sixth proviso under such heading shall not apply to funds appropriated in this division.

(2) \$0 for “Department of Energy—Energy Programs—Energy Projects”.

SEC. 1502. Notwithstanding section 1101 of this Act, the level for the following accounts shall be as follows:

(1) \$55,000,000 for “Department of Energy—Energy Programs—Title 17 Innovative Technology Loan Guarantee Program”: *Provided*, That the second and third provisos shall be applied by substituting “\$55,000,000” for “\$70,000,000” and the fourth proviso shall be applied by substituting “\$170,000,000” for “\$70,000,000”.

(2) \$19,293,000,000 for “Department of Energy—Atomic Energy Defense Activities—National Nuclear Security Administration—Weapons Activities”.

(3) \$2,396,000,000 for “Department of Energy—Atomic Energy Defense Activities—National Nuclear Security Administration—Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation”.

(4) \$1,107,000,000 for “Department of Energy—Environmental and Other Defense Activities—Other Defense Activities”.

SEC. 1503. (a) Section 102 of division D of Public Law 118-42 shall not apply with respect to funds appropriated by this division.

(b) Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this division, the Chief of Engineers shall submit directly to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate a detailed work plan for fiscal year 2025 with respect to the funds appropriated by this division for “Corps of Engineers—Civil”: *Provided*, That specific studies and projects shall not be eligible to receive such funds made available under the headings “Investigations”, “Construction”, and “Mississippi River and Tributaries”, as applicable, unless such studies and projects are active as of the date that is the day prior to the date of enactment of this division and are otherwise eligible to receive funds made available under such headings: *Provided further*, That the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works shall not deviate from the work plan submitted pursuant to this subsection once the plan has been submitted to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives

and the Senate, except as provided in section 101 of division D of Public Law 118-42.

SEC. 1504. Notwithstanding section 1101 of this Act, language under the heading “Department of Energy—Energy Programs—Uranium Enrichment Decontamination and Decommissioning Fund” in Public Law 118-42 shall be applied to funds appropriated by this Act by substituting “to be deposited into and subsequently derived from” for “to be derived from”.

SEC. 1505. Section 301(d) of division D of Public Law 118-42 shall not apply to amounts made available by this division to the Department of Energy under the headings “Atomic Energy Defense Activities—National Nuclear Security Administration—Weapons Activities”, “Atomic Energy Defense Activities—National Nuclear Security Administration—Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation”, and “Environmental and Other Defense Activities—Defense Environmental Cleanup”.

SEC. 1506. Section 10609(a) of the Northwestern New Mexico Rural Water Projects Act (subtitle B of title X of Public Law 111-11) shall be applied by substituting “\$1,640,000,000” for “\$870,000,000” and “2025” for “2024”.

SEC. 1507. (a) In accordance with section 4007 of Public Law 114-322, and as recommended by the Secretary of the Interior in a letter dated May 22, 2024, funding provided for such purpose in fiscal year 2024 shall be made available to the Sites Reservoir Project.

(b) In accordance with section 4009(c) of Public Law 114-322, and as recommended by the Secretary in a letter dated May 22, 2024, funding provided for such purpose in fiscal year 2023 and fiscal year 2024 shall be made available to the El Paso Aquifer Storage and Recovery Enhanced Arroyo Project, the Replenish Big Bear, the Purified Water Replenishment Project, the North San Diego Water Reuse Coalition Regional Recycled Water Program, the Coachella Valley Water District WRP-10 Non-Potable Water System Expansion, the Pure Water Oceanside Phase 1, and the Carpinteria Advanced Purification Project.

SEC. 1508. Amounts made available by section 1101 for “Department of Energy—Atomic Energy Defense Activities—National Nuclear Security Administration—Naval Reactors” may be used for the design and construction of the Naval Examination Acquisition Project.

SEC. 1509. Amounts made available by section 1101 for “Department of Energy—Atomic Energy Defense Activities—National Nuclear Security Administration—Weapons Activities” may be used for Domestic Uranium Enrichment, Warhead Assembly Modernization, the Principal Underground Laboratory for Subcritical Experimentation at the Nevada National Security Sites, the Analytic Gas Laboratory at Pantex, and the Plutonium Mission Safety and Quality Building at the Los Alamos National Laboratory.

TITLE VI—FINANCIAL SERVICES AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT

SEC. 1601. Notwithstanding section 1101 of this Act, the level for the following accounts in division B of Public Law 118-47 shall be applied as follows:

(1) In section 204, by substituting “\$0” for “\$13,045,000”.

(2) In section 530, by substituting “\$0” for “\$38,414,000”.

(3) In section 542, by substituting “\$0” for “\$116,541,000”.

SEC. 1602. Notwithstanding section 1101 of this Act, the level for the following accounts shall be as follows:

(1) \$15,000,000 for “Election Assistance Commission—Election Security Grants”.

(2) \$9,308,000,000 for “General Services Administration—Federal Buildings Fund”, without regard to the limitations in paragraphs (1) through (3) and subparagraphs (A) through (C) in paragraph (2) under such heading in division B of Public Law 118-47: *Provided*, That the amount under such heading for buildings operations shall be applied by substituting “\$3,272,000,000” for “\$2,951,184,000”.

(3) \$8,000,000 for “National Archives and Records Administration—Repairs and Restoration”: *Provided*, That the amounts included under such heading in division B of Public Law 118-47 shall be applied by substituting “\$0” for “\$17,500,000”.

(4) \$90,000,000 for “District of Columbia—Federal Funds—Federal Payment For Emergency Planning and Security Costs In The District of Columbia”: *Provided*, That \$50,000,000 of the amounts included under such heading shall be for costs associated with the Presidential Inauguration held in January 2025.

SEC. 1603. Notwithstanding section 1101, no funds are provided by this Act for “General Services Administration—Pre-election Presidential Transition”.

SEC. 1604. Notwithstanding section 1101, the level for “Small Business Administration—Disaster Loans Program Account” shall be \$406,000,000: *Provided*, That the amounts included under such heading in division B of Public Law 118-47 shall be applied by substituting “\$396,000,000” for “\$165,000,000”: *Provided further*, That of the funds made available by section 1101 under such heading, \$374,000,000 shall be for major disasters declared pursuant to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5122(2)) and is designated by the Congress as being for disaster relief pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(D) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

SEC. 1605. Notwithstanding 1101, section 747 of title VII of division B of Public Law 118-47 shall be applied through the date specified in section 1106 of this Act by—

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

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

(3) substituting “2026” for “2025”; and

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

SEC. 1606. Section 128 of division B of Public Law 118-47 shall not apply for fiscal year 2025.

SEC. 1607. Section 302 of title III of Public Law 108-494 shall be applied by substituting the date specified in section 1106 of this Act for “December 31, 2024” each place it appears.

SEC. 1608. If, for fiscal year 2025, new budget authority provided in appropriations Acts exceeds the discretionary spending limit for any category set forth in section 251(c) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 due to estimating differences with the Congressional Budget Office, an adjustment to the discretionary spending limit in such category for fiscal year 2025 shall be made by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget in the amount of the excess but the total of all such adjustments shall not exceed 0.25 percent of the sum of the adjusted discretionary spending limits for all categories for that fiscal year.

TITLE VII—DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

SEC. 1701. Notwithstanding section 1101, the level for the following accounts shall be as follows:

(1) \$9,986,542,000 for “U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement—Operations and Support”.

(2) \$10,614,968,000 for “Transportation Security Administration—Operations and Support”.

(3) \$10,415,271,000 for “Coast Guard—Operations and Support”.

(4) \$3,203,262,000 for “Federal Emergency Management Agency—Federal Assistance”: *Provided*, That the matter under such heading in division C of Public Law 118–47 shall be applied to funds provided by this Act by substituting “\$0” for each number in paragraph (12).

(5) \$22,510,000,000 for “Federal Emergency Management Agency—Disaster Relief Fund”: *Provided*, That such amount shall be for major disasters declared pursuant to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.) and is designated by the Congress as being for disaster relief pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(D) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

SEC. 1702. Section 11223(b)(2) of the Don Young Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2022 (division K of Public Law 117–263) is amended by striking “shall apply” and inserting “shall not apply”.

SEC. 1703. During the period covered by this Act, section 517 of title 10, United States Code, shall not apply with respect to the Coast Guard.

SEC. 1704. Notwithstanding section 1101 of this Act, the matter preceding the first proviso under the heading “United States Secret Service—Operations and Support” in division C of Public Law 118–47 shall be applied to funds appropriated by this Act by substituting “\$35,000,000” for “\$24,000,000” and substituting “2024” for “2023”.

SEC. 1705. For fiscal year 2025, section 227 of the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2024 (division C of Public Law 118–47) shall have no force or effect.

(RESCISSION)

SEC. 1706. The following unobligated balances made available to the Department of Homeland Security pursuant to section 505 of the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2024 (division C of Public Law 118–47) are rescinded:

(1) \$550,000 from “Office of the Secretary and Executive Management—Operations and Support”.

(2) \$1,497,000 from “Management Directorate—Operations and Support”.

(3) \$1,309,000 from “Intelligence, Analysis, and Situational Awareness—Operations and Support”.

(4) \$102,000 from “Office of Inspector General—Operations and Support”.

(5) \$15,823,000 from “Transportation Security Administration—Operations and Support”.

(6) \$4,321,000 from “Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency—Operations and Support”.

(7) \$1,723,000 from “Federal Emergency Management Agency—Operations and Support”.

(8) \$2,514,000 from “U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services—Operations and Support”.

(9) \$685,000 from “Federal Law Enforcement Training Centers—Operations and Support”.

(10) \$1,051,000 from “Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office—Operations and Support”.

(RESCISSION)

SEC. 1707. Of the unobligated balances in the “Department of Homeland Security Non-recurring Expenses Fund” established in section 538 of division F of Public Law 117–103, \$133,000,000 are hereby rescinded.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 1708. (a) Of the total amount provided by paragraph (4) of section 1701 of this Act under the heading “Federal Emergency Management Agency—Federal Assistance”, \$115,000,000 shall be derived by transfer from the unobligated balances from amounts made available in paragraph (2) under such heading in title V of division J of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Public Law 117–58) and shall be merged with amounts provided under such heading by paragraph (4) of section 1701 of this Act.

(b) Amounts repurposed or transferred pursuant to this section that were previously designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to a concurrent resolution on the budget shall continue to be treated as an amount specified in section 103(b) of division A of Public Law 118–5.

SEC. 1709. (a) Sections 1309(a) and 1319 of the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4016(a) and 4026) shall be applied by substituting the date specified in section 1106 of this Act for “September 30, 2023”.

(b)(1) Subject to paragraph (2), this section shall become effective immediately upon enactment of this Act.

(2) If this Act is enacted after March 14, 2025, this section shall be applied as if it were in effect on March 14, 2025.

TITLE VIII—DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES

SEC. 1801. Notwithstanding section 1101 of this Act, the level for the following accounts shall be as follows:

(1) \$1,294,766,000 for “Department of the Interior—Bureau of Land Management—Management of Lands and Resources”: *Provided*, That the amounts included under such heading in division E of Public Law 118–42 shall be applied to funds appropriated by this division by substituting “\$1,294,766,000” for “\$1,294,916,000” the second place it appears.

(2) \$1,475,353,000 for “Department of the Interior—United States Fish and Wildlife Service—Resource Management”.

(3) \$89,593,000 for “Department of the Interior—National Park Service—National Recreation and Preservation”.

(4) \$168,900,000 for “Department of the Interior—National Park Service—Historic Preservation Fund”.

(5) \$1,450,197,000 for “Department of the Interior—United States Geological Survey—Surveys, Investigations, and Research”.

(6) \$1,897,709,000 for “Department of the Interior—Bureau of Indian Affairs—Operation of Indian Programs”.

(7) \$756,073,000 for “Environmental Protection Agency—Science and Technology”: *Provided*, That the amounts included under such heading in division E of Public Law 118–42 shall be applied to the funds appropriated by this division as follows: by substituting “\$17,500,000” for “\$19,530,000”; and by substituting “\$0” for “\$2,030,000”.

(8) \$4,380,245,000 for “State and Tribal Assistance Grants”: *Provided*, That the amounts included under such heading in division E of Public Law 118–42 shall be applied to the funds appropriated by this division as follows: by substituting “\$0” for “\$787,652,267”; by substituting “\$0” for “\$631,659,905”; and by substituting “\$0” for “\$38,693,000”: *Provided further*, That the second proviso under the paragraph numbered (1) of such heading in division E of Public Law 118–42 shall not apply to the funds appropriated by this division.

(9) \$283,500,000 for “Department of Agriculture—Forest Service—State, Private, and Tribal Forestry”.

(10) \$151,000,000 for “Department of Agriculture—Forest Service—Capital Improvement and Maintenance”.

SEC. 1802. Notwithstanding section 1101 of this Act, the level for the following accounts shall be as follows:

(1) \$2,894,424,000 for “Department of the Interior—National Park Service—Operation of the National Park System”.

(2) \$1,147,171,000 for “Department of the Interior—Department-Wide Programs—Wildland Fire Management”.

(3) \$3,195,028,000 for “Environmental Protection Agency—Environmental Programs and Management”.

(4) \$2,426,111,000 for “Department of Agriculture—Forest Service—Wildland Fire Management”.

SEC. 1803. (a) Notwithstanding section 1101 of this Act, the level for “Department of Health and Human Services—Indian Health Service—Indian Health Services” shall be \$38,709,000 for amounts in the first appropriation in the matter preceding the first proviso under such heading.

(b) In addition to amounts otherwise made available in section 1112, \$38,709,000 is appropriated for “Department of Health and Human Services—Indian Health Service—Indian Health Services”, which shall become available on October 1, 2025, and remain available through September 30, 2027.

SEC. 1804. (a) Notwithstanding section 1101 of this Act, the level for “Department of Health and Human Services—Indian Health Service—Indian Health Facilities” shall be—

(1) \$3,920,000 for amounts in the first appropriation in the matter preceding the first proviso under such heading; and

(2) \$289,306,000 for Sanitation Facilities Construction and Health Care Facilities Construction:

Provided, That amounts included in the fourth proviso under such heading in division E of Public Law 118–42 shall be applied to funds appropriated by this division by substituting “\$0” for “\$17,023,000”.

(b) In addition to amounts otherwise made available in section 1112, \$3,920,000 is appropriated for “Department of Health and Human Services—Indian Health Service—Indian Health Facilities”, which shall become available on October 1, 2025, and remain available until expended.

SEC. 1805. Notwithstanding section 1101 of this Act, there is appropriated \$1,650,000 for the “Office of Navajo and Hopi Indian Relocation—Salaries and Expenses” account, which shall be subject to the same terms and conditions as amounts otherwise made available to that account in fiscal year 2024 consistent with section 1105.

SEC. 1806. (a) Notwithstanding section 1101 of this Act, the level for “Department of the Interior—Department-Wide Programs—Wildfire Suppression Operations Reserve Fund” shall be \$360,000,000 for additional new budget authority as specified for purposes of section 251(b)(2)(F) of the of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

(b) Notwithstanding section 1101, the level for “Department of Agriculture—Forest Service—Wildfire Suppression Operations Reserve Fund” shall be \$2,390,000,000 for additional new budget authority as specified for purposes of section 251(b)(2)(F) of the of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

SEC. 1807. Sections 456 and 457 of H.R. 8998 from the 118th Congress (Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2025), as passed by the House of Representatives on July 24, 2024, are hereby enacted into law.

SEC. 1808. (a) Funds previously made available in the Further Additional Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Requirements Act, 2018 (subdivision 1 of division B of Public Law 115–123) for the “Department of the Interior—National Park Service—Historic Preservation Fund” that were available

for obligation through fiscal year 2019 are to remain available through fiscal year 2026 for the liquidation of valid obligations incurred in fiscal years 2018 and 2019: *Provided*, That amounts repurposed pursuant to this section that were previously designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 are designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

(b) This section shall—

(1) take effect on the day of enactment of this Act; and

(2) be applied as if it were in effect on September 30, 2024.

SEC. 1809. Section 113 of division G of Public Law 113-76 shall be applied by substituting “2025” for “2024”.

TITLE IX—DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES

SEC. 1901. Notwithstanding section 1101 of this Act, the level for “Department of Labor—Bureau of Labor Statistics—Salaries and Expenses” shall be applied by substituting “\$635,952,000” for “\$629,952,000”.

SEC. 1902. (a) Notwithstanding section 1101, the level which may be expended from the Employment Security Administration Account of the Unemployment Trust Fund for administrative expenses of “Department of Labor—State Unemployment Insurance and Employment Service Operations” shall be \$3,928,084,000: *Provided*, That the amount included under such heading in division D of Public Law 118-47 shall be applied to funds appropriated by this division by substituting “\$3,147,635,000” for “\$3,141,635,000” and “\$388,000,000” for “\$382,000,000”: *Provided further*, That of the funds made available by section 1101 under such heading to carry out reemployment services and eligibility assessments under section 306 of the Social Security Act, \$271,000,000 is additional new budget authority specified for purposes of section 251(b)(2)(E) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

(b) Notwithstanding section 1101, the level for “Department of Health and Human Services—Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services—Health Care Fraud and Abuse Control Account” shall be \$941,000,000: *Provided*, That the amount included under such heading in division D of Public Law 118-47 shall be applied to funds appropriated by this division by substituting “\$699,058,000” for “\$675,058,000”, “\$108,735,000” for “\$107,735,000”, and “\$133,207,000” for “\$132,207,000”: *Provided further*, That of the funds made available by section 1101 under such heading, \$630,000,000 is additional new budget authority specified for purposes of section 251(b)(2)(C) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 for additional health care fraud and abuse control activities.

(c) Notwithstanding section 1101, the level for “Social Security Administration—Limitation on Administrative Expenses” shall be \$14,127,978,000: *Provided*, That the amount included under such heading in division D of Public Law 118-47 shall be applied to funds appropriated by this division by substituting “\$1,903,000,000” for “\$1,851,000,000”: *Provided further*, That of the funds made available by section 1101 under such heading, \$1,630,000,000 is additional new budget authority specified for purposes of section 251(b)(2)(B) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

(RESCISSION)

SEC. 1903. Of the funds made available under the heading “Department of Labor—Employment and Training Administration—Training and Employment Services” in divi-

sion D of Public Law 118-47, \$75,000,000 are hereby permanently rescinded from the amount specified in paragraph (2)(A) under such heading for the period October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2025.

SEC. 1904. Notwithstanding section 1104 of this Act, during the period covered by this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services may collect registration fees from members of the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network (in this section referred to as “OPTN”), authorized under section 372 of the Public Health Service Act, for each transplant candidate such members place on the list described in subsection (b)(2)(A)(i) of such section, including directly or through awards made under subsection (b)(1)(A) of such section: *Provided*, That such fees may be credited to the “Department of Health and Human Services—Health Resources and Services Administration—Health Systems” account, to remain available until expended, to support the operation of the OPTN: *Provided further*, That the Secretary may distribute fees collected pursuant to this subsection among the awardee or awardees described in such subsection (b)(1)(A) as the Secretary deems appropriate.

SEC. 1905. Notwithstanding section 1101 of this Act, the level for “Department of Health and Human Services—National Institutes of Health—NIH Innovation Account, CURES Act” shall be applied by substituting “\$127,000,000” for “\$407,000,000”.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 1906. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall transfer funds appropriated for fiscal year 2025 under section 4002 of Public Law 111-148 (42 U.S.C. 300u-11) to the accounts specified, in the amounts specified, and for the activities specified in subsection (a) of section 222 of division D of Public Law 118-47: *Provided*, That subsections (b) and (c) of such section 222 shall apply to amounts transferred under this section.

SEC. 1907. Section 223 of division D of Public Law 118-47 is amended by striking “2026” and inserting “2027”.

SEC. 1908. Notwithstanding section 1101 of this Act, the level for the following accounts shall be applied as follows:

(1) Under the heading “Department of Labor—Employment and Training Administration—Training and Employment Services”, by substituting “\$3,898,587,000” for “\$4,006,421,000”, by substituting “\$969,255,000” for “\$1,077,089,000”, and by substituting “\$0” for “\$107,834,000”.

(2) Under the heading “Department of Health and Human Services—Health Resources and Services Administration—HRSA-Wide Activities and Program Support”, by substituting “\$219,588,000” for “\$1,110,376,000” and by substituting “\$0” for “\$890,788,000”.

(3) Under the heading “Department of Health and Human Services—Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration—Health Surveillance and Program Support”, by substituting “\$138,155,000” for “\$210,245,000” and by substituting “\$0” for “\$72,090,000”.

(4) Under the heading “Department of Health and Human Services—Administration for Children and Families—Children and Families Services Programs”, by substituting “\$14,789,089,000” for “\$14,829,100,000” and by substituting “\$0” for “\$40,011,000”.

(5) Under the heading “Department of Health and Human Services—Administration for Community Living—Aging and Disability Services Programs”, by substituting “\$2,435,832,000” for “\$2,465,100,000” and by substituting “\$0” for “\$29,268,000”.

(6) Under the heading “Department of Education—Higher Education”, by substituting “\$3,080,952,000” for “\$3,283,296,000” and by substituting “\$0” for “\$202,344,000”.

SEC. 1909. Section 306 of division D of Public Law 118-47 is amended by striking “2024” and inserting “2026”.

(INCLUDING RESCISSION OF FUNDS)

SEC. 1910. Notwithstanding section 1101, the amount under the heading “Corporation for National and Community Service—Payment to the National Service Trust” in division D of Public Law 118-47 shall be applied to funds appropriated by this division by substituting “\$235,000,000” for “\$243,000,000”.

SEC. 1911. Notwithstanding section 1101, the amount included in the third paragraph under the heading “Social Security Administration—Limitation on Administrative Expenses” in division D of Public Law 118-47 shall be applied to funds appropriated by this division by substituting “\$170,000,000” for “\$150,000,000” each place it appears.

SEC. 1912. Activities authorized by part A of title IV (other than under section 403(c) or 418) and section 1108(b) of the Social Security Act shall continue through the date specified in section 1106 of this Act, in the manner authorized for fiscal year 2024, and out of any money in the Treasury of the United States not otherwise appropriated, there are hereby appropriated such sums as may be necessary for such purpose.

TITLE X—LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

SEC. 11001. Notwithstanding section 1101 of this Act, the level for each of the following Senate accounts shall be as follows:

(1) “Contingent Expenses of the Senate—Inquiries and Investigations”, \$189,200,000.

(2) “Contingent Expenses of the Senate—Senators’ Official Personnel and Office Expense Account”, \$607,400,000.

SEC. 11002. Notwithstanding section 1101 of this Act, the level for each of the following House of Representatives accounts shall be as follows:

(1) “Salaries and Expenses”, \$1,878,346,000.

(2) “Members’ Representational Allowances”, \$850,000,000.

(3) “Salaries, Officers and Employees”, \$320,227,000, and the level under that heading for the Office of the Sergeant at Arms, \$34,141,000.

(4) “House of Representatives Modernization Initiatives Account”, \$2,000,000.

SEC. 11003. Notwithstanding section 1101 of this Act, the level for each of the following Joint Items accounts shall be as follows:

(1) “Office of the Attending Physician”, \$4,292,000.

(2) “Capitol Police—Salaries”, \$603,627,000: *Provided*, That of the amounts appropriated, \$15,000,000 shall be available solely for tuition reimbursement and recruitment and retention focused salary related items.

(3) “Architect of the Capitol—Capitol Building”, \$48,688,000, of which \$6,599,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2029, and of which \$10,000,000 shall remain available until expended.

(4) “Architect of the Capitol—Capitol Grounds”, \$21,600,000, of which \$7,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2029.

(5) “Architect of the Capitol—House Office Buildings”, \$146,174,000, of which \$61,610,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2029, and of which \$10,500,000 shall remain available until expended.

(6) “Architect of the Capitol—Capitol Power Plant”, \$123,850,000, of which \$11,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2029.

(7) “Architect of the Capitol—Library Buildings and Grounds”, \$64,978,000, of which \$27,800,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2029, and the matter following “September 20, 2028” shall not apply.

TITLE XI—MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED AGENCIES

SEC. 11101. Notwithstanding section 1101 of this Act, the level for the following accounts shall be applied as follows:

- (1) \$2,236,357,000 for “Department of Defense—Military Construction, Army”.
- (2) \$4,159,399,000 for “Department of Defense—Military Construction, Navy and Marine Corps”.
- (3) \$3,347,126,000 for “Department of Defense—Military Construction, Air Force”.
- (4) \$3,881,383,000 for “Department of Defense—Military Construction, Defense-Wide”.
- (5) \$398,489,000 for “Department of Defense—Military Construction, Army National Guard”.
- (6) \$290,492,000 for “Department of Defense—Military Construction, Air National Guard”.
- (7) \$295,032,000 for “Department of Defense—Military Construction, Army Reserve”.
- (8) \$29,829,000 for “Department of Defense—Military Construction, Navy Reserve”.
- (9) \$74,663,000 for “Department of Defense—Military Construction, Air Force Reserve”.

SEC. 11102. Notwithstanding section 1101 of this Act, the level for the following accounts shall be applied as follows:

- (1) \$276,647,000 for “Department of Defense—Family Housing Construction—Army”.
- (2) \$245,742,000 for “Department of Defense—Family Housing Construction—Navy and Marine Corps”.
- (3) \$221,549,000 for “Department of Defense—Family Housing Construction—Air Force”.
- (4) \$8,195,000 for “Department of Defense—Family Housing Improvement Fund”.
- (5) \$497,000 for “Department of Defense—Military Unaccompanied Housing Improvement Fund”.

SEC. 11103. Notwithstanding section 1101 of this Act, the level for the following accounts shall be applied as follows:

- (1) \$485,611,000 for “Department of Defense—Family Housing Operation and Maintenance—Army”.
- (2) \$387,217,000 for “Department of Defense—Family Housing Operation and Maintenance—Navy and Marine Corps”.
- (3) \$336,250,000 for “Department of Defense—Family Housing Operation and Maintenance—Air Force”.
- (4) \$52,156,000 for “Department of Defense—Family Housing Operation and Maintenance—Defense-Wide”.

SEC. 11104. Notwithstanding section 1101 of this Act, section 126 of division A of Public Law 118-42 shall be applied by substituting “fiscal year 2017, 2018, 2019, and 2020” for “fiscal year 2017, 2018, and 2019”.

SEC. 11105. Notwithstanding section 1101 of this Act, sections 124, 128 through 137, 259, and 260 of division A of Public Law 118-42 shall not apply for fiscal year 2025.

SEC. 11106. Notwithstanding section 1101 of this Act, section 123 of division A of Public Law 118-42 and the provisions carrying the same restriction in prior Acts making appropriations to the Department of Defense for military construction shall not apply to unobligated balances from prior year appropriations made available under the heading “Department of Defense—Military Construction, Army” and such balances may be obligated for an access road project at Arlington National Cemetery.

SEC. 11107. Notwithstanding section 1101 of this Act, for expenses necessary to support efforts to complete the renovation of the Sheridan Building at the Armed Forces Retirement Home—Washington, District of Co-

lumbia, \$31,000,000, to remain available until expended, shall be paid from the general fund of the Treasury to the Armed Forces Retirement Home Trust Fund.

SEC. 11108. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the following provisions included in title I of division A of Public Law 118-42 shall not apply to funds made available by this Act: the first and last provisos under the heading “Military Construction, Army”; the first and last provisos under the heading “Military Construction, Navy and Marine Corps”; the first and last provisos under the heading “Military Construction, Air Force”; the second and third provisos under the heading “Military Construction, Defense-Wide”; the first and second provisos under the heading “Military Construction, Army National Guard”; the first and second provisos under the heading “Military Construction, Air National Guard”; the first and second provisos under the heading “Military Construction, Army Reserve”; the first proviso under the heading “Military Construction, Navy Reserve”; and the first and second provisos under the heading “Military Construction, Air Force Reserve”.

SEC. 11109. Notwithstanding section 1112, the levels for each of the following accounts for fiscal year 2026 shall be as follows:

- (1) \$75,039,000,000 for “Department of Veterans Affairs—Medical Services”, which shall become available on October 1, 2025, and of which \$2,000,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2027.
- (2) \$34,000,000,000 for “Department of Veterans Affairs—Medical Community Care”, which shall become available on October 1, 2025, and of which \$2,000,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2027.
- (3) \$12,700,000,000 for “Department of Veterans Affairs—Medical Support and Compliance”, which shall become available on October 1, 2025, and of which \$350,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2027.
- (4) \$9,700,000,000 for “Department of Veterans Affairs—Medical Facilities”, which shall become available on October 1, 2025, and of which \$500,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2027.
- (5) \$227,240,071,000 for “Department of Veterans Affairs—Veterans Benefits Administration—Compensation and Pensions”, which shall become available on October 1, 2025, to remain available until expended.
- (6) \$20,372,030,000 for “Department of Veterans Affairs—Veterans Benefits Administration—Readjustment Benefits”, which shall become available on October 1, 2025, to remain available until expended.
- (7) \$131,518,000 for “Department of Veterans Affairs—Veterans Benefits Administration—Veterans Insurance and Indemnities”, to remain available until expended.

SEC. 11110. In addition to amounts provided in this or other Acts, an additional amount is appropriated to the following accounts in the amounts specified:

- (1) \$30,242,064,000 for “Department of Veterans Affairs—Veterans Benefits Administration—Compensation and Pensions”, to remain available until expended.
- (2) \$4,864,566,000 for “Department of Veterans Affairs—Veterans Benefits Administration—Readjustment Benefits”, to remain available until expended.
- (3) \$6,000,000,000 for “Department of Veterans Affairs—Cost of War Toxic Exposure Fund”, to remain available until expended.

TITLE XII—DEPARTMENT OF STATE, FOREIGN OPERATIONS, AND RELATED PROGRAMS

SEC. 11201. Notwithstanding section 1101, the fifth and sixth provisos under the heading “Millennium Challenge Corporation” in title III of division F of Public Law 118-47 shall be applied by substituting “December

31, 2025” for “December 31, 2024” each place it appears.

SEC. 11202. Notwithstanding section 1101, the matter under the heading “Office of Inspector General” in title I of division F of Public Law 118-47 shall be applied to funds appropriated by this Act by inserting “up to” before “\$24,835,000”.

SEC. 11203. Notwithstanding section 1101, the amounts included under the heading “International Boundary and Water Commission, United States and Mexico—Construction” in title I of division F of Public Law 118-47 shall be applied by substituting “\$78,000,000” for “\$156,050,000” and “\$15,000,000” for “\$5,000,000” in the first proviso.

SEC. 11204. Notwithstanding section 1101, the levels for the following accounts in division F of Public Law 118-47 shall be as follows: “Other Commissions—Commission on Reform and Modernization of the Department of State”, \$0; “International Organizations—Contributions for International Peacekeeping Activities”, \$1,234,144,000; “Department of the Treasury—Debt Restructuring”, \$10,000,000; and “International Financial Institutions—Contribution to the Asian Development Fund”, \$43,610,000.

SEC. 11205. Notwithstanding section 1101, the following provisions in title VII of division F of Public Law 118-47 shall not apply to funds appropriated by this Act—

- (1) section 7004(e);
- (2) section 7034(r); and
- (3) section 7045(l)(2).

SEC. 11206. Notwithstanding section 1101, the following provisions in title VII of division F of Public Law 118-47 shall be applied to funds appropriated by this Act by substituting—

- (1) in section 7041(d), “\$450,300,000” for “\$725,300,000”;
- (2) in section 7045(g)(2), “January 1, 2026” for “January 1, 2025”;
- (3) in section 7053, “September 30, 2024” for “September 30, 2023”; and
- (4) in section 7068(b), “2020 through 2025” for “2020 through 2024”: *Provided*, That amounts provided pursuant to this paragraph are designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

(INCLUDING RESCISSION OF FUNDS)

SEC. 11207. Notwithstanding section 1101, section 7075 in title VII of division F of Public Law 118-47 shall be applied by substituting—

- (1) in subsection (c), “\$65,000,000” for “\$50,000,000”;
- (2) in subsection (e), “\$375,000,000” for “\$902,340,000”; and
- (3) in lieu of subsection (f), the following new subsection:

“(f) DEBT RESTRUCTURING.—Of the unobligated balances from amounts made available under the heading ‘Debt Restructuring’ from prior Acts making appropriations for the Department of State, foreign operations, and related programs, \$111,000,000 are rescinded.”

SEC. 11208. (a) The Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 1990 (Public Law 101-167) is amended—

- (1) in section 599D (8 U.S.C. 1157 note)—
 - (A) in subsection (b)(3), by striking “and 2024” and inserting “2024, and 2025”; and
 - (B) in subsection (e), by striking “2024” each place it appears and inserting “2025”; and
- (2) in section 599E(b)(2) (8 U.S.C. 1255 note), by striking “2024” and inserting “2025”.
- (b) The heading of subparagraph (F) of section 602(b)(3) of the Afghan Allies Protection

Act of 2009 (8 U.S.C. 1101 note) is amended by striking “2024” and inserting “2025”.

(c) Chapter 5 of title I of the Emergency Wartime Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2003 (Public Law 108-11; 117 Stat. 576) is amended under the heading “Loan Guarantees to Israel”:

(1) in the matter preceding the first proviso, by striking “September 30, 2029” and inserting “September 30, 2030”; and

(2) in the second proviso, by striking “September 30, 2029” and inserting “September 30, 2030”.

(d) Section 514(b)(2)(A) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2321h(b)(2)(A)) is amended by striking “2023” and all that follows through the end of the sentence and inserting “2023 through 2027”.

TITLE XIII—TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES

SEC. 11301. Notwithstanding section 1101 of this Act, the level for the following accounts shall be as follows:

(1) \$20,926,000 for “Department of Transportation—Office of the Secretary—Transportation Planning, Research, and Development”.

(2) \$3,176,250,000 for “Department of Transportation—Federal Aviation Administration—Facilities and Equipment”.

(3) \$50,000,000 for “Department of Transportation—Federal Aviation Administration—Airport Improvement Program”.

(4) \$340,500,000 for “Department of Transportation—Federal Highway Administration—Highway Infrastructure Programs”.

(5) \$100,000,000 for “Department of Transportation—Federal Railroad Administration—Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements”.

(6) \$45,568,868 for “Department of Transportation—Federal Transit Administration—Transit Infrastructure Grants”.

(7) \$50,000,000 for “Department of Transportation—Maritime Administration—Port Infrastructure Development Program”.

(8) \$3,430,000,000 for “Department of Housing and Urban Development—Community Planning and Development—Community Development Fund”.

SEC. 11302. (a) Notwithstanding section 1101 of this Act, the level for limitations on obligation and liquidation of contract authority shall be available in the following accounts equal to the level of contract authority subject to such limitation appropriated out of the Highway Trust Fund in sections 11102, 11104, 11106, 23001, 24101, 24201, and 30017 of Public Law 117-58 for fiscal year 2025:

(1) “Department of Transportation—Federal Highway Administration—Limitation on Administrative Expenses—(Highway Trust Fund)”.

(2) “Department of Transportation—Federal Highway Administration—Federal-Aid Highways—(Limitation on Obligations)—(Highway Trust Fund)—(Liquidation of Contract Authorization)—(Highway Trust Fund)”.

(3) “Department of Transportation—Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration—Motor Carrier Safety Operations and Programs—(Liquidation of Contract Authorization)—(Limitation on Obligations)—(Highway Trust Fund)”.

(4) “Department of Transportation—Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration—Motor Carrier Safety Grants—(Liquidation of Contract Authorization)—(Limitation on Obligations)—(Highway Trust Fund)”.

(5) “Department of Transportation—National Highway Traffic Safety Administration—Operations and Research—(Liquidation of Contract Authorization)—(Limitation on Obligations)—(Highway Trust Fund)”.

(6) “Department of Transportation—National Highway Traffic Safety Administra-

tion—Highway Traffic Safety Grants—(Liquidation of Contract Authorization)—(Limitation on Obligations)—(Highway Trust Fund)”.

(7) “Department of Transportation—Federal Transit Administration—Transit Formula Grants—(Liquidation of Contract Authorization)—(Limitation on Obligations)—(Highway Trust Fund)”.

(b) Notwithstanding section 1101 of this Act, the level for limitations on obligation and liquidation of contract authority shall be available for “Department of Transportation—Federal Aviation Administration—Grants-in-Aid for Airports—(Liquidation of Contract Authorization)—(Limitation on Obligations)—(Airport and Airway Trust Fund)—(Including Transfer of Funds)” in amounts equal to the level of contract authority subject to such limitation in section 101(a) of Public Law 118-63.

SEC. 11303. Notwithstanding section 1101 of this Act, the level for the following accounts shall be as follows:

(1) \$450,000,000 for “Department of Transportation—Office of the Secretary—Payments to Air Carriers—(Airport and Airway Trust Fund)”.

(2) \$13,482,783,000 for “Department of Transportation—Federal Aviation Administration—Operations—(Airport and Airway Trust Fund)”, of which not less than \$1,832,078,000 shall be for aviation safety activities and not less than \$10,105,678,000 shall be for air traffic organization activities.

(3) \$45,150,000 for the fourth number under the heading “Department of Transportation—Federal Aviation Administration—Facilities and Equipment—(Airport and Airway Trust Fund)”.

(4) \$32,041,000,000 for “Department of Housing and Urban Development—Public and Indian Housing—Tenant-Based Rental Assistance” and \$32,145,124,000 is the amount available under paragraph (1): *Provided*, That the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development may use amounts made available in the second, third, sixth, and seventh paragraphs under this heading in division F of Public Law 118-42 to support the purposes described in subparagraph (1)(D) and subparagraph (4)(B) of such heading.

(5) \$16,490,000,000 for “Department of Housing and Urban Development—Housing Programs—Project-Based Rental Assistance”.

(6) \$931,400,000 for “Department of Housing and Urban Development—Housing Programs—Housing for the Elderly”.

(7) \$256,700,000 for “Department of Housing and Urban Development—Housing Programs—Housing for Persons with Disabilities”.

(8) \$145,000,000 for “National Transportation Safety Board—Salaries and Expenses”.

SEC. 11304. Notwithstanding section 1101 of this Act, the following provisions shall not apply:

(1) Paragraph (3) under the heading “Department of Transportation—Federal Aviation Administration—Grants-in-Aid for Airports”.

(2) The proviso under the heading “Department of Transportation—Maritime Administration—Maritime Security Program”.

(3) The provisos under the heading “Department of Transportation—Maritime Administration—Tanker Security Program”.

(4) The proviso under the heading “Department of Transportation—Maritime Administration—Ship Disposal”.

SEC. 11305. Notwithstanding section 1101, under the heading “Department of Housing and Urban Development—Community Planning and Development—Homeless Assistance Grants”, the Secretary may repurpose funds made available under paragraph (5) to provide additional amounts for the continuum

of care program under paragraph (2) of such heading.

This division may be cited as the “Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2025”.

DIVISION B—HEALTH

TITLE I—PUBLIC HEALTH EXTENDERS

SEC. 2101. EXTENSION FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS, NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE CORPS, AND TEACHING HEALTH CENTERS THAT OPERATE GME PROGRAMS.

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

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

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

(3) by adding at the end the following: “(J) \$2,135,835,616 for the period beginning on April 1, 2025, and ending on September 30, 2025; and”.

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

(1) in subparagraph (I), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (J), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following: “(K) \$172,972,603 for the period beginning on April 1, 2025, and ending on September 30, 2025.”.

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

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

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

(3) by adding at the end the following: “(F) \$87,739,726 for the period beginning on April 1, 2025, and ending on September 30, 2025.”.

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

(e) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 3014(h)(4) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by striking “and section 3101(d) of the Health Extensions and Other Matters Act, 2025” and inserting “section 3101(d) of the Health Extensions and Other Matters Act, 2025, and section 2101(d) of division B of the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025”.

SEC. 2102. EXTENSION OF SPECIAL DIABETES PROGRAMS.

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

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

(2) in subparagraph (F), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following: “(G) \$79,832,215 for the period beginning on April 1, 2025, and ending on September 30, 2025, to remain available until expended.”.

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

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

(2) in subparagraph (F), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(G) \$79,832,215 for the period beginning on April 1, 2025, and ending on September 30, 2025, to remain available until expended.”.

SEC. 2103. NATIONAL HEALTH SECURITY EXTENSIONS.

(a) Section 319(e)(8) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d(e)(8)) is amended by striking “March 31, 2025” and inserting “September 30, 2025”.

(b) Section 319L(e)(1)(D) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d-7e(e)(1)(D)) is amended by striking “March 31, 2025” and inserting “September 30, 2025”.

(c) Section 319L-1(b) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d-7f(b)) is amended by striking “March 31, 2025” and inserting “September 30, 2025”.

(d)(1) Section 2811A(g) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300hh-10b(g)) is amended by striking “March 31, 2025” and inserting “September 30, 2025”.

(2) Section 2811B(g)(1) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300hh-10c(g)(1)) is amended by striking “March 31, 2025” and inserting “September 30, 2025”.

(3) Section 2811C(g)(1) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300hh-10d(g)(1)) is amended by striking “March 31, 2025” and inserting “September 30, 2025”.

(e) Section 2812(c)(4)(B) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300hh-11(c)(4)(B)) is amended by striking “March 31, 2025” and inserting “September 30, 2025”.

TITLE II—MEDICARE

SEC. 2201. EXTENSION OF INCREASED INPATIENT HOSPITAL PAYMENT ADJUSTMENT FOR CERTAIN LOW-VOLUME HOSPITALS.

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

(1) in subparagraph (B), by striking “during the portion of fiscal year 2025 beginning on April 1, 2025, and ending on September 30, 2025, and”;

(2) in subparagraph (C)(i)—

(A) in the matter preceding subclause (I)—

(i) by striking “or portion of a fiscal year”;

(ii) by striking “2024 and the portion of fiscal year 2025 beginning on October 1, 2024, and ending on March 31, 2025” and inserting “2025”;

(B) in subclause (III), by striking “2024 and the portion of fiscal year 2025 beginning on October 1, 2024, and ending on March 31, 2025” and inserting “2025”;

(C) in subclause (IV), by striking “the portion of fiscal year 2025 beginning on April 1, 2025, and ending on September 30, 2025, and”;

(3) in subparagraph (D)—

(A) in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking “2024 or during the portion of fiscal year 2025 beginning on October 1, 2024, and ending on March 31, 2025” and inserting “2025”;

(B) in clause (ii), by striking “2024 and the portion of fiscal year 2025 beginning on October 1, 2024, and ending on March 31, 2025” and inserting “2025”.

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

SEC. 2202. EXTENSION OF THE MEDICARE-DEPENDENT HOSPITAL (MDH) PROGRAM.

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

(1) in clause (i), by striking “April 1, 2025” and inserting “October 1, 2025”;

(2) in clause (ii)(II), by striking “April 1, 2025” and inserting “October 1, 2025”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

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

(A) in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking “April 1, 2025” and inserting “October 1, 2025”;

(B) in clause (iv), by striking “2024 and the portion of fiscal year 2025 beginning on October 1, 2024, and ending on March 31, 2025” and inserting “2025”.

(2) PERMITTING HOSPITALS TO DECLINE RECLASSIFICATION.—Section 13501(e)(2) of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993 (42 U.S.C. 1395ww note) is amended by striking “2024, or the portion of fiscal year 2025 beginning on October 1, 2024, and ending on March 31, 2025” and inserting “2025”.

SEC. 2203. EXTENSION OF ADD-ON PAYMENTS FOR AMBULANCE SERVICES.

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

(1) in paragraph (12)(A), by striking “April 1, 2025” and inserting “October 1, 2025”;

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

SEC. 2204. EXTENSION OF FUNDING FOR QUALITY MEASURE ENDORSEMENT, INPUT, AND SELECTION.

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

(1) in the first sentence—

(A) by striking “\$11,030,000” and inserting “\$14,030,000”;

(B) by striking “March 31, 2025” and inserting “September 30, 2025”;

(2) in the third sentence, by striking “March 31, 2025” and inserting “September 30, 2025”.

SEC. 2205. EXTENSION OF FUNDING OUTREACH AND ASSISTANCE FOR LOW-INCOME PROGRAMS.

(a) STATE HEALTH INSURANCE ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS.—Subsection (a)(1)(B)(xiv) of section 119 of the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act of 2008 (42 U.S.C. 1395b-3 note) is amended by striking “March 31, 2025, \$22,500,000” and inserting “September 30, 2025, \$30,000,000”.

(b) AREA AGENCIES ON AGING.—Subsection (b)(1)(B)(xiv) of such section 119 is amended by striking “March 31, 2025, \$22,500,000” and inserting “September 30, 2025, \$30,000,000”.

(c) AGING AND DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTERS.—Subsection (c)(1)(B)(xiv) of such section 119 is amended by striking “March 31, 2025, \$8,500,000” and inserting “September 30, 2025, \$10,000,000”.

(d) COORDINATION OF EFFORTS TO INFORM OLDER AMERICANS ABOUT BENEFITS AVAILABLE UNDER FEDERAL AND STATE PROGRAMS.—Subsection (d)(2)(xiv) of such section 119 is amended by striking “March 31, 2025, \$22,500,000” and inserting “September 30, 2025, \$30,000,000”.

SEC. 2206. EXTENSION OF THE WORK GEOGRAPHIC INDEX FLOOR.

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

SEC. 2207. EXTENSION OF CERTAIN TELEHEALTH FLEXIBILITIES.

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

(1) in paragraph (2)(B)(iii), by striking “ending March 31, 2025” and inserting “ending September 30, 2025”;

(2) in paragraph (4)(C)(iii), by striking “ending on March 31, 2025” and inserting “ending on September 30, 2025”.

(b) EXPANDING PRACTITIONERS ELIGIBLE TO FURNISH TELEHEALTH SERVICES.—Section

1834(m)(4)(E) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395m(m)(4)(E)) is amended by striking “ending on March 31, 2025” and inserting “ending on September 30, 2025”.

(c) EXTENDING TELEHEALTH SERVICES FOR FEDERALLY QUALIFIED HEALTH CENTERS AND RURAL HEALTH CLINICS.—Section 1834(m)(8)(A) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395m(m)(8)(A)) is amended by striking “ending on March 31, 2025” and inserting “ending on September 30, 2025”.

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

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

(2) MENTAL HEALTH VISITS FURNISHED BY RURAL HEALTH CLINICS.—Section 1834(y)(2) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395m(y)(2)) is amended by striking “April 1, 2025” and inserting “October 1, 2025”.

(3) MENTAL HEALTH VISITS FURNISHED BY FEDERALLY QUALIFIED HEALTH CENTERS.—Section 1834(o)(4)(B) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395m(o)(4)(B)) is amended by striking “April 1, 2025” and inserting “October 1, 2025”.

(e) ALLOWING FOR THE FURNISHING OF AUDIO-ONLY TELEHEALTH SERVICES.—Section 1834(m)(9) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395m(m)(9)) is amended by striking “ending on March 31, 2025” and inserting “ending on September 30, 2025”.

(f) EXTENDING USE OF TELEHEALTH TO CONDUCT FACE-TO-FACE ENCOUNTER PRIOR TO RECERTIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR HOSPICE CARE.—Section 1814(a)(7)(D)(i)(II) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395f(a)(7)(D)(i)(II)) is amended by striking “ending on March 31, 2025” and inserting “ending on September 30, 2025”.

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

SEC. 2208. EXTENDING ACUTE HOSPITAL CARE AT HOME WAIVER AUTHORITIES.

Section 1866G(a)(1) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395cc-7(a)(1)) is amended by striking “March 31, 2025” and inserting “September 30, 2025”.

SEC. 2209. EXTENSION OF TEMPORARY INCLUSION OF AUTHORIZED ORAL ANTIVIRAL DRUGS AS COVERED PART D DRUGS.

Section 1860D-2(e)(1)(C) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-102(e)(1)(C)) is amended by striking “March 31, 2025” and inserting “September 30, 2025”.

SEC. 2210. MEDICARE IMPROVEMENT FUND.

Section 1898(b)(1) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395iii(b)(1)) is amended by striking “\$1,251,000,000” and inserting “\$1,804,000,000”.

SEC. 2211. MEDICARE SEQUESTRATION.

Section 251A(6)(D) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 901a(6)(D)) is amended—

(1) in clause (i), by striking “8 months” and inserting “10 months”;

(2) in clause (ii), by striking “4 months” and inserting “2 months”.

TITLE III—HUMAN SERVICES

SEC. 2301. SEXUAL RISK AVOIDANCE EDUCATION EXTENSION.

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

(1) in subsection (a)(1)—

(A) by striking “the period beginning on October 1, 2024, and ending on March 31, 2025” and inserting “fiscal year 2025”;

(B) by striking “or 2025”; and

(2) in subsection (f)(1), by striking “the period beginning on October 1, 2024, and ending on March 31, 2025, an amount equal to the pro rata portion of the amount appropriated for the corresponding period” and inserting “for fiscal year 2025, an amount equal to the amount appropriated for”.

SEC. 2302. PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY EDUCATION EXTENSION.

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

(1) in subsection (a)(1)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking “the period beginning on October 1, 2024, and ending on March 31, 2025” and inserting “fiscal year 2025”; and

(B) in subparagraph (B)(i), by striking “the period beginning on October 1, 2024, and ending on March 31, 2025” and inserting “fiscal year 2025”; and

(2) in subsection (f), by striking “the period beginning on October 1, 2024, and ending on March 31, 2025, an amount equal to the pro rata portion of the amount appropriated for the corresponding period” and inserting “fiscal year 2025, an amount equal to the amount appropriated for fiscal year 2024”.

SEC. 2303. EXTENSION OF FUNDING FOR FAMILY-TO-FAMILY HEALTH INFORMATION CENTERS.

Section 501(c)(1)(A)(viii) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 701(c)(1)(A)(viii)) is amended by striking “\$3,000,000 for the portion of fiscal year 2025 before April 1, 2025.” and inserting “\$6,000,000 for fiscal year 2025”.

TITLE IV—MEDICAID

SEC. 2401. DELAYING MEDICAID DSH REDUCTIONS.

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

(1) in clause (i)—

(A) in the matter preceding subclause (I)—
(i) by striking “For the period beginning April 1, 2025, and ending September 30, 2025, and for” and inserting “For”; and

(ii) by striking “through 2027” and inserting “through 2028”;

(B) in subclause (I), by striking “or period”; and

(C) in subclause (II), by striking “or period”; and

(2) in clause (ii)—

(A) by striking “for the period beginning April 1, 2025, and ending September 30, 2025, and”; and

(B) by striking “through 2027” and inserting “through 2028”.

DIVISION C—OTHER MATTERS

SEC. 3101. COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION WHISTLEBLOWER PROGRAM.

Section 1(b) of Public Law 117-25 (135 Stat. 297; 136 Stat. 2133; 136 Stat. 5984) is amended in each of paragraphs (3) and (4) by striking “March 14, 2025” and inserting “September 30, 2025”.

SEC. 3102. PROTECTION OF CERTAIN FACILITIES AND ASSETS FROM UNMANNED AIRCRAFT.

Section 210G(i) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 124n(i)) is amended by striking “March 14, 2025” and inserting “September 30, 2025”.

SEC. 3103. ADDITIONAL SPECIAL ASSESSMENT.

Section 3014 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by striking “March 14, 2025” and inserting “September 30, 2025”.

SEC. 3104. NATIONAL CYBERSECURITY PROTECTION SYSTEM AUTHORIZATION.

Section 227(a) of the Federal Cybersecurity Enhancement Act of 2015 (6 U.S.C. 1525(a)) is amended by striking “March 14, 2025” and inserting “September 30, 2025”.

SEC. 3105. EXTENSION OF TEMPORARY ORDER FOR FENTANYL-RELATED SUBSTANCES.

Effective as if included in the enactment of the Temporary Reauthorization and Study of the Emergency Scheduling of Fentanyl Analogues Act (Public Law 116-114), section 2 of such Act is amended by striking “March 31, 2025” and inserting “September 30, 2025”.

SEC. 3106. BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COLE) and the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COLE).

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1968, the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act 2025.

Today's bill comes about at a critical time for this institution and this Nation. As Members are well aware, government funding all runs out at midnight on Friday. That means that Members are faced with a stark but clear choice: Will they vote in favor of this bill and thereby keep the government open and operating, or will they vote “no” thereby affirmatively choosing to shut down the government? This choice is the choice we face today.

We are now nearly 5½ months into the fiscal year 2025. Congress has previously passed two short-term con-

tinuing resolutions, both of which extended government funding and kept the status quo in place, ensuring the government can remain open.

Today's bill is really no different than the CR passed in December. Other than the most essential and critical anomalies, it simply maintains current conditions through the end of the fiscal year.

For those that supported the CR in December, you should have no qualms about voting the same way on today's bill. There are no policy differences, no poison pills, and no reason to vote against keeping the government open and operating.

A yearlong CR is not how I hoped the FY 2025 appropriations process would end. The Appropriations Committee and the House did their work. Indeed, the committee reported out all 12 appropriations bills by midsummer and the House passed five of those bills covering over 70 percent of discretionary spending across the floor by the end of July.

Sadly, despite our best efforts, we were unable to come to a final agreement on the full-year appropriations bills. Although we were very close on a final dollar figure, my colleagues in the minority made additional demands that would restrict the legitimate authority of the executive and the appropriations process. These are restrictions that the minority would never accept for a Democratic President, nor are they provisions that President Trump would or should sign into law.

It is deeply unfortunate and disappointing that the minority chose to make these unreasonable demands. Republicans never left the negotiating table and indeed worked diligently with Democrats to reach a bicameral, bipartisan deal.

Sadly, the minority allowed their opposition to the President to cloud their judgment, giving in to a political temper tantrum rather than voting to keep the government open.

That truly is the choice before us, Mr. Speaker. Today's bill is a simple, straightforward continuing resolution, funding the government and keeping it open through September 30. It maintains the status quo, providing flat funding for the government, and including only legitimate anomalies.

Importantly, this bill does not contain a single poison pill policy rider. It is a clean CR, fully funding our government. This includes our military and defense needs, and indeed we have accomplished this while also fully funding the Department of Defense, including the largest pay raise for junior enlisted personnel in over 40 years.

We are also maintaining funding for other critical functions of government, including border defense, roads, parks, childcare, water infrastructure projects, biomedical research, job training, and countless others.

I know Members have heard some fear-mongering about Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid. This bill

makes no changes to any of these programs, leaving them intact, as is, and with the funding they need to operate through the end of the fiscal year.

Let me say that again. There are no changes to Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid, period.

Mr. Speaker, the outcome of the fiscal year 2025 appropriations process is not what I wanted, but at the end of the day, it is significantly better than the alternative: a government shutdown.

The choice is clear: Either Members will vote for this bill and for keeping the government open, or they will vote to shut the government down. I know which option my constituents expect, and I know which I will choose.

I urge all my colleagues to do the same and vote for this bill. I urge all my colleagues to vote to keep the government open and operating.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I am opposed to this 1-year continuing resolution. It is not a simple stopgap that keeps the lights on and the doors open. This is Republican leadership handing over the keys of the government and a blank check to Elon Musk and to President Trump.

As the White House has said, this bill creates more flexibility for this administration to continue to undermine the Constitution and the countless spending laws by stealing promised investments from American families, children, and businesses, unlawfully dismantling agencies, arbitrarily firing civil servants, and canceling union contracts.

Read the Constitution, Article I, Section 9, Clause 7: The power of the purse resides with the Congress and not with the executive. In fact, the President has no legitimate authority to meddle in the appropriations process.

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Mr. Speaker, our colleagues across the aisle have gone to their districts and witnessed rage from their constituents at these actions. They have been advised by their political consultants not to do townhalls altogether. Why bother listening to the American people?

It was President Lincoln who said public sentiment is everything, and without it, you can do nothing. They do not have public sentiment.

Now, what should we do? The answer should not be cutting nondefense programs by \$15 billion and defense by \$3 billion, as compared to the Fiscal Responsibility Act agreement for 2025.

They are in violation of the Fiscal Responsibility Act. There was an agreement with Senator SCHUMER and Speaker JOHNSON. We all voted for it here. This is a violation that cuts non-defense by \$15 billion and defense by \$3 billion.

Why do they want to shortchange defense investments by \$3 billion, I ask

them. Not only is it bad for our military—there is a reason the Department of Defense has never operated for an entire year under a continuing resolution—but, above all, it transfers more power to the administration to shut off and repurpose funding as they see fit.

The will of the Congress and the people would be ignored. Elon Musk and President Trump would be able to fire thousands of employees.

Yes, we do not oversee Social Security. That is in the purview of the Ways and Means Committee. However, we do have control over the administration on Social Security, and the President and Elon Musk would be able to fire thousands of employees at the Social Security Administration. Just witness, they are talking about 7,000 positions gone.

What does that result in? Office closures, longer wait times, and unacceptable backlogs for Americans trying to access their earned benefits. In effect, you remove the staff and personnel, thereby crippling the agency to be able to do its job and, yes, to provide benefits.

It is nice if you can individually negotiate with the administration on your own to keep your Social Security office open. There are 47 on the docket to get closed. If one stays open, why not all 47?

Army Corps of Engineers construction projects would be cut by \$1.4 billion, 44 percent, and President Trump, not the Congress, would determine who gets the funding—what cities, States, and localities—and how much money that is there.

Instead of helping to address housing costs, the bill cuts rent subsidies by over \$700 million. It leaves landlords to foot the bill or to evict. We will evict more than 32,000 households.

This bill breaks promises to veterans. House Republicans wisely proposed \$23 billion in advance funding for the toxic exposures fund to care for veterans who were exposed to burn pits, Agent Orange, and other toxic substances. In their bill last summer, it was in there. We voted for the PACT Act on a bipartisan basis, but that \$23 billion in advance funding has now disappeared. It is gone.

We do advance funding here. We do it with veterans programs and others. We do it with the Indian Health Service. We do it for public broadcasting. Why do we not want to do it for veterans' care, their healthcare and treatment? Why? If I were a veteran and they said no to my advance funding—and we do advance funding so that issues like veterans' medical care don't get caught up in the political whims of this organization, of this body. Veterans today have to understand that that \$23 billion for them is not there. There is uncertainty about that.

There is no emergency funding in this bill for disaster relief. It abandons American families who have had their lives turned upside-down by extreme weather. The funding for the disaster relief runs out in the spring.

What about Kentucky that just had a winter storm in February? Families will not be able to get back on their feet and recover. Neither will businesses that have been shut down because of a natural disaster.

The decisions about investments that we make cannot be entrusted in one single officeholder. This Congress must decide: Do we have the authority to control spending as we were granted and as laid out in Article I of the Constitution?

Why would we want to relinquish this, to give power to this administration, which is already doing massive harm by dismantling agencies, firing people, telling them today they are no longer needed? With the chaos and confusion that has been caused by Elon Musk and President Trump, why would we want to turn over our authority to appropriate bills?

I implore my colleagues to join me and stand up for our constituents against an unelected billionaire, Elon Musk, who is stealing taxpayer dollars from American families, children, and businesses. Oppose this giveaway to the administration. Pass a short-term CR, which I introduced yesterday, which would take us to April 11, to continue negotiations. Let us finish the regular bills that we agree on. That would be such an improvement over a full-year continuing resolution.

I say to my colleagues on the other side of the aisle that a shutdown will be the result of the Republican majority walking away from negotiations. We were that close. They pulled the rug out from under us and said to stop negotiating because Musk and Trump want to have the control with a full-year continuing resolution.

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

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. ALFORD), my very good friend and a distinguished member of the Appropriations Committee.

Mr. ALFORD. Mr. Speaker, I will just preface my remarks by saying how much respect I have for the ranking member and her passionate arguments. Although we don't agree, I respect her highly.

Mr. Speaker, America broke up with the progressive Democrats, but they just can't let it go. In the words of Glenn Close, they will not be ignored. They are like the ex in the 1987 movie "Fatal Attraction," the ex who got dumped and is stuck in a deranged reality, refusing to move on.

They are causing chaos, spreading mistruths, and doing everything they can to disrupt what the American people voted for, all because they cannot accept that their Big Government, open-border, America-last agenda is over.

We saw it just last week in this very Chamber, Mr. Speaker. We see it when we go back home to try to have conversations with our constituents. It is quite simple: House Republicans are

here to govern. We are passing a continuing resolution to keep America open for business, freeze wasteful spending, and secure our border.

This continuing resolution gives President Trump the time and power to continue draining the swamp and undoing the damage the radical left did to our country for the past 4 long years.

What is the far left doing? They are throwing a tantrum, a childish, petulant tantrum full of fear-mongering and gaslighting of the American people, rooting for a shutdown just so they can point fingers.

Let me tell you something, Mr. Speaker. It is not going to work. We are not falling for it. We are not playing this game. This will be a Schumer shutdown when it gets to the Senate if that happens.

The American people chose secure borders, a secure economy, secure neighborhoods, and an America First agenda. The progressive Democrats just can't accept it.

Guess what, Mr. Speaker. This breakup is final. Republicans are moving on. We will pass this CR. We will keep America running.

I urge progressive Democrats to join the rest of the Nation. It is that or they can keep screaming into the void because America is not taking them back. The breakup is over. Leave the rabbit in the backyard alone.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New York (Mr. JEFFRIES), the distinguished Democratic leader.

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished gentlewoman for her tremendous leadership and for yielding.

I don't really understand the "Fatal Attraction" reference because if anyone is dealing with fatal attraction, it is between President Trump and House Republicans. As soon as he says jump, their only answer is: "How high?" It doesn't matter whether they are hurting the American people.

That is why House Republicans are marching the country on a track toward the largest Medicaid cut in American history. It will hurt children, families, Americans with disabilities, and seniors. It will close nursing homes and hospitals.

When Donald Trump says, "Jump," extreme MAGA Republicans say, "How high?" That is the fatal attraction that is hurting the people of the United States of America.

By the way, the core promise that they made last year was about lowering costs. All they talked about was how they were going to lower the high cost of living.

Democrats believe that America is too expensive. Housing costs are too high. Grocery costs are too high. Childcare costs are too high. Utility costs are too high. Insurance costs are too high.

America is too expensive. We believe that that, in fact, is the case, but Re-

publicans have done nothing to lower the high cost of living—no bill, no executive order, no administrative action. That is the broken promise.

We were told by President Trump that costs were going to go down on day one. Grocery prices haven't gone down; they have gone up. Inflation is up.

Do you know what is going down? The stock market. It is because President Trump and House Republicans are crashing the economy in real time and marching us to a possible Republican recession. That is what is confronting the American people.

Now, we have this partisan, reckless spending bill that we are being asked to consider on the floor today. Bipartisan negotiations were underway. ROSA DELAURO was at the table, working to reach an agreement consistent with the Fiscal Responsibility Act that was passed by Republicans and Democrats and then signed into law in 2023, but when Donald Trump says, "Jump," extreme MAGA Republicans say, "How high?" He ordered the Republicans to leave the negotiating table to try to jam this far-right, extremist bill down the throats of the American people.

There are so many challenges with this bill, too many to detail, but let me just articulate a few.

The House Republican, highly partisan, shutdown-threatening bill is an attack on veterans. It is an attack on families. It is an attack on seniors. It cuts funding for veterans, including billions of dollars in funds that will be cut from veterans in desperate need of healthcare for people who served this country and who are suffering from painful exposure to toxic substances, Agent Orange, and burn pits. This bill before this House cuts billions of dollars in that healthcare that is desperately needed. That is an attack on veterans.

It is an attack on children and families in America because this bill cuts funding for nutritional assistance that would otherwise be available for everyday Americans to put food on the table when people are already struggling because grocery prices aren't going down. They are going up under this administration. Yet, this Republican bill will cut funding for nutritional assistance. That is an attack on children and families here in America.

It is an attack on seniors, an attack on everyday Americans, an attack on housing, an attack on healthcare. It cuts funds from things like Alzheimer's research to help older Americans battle these challenges.

That is what this extreme Republican bill is all about. It will hurt families, hurt seniors, and hurt veterans.

□ 1600

Mr. Speaker, the second problem, equally troublesome, is that this bill does nothing to protect Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid. We have been very clear. As Democrats, we look forward in this Congress to protecting

these vitally important priorities for the American people.

Why is the bill silent on these priorities? The Republicans are trying to set in motion a chain saw to Social Security, a chain saw to Medicare, and a chain saw to Medicaid. Yesterday, their other boss confirmed that when he talked about these entitlement programs, as he called them. They are not entitlement programs. They are earned benefits.

Mr. Speaker, when you start to use the language of entitlement programs, it is because you are trying to set in motion an assault on Social Security and an assault on Medicare. They are saying the quiet part out loud.

We know they are going after Social Security and Medicare because they have been firing thousands of people from the Social Security Administration. They want to collapse the system, and this bill does nothing to stop that. All it does is facilitate the collapse of Social Security by dismantling the Social Security Administration.

Of course, we know what is going on with the assault on Medicaid, \$880 billion, assaulting the healthcare of the American people. We have been very clear. We will work together to protect Social Security, protect Medicare, and protect Medicaid. They have no interest in doing that because they want to take a chain saw to these priorities.

By the way, it has nothing to do with waste, fraud, and abuse. As Democrats, we have been very clear. We want to build a Federal Government and make sure that we have a Federal Government that is effective, that is efficient, and that is equitable, delivering services all across the country in a manner that spends taxpayer dollars wisely.

That is not what this effort is all about. This bill will unleash fury on the American people. It will facilitate the ongoing effort that is currently underway. The average Social Security recipient in this country receives \$65 a day. They have to survive on \$65 a day, but the Republicans want to take a chain saw to Social Security, when Elon Musk and his tens of billions of dollars of government contracts essentially makes at least \$8 billion a day from the taxpayers.

If we want to uncover waste, fraud, and abuse, start there. Don't start with the \$65 a day that Social Security recipients receive from their earned benefits and from their hard work throughout their entire life. Start there. Elon Musk is feeding at the trough of the American taxpayer for \$8 billion a day.

This bill has nothing to do with waste, fraud, and abuse. It is all part of a broader scheme to pass massive tax cuts for billionaire donors, the wealthy, the well-off, and the well-connected, and then to stick working-class Americans with the bill. That is the entire scheme.

As Democrats, we want no part of it because we are fighting hard to make life better for everyday Americans. We

want to make sure that when people work hard and play by the rules in the United States of America, they should be able to provide a comfortable living for themselves and for their family, educate their children, purchase a home, have access to healthcare, go on vacation every now and then, and one day retire with grace and with dignity.

That is the American Dream we, as House Democrats, are fighting to preserve. This Republican shutdown bill does nothing to enhance the American Dream. It undermines it, which is why we are strongly opposed to this effort. It is part of a power grab from those who are unelected, unaccountable, unhinged, and then working at the direction of this administration which, again, has done nothing to improve the economy, nothing to lower costs, and nothing to make life better for everyday Americans. This reckless Republican bill will make things worse.

Mr. Speaker, I was in Selma over the weekend. We had an opportunity to once again cross the Edmund Pettus Bridge. Think about the fact that John Lewis and Amelia Boynton Robinson and Hosea Williams and so many others, as they stood on that bridge, knew there was trouble on the other side. Even though there was trouble on the other side, they believed that their cause was righteous, and it was. It was a just one. It was designed to make America the best version of herself.

We stand here today, standing on their shoulders, continuing that effort. How do we make sure that the American Dream is alive and well for everyone, in every corner of America, and throughout every community? That is what House Democrats will continue to fight for. That is why we oppose this bill, this effort to hurt families and veterans and seniors and children and everyday Americans.

We are going to continue to show up. We are going to continue to stand up. We are going to continue to speak up for what is right. We oppose this bill. We oppose this partisan effort to hurt the American people, and we will continue to stand on the side of bringing the American Dream to life for every single American.

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

Mr. Speaker, I have great respect for the Democratic leader and certainly great respect and personal friendship for the distinguished ranking member of the Appropriations Committee.

I don't know what bill the leader read, but it certainly wasn't this bill. We heard a lot about Social Security. There is not a single thing in this bill on Social Security. We heard a lot about Medicare. We don't deal with Medicare under the Appropriations Committee. It is not in here. We heard a lot about Medicaid. It is not in here either. If it will be dealt with, it will be dealt with in a reconciliation bill but not this bill.

This bill is about keeping the government open, something my friends pride

themselves on and have often patted themselves on the back on. They have the opportunity to do it today because that is all this bill does. It also does a couple of other interesting things.

My friend said we cut funds for food support. It doesn't do that. It actually adds \$500 million to WIC.

They said we cut support for housing. It doesn't do that. It actually adds money to the housing accounts.

If we actually go through the bill, the charges made simply don't have much to do with what is in this bill.

The simple reality is we are either going to keep the government open or we are going to shut it down. If we want to keep the government open and keep working on these problems, vote "yes." If we want to shut the government down and throw the country into chaos, vote "no."

It is certainly the privilege of my friends on the other side to vote how they care to vote, but don't say there are things in this bill which simply are not there. That is just fear-mongering of the worst sort.

Mr. Speaker, again, I urge my friends to keep the government open. By the way, just for the record, neither the President nor the Speaker ever asked me to leave the negotiating table. It was quite the opposite. The Speaker said to keep going, to keep trying, and to keep at it.

We are 4 days away from the shutdown. My friends introduced a lot of things in the negotiations that aren't normally appropriations issues. They chose to do that. We couldn't come to a deal. We are pretty close on the top-line number. We were right there, but we are not going to have a Republican Senate and a Republican House restrict a Republican President from the legitimate exercise of executive authority and then, oh, by the way, ask him to sign the bill.

How do my colleagues think that is going to work out? That is not a very reasonable request. We resisted it. My friend, Senator COLLINS, who is my negotiating partner from the Senate, resisted it and will continue to resist it. That is not going to happen.

This bill is about none of those things. This bill is about keeping the government open. If they choose to shut it down, then that is their prerogative. They are allowed to do that, but I don't intend to do that. I don't think my colleagues on my side of the aisle intend to do that.

Mr. Speaker, I urge Democrats who actually read the bill to reflect on it and avoid shutting down the government as well and working with us in that regard.

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, the President has no legitimate authority by the Constitution to insert himself into the appropriations process.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), the distinguishing ranking member of

the Financial Services and General Government Subcommittee.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding, and I adopt all of what the leader said, notwithstanding the rebuttal from the chairman of our committee.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is about giving Trump more unfettered power. That is what this bill is about. This country has been in crisis and chaos over the last 45-plus days, and this bill will continue that process.

The Congress, if it passes this bill, will have failed. We should have passed all of our bills by September 30 of last year. We didn't. We then passed, as some of the Republicans have said, some appropriation bills. All of them were partisan bills.

This is a partisan bill. In a Congress that is that close, I would think that we would come together and work together. One of our Members said that if Trump says pat our heads and jump up and down, that is what we will do. Welcome to the pat our heads and jump up and down CR.

A CR is failure. The majority puts forth its partisan CR that helps this administration dismantle vital services for the American people, outlined by our leader, rejecting any guardrails on these illegal and unconstitutional actions by Mr. Musk and Mr. Trump. It is that chain saw they want to take to Federal employees and the Federal Government.

This bill requires the District of Columbia, for instance, to take a \$1.1 billion cut, not out of Federal funds but out of their own funds that they tax their people. It defunds the police.

Mr. Speaker, I wish I had more time to say how bad this bill is. Vote "no."

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. SCALISE), the Republican majority leader and my good friend.

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Oklahoma (Mr. COLE), the chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, for his leadership in helping negotiate a really important bill to keep the government funded.

As has been duly noted along the way, over this past year, roughly 6 months in this House, the last majority in the last Congress passed over 70 percent of the government funding bills, Mr. Speaker. We passed them to the Senate. Back then, CHUCK SCHUMER and the Democrats were in charge, and they chose not to pass a single House appropriations bill, not one.

The House under Republican majority, not always with help from the other side but we still got it done on our own, passed over 70 percent of the government funding bills. Eventually it got to a point where we had to let the Senate try to get something done which, unfortunately, they didn't. Then we got to the verge of a shutdown. We said we are not going to let that happen, and we had a short-term funding bill.

□ 1615

Here we are again on the eve of another potential shutdown, and this Republican majority said we are not going to let that happen. In fact, this Republican President Donald Trump said we are not going to let that happen either. It would be irresponsible to have a government shutdown.

Maybe it is because Donald Trump said he is for it that then the Democrat leadership decided they were going to be against it. When did they decide they were going to be against this bill? They decided this before the bill was even written. Before it was filed, they came out against it and started saying things that were in the bill when it wasn't even written, Mr. Speaker.

You heard them talking about cuts to Medicare, cuts to veterans. The bill wasn't even written, and they were already making up stories to try to figure out how to vote "no" and shut the government down. That is sadly where this Democratic Party has gotten.

The Democratic Party of today is a leaderless, rudderless ship. They don't have an agenda. You saw it at the State of the Union, Mr. Speaker, when you saw President Trump—not only laying out his agenda—that 77 million people, a majority of Americans, went to the polls to elect. That is the mandate that President Trump got, not just with the majority of Americans and a majority of the electoral college but all seven—seven out of seven swing States all voted for President Trump because they wanted that agenda implemented.

You know what irritates the Democrats the most? What irritates them the most is the fact that President Trump is following through on the promises that he made, actually doing the things he said he would do.

He is securing the border. That was the number one issue all across this country. No matter which State you went to, people wanted a secure border. He is following through on it, and yet the Democratic Party is criticizing him for doing that part of his job.

Rooting out waste, fraud, and abuse in government is something that should be bipartisan. In fact, it used to be bipartisan to root out waste, fraud, and abuse, but now, because Donald Trump is doing it, the Democratic Party of today up here in Washington is so consumed with hatred that they oppose even rooting out waste, fraud, and abuse that has been not only highlighted up here but people around the country are talking about getting rid of that waste once they have seen it.

A lot of this was a veil that was pulled down where people couldn't even find out what was going on because the payment systems were being hidden by the Biden administration. We couldn't even find out about a lot of that spending that we were anecdotally hearing about, but finally you saw it on full display. It was so embarrassing that some of those employees have left.

Fortunately, a lot of that taxpayer money that was being wasted is now

being saved, and the money is being recouped so that we can shore up programs that work vitally for people.

The President talked about Social Security, a program that we help protect. When you have got somebody that is listed as 300 years old in the Social Security system, that shows you the kind of fraud and abuse that is going on. President Trump is willing to confront that and take it on so that people who actually paid into the program their whole lives can get the benefits they deserve.

That is what people elected President Trump and this majority on the Republican side to do. You would think Democrats would want to join in and help accomplish that, and yet here they are on this floor talking about things that aren't even in the bill, trying to scare people. They are talking about cuts to veterans in the bill, and maybe it is because they just didn't read the bill. It is only 99 pages long. I would urge them to go read it. They might actually vote for this bill in the next hour because they will realize, in fact, the cuts that they are talking about are not true. They are not in the bill.

There is an increase for veterans in this bill. You know what else is in this bill, Mr. Speaker? I again applaud the chairman of the Appropriations Committee and his members for negotiating something that has been needed for a long time, and that is the largest pay raise for our junior enlisted military personnel in over 40 years. Now, if somebody doesn't think our men and women in uniform deserve that pay raise, maybe they will vote "no." I am proud to say I am going to be voting "yes" to support our men and women in uniform who have been waiting for that raise and deserve it. How can you justify a "no" vote on that, Mr. Speaker? That is actually in the bill.

As they talk all day about what is not in the bill because they were against it before it was even written, if they actually read this bill, again only 99 pages, it is a pretty quick read, you would find out that that pay raise for our troops is in the bill. Stronger funding for our veterans is in the bill.

Why are they voting "no," you would ask? It is just because the name of the President is Donald Trump.

I think the people of this country are fed up with that kind of hatred that consumes people here in Washington.

Again, when you watch the State of the Union Address, and the President is not even talking about his agenda, he is introducing and paying tribute to a 13-year-old boy who just beat cancer, they couldn't even stand up and applaud that on their side because of the person who said it? If the hatred is so consuming that you can't even support what is great about America, maybe you need to reevaluate what is important in doing these jobs.

We are elected to represent the people, and if the President, no matter who he is or she is, has a great idea, you support it.

There were a lot of things about Barack Obama's policies I disagreed with, Mr. Speaker, yet, when he said something that was good for America at a State of the Union Address, I stood up. We actually worked with the President. The chairman was part of that, Chairman COLE, in passing the 21st Century Cures Act, the last bill that Barack Obama signed to help put more funding in the NIH so we could cure major diseases. We protect those gains in this bill.

If they are advocating to vote "no," they are advocating for a government shutdown. It is a binary choice. It is not like there is a plan B behind door number two, Mr. Speaker. If the plan is to vote "no," what you are really saying is you want to shut down the government.

We all get to bring a guest to the State of the Union, and they get to sit up in the balcony. You have the First Lady and the President's guests up there. Again, there was the 13-year-old boy who beat cancer who was a guest. The widow of a slain police officer was in the balcony, and Democrats would not even applaud and pay tribute to her. They were there. Everybody else got to bring a guest.

Most Democrats bragged that they were bringing Federal workers as their guests. You saw a lot of them holding rallies in front of Federal offices with Federal employees, some of whom hadn't shown up for work in 3 years since COVID, but they found their way to the office not to work but to protest. Democrats are about to vote to furlough all of those Federal workers. Why? Not because of what is in the bill. They have been telling you stories that aren't even true about what is in the bill. They don't like it because of the name of the President of the United States.

Aren't we bigger than that? Aren't we a better country than that, Mr. Speaker?

This is our responsibility to get this job done and then turn the page and go to work. This is the business, frankly, of the Biden administration that we are cleaning up, and we all ought to join together and finish that and then come together and start a real appropriations process where we move not just 70 percent of the bills in the House and zero in the Senate.

Senator THUNE, to his credit as the new majority leader, has vowed to actually work on a true appropriations process so we are not working at the midnight hour on CRs but where we can actually have a fully functioning appropriations process, something we haven't seen in this town in a long time.

We have to first take care of yesterday's business before we can start on tomorrow's appropriations process. It is critical that we get this job done, not to vote to lay off and furlough all the Federal workers and the TSA agents. You won't even be able to go to the airport or your favorite Federal park if they got their way.

Let's actually get our work done so we can start a 12-bill appropriations process that moves through the Senate too where you can actually have a negotiation between two sides of the aisle, again, something we haven't seen in a long time but is long past due.

It is a new day in America, and I applaud President Trump. This morning we had Vice President JD Vance come and talk about the importance of passing this bill because they want to fix the problems of this Nation. They want to fulfill the promises that were made during the campaign and follow through on the mandate that was given to President Trump, Vice President Vance, and this Republican majority in the House and Senate by 77 million people to turn this country around.

Let's get back to being the greatest country in the history of the world. We can do it. We can come together and solve big problems. We solve big problems by first taking care of the basics of government and that is to keep the government open.

Let's pass this CR. Let's see a big vote to do it, too. I welcome both sides of the aisle. My friends on the other side, they can criticize a bill they have never read that wasn't even filed, but once they look at this bill, I think you might even see some of them vote "yes," as well.

Let's get our work done, and let's move on to the next challenges that the American people expect us to deliver for them.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, the President did make a promise to drive down the cost of living. Instead, he has driven up prices.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. CLARK), the distinguished Democratic whip.

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Connecticut for yielding.

Republicans made a promise to the American people. We are going to build a stronger economy, we are going to lower costs, and we are going to have safer communities.

For 7 weeks we have seen nothing but ideas and bills that break that promise. We all want government to run more efficiently, to be better for people who depend on it, but stealing money from the Veterans Administration, from schools, from law enforcement, from children's healthcare and giving it to a tax cut to the wealthiest man on Earth and his billionaire friends is not finding efficiencies. That is not taking on waste and fraud in government. It is destroying working families.

The GOP are crushing the American people under the weight of their own political ambition. Rents are going up. Housing is in a crisis. This bill today, they propose to evict 32,000 families from their homes, 32,000. Those are veterans. Those are kids. Those are seniors. Those are domestic violence survivors.

Eggs at my grocery store on Sunday were \$8.49 a dozen. In this bill, Repub-

licans propose to take \$27 million away from the inspectors who go out to our chicken farms who are fighting and trying to stop bird flu that is causing the spike in the price of eggs. What kind of insanity is that?

Then if we look at the budget overall, we have got healthcare spiking, and you want to cut Medicaid. That is the answer? Seniors' cost of living is out of control, and Republicans are saying let's run up the cost of prescription drugs. As Elon told us directly this week, coming next Republicans want to eliminate Social Security.

If Republicans feel this is the mandate that they have, they can do that on their own.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. SIMPSON), my good friend and a senior member of the Appropriations Committee.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding. First, let me say I appreciate the work the chairman has done over the last several months trying to get our regular appropriations bills done and then trying to get this CR finished when it became apparent we weren't going to be able to negotiate a top line yet, something that we will continue to work on.

There have been a lot of things said on this floor that I have to say just aren't true. It is not a different interpretation of the facts. They are just not true. There is nothing in here that cuts Social Security. There is nothing in here that cuts Medicare. There is nothing in here that cuts Medicaid. Yet, I keep hearing that.

These are the talking points that were created before this bill was actually written. It is difficult to write a year-long CR. This is the first time I can remember it being done. It is almost harder writing that than it is writing the regular appropriation bills because we have to put anomalies in it, things that have to be done as we move on with the regular funding.

The reason I have been able to support this CR and will vote for it is because of the work that our chairman, Mr. COLE, has done with some of these anomalies that were absolutely necessary.

In the Interior arena there were four anomalies that really needed to be addressed to get this CR done. One is it fully funds PILT payments, which is an estimated level of \$600 million, which is \$85 million above what was the current level. In Indian Country, the CR increases funding for Indian Health Services to expand availability and direct healthcare services funding the Bureau of Indian Affairs. BIA and BIE programs are held at 2024 enacted levels. The CR removes the 2024 earmarks with BIA and HIS, but the overall net effect on Tribal programs is still a \$25 million increase.

In addition to the program increases, the CR also provides \$999 million in increases for Tribal contracts, court costs, and an additional \$256 million for

section 105(1) leases in an effort to continue our commitment to upholding our trust and treaty responsibilities.

□ 1630

It also increases, on a permanent basis, the wildfire fighting pay. That costs \$147 million. It actually saves us \$27 million rather than just extending the 1-year extension of the wildfire pay. I think when we have seen those great jobs that wildfire firefighters do for us, it is incredible what they do. We don't pay them enough now. If you can make more flipping burgers in California than you can fighting wildfires, something is wrong. This permanently fixes that for us.

It is a very important bill. Shutting down government is never good policy. It is never good politics. Why anyone, Republican or Democrat, would vote against this, I have no idea.

This is a good bill. I hope we all vote for it.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR), the distinguished ranking member of the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Subcommittee.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I thank Ranking Member DELAURO for allowing me this time.

This bill was drafted by Musk's greed machine and seeks to put his claws even deeper into the pockets of our people. Why? To extract the largest transfer of wealth from money they are taking from these bills from middle-class and working-class people and put it in the pockets of the top 1 percent, who already own half of this country, a handful of people who are so very wealthy.

The top 1 percent of billionaires now own as much wealth as the bottom half of our population. That is what is going wrong, and I rise in strong opposition to this bill.

Elon Musk and his DOGE boys don't need Medicaid, Social Security, and veterans benefits. Our Constitution assigns our legislative branch the responsibility to direct Federal spending, not unelected billionaires and the 1 percent.

In our subcommittee area of energy and water development, this Musk bill would stifle American prosperity by cutting nearly half of the Army Corp's budget. Musk and Trump don't know anything about public works and how essential the Army Corps is to our daily life in every district in this country and to economic growth.

The greed machine wants to steal assets from America's people and put them in the pockets of billionaires at places like moolah-lago. Did I say that right? Mar-a-Lago.

Finally, the greed machine is cutting a total of nearly \$600 million in support for local law enforcement. That is nearly \$600 million in cuts for local police, leaving the kitty dry. The greed machine is underfunding our local police.

In opposing the bill, I stand with our people, not with the billionaires and their greed machine. Think about it. Why rob Main Street to dole out even bigger tax breaks and more contracts for the moo-lah-lago crowd and billionaires whose crew haven't got a clue what working life is like for American men and women?

It is over time for them to pay their fair share. Vote "no" on this horrendous bill.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Florida (Mr. RUTHERFORD), my very good friend and a member of the Appropriations Committee.

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Mr. Speaker, I really appreciate all the hard work that got us here today.

Mr. Speaker, I have to tell you, as I sat here on this floor listening to the conversation, it reminded me of an old saying that my father had. For many, many years, I heard this: A lie can travel around the world three times before the truth can get up and put its pants on.

That was before the internet. Now, after what I have heard today, I would say it is probably more like 100 times that a lie can travel around the world before the truth can get up and put its pants on.

I happen to know that House Republicans have been working diligently to fully fund the core Federal Government services so that President Trump and his administration can continue to identify the waste, fraud, and abuse of American tax dollars, protect our border, and support Americans, including our veterans—contrary to what you heard—our military families, first responders, of which I am a former, and our seniors.

Most importantly, by passing H.R. 1968, this continuing resolution, we are ensuring that a costly government shutdown does not fall upon the American public.

It is our constitutional obligation in Congress to fund the Federal Government, and House Republicans are acting on that duty. Unfortunately, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle are not. House Democratic leadership came out in opposition to this bill and spread egregious falsehoods about what this bill does and does not do before it was even printed. You have heard that before.

Let's be clear, this bill will not hurt law enforcement by slashing COPS grants, nor will it zero out the toxic exposure fund for veterans. Instead, it is a clean bill that will extend funding and certainty for the American people.

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

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Mr. Speaker, this bill would maintain government operations while responsibly protecting Social Security, Medicaid, and Medi-

care recipients from unnecessary disruption and the confusion that comes along with a government shutdown, promote public safety, renew our commitment to supporting law enforcement officers, raise pay for our junior enlisted troops by the largest amount in 40 years, fund important nutritional assistance for mothers, infants, and children, and the list goes on.

House Democrats seem dead set on shutting down the government over their disdain for the Commander in Chief, no matter the cost to their own communities.

Mr. Speaker, I am committed to passing this bill, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. MCCOLLUM), the distinguished ranking member of the Defense Subcommittee.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to this full-year continuing resolution.

Let's call the CR what it is. It is a Republican majority abdicating our constitutional responsibilities. Republicans have turned over congressional power to direct funding to Elon Musk and President Trump.

The Republican appropriations process for fiscal year 2025 has been a disaster. Republicans have had 18 months to write, pass, and negotiate these spending bills. They failed. The Republican leadership never wanted to negotiate with Democrats, which their slim majority in the House would have required.

Here we are stuck with a full-year CR, something that has never happened in the history of this Nation. It is a complete failure to govern.

To make things worse, the CR cuts \$13 billion from domestic priorities that Americans rely on. I will mention a few, like lifesaving medical research at the NIH. Rent assistance for low-income working families is cut.

Republicans failed to include \$22 billion in advanced appropriation funding for the VA toxic exposure fund. This jeopardizes the health of our veterans exposed to burn pits and, yes, Agent Orange.

Community projects submitted by our constituents for police and first responders have also been eliminated by this bill.

For the Defense Department, the bill reduces DOD medical research by about 50 percent. It will obstruct the search for new cures for cancer and infectious diseases.

Republicans also underfunded military training exercises, which will mean the readiness of our troops will be put at risk. They cut DOD technology research and development funding, which helps us keep our edge over our adversaries.

Simply put, this CR is a disaster, and it did not have to be this way. The American people deserve better, and I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on this Republican failure.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Oklahoma (Mrs. BICE), my very good friend and a distinguished member of the Appropriations Committee.

Mrs. BICE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1968, a clean continuing resolution that funds government through September 30, 2025.

I think my colleagues on the other side of the aisle are confused about what is in this bill and what is not. They keep talking about impacts to mandatory spending, Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid. That is not in this bill. Just because you keep repeating the same dishonest talking points doesn't make it true.

This legislation continues funding and prevents a government shutdown, which would have a devastating impact on my home State of Oklahoma and communities across the country. We must keep government open so we can continue the America First agenda, which is focused on securing our border, unleashing American energy, safeguarding our Nation, and rooting out waste, fraud, and abuse. This legislation fully supports our vets and servicemembers. It does not cut 1 cent from toxic exposure funds or eliminate COPS grants.

Continuing resolutions are not ideal, but we cannot allow for the distractions of a government shutdown, which is why I support this bill. I urge my colleagues to vote "yes."

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ), the distinguished ranking member of the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Subcommittee.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to oppose this cruel betrayal of America's veterans, seniors, and working families.

This 1-year CR doesn't make rent or healthcare bills more affordable, which is what keeps my constituents up at night. Instead, it actually cuts housing aid that could force 32,000 veterans, domestic violence survivors, seniors, and people with disabilities into homelessness.

What does this spending patch do as we all now stare down the barrel of another Trump recession? It hands an unelected billionaire free rein to keep stealing taxpayer dollars and paves the way for billionaires and big corporations to luxuriate in more tax breaks.

This isn't a clean CR. This CR stands for cut and run. It lets Trump close hundreds of Social Security offices and fire thousands of workers who deliver our seniors' checks. It allows Musk to keep hacking into your private tax data. It puts critical Everglades restoration funds at risk. Worst of all, it lets Trump and Musk keep up their brutal assault on veterans and the people who care for them. It does it by eliminating \$23 billion in guaranteed funding for healthcare for veterans exposed to burn pits and other toxins.

We should debate bipartisan, full-year funding bills that grow the economy and provide vital resources Americans need. Instead, this Republican cut-and-run bill turns Congress into a missing kid on a milk carton and cedes massive power to Trump.

This is the same President who, in 2 short months, tanked your 401(k) and unleashed a job-killing trade war. Yesterday, the stock market just recorded its worst day since 2020.

What really enrages me is that this cut-and-run bill sides with the most anti-veteran President in American history. Trump has fired 6,000 veterans, inflicted mass VA layoffs, and killed hundreds of veterans services contracts. Trump even plans to lay off another 83,000 VA workers. On top of that, this cut-and-run bill makes even deeper cuts to the healthcare services for all those who bravely served our Nation.

Democrats are more than willing to back bipartisan funding legislation, but we will never sell out our seniors, veterans, and children like this cut-and-run bill shamelessly does. Vote “no.”

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ROY), my good friend and a distinguished member of the Rules Committee.

□ 1645

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Oklahoma for yielding.

My, my, how times have changed.

How many times have we been sitting on the floor of the House listening to our colleagues on the other side of the aisle saying that a CR is the greatest thing since sliced bread; we must have the CR?

That is because when some of us were saying: Wait a minute, Mr. President, wait a minute, President Biden, maybe we should actually secure the border of the United States instead of letting millions of people flood in and kill Americans and let fentanyl flood into our communities.

So when we wanted to secure the border and we dared to say the funding should actually reflect that and we threatened to actually have a fight on spending, then my colleagues on the other side of the aisle said: CR, we have got to have a CR, our precious CR.

Mr. Speaker, here we are.

What are we doing?

Our colleagues oppose the CR.

Why?

It is because we would have spending frozen for 6 months down about \$7 billion, but, importantly, allow DOGE and allow our friends in the administration to continue to expose the absurdity of Federal spending.

How about \$1.5 billion to advance diversity, equity, and inclusion at Serbia's workplaces; \$70,000 for a production of a DEI musical in Ireland; \$2.5 million for electric vehicles in Vietnam; \$47,000 for a transgender opera in Colombia; and \$32,000 for a transgender comic book in Peru?

This is what our Democratic colleagues are fighting for, to continue to fund absurd programs rather than do the commonsense work of what we are trying to do to have more beds for ICE, secure the border of the United States, ensure that our defense is funded, and ensure that we are able to hold spending in check so we can actually have a chance of saving this great country.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman confirms what we have been saying all along: impoundment.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from Maine (Ms. PINGREE).

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the ranking member for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I oppose this full-year continuing resolution and urge my colleagues to reject it. If we vote “no” and reject this CR, then we can go back to work and negotiate a regular, full-year spending bill.

This full-year continuing resolution is not a responsible way to govern. The bill does not set funding levels for individual programs, and because it doesn't, it creates another dangerous opportunity for President Trump and Elon Musk to defund congressional priorities, and we all know what a disaster that has been for our country: an illegal, unconstitutional disaster.

It is the duty of Congress to negotiate regular spending bills. This means that we actively decide on every individual program's funding level and that we make adjustments where necessary.

For example, the Indian Health Service needs an additional \$345 million just to maintain current direct healthcare services. This continuing resolution fails to provide those funds, so Tribal communities will experience a lower level of healthcare service.

A regular bill also gives very specific directions to agencies to carry out specific work. For example, in prior years in the Interior bill, we have directed the EPA to conduct PFAS research that will help farmers, ranchers, and rural communities manage the disastrous impact PFAS has had like in my home State of Maine. Under the continuing resolution, without our direction, the administration may decide that work should stop.

As ranking member of the Subcommittee on the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies of the Appropriations Committee, I am deeply concerned that the Republican majority is giving the administration a free pass to abandon programs that protect the public from pollution, that safeguard human health, and that address the climate crisis.

Mr. Speaker, I urge a “no” vote.

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

Mr. LAWLER. Mr. Speaker, as the great George Costanza said: “It's not a lie if you believe it.”

That is what we have heard today from my Democratic colleagues, a

bunch of lies that maybe they sincerely believe.

The reality is this bill does not touch Social Security, it does not touch Medicare, and it does not touch Medicaid. Those programs are fully funded and protected. Our veterans are fully funded and protected. Fiscal year '24 was a total of \$1.665 trillion. Fiscal year '25, of which we are voting to complete with this CR, is \$1.658 trillion. The reduction of \$7 billion is because community project funding that has already been paid and that has already been approved as part of fiscal year '24 is not going to be double paid.

So we are saving \$7 billion by removing it, as it should be.

Why would we pay for projects that have already been paid for?

The fact is that we have to keep the government funded and open. Why anyone would vote to shut the government down is beyond me.

When Joe Biden was President of the United States, I voted every time to keep the government funded and open.

The idea that we are going to shut it down because the priorities changed—guess what, Mr. Speaker. The administration changed.

That is the reality of elections. Donald Trump won in November, Republicans won the House and the Senate, and so, yes, budgets will change. The fact is that we have to keep the government open.

I would remind my colleagues that the reason we are in this situation is because Senate Democrats under CHUCK SCHUMER passed exactly zero appropriations bills on the Senate floor, zero. There was nothing to negotiate. They couldn't pass a bill. They refused to pass a bill.

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

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from New York.

Mr. LAWLER. They refused to pass a bill. We passed appropriations bills on the floor last year. We were ready to conference. We were ready to negotiate. CHUCK SCHUMER failed in his responsibilities.

It is now incumbent on us to pass a CR through the House and for the Senate to do its job and keep the government open and funded.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, we can pass a 1-month CR and do that and do what we need to do to keep the government open. There is an alternative.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. MENG), who is the distinguished ranking member of the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Subcommittee.

Ms. MENG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to this partisan bill.

As ranking member of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies, I cannot stand by as the GOP slashes funding for law enforcement,

the courts, and NOAA, which includes the National Weather Service.

This bill hurts our local police officers by taking away \$247 million from their public safety technology and equipment. Additionally, it cuts \$350 million from projects that support community efforts to prevent crime, improve law enforcement, to provide precincts with equipment to prevent car theft and provide victim services. These are projects that Republicans and Democrats on our committee approved and agreed on.

Furthermore, the bill does nothing to prevent this administration from gutting NOAA. As a result, the lifesaving weather forecasts we all receive will be less accurate and timely.

Federal funding cuts in the GOP's continuing resolution are dangerous to communities like Queens and so many others. This includes Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, and SNAP benefits which serve as a lifeline for millions of Americans.

Let's be clear: Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid are not entitlements. They are earned benefits that hardworking Americans pay into throughout their lifetime so they have the opportunity to retire with dignity.

Mr. Speaker, this bill allows the administration to fire thousands of employees at the Social Security Administration and close offices nationwide, which will mean long wait times and delayed benefits for families.

For these reasons, at the appropriate time I will offer a motion to recommit this bill back to the House Appropriations Committee. If the House rules permitted, I would have offered the motion with an important amendment to this bill. My amendment would prevent any law or executive action from eliminating, restricting, or reducing access to these programs lawfully owed to beneficiaries across the Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to include in the RECORD the text of this amendment.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT), who is the chairman of the Appropriations Defense Subcommittee.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend, the chairman of the full committee, Mr. COLE, who has done an excellent job of putting this continuing resolution together under difficult circumstances.

The appropriators tried to come to an accommodation, but we weren't able to get there. So the best alternative we have today is this continuing resolution which does good things for our country. It obviously keeps the government shutdown from happening to the American people and fully funds our core government services.

Something that I am interested in, and I think most Members are inter-

ested in, is our national security. This continues to fund our national security. It makes sure that the young men and women who serve our military, especially our enlisted soldiers, are going to get a historic pay raise, the highest pay raise they have had in 40 years. A lot of these E-1s who come in and make \$11 an hour, their pay is going to be put up significantly. This is something that I think needs to happen, so I would hope my friends on the other side of the aisle would not vote to diminish these individuals' pay that they need very much.

This also supports important weapons systems: the Virginia-class submarine, the Columbia-class submarine, shipbuilding across the United States, our satellite construction, and rebuilding the ordnance for the United States that we need desperately.

A vote against the CR would stop all of this. So to me, Mr. Speaker, this is an extremely important vote for our national security. I would hope that everyone would vote for that, vote for continuing our government and to make sure that these weapons systems are delivered on time for the American public.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, let's have the 1-month CR that has been introduced as an alternative and do the business of the House and pass appropriations bills.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. LOIS FRANKEL), who is the distinguished ranking member of the National Security, Department of State, and Related Programs Subcommittee.

Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I will tell you why I am voting against the bill. It doesn't lower any of my constituents' costs. Instead, it gives the Trump administration free rein to continue its chaotic and lawless dismantling of the United States' influence in the world, gutting nearly all of our humanitarian, development, security, and global health programs, programs that constitute less than 1 percent of our Federal budget.

These are not serious cost-saving measures. Instead, they make us less safe, less prosperous, and less healthy. Counterterrorism programs are halted, contracts with American farmers are cancelled, children are left wasting away, bird flu, Ebola, and HIV spreading, education programs ending, all done without any thought or any reason.

The vacuum is left for China, Russia, and extremists to fill. We should not be handing this President a blank check to continue his harmful, sledgehammer approach to how we spend taxpayer money.

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

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. QUIGLEY), who is a member of the Appropriations Committee.

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, there is a national shortage of more than 7 million units of affordable housing across America and more than 771,000 people experiencing homelessness. This CR does nothing to lower the cost of housing.

That is what I was going to talk about for my 2 minutes, but after listening to this debate for so long, I think significant correction has to be made.

Programs are not fully funded and protected if you gut the agencies that operate them. Programs are not fully funded and protected if there is no one there to operate them.

Under President Trump, spending bills have become a farce. He is not following the previous spending bill law that we passed.

Are we saying: Well, this time we really mean it; this time the President really promises he is going to follow the law?

Have we gotten to the point where Article I is optional?

Our constituents are asking us: How ever great you say this bill is, fool me once, shame on you; fool me twice, they are going to blame us because we believed you this time. We believed the President who, when he gets in the room with the truth, a fight breaks out, as we have seen time and again in the last month.

So with all due respect, don't tell us what is in this bill, how great it is, and how we need to read it when he doesn't have to follow it and you don't complain when he doesn't follow it and you abdicate your responsibilities in Article I and as appropriators.

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

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE), who is the distinguished ranking member of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

□ 1700

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, one of my colleagues on the Republican side asked earlier what Democrats are fighting for.

Mr. Speaker, I am a proud Democrat fighting for America's healthcare, and I stress that this partisan Republican bill cuts American healthcare. This bill slashes funding for our community health centers, which provide care for millions of people, as well as our Nation's teaching hospitals, which train the next generation of doctors.

It fails to reverse the Medicare physician pay cut, which endangers access for seniors, especially for those in rural and underserved communities. It also does nothing to stop Republicans' planned catastrophic cuts to Medicaid.

Rather than voting on this partisan bill, we should be working together to lower costs and expand access to

healthcare like the bipartisan agreement we had in December. That bill provided long-term certainty and funding increases for our community health centers and our teaching health centers. It lowered drug costs by taking on unfair PBM practices and addressed the Medicare cuts to physicians.

Unfortunately, Republicans walked away from this agreement because Elon Musk opposed it.

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ), the distinguished ranking member of the Small Business Committee.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to this reckless Republican funding bill. Republicans claim that this is a clean CR, but the facts tell a different story.

This bill slashes \$23 billion from veterans' benefits, turning its back on the brave men and women who served our country; guts healthcare, leaving families, children, and seniors vulnerable; and it slashes affordable housing, putting thousands, including veterans, domestic violence survivors, and people with disabilities at risk of losing their homes.

If these cuts weren't bad enough, the Vice President said this morning that this administration will continue to refuse to spend money on programs that they don't like.

I will not vote for a CR that green lights these dangerous cuts. Democrats are ready to fund the government, but we will not stand by while Republicans sell out the people we are sworn to serve.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to reject this dangerous bill.

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO), the distinguished ranking member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to this partisan Republican spending bill because it guts the Honoring our PACT Act and abandons veterans exposed to burn pits and other toxins. House Republicans claim to support the Honoring our PACT Act, but their actions tell a different story.

They are eliminating the funding for Honoring our PACT Act recipients starting in October, cutting off critical healthcare and benefits for those who sacrificed for this country. Last Congress, Democrats forced Republicans to fully fund this critical program.

Mr. Speaker, Republicans are taking Elon's chain saw to it, slashing \$23 billion and breaking our Nation's sacred promise to our veterans. Where you invest your money shows what you truly value. By gutting this funding, Republicans have made their priorities clear.

Mr. Speaker, I stand with our veterans. I stand firm in our priorities and

promises, and I will not stand by while Republicans rip them apart.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on this partisan Republican spending bill.

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON).

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, this CR is an act of fiscal sabotage against the District of Columbia and an abuse of Congress' power over disenfranchised D.C.

This CR will result in an immediate cut of more than \$1 billion from D.C.'s \$21 billion budget 6 months into D.C.'s fiscal year.

For the last 20 years, D.C. has been able to operate under the local budget enacted by D.C. for the next fiscal year for the duration of every CR. This CR does not allow D.C. to do so.

Instead, the CR effectively repeals the fiscal year 2025 local budget enacted by D.C., which D.C. has been operating under for 6 months, and restores the fiscal year 2024 local budget enacted by D.C., which D.C. stopped operating under 6 months ago.

This cut to D.C.'s local budget does not save the Federal Government any money because D.C.'s local budget consists entirely of locally raised revenue.

Mr. Speaker, I urge Members to vote "no."

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

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, in that case, may I inquire as to how much time is remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Oklahoma has 6 minutes remaining.

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

Mr. Speaker, it has been an interesting debate. There have been a lot of things said that are exaggerations and a lot of things said, in my view, that are fabrications. I will talk about a few of those.

There is nothing in this bill about Social Security. There is nothing in this bill about Medicare. There is nothing in this bill about Medicaid.

There aren't cuts in nutrition for the poor. There is a \$500 million increase in WIC, at the request of the President. There are no cuts in housing. There is an increase in housing to try to adjust for inflation.

We probably would have been better off if we had negotiated a deal, but that didn't happen. We did the proactive thing. There is more money in here to take care of junior enlisted personnel. I don't think that is probably an article of much dispute. It certainly shouldn't be.

Mr. Speaker, I can go charge by charge.

On the Toxic Exposures Fund, we are going to deal with that in the fiscal year 2026 bill. It is for 2026. Everything is funded for 2025. That is what this bill

covered. It is an appropriations bill for fiscal year 2025. That is what we are covering here.

We are going to deal with the fiscal year 2026 bill, and then we will deal with that issue. I voted for the Honoring our PACT Act. I believe in it. I voted for additional funding for it. I suspect we will find common ground there.

There are a lot of fireworks around this bill. Let's just talk about what it does.

Mr. Speaker, it is pretty simple. It is a CR. It is a continuing resolution. The Democratic leadership came out against it before they ever saw it. Maybe that is why we have all these fabrications and hallucinations about what is in it. It is pretty short. It is 99 pages. Read it.

Now, I am sorry that everybody didn't get their projects. I really am sorry about that. We don't do that in CRs.

The big cuts here mostly are an elimination of congressional projects. I think most of those are worthy projects. I support them. I actually support the reforms my good friend, the ranking member, put in there. I think she did a great job for that for this institution, but we can't do them in a CR. We just don't do them. People are upset about that. I am sorry about that.

At the end of the day, there is only one important thing that matters here. Members can vote "yes" and keep the government open. Whatever my Democratic colleagues' problem is and whatever the minority's concern is, it is going to be worse in a government shutdown, not better. It will be worse. Whatever my colleagues on the other side of the aisle are worried about, shutting down the government is not the answer to their concern. My colleagues are only going to make it worse.

Keeping the government open is the right thing to do. I wish we could have gotten a deal, but we are not going to sit here and concede the executive authority of a Republican President because it upsets the minority. It is not going to happen.

We made that crystal clear, and I think that was the biggest thing. It wasn't a top-line number. We basically got to a top-line number. We are here, and the government shutdown is 4 days away.

If Democratic Members want to vote "no" and succeed in shutting down the government in 4 days, that is their choice. I respect every Member's vote.

I have never voted for a government shutdown. I have always voted to reopen the government. I don't like government shutdowns. I don't think they work. I think the minority will find that if they succeed in shutting down the government it won't work very well for them either.

It never works. I think my colleagues on the other side of the aisle would be better advised to vote "yes" than to

have to defend a vote to shut down the government, personally.

Actually, this body will not have the final say. It is going to go to the United States Senate, and the minority has the power in the Senate to shut down the government if they choose because they have a filibuster over there. They have 60 votes. If Democratic Members are worried about it, just let it go over there. They have the power in that body to do it.

If my colleagues want to shut down the government, it is their choice.

Mr. Speaker, I think the choice is crystal clear. If we took a poll on it and the American people were asked: Do you want to shut down the government? The overwhelming answer would be: No.

Do you think we should keep the government open and keep working on our problems? That would be an overwhelming yes.

I choose to do what the American people want to do: keep the government open. That is what my constituents want. Maybe Democratic Members' constituents want to shut it down. Mine don't, and I suspect theirs don't, either.

Mr. Speaker, I suggest we set aside the rhetoric and the intense feelings and just do the right thing, and the right thing is to vote "yes" and keep the government open.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill. I urge them not to vote to shut down the government, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, and still I rise, to oppose a Continuing Resolution that will allow a chainsaw to, among other things: minimize Medicaid with underfunded block grants to states, marginalize Medicare's "Dual Eligibles" long-term Medicaid care, and privatize Social Security by allowing private investment of Social Security funds in the stock market with no protections from market downturns. Mr. Speaker, the costs of the cuts in spending will be measurable. However, the human cost in pain and suffering will be immeasurable.

I will not participate in what can become the chainsawing of proven safety net programs. I will vote against exposing lifesaving programs to an uncertain, shameful future.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, for all of American history, it has been understood that Congress, not the president, has the ultimate power to determine how government funds are spent. Few principles are as fundamental to the structure of government enshrined in the Constitution.

From time to time, this authority has been challenged by the Executive Branch, and each time Congress has responded by rejecting the executive's encroachment on the fisc to further underscore the legislative branch's primacy over spending matters. Those conflicts have led to bedrock laws that further bolster the Congress's fiscal authority. The collection of statutes known as the Antideficiency Act (currently codified in title 31 of the United States Code) placed controls and safeguards on top of Congress's constitutional power, reiterating the Executive Branch's inability to spend without Congressionally approved legislation.

Similarly, on the other end of the fiscal law spectrum, Congress enacted the Impoundment Control Act of 1974 to establish an orderly process by which the executive could request legislative action by Congress to limit already-enacted spending—simply put, affirming the existent requirement that the executive branch carry out provisions of law that require spending (that is, appropriations).

Both the Antideficiency Act and the Impoundment Control Act of 1974 provide safeguards for a legal reality that existed before either law was enacted, and which carries on to this day: When a law is enacted providing an appropriation for a purpose in an amount, the executive branch is required to take care that the appropriation is fully and prudently obligated and expended to carry out its intended purpose unless Congress provides discretion in statute to do otherwise.

Congress may provide such discretion, for example, by setting a minimum amount for an appropriation that serves as a floor or by setting a maximum level that serves as a ceiling. Certain appropriations in H.R. 1968 provide this flexibility. But in the absence of such discretion being expressly provided in legislation, when Congress provides an appropriation for a specific amount, that level is both a floor and a ceiling. These appropriations and levels stipulate an exact amount for a specified purpose and are therefore a directive to the executive branch to prudently obligate and expend that specific amount for the purposes specified within the timeframe allowed. Such is the case for the vast majority of the appropriations in H.R. 1968.

Though H.R. 1968 is a full-year continuing appropriations Act in a format unlike a traditional appropriations Act, the legal principles underlying every appropriation in the bill are the same: an appropriation, whether explicitly spelled out in the legislation or incorporated by reference from a prior-year appropriation Act (such as those included in section 1101 of H.R. 1968) is a direction from Congress to prudently obligate and expend that specific amount, for the applicable purposes and within the timeframe defined unless discretion is provided in statute to do otherwise. H.R. 1968, the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2025 (FYCAA), effectuates these appropriations chiefly through section 1101. That provision appropriates anew for fiscal year 2025 each appropriation in the referenced bills from fiscal year 2024, under the same authorities and conditions as were included in those same bills, except as specified otherwise in the FYCAA. That is, each new appropriation from section 1101 is for the same amount, and purpose, as in last year's bill except as directed otherwise in provisions in the FYCAA.

Congress is explicit about any such deviations. For example, section 1103 states that the appropriations provided by section 1101 retain a "comparable period of availability." That means an appropriation provided in a referenced bill that was available for obligation for two fiscal years (for fiscal year 2024 and remaining available through the end of fiscal year 2025), that is appropriated anew by section 1101 would be available for obligation for two fiscal years as well (for fiscal years 2025 and 2026). The FYCAA also includes some specific and explicit negotiations of authorities and conditions in last year's bills, such as section 1503(a), which loosens the requirements under which the Army Corps of Engineers is

required to spend the appropriations provided in this bill to that agency. These are only a couple examples of the deviations (called "anomalies") specified in the bill.

The FYCAA is also distinguishable from the short-term continuing appropriations Act contained in division A of Public Law 118–83, which is currently applicable through March 14, 2025. The FYCAA for example, contains no provision comparable to section 109 of division A of Public Law 118–83: whereas Congress contemplated limited funding actions from the continuing appropriations provided in section 101 of such division, that instruction does not extend to the appropriations provided in the FYCAA, nor other appropriations that were previously enacted, either in this fiscal year or in prior fiscal years.

The appropriations contained in the FYCAA directly renew the appropriations with the applicable authorities and conditions from Public Laws 118–42 and 118–47—except where explicitly directed in this law otherwise—and are a reaffirmation of Congress's intent to provide for those activities in full. That intent was made clear by the original enactment of the appropriations in those laws and the accompanying Joint Explanatory Statements in March of 2024, and by the affirmation and continuation of additional funding for those same purposes under the same authorities and conditions (except where otherwise revised in statute) in September and December of 2025 through the enactment and amendment of the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2025.

Fully acknowledging the change in Administration on January 20, 2025, the Congress has observed dramatic changes in how duly enacted appropriations have been executed over the last 50 days. I note that the current Administration's actions to defy Congress's specific appropriations have been rejected by the Judicial Branch to date. The FYCAA also represents a rejection by the legislative branch of the current Administration's unlawful refusal to take care that enacted appropriations be faithfully executed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 211, the previous question is ordered on the bill, as amended.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Ms. MENG. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion to recommit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Ms. Meng of New York moves to recommit the bill H.R. 1968 to the Committee on Appropriations.

The material previously referred to by Ms. MENG is as follows:

Ms. Meng Moves to recommit the bill H.R. 1968 to the Committee on Appropriations with the following amendment:

In the matter preceding division A insert the following after section 3:

SEC. 4. PROTECTING MEDICAID, MEDICARE, SOCIAL SECURITY, AND SNAP.

It is the sense of Congress that no measure should be enacted, nor executive action

taken, that eliminates, restricts, or reduces access to, the level of, or Federal financial support for benefits or services owed to lawfully eligible individuals under Medicaid, Medicare, or Social Security programs, or the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XIX, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

The question is on the motion to recommit.

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

Ms. MENG. 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.

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:

Passage of H.R. 1156;

Motion to recommit on H.R. 1968;

Passage of H.R. 1968, if ordered; and

Passage of H.J. Res. 25.

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

PANDEMIC UNEMPLOYMENT FRAUD ENFORCEMENT ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on passage of the bill (H.R. 1156) to amend the CARES Act to extend the statute of limitations for fraud under certain unemployment programs, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 295, nays 127, not voting 10, as follows:

[Roll No. 68]

YEAS—295

Aderholt	Bost	Comer
Alford	Brecheen	Conaway
Allen	Bresnahan	Connolly
Amodei (NV)	Brownley	Correa
Arrington	Buchanan	Courtney
Auchincloss	Budzinski	Craig
Babin	Burchett	Crane
Bacon	Burlison	Crank
Baird	Bynum	Crawford
Balderson	Calvert	Crenshaw
Barr	Cammack	Crow
Barrett	Carey	Cuellar
Baumgartner	Carter (GA)	Davids (KS)
Bean (FL)	Carter (TX)	Davidson
Begich	Case	Davis (NC)
Bentz	Castro (TX)	De La Cruz
Bergman	Cleaver	DesJarlais
Bice	Cline	Diaz-Balart
Biggs (AZ)	Cloud	Donalds
Biggs (SC)	Clyde	Downing
Bilirakis	Cohen	Dunn (FL)
Bishop	Cole	Edwards
Boehert	Collins	Elfreth
		McCormick

Ellzey	Kiley (CA)	Pfluger
Emmer	Kim	Pou
Escobar	Knott	Quigley
Estes	Kustoff	Reschenthaler
Evans (CO)	LaHood	Riley (NY)
Ezell	LaLota	Rogers (AL)
Fallon	LaMalfa	Rogers (KY)
Fedorchak	Landsman	Rose
Feenstra	Langworthy	Ross
Finstad	Latta	Rouzer
Fischbach	Lawler	Roy
Fitzgerald	Lee (FL)	Rulli
Fitzpatrick	Lee (NV)	Rutherford
Fleischmann	Leger Fernandez	Ryan
Flood	Letlow	Salazar
Fong	Levin	Scalise
Foster	Liccardo	Schmidt
Fox	Loudermilk	Scholten
Fox	Lucas	Schrier
Franklin, Scott	Luna	Schweikert
Fry	Luttrell	Scott, Austin
Fulcher	Gill (TX)	Lynch
Gill	Gillen	Mace
Gimenez	Golden (ME)	Mackenzie
Golden (ME)	Goldman (NY)	Magaziner
Goldman (NY)	Goldman (TX)	Malliotakis
Goldman (TX)	Gonzales, Tony	Maloy
Gonzales, V.	Gooden	Mann
Gooden	Goodlander	Mannion
Goodlander	Gosar	Massie
Gosar	Gottheimer	Mast
Gottheimer	Graves	McBath
Graves	Gray	McBride
Greene (GA)	Griffith	McCaul
Griffith	Grothman	McClain
Grothman	Guest	McClain Delaney
Guest	Guthrie	McClintock
Hageman	Hagman	McCormick
Hamadeh (AZ)	Harder (CA)	McDonald Rivet
Harder (CA)	Haridopolos	McDowell
Haridopolos	Harrigan	McGuire
Harrigan	Harris (MD)	Meng
Harris (MD)	Harris (NC)	Messmer
Harris (NC)	Hern (OK)	Meuser
Hern (OK)	Higgins (LA)	Mfume
Higgins (LA)	Hill (AR)	Miller (IL)
Hill (AR)	Himes	Miller (OH)
Himes	Hinson	Miller (WV)
Hinson	Houchin	Miller-Meeks
Houchin	Houlahan	Mills
Houlahan	Hoyer	Min
Hoyer	Hoyle (OR)	Moolenaar
Hoyle (OR)	Hudson	Moore (AL)
Hudson	Huizenga	Moore (NC)
Huizenga	Hunt	Moore (UT)
Hunt	Hurd (CO)	Moore (WV)
Hurd (CO)	Issa	Moran
Issa	Ivey	Morelle
Ivey	Jack	Morrison
Jack	Jackson (TX)	Moulton
Jackson (TX)	James	Mrvan
James	Johnson (LA)	Murphy
Johnson (LA)	Johnson (SD)	Nehls
Johnson (SD)	Johnson (TX)	Newhouse
Johnson (TX)	Joyce (PA)	Norman
Joyce (PA)	Kaptur	Nunn (IA)
Kaptur	Kean	Oberholte
Kean	Keating	Ogles
Keating	Kelly (MS)	Olzewski
Kelly (MS)	Kelly (PA)	Onder
Kelly (PA)	Kennedy (UT)	Williams (TX)
Kennedy (UT)	Kiggins (VA)	Wilson (SC)
Kiggins (VA)		Wittman
		Womack
		Yakym
		Zinke

NAYS—127

Adams	Chu	Fletcher
Aguilar	Cisneros	Foushee
Amo	Clark (MA)	Frankel, Lois
Ansari	Clarke (NY)	Friedman
Balint	Clyburn	Frost
Barragán	Costa	Garamendi
Beatty	Crockett	Garcia (CA)
Bell	Davis (IL)	Garcia (IL)
Bera	Dean (PA)	Garcia (TX)
Beyer	DeGette	Gomez
Bonamici	DeLauro	Green, Al (TX)
Boyle (PA)	DelBene	Hayes
Brown	Deluzio	Horsford
Carbajal	DeSaulnier	Huffman
Carson	Dexter	Jackson (IL)
Carter (LA)	Dingell	Jacobs
Casas	Doggett	Jayapal
Casten	Espallat	Jeffries
Castor (FL)	Evans (PA)	Kamlager-Dove
Cherfilus-	Fields	Kelly (IL)
McCormick	Figures	Kennedy (NY)

Khanna	Ocasio-Cortez	Smith (WA)
Krishnamoorthi	Omar	Stevens
Larsen (WA)	Pallone	Strickland
Larson (CT)	Panetta	Takano
Latimer	Pelosi	Thompson (CA)
Lee (PA)	Petersen	Thompson (MS)
Lieu	Pingree	Titus
Lofgren	Pocan	Tlaib
Matsui	Pressley	Tokuda
McClellan	Ramirez	Tonko
McCollum	Randall	Torres (NY)
McGarvey	Raskin	Trahan
McGovern	Rivas	Underwood
McIver	Ruiz	Vargas
Meeks	Salinas	Veasey
Menendez	Scanlon	Velázquez
Moore (WI)	Schakowsky	Wasserman
Moskowitz	Schneider	Schultz
Mullin	Scott (VA)	Waters
Nadler	Scott, David	Watson Coleman
Neal	Sewell	Williams (GA)
Neguse	Simon	Wilson (FL)

NOT VOTING—10

Ciscomani	Harshbarger	Norcross
Garbarino	Johnson (GA)	Sánchez
Green (TN)	Jordan	
Grijalva	Joyce (OH)	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

□ 1732

Mses. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, and PINGREE changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Mses. HOYLE of Oregon, MENG, Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. ELFRETH, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mrs. MCBATH, and Mr. SCALISE changed their vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

FULL-YEAR CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS AND EXTENSIONS ACT, 2025

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. VAN DREW). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to recommit on the bill (H.R. 1968) making further continuing appropriations and other extensions for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025, and for other purposes, offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. MENG), on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk will redesignate the motion.

The Clerk redesignated the motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to recommit.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 213, nays 216, not voting 3, as follows:

[Roll No. 69]

YEAS—213

Adams	Bera	Carbajal
Aguilar	Beyer	Carson
Amo	Bishop	Carter (LA)
Ansari	Bonamici	Casas
Auchincloss	Boyle (PA)	Case
Balint	Brown	Casten
Barragán	Brownley	Castor (FL)
Beatty	Budzinski	Castro (TX)
Bell	Bynum	

Cherfilus-McCormick	Ivey	Pettersen	James	McDowell	Scott, Austin	Fulcher	LaHood	Rogers (KY)
Chu	Jackson (IL)	Pingree	Johnson (LA)	McGuire	Self	Garbarino	LaLota	Rose
Cisneros	Jacobs	Pocan	Johnson (SD)	Messmer	Sessions	Gill (TX)	LaMalfa	Rouzer
Clark (MA)	Jayapal	Pou	Jordan	Meuser	Shreve	Gimenez	Langworthy	Roy
Clarke (NY)	Jeffries	Pressley	Joyce (OH)	Miller (IL)	Simpson	Golden (ME)	Latta	Rulli
Cleaver	Johnson (GA)	Quigley	Joyce (PA)	Miller (OH)	Smith (MO)	Goldman (TX)	Lawler	Rutherford
Clyburn	Johnson (TX)	Ramirez	Kean	Miller (WV)	Smith (NE)	Gonzales, Tony	Lee (FL)	Salazar
Cohen	Kamlager-Dove	Randall	Kelly (MS)	Miller-Meeks	Smith (NJ)	Gooden	Letlow	Scalise
Conaway	Kaptur	Raskin	Kelly (PA)	Mills	Smucker	Gosar	Loudermilk	Schmidt
Connolly	Keating	Riley (NY)	Kennedy (UT)	Moolenaar	Spartz	Graves	Lucas	Schweikert
Correa	Kelly (IL)	Rivas	Kiggans (VA)	Moore (AL)	Staubert	Green (TN)	Luna	Scott, Austin
Costa	Kennedy (NY)	Ross	Kiley (CA)	Moore (NC)	Stefanik	Greene (GA)	Luttrell	Self
Courtney	Khanna	Ruiz	Kim	Moore (UT)	Steil	Griffith	Mace	Sessions
Craig	Krishnamoorthi	Ryan	Knott	Moore (WV)	Steube	Grothman	Mackenzie	Shreve
Crockett	Landsman	Salinas	Kustoff	Moran	Strong	Guest	Malliotakis	Simpson
Crow	Larsen (WA)	Sánchez	LaHood	Nehls	Stutzman	Guthrie	Maloy	Smith (MO)
Cuellar	Larson (CT)	Scanlon	LaLota	Newhouse	Taylor	Hageman	Mann	Smith (NE)
Davis (KS)	Latimer	Schakowsky	LaMalfa	Norman	Tenney	Hamadeh (AZ)	Mast	Smith (NJ)
Davis (IL)	Lee (NV)	Schneider	Langworthy	Nunn (IA)	Thompson (PA)	Haridopolos	McCauley	Smucker
Davis (NC)	Lee (PA)	Scholten	Latta	Oberholte	Tiffany	Harrigan	McClain	Spartz
Dean (PA)	Leger Fernandez	Schrier	Lawler	Ogles	Timmons	Harris (MD)	McClintock	Staubert
DeGette	Levin	Scott (VA)	Lee (FL)	Onder	Turner (OH)	Harris (NC)	McCormick	Stefanik
DeLauro	Liccardo	Scott, David	Letlow	Owens	Valadao	Harshbarger	McDowell	Steil
DeBene	Lieu	Sewell	Loudermilk	Palmer	Van Drew	Hern (OK)	McGuire	Steube
Deluzio	Lofgren	Sherman	Lucas	Perry	Van Dwyne	Higgins (LA)	Messmer	Strong
DeSaulnier	Lynch	Sherrill	Luna	Pfluger	Van Orden	Hill (AR)	Meuser	Stutzman
Dexter	Magaziner	Simon	Luttrell	Reschenthaler	Wagner	Hinson	Miller (IL)	Taylor
Dingell	Mannion	Smith (WA)	Mace	Rogers (AL)	Walberg	Houchin	Miller (OH)	Tenney
Doggett	Matsui	Sorensen	Mackenzie	Rogers (KY)	Weber (TX)	Hudson	Miller (WV)	Thompson (PA)
Elfreth	McBath	Soto	Malliotakis	Rose	Webster (FL)	Huizenga	Miller-Meeks	Tiffany
Escobar	McBride	Stansbury	Maloy	Rouzer	Westerman	Hunt	Mills	Timmons
Espallat	McClain Delaney	Stanton	Mann	Roy	Wied	Hurd (CO)	Moolenaar	Turner (OH)
Evans (PA)	McClellan	Stevens	Massie	Rulli	Williams (TX)	Issa	Moore (AL)	Valadao
Fields	McCollum	Strickland	Mast	Rutherford	Wilson (SC)	Jack	Moore (UT)	Van Drew
Figures	McDonald Rivet	Subramanyam	McCaul	Salazar	Wittman	Jackson (TX)	Moore (WV)	Van Dwyne
Fletcher	McGarvey	Suozi	McClain	Scalise	Womack	James	Moran	Van Orden
Foster	McGovern	Swalwell	McClintock	Schmidt	Yakym	Johnson (LA)	Murphy	Wagner
Foushee	McIver	Sykes	McCormick	Schweikert	Zinke	Johnson (SD)	Nehls	Walberg
Frankel, Lois	Meeks	Takano				Jordan	Newhouse	Weber (TX)
Friedman	Menendez	Thanedar				Joyce (OH)	Norman	Webster (FL)
Frost	Meng	Thompson (CA)	Fedorchak	Grijalva	Murphy	Joyce (PA)	Nunn (IA)	Westerman
Garamendi	Mfume	Thompson (MS)				Kean	Oberholte	Wied
Garcia (CA)	Min	Titus				Kelly (MS)	Ogles	Williams (TX)
Garcia (IL)	Moore (WI)	Tlaib				Kelly (PA)	Onder	Wilson (SC)
Garcia (TX)	Morelle	Tokuda				Kennedy (UT)	Owens	Wittman
Gillen	Morrison	Tonko				Kiggans (VA)	Palmer	Womack
Golden (ME)	Moskowitz	Torres (CA)				Kiley (CA)	Perry	Yakym
Goldman (NY)	Moulton	Torres (NY)				Kim	Pfluger	Zinke
Gomez	Mrvan	Trahan				Knott	Reschenthaler	
Gonzalez, V.	Mullin	Tran				Kustoff	Rogers (AL)	
Goodlander	Nadler	Underwood						
Gottheimer	Neal	Vargas						
Gray	Neguse	Vasquez						
Green, Al (TX)	Norcross	Veasey						
Harder (CA)	Ocasio-Cortez	Velazquez						
Hayes	Olszewski	Vindman						
Himes	Omar	Wasserman						
Horsford	Pallone	Schultz						
Houlahan	Panetta	Waters						
Hoyer	Pappas	Watson Coleman						
Hoyle (OR)	Pelosi	Whitesides						
Huffman	Perez	Williams (GA)						
	Peters	Wilson (FL)						
NAYS—216								
Aderholt	Cloud	Fulcher				Adams	Dean (PA)	Johnson (TX)
Alford	Clyde	Garbarino				Aguilar	DeGette	Kamlager-Dove
Allen	Cole	Gill (TX)				Amo	DeLauro	Kaptur
Amodei (NV)	Collins	Gimenez				Ansari	DelBene	Keating
Arrington	Comer	Goldman (TX)				Auchincloss	Deluzio	Kelly (IL)
Babin	Crane	Gonzales, Tony				Balint	DeSaulnier	Kennedy (NY)
Bacon	Crank	Gooden				Barragan	Dexter	Khanna
Baird	Crawford	Gosar				Beatty	Dingell	Krishnamoorthi
Balderson	Crenshaw	Graves				Bell	Doggett	Landsman
Barr	Davidson	Green (TN)				Bera	Elfreth	Larsen (WA)
Barrett	De La Cruz	Greene (GA)				Beyer	Escobar	Larson (CT)
Baumgartner	DesJarlais	Griffith				Bishop	Espallat	Latimer
Bean (FL)	Diaz-Balart	Grothman				Bonamici	Evans (PA)	Lee (NV)
Begich	Donalds	Guest				Boyle (PA)	Fields	Lee (PA)
Bentz	Downing	Guthrie				Brown	Figures	Leger Fernandez
Bergman	Dunn (FL)	Hageman				Brownley	Fletcher	Levin
Bice	Edwards	Hamadeh (AZ)				Budzinski	Foster	Liccardo
Biggs (AZ)	Ellzey	Haridopolos				Bynum	Foushee	Lieu
Biggs (SC)	Emmer	Harrigan				Carbajal	Frankel, Lois	Lofgren
Bilirakis	Estes	Harris (MD)				Carson	Friedman	Lynch
Boebert	Evans (CO)	Harris (NC)				Carter (LA)	Magaziner	Mannion
Bost	Ezell	Harshbarger				Casar	Garamendi	Massie
Brecheen	Fallon	Hern (OK)				Case	Garcia (CA)	Matsui
Bresnahan	Feenstra	Higgins (LA)				Casten	Garcia (IL)	McBath
Buchanan	Finstad	Hill (AR)				Castor (FL)	Garcia (TX)	McBride
Burchett	Fischbach	Hinson				Castro (TX)	Gillen	McClain Delaney
Burlison	Fitzgerald	Houchin				Cherfilus-McCormick	Goldman (NY)	McClain
Calvert	Fitzpatrick	Hudson				Chu	Gomez	McClellan
Cammack	Fleischmann	Hulzenga				Cisneros	Gonzalez, V.	McCollum
Carey	Flood	Hunt				Clark (MA)	Goodlander	McDonald Rivet
Carter (GA)	Fong	Hurd (CO)				Clarke (NY)	Gottheimer	McGarvey
Carter (TX)	Fox	Issa				Cleaver	Gray	McGovern
Ciscomani	Franklin, Scott	Jack				Clyburn	Green, Al (TX)	McIver
Cline	Fry	Jackson (TX)				Cohen	Harder (CA)	Meeks
						Conaway	Hayes	Menendez
						Connolly	Himes	Meng
						Correa	Horsford	Mfume
						Costa	Houlahan	Min
						Courtney	Hoyer	Moore (WI)
						Craig	Hoyle (OR)	Morelle
						Crockett	Huffman	Morrison
						Crow	Ivey	Moskowitz
						Cuellar	Jackson (IL)	Moulton
						Davis (KS)	Jacobs	Mrvan
						Davis (IL)	Jayapal	Mullin
						Davis (NC)	Jeffries	Nadler
							Johnson (GA)	Neal

NOT VOTING—3

□ 1738

So the motion to recommit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated against:

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, due to obligations, I was unable to submit a vote for the Motion to Recommit, Roll Call No. 69, on HR 1968. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 69.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 217, nays 213, not voting 2, as follows:

[Roll No. 70]

YEAS—217

Aderholt	Bresnahan	Diaz-Balart
Alford	Buchanan	Donalds
Allen	Burchett	Downing
Amodei (NV)	Burlison	Dunn (FL)
Arrington	Calvert	Edwards
Babin	Cammack	Ellzey
Bacon	Carey	Emmer
Baird	Carter (GA)	Estes
Balderson	Carter (TX)	Evans (CO)
Barr	Ciscomani	Ezell
Barrett	Cline	Fallon
Baumgartner	Cloud	Fedorchak
Bean (FL)	Clyde	Feenstra
Begich	Cole	Finstad
Bentz	Collins	Fischbach
Bergman	Comer	Fitzgerald
Bice	Crane	Fitzpatrick
Biggs (AZ)	Crank	Fleischmann
Biggs (SC)	Crawford	Flood
Bilirakis	Crenshaw	Fong
Boebert	Davidson	Fox
Bost	De La Cruz	Franklin, Scott
Brecheen	DesJarlais	Fry

Neguse
Norcross
Ocasio-Cortez
Olsewski
Omar
Pallone
Panetta
Pappas
Pelosi
Perez
Peters
Petersen
Pingree
Pocan
Pou
Pressley
Quigley
Ramirez
Randall
Raskin
Riley (NY)
Rivas
Ross
Ruiz
Sykes
Ryan

Salinas
Sánchez
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schneider
Scholten
Schrier
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Sewell
Sherman
Sherrill
Simon
Smith (WA)
Sorensen
Soto
Stansbury
Stanton
Stevens
Strickland
Subramanyam
Suozi
Swalwell
Sykes
Takano

Thanedar
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tlaib
Tokuda
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Tran
Underwood
Vargas
Vasquez
Veasey
Velázquez
Vindman
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Whitesides
Williams (GA)
Wilson (FL)

NOT VOTING—2

Grijalva Moore (NC)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

□ 1745

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL 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 SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on passage of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 25) 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”, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the joint resolution.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 292, nays 132, answered “present” 1, not voting 7, as follows:

[Roll No. 71]

YEAS—292

Aderholt
Aguilar
Alford
Allen
Amo
Amodi (NV)
Ansari
Arrington

Auchincloss
Babin
Bacon
Balderson
Barr
Barrett
Baumgartner
Bean (FL)

Begich
Bentz
Bergman
Bice
Biggs (AZ)
Biggs (SC)
Bilirakis
Boebert

Bost
Boyle (PA)
Brecheen
Buchanan
Buddzinski
Burchett
Burlison
Bynum
Calvert
Cammack
Carbajal
Carey
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Ciscomani
Cline
Cloud
Clyde
Cole
Collins
Comer
Correa
Costa
Craig
Crane
Crank
Crawford
Crenshaw
Cuellar
Davidson
Davis (NC)
De La Cruz
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Donalds
Downing
Dunn (FL)
Edwards
Elfreth
Elizy
Emmer
Español
Estes
Evans (CO)
Ezell
Fallon
Fedorchak
Feenstra
Fields
Figures
Finstad
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Flood
Fong
Foxy
Frankel, Lois
Franklin, Scott
Friedman
Fry
Fulcher
Garbarino
Garcia (CA)
Gill (TX)
Gillen
Gimenez
Goldman (NY)
Goldman (TX)
Gomez
Gonzales, Tony
Gooden
Goodlander
Gosar
Gottheimer
Graves
Gray
Green (TN)
Greene (GA)
Griffith
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hageman
Hamadeh (AZ)
Harder (CA)
Haridopolos
Harrigan
Harris (MD)

Harris (NC)
Harshbarger
Hern (OK)
Higgins (LA)
Hill (AR)
Hinson
Horsford
Houchin
Hudson
Huizenga
Hunt
Hurd (CO)
Issa
Jack
Jackson (IL)
Jackson (TX)
James
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (SD)
Johnson (TX)
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Kamlager-Dove
Kean
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy (NY)
Kennedy (UT)
Khanna
Kiggans (VA)
Kiley (CA)
Kim
Knott
Krishnamoorthi
Kustoff
LaHood
LaLota
LaMalfa
Landsman
Langworthy
Latimer
Latta
Lawler
Lee (FL)
Lee (NV)
Letlow
Levin
Liccardo
Lieu
Loudermilk
Lucas
Luna
Luttrell
Mace
Mackenzie
Malliotakis
Maloy
Mann
Mannion
Massie
Mast
McBath
McBride
McCaul
McClain
McClain Delaney
McClintock
McCormick
McDonald Rivet
McDowell
McGuire
Meeks
Menendez
Messmer
Meuser
Miller (IL)
Miller (OH)
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Mills
Moolenaar
Moore (AL)
Moore (NC)
Moore (UT)
Moore (WV)
Moran
Moskowitz
Murphy
Nehls

Newhouse
Norman
Nunn (IA)
Oberholte
Ogles
Olszewski
Onder
Owens
Palmer
Panetta
Pappas
Perry
Petersen
Pfluger
Pou
Reschenthaler
Riley (NY)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Rouzer
Roy
Ruiz
Rulli
Rutherford
Ryan
Salazar
Scalise
Schmidt
Schneider
Scholten
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Self
Sessions
Sherrill
Shreve
Simon
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smucker
Sorensen
Soto
Spartz
Stanton
Staubert
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Stevens
Strickland
Strong
Stutzman
Subramanyam
Suozi
Swalwell
Sykes
Taylor
Tenney
Thanedar
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Torres (NY)
Tran
Turner (OH)
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Duyne
Van Orden
Vasquez
Veasey
Vindman
Wagner
Walberg
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Westerman
Whitesides
Wied
Williams (TX)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Yakym
Zinke

NAYS—132

Adams
Balint
Barragán
Beatty
Bell
Bera
Beyer

Bishop
Bonamici
Brown
Brownley
Carson
Carter (LA)
Casar

Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Cherfilus-
McCormick
Chu

Cisneros
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Courtney
Crockett
Crow
Davids (KS)
Davis (IL)
Dean (PA)
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Deluzio
DeSaulnier
Dexter
Dingell
Doggett
Escobar
Evans (PA)
Fletcher
Foster
Foushee
Frost
Garamendi
Garcia (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Golden (ME)
Gonzalez, V.
Green, Al (TX)
Hayes
Himes
Houlahan
Hoyer
Hoyle (OR)

Huffman
Ivey
Jacobs
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (PA)
Leger Fernandez
Lynch
Magaziner
Matsui
McClellan
McCollum
McGarvey
McGovern
McIver
Meng
Mfume
Min
Moore (WI)
Morelle
Morrison
Mrvan
Mullin
Nadler
Neal
Neguse
Norcross
Ocasio-Cortez
Omar
Pallone
Pelosi
Perez

Peters
Pingree
Pocan
Pressley
Quigley
Ramirez
Raskin
Rivas
Ross
Salinas
Sánchez
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schrier
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Sewell
Sherman
Smith (WA)
Stansbury
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tlaib
Tokuda
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Trahan
Underwood
Vargas
Velázquez
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Williams (GA)
Wilson (FL)

ANSWERED “PRESENT”—1

Lofgren

NOT VOTING—7

Baird
Bresnahan
Conaway
Grijalva

Moulton
Randall
Takano

□ 1751

So the joint resolution was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated against:

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 71.

DHS BIODETECTION IMPROVEMENT ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the question on suspending the rules and passing the bill (H.R. 706) to improve the biodetection functions of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PRODUCING ADVANCED TECHNOLOGIES FOR HOMELAND SECURITY ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the question on suspending the rules and passing the bill (H.R. 1692) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to enable secure and trustworthy technology through other transaction contracting authority, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ELECTING MEMBERS TO A CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 213

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

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS: Mr. Rutherford, Mr. Garbarino, Mrs. Hinson, Mr. Moran.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ELECTING MEMBERS TO CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 214

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

(1) COMMITTEE ON ETHICS.—Ms. Ross, Mr. Ivey, Ms. Garcia of Texas, Mr. Subramanyam.

(2) COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY.—Mr. Carter of Louisiana, Mr. Garcia of California.

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

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

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REQUEST TO DIRECT THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO MAKE A CORRECTION IN THE ENGROSSMENT OF H.R. 1968

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I send to the desk a resolution, and I ask unanimous consent for its immediate consideration in the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under guidelines consistently issued by successive Speakers, as recorded in section 956 of the House Rules and Manual, the Chair is constrained not to entertain the request unless it has been cleared by the bipartisan floor and committee leaderships.

HONORING RAYQUAN WILLIAMS

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor RayQuan Williams, a senior at Groves High School in Savannah, Georgia, whose resilience and work ethic has inspired many.

RayQuan has faced immense hardship, losing his father at the age of 57 and his mother in December of 2024. Throughout these hardships, he has excelled academically, participating in dual-enrollment studies at Savannah Technical College, never letting his circumstances define him.

As a two-way lineman for the Groves High School football team, RayQuan demonstrated exceptional work ethic and dedication, earning the respect of his coaches and teammates. His perseverance earned him the Abbie DeLoach Foundation and the Savannah Quarterback Club Scholar Athlete Award which includes scholarship funds that will help him fund his educational aspirations.

Mr. Speaker, RayQuan's story is a testament to the strength of the human spirit and the power of community support. We congratulate RayQuan, and we are very, very proud of him.

□ 1800

FARMERS NEED CERTAINTY

(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 highlight the Agriculture Commodities Price Enhancement Act.

Input costs for our farmers are astronomically high right now, whether it be fertilizer, seeds, or labor, not to mention the volatility of the current world food market.

On top of this, the past year was one of the worst years for farmers in North

Carolina, between the impacts of drought and Hurricane Helene and other factors beyond their control.

Our farmers need some certainty that they will be able to farm next year if their crops are not bringing in enough income to provide for their families.

The Agriculture Commodities Price Enhancement Act directly addresses this by increasing reference prices for key commodities grown in eastern North Carolina and across the United States.

HONORING JULIANN MACDONALD

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

Mr. BURLISON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the life and the legacy of Juliann MacDonald, a lifelong Missourian from Savannah who recently passed.

Juliann was a beloved mother and grandmother who touched the lives of many in our community.

Friends and family knew her as Mimi. She was someone who put service above herself, caring for her neighbors, her community, and especially her family.

She regularly volunteered at multiple organizations and schools. She was deeply involved in her local church, and she brought joy to her book club with friends that cherished her company.

Throughout a 42-year teaching career, her compassion, leadership, and dedication touched and inspired the lives of countless students who had the privilege of learning under her mentorship.

A rich life and a storied legacy, Juliann leaves behind her husband, Martin; her sons, Ryan and Scott; her daughters-in-law, Vicki and Laura; and her two grandchildren, McKenzie and Jameson.

My prayers are with her loved ones and with her family.

HONORING PATRIOTIC SERVICE OF SENATOR MARK KELLY

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call out a vile attack on an American patriot, Senator MARK KELLY of the great State of Arizona.

Yesterday, unelected billionaire Elon Musk, who has never served this Nation a day in uniform, called Senator KELLY a traitor for visiting our Nation's ally Ukraine.

A traitor is one who commits treason. That consists of giving aid and comfort to an enemy. Ukraine is not our enemy. Ukraine is our ally.

MARK KELLY has served our Nation honorably from 1986 to 2011 in the United States Navy rising to the rank

of captain, having served 39 combat missions during the Gulf war.

During his naval career, he was awarded two Defense Superior Service Medals, one Legion of Merit, two Distinguished Flying Crosses, four Air Medals with Combat V, two Navy Commendation Medals, one Navy Achievement Medal, two Southwest Asia Service Medals, one Navy Expeditionary Medal, two Sea Service Deployment Ribbons, a NASA Distinguished Service Medal, and an Overseas Service Ribbon.

He only resigned his commission to help provide care and assistance to his beloved wife who had served here formerly, Congresswoman Gabby Giffords, following an assassination attempt on her in Tucson in 2011.

Words and statements have meaning. Elon Musk needs to be held accountable for his. Today, world leaders have resoundingly stood tall aside the Nation of Ukraine in agreeing to a 1-month cease-fire. The United States has also agreed to lift the embargo on armaments and will be sending 1 month of armaments to Ukraine as the rest of the world looks to Russia to be cooperative in our effort to stop the killing in central Europe.

BRINGING ATTENTION TO ALBERTO OSUNA

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

Mr. BURCHETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring much-needed attention to an extraordinary ballplayer and young man and a Vol hopeful. His name is Alberto Osuna.

He was born in America, and he is affectionately known as Berto. He transferred to the University of Tennessee in January after an impressive career at North Carolina and Walters State Community College where he knocked out 45 home runs and knocked in 140 runs over three seasons.

Despite following all the necessary steps to secure eligibility to play for the University of Tennessee, the NCAA in their infinite wisdom has blocked his opportunity. Students at UT have painted the rock to my left here to show their support for Berto in hopes that he might play his final season with the Vols at Lindsey Nelson Stadium.

He wanted to do something for his family. This is what this is all about. In over a minute I don't have time to explain it all, but this situation just isn't about Berto. It is about ensuring that student athletes are on a level playing field, Mr. Speaker, against the bureaucratic machine and nightmare that the NCAA has become and seemingly continues to let down the student-athletes they claim to serve. They just follow the dollars, Mr. Speaker.

I would urge the NCAA to take some serious action and grant Alberto the immediate eligibility he deserves and take the necessary steps to prioritize

the well-being of their student-athletes, ensuring that opportunities for success are not blocked by unnecessary red tape.

Osuna left his whole life in Tampa to come to Knoxville and play for Coach Tony Vitello and the Vols. The NCAA needs to do the right thing. Free Berto. Give him the time he deserves on the field. The balls are stacked again this year, Mr. Speaker. They are coming off a national championship. They are winning again. It is not imperative that he gets on the team for them to win. It is just the right thing. NCAA should do the right dadgum thing.

HONORING LIFE OF GWEN ROBINSON

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

Mr. LANDSMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life of Gwen Robinson, a dear friend of mine, an incredible leader, and an incredible human being.

She was one of the first people I met when I arrived in Cincinnati, and she welcomed me in the way she did with almost everyone, immediately kind and immediately generous.

There is a real argument to be made that much of what I have accomplished, what so many of us accomplished in southwest Ohio wouldn't have happened without her. She fought so hard for the children in the Bond Hill Head Start program that she helped lead, making sure each one of them had the highest quality preschool. It was part of what convinced me that every child in Cincinnati deserved 2 years of quality preschool, and when we said we wanted to do that, she was there every step of the way. She poured everything into helping us get the Preschool Promise passed. She did the same with the public transit levy a few years later.

There aren't enough words to capture her impact. Gwen was a giant and will be missed by all of us.

CONTINUING RESOLUTION SETS STAGE FOR NEW GOLDEN AGE

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

Mr. MEUSER. Mr. Speaker, here is some truth. Despite many false claims, the continuing resolution we just passed does not cut Medicaid, Medicare, Social Security, or veterans benefits or any healthcare benefits at all.

In reality, the CR was almost entirely the Democrat's budget bill last year. The opposition today and their vote to shut down the government is a little perplexing.

Mr. Speaker, here is what this bill actually offers: it gives our troops a 10 percent raise; provides \$6 billion for veterans' healthcare; invests \$7.6 bil-

lion into WIC for women and infants; \$425 million for food delivery programs for seniors, among other things.

Mr. Speaker, we are paying for it responsibly. We are repurposing \$20 billion in excess funding from the attempt to increase the IRS by \$80 billion last year, and we are redirecting \$10 billion from the Commerce Department's slush fund, funds that were not used and need to be repurposed.

This CR sets the stage for a plan for a new golden era for our country, and I was pleased to support it.

HONORING NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSING SERVICES OF CHICAGO

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

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Neighborhood Housing Services of Chicago on their 50th anniversary and to recognize the enduring legacy of Gale Cincotta, a fearless leader for housing justice.

Gale understood that owning a home was not just about having a place to live, it was about stability, opportunity, and the chance to build a future, a better future. She took on fighting the banks against redlining and was a champion of the Community Reinvestment Act and never backed down in her pursuit of fairness for working families.

During the early 1980s, I had the privilege of working at NHS to see how access to affordable housing could change lives. I saw struggling families become thriving homeowners. I saw struggling neighborhoods revitalized into thriving communities. NHS has shaped many lives. It certainly played a pivotal role early in my own formation.

Our work is far from over. Families are still being priced out. Displacement and gentrification are still impacting families, and the access to these programs is under attack.

Today we celebrate NHS for 50 incredible years but also recommit to the fight for housing justice.

HOUSING

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

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, last weekend when I was home I saw a very good guy who was recently married. He already has two children, and he was happy because he was buying a new house. He had to save up money for a down payment to do it.

The thing I noticed, though, is that during the 2 or 3 years that it took to save for the down payment, he had to live with his in-laws, which was fine because he had a strong family, and that is what it took to buy the house. It bothered me knowing that in other places in this country people are just

given housing. They don't have to live with their in-laws, and, in essence, the government is treating them better than this example of a guy who was married and spent a couple years with his wife's parents.

I hope in the future that this Congress changes the rules so we no longer benefit or raise this guy's taxes to set up someone for their own house immediately.

CONGRESSIONAL SPENDING

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

Ms. FRIEDMAN. Mr. Speaker, the power of the purse belongs to Congress, not to the President, and this has nothing to do with our current President Donald Trump. This is in the Constitution, and it is clear as day, and it has been affirmed over and over again by the Supreme Court.

Unfortunately, our colleagues on the other side of the aisle want to have it both ways. They want to let Elon Musk, an unelected billionaire, wreck our government with illegal cuts, but they seem to lack the courage of their convictions to actually vote on these cuts. They lack that courage because they know how toxic these cuts are, deep cuts to healthcare, cuts to childcare, cuts that help the most vulnerable among us.

They won't even allow a vote on my amendment when all it would do is force the President to follow the Constitution. I am here with a simple request for my Republican colleagues.

Abide by your oath. Stand up for the Constitution. Allow a vote on this amendment. Stand up for your own constituents. Stand up for your own constitutional authority. That is what we are elected to do. That is why we are here. It is one of the main reasons we are here. Do not give our authority as Congress away to an unelected bureaucrat.

(1815)

CONGRATULATING YOUNGSVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA, ON 150TH ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. KNOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the great people of Youngsville, North Carolina, ahead of their 150th anniversary celebration on March 17.

Originally a railroad town and a community along U.S. Highway 1, Youngsville played a pivotal role in the growth of North Carolina's agricultural and rail industries and, in turn, helped develop the economy of our State and our region together.

Today, Youngsville mirrors her residents. It is a vibrant, proudly patriotic

community with robust growth across the board. Yet somehow, despite this growth, Youngsville has retained its character and heart by reimagining its downtown to meet the demands of an active community. It is no wonder that young families from across North Carolina and the region have flocked to this area.

As its residents know, Youngsville is a truly special place and a treasure for the great State of North Carolina.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the Youngsville community on this anniversary, and I wish them all the best in the next 150 years.

REMEMBERING DR. HAZEL DUKES

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

Ms. GILLEN. Mr. Speaker, Hazel Dukes was a lifelong champion for families and children in New York and across the country. Through her decades of civil rights activism, including as president of the NAACP, Dr. Dukes fought tirelessly to build a more perfect Union.

Dr. Dukes broke barriers as the first Black American to work for the Nassau County District Attorney's Office, where she stood up for Long Island communities that had been long ignored or underserved.

As we mourn her tremendous loss, we take comfort in the fact that Dr. Dukes' legacy will continue to live on in those that she mentored and the countless Americans who have been impacted by her life's work. May she rest in peace.

REMEMBERING JEREMY ZAVITZ

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

Ms. OMAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Jeremy Zavitz, a beloved father, husband, and member of our community and a teacher at DeLaSalle High School in Minneapolis.

Jeremy dedicated his life to teaching and touched the lives of hundreds of Minneapolis students over the years. Even in the midst of difficult health challenges, he never wavered in his commitment to educating and supporting his students.

Generations of young people will carry his lessons of kindness, authenticity, and the power of connection.

Jeremy saw education as more than just an avenue for teaching. He saw it as a place to help his students become their best selves. His students and colleagues alike remember him as a teacher who led with authenticity and heart.

Our community will miss Jeremy dearly, and his legacy will live on.

REPUBLICAN CR VOTE IS SHAMEFUL

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

Ms. DEXTER. Mr. Speaker, what happened today is disgraceful.

House Republicans have abandoned working Americans. They are taking housing and food from our seniors, children, and families. They have abandoned our veterans, the people who have bled for our country so that we can be free.

They have given this administration and its illegitimate mercenaries free license to gut agencies and services.

Mr. Speaker, make no mistake, the vote the Republicans took today is a shameful turn for this body.

In the words of Donzaleigh Abernathy, the daughter of Reverend Ralph Abernathy, best friend to Martin Luther King and a civil rights leader:

We will not go quietly into this reality. The American people want you to fight back, fight on, and stand strong for truth, justice, and equality for all.

Mr. Speaker, I say to Donzaleigh and Oregon that I will continue to fight, and I hope they will stay with me in this fight.

WHAT IS IN THE CONTINUING RESOLUTION

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

Mr. LATIMER. Mr. Speaker, the House just voted to pass a radical, partisan government funding bill. I voted "no" because it lets Elon Musk decide how this money is going to be spent by Federal agencies.

There is a lot wrong with this bill.

This bill fails to lower the cost of housing and instead cuts rent subsidies for low-income Americans, including seniors and domestic violence survivors, by \$700 million.

This enables President Trump and Elon Musk to cancel transportation infrastructure projects already underway. These projects are reducing traffic congestion and improving subway systems.

This reduces the emergency food program by \$20 million at a time when food prices are on the rise.

This allows Musk and Trump to fire thousands of employees at the Social Security Administration.

It cuts funding for healthcare for veterans who are exposed to toxins, and so much more that is worse.

We needed a bill that protects the middle class and makes life less expensive for residents in Westchester and the Bronx. This continuing resolution is the opposite of that. Remember, I told you so.

CR STRIPS AWAY PUBLIC SAFETY FUNDING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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

Mr. MRVAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to state that should now the House-approved full-year continuing resolution become law, it will be a legislative tragedy for northwest Indiana that will strip away specific funding for public safety and economic development.

By not including community project funding requests approved by this institution in the House Appropriations Committee just last year, Indiana's First Congressional District loses \$4 million in approved funds to support equipment and resources for law enforcement agencies and \$7 million in approved economic development projects. It reduces health benefits for veterans and puts at risk healthcare for seniors and children with complex medical conditions.

The House majority has made northwest Indiana less safe, jeopardized our potential for economic growth and the ability to create more work and wealth, and put veteran healthcare and those veterans who were exposed to toxic burn pits, Agent Orange, and radiation at risk.

It is shameful that we have misled our local law enforcement agencies, local units of government, veterans, and seniors. I encourage my Senate colleagues to reject this harmful measure.

HONORING HAZEL DUKES

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

Ms. MENG. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise in honor of Dr. Hazel Dukes, a lifelong activist, a champion for civil rights, and the president of the NAACP New York State Conference.

Dr. Dukes' fierce commitment to fighting for equality and justice is simply unmatched. She was a trailblazer in New York State and across the country, a renowned community organizer, and a leading voice at the NAACP for nearly 40 years. She worked tirelessly for equity in housing, healthcare, and education.

I remember sitting next to Dr. Dukes at a long meeting where we were standing for hours, clapping and cheering. I was so tired and kept trying to sit down, but she reminded me that it was a privilege to be there, and I stood right back up.

Dr. Dukes' strength came from her compassion and love for our communities. The legacy that she leaves behind will inspire women, girls, and advocates across New York for generations to come.

It was an honor to have known Dr. Dukes. May she rest in power.

ENSURING VETERANS HAVE ACCESS TO FOOD ASSISTANCE

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

Mrs. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, in recognition of National Nutrition Month, I introduced the Feed Hungry Veterans Act, legislation to permanently remove barriers to SNAP often faced by veterans with work-limiting disabilities.

According to the 2023 RAND report, 1.4 million veterans are food insecure. That is in part because many disabled veterans do not meet all the qualifications for Federal nutrition programs like SNAP.

My legislation amends the definition of "elderly or disabled" for SNAP to include veterans with one service-connected disability rated at 60 percent or higher or two or more service-connected disabilities, at least one of which is rated 40 percent or higher.

With more than one third of disabled veterans in the United States facing food insecurity, we must do more to support those who have honorably served our Nation. The Feed Hungry Veterans Act is a critical step to ensuring veterans have long-term access to critical food assistance.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ONDER) laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker of the House of Representatives:

WASHINGTON, DC,
March 11, 2025.

I hereby designate the period from Tuesday, March 11, 2025, through Sunday, March 23, 2025, as a "district work period" under clause 13 of Rule 1.

MIKE JOHNSON,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

DATA IS THE SOLUTION

(Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, Mr. SCHWEIKERT of Arizona was recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.)

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Mrs. FISCHBACH).

CONGRATULATING MOORHEAD SPUDS BOYS' HOCKEY TEAM

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Arizona, my fellow member of Ways and Means, for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Moorhead boys' hockey team on their first State championship, defeating Stillwater 7-6 at the Xcel Energy Center over the weekend. The 2A championship win was led by this year's Mr. Hockey, Mason Kraft.

The team dedicated the game to their teammate Ethan, who passed away unexpectedly last year at the age of 16. Holding up his jersey throughout the

game and bringing the jersey through the handshake line, the Moorhead Spuds have made their families, community, and the whole Seventh District proud. I congratulate the Spuds.

CONGRATULATING EAST GRAND FORKS ON HOCKEY CHAMPIONSHIP

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the East Grand Forks boys' hockey team on their incredible Class 1A championship win.

With what sounded like the entire community of East Grand Forks in the stands, the team defeated Saint Cloud Cathedral 2-1 in overtime.

The East Grand Forks Green Wave has made their families, communities, and the entire Seventh District so very proud, and I am excited for them all to hoist that championship banner back at home.

CONGRATULATING WARROAD WOMEN'S HOCKEY TEAM

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Warroad girls' hockey team, the Lady Warriors, on their 10-year streak as section champions.

These women, from a small town in northernmost Minnesota, are part of one of the best girls' hockey teams in the last 20 years. They have made their families and communities proud.

CONGRATULATING PRAISE LIVE ON 40 YEARS OF BROADCASTING

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Praise Live in Osakis, Minnesota, on 40 wonderful years of broadcasting.

For 40 years, Praise Live has been bringing hope and faith to people across central and western Minnesota. They have even partnered with stations in Ghana and Uganda and as far-reaching as war-torn Sudan to spread the Gospel and its message of encouragement, faith, and hope across Africa.

I thank Praise Live for connecting with, praying for, and strengthening the Christian communities they are committed to serving. I pray for a successful next 40 years.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, I am going to try something this evening. The thesis I am going to try to sell tonight is that data is substantially a solution for us. What? I am going to walk through a number of things that just came out in the new Med Pack report. I have only just started reading it, but there are a couple of interesting things.

□ 1830

I am going to try to walk through the reality of what drives debt and deficits like I do every week. I am going to try to walk folks through some of the actual math instead of some of the hysteria that is modern politics where we make crap up because we don't tell the total details, and let's see if we can actually make any progress here on sort of the intellectual capital of this place.

So just off the top of my head, Mr. Speaker, you have seen the stories of the butchering of Federal employees.

Okay, let's walk through just some of the math. You have got 3 million Federal employees. If 77,000 have decided to take the early retirement offer, let's see, that is, dear heaven, I should have calculated this before, is 3 percent, 3 percent of the Federal population.

I have a chart we are working on, it did not make my stack, to show the growth in the number of Federal employees in the last decade. It is a little rich how many folks run around here and they want more spending for their projects, so they don't want this or they don't want that, but at the same time, they are lined up at our doors and want more spending.

Mr. Speaker, if I could come to you and say: Guys, we are going to try to find a way to make the way we deliver services much more efficient and much more rational. So let's actually sort of walk through a couple of the boards.

This is one we start with a lot. The number now is a bit more dour. This board is 1 year out of date, but I didn't want to spend the money to reprint it.

Mr. Speaker, do you see the blue portion?

This fiscal year, about 25 percent of all the spending is in the blue. That is what we get to vote on. That is military. That is what we call nondefense discretionary.

We borrow about, let's see, last year for every dollar we took in in taxes, we borrowed or we spent \$1.39.

So functionally, 39 cents this year, it will be a little better, we think it will only be about 36 cents for every dollar we take in in taxes. So what that basically means is everything you and I as Members of Congress vote on is borrowed.

However, we have this reconciliation budget. It is one of the few times where we actually get to talk a little bit about what is in the red, but we don't get to touch net interest. Interest is interest, and some of the math coming in right now says that interest this year, this fiscal year, could be about 1.1 to 1.2. I actually am a bit more dour, \$1 trillion, making interest functionally the second highest expense in the Federal Government.

Until this reconciliation budget makes it through, defense is like number four on spending, so Social Security, interest, Medicare, Defense.

Take a look at what we are even allowed to talk about, Mr. Speaker, in a reconciliation budget. You know why we do the reconciliation budget, it is so we can get around the 60-vote rule in the Senate. So we are doing all this dancing and stuff because of the Senate rules, but we can't touch net interest and we are not allowed to go near Social Security.

So think about that, Mr. Speaker. That area on that last chart I just showed you that was red, the majority of it we are not even allowed to talk about it. We can't touch it, and we can't do anything about it. So when you see the authorization, Mr. Speaker, that is actually why committees

like Ways and Means and Energy and Commerce have such a lift.

So what happens if I come to you, Mr. Speaker, and start to say: You have this country that is binging on debt.

We are in extraordinary measures right now, so some of the daily debt calculations are a little screwed up, but before we went through extraordinary measures, we were in the 60, \$70,000 per second, every day, every second. If my math is correct and we come in about \$2.2 trillion, maybe \$2.3 trillion of borrowing this year, then we have to start thinking about that.

So we take in about \$5 trillion in tax receipts, we are going to spend about \$7 trillion, meaning about 7.25 percent of the entire economy is borrowed this year, and if we don't get our act together, in 9 budget years it could be 9.2 percent of the entire economy is borrowed.

I just wanted to make the point because I have come here in the past, interest rates have fallen dramatically in the last couple of weeks which, remember the seesaw, we have talked about the seesaw, when the economy is really strong or there is a shortage of capital to borrow, interest rates go up meaning United States pays a lot more in debt servicing. When interest rates go down, it typically means the expectations of the economy are slowing down meaning our tax receipts fall. So the middle of the seesaw stays the same.

I saw some people getting giddy: Look, interest rates are down.

It also means actually some of our modeling in the future quarters of tax receipts also are starting to fall now. So there is no free option anymore. However, Mr. Speaker, you have seen some of the discussions. Ray Dalio has been out there talking about the heart attack of debt and what happens to other countries and the history of that going back, I think in his book he is going back a couple thousand years.

Here is functionally the world borrowing. China is borrowing about 17 percent of what we call the available capital for sovereign borrowing. Japan is borrowing about 10 percent. We are borrowing 40 percent. We are about 25 percent of the world's GDP, but we are borrowing 40 percent of the money that goes to sovereigns. Mr. Speaker, you have to understand the scale, the binging on debt.

Mr. Speaker, when I get to the very last board, I am going to show again the chart that just seems to upset people, but it is math. Over from today through the next 30 years, discretionary spending, according to the CBO's 30-year model, actually ends up with a growth slower than tax receipts, but it is Social Security and Medicare. It is demographics. It is not Republican, and it is not Democrat, it is demographics.

Where it becomes partisan is where it is the unwillingness to tell the truth about the math and then actually the creativity of how we disrupt the cost.

How do you actually find some of these things?

This chart is a little awkward. I would have designed it a little differently, but sometimes you are running around.

The point we are trying to make is here was the effective interest in 2014 to the United States. Now all of a sudden we are up here, and the actual market rate we expect in the future to actually continue to consume, meaning interest is our great fragility in this country.

I have told the comment many times that at our current rate of borrowing, we have almost put the bond market in charge of this country because, Mr. Speaker, if you have to bring hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of billions of dollars to market every month, you screw with your banker. In many ways that bond market now is our banker.

For my brothers and sisters on the left who often want to attack the tax reform of 2017, attack tax receipts, I have done presentation after presentation behind this microphone using the stuff from the Manhattan Institute that basically shows if we do all the Democrats' tax hikes and then do the economic adjustments, often from Democrat groups, you get about 1.5 percent of GDP in new tax receipts.

Okay, maybe we are going to be pushed against the wall and have to do that, but we are borrowing over 7 percent of GDP. So it is like on Social Security, it is common that the refrain is we will just raise the cap. Okay, in 2033, the Social Security trust fund is empty.

Our brothers and sisters on Social Security will take a 17 to 20 percent cut. We double senior poverty in America. When someone says: Well, just raise the cap, our model is in that next year, 2034, raising the cap only covers about 38 percent of the shortfall, Mr. Speaker, and you have wiped out the cash and other things you actually need to also save Medicare, which actually that trust fund runs out 3 years later.

So one of the reasons for this chart is trying to demonstrate something very simple that back when before TCJA, the 2017 tax reform, the actual projection of what tax receipts would be, so before the tax changes, we are right on track.

Do you see the weird blip there, Mr. Speaker? That was a remarkable amount of spending that happened during the pandemic. We actually just went back to nominal.

So what happens here? What happens when there is this intense hunger to play this weird blame game instead of being willing to tell our voters the truth?

The vast majority of debt this decade will be interest and healthcare costs, mostly Medicare.

So one more contribution to the increase in spending from 2024 to 2035, interest, so remember why this chart is important. Let's put it in perspective.

Baseline, this is actually with the taxes going up at the end of this year, just baseline. So sort of following current law, not the clowns who actually run around and say: Let's just avoid the law and let's just pretend what we spend we spend.

The law says we are going to borrow \$22 trillion over the next 10 years. That is baseline.

Here is the mix of that borrowing: 24 percent of that will be interest of the additional borrowing; old-age, survivors, Social Security will be 31 percent; discretionary 13; other mandatory 4 percent; and Medicare 28 percent.

Now, the fact of the matter is old-age, survivors, and Medicare have their own trust funds except for the fact that within that 10-year window, at least, this trust fund is now empty.

Are we allowed to talk about it? Are we allowed to do the moral thing here and maybe stop the doubling of senior poverty?

Yet, the fact of the matter is maybe I am an idiot for getting behind the microphone and actually mentioning the word Social Security because there is someone writing an attack ad on me right now for trying to save it. It is just the sickness of this place.

So let's actually walk through a little bit.

I saw a number of folks who actually have been attacking DOGE and the attempts to use data.

Understand, Mr. Speaker, that some of the communication skills are haphazard, but if I came to you today and said: Let's strip any partisanship, we need to find waste, fraud, and abuse modeling issues where we are doing things the wrong way, where we have models that are sometimes decades and decades out of date, would you hire an army of auditors, an army of lawyers, or would you hire data scientists, Mr. Speaker?

It turns out several years ago Congress started requiring agencies that send out payments that cover healthcare costs, that send out checks, these things, start telling us your error reports.

Okay, so for 2023, the reports come back at \$236 billion of improper payments. Okay, that is a stunning amount of money, but that doesn't mean there is \$236 billion of improper payments that have been stolen. There is a bunch of it that has been, but it is more complex. An army of auditors it would take years to grind through this. That is why actually the miracle of technology right now—hire some data scientists. They are really expensive. Most of them actually I have met recently are bathing, that is both funny and shockingly true. I met one who is an MIT dropout. Apparently MIT wasn't hard enough for him, but that is actually what he does.

The failure to access data information, well, it turns out a whole bunch of what we label as improper payments we lacked data on understanding.

So what happens when it is the data scientists who will help us grind through?

I just grabbed this one because Treasury itself, not just CMS and all the other agencies, Treasury itself has \$21 billion of improper payments. When you walk through what those were, Mr. Speaker, and why they are improper, they didn't verify household size, they didn't verify the qualifications. They didn't verify these things that is basically data.

So let's actually have a little more fun here. Types of improper payments. Okay, we actually estimate of that \$236 billion—and actually this was for 2024, the other chart was for 2023—\$135 billion are overpayments.

Now, understand for a lot of those that maybe come through CMS, a Medicare reimbursement. CMS has the ability months and months, a year later, to try to recapture those monies. We are trying to get the data scientists to build us models to understand, okay, if there is \$135 billion of overpayments, how much of that comes back to us and how much is we will call it leakage, even those leakage is with a b. Then we have 12 billion unknown payments, we know payments went out but there wasn't enough data telling us what they were.

□ 1845

We had almost \$8 billion of underpayments, where we underpaid people.

Mr. Speaker, what I am trying to provide here is that we know that we have a problem. We have known that we have had this problem for decades. For the last decade, we have been tracking the problem, and it has only been the last couple of months where we are beginning to tackle the problem and try to use technology to dive into what these categories are and to understand.

Mr. Speaker, some of this, you will notice the huge spike in improper payment amounts. That is actually mostly from the pandemic when we were pushing money and shoveling money out of this place like crazy, but we have been tracking this since 2014.

It has taken until now to find the technology and to find the talent to start diving into this math. Why is this just so important?

If you are someone like me, who believes that there are trillions of dollars over the next 10 years that we can save by just modernizing the way we deliver services, you first have to identify the outliers and identify what is going on.

Why is this so incredibly important? You have to understand what we are up against.

Outlays of the largest mandatory programs are projected to massively increase.

A moment of brutal honesty: This is 2025. This is 2034, so functionally 9 budget years. Social Security will have a 61 percent increase in spending. These are our demographics. I am going to try to explain these numbers a little bit more.

Medicare will have almost a 78 percent increase in spending over those next 9 budget years. There is a little more for this because this has none of the offsets, so I will try to provide a level of brutal honesty.

Remember, on Medicare, on some things, you have a portion of copay, those things. Yet, it is still a 75 percent increase, but it goes from \$2 trillion of spending. In 9 budget years, Medicare itself will be a couple trillion dollars, just the spending on that. If you do the offset, the payments that the senior makes, that is about \$400 billion. That is still a 75 percent increase in spending.

What would happen if I could come to you and say: If we would use technology, if we would modernize—here is the MedPAC report that came out in the last couple of days. I haven't read the whole thing. I read part of it.

Here is last year's MedPAC report. We read all of it, highlighted it, and we actually make our staff read it.

Well, it turns out, around here, actually reading the actual math and the concepts—if I came to you right now and said: In here, there is a whole paragraph that is saying there is something wrong in Medicare Advantage data.

Mr. Speaker, the MedPAC report says that Medicare Advantage is a really important program. We need to keep it, but we are going to have to dive in on how to modernize how it works. They made the adjustments for coding intensity, but it basically translates into a projected \$84 billion, or 17 percent, of total payments. Meaning, Medicare Advantage is coming in at \$84 billion this year. That is more than fee for service. That is with the adjustments for renal failure and other things.

I am already starting to have the MedPAC report fall apart, so if any of you talk to the MedPAC folks, ask them for better binding on their reports.

What would happen if I came to you right now and said: By changing the incentives, we can do things to fix these outliers and costs and never cut a service? Instead of the incentives that the MedPAC report talks about of scoring people as sicker and sicker and taking that additional spiff, spending, how about a system that says: Why don't we incentivize the providers in this program to help our brothers and sisters who are seniors be healthier? And that helping your population be healthier is actually your profit.

Is that heresy? I would argue that it is just good design.

We don't have a choice because, last week, the Joint Economic Committee published a report. I chair the Joint Economic Committee, and I appreciate that we have remarkably hardworking economists. We are trying very hard, but we are willing to go to places that are politically dangerous but mathematically honest, which is something that rarely happens around here.

Yet, we tried to touch on things like how fragile is U.S. debt to higher interest rates? The fact of the matter is I

did a chart a couple of weeks ago that showed if the United States went back to a 6 percent handle on U.S. sovereign debt—you would say that is a lot higher than we are at today. Yeah, but go back to the early 2000s, we were right up against 6 percent. We have to realize, in 9 budget years, if we are at 6 percent, it would mean that 45 percent of all U.S. tax collections go just to interest.

We do a chapter here on the effects of obesity on our society, on spending, on longevity, and on family formation. Last year's report came in over \$9 trillion. This year, we even define it more to understand what happens when the single biggest spend in our society could actually be mitigated by helping our brothers and sisters in the country be healthier.

Are we allowed to talk about that, or is that just heresy? Once again, I have to tell the truth.

Over the next 30 years, Social Security and Medicare represent all of the borrowing. It is about \$116 trillion of borrowing.

Discretionary, which we talk about a lot because that is where you find some of the really stupid spending, the shiny objects, is projected to grow slower than tax receipts.

My point is, for everyone out there who wants to be enraged by the White House, enraged by those of us who are trying to find solutions, bring us ideas. Bring us actual math. Stop making crap up. However, if you are going to give us ideas, actually maybe read your subject area first.

You would be amazed how many things we get where, if we just didn't have foreign aid, and then we show the chart that it is a week of borrowing. Understand that you have a country where our baseline is going to be borrowing about \$6 billion a day. How long do you think we can do that?

First, if we can find ways to do it better, faster, and cheaper, read the actual reports that we have been given for a decade that actually have ideas for this and be willing now to do the hard work of just using technology and data and modernizing.

Mr. Speaker, one of the insane things around here, when you meet many of the folks who are in our hallways and demanding more spending, demanding more regulations, demanding more barriers to entry to protect their business model or their bureaucracy, they actually hate the discussion of modernizing.

You are a medical professional. You know what you are doing. The fact of the matter is that there is hope. I don't think there are a lot more years that we can wait. There are ways to do this.

How do we get this body, both our brothers and sisters on the Democratic side—if they would be willing to work with us—saying let's modernize, let's embrace the technology, let's do the things we know that, if we were actually caring—it may not be great politics, but it is really good economics

and really good for the future of this country.

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

TARIFFS HURT EVERYONE

(Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, Mr. FOSTER of Illinois was recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.)

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FOSTER. 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 for the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I will first thank my colleagues on the Democratic Rapid Response Task Force and Litigation Working Group for helping us with these various Special Order hours discussing the Trump administration's various reckless actions.

Tonight, I rise to bring attention to an issue that really should have all Americans on alert, which are President Trump's tariff policies.

Since the beginning of this administration, American businesses, manufacturers, and families have been stuck in limbo as the Trump administration has repeatedly threatened, then implemented, then paused, then restarted tariffs, creating uncertainty and instability.

The most recent policy shift to a 25 percent tariff on goods from Canada and Mexico has been fraught with delays and exemptions, leaving American businesses, manufacturers, and consumers just stuck in limbo, not knowing how to react and how to make their plans.

In fact, just this morning, Trump doubled planned tariffs on steel and aluminum from Canada to 50 percent. Then, a mere couple hours ago, a spokesman from the White House said that the tariffs on Canada were back down to 25 percent. Who knows?

In true Trump administration fashion, this is complete and utter chaos. Yet, the truth is that these tariffs, no matter if and when they go into full effect, whether it is this week or next month, they will all ultimately have the same result: higher prices for everyday goods and a less competitive U.S. manufacturing sector.

In fact, a business in my district, which makes precision-form steel tubing components, told me that the price of hot rolled steel is up 33 percent since Trump's inauguration in anticipation of these tariffs, and there is just no way that they are going to be able to avoid passing these inflationary price increases on to their customers.

According to an analysis from the Yale Budget Lab, if implemented fully, these tariffs would cost the average

American family between \$1,600 and \$2,000 a year, with working-class families, who can least afford it, being hit the hardest.

Prices would spike across the board. Electronics, like computers, phones, and TVs, could rise by 11 percent; clothing, up by 7.5 percent; cars and auto parts, up by 6 percent; groceries, up 2 percent with fresh produce rising nearly 3 percent. Oil and other energy costs will rise over 1.6 percent, making it more expensive for families to fill up their gas tanks and heat their homes.

Mr. Speaker, Trump is trying to spin these tariffs as something that is solely attacks on foreign companies, but history and macroeconomic facts tell us otherwise. When Trump first imposed tariffs during his first administration, it was not other countries that paid, but it was American consumers and businesses.

Importers passed these cost increases on to their consumers, and domestic producers hiked their own prices in response. This made U.S. manufacturers less competitive worldwide. In fact, in the last administration, Trump's policies put us into a manufacturing recession well before COVID hit.

Beyond hurting hardworking American families, these tariffs threatened the stability of our economy. Analysts from across the political spectrum warned that they could slash 2.3 percent from GDP by 2026, wiping out a lot of projected growth.

Markets also reacted with great uncertainty, as they should. The stocks have dropped, and consumer confidence is cratering.

For American farmers, many of whom are already facing mounting economic challenges, the situation is even more dire. The costs of critical supplies, such as fertilizer, fuel, and equipment, will skyrocket, making it harder for farmers to maintain their operations.

Mr. Speaker, I was just at an event earlier today with corn farmers from the Midwest. For example, according to the U.S. Geological Survey, Canada supplies over 80 percent of our potash imports, which are an essential component for agricultural fertilizer. Guess who the next leading producers are after Canada? Russia, China, and Belarus.

Wouldn't it be better if we could import from our friends in Canada instead of Russia, China, and Belarus, or does our President feel differently?

□ 1900

In any case, with increased costs, farmers will be forced to either raise prices or absorb the losses, neither of which is sustainable in the long run.

Besides rising costs, farmers are already facing devastating losses in international markets. China, the largest export market for U.S. food products, has already announced retaliatory tariffs on key American agricultural goods, including wheat, corn, soybeans, pork, and dairy products.

Mexico, our largest corn export market, knows what they are going to do because they did it last time. When Trump did various things to insult the people of Mexico and assault their economy, they simply stopped buying corn from the United States and began buying it from Brazil.

Brazil, by the way, gets two crops a year, which, when you tell that to corn farmers in the Midwest, they react. We are in danger of losing these markets permanently if Trump continues what he did in his last go-around on tariffs.

According to the USDA, in fact, the last time President Trump engaged in a trade war, it cost U.S. farmers nearly \$30 billion in lost sales and market disruptions. In an effort to keep the farmers' heads above water, \$30 billion of taxpayer money was sent their way.

That is not what farmers want. For decades, American farmers have worked tirelessly to expand access to foreign markets, ensuring their products reach consumers around the world.

These new tariffs will undo years of progress in expanding those markets, closing off opportunities and shrinking demand for American-grown goods in a foreign market, something which domestic consumption alone cannot compensate for.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, long before coming to Congress and long before my career as a scientist, I started a manufacturing company with my brother. Starting with \$500 from our parents, we built a company that now manufactures over half of all the theater lighting equipment in the United States. It provides over 1,300 manufacturing jobs in the Midwest.

We do hardware, software, painting, wiring harnesses, customer support, everything, and I am very proud that we have kept those good manufacturing jobs in the United States.

That is why boosting the U.S. manufacturing and creating manufacturing jobs here has always been a top priority of mine and why I was so horrified at the damage done to U.S. manufacturing by the last set of Trump tariffs.

I watched with deep concern as the first Trump administration's tariffs and our other trade policies put us in a manufacturing recession a year before COVID even started.

Once again, Trump is pursuing a failed economic policy that is going to do nothing to bring jobs back, but instead it will drive up costs, kill growth, and undermine U.S. manufacturing, the very sector that he claims to protect.

Manufacturers will be hit with soaring costs. Many U.S. manufacturers rely on imported raw materials, such as steel, aluminum, and auto parts from Canada and Mexico. These tariffs will increase costs across the supply chains, making it harder to produce goods economically and much harder for U.S. manufacturers to export their goods in a competitive world environment.

Contrary to what Trump and the Republicans are trying to say, higher costs mean fewer jobs. When manufacturers face rising production expenses, they are forced to either pass those costs on to consumers, further driving up inflation, or cut jobs and production. Studies have shown that Trump's previous tariffs led to job losses, not gains, in the manufacturing sector.

American manufacturers will, once again, struggle to compete globally. By making essential inputs more expensive, Trump is weakening U.S. manufacturers against foreign competitors who are not burdened with these artificial price hikes.

Not to mention, manufacturers will likely be hit by retaliatory tariffs when trying to export their goods to the countries that President Trump has targeted.

This is not America First; this is America last in the global economy.

The last trade war was a disaster. Under Trump's first round of tariffs, manufacturers suffered as input prices soared, supply chains were disrupted, and retaliatory tariffs from other nations crushed U.S. exports.

This time the consequences could be even worse.

The truth is, there are no winners in trade wars, only those left to bear the burden of higher costs, lost jobs, and economic instability.

Instead of strengthening our economy, Trump and his Republican allies are needlessly putting it at risk, gambling with the livelihoods of American families.

When the U.S. is threatened with a recession, you don't have to take my word for it, you can read the front page of *The Wall Street Journal*. It will be those policies who are to blame.

Mr. Speaker, I am glad to be joined by my colleague, Congresswoman MELANIE STANSBURY. As a Representative of the southern border State, New Mexico, she knows all too well, the importance of fair trade with Mexico for our Nation's economy and especially for working families' wallets.

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

Real-world Impacts on Communities of Actions Taken by Elon Musk and Donald Trump

Ms. STANSBURY. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for convening this Special Order hour.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the real-world impacts of what is happening right now in our Federal Government. With the dismantling of Federal agencies, the free fall of our economy, and the impacts that Elon Musk and Donald Trump are having on our communities, what is happening right now is not normal. It is impacting our communities in ways that many do not even understand.

Right now, real people are hurting. They are scared. They don't know what is going to happen. Today, in my office, I met with members of a Tribal council

and leaders from a Tribe in New Mexico who came to visit me.

Like others, they shared stories about the people in the community who are frightened about what is happening. Teachers and educators and Tribal schools who have been fired without any explanation, critical Federal funds that are on hold. When they went to meet with the Department of the Interior today, they were told that even those who are in charge of the very programs that they were meeting them about didn't know what was happening.

Back home people are frightened. They are scared. They don't know if they are going to lose their Social Security, their Medicaid, or the access to lifesaving care.

A few days ago, I met with the largest food bank in the State of New Mexico. They distribute food to hundreds of food pantries, churches, homeless shelters, and individual families across the State. They told me that if the cuts to food assistance go through that Republicans are proposing in their budget framework, that the number of families, and especially our children and seniors who are currently facing food insecurity, will double.

There is not enough support, resources, and infrastructure in the State of New Mexico to meet the need if these programs are cut. Our food system will do everything that it can to support our communities, but it will be more severe than even during the pandemic.

Every day I am hearing from constituents in my district who have lost their jobs. These are real people, real New Mexicans. Thousands of Americans are being fired every single day by this administration for no reason. These are not faceless people, but real members of our communities.

A Tribal schoolteacher was told in the middle of the school day that she was being fired for no reason, after she had taught for years, to pack up her things and return home in front of her students. These are students who don't know if they are going to be able to finish the school year and graduate. There were no answers. There was no explanation. There was no follow up for how she is going to support her son and her disabled mother at home.

A veteran, who was on medical leave, returned to their job at the VA on a Monday only to find out that they had been locked out of their email, and inside that email was a nameless, faceless dismissal, letting them know that they had been fired for no reason. A dedicated public servant who drove 60 miles to work every single day to the VA hospital to serve their fellow veterans was never even notified as to the reason they were terminated. It was just a mass email sent to thousands of Federal employees across the United States.

Just like the other veterans across my district who lost their jobs over the last several days, another veteran who

served in the Army Reserves from 2001 to 2010 also received that same nameless, faceless email from Elon Musk. A veteran, who received an Army Achievement Medal, a Combat Action Badge, and other medals and achievements over the course of their service, was fired with devastating impacts to their family not only financially but emotionally.

These are the real people being impacted by this administration, an administration that seems to have no regard whatsoever for the thousands of Americans who are literally losing their livelihoods every day as a result.

While they take on these actions, while they dismantle these Federal agencies, while they withhold the funds that literally thousands of organizations across the country depend upon to provide vital services across our communities, while they fire these thousands of Federal public servants who have dedicated their life to service, including our veterans and members of the military, they are giving themselves contracts to replace the very programs and create new services that will give them more wealth like Elon Musk at the FAA.

They are talking about monetizing HUD programs. That is right. Voucher programs that our lowest income family members and members of our communities depend on, they want to turn it into a monetary program that makes private companies money. They want to turn over mortgage markets to their crypto buddies. Well, that sounds like a good idea, right?

They are doing all of this against the backdrop of trade wars that are not only endangering the American economy, but endangering the lives of millions of Americans and making it more expensive.

Now the thing I ask myself is: What is the end goal of all of this? Seriously, what is the end goal?

Donald Trump campaigned for the last 2 years on lowering costs. He told the American people: If you elect me, I will make it cheaper and easier to live in America. I ask my fellow Americans, is it cheaper than it was 6 weeks ago in America? If you have been grocery shopping over the last several weeks, you are seeing that prices are higher than they have ever been.

We are not just talking about the price of eggs and meat. It is everything: the price of housing, the price of groceries, the price of energy. Not only have prices not gone down, they have gone up, and now because of these tariffs and trade wars, we know that everything is going to get exponentially more expensive.

The raw materials that fuel American manufacturing and construction will get more expensive. Produce and food will get more expensive. Energy will get more expensive.

What are they doing? Why are they doing this? Why are my colleagues enabling this administration to harm the American people, enabling this admin-

istration to put harmful policies in place that are making it not only more expensive for Americans but tanking our economy? What is this all about? To what end?

I ask my colleagues honestly, Mr. Speaker, to what end is all of this? What is the point of hurting real Americans?

These policies are not making life better for real Americans. It is really about stealing from the working people of this country to make the wealthier more wealthy.

□ 1915

Mr. Speaker, if you need any more evidence of that, then all you have to do is look at the budget framework that they passed here in this Chamber 2 weeks ago.

A couple of weeks ago, when they passed this budget, they pretended like we are just trying to root out waste, fraud, and abuse and that we are going to take those savings and reinvest it into tax breaks to help the American people. As the last couple of weeks have passed, they are not even trying to hide it anymore.

Over the weekend, Republicans were on a blitz across the news media, saying that they were going to gut Medicaid. They are talking about it openly now. They are going to cut hundreds of millions of dollars from the basic programs that sustain Americans. Over the weekend, Elon Musk talked openly about gutting Social Security. This is their plan.

What are they going to do with all of that "savings"? They are going to use it to give permanent tax breaks to billionaires. That is it. That is what all of this is in service of: taking from the people who have spent their lives serving this country, proudly serving this Nation, proudly working to put food on the table and a roof over their head for their families, and they are going to give that money to billionaires. That is what this is all about. It hurts my heart.

My colleagues passed their budget resolution, their budget CR, this afternoon, and the vast majority of them are on planes back to their districts, where they are not going to hold town-halls. Their leadership told them not to because they don't want to hear from the people who are unhappy and being hurt by this harm to our communities.

I have to ask my colleagues: Why are they even here? What is this all in service of? Go home and represent the people, and come back here and have a backbone to stand up for the Constitution and the people of this country because real people are being hurt.

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative STANSBURY for speaking today and for sharing how some of Trump's policies are going to harm her constituents.

In her State and near her district are national security workers, atomic scientists at Sandia and Los Alamos National Labs, who were fired and then

unfired and are still being threatened with being fired.

I am a scientist. I know a lot of people who are in that situation. Damage is done to our national security when you tell people who are working at a national lab, especially a national security lab, that it is not a safe place in terms of being able to depend on an income to raise their families. That does damage to our national security that can never be undone.

It is not a small deal, and the fact that some 23-year-old kid with a software background has decided they know more about the workforce that we need to make sure our nuclear weapons are safe and effective is about as bad government as you can ever imagine.

I would also like to echo Ms. STANSBURY's questions about why does Trump do this. Why does he actually do this? The President's reputation as a great businessman is based on making a series of one-off deals. He is a real estate dealmaker, not a manufacturer, not a businessman who has real customers.

He thinks he has done a good deal when he uses all the leverage in his negotiation to make sure that he has really rooked his counterpart, his customer, to the extent possible in his real estate transactions.

I am very different. I am a manufacturer. The last thing you want if you are a manufacturer is a dissatisfied customer. It is a completely different mindset.

The problem occurs when Donald Trump views our allies as people to be rooked, people to be insulted, people to use, to leverage to get the most out of the current situation with them instead of trying to develop the long-term business relationship that is really the basis of the long-term economic security of our country.

That is my best understanding of why the President does these things because he certainly has his advisers that let him know that his policies are going to have disastrous economic effects.

In fact, just a couple of nights ago, in an interview, President Trump declined to rule out the possibility of a recession, which I imagine his competent advisers have been shouting in his ear for weeks now.

As I said earlier, there are no winners in a trade war. There are only those who are left to bear the burden of higher costs, lost jobs, and economic instability.

Instead of strengthening our economy, Trump and his Republican allies are needlessly putting it at risk, gambling with the livelihoods of American families. If the U.S. indeed enters a recession, we will know who to blame.

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

PUTTING AMERICA FIRST BORDER SECURITY POLICIES BACK IN PLACE

(Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, Mr. BIGGS of Arizona was recognized for 30 minutes.)

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BIGGS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the topic of this Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MOORE of West Virginia). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arizona?

There was no objection.

Mr. BIGGS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to be here tonight with my colleagues who are also members of the Border Security Caucus.

For 4 years, we have stood here and exposed the open-border policies of the Biden-Harris administration. For 4 years, we have seen what happens when the America First border security policies that President Trump had put in place were thrown out.

In just over 1 month, we have seen what happens when those policies are put back in place. Since President Trump took office, ICE agents have arrested more than 20,000 illegal aliens. That is just in 1 month. By comparison, Joe Biden only had 33,000 at-large arrests for the entire year of 2024.

When Joe Biden was in charge, over 300,000 illegal aliens crossed the border in just 1 month. In President Trump's first month, illegal crossings did not even reach 10,000. The actual number was 8,400.

Whereas Biden let all those people into the country without proper vetting, some of which were known criminals and terrorists that we are now trying to find, under President Trump, people who illegally crossed the border are stopped and immediately detained or removed.

Due to President Biden's catch and release policies, every State had the pathologies of a border State. Immediately after taking office, President Trump charged ICE officers with cleaning up streets across the country by detaining the illegal aliens that Joe Biden had released into the country.

While they were attempting to prosecute President Trump for bogus charges in multiple jurisdictions, the Biden regime was releasing actual criminals into every city in America.

Tonight, we are going to be exposing the Biden-Harris administration's open-border policies and President Trump's work to remove them. We will highlight the tireless work of ICE agents tasked with arresting some of the worst individuals who have invaded our country.

Despite being demonized by the mainstream media and organized campaigns to interfere with and prevent arrests, including by exposing personal information of agents, in just 1 month,

those agents have taken thousands of violent and malevolent offenders off of our streets. In just 1 month, President Trump has put an end to the endless invasion of our communities by illegal aliens.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BABIN), my co-chairman of the Border Security Caucus.

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. BIGGS), my good friend and co-chair. I really appreciate him having tonight's very important Special Order.

The truth is simple. The Biden administration threw open the floodgates, allowing murderers, rapists, and chaos to pour into our communities, all in pursuit of political power. They knew exactly what they were doing.

Securing the border was never an impossibility, as they let the Nation and us believe. It was always a choice.

For the last 4 years, the wrong choice was deliberately made. We were told that enforcement wouldn't work, that the crisis was simply too big to fix, but those were lies meant to cover up the fact that an open border was exactly what they wanted to do.

They dismantled every tool that worked, inviting criminals to walk right in. We saw the consequences play out in the most destructive ways imaginable. Mr. Speaker, 15 million illegals entered under the Biden administration's watch.

Tonight, you will hear about the evils that were unleashed on our neighborhoods by the Biden administration, resulting in death and destruction of innocent American lives.

How many more lives must be lost? How many more families must grieve before they admit their open-border agenda is destroying this country? There are 100,000 Americans dying per year from deadly Mexican cartel and Chinese drugs that have come in over our open border.

There have been hundreds of thousands of lost children from the child sex trade and human trafficking. There have been murders, rapes, and pillaging from illegal alien gangs and swamped public schools, hospitals, and public services.

Here is the good news, though. The days of lawlessness are over because, on day one of the Donald Trump administration, we finally have a strong leader in the White House. Just like that, the border was shut down. All it took was that leadership and the will to enforce the law. The message was sent loud and clear: America is not open for lawbreakers anymore.

Illegal crossings have plummeted. Deportations are back in full force. As co-chair of the Border Security Caucus, I am committed to keeping these dangerous criminals off of our streets.

Working hand in hand with President Trump, Vice President VANCE, and leaders like Tom Homan, we are making sure that child traffickers, drug smugglers, and gang members are rounded up and sent packing back to

where they belong. We are kicking them out by the thousands, just like we should have been doing all along these last 4 years.

This is how you put America first: You don't make excuses; you act. You don't let criminals run free; you lock them up or send them home. You don't leave the border wide open; you shut it down and take control.

The American people deserve safety, not suffering. They deserve law and order, not chaos. They deserve leadership that protects them, not one that absolutely betrays them.

That is what Donald Trump and Tom Homan are delivering to us right now, and they are just getting started.

Mr. BIGGS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman who has seen in his own district time and time again the abuse caused by these out-of-control illegal aliens.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. TIFFANY), my friend who is also on the Border Security Caucus.

Mr. TIFFANY. Mr. Speaker, first of all, I thank the gentlemen who have led the Border Security Caucus, Mr. BABIN and Mr. BIGGS. I thank them for their leadership on this issue. It is as a result of their efforts that they continue to deliver this message to the American people of what a disaster this was going on at our southern border that caused this to be the number one issue in the past election before the American people.

In particular, I thank the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. BIGGS). The first trip I did after being sworn in, in May 2020, was to go down to the southern border on a trip that he led with many of us, as he did so many times with so many Members. I don't know if there are hardly any Members on the Republican side that he didn't lead to the southern border to deliver the message.

It is there that I got to meet people like Sheriff Mark Lamb from Pinal County in Arizona and Sheriff Mark Dannels down in Cochise County, who back in 2020 talked about how the border was becoming secure, that at the end of the Trump administration's first term, the border was becoming more secure. We visited them a year later, and they told us that it was all deteriorating simply because there was a change in the Presidency. I thank them for their leadership in regard to this. They have done a service to the American people. Hopefully, we can fix this for the future.

We just had a hearing this morning with a sheriff from one of the counties in Texas, a border county there, as well as one of the leaders of the Border Patrol union. They told us that it is night and day since January 20. Thank God we have new leadership in the White House because the border is once again secured.

I would just say, remember when the media and Democrats told us that President Biden needed a bill to fix the border? That was a lie. As President

Trump said last week in his joint address, all we really needed was a new President.

If there is one thing that has been proven over the last month, it is that the Democrats' border invasion was intentional.

□ 1930

Mr. Speaker, President Trump announced illegal border crossings in February were the lowest in decades: February 2024, under Biden, nearly 190,000; 2025, under Trump, a little over 8,000.

That is a 96 percent decrease without a single new law from Congress. The difference is real leadership. It is truly a shame that Democrats willingly let the killers of Laken Riley, Jocelyn Nungaray and Rachel Morin into this country. It is also a shame that they did not deport criminals like the one in my congressional district who killed Steven Nasholm, a father of three daughters.

Thankfully, President Trump didn't wait for excuses. He took action by putting remain in Mexico back in place. He declared an emergency at our southern border, sent troops to help the border patrol, put a stop to illegal crossings, and signed the Laken Riley Act into law to deport dangerous criminals.

Gone are the days of catch and release, which have a completely different meaning where I come from in the lakes in northern Wisconsin. President Biden had turned it into an illegal alien term where illegals who were caught at our southern border were released into the U.S.

To be clear, the last administration chose to let America be invaded. President Trump chose to stop it.

American strength is back and stronger than ever, but we cannot stop here. Congress must act now to ensure these gains are not undone by the next weak President in the White House. We must codify things like stopping birthright citizenship, ending catch and release, ensuring that ICE has the tools needed to carry out mass deportations, and preventing parole abuse permanently.

President Trump is doing his job. Now it is time for Congress to do ours. There are no more excuses. It is time to stand up for America.

Mr. BIGGS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman, and I appreciate his willingness. We have been to the border together. As has everyone else speaking tonight, I think we have all been except for Mr. GILL who I have got to get down there. It is always fun.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to my good friend from Georgia (Mr. CLYDE).

Mr. CLYDE. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman BIGGS for holding tonight's Special Order and leading on this critical border issue.

Since day one, President Trump has taken incredible steps to secure our border and protect the American people. These measures include ending

catch and release, reinstating remain in Mexico, restarting construction of the border wall, and cracking down on sanctuary cities.

Recently, the Trump administration ended the taxpayer subsidization of open borders, meaning Americans' hard-earned tax dollars will no longer be used to support or incentivize illegal immigration. Additionally, the Trump administration has made great progress in carrying out its mass deportation operation.

What used to be called the CBP One app to allow illegals to more easily come into the country is now the CBP Home app. Why is it called the CBP Home app? It is good for a one-way ticket home for illegal aliens so they can self-deport. President Trump is emptying our country of illegal aliens. Promises made; promises kept.

Border Czar Tom Homan and DHS Secretary Kristi Noem are tirelessly working to detain and deport illegal aliens. ICE agents, along with key assistance from local, State, and Federal law enforcement partners, have already arrested and issued detainers for thousands of criminal illegal aliens including murderers, drug traffickers, suspected terrorists, and MS-13 gang members.

For example, ICE recently arrested an illegal alien in Atlanta, in my home State of Georgia, whose criminal history includes a conviction of four counts of indecent liberty with a child. This heinous criminal illegal has no place in the Peach State or anywhere else in our great country for that matter. I am deeply appreciative of the Trump administration for taking criminal illegals off of our streets.

My northeast Georgia district has seen the devastating impact of criminal illegal alien crime up close and personal. Last year, Maria Gomez Perez, a 12-year-old girl, was abducted in Gainesville, Georgia, by an illegal alien. Thankfully, she was rescued and found in Ohio.

Days before the 2024 election, Mimi Rodriguez-Ramirez, a 25-year-old mother, was murdered by an illegal alien from Mexico. That happened in Habersham County.

Just outside my district, Laken Riley, the 22-year-old nursing student, was brutally murdered by an illegal alien in Athens, Georgia.

Mr. Speaker, President Trump is working to prevent these tragedies from devastating additional families and communities across our country. I applaud his work to make America secure, safe, and great once again.

Mr. BIGGS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend, the gentleman from Georgia.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to my friend from Indiana (Mr. BAIRD).

Mr. Speaker, I will always remember him going off with Art Del Cueto and leaving the rest of us in a car, stuck in the dirt and with a bad tire, as we were down on the border. It is good to see that he made it.

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend from Arizona for this Special Order.

Mr. Speaker, under the Biden administration, our borders were wide open with record numbers of illegal immigrants and deadly drugs flooding across our border.

Under President Biden, every single State became a border State including Indiana. These include dangerous criminals with ties to gangs such as the Tren de Aragua and MS-13, who have committed horrific crimes and vicious attacks against innocent Americans.

Last year, an illegal immigrant with ties to MS-13 stabbed a teenage girl in the hand at a baseball game in Lowell, Indiana. After an extensive search, the culprit was found and arrested. I thank law enforcement officers for their hard work to find and arrest this criminal.

Under President Trump, we have swiftly returned to commonsense border policies, and illegal border crossings have plunged to a record low. In January 2025, there were 61,465 illegal border crossings, down from 176,000 in January '24. Just last month, illegal crossings at our southern border plummeted to the lowest level on record.

President Trump has sent a message loud and clear that the border is closed, and his strong border security policies are working. House Republicans are working with the President to implement his agenda to secure our border and keep Americans safe.

Mr. BIGGS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman, who is also a member of the Border Security Caucus, for being with us tonight.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GILL). Texas is another border State, and Mr. GILL is a newcomer who is setting the world on fire.

Mr. GILL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for hosting this Special Order.

Over the past 4 years, Joe Biden and the Democrats have inundated American communities with massive numbers of violent, illegal aliens who are murdering, raping, torturing, and pillaging our people on our soil.

They did it the entire time, not by accident but as a deliberate policy decision, to open up our borders and flood our country with people that they believed would be future Democrat voters for life.

We have to remember it was also a part of a policy that was done with the approbation of a cheap labor lobby who wanted to import millions of people who would act as a virtual, new serf class of laborers to reduce American working-class wages in this country.

The consequences of this were absolutely catastrophic for the American people. Almost 15 million illegal aliens, perhaps more, depending on what estimates we use, have come into this country.

Thankfully, this nightmare is finally over because we have a President who

actually cares about the American people. We have a President who doesn't make excuses. We have a President who doesn't tell us lies, like the executive needs to rely on new laws to enforce our border. We have a President who actually just gets the job done.

His border enforcement efforts have caused known got-aways to fall by 93 percent with an average of just 132 a day right now. Even as this nightmare in this country is finally coming to a close, we have colleagues on the other side of the aisle right now who are facilitating this invasion as best they can and going back to their districts and helping protect illegal aliens who have no business being here in the first place. They are teaching them how to evade ICE detection.

Mr. Speaker, it is absolutely disgusting. We have got to codify President Trump's border policies into law so that we don't let the other side of the aisle unleash the same kind of hell on our country that they did over the past 4 years. We have got to codify every single executive order including his remain in Mexico policy. I have got a bill, the REMAIN in Mexico Act, which would do precisely that. We have got over 100 cosponsors.

Mr. Speaker, I think we need to bring this bill to the floor. This is what the American people want. This is what the President wants. I think we need to act fast.

Mr. BIGGS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his passion. He is right. We do need to codify President Trump's policies because we cannot go back to the period of time like we just experienced under the Biden regime.

Mr. Speaker, the Trump policies are a product of understanding what needs to happen. The mere fact that Donald Trump was elected almost immediately terminated the onslaught of people crossing our border.

Let me give an example. When I was meeting with the new border patrol chief, Chief Banks, I asked him what is going on. He said: Andy, three caravans turned back yesterday.

Mr. Speaker, that is what happens when you enforce the law. People were going to break the law. They stopped breaking the law. When I was down at the border just a few weeks back, I wanted to compare. I went to a place where I knew we had a regular flow of illegal aliens crossing the border. It was eerily quiet when I was there. The only thing that we saw and noticed on the southern side of the border were the watchers and the scouts. All of a sudden, they saw us. They came out. They were watching and observing us.

Let's talk about some of the people that have come in under the Biden administration's terrible and dangerous anti-American policy. First is Eduardo Domingo Renoj-Matul; some call him Turko. In the sanctuary city of Los Angeles, Federal agents arrested Eduardo Domingo Renoj-Matul, also known as Turko, who is charged with running

one of the largest human smuggling organizations in the country. It spanned 5 years, and he smuggled in around 20,000 illegal aliens, largely between Los Angeles and Phoenix. Just so you know, the last number was about \$10,000 per person that he was smuggling.

A codefendant of his was also charged with threatening to behead a Homeland Security Investigations agent and his family while authorities were conducting a search of his home.

Charges against him and his codefendant include hostage taking, transporting aliens into the U.S., and transporting aliens for private financial gain, resulting in death.

Illegal aliens were charged in some instances more than \$15,000 for transportation. If they couldn't make the payment, they were held as hostages in stash houses in Los Angeles and Phoenix.

□ 1945

Let's take a look at someone else. Let's see if we can find Wilmer Yovani Fuentes-Benitez. On February 2, ICE officers in Philadelphia arrested Honduran national Wilmer Yovani Fuentes-Benitez who was previously deported three times. This time he was also arrested for resisting arrest and battery of a police officer.

These are the people that my friends across the aisle say should be allowed to remain here in these sanctuary cities.

ICE agents in Omaha arrested a member of Tren de Aragua who had spent 7 years in a Venezuelan prison for robbery, resisting arrest, and unlawfully discharging a firearm.

ICE agents arrested Fernando Hernandez-Martinez for two counts of child molestation.

We have another poster. This is Jose Roberto Rodriguez-Urbina. On January 22, ICE agents arrested El Salvadoran national Jose Roberto Rodriguez-Urbina who was wanted in his home country on extortion charges. This is what happens when an administration does not properly vet people they let into the country.

Criminal fugitives see the U.S. as a safe haven from justice, and they abuse the parole statute. They literally granted parole to millions of people when the very purpose of parole never saw more than 25 or so people admitted into the country under parole but not under the Biden administration.

In Saint Paul, Minnesota, another individual was arrested by ICE agents, Victor Covarrubias-Ozuna, for sexually assaulting a child.

Here is another one. In San Francisco, California, ICE agents arrested Erwin Davila-Galvan for lewd acts with a minor.

We have another poster. On January 27, ICE agents in San Diego arrested an Afghani who had an existing removal order and was a known or suspected terrorist. Despite having a removal order, the Biden-Harris administration

and Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas could not be bothered to deport this suspected terrorist. He was roaming our streets and had to be captured by ICE agents.

We have another individual. On February 5, ICE officers in Harris County, Texas, arrested Mexican national David Gonzalez-Martinez for aggravated assault causing serious bodily injury. Gonzalez has illegally entered the country at least four times and was removed from the U.S. in 2001, 2008, and 2015. He was previously convicted of voluntary manslaughter, aggravated assault with a weapon, drug possession, and illegal reentry.

On January 27, ICE agents in Brockton, Massachusetts, arrested Guatemalan national Edilio Agustin-Orellana. Agustin is charged with five counts of assault with a dangerous weapon, three counts of kidnapping, and armed home invasion. He has a record with ICE going back as far as 2002 when he was first arrested for illegally entering the United States.

These are the types of individuals that are currently being arrested by ICE under the leadership of Tom Homan. These are the types of individuals that are being protected by sanctuary cities.

When we recently had a hearing, we had the mayors of four of these sanctuary cities come in. All of them said: We cooperate with ICE. We don't keep people from being deported or we don't stop handing them over. But they do; they release them in the parking lot.

Let me read you the statutes that they are violating. Here is one. 8 U.S.C. 1373(a) states: "Notwithstanding any other provision of Federal, state, or local law, a Federal, State, or local government entity or official may not prohibit, or in any way restrict, any government entity or official from sending to, or receiving from, the Immigration and Naturalization Service information regarding the citizenship or immigration status, lawful or unlawful, of any individual." You cannot do it. There is not even a culpable mental state required. You simply can't restrict it.

The sanctuary cities are preventing ICE and the immigration officials from getting this information. There is this one. This is 8 U.S.C. 1324(c). It states: "In conducting investigations and hearings . . . immigration officers and administrative law judges shall have reasonable access to examine evidence of any person or entity being investigated . . ."

When the sanctuary city mayors say you can't cooperate with ICE, they are violating this statute. They have criminal culpability. Also you will see again there is no culpable mental state. There is no requirement that they intentionally or willfully knowingly do it. It is a per se statute. They are violating this. They have criminal culpability.

The sanctuary cities also have culpability on this. "Any person who knowing"—now you have a culpable mental

state—that a “Any person who knowing or in reckless disregard of the fact that an alien has come to, entered, or remains in the United States in violation of law, conceals, harbors, or shields from detection, or attempts to conceal, harbor, or shield from detection such alien in any place. . . . shall for each alien in respect to whom such a violation occurs, be fined, imprisoned not more than 10 years, or both.”

You have to understand something. What you have here is you have mayors telling their police chiefs and their officers don’t hand these people over. Don’t hand them over. There is no distinction between civil or criminal. When they do that they know that they are concealing. That is a criminal sentence up to 10 years. They are violating the law. They need to be prosecuted.

I am calling on Pam Bondi, the new Attorney General, and I am also calling on Mr. Homan to make that happen.

Mr. Speaker, I tip my hat to President Trump. What he has done just by enforcing the law has actually secured most of our border.

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

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE,

Washington, DC, March 11, 2025.

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to clause 2(a)(2) of rule XI of the House of Representatives, the rules of procedure for the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence for the 119th Congress are transmitted herewith. They were adopted on February 7, 2025 by voice vote.

Sincerely,

ERIC A. “RICK” CRAWFORD,
Chairman.

PUBLICATION OF COMMITTEE RULES

RULES OF THE PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE FOR THE 119TH CONGRESS

RULE 1.—GENERAL PROVISIONS

(A) *Applicability of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives.* The Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives (the “House”) are the rules of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence (the “Committee”) and its subcommittees insofar as applicable.

(B) *Applicability to Subcommittees.* Except when the terms “Full Committee” and “Subcommittee” are specifically mentioned, the following rules shall apply to the Committee’s subcommittees and their respective Chairs and Ranking Minority Members to the same extent as they apply to the full Committee and its Chair and Ranking Minority Member.

(C) *Changes in Rules.* These rules may be modified, amended, waived, or repealed by a vote of the full Committee. A notice, in writing, of the proposed change or waiver shall be given to each member at least 48 hours prior to any meeting at which action on the proposed rule change or waiver is to be taken.

(D) *Committee Website.* The Chair shall maintain an official Committee website for the purposes of furthering the Committee’s

legislative and oversight responsibilities, including communicating information about the Committee’s activities to the Committee Members, other Members, and the public at large. The Ranking Minority Member may maintain a similar website for the same purposes. The official Committee website shall display a link on its homepage to the website maintained by the Ranking Minority Member.

RULE 2.—LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

(A) *Legislative Calendar.*

(1) *Generally.* The Chief Clerk or other Committee staff designated by the Chair, under the direction of the Staff Director, shall maintain a calendar that lists:

- (a) The legislative measures introduced and referred to the Committee;
- (b) The status of such measures; and
- (c) Such other matters that the Committee may require.

(2) *Revisions to the Calendar.* The calendar shall be revised from time to time to show pertinent changes. A copy of such revision shall be furnished to each Member of the Committee upon request.

(3) *Consultation with Appropriate Government Entities.* Unless otherwise directed by the Committee, legislative measures referred to the Committee may be referred by the Chief Clerk to the appropriate department or agency of the Government for reports thereon.

(B) *Full Committee Regular Meeting.* The regular meeting day of the Committee for the transaction of Committee business shall be the first Thursday on which the House of Representatives is in session of each month, unless otherwise directed by the Chair. The Chair of the Committee is authorized to dispense with a regular meeting or to change the date thereof when circumstances warrant.

(C) *Additional and Special Meetings.* The Chair of the Committee may call and convene additional meetings when circumstances warrant. A special meeting of the Committee may be requested by Members of the Committee pursuant to the provisions of clause 2(c)(2) and clause 2(m)(1) of House Rule XI.

(D) *Subcommittee Meetings.* Except as otherwise directed by the Chair of the full Committee, each subcommittee is authorized to meet, hold hearings, receive testimony, mark up legislation, and report to the full Committee on all matters within its jurisdiction and/or referred to it. Insofar as possible, meetings of the subcommittees shall not conflict with meetings of the full Committee. A subcommittee Chair shall set meeting dates only after consultation with and approval of the Chair of the full Committee.

(E) *Subcommittee Field Hearings.* The Chair of the Committee, at the request of a subcommittee Chair, may make a temporary assignment of any Member of the Committee to such subcommittee for the purpose of constituting a quorum at and participating in any public hearing by such subcommittee to be held outside of Washington, D.C. A Member appointed to such temporary position shall not be a voting member. The Chair of the Committee shall give reasonable notice of such temporary assignment to the Ranking Minority Member of the Committee and of the respective subcommittee.

(F) *Notice of Meetings.*

(1) *Generally.* In the case of any meeting of the Committee, the Chief Clerk shall provide reasonable notice to every Member of the Committee. Such notice shall provide the time, place, and subject matter of the meeting, and shall be made consistent with the provisions of clause 2(g)(3) of House Rule XI.

(2) *Hearings.* Except as provided in subsection (F)(4), a Committee hearing may not commence earlier than one week after such notice.

(3) *Business Meetings.* Except as provided in subsection (F)(4), a Committee business meeting may not commence earlier than the third day on which Members have notice thereof (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays when the House is not in session).

(4) *Exception.* A hearing or business meeting may begin sooner than otherwise specified in either of the following circumstances (in which case the Chair shall provide the notice at the earliest possible time):

(a) the Chair, with the concurrence of the Ranking Minority Member, determines there is good cause; or

(b) the Committee determines by majority vote in the presence of the number of Members required under the rules of the Committee for the transaction of business.

(5) *Definition.* For purposes of this rule, “notice” means:

- (a) Written notification; or
- (b) Notification delivered by facsimile transmission, regular mail, or electronic mail.

(G) *Open Meetings.*

(1) *Generally.* Pursuant to House Rule XI, but subject to the limitations of subsections (G)(2) and (G)(3) of this rule, Committee meetings held for the transaction of business and Committee hearings shall be open to the public.

(2) *Meetings.* Any meeting or portion thereof for the transaction of business, including the markup of legislation, or any hearing or portion thereof, shall be closed to the public if the Committee determines by record vote in open session, with a majority of the Committee present, that disclosure of the matters to be discussed may:

- (a) Endanger national security;
- (b) Compromise sensitive law enforcement information;
- (c) Tend to defame, degrade, or incriminate any person; or
- (d) Otherwise violate any law or Rule of the House.

(3) *Hearings.* The Committee may vote to close a Committee hearing pursuant to clause 11(d)(2) of House Rule X, regardless of whether a majority is present, so long as at least two Members of the Committee are present, one of whom is a Member of the Minority and votes upon the motion.

(4) *Briefings.* Committee briefings shall be closed to the public.

(H) *Broadcasting Meetings.* Whenever a hearing or meeting conducted by the Committee is open to the public, a majority of the Committee may permit that hearing or meeting to be covered, in whole or in part, by television broadcast, radio broadcast, and still photography, or by any such methods of coverage, subject to the provisions and in accordance with the spirit of the purposes enumerated in the Rules of the House of Representatives.

(I) *Quorum.*

(1) *Hearings.* For purposes of taking testimony, or receiving evidence, a quorum shall consist of two Committee Members, at least one of whom is a Member of the Majority.

(2) *Reporting Measures and Recommendations.* For purposes of reporting a measure or recommendation, a quorum shall consist of a majority of the Committee’s Members.

(3) *Other Committee Proceedings.* For purposes of the transaction of all other Committee business, other than the consideration of a motion to close a hearing as described in section (G)(3), a quorum shall consist of one-third of the Committee’s Members.

RULE 3.—JURISDICTION AND MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE AND SUBCOMMITTEES

(A) *Generally.* The Committee retains jurisdiction of all subjects listed in clause 11(b) of House Rule X.

(1) Creation of subcommittees shall be by majority vote of the Committee.

(2) Subcommittees shall deal with such legislation and oversight of programs and policies as described in section (C).

(3) While subcommittees are provided jurisdictional responsibilities in section (C), the Committee retains the right to exercise oversight and legislative jurisdiction over all subjects within its purview under House Rule X.

(B) *Establishment of Subcommittees.* The Committee shall be organized into the following six subcommittees, and each shall have specific responsibility for such legislation and oversight of programs and policies as described in section (C) and as the Committee refers to it:

(1) Subcommittee on the Central Intelligence Agency;

(2) Subcommittee on the National Intelligence Enterprise;

(3) Subcommittee on Defense Intelligence and Overhead Architecture;

(4) Subcommittee on the National Security Agency and Cyber;

(5) Subcommittee on Open Source Intelligence; and

(6) Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations.

(C) *Subcommittee Jurisdiction.*

(1) *Subcommittee on the Central Intelligence Agency.* Legislative and oversight responsibilities shall include the programs, policies, budget, and operations of the Central Intelligence Agency; all covert actions of the Intelligence Community; and the collection, exploitation, and dissemination of human intelligence (HUMINT).

(2) *Subcommittee on the National Intelligence Enterprise.* Legislative and oversight responsibilities shall include the programs, policies, budget, and operations of the Office of the Director of National Intelligence and the intelligence components of the Department of Energy, Department of Homeland Security (including the U.S. Coast Guard), Department of Justice (including the Drug Enforcement Administration and Federal Bureau of Investigation), Department of State, and Department of Treasury; matters regarding U.S. persons' privacy and civil liberties; counter-intelligence; all domestic activities of the Intelligence Community; and all cross-cutting matters associated with the National Intelligence Enterprise.

(3) *Subcommittee on Defense Intelligence and Overhead Architecture.* Legislative and oversight responsibilities shall include the programs, policies, budget, operations, and intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the Department of Defense, including the Undersecretary of Defense for Intelligence and Security, Defense Intelligence Agency, National Reconnaissance Office, National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, and the intelligence components of the Military Services (Army, Air Force, Marine Corps, Navy, and Space Force); all activities funded by the Military Intelligence Program; all matters related to the Defense Intelligence Enterprise; and the collection, exploitation, and dissemination of acoustic intelligence (ACINT), geospatial intelligence (GEOINT), imagery intelligence (IMINT), and measures and signatures intelligence (MASINT).

(4) *Subcommittee on the National Security Agency and Cyber.* Legislative and oversight responsibilities shall include the programs, policies, budget, and operations of the National Security Agency/Central Security Service; the intelligence and intelligence-re-

lated activities of U.S. Cyber Command (USCYBERCOM); the collection, exploitation, and dissemination of communications intelligence (COMINT), electronic intelligence (ELINT), foreign instrumentation signals intelligence (FISINT), and signals intelligence (SIGINT); and all cyber-intelligence activities of the Intelligence Community, including support for the nation's cyber-defense and cyber-offense.

(5) *Subcommittee on Open Source Intelligence.* Legislative and oversight responsibilities shall include the programs, policies, budget, and operations of all elements of the Intelligence Community as they relate to open source intelligence (OSINT) collection, use, and dissemination.

(6) *Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations.* Oversight responsibilities shall include all matters within the scope of the full Committee's jurisdiction, in concurrence with the relevant subcommittee(s) of jurisdiction; any investigative matters referred by the Chair; and receiving and reviewing whistleblower complaints and other information concerning waste, fraud, or abuse by the Intelligence Community.

(D) *Subcommittee Membership.*

(1) *Generally.* Each Member of the Committee may be assigned to at least one of the subcommittees.

(2) *Selection and Ratio of Subcommittee Members.* The Chair and Ranking Minority Member of the full Committee shall select their respective members for each subcommittee. The size and ratio of each subcommittee shall be determined by the Chair, in consultation with the Ranking Minority Member.

(3) *Ex Officio Membership.* In the event that the Chair and Ranking Minority Member of the full Committee do not choose to sit as regular voting members of one or more of the subcommittees, each is authorized to sit as an *ex officio* member of the subcommittees and participate in the work of the subcommittees. When sitting *ex officio*, however, they:

(a) Shall not have a vote in subcommittee hearings or meetings; and

(b) Shall not be counted for purposes of determining a quorum at subcommittee hearings or meetings.

RULE 4.—COMMITTEE WORKING GROUPS.

(A) *Generally.* The Chair, in consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, or the Chair of a subcommittee in consultation with the Ranking Minority Member of that subcommittee, may designate a working group to inquire into and take testimony on a matter that falls within the jurisdiction of the Committee or subcommittee, respectively.

(B) *Selection and Ratio of Working Group Members.* The Chair and Ranking Minority Member of the full Committee, or subcommittee when applicable, shall select their respective members for each working group. The ratio of Majority to Minority members shall be comparable to the full Committee or respective subcommittee, consistent with the party ratios established by the Majority party, except that each working group shall have at least one more Majority Member than Minority Members. The Chair, or the Chair of the designating subcommittee, shall choose one of the Majority Members so appointed to serve as Chair of the working group. The Ranking Minority Member, or the Ranking Minority Member of the designating subcommittee, shall similarly appoint the Ranking Minority Member of the working group.

(C) *Limitation.* No working group shall have legislative jurisdiction.

RULE 5.—OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS.

(A) *Commencing Investigations.* The Committee shall commence investigations only if

approved by the Chair, in consultation with the Ranking Minority Member.

(B) *Conducting Investigations.* An authorized investigation may be conducted by Members of the Committee or Committee staff designated by the Chair, in consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, to undertake any such investigation.

(C) *Closing Investigations.* The Chair, upon notice to the Ranking Minority Member, may halt or end a previously authorized investigation at the Chair's discretion.

RULE 6.—COMMITTEE REPORTS.

(A) *Bills and Resolutions.* Each bill or resolution approved by the Committee shall be reported by the Chair of the Committee pursuant to clauses 2-4 of House Rule XIII.

(B) *Approval of Investigative and Oversight Reports.* Only those investigative or oversight reports approved by a majority vote of the Committee at a meeting at which a quorum is present may be ordered printed, unless otherwise required by the Rules of the House of Representatives.

(C) *Notice of Investigative and Oversight Reports.* A proposed investigative or oversight report shall not be considered in the Committee unless the proposed report has been available to the Members of the Committee for at least three calendar days (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays, unless the House is in session on such days) before consideration of such proposed report in the Committee. If a hearing has been held on the matter reported upon, every reasonable effort shall be made to have such hearing transcript printed and available to the Members of the Committee before the consideration of the proposed report in the Committee.

(D) *Additional Views.* If, at the time of approval of a report, a Member of the Committee gives notice of intent to file supplemental, minority, additional, or dissenting views, any Member of the Committee shall be entitled to file such views following clause 2(l) of House Rule XI and clause 3(a)(1) of House Rule XIII.

RULE 7.—HEARING PROCEDURES.

(A) *Generally.* Hearings shall be conducted according to the procedures in clause 2(k) of House Rule XI. The Chair of the Committee or subcommittee shall make an opening statement as set forth in clause 2(k)(1) of House Rule XI. In addition, the Ranking Minority Member of the Committee or subcommittee may make an opening statement.

(B) *Presiding Member.* The Chair of the Committee or a subcommittee shall preside over each meeting and hearing thereof ("the presiding member").

(C) *The Five-Minute Rule.* Generally, the time any one Member may address the Committee, subcommittee, or working group on any measure or matter under consideration shall not exceed five minutes and then only when the Member has been recognized by the Chair or subcommittee Chair, as appropriate, except that this time limit may be exceeded by unanimous consent or authorization by the Chair. The five-minute limitation shall not apply to the Chair and the Ranking Minority Member or the Chair and the ranking minority member of a subcommittee or a working group. Upon request from a Member, the Chair may afford such Member additional time, not to exceed two minutes, for additional remarks that are in rebuttal of remarks made by another Member during a hearing, briefing, or meeting concerning the requesting Member's position or prior statements, as the Chair deems appropriate and necessary.

(D) *Markup.* Prior to Committee or subcommittee markup of legislation, Committee staff should make every reasonable effort to resolve Majority and Minority differences regarding the legislation.

(E) *Amendments.* When a bill or resolution is being considered by the Committee, Members shall provide the Chief Clerk in a timely manner with a sufficient number of written copies of any amendment offered, so as to enable each Member present to receive a copy thereof prior to taking action. A point of order may be made against any amendment not reduced to writing. A copy of each such amendment shall be maintained in the public records of the Committee. Any member, upon request, shall be recognized for not more than five minutes to address the Committee or subcommittee on behalf of an amendment which the member has offered to any pending bill or resolution.

(F) *Voting.* Voting on a measure or matter may be by record vote, division vote, voice vote, or unanimous consent.

(G) *Request for Record Vote.* A record vote of the Members may be directed by the Chair or upon the request of any Member.

(H) *Postponement of Further Proceedings.* In accordance with clause 2(h) of House Rule XI, the Chair is authorized to postpone further proceedings when a record vote is ordered on the question of approving a measure or matter or adopting an amendment. The Chair may resume proceedings on a postponed request at any time after reasonable notice. When proceedings resume on a postponed question, notwithstanding any intervening order for the previous question, an underlying proposition shall remain subject to further debate or amendment to the same extent as when the question was postponed.

(I) *Reporting Record Votes.* Whenever the Committee reports any measure or matter by record vote, the report of the Committee upon such measure or matter shall include a tabulation of the votes cast in favor of, and the votes cast in opposition to, such measure or matter.

(J) *Availability of Record Votes on Committee Website.* In addition to any other requirement of the Rules of the House, the Chair shall make the record votes on any measure or matter on which a record vote is taken, other than a motion to close a Committee hearing, briefing, or meeting, available on the Committee's website not later than 2 business days after such vote is taken. Such record shall include an unclassified description of the amendment, motion, order, or other proposition, the name of each Member voting in favor of, and each Member voting in opposition to, such amendment, motion, order, or proposition, and the names of those Members of the Committee present but not voting.

RULE 8.—MOTIONS TO GO TO CONFERENCE

In accordance with clause 2(a) of House Rule XI, the Chair is authorized and directed to offer a privileged motion to go to conference under clause 1 of House Rule XXII whenever the Chair considers it appropriate.

RULE 9.—PROCEDURES FOR TAKING TESTIMONY OR RECEIVING EVIDENCE

(A) *Notice.* Adequate notice shall be given to all witnesses appearing before the Committee.

(B) *Oath or Affirmation.* The Chair may require testimony of witnesses to be given under oath or affirmation.

(1) *Administration of Oath or Affirmation.* Upon the determination that a witness shall testify under oath or affirmation, any Member of the Committee designated by the Chair may administer the oath or affirmation.

(2) Witnesses, when sworn, shall subscribe to the following oath:

"Do you solemnly swear (or affirm) that the testimony you will give before this Committee (or subcommittee, or working group) in the matters now under consideration will be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth?"

(C) *Counsel for the Witness.*

(1) *Generally.* Witnesses before the Committee may be accompanied by counsel, subject to the requirements of subsection (C)(2).

(2) *Role of Counsel for the Witness.* Counsel shall not be allowed to examine witnesses before the Committee, either directly or through cross-examination.

(3) *Counsel Clearances Required.* In the event that a meeting or hearing of the Committee may be closed because the subject to be discussed deals with classified information, counsel accompanying a witness before the Committee must possess the requisite security clearance and provide proof of such clearance to the Committee at least 24 hours prior to the meeting or hearing at which the counsel intends to be present.

(4) *Failure to Obtain Counsel.* Any witness who is unable to obtain counsel should notify the Committee. If such notification occurs at least 24 hours prior to the witness's appearance before the Committee, the Committee shall then endeavor to obtain voluntary counsel for the witness. Failure to obtain counsel, however, will not excuse the witness from appearing and testifying.

(5) *Conduct of Counsel for Witnesses.* Counsel for witnesses appearing before the Committee shall conduct themselves ethically and professionally at all times in their dealings with the Committee.

(a) A majority of Members of the Committee may, should circumstances warrant, find that counsel for a witness before the Committee failed to conduct himself or herself in an ethical or professional manner.

(b) Upon such finding, counsel may be subject to appropriate disciplinary action.

(6) *Temporary Removal of Counsel.*

(a) The Chair may remove counsel during any proceeding before the Committee for failure to act in an ethical and professional manner.

(b) Upon a motion, a majority of the Members of the Committee may vote to overturn the decision of the Chair to remove counsel for a witness.

(D) *Statements by Witnesses.*

(1) *Oral Statements.* The Committee, subcommittees, or working groups may direct and/or provide an opportunity for a witness to make an oral statement, which shall be brief and relevant, at the beginning and/or at the conclusion of the witness's testimony at a hearing or meeting. Each such oral statement shall not exceed five minutes in length, unless otherwise determined by the Chair.

(2) *Written Statements.*

(a) *Generally.* The Committee, subcommittees, or working groups may require each witness who is to appear before it to file with the Chief Clerk in advance of his or her appearance a written statement of the proposed testimony and to limit the oral presentation at such appearance to a brief summary of the submitted written statement. The submitted written statement shall be entered for the record of the proceeding.

(i) Any prepared statement to be presented by a witness to the Committee, subcommittees, or working groups shall be submitted to the Committee, subcommittee, or working group in electronic form at least 72 hours in advance of presentation and shall be distributed to all Members of the Committee, subcommittee, or working group as soon as practicable but not less than 24 hours in advance of presentation.

(ii) In the event that the hearing was called with less than 24 hours' notice, written statements should be submitted as soon as practicable prior to the hearing.

(b) *Availability of Statements.* Pursuant to clause 2(g)(5) of House Rule XI, except as provided for in paragraph (c), written witness statements submitted for an open meeting or hearing, with appropriate redactions

to protect the privacy or security of the witness, shall be made publicly available in electronic form on the Committee website 24 hours before the witness appears, to the extent practicable, but not later than one day after the witness appears.

(c) *Exception.* If a prepared statement contains national security information bearing a classification of Confidential or higher or is from a witness expected to testify at a closed hearing or meeting, the statement shall be made available in the Committee rooms to all Members of the Committee, subcommittee, or working group as soon as practicable but not less than 24 hours in advance of presentation; however, no such statement shall be removed from the Committee offices or made publicly available.

(E) *Questioning of Witnesses.*

(1) *Generally.* Questioning of witnesses before the Committee shall be conducted by Members of the Committee. In the course of any hearing, each Member shall be allowed five minutes for the interrogation of a witness until such time as each Member who so desires has had an opportunity to question the witness. Thereafter, additional rounds for questioning witnesses by Members are within the discretion of the Chair of the Committee, subcommittees, or working groups, as appropriate.

(2) *Exceptions.*

(a) The Chair, in consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, may determine that Committee staff will be authorized to question witnesses at a hearing in accordance with clause 2(j) of House Rule XI.

(b) The Chair and Ranking Minority Member are each authorized to designate Committee staff to conduct such questioning.

(F) *Objections and Ruling.*

(1) *Generally.* Any objection raised by a witness, or counsel for the witness, shall be ruled upon by the Chair, and such ruling shall be the ruling of the Committee.

(2) *Committee Action.* A ruling by the Chair may be overturned upon a majority vote of the Committee.

(G) *Record of Witness Testimony.*

(1) *Transcript or Recording Required.* A transcript or recording shall be made of the testimony of each witness appearing before the Committee during any hearing of the Committee.

(2) *Opportunity to Inspect.* Any witness testifying before the Committee shall be given a reasonable opportunity to inspect the transcript of the hearing and may be accompanied by counsel to determine whether such testimony was correctly transcribed. Such counsel:

(a) May review the transcript or recording only if he or she has the appropriate security clearances necessary to review any classified aspect of the transcript; and

(b) Should, to the extent possible, be the same counsel that was present for such classified testimony.

(3) *Corrections.*

(a) Pursuant to House Rule XI, any corrections the witness desires to make in a transcript shall be limited to technical, grammatical, and typographical corrections.

(b) Corrections may not be made to change the substance of the testimony.

(c) Such corrections shall be submitted in writing to the Committee within 7 days after the transcript is made available to the witnesses.

(d) Any questions arising with respect to such corrections shall be decided by the Chair.

(4) *Copy for the Witness.* At the request of the witness, any portion of the witness's testimony given in executive session shall be made available to that witness if that testimony is subsequently quoted or intended to be made part of a public record. Such testimony shall be made available to the witness at the witness's expense.

(H) *Requests to Testify.*

(1) *Generally.* The Committee will consider requests to testify on any matter or measure pending before the Committee.

(2) *Recommendations for Additional Evidence.* Any person who believes that testimony, other evidence, or commentary, presented at a public hearing may tend to affect adversely that person's reputation may submit to the Committee, in writing.

(a) A request to appear personally before the Committee;

(b) A sworn statement of facts relevant to the testimony, evidence, or commentary; or

(c) Proposed questions for the cross-examination of other witnesses.

(3) *Committee Discretion.* The Committee may take those actions it deems appropriate with respect to such requests.

(I) *Contempt Procedures.* Citations for contempt of Congress shall be forwarded to the House only if:

(1) Reasonable notice is provided to all Members of the Committee of a meeting to be held to consider any such contempt recommendations;

(2) The Committee has met and considered the contempt allegations;

(3) The subject of the allegations was afforded an opportunity to state, either in writing or in person, why he or she should not be held in contempt; and

(4) The Committee agreed by majority vote to forward the citation recommendations to the House.

(J) *Release of Name of Witness.*

(1) *Generally.* At the request of a witness scheduled to be heard by the Committee, the name of that witness shall not be released publicly prior to, or after, the witness's appearance before the Committee.

(2) *Exceptions.* Notwithstanding subsection (J)(1), the Chair may authorize the release to the public of the name of any witness scheduled to appear before the Committee.

RULE 10.—SUBPOENAS.

(A) *Generally.* All subpoenas shall be authorized by the Chair of the full Committee, upon consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, or by vote of the full Committee. A subpoena may be authorized and issued in the conduct of any investigation or series of investigations or activities to require the attendance and testimony of such witnesses and the production of such books, records, correspondence, memoranda, papers, and documents, whether physical or electronic, as deemed necessary.

(B) *Subpoena Contents.* Any subpoena authorized by the Chair of the full Committee or by the full Committee may compel:

(1) The attendance of witnesses and testimony before the Committee; or

(2) The production of memoranda, documents, records, whether physical or electronic, or any other tangible item.

(C) *Signing of Subpoena.* A subpoena authorized by the Chair of the full Committee or by the full Committee may be signed by the Chair or by any Member of the Committee designated to do so by the full Committee.

(D) *Subpoena Service.* A subpoena authorized by the Chair of the full Committee, or by the full Committee, may be served by any person designated to do so by the Chair.

(E) *Other Requirements.* Each subpoena shall have attached thereto a copy of these rules. All subpoenas must be reviewed by the House Office of General Counsel and signed by the Clerk of the House prior to issuance.

(F) *Receipt of Subpoena Records.*

(1) Unless otherwise determined by the Committee or subcommittee, certain information received by the Committee or subcommittee pursuant to a subpoena or request for documents or information not made part of the record at an open hearing

shall be deemed to have been received in executive session when the Chair, in the Chair's judgment and after consultation with the Ranking Minority Member of the Committee, deems that in view of all of the circumstances, such as the sensitivity of the information or the confidential nature of the information, such action is appropriate.

(2) All national security information bearing a classification of Confidential or higher which has been received by the Committee or a subcommittee in response to a subpoena request shall be deemed to have been received in executive session and shall be given appropriate safekeeping in accordance with these rules.

RULE 11.—DEPOSITIONS.

(A) *Generally.* The Chair of the Committee, upon consultation with the Ranking Minority Member of the Committee, may order the taking of depositions, under oath and pursuant to notice or subpoena. Depositions taken under the authority prescribed in this section shall be consistent with House Rules, resolutions, and orders, including any applicable deposition regulations issued by the Chair of the House Rules Committee and printed in the Congressional Record.

(B) *Notices.* Notices for the taking of depositions shall specify the date, time, and place of examination. All Members of the Committee shall also receive three calendar days' written notice (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays, unless the House is in session on such days) that a deposition has been scheduled, except in exigent circumstances. Depositions may continue from day to day.

(C) *Oaths.* Depositions shall be taken under oath administered by a Member or a person otherwise authorized by the Chair of the Committee to administer oaths.

(D) *Consultation.* Consultation with the Ranking Minority Member of the Committee shall include three calendar days' notice (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays unless the House is in session on such days), and a copy of a proposed deposition subpoena, if applicable, before any deposition is taken. Any such subpoena must be authorized pursuant to Rule 10 to be issued.

(E) *Attendance.* Deponents may be accompanied at a deposition by two designated personal, nongovernmental attorneys to advise them of their rights. Only Members, Committee staff designated by the Chair of the Committee or the Ranking Minority Member of the Committee, an official reporter, the deponent, and the deponent's two designated attorneys are permitted to attend. Other persons, including government agency personnel, observers, and counsel for other persons or for agencies under investigation, may not attend.

(F) *Joint Depositions.* The Chair of the Committee may designate a deposition as part of a joint investigation between committees, and in that case, provide notice to Members of both committees in accordance with Section (B) of this rule.

(G) *Who May Question.* A deposition shall be conducted by any Member of the Committee or counsel designated by the Chair of the Committee or Ranking Minority Member of the Committee. When depositions are conducted by Committee counsel, there shall be no more than two Committee counsel permitted to question a witness per round. One of the Committee counsel shall be designated by the Chair of the Committee and the other by the Ranking Minority Member of the Committee. Other Committee staff members designated by the Chair of the Committee or Ranking Minority Member of the Committee may attend but may not pose questions to the witness.

(H) *Order of Questions.* Questions in the deposition shall be propounded in rounds, alternating between the majority and minority.

A single round shall not exceed 60 minutes per side, unless the Members or counsel conducting the deposition agree to a different length of questioning. In each round, the Member(s) or Committee counsel designated by the Chair of the Committee shall ask questions first, and the Member(s) or Committee counsel designated by the Ranking Minority Member of the Committee shall ask questions second.

(I) *Objections.* Any objection made during a deposition must be stated concisely and in a non-argumentative and non-suggestive manner. The witness may refuse to answer a question only to preserve a privilege. When the witness has refused to answer a question to preserve a privilege, Members or staff may (a) proceed with the deposition, or (b) either at that time or at a subsequent time, seek a ruling from the Chair either by telephone or otherwise. If the Chair of the Committee overrules any such objection during the deposition, the witness shall be ordered to answer. If following the deposition's recess, the Chair of the Committee overrules any such objection and thereby orders a witness to answer any question to which a privilege objection was lodged, such ruling shall be filed with the Chief Clerk of the Committee and shall be provided to the Members and the witness no fewer than three days before the reconvened deposition. If a Member of the Committee appeals in writing the ruling of the Chair, the appeal shall be preserved for Committee consideration. A deponent who refuses to answer a question after being directed by the Chair in writing, or orally during the proceeding as reflected in the record, may be subject to sanction, except that no sanctions may be imposed if the ruling of the Chair is reversed by the Committee on appeal.

(J) *Record of Testimony.* Testimony shall be either transcribed or electronically recorded or both. If a witness's testimony is transcribed, the witness or the witness's counsel shall be afforded an opportunity to review a copy. No later than five days after the witness has been notified of the opportunity to review the transcript, the witness may submit suggested changes to the Chair of the Committee. Committee staff may make any typographical and technical changes. Substantive changes, modifications, clarifications, or amendments to the deposition transcript submitted by the witness must be accompanied by a letter signed by the witness requesting the changes and a statement of the witness's reasons for each proposed change. Any substantive changes, modifications, clarifications, or amendments shall be included as an appendix to the transcript conditioned upon the witness signing the transcript.

(K) *Transcription Requirements.* The individual administering the oath, if other than a Member, shall certify on the transcript that the witness was duly sworn. The transcriber shall certify that the transcript is a true record of the testimony, and the transcript shall be filed, together with any electronic recording, with the Chief Clerk of the Committee in Washington, D.C. Depositions shall be considered to have been taken in Washington, D.C., as well as the location actually taken once filed there with the Chief Clerk of the Committee for the Committee's use. The Chair of the Committee and the Ranking Minority Member of the Committee shall be provided with a copy of the transcripts of the deposition at the same time.

(L) *Release.* The Chair of the Committee and Ranking Minority Member of the Committee shall consult in advance regarding the release of deposition testimony, transcripts, or recordings, and portions thereof. If either objects in writing to a proposed release of a deposition testimony, transcript or

recording, or a portion thereof, the matter shall be promptly referred to the Committee for resolution.

RULE 12.—RECEIPT AND HANDLING OF CLASSIFIED INFORMATION.

(A) *Generally.* In the case of any information that has been classified under established security procedures and submitted to the Committee by any source on an exclusive basis, the Committee shall receive such classified information as executive session material.

(B) *Staff Receipt of Classified Information.* For purposes of receiving classified information, Committee staff are authorized to accept information on behalf of the Committee. Committee staff shall operate under strict security procedures administered by the Committee Security Director under the direct supervision of the Staff Director, in accordance with the Security Policy Manual developed pursuant to rule 12(D)(8) of these rules.

(C) *Non-Disclosure of Classified Information.* Any classified information received by the Committee, from any source, shall not be disclosed to any person not a Member of the Committee or the Committee staff, or otherwise released, except as provided by the Rules of the House and these rules.

(D) *Security Measures.*

(1) *Strict Security.* The Committee's offices shall operate under strict security procedures administered by the Security Director under the direct supervision of the Staff Director.

(2) *U.S. Capitol Police Presence Required.* At least one uniformed U.S. Capitol Police officer shall be on duty at all times outside the entrance to Committee offices to control entry of all persons to such offices.

(3) *Identification Required.* Before entering the Committee's offices all persons shall identify themselves to the U.S. Capitol Police officer described in subsection (D)(2) and to any appropriate Member of the Committee or Committee staff.

(4) *Maintenance of Classified Information.* Classified information shall be segregated and maintained in approved security storage locations.

(5) *Examination of Classified Information.* Classified information in the Committee's possession shall be examined in an appropriately secure manner.

(6) *Prohibition on Removal of Classified Information.* Removal of any classified information from the Committee's offices is strictly prohibited, except as provided by these rules.

(7) *Exception.* Notwithstanding the prohibition set forth in subsection (D)(6), classified information may be removed from the Committee's offices in furtherance of official Committee business. Appropriate security procedures shall govern the handling of any classified information removed from the Committee's offices.

(8) *Security Policy Manual.* A security policy manual shall be maintained by the Security Director in coordination with the Staff Director on behalf of the Chair. All Members and staff shall at all times adhere to the policies set forth in the Committee Security Policy Manual. The Chair may direct changes to the security policy of the Committee, in consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, at any time.

(E) *Registry.*

(1) *Generally.* The Committee shall maintain a registry that:

(a) Provides a brief description of the content of all classified information provided to the Committee by the executive branch that remain in the possession of the Committee; and

(b) Lists by number all such documents.

(2) *Designation by the Staff Director.* The Staff Director shall designate a Member of

the Committee staff to be responsible for the organization and daily maintenance of such registry.

(3) *Availability.* Such registry shall be available to all Members of the Committee and Committee staff.

RULE 13.—COMMITTEE ACCESS TO CLASSIFIED INFORMATION.

(A) *Obligation to Not Disclose.*

(1) *Oath Requirement.* Before any Member of the Committee, or the Committee staff, shall have access to classified information, the following oath shall be executed:

"I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will not disclose or cause to be disclosed any classified information received in the course of my service on the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, except when authorized to do so by the Committee or the House of Representatives."

(2) *Non-Disclosure Agreement.* Committee staff shall agree in writing not to divulge or cause to be divulged any classified information which comes into such person's possession while employed by the Committee, to any person not a Member of the Committee or the Committee staff, except as authorized by the Committee in accordance with the Rules of the House and these rules.

(3) *Copy.* A copy of such executed oath and non-disclosure agreement shall be retained in the files of the Committee.

(B) *Access to Classified Information by Members of the Committee.* All Members of the Committee shall have access to all classified papers and other material received by the Committee from any source, with the exception of any access limitations established pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 3093(c)(2). If the executive branch seeks to limit such access to classified papers and other material in accordance with existing law or policy and makes such request in writing, the Chair, in consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, may agree to restrict Member and staff access to certain classified information pursuant to the executive branch's request.

(C) *Access to Classified Information by Staff of the Committee.*

(1) *Appropriate Clearances Required.* Committee staff must have the appropriate clearances, as determined by the Chair of the Committee in consultation with the Director of National Intelligence, prior to any access to classified information.

(2) *Need-to-Know Required for Controlled Access Programs (CAPs), Special Access Programs (SAPs), and similarly restricted classified information.* Committee staff shall have access to CAPs, SAPs, and similarly restricted classified information provided to the Committee on a strict "need-to-know" basis, as determined by the Chair of the Committee, in consultation with the Ranking Minority Member when applicable, and under the Chair's direction by the Staff Director.

(D) *Termination of Access.* In the event of the termination of the Committee, Members and Committee staff must follow any determination by the House of Representatives with respect to the protection of classified information received while a Member of the Committee or as Committee staff.

RULE 14.—COMMITTEE CONTROL OF ACCESS TO CLASSIFIED INFORMATION BY OTHERS

(A) *Access to Classified Information by Designated Members and Staff of the House Committee on Appropriations.* The Chair, in consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, may admit the Chair and Ranking Minority Member of the Subcommittee on Defense of the Committee on Appropriations, and an appropriately cleared designated staffer from the Majority and Minority committee staff of the House Committee on Appropriations, to attend closed hearings and briefings of the Committee involving discus-

sions of classified information. Such Members and designated staff may also be granted access to classified information in the possession of the Committee incident to such attendance.

(1) *Admission.* The Chair may determine whether to admit the designated Members and designated staff to each closed hearing or briefing of the Committee involving discussions of classified information. When admitted, the designated Members shall not be counted for quorum purposes and shall not have a vote in any meeting.

(2) *Reciprocity.* The Chair, in consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, may condition access provided under section (A) on reciprocal admission of Members and staff of the Committee to classified hearings and briefings of the Subcommittee on Defense of the Committee on Appropriations involving discussions of classified information.

(B) *Access to Classified Information by Designated Members and Staff of the House Committee on Armed Services.* The Chair, in consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, may admit the Chair and Ranking Minority Member of the House Committee on Armed Services, and an appropriately cleared designated staffer from the Majority and Minority committee staff of the House Committee on Armed Services, to closed hearings and briefings of the Committee involving discussions of classified information. Such Members and designated staff may also be granted access to classified information in the possession of the Committee incident to such attendance.

(1) *Admission.* The Chair may determine whether to admit the designated Members and designated staff to each closed hearing or briefing of the Committee involving discussions of classified information. When admitted, the designated members shall not be counted for quorum purposes and shall not have a vote in any meeting.

(2) *Reciprocity.* The Chair, in consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, may condition access provided under section (B) on reciprocal admission of Members and staff of the Committee to classified hearings and briefings of the Committee on Armed Services involving discussions of classified information.

(C) *Access to Classified Information by Other Non-Committee Members.* Pursuant to the Rules of the House and notwithstanding sections (A) and (B) of this rule, Members who are not Members of the Committee may be granted access to such classified information in the possession of the Committee, and be admitted on a non-participatory basis to classified hearings or briefings of the Committee involving discussions of classified information, in the following manner:

(1) *Access to Classified Information by Designated Members and Staff of Other Standing and Select Committees of the House.* The Chair, in consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, may grant access to such classified information in the possession of the Committee to the Chair and Ranking Minority Member of any standing or select committee of the House, and to an appropriately cleared designated staffer from the Majority and Minority committee staff of such committee, or may admit the Chair and Ranking Minority Member of any standing or select committee of the House, and an appropriately cleared designated staffer from the Majority and Minority committee staff of such committee, to attend closed hearings and briefings of the Committee involving discussions of classified information related to the legislative jurisdiction of the standing or select committee.

(a) *Consideration for Access to Classified Information.* Prior to the Chair granting access to the Chair and Ranking Minority Member

of any other standing or select committee, either through the Chair's invitation or approval of the other committee Chair or Ranking Minority Member's request, the Chair shall consider:

(i) The sensitivity to the national defense or the confidential conduct of the foreign relations of the United States of the information sought;

(ii) The likelihood of its being directly or indirectly disclosed;

(iii) The jurisdictional interest of the Members making the request; and

(iv) Such other concerns, constitutional or otherwise, as may affect the public interest of the United States.

(b) *Consultation Required.* Prior to the Chair granting access to any Chair and Ranking Minority Member of any other standing or select committee, the Chair shall consult the Director of National Intelligence and such other officials it considers necessary.

(c) *Information Handling.* Designated Members and staff of a standing or select committee who have been granted access to classified information under these rules are required to adhere to all the Committee's information handling procedures as documented in the Committee's Security Policy. A copy of all relevant sections of the Security Policy Manual will be provided to the Chair and Ranking Minority Member of the standing or select committee in advance of the Chair granting access to classified information.

(d) *Admission.* When admitted, the designated Members shall not be counted for quorum purposes and shall not have a vote in any meeting.

(e) *Reciprocity.* The Chair, in consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, may condition access provided under section (C)(1) on reciprocal admission of members and staff of the Committee to classified hearings and briefings of the other standing or select committees involving discussions of classified information.

(2) *Non-Committee Member's Request.* The Committee shall consider non-committee Member requests to examine classified information in the possession of the Committee, or to attend Committee hearings or briefings relating to the intelligence or intelligence-related activities of a department or agency of the United States, and may grant access on a non-participatory, case-by-case basis, when the Committee has determined appropriate or necessary to do so.

(a) *Written Request Required.* Non-committee Members who desire to examine classified information in the possession of the Committee, or to attend Committee hearings or briefings, must notify the Committee. Such notification shall be in writing and shall state with specificity the justification for the request and the need for access.

(b) *Consideration of Request.* The Committee shall consider each such request by non-committee Members at the earliest practicable opportunity. The Committee shall determine, by record vote, what action it deems appropriate under the circumstances, including but not limited to:

(i) Approving the request, in whole or part;

(ii) Denying the request;

(iii) Providing the requested information or material in a different form than that sought by the Member; or

(iv) Making the requested information or material available to all Members of the House.

(c) *Committee Consideration.* Prior to making a determination on the request, the Committee shall consider:

(i) The sensitivity to the national defense or the confidential conduct of the foreign relations of the United States of the information sought;

(ii) The likelihood of its being directly or indirectly disclosed;

(iii) The jurisdictional interest of the Member making the request; and

(iv) Such other concerns, constitutional or otherwise, as may affect the public interest of the United States.

(d) *Consultation Required.* Prior to the Committee taking action on any request from a non-committee Member, the Committee shall consult the Director of National Intelligence and such other officials the Chair considers necessary.

(3) *Chair and Ranking Minority Member Consideration of Requests for Previously Granted Materials.* If the Committee has previously voted to grant a non-committee Member access to classified information in the possession of the Committee, the Chair and Ranking Minority Member may jointly determine what action they deem appropriate for subsequent requests for the same information in the same Congress.

(a) In their determination, the Chair and Ranking Minority Member shall consider the factors described in paragraph (A)(2)(c) and may take any action they deem appropriate, including, but not limited to, the actions described in paragraph (A)(2)(b).

(b) If the Chair and Ranking Minority Member are unable to reach a joint determination, or if they refer a request to the Committee, the Committee shall consider the request at the earliest practicable opportunity in the manner described in subsection (A)(2).

(4) *Finality of Committee Decision.*

(a) Should the non-committee Member making such a request disagree with the determination by the Committee or the determination by the Chair and Ranking Minority Member with respect to an access request or any part thereof pursuant to subsections (A)(2) or (A)(3), that Member must notify the Committee in writing of such disagreement.

(b) The Committee shall subsequently consider the matter and decide, by record vote, what further action or recommendation, if any, the Committee will take.

(5) *Exclusion of CAPs, SAPs, and similarly restricted classified information.* When disclosing any information pursuant to section (C), all necessary steps should be taken by the Committee to exclude materials or information relating to CAPs, SAPs, and similarly restricted classified information.

(D) *Calling Information to the Attention of the House.* Pursuant to Section 501 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3091), and to the Rules of the House, the Committee shall call to the attention of the House those matters requiring the attention of the House based on one of the following provisions:

(1) *By Request of a Committee Member.* At the request of any Member of the Committee to call to the attention of the House, the Committee shall meet at the earliest practicable opportunity to consider and make a determination.

(2) *Factors to Be Considered.* Prior to making a determination on the request, the Committee shall consider the following factors, among any others it deems appropriate:

(a) The effect of the matter in question on the national defense or the foreign relations of the United States;

(b) Whether the matter in question involves sensitive intelligence sources and methods;

(c) Whether the matter in question otherwise raises questions affecting the national interest; and

(d) Whether the matter in question affects matters within the jurisdiction of another Committee of the House.

(3) *Views of Other Committees.* In examining such factors, the Committee may seek the

opinion of Members of the Committee appointed from standing committees of the House with jurisdiction over the matter in question, or submissions from such other committees.

(4) *Other Advice.* The Committee may seek the advice of any executive branch official when considering whether to call information to the attention of the House.

(5) *Reasonable Opportunity to Examine Materials.* Before the Committee makes any decision regarding any proposal to bring any matter to the attention of the House, Members of the Committee shall have a reasonable opportunity to examine all pertinent testimony, documents, or other materials in the Committee's possession that may inform their decision on the question.

(6) *Notification to the House.* The Committee may bring a matter to the attention of the House, when, after consideration of the factors set forth in this rule, it considers the matter in question so important that it requires the attention of all members of the House, and time is of the essence, or for any reason the Committee finds compelling.

(7) *Method of Disclosure to the House.*

(a) Should the Committee decide by record vote that a matter requires the attention of the House, it shall make arrangements to notify the House.

(b) In such cases, the Committee shall consider whether:

(i) To request an immediate closed session of the House (with time equally divided between the Majority and the Minority); or

(ii) To publicly disclose the matter in question pursuant to clause 11(g) of House rule X.

(E) *Requirement to Protect Sources and Methods.* In bringing a matter to the attention of the House or to any non-committee Member or staff, the Committee, with due regard for the protection of intelligence sources and methods, shall take all necessary steps to safeguard materials or information relating to the matter in question.

(F) *Acknowledgement of Rules.* Prior to any classified information within the possession of the Committee being made available to any non-committee Member or staff, the Security Director for the Committee shall provide each recipient a copy of these rules, as well as the applicable portions of the Committee's Security Policy Manual and the Rules of the House of Representatives governing the handling and disclosure of classified information. A copy of each recipient's signed acknowledgement of receipt and agreement to comply shall be retained in the files of the Committee.

(G) *Records and Notes.* Any records or notes taken by any non-committee Member or staff incident to receiving access to classified information in the possession of the Committee pursuant to this rule, including executive session information and the substance of any hearing or briefing that was closed to the public, shall remain Committee information and be stored in the possession of the Committee.

(H) *Ensuring Clearances and Secure Storage.* If the Committee determines, upon record vote, that such classified information made available to a non-committee Member or staff, or any records or notes taken by the non-committee Member or staff incident to accessing such classified information, may be stored by a non-committee Member on a temporary or permanent basis, prior to such storage, the Security Director shall ensure that such other non-committee Member receiving such classified information has the ability to properly store classified information in a manner consistent with all governing rules, regulations, policies, procedures, and statutes.

(I) *Log.* The Security Director for the Committee shall maintain a written record identifying the name of each non-committee

Member and staff receiving access to classified information in the possession of the Committee, the particular classified information provided to such non-committee Member or staff, the date upon which such material is provided, and the date upon which such material will cease to be provided.

(J) *Additional Authority.*

(a) *Staff Director's Additional Authority.* The Staff Director is further empowered to provide for such additional measures which he or she deems necessary to protect classified information, as authorized by the Chair or the Committee, to be provided to non-committee Members or staff.

(b) *Notice to Originating Agency.* In the event that the Chair or the Committee grants access to classified information provided to the Committee by an agency of the executive branch to a non-committee Member or staff pursuant to this rule, the Committee shall notify the providing agency of such action.

(c) *Requests to Limit Access for Non-Committee Members and Staff.* If the executive branch seeks to limit such access to classified information in accordance with existing law or policy and makes such request in writing, the Chair, in consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, may agree to restrict access to certain classified information pursuant to the executive branch's request.

RULE 15.—LIMITS ON DISCUSSION OF CLASSIFIED INFORMATION

(A) *Generally.* Except as otherwise provided by these rules and the Rules of the House of Representatives, Members of the Committee and Committee staff shall not at any time, either during that person's tenure as a Member of the Committee or as Committee staff, or anytime thereafter, discuss or disclose, or cause to be discussed or disclosed:

(1) The classified substance of the work of the Committee;

(2) Any information, whether classified or not, received by the Committee in executive session;

(3) Any classified information received by the Committee from any source; or

(4) The substance, whether classified or not, of any Committee event that was closed to the public pursuant to these rules or the Rules of the House, to include the questions or statements of other Members or staff.

(B) *Exceptions.*

(1) Notwithstanding the provisions of section (A) of this rule, Members of the Committee and the Committee staff may discuss and disclose those matters described in section (A) with:

(a) Members and appropriately cleared staff of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence designated by the Chair of that committee;

(b) The Chairs and Ranking Minority Members of the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations and appropriately cleared staff of those committees designated by the Chairs of those committees;

(c) The Chair and Ranking Minority Member of the Subcommittee on Defense of the House Committee on Appropriations and appropriately cleared staff of that subcommittee as designated by the Chair of that subcommittee; and

(d) The Chairs and Ranking Minority Members of the House and Senate Committees on Armed Services and appropriately cleared staff of those committees designated by the Chairs of those committees, on all matters relating to any Military Intelligence Programs, or other intelligence and intelligence-related activities of or concerning the Department of Defense.

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of section (A), Members of the Committee and the

Committee staff may discuss with and disclose to the Chair and Ranking Minority Member of a subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee, and appropriately cleared staff of that subcommittee as designated by the Chair of that subcommittee, information regarding an agency or program as is necessary to facilitate the enactment of an appropriations or authorization bill which includes an authorization or appropriation for such agency or program.

(3) The Chair may, in consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, upon the written request to the Chair from the Inspector General of an element of the Intelligence Community, grant access to Committee transcripts or documents that are relevant to an investigation of an allegation of possible false testimony or other inappropriate conduct before the Committee, or that are otherwise relevant to the Inspector General's investigation.

(4) Upon the written request of the head of an Intelligence Community element, the Chair may, in consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, make available Committee briefing or hearing transcripts to that element for review by that element if a representative of that element testified, presented information to the Committee, or was present at the briefing or hearing the transcript of which is requested for review.

(5) Members of the Committee and Committee staff may discuss and disclose such matters as otherwise directed by the Committee, pursuant to the Rules of the House of Representatives and these rules.

(C) *Requirement to Protect Sources and Methods.* When discussing or disclosing any information pursuant to section (B), Members of the Committee and Committee staff shall take all necessary steps to safeguard materials or information relating to the matter in question, with due regard for the protection of intelligence sources and methods.

(D) *Records of Closed Proceedings.* Any records or notes taken by any person memorializing material otherwise prohibited from disclosure by Members of the Committee and Committee staff under these rules, including information received in executive session and the substance of any hearing or briefing that was closed to the public, shall remain Committee material subject to these rules and may not be publicly discussed, disclosed, or caused to be publicly discussed or disclosed, unless authorized by the Committee consistent with these rules.

(E) *Non-Disclosure in Proceedings.* Members of the Committee and the Committee staff shall not discuss either the substance or procedure of the work of the Committee with any person not a Member of the Committee or the Committee staff in connection with any proceeding, judicial or otherwise, either during the person's tenure as a Member of the Committee, or of the Committee staff, or at any time thereafter, except as directed by the Committee in accordance with the Rules of the House and these rules.

(F) *Requests for Testimony of Staff.*

(1) All Committee staff must, as a condition of employment, agree in writing to notify the Committee immediately of any request for testimony received while a member of the Committee staff, or at any time thereafter, concerning any classified information received by such person while a member of the Committee staff.

(2) Committee staff shall not disclose, in response to any such request for testimony, any such classified information, except as authorized by the Committee in accordance with the Rules of the House and these rules.

(3) In the event of the termination of the Committee, Committee staff will be subject to any determination made by the House of Representatives with respect to any requests

for testimony involving classified information received while a member of the Committee staff.

RULE 16.—COMMITTEE STAFF.

(A) *Definition.* In these rules, "Committee staff" or "staff of the Committee" means:

(1) Employees of the Committee;

(2) Consultants to the Committee;

(3) Employees of other Government agencies detailed to the Committee; or

(4) Any other person engaged by contract, or otherwise, to perform services for, or at the request of, the Committee.

(B) *Appointment of Committee Staff and Security Requirements.*

(1) *Chair's Authority.* Except as provided in subsection (B)(2), the Committee staff shall be appointed, and may be removed, by the Chair and shall work under the general supervision and direction of the Chair.

(2) *Staff Assistance to Minority Membership.* Except as provided in subsection (B)(3) and section (D), and except as otherwise provided by these rules, the Committee staff provided to the Minority party Members of the Committee shall be appointed, and may be removed, by the Ranking Minority Member of the Committee, and shall work under the general supervision and direction of such Ranking Minority Member.

(3) *Security Clearance Required.* Except as provided in section (C), any offer of employment for a prospective Committee staff position shall be contingent upon:

(a) The completion of a background investigation, when applicable; and

(b) A determination by the Chair, in consultation with the Director of National Intelligence, that requirements for the appropriate security clearances commensurate with the sensitivity of the classified information to which such employee or person will be given access have been met.

(C) *Personnel to Perform Non-Classified Functions of the Committee.* As necessary and on a case-by-case basis, the Chair may appoint Committee staff who shall perform only non-classified functions and administrative tasks of the Committee. The Staff Director and Security Director shall implement necessary measures to ensure such an employee has no access to any classified information.

(D) *Security and Non-disclosure of Classified Information.* Notwithstanding subsection (B)(2), the Chair shall supervise and direct the Committee staff with respect to the security and non-disclosure of classified information. Committee staff shall comply with requirements necessary to ensure the security and non-disclosure of classified information as determined by the Chair, in consultation with the Ranking Minority Member.

(E) *Other Conditions of Employment.* All Committee staff must, before joining the Committee staff, agree in writing, as a condition of employment, to be bound by the Rules of the House, including the jurisdiction of the Committee on Ethics and of the Committee concerning the security of classified information during and after the period of the employment or contractual agreement of such employee or person with the Committee, and not to divulge or cause to be divulged any classified information which comes into such person's possession while a member of the Committee staff, to any person not a member of the Committee or the Committee staff, except as authorized by the Committee in accordance with the Rules of the House and these rules.

RULE 17.—COMMITTEE TRAVEL.

(A) *Authority.* The Chair may authorize Members and Committee staff to travel on Committee business.

(B) *Requests.*

(1) *Member Requests.* Members requesting authorization for such travel shall state the

purpose and length of the trip and shall submit such request directly to the Chair.

(2) *Committee Staff Requests.* Committee staff requesting authorization for such travel shall state the purpose and length of the trip and shall submit such request through their supervisors to the Staff Director and the Chair.

(C) *Notification to Members.*

(1) *Generally.* Members of the Committee shall be notified of all official foreign travel of Committee staff, prior to the commencement of such travel, when the travel is to be conducted without an accompanying Member.

(2) *Content.* All Members of the Committee are to be advised, prior to the commencement of such travel, of its length, nature, and purpose.

(D) *Trip Reports.*

(1) *Generally.* The lead Committee staff accompanying an official Committee travel delegation shall submit a full report of all issues discussed during any travel to the Chief Clerk within a reasonable period of time following the completion of such trip. For purposes of this rule, the term “reasonable period of time” means:

(a) No later than 60 days after returning from a foreign trip; and

(b) No later than 45 days after returning from a domestic trip.

(2) *Availability of Reports.* Such trip reports shall be:

(a) Available for review by any Member or appropriately cleared Committee staff; and

(b) Considered executive session material for purposes of these rules.

(E) *Limitations on Travel.*

(1) *Generally.* The Chair may prohibit Committee business travel of Committee staff who fail to comply with the requirements of subsection (D)(1) of this rule.

(2) *Exception.* The Chair may authorize Committee staff to travel on Committee business, notwithstanding the requirements of subsection (D)(1) of this rule.

(a) At the specific request of a Member of the Committee; or

(b) In the event there are circumstances beyond the control of the Committee staff hindering compliance with such requirements.

(3) *Privately sponsored travel.*

(a) *Staff prohibition.* Committee staff may not participate in privately sponsored travel or in any travel funded in whole or in part by a foreign government unless there is prior written approval from the Chair.

(b) *Restrictions on the conduct of Committee business.* Committee business may not be conducted when a Member of the Committee is traveling outside of the United States as a participant in travel funded by a private sponsor or a foreign government unless there is prior written approval from the Chair. The Chair will provide Members of the Committee with a written policy outlining the approval process, including all required information pertaining to such travel.

RULE 18.—COMMITTEE RECORDS TRANSFERRED TO THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES.

(A) *Generally.* The records of the Committee at the National Archives and Records Administration shall be made available for public use in accordance with the Rules of the House of Representatives.

(B) *Notice of Withholding.* The Chair shall notify the Ranking Minority Member of any decision, pursuant to the Rules of the House of Representatives, to withhold a record otherwise available, and the matter shall be presented to the full Committee for a determination of the question of public availability on the written request of any Member of the Committee.

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 13 of rule I, the House stands adjourned until 9 a.m., Friday, March 14, 2025.

Thereupon (at 7 o'clock and 50 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until Friday, March 14, 2025, at 9 a.m.

MOTION TO DISCHARGE A COMMITTEE

MAY 11, 2025.

To the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XV, I, Anna Paulina Luna, move to discharge the Committee on Rules from the consideration of the resolution, H. Res. 164 entitled, a resolution providing for the consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 23) permitting parental remote voting by proxy, and for other purposes, which was referred to said committee February 25, 2025, in support of which motion the undersigned Members of the House of Representatives affix their signatures, to wit:

1. Anna Paulina Luna.	38. Troy A. Carter.	76. Henry C. “Hank” Johnson.
2. Laura Friedman.	39. Valerie P. Foushee.	77. Debbie Wasserman Schultz.
3. Michael A. Rulli.	40. Johnny Olszewski.	78. Salud O. Carbajal.
4. George Whitesides.	41. Yassamin Ansari.	79. Dwight Evans.
5. Tim Burchett.	42. Zoe Lofgren.	80. Lois Frankel.
6. Janelle S. Bynum.	43. Lori Trahan.	81. Shontel M. Brown.
7. Jennifer L. McClellan.	44. Deborah K. Ross.	82. Jahana Hayes.
8. Nikema Williams.	45. Maxine Dexter.	83. LaMonica McIver.
9. Kelly Morrison.	46. Maggie Goodlander.	84. Jimmy Gomez.
10. Jonathan L. Jackson.	47. Christopher R. Deluzio.	85. Haley M. Stevens.
11. Mike Thompson.	48. Luz M. Rivas.	86. Yvette D. Clarke.
12. James P. McGovern.	49. Lateefah Simon.	87. Rosa L. DeLauro.
13. Teresa Leger Fernandez.	50. Nikki Budzinski.	88. Cleo Fields.
14. Stephen F. Lynch.	51. Rashida Tlaib.	89. Shomari Figures.
15. Danny K. Davis.	52. Timothy M. Kennedy.	90. Eugene Simon.
16. Mary Gay Scanlon.	53. Jefferson Van Drew.	91. April McClain.
17. Sean Casten.	54. Suzanne Bonamici.	92. Al Green.
18. Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick.	55. Jill N. Tokuda.	93. Madeleine Dean.
19. Kristen McDonald.	56. Morgan McGarvey.	94. Gabe Vasquez.
20. Norma J. Torres.	57. John W. Mannion.	95. Veronica Escobar.
21. Bonnie Watson Coleman.	58. Joe Courtney.	96. Chrissy Houlahan.
22. Dan Crenshaw.	59. John B. Larson.	97. Grace Meng.
23. Dave Min.	60. Melanie A. Stansbury.	98. George Latimer.
24. Emily Randall.	61. Jared Moskowitz.	99. Delia C. Ramirez.
25. Nellie Pou.	62. Linda T. Sanchez.	100. Greg Stanton.
26. Nydia M. Velázquez.	63. Sara Jacobs.	101. Shri Thanedar.
27. Derek Tran.	64. Sam T. Liccardo.	102. Diana DeGette.
28. Julia Johnson.	65. Robert Menendez.	103. Gerald E. Connolly.
29. Herbert C. Conaway.	66. Adriano Espaillat.	104. Hillary J. Scholten.
30. Sarah McBride.	67. William R. Keating.	105. Jasmine Crockett.
31. Gabe Amo.	68. Marilyn Strickland.	106. Seth Magaziner.
32. Paul Tonko.	69. Dina Titus.	107. Sharice Davids.
33. Suhas Subramanyam.	70. Kim Schrier.	108. Steven Horsford.
34. Raul Ruiz.	71. Josh Riley.	109. Scott H. Peters.
35. Bill Foster.	72. Lucy McBath.	
36. Byron Donalds.	73. Wesley Bell.	
37. Juan Vargas.	74. Sarah Elfreth.	
	75. Frank J. Mrvan.	

110. Gilbert Ray Cisneros.	147. Julia Brownley.	184. Pete Aguilar.
111. Ro Khanna.	148. Jamie Raskin.	185. Eric Swalwell.
112. Robin L. Kelly.	149. André Carson.	186. Chellie Pingree.
113. Greg Casar.	150. Ilhan Omar.	187. Jared Huffman.
114. Suzan K. DelBene.	151. Gregory W. Meeks.	188. David Scott.
115. Greg Landsman.	152. Mike Levin.	189. Raja Krishna-moorthi.
116. Glenn Ivey.	153. Patrick Ryan.	190. J. Luis Correa.
117. Betty McCollum.	154. Doris O. Matsui.	191. Brittany Pettersen.
118. Sylvia R. Garcia.	155. Kathy Castor.	192. Daniel Meuser.
119. Jimmy Panetta.	156. Robert C. “Bobby” Scott.	193. Seth Moulton.
120. Debbie Dingell.	157. Emanuel Cleaver.	194. Alma S. Adams.
121. Brad Sherman.	158. Eric Sorensen.	195. Wesley Hunt.
122. Andrea Salinas.	159. Mark Pocan.	196. Jason Crow.
123. Lauren Underwood.	160. Thomas R. Suozzi.	197. Val T. Hoyle.
124. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez.	161. Judy Chu.	198. Laura Gillen.
125. Sanford D. Bishop.	162. Steny H. Hoyer.	199. Maxine Waters.
126. Mark Takano.	163. Mark DeSaulnier.	200. Chris Pappas.
127. Ted Lieu.	164. Ed Case.	201. Richard McCormick.
128. Frederica S. Wilson.	165. Jesus G. “Chuy” Garcia.	202. Marc A. Veasey.
129. Jerrold Nadler.	166. Gwen Moore.	203. Adam Smith.
130. Susie Lee.	167. James E. Clyburn.	204. Richard E. Neal.
131. Darren Soto.	168. Katherine M. Clark.	205. Henry Cuellar.
132. Angie Craig.	169. Joyce Beatty.	206. Ayanna Pressley.
133. Pramila Jayapal.	170. Adam Gray.	207. Maxwell Frost.
134. Jake Auchincloss.	171. Lloyd Doggett.	208. Mikie Sherrill.
135. Summer L. Lee.	172. Nanette Diaz Barragan.	209. Hakeem S. Jeffries.
136. Becca Balint.	173. Janice D. Schakowsky.	210. Lizzie Fletcher.
137. Ritchie Torres.	174. Kevin Mullin.	211. Rick Larsen.
138. Joe Neguse.	175. Andrew Ogles.	212. Bradley Scott.
139. Josh Gottheimer.	176. Jim Costa.	213. Schneider.
140. Daniel S. Goldman.	177. Ami Bera.	214. Nancy Pelosi.
141. Kweisi Mfume.	178. Marcy Kaptur.	215. Marie Gluesenkamp Perez.
142. Mike Quigley.	179. Frank Pallone.	216. David P. Joyce.
143. Vicente Gonzalez.	180. Donald S. Beyer.	217. John Garamendi.
144. Emilia Strong Sykes.	181. Bennie G. Thompson.	218. Michael Lawler.
145. Joaquin Castro.	182. Steve Cohen.	
146. Robert Garcia.	183. Terri A. Sewell.	

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

EC-536. A letter from the Under Secretary, Office of Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting the Joint Safety Council Chairman's Annual Statement of Compliance and Semi-Annual Report to Congress February 2025, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 185(c)(1)(B)(v); Added by Public Law 117-81, div. A, title III, Sec. 372(a); (135 Stat. 1664); to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-537. A letter from the Senior Bureau Official, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a Report to Congress on U.S. Compliance with the Authorization for Use of Military Force in Iraq, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1541 note; Public Law 107-243, Sec. 4(a); (116 Stat. 1501); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-538. A letter from the Senior Bureau Official, Bureau of Legislative Affairs9, Department of State, transmitting the Department's Annual Report of Interdiction of Aircraft Engaged in Illicit Drug Trafficking,

pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2291-4(c)(1); Public Law 103-337, Sec. 1012 (as amended by Public Law 107-108, Sec. 503); (115 Stat. 1405); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-539. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to significant malicious cyber-enabled activities that was declared in Executive Order 13694 of April 1, 2015, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 401(c); (90 Stat. 1257) and 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); Public Law 95-223, Sec. 204(c); (91 Stat. 1627); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-540. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to South Sudan that was declared in Executive Order 13664 of April 3, 2014, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 401(c); (90 Stat. 1257) and 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); Public Law 95-223, Sec. 204(c); (91 Stat. 1627); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-541. A letter from the Senior Bureau Official, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's International Narcotics Control Strategy Report; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-542. A letter from the Senior Bureau Official, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 24-106 Certification of Proposed Issuance of an Export License Pursuant to Sec 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-543. A letter from the Senior Bureau Official, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 24-084 Certification of Proposed Issuance of an Export License Pursuant to Sec 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-544. A letter from the Senior Bureau Official, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 24-104 Certification of Proposed Issuance of an Export License Pursuant to Sec 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-545. A letter from the Senior Bureau Official, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 24-098 Certification of Proposed Issuance of an Export License Pursuant to Sec 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-546. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 24-062 Certification of Proposed Issuance of an Export License Pursuant to Sec 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-547. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 24-074 Certification of Proposed Issuance of an Export License Pursuant to Sec 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-548. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 24-083 Certification of Proposed Issuance of an Export License Pursuant to Sec 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-549. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 24-086 Certification of Proposed Issuance of an Export License Pursuant to Sec 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-550. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, De-

partment of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 24-096 Certification of Proposed Issuance of an Export License Pursuant to Sec 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-551. A letter from the Senior Bureau Official, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Department Notification Number: DDTC 24-089, pursuant to section 36(c) and 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-552. A letter from the Associate General Counsel, Department of Agriculture, transmitting fourteen (14) notifications of a federal vacancy, designation of acting officer, nomination, and action on nomination, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-277, Sec. 151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

EC-553. A letter from the Acting Solicitor General, Department of Justice, transmitting a letter advising that the Department of Justice has decided not to file a petition for a writ of certiorari in *Lofstad v. Raimondo*, No. 24-1420 (3rd Cir. Sept. 25, 2024), 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-554. A letter from the Acting Solicitor General, Department of Justice, transmitting a letter advising the Speaker that the Department of Justice has determined that the statutory for-cause removal provision is applicable to members of the Merit Systems Protection Board, 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.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

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

Mrs. FISCHBACH: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 211. Resolution providing for consideration of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 25) 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"; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1156) to amend the CARES Act to extend the statute of limitations for fraud under certain unemployment programs, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1968) making further continuing appropriations and other extensions for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025, and for other purposes (Rept. 119-15). 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 Ms. UNDERWOOD (for herself, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. NORCROSS, Mrs. MCIVER, Ms. NORTON, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Ms. PINGREE):

H.R. 2023. A bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to provide for greater spousal protection under defined contribution plans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Workforce, and in addition to the Com-

mittees on Financial Services, and Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. NEWHOUSE (for himself, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Mr. AUCHINCLOSS, Mr. DUNN of Florida, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, and Mr. TORRES of New York):

H.R. 2024. A bill to establish the Joint Task Force to Counter the Illicit Synthetic Narcotics; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Financial Services, Foreign Affairs, and Intelligence (Permanent Select), for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CISCOMANI (for himself, Mr. STANTON, Ms. ANSARI, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. CRANE, and Mr. SCHWEIKERT):

H.R. 2025. A bill to provide for the settlement of the water rights claims of the Navajo Nation, the Hopi Tribe, and the San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. CALVERT:

H.R. 2026. A bill to mitigate environmental degradation and wildland fires caused by illegal immigration along the southern border of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ALFORD:

H.R. 2027. 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; to the Committee on Small Business.

By Mr. BABIN (for himself and Ms. HOULAHAN):

H.R. 2028. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for interest-free deferment on student loans for borrowers serving in a medical or dental internship or residency program; to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

By Ms. BALINT (for herself, Ms. SCANLON, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. AMO, Mr. AUCHINCLOSS, Ms. BARRAGAN, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. BERA, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. BROWN, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. CARSON, Mr. CASTEN, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mr. CASAR, Mr. CASE, Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK, Ms. CHU, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. CRAIG, Ms. CROCKETT, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Ms. DEGETTE, Ms. DELAURO, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. DELUZIO, Mr. DESAULNIER, Ms. DEXTER, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. EVANS of Pennsylvania, Mr. FIGURES, Mrs. FOUSHEE, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Ms. FRIEDMAN, Mr. FROST, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. GARCIA of California, Mr. GARCIA of Illinois, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. IVEY, Ms. JACOBS, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Mr. KEATING, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. KENNEDY of New York, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Mr. LANDSMAN, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. LATIMER, Ms. LEE of Nevada, Ms.

LEE of Pennsylvania, Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ, Mr. LIEU, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. MAGAZINER, Ms. MCBRIDE, Mrs. MCCLAIN DELANEY, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. MCCLELLAN, Mrs. MCIVER, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MIN, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. NADLER, Ms. NORTON, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Ms. OMAR, Ms. PETTERSEN, Mr. POCAN, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Mr. RASKIN, Ms. ROSS, Mr. RYAN, Ms. SALINAS, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Ms. SEWELL, Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. SHERRILL, Ms. STANSBURY, Mr. STANTON, Ms. STRICKLAND, Mr. SWALWELL, Mrs. SYKES, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. THANEDAR, Ms. TITUS, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. TOKUDA, Mr. TONKO, Mrs. TRAHAN, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. WATERS, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. MCGARVEY, and Mrs. HAYES):

H.R. 2029. A bill to revise sections 552, 1461, and 1462 of title 18, United States Code, and section 305 of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1305), and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BEAN of Florida:

H.R. 2030. A bill to ensure that certain permit approvals by the Environmental Protection Agency have the force and effect of law, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mrs. BEATTY (for herself, Ms. ANSARI, Ms. BROWN, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. CARSON, Ms. CHU, Mr. EVANS of Pennsylvania, Mr. FOSTER, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. GOMEZ, Ms. NORTON, Ms. OMAR, Mrs. SYKES, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, and Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN):

H.R. 2031. A bill to reauthorize the HOME Investment Partnerships Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. BEGICH (for himself, Mr. MCDOWELL, Mr. HARRIGAN, Mr. RULLI, Mr. NEHLS, Mr. TAYLOR, and Mr. COLLINS):

H.R. 2032. A bill to establish a Strategic Bitcoin Reserve and other programs to ensure the transparent management of Bitcoin holdings of the Federal Government, to offset costs utilizing certain resources of the Federal Reserve System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. BEYER (for himself, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. CARTER of Texas, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. JACOBS, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. CASTEN, Ms. PINGREE, Mrs. BICE, Ms. CHU, Mrs. MCBATH, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. COSTA, and Ms. NORTON):

H.R. 2033. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make employers of spouses of military personnel eligible for the work opportunity credit; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. BUDZINSKI (for herself and Mr. HAMADEH of Arizona):

H.R. 2034. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to modify the requirements of the Edith Nourse Rogers STEM Scholarship; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. CARBAJAL (for himself and Mr. EZELL):

H.R. 2035. A bill to amend title 46, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of

Transportation to ensure that all cargoes procured, furnished, or financed by the Department of Transportation are transported on privately-owned commercial vessels of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. CAREY (for himself and Ms. SÁNCHEZ):

H.R. 2036. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a tax credit for working family caregivers; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. CARTER of Louisiana (for himself and Mr. HUDSON):

H.R. 2037. A bill to provide outreach and technical assistance to small providers regarding Open RAN networks, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CLEAVER (for himself, Ms. ANSARI, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. FIELDS, Mr. FIGURES, Mr. FROST, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. GOMEZ, Ms. NORTON, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mrs. MCIVER, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. NADLER, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Ms. OMAR, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. THANEDAR, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, and Ms. TLAIB):

H.R. 2038. A bill to make housing more affordable, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, Veterans' Affairs, and Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CLOUD (for himself, Mr. NEHLS, Mr. FINSTAD, Ms. GREENE of Georgia, Ms. DE LA CRUZ, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. OGLES, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. ISSA, Mr. WIED, Mr. RULLI, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mr. BURLISON, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. TIFFANY, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. PERRY, Mrs. BIGGS of South Carolina, Mr. BIGGS of Arizona, Mr. SCHMIDT, Mr. GOODEN, Mr. WOMACK, and Mr. ONDER):

H.R. 2039. A bill to prohibit the President and the Secretary of Health and Human Services from declaring certain emergencies or disasters for the purpose of imposing gun control; 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. COHEN (for himself, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Ms. BUDZINSKI, Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. KAPTUR, Ms. NORTON, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, and Ms. OMAR):

H.R. 2040. A bill to authorize funding for the creation and implementation of infant mortality pilot programs in standard metropolitan statistical areas with high rates of infant mortality, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. COURTNEY (for himself and Mrs. HOUCHEIN):

H.R. 2041. A bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to clarify and strengthen the application of certain employer-sponsored health plan disclosure requirements; to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

By Mr. CROW (for himself and Ms. BOEBERT):

H.R. 2042. A bill to establish the Space National Guard; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina:

H.R. 2043. A bill to increase the reference prices for certain commodities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. DESAULNIER:

H.R. 2044. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish a grant program to provide self-harm and suicide prevention services in primary care offices, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. DOGGETT (for himself, Ms.

ADAMS, Ms. ANSARI, Ms. BALINT, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. BEYER, Mr. BISHOP, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. CARSON, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mr. CASAR, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Ms. CHU, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. CROCKETT, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Ms. DEGETTE, Mrs. MCCLAIN DELANEY, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. DELUZIO, Mr. DESAULNIER, Ms. DEXTER, Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. ESCOBAR, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. EVANS of Pennsylvania, Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ, Mr. FIELDS, Ms. FRIEDMAN, Mr. FROST, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. GARCIA of California, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mrs. HAYES, Ms. HOYLE of Oregon, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. JACOBS, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Mr. LANDSMAN, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Ms. LEE of Nevada, Mr. LIEU, Ms. MCBRIDE, Ms. MCCLELLAN, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. MENG, Mr. MFUME, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. NADLER, Mr. NORCROSS, Ms. NORTON, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Ms. OMAR, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. POCAN, Ms. POU, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Mr. RASKIN, Ms. ROSS, Mr. RUIZ, Ms. SALINAS, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Ms. SCANLON, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Ms. SEWELL, Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. SHERRILL, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. SOTO, Ms. STANSBURY, Mr. SWALWELL, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. THANEDAR, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. TITUS, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. TOKUDA, Mr. TONKO, Mr. TORRES of New York, Mrs. TRAHAN, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. VEASEY, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. WATERS, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. MCGARVEY, Mrs. FOUSHEE, Mrs. MCIVER, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, and Mr. GOMEZ):

H.R. 2045. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage of dental, vision, and hearing care under the Medicare program; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. FIGURES (for himself and Ms. SEWELL):

H.R. 2046. A bill to require congressional approval before the sale, disposal, declaration of excess or surplus, transfer, or conveyance of Federal property with historical significance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation

and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. FLETCHER (for herself, Ms. PETERSEN, Mr. BEYER, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. QUIGLEY, and Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN):

H.R. 2047. A bill to require a study on the manner and extent to which the tariff rates assessed by the United States on imports are regressive or demonstrate a gender bias, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GARBARINO (for himself, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Ms. CHU):

H.R. 2048. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to eliminate the waiting periods for disability insurance benefits and Medicare coverage for individuals with metastatic breast cancer, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. GILLEN (for herself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Mr. LAWLER):

H.R. 2049. A bill to prohibit the limitation of access to assisted reproductive technology, and all medical care surrounding such technology; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. GREEN of Tennessee (for himself, Mr. GIMENEZ, Ms. DE LA CRUZ, and Mr. CISCOMANI):

H.R. 2050. A bill making continuing appropriations for the salary and expenses of certain excepted employees of U.S. Customs and Border Protection and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations.

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

H.R. 2051. A bill to amend title 14, United States Code, to make appropriations for Coast Guard pay in the event an appropriations Act expires before the enactment of a new appropriations Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. GREEN of Tennessee (for himself, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. PERRY, and Mrs. KIM):

H.R. 2052. A bill to impose sanctions on the Houthis for attacks on international shipping, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GRIJALVA:

H.R. 2053. A bill to prohibit the Secretary of the Interior from issuing new oil or natural gas production leases in the Gulf of Mexico under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to a person that does not renegotiate its existing leases in order to require royalty payments if oil and natural gas prices are greater than or equal to specified price thresholds, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. HAMADEH of Arizona (for himself, Mr. GILL of Texas, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. JACKSON of Texas, Mr. BAUMGARTNER, Mrs. SPARTZ, and Mr. HARRIGAN):

H.R. 2054. A bill to provide that States that provide for an election for Federal office that include text in any language other than English are ineligible to receive certain Federal funds, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on House Administration, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. HAYES (for herself, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. CASAR, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. PLASKETT, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. CROCKETT, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. BROWN, Mr. LANDSMAN, Ms. STANSBURY, Mrs. MCIVER, Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Mr. COHEN, Ms. BUDZINSKI, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. POCAN, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. TITUS, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mr. THANEDAR, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. COSTA, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Ms. ANSARI, Mr. TONKO, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. KENNEDY of New York, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. TOKUDA, Mr. CARSON, Mr. RILEY of New York, Ms. SANCHEZ, Ms. SHERRILL, Ms. ROSS, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mrs. MCCLAIN DELANEY, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. PINGREE, Ms. SALINAS, Mr. MCGARVEY, Ms. SCANLON, Ms. NORTON, Mr. PETERS, Mr. NEAL, and Mr. COURTNEY):

H.R. 2055. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve and to expand eligibility for dependency and indemnity compensation paid to certain survivors of certain veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana:

H.R. 2056. A bill to require the District of Columbia to comply with federal immigration laws; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mrs. HOUCHIN (for herself, Mr. OWENS, and Mr. BEAN of Florida):

H.R. 2057. A bill to affirm and protect the First Amendment rights of students and student organizations at public institutions of higher education; to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

By Mrs. HOUCHIN (for herself and Mr. MESSMER):

H.R. 2058. A bill to amend the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act to define the term evidence-based; to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

By Ms. JACOBS:

H.R. 2059. A bill to prohibit the issuance of licenses for the exportation of certain defense articles to the United Arab Emirates, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota (for himself, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. CRENSHAW, and Mr. PERRY):

H.R. 2060. A bill to amend chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code, to define "State of residence" and "resident", and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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

H.R. 2061. A bill to require the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information, to report on and develop a whole-of-Government strategy with respect to the economic competitiveness of the information and communication technology supply chain, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania (for himself, Mr. MURPHY, and Mr. SMITH of New Jersey):

H.R. 2062. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to treat membership in a health care sharing ministry as a medical expense, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. KENNEDY of Utah:

H.R. 2063. A bill to prohibit natural asset companies from entering into any agreement with respect to land in the State of Utah or natural assets on or in land in the State of

Utah; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ (for herself, Mr. COSTA, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. GARCIA of California, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. NORTON, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Ms. SCANLON, and Ms. STANSBURY):

H.R. 2064. A bill to require the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to establish a program to provide homeownership assistance grants, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services, 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. McDOWELL (for himself, Mr. GILL of Texas, Mr. JACK, Mr. GOLDMAN of Texas, Mr. MOORE of West Virginia, Mrs. HARSHBARGER, Mr. EDWARDS, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. HAMADEH of Arizona, and Mr. KNOTT):

H.R. 2065. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide penalty enhancements for committing certain offenses while in disguise, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MEUSER (for himself and Ms. SCHOLTEN):

H.R. 2066. A bill to amend the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 to exclude from the limit on leverage certain amounts invested in smaller enterprises located in rural or low-income areas and small businesses in critical technology areas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business.

By Mr. MOOLENAAR:

H.R. 2067. A bill to amend the Employment Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to prohibit plan investments in foreign adversary and sanctioned entities, require disclosure of existing investments in such entities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

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

H.R. 2068. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the assignment of patient advocates at medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. MOORE of Alabama (for himself, Mr. PANETTA, and Ms. GOODLANDER):

H.R. 2069. A bill to amend the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 to ensure that other transaction agreements are reported to USASpending.gov, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. MURPHY:

H.R. 2070. A bill to amend chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code, to provide that a member of the Armed Forces and the spouse of that member shall have the same rights regarding the receipt of firearms at the location of any duty station of the member; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. NEHLS (for himself, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Ms. MACE, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Ms. LETLOW, Mrs. LUNA, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mr. DONALDS, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. BABIN, Mr. EZELL, Mr. CLOUD, Mr. FRY, and Mr. CARTER of Georgia):

H.R. 2071. A bill to prohibit Federal funds from being made available to international financial institutions for the purposes of financing foreign shrimp farms, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. NEWHOUSE (for himself, Mr. FULCHER, Mr. BAUMGARTNER, and Mr. FIELDS):

H.R. 2072. A bill to require the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to extend the time period during which licensees are required to commence construction of certain hydropower projects; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. NEWHOUSE (for himself, Mr. BAUMGARTNER, Mr. FULCHER, and Mr. BENTZ):

H.R. 2073. A bill to prohibit the use of Federal funds to allow or study the breach or alteration of the Lower Snake River dams, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. NEWHOUSE (for himself, Mr. BAUMGARTNER, Mr. FULCHER, and Mr. BENTZ):

H.R. 2074. A bill to prohibit the breaching of federally operated dams in certain circumstances, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ONDER (for himself, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. LATTA, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. HARRIS of Maryland, Mr. GREEN of Tennessee, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. CLOUD, Mr. SELF, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. STAUBER, Mr. ELLZEY, Mr. EZELL, Mr. GUEST, Mr. BURCHETT, Mr. CRANE, Mr. FALLON, Mrs. BIGGS of South Carolina, Mr. PALMER, Mr. BIGGS of Arizona, Ms. GREENE of Georgia, and Mr. FLEISCHMANN):

H.R. 2075. A bill to prohibit the Federal Government from conducting or supporting any research involving human fetal tissue that is obtained pursuant to an induced abortion, and to prohibit the solicitation or knowing acquisition, receipt, or acceptance of a donation of such tissue; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. PALMER:

H.R. 2076. A bill to require the Federal Communications Commission to issue an order providing that a shark attack is an event for which a wireless emergency alert may be transmitted, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. PEREZ (for herself and Mr. JAMES):

H.R. 2077. A bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish the Veteran Family Resource Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. PERRY:

H.R. 2078. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to ensure that the prohibition against interment or memorialization in the National Cemetery Administration or Arlington National Cemetery of persons committing Federal or State capital crimes is consistently carried out, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to disinter the remains of George E. Siple from Indiantown Gap National Cemetery, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. ROSS (for herself and Ms. CAS-TOR of Florida):

H.R. 2079. A bill to amend the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to reduce fraudulent enrollments in qualified health plans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. SALAZAR (for herself, Mr. GIMENEZ, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Ms. DE LA CRUZ, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. LAWLER, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mr. OWENS, Mr. BILIRAKIS, and Mrs. HINSON):

H.R. 2080. A bill to develop and disseminate a civic education curriculum and oral history resources regarding certain political ideologies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

By Ms. SHERRILL (for herself, Ms. HOULAHAN, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. CARSON, Ms. SALINAS, and Mr. HARRIS of Maryland):

H.R. 2081. A bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to members of the Red Cross Supplemental Recreational Activities Overseas (SRAO) program, also known as the "Donut Dollies", who served honorably during the Vietnam conflict; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on House Administration, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

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

H.R. 2082. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to provide for long-term care insurance benefits, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. TAYLOR (for himself, Mr. HUNT, Mr. LALOTA, Mr. WIED, Mr. ONDER, and Mr. HARRIGAN):

H.R. 2083. A bill to rescind an amount appropriated to the United States Agency for International Development and appropriate such amount to the Department of Veterans Affairs for the construction of State homes for veterans; to the Committee on Appropriations.

By Mr. THOMPSON of California (for himself and Mr. LAMALFA):

H.R. 2084. A bill to require the Agricultural Research Service to conduct research relating to the exposure of wine grapes to wildfire smoke, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. THOMPSON of California (for himself and Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 2085. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a credit against tax for expenses for translational research regarding neurodegenerative diseases and psychiatric conditions; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi (for himself, Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. DELAURO, Mrs. MCIVER, Ms. UNDERWOOD, Mr. KENNEDY of New York, Mr. BACON, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. VAN DREW, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Mr. LALOTA, and Mr. LAWLER):

H.R. 2086. A bill to enhance the security operations of the Transportation Security Administration and stability of the transportation security workforce by applying the personnel system under title 5, United States Code, to employees of the Transportation Security Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of

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

By Mr. TONKO:

H.R. 2087. A bill to establish minimum Federal standards for sports betting, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. TORRES of California:

H.R. 2088. A bill to direct the Secretary of Transportation, in coordination with the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, to establish a thriving communities grant program; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. VAN DUYNE (for herself and Ms. SEWELL):

H.R. 2089. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow individuals to defer recognition of reinvested capital gains distributions from regulated investment companies; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas:

H.R. 2090. A bill to amend section 236A of the Immigration and Nationality Act with respect to the requirement to cross reference the terrorist screening database; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WITTMAN (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia, and Ms. ELFPRETH):

H.R. 2091. A bill to provide for the conservation of the Chesapeake Bay, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Ms. BONAMICI (for herself, Ms. SALINAS, Ms. BYNUM, Ms. HOYLE of Oregon, and Ms. DEXTER):

H. Con. Res. 19. Concurrent resolution recognizing the essential work of the League of Oregon Cities; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. SMITH of Missouri:

H. Res. 212. A resolution returning Senate Joint Resolution 3 to the Senate; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. MEUSER:

H. Res. 213. A resolution electing Members to a certain standing committee of the House of Representatives; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. AGUILAR:

H. Res. 214. A resolution electing Members to certain standing committees of the House of Representatives; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida (for himself, Ms. SALAZAR, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. RUTHERFORD, and Mr. SOTO):

H. Res. 215. A resolution supporting the designation of March 15, 2025, as "National Osceola Turkey Day"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Ms. GARCIA of Texas (for herself, Mr. SOTO, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mrs. TORRES of California, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Ms. SALINAS, Mr. CISNEROS, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Mr. CASAR, Ms. MENG, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Mr. CARBAJAL, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. LIEU, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. THANEDAR, Mr. VASQUEZ, Mr. TORRES of New York, Mr. TONKO, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. KENNEDY of New York, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. BALINT, Ms. ESCOBAR, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mrs. MCIVER, Mr. GARCIA of California, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. CROCKETT, Ms. NORTON, Mr. CORREA, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Ms.

UNDERWOOD, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. TLAI, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. CARSON, Mr. COSTA, Mr. HERNÁNDEZ, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Ms. RIVAS, Mr. DOGGETT, Mrs. TRAHAN, Ms. JAYAPAL, Ms. SCHOLTEN, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. LATIMER, Mr. SUOZZI, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. GOMEZ, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. MOSKOWITZ, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. CLEAVER, Ms. MCCLELLAN, Mr. FROST, Ms. POU, Ms. CHU, Ms. RANDALL, Mr. EVANS of Pennsylvania, Mr. POCAN, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Ms. STEVENS, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Ms. WATERS, Mr. IVEY, Mr. LICCARDO, Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mrs. BEATTY, Ms. TITUS, Mr. CASTEN, Mr. CUELLAR, Ms. ANSARI, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. HOYLE of Oregon, Mr. AGUILAR, Mr. VINDMAN, Ms. DEXTER, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. TOKUDA, Ms. SIMON, Ms. OMAR, Mr. BERA, Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Mr. STANTON, Mr. BEYER, Mr. RILEY of New York, Mr. TRAN, Ms. PETERSEN, Ms. MORRISON, Ms. FRIEDMAN, Ms. DEGETTE, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. NADLER, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mrs. FOUSHEE, Mr. MANNION, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mr. AMO, Mr. SUBRAMANYAM, Ms. BROWNLEY, and Ms. STANSBURY):

H. Res. 216. A resolution condemning the Members of Congress constituting the leadership team of the House Republican Conference; to the Committee on Ethics.

By Mrs. KIM (for herself, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. GARBARINO, and Mr. CARTER of Georgia):

H. Res. 217. A resolution recognizing Girl Scouts of the United States of America on its 113th birthday and celebrating its founder Juliette Gordon Low and the legacy of providing girls with a secure and inclusive space where they can explore their world, build meaningful relationships, and have access to experiences that prepare them for a life of leadership; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Ms. LETLOW (for herself, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. EZELL, Ms. CRAIG, Mr. LALOTA, Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK, Mr. CISCOMANI, Mr. FIELDS, Mr. VALADAO, Ms. CHU, Mr. GUEST, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mr. FALLON, Mr. GARCIA of California, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ, Ms. BYNUM, Mr. WHITESIDES, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. CASE, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Ms. TOKUDA, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mrs. MCBATH, and Mr. GARBARINO):

H. Res. 218. A resolution recognizing and honoring teachers who have earned or maintained National Board Certification; to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

By Mr. MEEKS (for himself, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. ESPAILLAT, and Ms. MENG):

H. Res. 219. A resolution recognizing the contributions of the Charles B. Rangel Graduate Fellowship Program, the Thomas R. Pickering Foreign Affairs Graduate Fellowship Program, the William D. Clarke, Sr. Diplomatic Security Fellowship, and the Donald M. Payne International Development Graduate Fellowship Program to advance America's national security, development, and diplomacy efforts; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey:

H. Res. 220. A resolution expressing the sense of Congress regarding the need to designate Nigeria a Country of Particular Concern for engaging in and tolerating systematic, ongoing, and egregious violations of religious freedom, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

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

By Ms. UNDERWOOD:

H.R. 2023.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. NEWHOUSE:

H.R. 2024.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. CISCOMANI:

H.R. 2025.

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

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. CALVERT:

H.R. 2026.

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

Article 1, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States grants Congress the authority to enact this bill.

By Mr. ALFORD:

H.R. 2027.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 "The Congress shall have power to . . . provide for the . . . general welfare of the United States; . . ."

By Mr. BABIN:

H.R. 2028.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Ms. BALINT:

H.R. 2029.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. BEAN of Florida:

H.R. 2030.

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

Article I, Section 8

By Mrs. BEATTY:

H.R. 2031.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. BEGICH:

H.R. 2032.

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

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

Regulations with an Effect on Interstate Commerce Article I, Section 8, clause 3 (Commerce Clause)

By Mr. BEYER:

H.R. 2033.

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

Article I, Section 8

By Ms. BUDZINSKI:

H.R. 2034.

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

Article 1 Section 8

By Mr. CARBAJAL:

H.R. 2035.

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

Article I, Section 8, clause 3

By Mr. CAREY:

H.R. 2036.

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

Article 1 Section 8

By Mr. CARTER of Louisiana:

H.R. 2037.

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

Under Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3: [The Congress shall have Power] To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes

By Mr. CLEAVER:

H.R. 2038.

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

Article 1, Section 8.

By Mr. CLOUD:

H.R. 2039.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18

"To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof."

By Mr. COHEN:

H.R. 2040.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution of the United States

By Mr. COURTNEY:

H.R. 2041.

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

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. CROW:

H.R. 2042.

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

Article I, Section 8, United States Constitution.

By Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina:

H.R. 2043.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3; to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes.

By Mr. DESAULNIER:

H.R. 2044.

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

Article 1, Section 8.

By Mr. DOGGETT:

H.R. 2045.

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

Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. FIGURES:

H.R. 2046.

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

Article 4 of the U.S Constitution

By Mrs. FLETCHER:

H.R. 2047.

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

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

By Mr. GARBARINO:

H.R. 2048.

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

Article I, Section 8, clause 1.

By Ms. GILLEN:

H.R. 2049.

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

section 8 of article I of the Constitution.

By Mr. GREEN of Tennessee:

H.R. 2050.

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

Article 1, Section 9, Clause 7 of the Constitution

By Mr. GREEN of Tennessee:

H.R. 2051.

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

Article 1, Section 9, Clause 7 of the Constitution

By Mr. GREEN of Tennessee:

H.R. 2052.

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

Article 1, Section 8, of the Constitution.

By Mr. GRIJALVA:

H.R. 2053.

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

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. HAMADEH of Arizona:

H.R. 2054.

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

Article I, Section 4 of the Constitution (the Elections Clause), which gives Congress authority to make or alter regulations for federal elections

Article I, Section 8 (the Spending Clause), which gives Congress authority to provide for the general welfare and attach conditions to federal funding

By Mrs. HAYES:

H.R. 2055.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18, "To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof."

By Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana:

H.R. 2056.

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

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

By Mrs. HOUCHIN:

H.R. 2057.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mrs. HOUCHIN:

H.R. 2058.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. JACOBS:

H.R. 2059.

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

Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution

By Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota:

H.R. 2060.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 2061.

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

Article I, Section 8, clause 3 provides Congress with the power to "regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes."

By Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 2062.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. KENNEDY of Utah:

H.R. 2063.

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

Article 1 Section 8.

By Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ:

H.R. 2064.

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

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. McDOWELL:

H.R. 2065.

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

Article 1 Section 8

By Mr. MEUSER:

H.R. 2066.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. MOOLENAAR:

H.R. 2067.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. MOOLENAAR:

H.R. 2068.

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

Pursuant to Article I, section 8 of the United States Constitution, Congress has the power to "provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United State."

By Mr. MOORE of Alabama:

H.R. 2069.

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

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. MURPHY:

H.R. 2070.

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

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. NEHLS:

H.R. 2071.

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

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. NEWHOUSE:

H.R. 2072.

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

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. NEWHOUSE:

H.R. 2073.

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

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. NEWHOUSE:

H.R. 2074.

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

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. ONDER:

H.R. 2075.

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

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. PALMER:

H.R. 2076.

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

Article 1 Section 8

By Ms. PEREZ:

H.R. 2077.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. PERRY:

H.R. 2078.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Ms. ROSS:

H.R. 2079.

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

Article I, Section 8, clause 3 (Commerce Clause)

By Ms. SALAZAR:

H.R. 2080.

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

Article I Section 8 Clause 18

By Ms. SHERRILL:

H.R. 2081.

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

Clause 18 of Section 8 of Article 1 of the Constitution of the United States of America.

By Mr. SUOZZI:

H.R. 2082.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States

By Mr. TAYLOR:

H.R. 2083.

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

Article I Section VIII of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. THOMPSON of California:

H.R. 2084.

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

Article 1 Section 8 Clause 18: Necessary and Proper

By Mr. THOMPSON of California:

H.R. 2085.

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

Necessary and Proper Clause; Taxing Clause

By Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi:

H.R. 2086.

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

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. TONKO:

H.R. 2087.

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

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to make rules for the government and regulation of the land and naval forces, as enumerated in Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.'

By Mrs. TORRES of California:

H.R. 2088.

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

According to Article 1: Section 8: Clause 18: of the United States Constitution, seen below, this bill falls within the Constitutional Authority of the United States Congress.

Article 1: Section 8: Clause 18: To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in

By Ms. VAN DUYNE:

H.R. 2089.

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

Article 1 Section 8

By Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas:

H.R. 2090.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. WITTMAN:

H.R. 2091.

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

Clause 3 of Section 8 of Article I of the U.S. Constitution.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

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

H.R. 7: Mr. CRAWFORD and Mrs. BIGGS of South Carolina.

H.R. 20: Mr. COSTA.

H.R. 51: Mr. VINDMAN.

H.R. 97: Mr. PERRY.

H.R. 116: Mr. GILL of Texas.

H.R. 154: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina and Ms. HOULAHAN.

H.R. 210: Mr. BISHOP, Mr. LEVIN, and Ms. FRIEDMAN.

H.R. 211: Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. STANTON, Mr. CASE, and Mr. SUBRAMANYAM.

H.R. 219: Ms. MCBRIDE.

H.R. 220: Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas and Ms. SCHOLTEN.

H.R. 243: Mr. SUOZZI.

H.R. 251: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.

H.R. 303: Mr. CASE.

H.R. 307: Mr. BISHOP and Mr. KEAN.

H.R. 335: Mrs. BIGGS of South Carolina.

H.R. 337: Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H.R. 338: Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H.R. 344: Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H.R. 347: Mrs. BICE, Mr. SOTO, and Mr. NEHLS.

H.R. 349: Mr. NEAL, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. TRAN, Mr. THANEDAR, Mr. LATIMER, Mrs. DINGELL, and Ms. BROWNLEY.

H.R. 404: Mr. GILL of Texas and Mr. YAKYM.

H.R. 407: Mr. HUFFMAN and Mrs. TRAHAN.

H.R. 425: Ms. FEDORCHAK.

H.R. 433: Ms. CRAIG and Mrs. FLETCHER.

H.R. 452: Mr. GOSAR, Mr. ROSE, Mr. LUCAS, Mr. STRONG, Mr. TURNER of Ohio, Mr. LAMALFA, and Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia.

H.R. 476: Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H.R. 486: Mr. MULLIN.

H.R. 527: Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H.R. 528: Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H.R. 530: Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia.

H.R. 562: Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H.R. 569: Mr. ADERHOLT, Mrs. HINSON, Ms. MACE, Mr. EDWARDS, and Mr. GOLDMAN of Texas.

H.R. 589: Mr. HARRIGAN.

H.R. 605: Mr. HARDER of California and Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H.R. 624: Mr. GILL of Texas.

H.R. 644: Ms. STEVENS.

H.R. 705: Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H.R. 715: Mr. FLEISCHMANN.

H.R. 719: Mr. GREEN of Tennessee.

H.R. 722: Mrs. FISCHBACH.

H.R. 743: Mr. LAWLER and Ms. SCHRIER.

H.R. 759: Mr. LARSEN of Washington.

H.R. 769: Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H.R. 801: Mr. MANN, Mr. EVANS of Colorado, and Ms. MORRISON.

H.R. 816: Mr. YAKYM and Mr. STUTZMAN.

H.R. 821: Mr. SUOZZI.

H.R. 833: Mr. MESSMER.

H.R. 879: Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. FIELDS, Mr. KENNEDY of New York, Mr. McDOWELL, Mr. WITTMAN, and Ms. GILLEN.

H.R. 902: Mr. ROY.

H.R. 909: Ms. DEGETTE, Ms. MALOY, Mr. CASTEN, Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK, Ms. BUDZINSKI, and Ms. CHU.

H.R. 910: Mr. LAWLER and Mr. LIEU.

H.R. 929: Mr. LAWLER and Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.

H.R. 951: Mr. GOLDMAN of New York.

H.R. 979: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. LEVIN, Ms. SANCHEZ, Ms. CRAIG, Mr. HARDER of California, and Mr. MANN.

H.R. 987: Mr. COMER.

H.R. 989: Mrs. FLETCHER.

H.R. 1004: Mr. POCAN.

H.R. 1026: Mr. LAHOOD.

H.R. 1060: Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H.R. 1062: Mr. SMUCKER.

H.R. 1065: Mr. KEAN, Ms. MENG, Ms. SHERRILL, Mr. BISHOP, and Mr. POCAN.

H.R. 1076: Mr. SUOZZI.

H.R. 1083: Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H.R. 1084: Mr. KILEY of California.

H.R. 1096: Ms. STANSBURY.

H.R. 1099: Mr. NEGUSE.

H.R. 1100: Mr. NEGUSE.

H.R. 1102: Mr. CAREY, Mrs. TORRES of California, and Mr. MANNION.

H.R. 1111: Ms. PINGREE and Ms. JACOBS.

H.R. 1145: Ms. WATERS.

H.R. 1151: Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mr. YAKYM, and Mr. BILIRAKIS.

H.R. 1178: Mrs. HAYES.

H.R. 1181: Mr. FLEISCHMANN.

H.R. 1196: Ms. WATERS.

H.R. 1197: Mr. BISHOP.

H.R. 1229: Mr. PETERS, Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. KUSTOFF, Mr. BERA, and Mr. GARBARINO.

H.R. 1232: Mr. ROY.

H.R. 1246: Mr. SORENSEN.

H.R. 1248: Mr. NUNN of Iowa.

H.R. 1254: Ms. ADAMS, Mr. CARBAJAL, and Mr. BISHOP.

H.R. 1259: Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.R. 1262: Mr. MCGUIRE, Mr. MANN, Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia, Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. CLEAVER, Ms. TENNEY, and Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY.

H.R. 1269: Mr. DELUZIO, Mr. NEAL, Ms. UNDERWOOD, Mr. EVANS of Colorado, Mr. HARDER of California, and Mr. BILIRAKIS.

H.R. 1288: Mr. SORENSEN and Mr. SUBRAMANYAM.

H.R. 1307: Ms. STANSBURY.

H.R. 1336: Ms. KING-HINDS and Mr. McDOWELL.

H.R. 1340: Mr. KILEY of California.

H.R. 1346: Mr. MESSMER.

H.R. 1378: Ms. VELÁZQUEZ.

H.R. 1383: Mr. HUFFMAN and Ms. BROWNLEY.

H.R. 1394: Mr. WIED.

H.R. 1401: Mrs. BIGGS of South Carolina.

H.R. 1404: Ms. STANSBURY.

H.R. 1410: Mr. NEGUSE and Mr. JEFFRIES.

H.R. 1417: Mr. MANN.

H.R. 1422: Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, Mrs. FLETCHER, Mr. BERA, Ms. McDONALD RIVET, and Mr. SUBRAMANYAM.

H.R. 1437: Mr. IVEY and Mr. KHANNA.

H.R. 1443: Mr. PAPPAS and Mr. VINDMAN.

H.R. 1456: Mr. AUCHINCLOSS.

H.R. 1457: Ms. TLAIB, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, and Mr. TAKANO.

H.R. 1468: Mr. SMITH of Nebraska.

H.R. 1484: Mr. MENENDEZ.

H.R. 1496: Ms. CRAIG.

H.R. 1505: Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H.R. 1518: Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H.R. 1528: Mr. TIMMONS.

H.R. 1542: Ms. TENNEY.

H.R. 1544: Mr. LATIMER.

H.R. 1565: Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H.R. 1575: Mr. BAUMGARTNER.

H.R. 1576: Mr. SMITH of Nebraska.

H.R. 1582: Mr. FINSTAD.

H.R. 1597: Mr. SUBRAMANYAM.

H.R. 1616: Mr. VAN DREW.

H.R. 1618: Mrs. HOUCHIN.

H.R. 1625: Mr. RUTHERFORD.

H.R. 1637: Ms. MORRISON, Ms. SANCHEZ, and Ms. STANSBURY.

H.R. 1638: Ms. FRIEDMAN.

H.R. 1645: Mr. HUFFMAN.

H.R. 1657: Mr. HARDER of California, Mr. HUFFMAN, and Mrs. RAMIREZ.

H.R. 1659: Mr. WIED.

H.R. 1674: Mr. MIN.

H.R. 1676: Mr. DIAZ-BALART.

H.R. 1684: Mr. AGUILAR.

H.R. 1689: Mr. SUOZZI.

H.R. 1698: Mr. YAKYM.

H.R. 1700: Ms. OMAR and Ms. STANSBURY.

H.R. 1701: Mr. MCCAUL.

H.R. 1709: Mrs. HOUCHIN.

H.R. 1713: Mr. LYNCH.

H.R. 1721: Mrs. HOUCHIN.

H.R. 1742: Mr. AUCHINCLOSS.

H.R. 1743: Mr. YAKYM.

H.R. 1754: Mr. WIED.

H.R. 1755: Mr. GILL of Texas.

H.R. 1770: Mrs. HOUCHIN.

H.R. 1781: Mr. CASTEN, Mr. MULLIN, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. LEVIN, and Ms. BROWNLEY.

H.R. 1786: Mr. HARDER of California.

H.R. 1788: Mr. POCAN.

H.R. 1799: Mr. BILIRAKIS.

H.R. 1806: Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H.R. 1808: Mr. HUFFMAN and Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H.R. 1809: Mr. FITZPATRICK and Mr. MRVAN.

H.R. 1811: Ms. CROCKETT.

H.R. 1820: Ms. HAGEMAN.

H.R. 1822: Mr. BOST and Mrs. BICE.

H.R. 1835: Mr. LYNCH.

H.R. 1845: Mr. BENTZ, Mr. OWENS, Mrs. MCCLAIN DELANEY, Mr. BARR, Mr. CISCOMANI, Mr. MCGUIRE, and Mr. JACK.

H.R. 1847: Mr. MILLS.

H.R. 1851: Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. OLSZEWSKI, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, and Mr. FINSTAD.

H.R. 1859: Mr. LARSEN of Washington.

H.R. 1871: Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H.R. 1896: Mr. FEENSTRA and Ms. CRAIG.

H.R. 1901: Mr. TORRES of New York.

H.R. 1906: Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H.R. 1917: Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H.R. 1919: Mr. FEENSTRA, Mr. MANN, Mr. LAHOOD, and Mr. JACKSON of Texas.

H.R. 1920: Mr. SMITH of Nebraska.

H.R. 1940: Mr. FLEISCHMANN and Mr. MILLER of Ohio.

H.R. 1941: Mr. FITZPATRICK and Mrs. DINGELL.

H.R. 1942: Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 1949: Mr. EVANS of Colorado, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. MANN, and Mr. SHREVE.

H.R. 1954: Mr. NEGUSE.

H.R. 1956: Mr. FITZPATRICK and Mr. BILIRAKIS.

H.R. 1961: Mr. EVANS of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 1966: Ms. McDONALD RIVET and Ms. JACOBS.

H.R. 1979: Mr. GILL of Texas.

H.R. 1989: Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Ms. GOODLANDER, Mr. MFUME, AND Mrs. KIGGANS of VIRGINIA.

H.R. 1993: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.

H.R. 2006: Mrs. MILLER of Illinois.

H.J. Res. 12: Mr. HARRIGAN, Mr. DONALDS, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, and Mr. JOHN-SON of Louisiana.

H.J. Res. 54: Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois and Ms. ANSARI.

H.J. Res. 65: Mr. SMITH of Nebraska.

H. Con. Res. 8: Mr. DONALDS.

H. Con. Res. 18: Mr. GRIJALVA.

H. Res. 23: Mr. NADLER, Mr. NORCROSS, and Ms. JAYAPAL.

H. Res. 60: Ms. SHERRILL.

H. Res. 64: Mr. CASE and Mr. GOTTHEIMER.

H. Res. 70: Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. FRIEDMAN, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, and Mr. MCGARVEY.

H. Res. 139: Mr. GARBARINO.

H. Res. 148: Mr. CASE.

H. Res. 152: Ms. LOFGREN.

H. Res. 155: Ms. MCBRIDE, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. CARSON, Ms. HOULAHAN, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. NADLER.

H. Res. 166: Mr. HILL of Arkansas and Mr. PETERS.

H. Res. 181: Mr. SWALWELL.

H. Res. 199: Mr. GILL of Texas.

H. Res. 203: Mr. VAN DREW.
H. Res. 206: Mr. VAN ORDEN and Mr.
LAHOOD.
H. Res. 210: Mr. CLEAVER.

limited tax benefits, or limited tariff
benefits were submitted as follows:

OFFERED BY MR. COLE

CONGRESSIONAL EARMARKS, LIM-
ITED TAX BENEFITS, OR LIM-
ITED TARIFF BENEFITS

Under clause 9 of rule XXI, lists or
statements on congressional earmarks,

OFFERED BY MR. ARRINGTON

The provisions that warranted a referral to
the Committee on the Budget in H.R. 1968 do
not contain any congressional earmarks,
limited tax benefits, or limited tariff bene-
fits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

The provisions that warranted a referral to
the Committee on Appropriations in H.R.
1968, the Full-Year Continuing Appropria-
tions and Extensions Act, 2025, do not con-
tain any congressional earmarks, limited tax
benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined
in clause 9 of rule XXI.



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WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, MARCH 11, 2025

No. 45

Senate

(Legislative day of Monday, March 10, 2025)

The Senate met at 10 a.m., on the expiration of the recess, and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

O God, our Father, speak to us today that here, in Your presence, we may find knowledge of what You want us to do. Guide our Senators so that they clearly understand Your desires, and give them the wisdom to strive to do Your will. Lord, provide them with daily strength to live honorably for Your glory. Give them the ambition to please You with faithfulness and humility.

Come with Your great power, O God, and rescue our Nation and world. Deliver us from the fear and trembling that seek to overwhelm our efforts to please You.

We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

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

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MORENO). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will pro-

ceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Steven Bradbury, of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary of Transportation.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

LITHUANIA

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, 35 years ago today, the freely elected Parliament of Lithuania declared that country was restoring its independence after about 50 years of Soviet occupation. This started the breakup of the Soviet Union. The end of that evil empire made the world safer and millions of people freer. So I say: Thank you, Lithuania—or I should say, in their language, “*aciū*.”

Lithuania didn't become a country just in the 1990s, however. It is a very old country. In fact, it was a significant regional power in the Middle Ages. The modern Republic of Lithuania was born on February 16, 1918. The United States has maintained continuous diplomatic relations with Lithuania for now 103 years, going back to 1922.

As an American, I am proud that our country never recognized the Soviet annexation of Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia, just as we don't recognize Russia's annexation of any part of Ukraine to this very day.

Today, Lithuania is free, and Lithuania is prosperous. Lithuania is a close U.S. ally and a beacon of Western values on the frontlines of freedom. I thank Lithuania for its friendship, for its important contribution to the NATO alliance, and for its vocal defense of our shared values.

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

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The majority leader is recognized.

HALT FENTANYL ACT

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, Zach Didier was a good student, an athlete, and a musician. He was an Eagle Scout, star of the school play, and he was hoping to attend Stanford University. But 2 days after Christmas, in 2020, Zach's dad found him dead in his bedroom of fentanyl poisoning. He was 17.

Zach and his friends had gone to the mall to meet a drug dealer they had found through social media. He bought what he thought was Percocet, but it wasn't. The counterfeit pills he bought contained fentanyl, and what was a bad decision became deadly.

Zach was one of the more than 90,000 Americans who died of an overdose in 2020, many of those deaths from fentanyl poisoning. He was one of countless victims of fake pills being peddled on our streets, pills that too often find their way into the hands of young people and steal their futures.

Courage Minten's is another tragic story. Adopted from Ghana, Courage was pursuing his dream of becoming an airline pilot. He had attended flight school and interviewed for a job, just days before he died, at age 23. Courage's parents found him on their couch after a night out with friends, seemingly asleep, until he stopped breathing. As they later found out, Courage had taken a pill with two times the lethal dose of fentanyl in it.

Ashley Romero, a 32-year-old mother, took half of what she thought was a

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



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painkiller, but that half a pill contained a deadly dose of fentanyl. The dealer who had supplied Ashley's boyfriend with the pill that took her life is believed to have sold pills that killed several other people.

One of those individuals was Jonathan Ellington. Jonathan had become addicted to OxyContin when it was prescribed to him for a high school soccer injury. He got clean and stayed clean for about a decade, until another injury and another prescription got him back on it. When his prescription ran out, he bought some pills from an acquaintance. It only took one pill with a lethal dose of fentanyl to take Jonathan's life.

Mr. President, these are just a few of the stories that families have shared with the Judiciary Committee in support of the HALT Fentanyl Act. Unfortunately, there are many more like them; lives lost, futures destroyed, families changed forever.

One in three Americans know someone who has died of a drug overdose. We are losing young people, teenagers, young parents, and people with bright lives ahead of them. When the Trump administration temporarily classified all fentanyl analogs as schedule I substances, law enforcement gained a critical tool to combat fentanyl and go after people who are bringing this poison into the United States.

Congress has extended this temporary classification several times because it works. Now we need to make it permanent by passing the HALT Fentanyl Act.

I was very pleased at the strong bipartisan vote this bill received last Thursday, and I hope the vote on final passage will be equally robust.

As I said, classifying all fentanyl analogs as schedule I substances gives law enforcement a critical tool to go after the criminals bringing this poison into our country and selling it on our streets, and it joins other efforts to end the fentanyl crisis in our country.

President Trump is taking significant steps to halt the supply of drugs flowing across our borders. Senator BLACKBURN has done great work bringing attention to the role of social media, which is often the link between teenagers and drug dealers. And the Senate will continue working to stop fentanyl from taking more American lives.

Fentanyl has caused too many tragedies. I am grateful to the families who have lost loved ones to this deadly drug for sharing their stories. The HALT Fentanyl Act is moving forward due in no small part to their support.

I yield the floor.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Democratic leader is recognized.

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, yesterday afternoon, Elon Musk confirmed what many of us have been warning about for a long time: Republicans are getting ready to gut Social Security and Medicare.

Let me repeat that. Elon Musk confirmed what many of us have warned about: Republicans are getting ready to gut Social Security and gut Medicare.

Here is what he said during an interview with FOX Business. The richest man on Earth repeated again a bevy of lies that entitlement programs that tens of millions of people rely on are riddled with fraud and abuse. That is a pretext to slashing, but it is false.

He added that "most of the Federal spending is entitlements"—that is true—"so that is the big one to eliminate," meaning Social Security.

Let me quote Elon Musk again: "That is the big one"—Social Security—"to eliminate." It is rare to hear Republicans tell the truth about their plans so directly.

What Elon Musk is saying is that sooner or later, Republicans are going to target people's Social Security and Medicare benefits.

The outrage that the richest man in the world would tell millions of seniors who depend on those checks each month that it is fraud, that it is waste, is outrageous. He doesn't have any idea the harm it would do, and it isn't fraud. Donald Trump, Elon Musk, and Republicans know that the math on their billionaire tax cuts will not work without going after these benefits, and all they care about is cutting their taxes further—outrageous.

As America begins to hear this, America is going to realize what a bad bargain Donald Trump was in the election. It is another awful reminder that under Donald Trump and Elon Musk and Republicans, billionaires win, American families lose.

There is something truly rotten about the Republican agenda when a multibillionaire—the richest man in the world—is allowed to lie so casually about one of America's most sacred programs in order to justify taking benefits away from hard-working Americans. Few programs have done more good, have helped more people, have been more popular than Social Security has for nearly a century. Few programs are as beloved by Americans as Social Security. Americans, of course, support eliminating waste, but they do not want to see their Social Security benefits get taken away.

How is Elon Musk trying to do this? He is using the oldest trick in the book: shamelessly lying about Social Security—just as Donald Trump did in his State of the Union Address, where he listed hundreds of people who were born 120 years ago and couldn't show a single one was getting Social Security.

Musk is shamelessly lying about Social Security, claiming it is riddled with fraud, in order to justify taking benefits away from seniors and retirees. He ignores the very bold, plain fact that the Federal Government already conducts an audit of Social Security every year. It is a legit audit, not a partisan audit. It has been done during Trump's Presidency and Biden's Presidency. What did it find? Less than 1 percent—1 percent—less than 1 percent of all payments from 2015 to 2022 were made in error.

That, Mr. Musk, is not what fraud looks like.

He cherry-picks data to suggest that tens of millions of dead people are getting checks. This is a lie.

To be sure, this isn't just about Elon Musk's rhetoric. The assault on Social Security is taking shape in practice. DOGE has already taken over the Social Security Administration Agency and has free access to the private data and benefits of tens of millions of Americans. The Trump administration has already begun to fire 7,000 staffers, which means local offices will shut down, customer service wait times will explode, and the risk of delayed benefits will skyrocket.

So I ask my Republican colleagues: Are you all fine with this?

Are they fine with Musk calling Social Security one giant scam? Let's find a single person here on the Republican side who starts rebutting Musk once and for all when they know he is doing what the American people hate and is not telling the truth.

Do our colleagues agree with Musk's lie that hundreds of billions of dollars in outright fraud has compromised Social Security?

Mark my words, if Elon Musk and DOGE continue their attacks against Social Security, if the President continues his attacks, which he made in the State of the Union, sooner or later, benefits are going to be delayed, mistakenly halted, and the political uproar from Americans from one end of the country to the other—red, purple, and blue—will be immense.

And more trouble for the Trump administration—the Trump economy. Donald Trump promised Americans a golden age on day one. Well, today is day 50, and Americans are wondering, scratching their heads, where is this golden age? You can't find this golden age in the inflation numbers because inflation has gone up under Donald Trump, from groceries, to retail, to cars. He campaigned prices will begin going down on day one. That is by the wayside, that is for sure.

You can't find this golden age in the stock market either. We know the stock market is Donald Trump's favorite measuring stick. But right now, because of him—his actions, his erraticness—his own actions have plunged markets and therefore people's retirement accounts into chaos. Yesterday, the Dow fell by almost 900 points, 2 percent. The S&P 500 plunged

2.7 percent. The NASDAQ Composite fell by 4 percent.

Why is this happening? One of the reasons is the President's tariffs on Canada and Mexico, but the other is pure chaos—no stability, no certainty for businesses, total confusion in the economy. One thing businesses tell us: They want certainty, and they want stability. One thing they are getting from Donald Trump: uncertainty and chaos.

By starting this foolish and chaotic trade war—on again one day, off again the next day—Donald Trump has singlehandedly poured a bucket of ice water on the economy. Trump thinks he can just yak: Oh, I am for it, and then the next day, I will say I am not for it. But businesses can't plan that way. If they think there is a chance he will come back and do it, they don't plan, they don't buy, they don't go forward.

Businesses right now are in a state of total confusion. They have no idea what Trump is going to do next. Is he going to impose tariffs today? tomorrow? next month? How big will they be? What countries? What products? Every day, you hear a different answer on something that is so important to the American economy and the world economy.

American consumers are also anxious. If you don't know what tomorrow will bring, you are going to spend less today.

Donald Trump himself knows that tariffs will hurt working families. When asked on FOX Business about the possibility that his tariffs could trigger a recession, he refused to even downplay the possibility it could happen. This was a rare moment of truth from Donald Trump. He said: Yeah, my tariffs can cause a recession. And then he seemed to say with his body language: Who cares? Amazing. The guy who said he would lift the economy not only is beginning to cause the beginnings of an economic downturn, but he seems to be proud of it. Wow. Is that what America bargained for? I don't think so.

When Donald Trump says there is a "period of transition," it is just gibberish. What Donald Trump means when he says "period of transition" is that "I will hurt you slowly, not all at once." It means "Yes, my tariffs will raise prices on the American people." Donald Trump knows his tariffs could wreck the economy, but he is doing it anyway, all so he can use the income from tariffs to pay for tax cuts for billionaires—his North Star.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I come to the floor having just listened to the minority leader of the Senate come to the floor, and I listened to what he had to say.

You know, it has been 10 weeks now that Republicans have been in the majority and the Democrats have been in the minority after the historic victory

in November. The contrast is pretty significant. Senate Republicans made promises to the American people. We promised to get the country back on track. We are keeping that promise. We are hitting the ground running, and we are not turning back.

Most importantly for our successes, it has been because Republicans have remained united. As a result, we have a list of accomplishments as opposed to what we just heard the minority leader talk about.

First, the Senate has now confirmed all 21 members of President Trump's Cabinet, and we did it at a record pace—a faster pace than the Democrats were able to do for Obama in 2009 and faster than they were able to do it for President Biden in 2021. The pace with which Republicans have confirmed President Trump's nominees to the Cabinet—as POLITICO pointed out today—all completed before the Senate has taken a break. That is where we are today. Historic speed.

With his team in place early, President Trump is able to execute effectively and efficiently the popular agenda for which he was elected. The Senate has prioritized confirming the President's national security team. We saw the horrific attack in New Orleans on New Year's. We continue to see chaos around the world. We need a national security team in place, we have prioritized that, and we have done it.

The Senate also passed the Laken Riley Act. It is now law, signed by the President. It is the first significant piece of immigration enforcement law signed in decades and just in the first number of weeks. It is actually the first bill that President Trump signed into law as the 47th President of the United States. It is going to save lives. It is going to prevent human tragedy like we saw happen in Georgia to that young nursing student.

I am very grateful to Senator KATIE BRITT of Alabama and Senator TED BUDD of North Carolina for their leadership in finding a bipartisan way to get this bill passed.

We have also focused on our shared agenda with the House and with the President to move quickly to pass a budget that is focused on border security, energy security for our Nation, as well as America's peace through strength. The Budget Committee—LINDSEY GRAHAM, who is chairman of the committee, and the members of the committee did groundbreaking work, all focused on making America stronger, better, more secure.

Senate Republicans are working with the House on a path forward now and working closely with Senator MIKE CRAPO of the Finance Committee, who is leading the charge to make sure we are not facing a \$4 trillion tax increase, which is what the Democrats want. They want Americans to suffer the pain of \$4 trillion in additional taxes. This is very important work to keep taxes low for hard-working families and continue to stimulate the economy.

I heard a lot from the minority leader about 5 minutes ago. He was talking about the future of Medicaid and of Medicare. I am a doctor and work closely with patients on all of those programs. But what I heard Senator SCHUMER do as he stood right there—it sounded to me like he is threatening to shut down the government. He sounds like somebody who is going to tell his Members: Vote against keeping the government open. We are so distraught about the fact that President Trump has been elected, so mad at the voters because they elected a Republican House and a Republican Senate, as well as sent President Trump back to the White House, that we just want to say: The heck with you; we are going to shut down the government.

It costs money to shut down the government. It costs money to reopen the government. It impacts services for the American people.

Democrats are so mad—you saw it last week when the President made his speech to Congress, to the joint session, his address to the Nation, the way they acted during that statement by the Commander in Chief—those are people that are just mad at the voters.

The American public liked what the President had to say that night. Overwhelmingly, those who saw the speech saw it as very positive, are happy with the direction of the country, happy with the leadership of the President. He is focused. He is forceful. He is effective, energetic, getting the job done.

That is not what I heard from the Senate minority leader just a few minutes ago. He sounded like somebody who is going to command the troops: Hey, shut down the government because we are mad, and we are going to take it out on the American people.

Let me set the record straight, because Republicans support Medicaid, and Republicans support Medicare. Just the other night, we passed Senator DAN SULLIVAN's amendment to protect and preserve Medicaid and Medicare. Not a single Democrat joined us.

These programs are in trouble today. Why? Because of the previous administration. Joe Biden weakened them by making them available for scammers, and that is what has happened. People are sucking money out of these programs who don't deserve to be doing it and are taking the care needed from hard-working American families.

Republicans want to protect and preserve and strengthen Medicare and Medicaid. We want to do it for the people these vital programs were originally intended for—not for the scammers. Stopping scamming is a big part of this.

Additionally, when I take a look at some of the things we have done over the last several weeks, one is that we have reaffirmed our friendship with Israel. Intelligence Committee Chairman TOM COTTON of Arkansas and Foreign Relations Committee Chairman

JIM RISCH of Idaho introduced bipartisan legislation to impose severe sanctions on something called the International Criminal Court.

It is an illegitimate kangaroo court that targets Israel and does the bidding of Iran. Sanctioning the ICC would have sent a very strong message to the world—the message, of course, being “America stands with Israel.” Senate Democrats filibustered it; 45 Democrat Senators chose to abandon our closest ally.

Senate Republicans also successfully blocked destructive Democrat legislation attacking American energy production. Democrats actually tried to reverse President Trump’s national energy emergency. America clearly faces an energy emergency. Energy prices went up 31 percent during the last 4 years under the Democrats’ administration of punishing American energy. Well, led by Chairman MIKE LEE of Utah, Republicans are taking the handcuffs off American energy. Look, we know unleashing American energy will help kick-start our economy.

Senate Republicans also voted to protect girls and women in sports. Senator Coach TOMMY TUBERVILLE of Alabama has been a champion of women’s sports in the Senate. His legislation was common sense to over 80 percent of Americans. It said: Biological men should not be allowed to compete in women’s sports against our daughters, our sisters—simple as that. Democrats filibustered it. They are completely out of touch with the American people, the Democrats are. And they are putting our female athletes in harm’s way.

Senate Republicans also have erased some burdensome Biden regulations. We are cutting through the redtape, cutting redtape most significantly on American energy production. At the same time, we are also protecting America’s financial freedom.

Senator JOHN KENNEDY of Louisiana led efforts to end a Biden regulation on energy production on the Gulf of America. Senator JOHN HOVEN of North Dakota led efforts to cut \$7 billion in natural gas taxes on our energy producers. Senator PETE RICKETTS of Nebraska led the efforts to rein in unaccountable bureaucrats from snooping in your digital wallet. Democrats wanted to spy on everything you buy or do on Apple Pay, on Venmo, Zelle, with other apps. Senator TED CRUZ of Texas led efforts to push back against IRS attacks on crypto currency.

Each of these resolutions passed the Senate, in spite of Democrat opposition. By reversing these heavyhanded rules, Republicans are making life more affordable for American families.

And this week, the Senate is moving to pass lifesaving legislation that is called the HALT Fentanyl Act. Approximately 70,000 Americans are poisoned or killed by illicit fentanyl each year in the United States. It is the No. 1 killer of Americans between the ages of 18 and 45.

The HALT Fentanyl Act will aid efforts to crack down on drug dealers and

criminal cartels that smuggle the poison into our country and into our communities. I am grateful that Leader THUNE is putting this bipartisan legislation up for a vote.

You can sum up these early weeks in the Republican-led Senate in three words: fast, forceful, and effective. We aren’t wasting time. We are not wasting time. We are just getting started.

Working together, Republicans are going to deliver for the American people.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

JUDICIAL REVIEW

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today stands out as a critical moment for the country, the Supreme Court, and the Constitution.

In recent weeks, Trump administration officials and allies have made statements and engaged in troubling conduct that threatened judicial independence and our very system of government.

Elon Musk, a senior adviser to President Trump, has repeatedly called for the impeachment of Federal judges whose decisions he disagrees with, and he has questioned the lifetime appointment of Federal judges that is enshrined in article III of our Constitution.

In a social media post, Vice President JD VANCE falsely asserted that:

Judges aren’t allowed to control the executive’s legitimate power.

This is merely the latest in a long line of claims by the Vice President that a President of the United States can defy the orders of the court. In 2021, Mr. VANCE went so far as to say he would suggest to President Trump that “when the court stops you, stand before the country like Andrew Jackson did and say, ‘The chief justice has made his ruling. Now let him enforce it.’” This was an obvious reference to the apocryphal story about President Andrew Jackson suggesting he would defy the Supreme Court ruling.

And President Donald Trump himself recently posted:

He who saves his Country does not violate any Law.

Let me repeat that post, personal post, by the President:

He who saves his Country does not violate any Law.

Those 10 words are a rationale for tyranny and are an assault on our Constitution.

This disregard for judicial review has not been limited to words alone. In multiple cases, administration officials have dragged their feet or failed to comply with Federal court orders.

The administration has also nominated individuals to senior positions at the Department of Justice who seem to have little regard for separation of powers.

One Trump nominee recently testified before the Senate Judiciary Committee and said:

There is no hard and fast rule about whether, in every instance, a public official is bound by a court decision.

Fortunately, my colleague, Republican Senator JOHN KENNEDY of Louisiana, admonished this nominee, and he said:

Don’t ever, ever take the position that you’re not going to follow the order of a federal court. Ever. Now, you can disagree with it. Within the bounds of legal ethics, you can criticize it. You can appeal it, or you can resign.

And it isn’t only the executive branch that is threatening the independence of the judiciary. In the past month, three members of the House of Representatives have introduced articles of impeachment against Federal judges for no reason other than they ruled against this administration.

These actions and comments constitute a clear and present danger to the separation of powers and our Constitution. Instead of favorably quoting the apocryphal words of Andrew Jackson, our political leaders and their allies should reference the words of Chief Justice Marshall in *Marbury v. Madison*, an 1803 decision. As we all learned in law school, Judge Marshall said:

It is emphatically the province and duty of the judicial department to say what the law is.

There has been a broad, bipartisan consensus on that point for more than two centuries. When it comes to interpreting and applying the law, the judiciary has the final word.

Last week, on this floor, I tried to pass an S. Res. simply affirming the rule of law and finality of judicial review. I thought and hoped every Senator would support it. Regrettably, a Republican Senator objected, and the Senate missed an opportunity to say with one voice that we support the Constitution and judicial branch.

Thankfully, the judicial branch has demonstrated its independence, even without the support of the other branches of government. Judges have carefully considered the cases before them and, in some cases, provided a check on the administration when it overstepped. For that, I commend the judiciary.

Alexander Hamilton called the article III judiciary, the courts, “the least dangerous branch” because it has neither soldiers nor money to enforce its decrees. That is why the courts’ legitimacy in the eyes of the American people is so critical to its continued vitality, and that is why I continue to support an enforceable code of conduct for the Supreme Court.

Recent efforts by the Trump administration and its allies to intimidate and impeach Federal judges have been based on those judges’ decisions and the President who appointed them. In contrast, an enforceable code of conduct would apply to all Justices equally, no matter who appointed them and no matter how they rule on a particular matter.

I first proposed that the Court adopt an enforceable code of conduct 13 years

majority and prior to many of its controversial decisions.

The fact that many sitting Justices have publicly endorsed an enforceable code of conduct underscores that it does not pose a threat to the independence of the judicial branch. An enforceable code of conduct would bolster public confidence in the judicial branch.

And by ensuring the judiciary is held to high regard, we can assure that so-called least dangerous branch of government maintains a position of strength now and in the future.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SHEEHY). Without objection, it is so ordered.

NOMINATION OF ABIGAIL SLATER

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, soon, we will vote on the nomination of Gail Slater to serve as Assistant Attorney General for the Antitrust Division. I support her nomination, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

Antitrust is as important to me as it is to most Senators. I have long been concerned about market concentration and anticompetitive practices in industries that impact Iowans whether it is agriculture or healthcare or technology. These issues don't get the most attention around the U.S. Senate, but they still impact millions of Americans. Family farmers and independent producers deserve fair prices for their products. Seniors deserve affordable prescription drugs. Children deserve to be safe from predatory behavior on dominant tech platforms. All of these are antitrust issues.

Attorney General Bondi told me during her confirmation process that she shares my interest in these issues and that she would work with me and the Antitrust Division to address these issues. There is no better person to help her in this project than Gail Slater. Ms. Slater has the right qualifications for this job.

She spent several years practicing antitrust law in private practice before spending a decade at the Federal Trade Commission, handling antitrust investigations and litigation. In these roles, she learned the nuts and bolts of antitrust enforcement.

Ms. Slater also understands antitrust and economics from a policy perspective. She served in President Trump's first administration on the National Economic Council, and she served now-Vice President VANCE as his economic policy adviser and as a member of his Senate staff. So Ms. Slater has numerous accomplishments in the antitrust space.

I am not the only one who thinks Ms. Slater is the right person for the job. She has received letters of support

from nine previous heads of the Justice Department's Antitrust Division. These men and women were appointed by Presidents of both political parties. They wrote:

Ms. Slater has the experience, intelligence, judgment, and leadership skills necessary to serve as an excellent Assistant Attorney General for the Antitrust Division.

Another bipartisan coalition letter commands her "unique ability to collaborate on a bipartisan basis with stakeholders across the political spectrum, building coalitions toward common goals."

And it might surprise you that the International Brotherhood of Teamsters announced that they support her nomination.

In a rare sign of unity on the Judiciary Committee I share, where we don't get a lot of unity, Ms. Slater was advanced out of committee by 20 yes votes to 2 negative votes. I hope for a similarly strong bipartisan vote here on the floor.

The Antitrust Division will flourish under Ms. Slater's strong leadership, and I am proud to support her. She is ready to serve our country, and we need to get her confirmed quickly.

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.

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.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, Donald Trump and "Copresident" Elon Musk are shutting down the Federal Government one piece at a time: shutting down the Agency that stops banks and payday lenders from cheating working people; shutting down children's cancer research; shutting down key parts of the Department of Transportation, the Agency responsible for keeping people safe when they are flying airplanes; even shutting down parts of the Social Security Administration.

Now Republicans in Congress are laying out their blueprint to shut down the entire Federal Government. A budget is a reflection of our values, and this proposal makes clear where the Republicans' values lie. After months of bipartisan talks, they are walking away from the negotiating table and offering a nonstarter House bill that forces us to the brink of a full government shutdown. Who would be hurt the most? Working people. Billionaires win; families lose. Republicans' values are clear.

Their shutdown bill does two terrible things. First, it wipes out the guardrails that Congress wrote for how to spend taxpayer money. That means that "Copresidents" Trump and Musk can hold everyone under their magic spell. They can spend taxpayer money or they can shut off taxpayer money

exactly how they want. Perhaps Trump and Musk want to shovel \$75 million of ALS treatment funding to anti-vaccine research instead. That would be OK under the Republican deal—or maybe they want to shift \$300 million or more from the FAA's telecommunications funding bucket toward contracts to Elon Musk's Starlink. The budget the Republicans have sent over would permit that as well. And if Trump and Musk decide to fire another 25,000 Americans or kick a million old people out of nursing homes, this package from House Republicans would say: Sure.

In addition to giving "Copresidents" Trump and Musk the power to spend taxpayer money wherever they want, House Republicans also propose general cuts—cuts from programs that help families put food on the table, afford childcare, and keep our communities safe; cuts from local communities for projects like improving hospitals, teaching facilities, and childcare centers—dollars that the House and the Senate had already agreed to.

But the House Republican package isn't just about cutting out veterans and old people. No. It is also about spending more money. Republican House Members want to pour an extra \$6 billion over the next 6 months—yes, that is \$1 billion a month—directly to the Pentagon, with no explanation and no justification of why this money is needed. Nope. There are cuts everywhere else in government, but there is a funding increase for the one government Agency that has never, never passed an audit. That Agency, the Department of Defense, gets \$1 billion a month.

House Republicans want to give 6 billion more dollars to make sure that defense contractors continue to get their fat paychecks.

Look, Republicans in Congress don't care whether the government shuts down because they don't care about hurting working families. All they care about is getting back to jamming through their true agenda—\$4.6 trillion worth of tax handouts for millionaires, billionaires, and giant corporations, paid for by gutting healthcare for millions of people.

Donald Trump looked Americans in the eye and said he would "lower costs on day one." Those were his words. And now we are 7 weeks in, and he has done the exact opposite. He is raising costs for families. More people are losing their jobs—sky-high childcare, housing, and food costs. And it is open season right now for banks and credit card companies and shady student loan outfits to scam the American people.

The Republican shutdown playbook is dangerous, and it will hurt working families. Democrats are right to oppose the House bill, and people all across this country are right to expect us to stand up and fight back.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

NOMINATION OF STEVEN BRADBURY

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I come to the floor this morning to speak in opposition to the nomination of Steven Bradbury. He is nominated to be the Deputy Secretary of Transportation.

When it comes to transportation safety, we don't measure success in dollars saved. We measure success in lives protected and tragedies prevented.

Last week, I met with the parents of Sam Lilley, the first officer of the American Airlines plane that fatally collided with a U.S. Army Black Hawk helicopter at DCA Airport. Sam's father happens to be a commercial pilot now, and before that, he flew Black Hawk helicopters in the military. He expressed his concern about reports that the Black Hawks are regularly being operated in this busy airspace without the Automatic Dependent Surveillance-Broadcast, commonly known as ADS-B, turned on.

We know that the Black Hawk in the January 29 collision wasn't transmitting. We hope that we will find out later today in the NTSB report what we need to do to fix this problem.

We know that during Mr. Bradbury's first tenure at DOT, he let the FAA create exemptions to permit military aircraft to operate without this key safety technology transmitting. And guess what? The military knew that they had been granted a loophole, but they said it would not be used all the time—only to find out later that the military said they were using the exemption 100 percent of the time.

My heart goes out to the Lilley family and to all the families of the victims of this tragic accident. It didn't need to happen. That is why, last week, I wrote Secretary Hegseth to ask about the Army's letter from 2023 stating that 100 percent of its helicopters fly in the DC area with this ADS-B technology not activated.

We can't afford another light-touch approach at the Department of Transportation when it comes to safety. We cannot. It simply does not matter if you are saving dollars if you are not saving lives. Unfortunately, I believe the President's nominee to be Deputy Secretary of the Department of Transportation, Steven Bradbury, has shown more interest in a light-touch approach that benefits industry, than being a champion for safety.

During his nomination hearing, I questioned Mr. Bradbury about his record as previous general counsel for the Department of Transportation during the first Trump administration. In this capacity, Mr. Bradbury played a key role in orchestrating the rollback of multiple, multiple safety requirements under the guise of advancing a reform agenda.

For example, under his watch, he prevented requirements for truck drivers. There was a fatigue prevention requirement for truck drivers, which he loosened. Vehicle safety recall investiga-

tions reached an alltime low, and meanwhile, road fatalities increased.

Under his watch, there were a number of rail safety requirements that were also waived. The Department of Transportation withdrew its two-person crew rule. This was a rule that people had recommended after derailments in the United States and in Canada, including a runaway oil train in Quebec in 2013 that derailed and killed 47 people. And during this same time period, the main line derailment rate increased, all during Mr. Bradbury's tenure.

Perhaps, though, the most troubling of all, is Mr. Bradbury's watch during the rulemaking on what is called a safety management system for aviation manufacturers like Boeing. Just 9 days after the first 737 MAX crash in 2018, which resulted in 189 deaths, there was a rule that said—being proposed—that the safety management system should be a mandatory requirement—not voluntary. Don't tell an industry that has to manufacture planes, "It's okay, you can voluntarily comply with some of these rules." No, no, we need requirements that manufacturers must meet.

As my colleagues on the Commerce Committee know, a safety management system rule for aviation manufacturers would have instituted a comprehensive process for analyzing, predicting, and ultimately mitigating risk. The safety management system is considered the gold standard now around the world. If you want to have safety, you have a safety management system. It is a more robust process.

And I question how Mr. Bradbury, at DOT, after the Indonesian 737 MAX crash, didn't see or understand the need for critical information and analysis that a safety management system would have put in place, particularly because the FAA continued to let the MAX plane fly, and part of the process in question is whether they considered the critical analysis that Boeing had done to allow the plane to fly and what the FAA's role was.

So following the tragedies of both 737 MAX crashes, the Commerce Committee, led by then-Chairman WICKER, launched an investigation into the crashes to find solutions and prevent the disaster from happening again. But what did Mr. Bradbury do? Did he work with the committee to improve safety for the flying public? No. No, he did not.

He basically thwarted Senator WICKER and the committee's efforts to get the information about what the FAA had done. Make this clear here today: Our colleagues need to hold the FAA accountable. If you don't hold the FAA accountable as the oversight body, fat chance the FAA is going to continue to do its job as aggressively as it needs to.

So Senator WICKER's office said, "Mr. Bradbury intentionally withheld relevant information requested by the committee." He made our investiga-

tion very hard. In fact, Senator WICKER later said, "He deliberately attempted to keep us in the dark. And by that I mean our investigations, our staff, our committee, and me."

Now, I have great respect for my colleague Senator WICKER, but the Bradbury findings, in stymieing us as a committee to do our oversight job, gives me serious questions about his level of transparency.

The families of the 737 MAX crashes wrote to Chairman CRUZ last month to express their concerns about Mr. Bradbury's role in obstructing the committee's investigation into the crashes that took their loved ones' lives. They also voiced concern about Mr. Bradbury's role that led to the delays in holding Boeing accountable to implementing a true mandatory safety management system.

Now, during his hearing, Mr. Bradbury suggested that the rule ready to be proposed by the previous Trump administration that made it mandatory for manufacturers to have a safety management system was held up because some small businesses didn't want to meet that requirement.

Do we not believe that businesses are going to object to some rules? They do. They do all the time. But that doesn't mean scrapping the rule altogether, which is exactly what happened as far as the mandatory requirement.

Well, lucky for the consumer, our committee, in the aftermath of these two crashes, got legislation passed that said, "Yes, you have to have a mandatory safety management system, and you have to, FAA, put that rule out."

Now, Mr. Bradbury was still serving as general counsel and acting Deputy Secretary of the Department. You would have thought now that he has gotten a directive by Congress to put out this rule, he would have said, "Hey, we have one. We have been debating it for a while, but now we have had two crashes. It is really clear that the safety culture needs to be upgraded. Everybody agrees, all experts, this is the great system. Let's implement it."

But he didn't. He didn't move forward, even after Congress mandated it. And after Mr. Bradbury's confirmation hearing in front of the Commerce Committee last month, the families of the 737 MAX crashes released a statement saying his testimony purporting to prioritize aviation safety, "Shows a complete disregard for the 84 people who died in plane crashes in the United States in the last month."

Mr. Bradbury's troubling record doesn't stop just with transportation. During his time at the Department of Justice during the Bush administration, Mr. Bradbury authored what we know now as the widely known torture memos, justifying the use of waterboarding and other torture techniques.

The Department of Justice's Office of Professional Responsibility reviewed these memos and raised doubts about "the objectivity and reasonableness" of

these legal analyses. DOJ also found evidence that Mr. Bradbury's legal analyses "were written with the goal of allowing the ongoing CIA program to continue."

Mr. Bradbury, then, at the Department of Justice, was writing rules that fit the outcome that he wanted, instead of looking objectively at what the American people needed. These legal opinions were contrary to what this Nation stands for.

Later, the Senate refused to confirm Mr. Bradbury as Assistant Attorney General during the Bush administration, and Congress passed the McCain-Feinstein amendment to the 2016 NDAA, codifying the illegality of those torture methods—those very torture methods that Mr. Bradbury said were okay.

We passed a law to basically change what this guy's legal opinion was because it was so bad. And so now, when the Senate is asked to provide advice and consent on Mr. Bradbury's nomination to be Deputy Secretary of the Transportation Department, I think you should look back at what happened then. Two of our Republican colleagues voted against his nomination because of the torture memos. They rightly concluded that he was not right to fit in the Department of Justice role.

I am saying today, what do you need to know? He didn't fight for strong safety rules at the Department of Transportation before; he is not going to fight for them now. It is really clear that our aviation safety system needs strong leadership at the FAA, not someone who is going to write the rule to fit business, but write the rule to fit safety.

As if these issues weren't concerning enough, there is another issue. During his confirmation hearing, I asked Mr. Bradbury, "What about the conflicts of interest that appear to be mounting between Elon Musk and the FAA?"

I thought, a smart lawyer could really give guidance to the Secretary of Transportation, give guidance to the FAA Administrator, the acting one, and could say, "These are the ways in which Elon Musk should not pass go, would be a conflict of interest, would be a problem at the FAA, given that there are already issues that are really clearly in front of us."

So I said, "Tell us. Tell us. Where do you think those conflicts of interest exist?" Of course, at the hearing, he kind of demurred, and I said, "You know what, Mr. Bradbury, you can give me for the record where exactly do you think there's a conflict of interest?"

But he didn't just evade my questions; he basically said that he thought that it was an excellent idea to have Elon Musk and SpaceX making changes to the FAA air traffic control system. In fact, he said that he didn't "see the potential for a conflict" with the SpaceX employees having access to the FAA.

Of course, we know now that three SpaceX engineers were recently hired

as special government employees at the FAA and were immediately granted conflict of interest waivers by the Trump administration so they could work on matters at the FAA. Why? Because they had "direct and predictable effects upon the financial interests of SpaceX."

So in other words, the Trump administration conceded that conflicts of interest do exist, and they are going to let them happen anyway, and they went to get a waiver. The conflicts of interest for Mr. Musk and SpaceX at the FAA is obvious.

Let me just say, though, first, you can have all sorts of broadband solutions, including satellite solutions. But when you are talking about the air traffic controller system, that kind of system is inferior to fiber. Why? Because of speed, capacity, cost, weather, all sorts of issues. And when there is chaos, we need certainty and predictability.

So we are seeing a conflict play out right before our eyes. According to a Bloomberg report, one of SpaceX's engineers who was granted a conflict of interest waiver recently told the FAA that SpaceX planned to send 4,000 Starlink terminals to the Agency. For what? We are still trying to find out.

The FAA already entered into a \$2 billion contract with Verizon in 2023 to upgrade its telecommunications network. But Mr. Musk's own tweet suggests he wants to cancel the FAA's contract with Verizon. He is saying that they are failing. He wants them to use his product instead.

And yet, Mr. Bradbury apparently doesn't even see the potential—he doesn't even see the potential for the conflict of interest.

It doesn't stop with Starlink as a broadband supplier. Just last week, SpaceX's Starship heavy lift rocket malfunctioned and broke apart over the Caribbean before it reached orbit. Dangerous debris fell from the sky. The FAA smartly halted flights in the area to ensure safety, and thankfully, no one was injured. The FAA initiated an immediate investigation into SpaceX to determine what happened. The investigation presents another clear conflict of interest.

As we know, Mr. Musk doesn't think FAA safety rules should apply to him. Last September, the FAA fined Mr. Musk and SpaceX for failing to comply with specific requirements in its launch license. Afterwards, after getting fined, Mr. Musk made a spectacle, calling for the firing of the FAA Administrator.

That is right, the FAA fined him, and then he called for the FAA Administrator—oh, wait, wait 1 second, the FAA Administrator that passed this body 98-0, because everybody here thought he was going to do a great job.

But Mr. Bradbury doesn't think Elon Musk has a conflict of interest, but Elon Musk can basically say to the President of the United States, "Fire the FAA Administrator that we all said we thought would do a good job."

Now, we all know Mr. Whitaker wasn't going to stick around without being backed up for the safety work that he was doing. And now, we don't have a Senate-confirmed head of the FAA. Why? Because Mr. Whitaker didn't want to stay around if everybody was going to let Donald Trump do whatever the heck he wanted when it came to the FAA. All this because Musk got fined for violating safety rules.

So I really don't understand what Mr. Bradbury doesn't understand that he can't write down on a piece of paper where real conflict of interest exists.

We need new leadership in the Department of Transportation so that we can continue to stand up to safety issues. I do not believe Mr. Bradbury is that person.

Mr. Bradbury sees bureaucratic hurdles when other people see safety safeguards. He sees redtape where we see lifesaving protections. He sees the objective of having a light-touch FAA, and we see the objective of having safety be the primary purpose—because you can't win at aviation if you don't win at aviation safety first.

Ask the people of the Pacific Northwest. The catastrophes of the MAX crashes not only lost lives; they cost billions of dollars. So not adhering to safety is hardly a winning economic solution.

So Mr. Bradbury hasn't shown us the leadership on safety. He has not shown the fidelity of upholding the law, or even respecting Congress. He has not shown us the courage that it takes to stand up and make sure that safety is implemented. And the consequences of putting the wrong person in place are measured in human lives, not dollars—human lives.

The Boeing 737 MAX families know this—yesterday was the sixth anniversary of the Ethiopian Airlines crash that claimed 157 lives—family members like Javier de Luis and Nadia Milleron, who have now oriented their lives around making aviation safer. I so appreciate their advocacy, but the people at the FAA should be doing the same.

I urge my colleagues to vote against the nomination of Steven Bradbury.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to complete my remarks prior to the scheduled rollcall vote.

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

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, it is another week in Washington and I think maybe the 52nd day since President Trump was inaugurated, and we are seeing the compliant mainstream media continue to spread falsehoods about the work of the Department of Government Efficiency and Elon Musk.

As I have said before, the Federal Government has a spending problem, and, like with any addiction, getting

clean and solving that problem is not necessarily easy or comfortable, but it is long overdue and absolutely necessary. With the national debt at \$36.2 trillion and counting, we have to start somewhere, and little things add up. What better place to start than the waste, fraud, and abuse that DOGE is identifying?

This has long been a bipartisan issue—I can think of everything dating back to the Grace Commission, where waste, fraud, and abuse was a bipartisan target—but apparently not with President Trump in the office and not with Elon Musk in charge of the effort to identify the spending.

If you take a look at most things that the Federal Government is cutting at the recommendation of DOGE, it becomes harder and harder to become a DOGE skeptic unless you are just blind to what they are doing.

Last week, I mentioned the waste that DOGE had identified with subscriptions and software licenses. People may think, well, that is no big deal, but there is no reason taxpayers should be footing the bill for expensive subscriptions that go unused.

DOGE uncovered the potential for massive fraud with an audit they conducted of government credit cards. At the beginning of the audit, there were 4.6 million active government credit cards—4.6 million. After 2 weeks, DOGE identified nearly 150,000 credit cards that were thankfully unused or unneeded and closed both down. I am sure there is more to be done with 4.6 million active credit cards.

There is no reason for so many government employees to have direct access to spending taxpayer money at the click of a button or the swipe of a credit card. This is basic and would never happen in the private sector or in our individual lives, but in the Federal Government, before this administration and before DOGE, this was commonplace and has been overlooked for way too long.

There are some instances of fraud that we have known about for some time, but it has taken the Trump administration and DOGE to identify and fix them. For example, the Government Accountability Office submitted a report to Congress last April estimating that the Federal Government loses between \$223 billion and \$521 billion every year as a result of improper payments. The Federal Government is making improper payments and spending potentially up to half a trillion dollars. Naturally, this was an opportunity for DOGE to identify this waste of taxpayer dollars.

DOGE found payments to illegal immigrants using multiple Social Security numbers to submit Medicare claims, something for which they are not legally entitled.

They found \$57,000 in Medicare payments in 2020 for a patient who actually was recorded to have died 14 years earlier. It is amazing you can continue to charge for Medicare payments 14 years after your death.

In one particularly egregious instance, an illegal immigrant with a warrant out for her arrest was receiving more than \$100,000 in loans from the Small Business Administration, but the waste and abuse of tax dollars goes beyond mere inefficiencies.

Some of the other line items on the DOGE cutting floor are so patently absurd it would make your blood boil. For example, last week, the National Institutes of Health canceled more than a half billion dollars in grants for transgender experiments on mice. You can't make this stuff up. It is stranger than fiction.

In a similar vein, NIH also canceled millions in woke grants ranging from promoting healthy relationships among transgender youth to delivering transgender services via telehealth. I think if you ask most taxpayers how they would like their money to be spent, these programs would not make the cut, but that is not all.

NIH is also canceling research grants that were going to universities in China. They canceled a grant for \$1.7 million going to the Peking University in Beijing for the "China Health and Retirement Longitudinal Study."

Once again, I think American taxpayers would prefer to focus on the things here at home, including their own retirement savings rather than sending millions of dollars to China to study health and retirement security in a country which is our chief geopolitical rival, but that is not all.

The list goes on. A group called the Inter-American Foundation has been significantly reduced after DOGE found egregious misuse of tax dollars, including over \$900,000 going toward alpaca farming in Peru. That is on top of \$800,000 for vegetable gardens in El Salvador and more than \$700,000 to improve the marketability of mushrooms and peas in Guatemala.

I know that children frequently squirm at the dinner table when they are told they have to eat their vegetables, but I don't think this is an area where most people think our tax dollars should be spent. Unfortunately, this waste doesn't stop at the vegetable aisle.

This foundation also spent more than \$600,000 to expand the sales of fruit and jam in Honduras as well as nearly half a million dollars on improving the production of artisanal salt in Ecuador—artisanal salt in Ecuador.

Well, thank goodness the Department of Government Efficiency and Mr. Musk were key to identifying these egregious abuses of the taxpayer, but they have been going on for a long time until the Trump administration came along. So I am grateful that now some of these outrageous expenditures of tax dollars are being exposed and dealt with.

As I said earlier, Washington, DC, has a spending problem. And like any addiction, it is hard to kick the habit, especially after you become adjusted to it, but it is time for a little cold turkey

when it comes to this addiction. Many people who benefit from this gravy train don't want it to end.

So, naturally, many of our colleagues on the other side are concerned about DOGE, and they want to suggest that everything the Federal Government does is absolutely perfect. They wouldn't change a thing. But they don't really have any real substantive response to these outrageous examples that I am mentioning here. They wouldn't change a thing.

They see these stats, and they tell you don't believe your lying eyes. But those of us who have looked into it, who have taken the time to study what has been exposed, know otherwise: The government is not infallible.

We have an unsustainable level of Federal debt that threatens our economy and our national security, and the truth is, the Trump administration and Republicans are hard at work trying to address it to make the government more efficient and more affordable for American families.

So, once again, I would like to do something that you don't hear very often here in DC these days and thank Elon Musk for his service to our country in performing this essential and long overdue role.

WAIVING QUORUM CALL

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to waive the mandatory quorum call with respect to the Bradbury nomination.

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

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 26, Steven Bradbury, of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary of Transportation.

John Thune, Jim Justice, Bill Cassidy, Mike Rounds, Ted Budd, Tom Cotton, Jon Husted, Tim Sheehy, Deb Fischer, Ron Johnson, John Kennedy, Markwayne Mullin, Steve Daines, Ashley Moody, Ted Cruz, Tim Scott of South Carolina, Eric Schmitt.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Steven Bradbury, of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary of Transportation, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. JUSTICE).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Illinois (Mrs.

DUCKWORTH) and the Senator from Michigan (Ms. SLOTKIN) are necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 51, nays 46, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 112 Ex.]

YEAS—51

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

NAYS—46

Alsobrooks	Hirono	Rosen
Baldwin	Kaine	Sanders
Bennet	Kelly	Schatz
Blumenthal	Kim	Schiff
Blunt Rochester	King	Schumer
Booker	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Cantwell	Lujan	Hassan
Coons	Markey	Smith
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Van Hollen
Durbin	Murphy	Warner
Fetterman	Murray	Warnock
Gallego	Ossoff	Warren
Gillibrand	Padilla	Welch
Hassan	Paul	Whitehouse
Heinrich	Peters	Wyden
Hickenlooper	Reed	

NOT VOTING—3

Duckworth	Justice	Slotkin
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The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CURTIS). On this vote, the yeas are 51, the nays are 46.

The motion is agreed to.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:51 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mrs. BRITT).

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

VOTE ON BRADBURY NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Bradbury nomination?

Mr. TILLIS. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. JUSTICE).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) and the Senator from Michigan (Ms. SLOTKIN) are necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 51, nays 46, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 113 Ex.]

YEAS—51

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

NAYS—46

Alsobrooks	Hirono	Rosen
Baldwin	Kaine	Sanders
Bennet	Kelly	Schatz
Blumenthal	Kim	Schiff
Blunt Rochester	King	Schumer
Booker	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Cantwell	Lujan	Smith
Coons	Markey	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Warner
Durbin	Murphy	Warnock
Fetterman	Murray	Warren
Gallego	Ossoff	Welch
Gillibrand	Padilla	Whitehouse
Hassan	Paul	Wyden
Heinrich	Peters	
Hickenlooper	Reed	

NOT VOTING—3

Duckworth	Justice	Slotkin
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The nomination was confirmed.
The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BANKS). Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The Senator from Wyoming.

WAIVING QUORUM CALL

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to waive the mandatory quorum call with respect to the Slater nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The 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. 28, Abigail Slater, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Attorney General.

John Thune, Jim Justice, Bill Cassidy, Mike Rounds, Ted Budd, Tom Cotton, Jon Husted, Tim Sheehy, Deb Fischer, Ron Johnson, John Kennedy, Markwayne Mullin, Steve Daines, Ashley Moody, Ted Cruz, Tim Scott of South Carolina, Eric Schmitt.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Abigail Slater, of the District of Co-

lumbia, to be an Assistant Attorney General, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. JUSTICE).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) and the Senator from Michigan (Ms. SLOTKIN) are necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 77, nays 19, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 114 Ex.]

YEAS—77

Alsobrooks	Gallego	Murkowski
Baldwin	Graham	Padilla
Banks	Grassley	Peters
Barrasso	Hagerty	Ricketts
Bennet	Hassan	Risch
Blackburn	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Booker	Hoeven	Rounds
Boozman	Husted	Schiff
Britt	Hyde-Smith	Schmitt
Budd	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Cantwell	Kaine	Scott (SC)
Capito	Kelly	Shaheen
Cassidy	Kennedy	Sheehy
Collins	Kim	Smith
Coons	King	Sullivan
Cornyn	Klobuchar	Thune
Cortez Masto	Lankford	Tillis
Cotton	Lee	Tuberville
Cramer	Lummis	Warnock
Crapo	Marshall	Warren
Cruz	McConnell	Welch
Curtis	McCormick	Whitehouse
Daines	Moody	Wicker
Durbin	Moran	Wyden
Ernst	Moreno	Young
Fischer	Mullin	

NAYS—19

Blumenthal	Markey	Sanders
Blunt Rochester	Merkley	Schatz
Fetterman	Murphy	Schumer
Gillibrand	Murray	Van Hollen
Heinrich	Ossoff	Warner
Hirono	Paul	
Lujan	Reed	

NOT VOTING—4

Duckworth	Justice
Hawley	Slotkin

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 77, the nays are 19.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Abigail Slater, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Attorney General.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, if House Republicans don't think they need us when writing a bill, why should they expect us to support that bill, especially when it comes to taking funding away from our families who depend on it and hurting our communities and giving away Congress's power over key funding decisions?

Instead of working with Democrats to invest in working people all across our country and make sure our constituents have their voices heard in

government funding, Speaker JOHNSON abandoned talks and rolled out a bill that includes major cuts. It cuts non-defense discretionary funding by \$15 billion in total in 2025 and hands a blank check to Trump and Elon Musk to pick winners and losers and steal from our constituents.

Make no mistake, the entire bill the House is voting on today is House Republicans' own doing, and it is a dumpster fire, so I am here to sound the alarm about that fire before it spreads. But, first, I need everyone to understand: The choice is absolutely not dumpster fire or shutdown. I should know. I introduced another option yesterday. It is a short-term CR that would give us the time to finish doing our job and negotiate bipartisan, full-year bills. There is no reason we cannot do that, and there is every reason that every single one of us should prefer actual bills that we write to help people over the bill that just empowers two billionaires who are running our government into the ground and our economy into a recession.

I really want to make sure all of my colleagues understand how bad this bill is. So if anyone thinks this bill from House Republicans is going to avoid chaos or avoid pain for our country, listen up because it is only going to add to the chaos.

This is not a "clean CR," as some Republicans claim. It cuts programs our communities rely on, and that includes a major 44-percent cut to Army Corps projects that help mitigate against floods and hurricanes and much else.

It cuts medical research into diseases and conditions affecting servicemembers and their families by more than \$1 billion. That is over 40 percent.

It leaves a massive \$280 million shortfall in NIH's budget, and that is a big cut to research that saves lives.

It leaves a shortfall for housing programs. We are talking about 32,000 fewer vouchers. And that is just scratching the surface.

It also completely lacks the basic guardrails we include in all of our funding bills, on a bipartisan basis, each and every year, to make sure that our States and our communities are taken care of and not just subject to the whims of the Trump administration or any administration to pick winners and losers.

House Republicans are not trying to responsibly fund the government; they are trying to turn it into a slush fund for Trump and Musk to wield as they see fit so that they can shift their focus entirely to tax cuts for billionaires.

Right now, we—Congress—have the power of the purse. We have that power to fight for our States, to fight for our families, to bring Federal dollars back home and build bridges and feed families and care for veterans and fight fentanyl—whatever our communities tell us they need.

We should not cede that power with this bill. That is really worth sitting with for a minute.

We all chose to be here, to be here in Congress. We chose to take on this role so we can advocate for causes and communities that we care about and work in a bipartisan manner to reach compromise, to make sure that our causes and our communities get the support they need.

House Republicans' full-year CR would instead pass the buck to Elon Musk and unelected political appointees to decide who gets funded and who doesn't. Is that not why each and every one of us was actually elected, to fight for our States and to fight for our communities as the people who know them best?

I certainly know that is true for me. I have worked for years with colleagues on both sides of the aisle to make sure that people back home who trusted us when we said we would fight for them always know Congress has their back.

So really think about that before you vote to make your voice mean less for the rest of this fiscal year because it is terrifying to think of what unelected political appointees would do.

We have already gotten an alarming preview of how Trump will threaten to cut off States and cities that might disagree with him, and Elon will totally work the government to benefit his companies and hurt his competitors.

I have to say, our bipartisan appropriations process is not always easy, but it is a heck of a lot better than handing over our decision making to this or to any administration. Voting against this bill is about standing for communities and families who actually rely on the funding and for our ability—every one of us—to be a voice for our constituents in Congress because what is going to happen when, perhaps, medical research funding gets sucked away from cancer and Alzheimer's all because a scientist worked somewhere previously and said that vaccines are safe and all of a sudden the funding is gone?

What happens when you can't get a bridge replaced because the political appointees at DOT don't like the policies your mayors advocated for?

What happens when they reduce staffing at national parks in your backyard because your Governor won't deny climate change?

The bipartisan directives we provide—we, Congress, provides—each year with our funding bills help guard against that kind of thing for any administration. And all of that is missing from this disastrous slush fund CR.

Through bipartisan compromise, we make sure our communities have a voice at the table, and our taxpayer dollars have a return on their taxes. We should reject this bill. We should pass a short-term CR to avoid a shutdown, and then we should do our job and work on full-year spending bills like we were sent here to do.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I am scheduled to be part of a colloquy here in just a couple minutes, but I wanted to make a comment about what the Senator from Washington has shared.

I am going to use a term that maybe some people are not familiar with. We are in a "Morton's fork"—a Morton's fork. We have heard about a fork in the road. Some people know what a Hobson's choice is. But a Morton's fork is a choice between two equally unpleasant alternatives. And if this isn't where we are right now, ladies and gentlemen, I don't know what is.

As Senator MURRAY has outlined, a long-term CR—a long-term CR—when we have already done our appropriations work and we are not able to get to that work and instead we basically give the administration the ability to direct within the funding levels but direct as they will see fit through the end of September is something that I think many of us—certainly this appropriator—do not really feel comfortable with.

I spent a lot of time within my Appropriations subcommittee, working very hard with the Department of the Interior, to make sure that we knew, whether it was funding for wildland firefighters or what we were doing within the VA or within any of the other Agencies—that we did what people asked and expected us to do. We did those bills, and I think we did a pretty good job.

Mine moved out of full committee unanimously, and then they didn't advance. So here we are sitting at a place where we have to take either the choice of a long-term CR and basically give up the work that we have done as a Congress or we move to a government shutdown, an equally untenable and equally unpleasant alternative and one that, quite honestly, we should not be in this position. We should not be in this place where we have two bad choices for our government and for the people of this country.

We can do better. I wish—I agree, Senator MURRAY—I wish that what we were able to advance was a short-term CR that would allow us to move to finish up our appropriations bills, do our work, and then start moving on to fiscal year 2026. I don't know whether it is possible between now and the end of day on March 14, but I, for one, am at a place where I am just beside myself that we are in a place where we feel that we have no good alternatives. We are in a Morton's fork.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

UKRAINE

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I am pleased to be able to come to the floor today to support Ukraine. I am especially pleased that we have colleagues from both sides of the aisle who are here to support the Ukrainians in this unjust war against Russia.

Now, I understand and appreciate the desire for peace in Ukraine, and I understand why we should end the senseless killing of innocent people. I think if you ask Ukrainians, they want this war to end too. They are watching how this war is destroying their country, but the best way to make a deal here is to give Ukraine as much leverage as possible.

I am pleased to hear today that there is the potential for a cease-fire; that as part of that, U.S. intelligence sharing would be turned back on. I think we should also keep sanctions on Russia. I think NATO membership should be on the table for Ukraine because Vladimir Putin only understands strength.

When he invaded Crimea in 2014, a lot of people, including myself, didn't think our response was strong enough. We were concerned that Vladimir Putin couldn't be trusted to abide by negotiated agreements, and 3 years ago, of course, Putin proved us right when he directed his forces to attack Ukraine again in a full-scale invasion.

His missiles struck kindergartens and maternity wards, and they continue to strike innocent civilians. His soldiers carried out massacres in places like Bucha, where just a few weeks ago, I saw firsthand, along with Senators Bennet and Tillis, the lingering effects of trauma of what Vladimir Putin and the Russians did in Bucha.

We heard about the indiscriminate murdering of civilians, the rape and the torture of innocent bystanders. Well, Russian soldiers rushed into Ukraine from the north, from the south, and from the east. Many predicted that the country would fall within weeks, if not days. But as we stand on the floor today, Ukraine is still standing. That is thanks, in no small part, to the strong bipartisan support that Ukraine has enjoyed here in Congress.

I think that support—that strong bipartisan support—has been there because we understand that this is a fight for democracy. This is the fight to stop the overturning of the international rules-based order, to stop a dictator like Vladimir Putin from going into a country and thinking just because he wants to take it over, he can.

We know that not only are our allies watching what happens here, but so are our adversaries. North Korea is already fighting on Russia's side against the Ukrainians. Iran is providing missiles. China is providing support. They are watching what America does here.

We understand, as Republican and Democratic Senators, that to have a lasting peace in Ukraine, we need to make sure that Russia is accountable, and that we have security guarantees.

Now, there are a number of ways to do that, and they don't necessarily mean U.S. troops on the ground or even NATO troops on the ground. Europe is working through different options.

As I said, Senator TILLIS and I were recently in Ukraine, along with Senator BENNET, and we saw firsthand that

despite Russia's advantages in size and manpower, that Ukrainians are not giving up. Ukraine now has one of the most advanced militaries in the world, the most advanced in Europe.

I came away impressed by their ingenuity, their ability to innovate in the face of Russian aggression. Ukrainians are sharing those lessons from the battlefield with our U.S. military. They are helping us prepare for the wars of the future, and it is not just something that we understand in Congress is important, but my constituents in New Hampshire understand how important it is that we support the Ukrainians.

I brought with me today a poster from a community effort in New Hampshire that has raised \$4 million to support the people and children, particularly, in Ukraine. They provided 3 million-plus pounds of food, 10,000 sleeping bags, hundreds of generators, and 900 children are in trauma counseling because of their effort. They raised over \$4 million from New Hampshire to support the Ukrainians.

Americans across this country understand why this fight is important to us. It is why we are here on the floor today to reiterate that we stand with Ukraine, and I urge all of my colleagues who support Ukraine, Republicans and Democrats alike, to join us—join us in speaking up for Ukrainian sovereignty and territorial integrity; join us in pushing to strengthen Ukraine's place at the negotiating table; join us in calling on Moscow to withdraw from the Ukrainian territory that it has seized.

Thousands of Ukrainians have given their lives in this fight. They have been on the frontlines for all of us. As a group of women in the Ukrainian military said to me in the first year of the war: Give us the equipment; give us the arms so that we can fight the Russians so that you in America don't have to.

Well, they have been on the frontlines for all of us defending the international order that has served American interests since the end of World War II. I hope we will continue to support them in that effort.

Mr. President, I yield to my colleague Senator MURKOWSKI.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I am pleased to be on the floor today with the Senator from New Hampshire as well as other colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support Ukraine. We are now more than 3 years into Russia's unprovoked brutal war against Ukraine.

I think we are encouraged by the news that we are seeing advance this afternoon with the talks in Saudi Arabia between the United States and Ukrainian officials as they talk about the potential for a cease-fire and potential for the United States to restore military support and intelligence sharing. These are promising developments.

I think we all want to—we all want to—arrive at a place where we see

peace. But when we talk about how the peace is gained, I think, again, the discussions that are had on this floor—those of us who have had an opportunity to go to Ukraine and see the situation on the ground ourselves, to speak with so many engaged in this effort—the stakes are not only about Ukraine's sovereignty. The stakes also include our values, our security, and our credibility as the leader of the free world.

This is not just a regional conflict on the edge of Europe. It is a global test. It is a test of whether the international community will allow borders to be redrawn by force, a test of whether democracies will continue to stand together when authoritarian regimes literally try to rewrite the rules, and, yes, it is a test; it is a test of American leadership in the 21st century.

As was stated, the Ukrainian people are not asking us to fight their war. They are doing the fighting. It is their sons, it is their daughters that are dying. What they are asking of us as the world's leading democracy is to help us with the tools, help us with the arms, the ammunition, the logistical support; help them protect them; help them with the intelligence that can be provided through satellite imaging; help them so that they can protect themselves.

I think we should be proud. We should be proud as Americans that we have helped to make a difference. We have helped Ukraine push back the Russian advance. It has prevented Kyiv from falling to Russia. It continues to help Ukrainian defenders hold the line there.

So every weapons system, every round of ammunition and radar and drone that we have helped to provide—these aren't just supplies; these are literally lifelines to the people.

When you think about the people, I think it is important to also recognize another way that we have helped in this country. Senator SHAHEEN showed a picture of the Ukrainian families and the people in her State. In Alaska, we have welcomed, we have embraced, we have helped situate Ukrainian families who have sought refuge, who are here in a place like Alaska, in a place like New Hampshire, because where they call home is not safe to be.

So how we can support them is important because when we support Ukraine, we are not just helping a nation in need, we are protecting and we are preserving the rules-based international order that has helped keep the peace for generations.

If we falter, others are watching. Others are watching the situation in Moscow, in Beijing, in Tehran, Pyongyang. So if it is seen that we are walking away from Ukraine, if we embrace appeasement, we embolden every aggressor around the globe.

More than that, it is our allies, it is our friends, our partners—they are watching this, and they are asking the question: Is the United States a country that can be depended on? Are we

seeing this alliance that we have had, that we have worked to nurture and build for 80 years—are we seeing that fray?

I understand absolutely the cause for restraint in our support—that war costs too much, that we need to be focusing on issues here at home—but, again, the fight is bigger than that. It is significant, yes, for Ukraine, but it is about democratic values and standing up for democratic values; it is about stopping the expansionist ambitions of authoritarian regimes.

I think we have to be honest here. Look at history. Russia is not going to stop at Ukraine. In 2005, in a state of the nation address, Putin said:

The demise of the Soviet Union was the greatest geopolitical catastrophe of the century.

He has never hidden his ambitions from that statement. When Putin says that the “ongoing collapse of Western hegemony is irreversible,” he means us. He means our allies and the broader narrative about the decline of Western influence. He wants NATO to be divided, and he wants the United States isolated. This works to his advantage. He just probably didn’t expect that America was going to do it for him.

Now, as an Alaskan, I get geography. I am acutely aware of the threat a more aggressive Russia poses just across the Bering Sea. Two miles separate the United States—Alaska’s Little Diomed and Russia’s Big Diomed. We see Russia’s military buildup when we see the Russian bombers that are flying in our area, when we see the Russian and the Chinese naval forces out in our waters. But we also know and have long known that a destabilized Europe means a more dangerous world for the United States. This conflict may seem like a continent away, a long way away, but the consequences are anything but distant.

We all want this war to end, but it cannot end on Russia’s terms. If it does, we should expect nothing more than a temporary respite before the resumption of hostilities. Why are we going to start trusting and believing Putin’s word now given his track record? We have seen this before. History doesn’t lie, and the appeasement of tyrants does not bring peace.

Russia started this conflict, and it is critical for us to stand with Ukraine to end it—not just because it is right but because it is necessary.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. WELCH. Mr. President, thank you, and I thank my colleagues, Republicans and Democrats, for coming to the floor today in support of our continued support for Ukraine.

I was heartened to hear today that President Zelenskyy is on board with the U.S. ceasefire proposal. That is good news. It does highlight that President Zelenskyy has shown time and again that he is always willing to negotiate for peace. Putin has always been

the aggressor. And that is why I believe we must stand with Ukraine.

You know, the question before us today—whether we will continue to stand with Ukraine—has immense implications for the security of the United States, of our European allies, and of world peace.

These are critical questions to get right: Should the United States stand by our 80-year-old security commitments in Europe? Should the United States stand behind the rules-based order established in the aftermath of the catastrophic World War II or should we abandon those rules despite the fact that they have served our national security interests for so long? Those are the questions.

You know, in the aftermath of the horrors of World War II, in which more than 80 million people died, the United States did establish alliances and security commitments in Europe and determined that this was the way to avoid a World War III—investments in NATO, Armed Forces in Europe, and European democracy and economic prosperity. We did not want to repeat what happened after World War I, where none of this was done, and it created the conditions for a Second World War.

Perhaps most importantly, America asserted that it would defend a Europe so borders are not changed by force, where nations cannot invade weaker neighbors with impunity.

Was that effort worth it in these past 80 years? Yes. Since some are now suggesting otherwise, I would like to mention a few of the reasons why the post-World War II order in Europe, led by the United States and enacted by a treaty in this U.S. Senate, was a success in keeping the peace.

No conflict. Europe has avoided a major war for 80 years.

The end of the U.S.S.R. Europe weathered the storm of the breakup of the Soviet Union, ushering in new countries committed to democratic values of freedom and democracy.

Yugoslavia. Europe and NATO weathered the conflict and breakup of the former Yugoslavia, demonstrating unprecedented EU-NATO cooperation and commitments in the Balkans to Western democratic values.

Our European allies have always been there for us, including in the aftermath of 9/11.

Economic values. Our commitments also ushered in the fall of communism and a vibrant European Union that is peaceful and democratic—a club that the Balkans, Eastern Europe, and now Ukraine want into.

It is a testament to the success of the painstaking efforts that Republican and Democratic administrations and Republican majority and Democratic majority of the U.S. Senate adhere to.

But these commitments to European security, to NATO, and to protecting territorial integrity weren’t only good in the past. To say that these alliances and commitments are tired or worn out says that we are tired, that we are

worn out of peace and tired of maintaining peace for our citizens here in the United States. That is a fatigue we can never succumb to—ever. Those values are needed today to protect Ukraine in Europe and the United States from a rampant, unlawful, invasive Russia.

You know, since the fall of the Soviet Union, Ukraine, along with the rest of Eastern Europe and the Balkan States, has moved rapidly to reorient its politics and policies towards the European Union, toward democracy, toward freedom. It was, in fact, Ukraine’s pursuit of a closer relationship with the EU that Putin the autocrat used as an excuse to interfere in Ukraine’s internal affairs.

The invasion of Ukraine also demonstrated the resilience of America’s security relationships with Europe and NATO. Never has the European Command of the U.S. Armed Forces—designed and built to defend Western Europe against a Soviet invasion—been called upon to coordinate the actual defense of European sovereign borders from an invasion from the east. Today, that is a reality. Europe also—very much our partner—saw the threat and rose to the occasion.

In part—and I want to acknowledge President Trump’s insistence on this—European countries have begun to increase their defense spending, as they should and as they must. They have done so, and they have stepped up by providing materiel, as we have—advanced missiles, drones, and other military technology—for Ukraine. In fact, as a percentage of the gross domestic product, Europe has given more to Ukraine in support and weapons than the United States. We are doing it together.

We cannot take for granted that we have had this peace in Europe for 80 years. We cannot take for granted that we did that. It was the result of that sustained commitment of Members of this body on both sides of the aisle and of Presidents of both parties. Our duty is to keep that alliance united at this stressful time.

If Ukraine fails, we should not assume that European security and our alliances there will survive. World War II ended 80 years ago. We have to keep it 80 more.

The Senators that ratified the establishment of NATO and our American-European commitments to peace and security on the European continent—they understood that our European alliances are critical to our own security. They would be rightly proud of their success story—of 80 years of peace, of democracy, of freedom in Europe—but they would be horrified at the threat that Putin now poses to Europe, threatening everything that we and those who came before us have worked for.

Ukraine's integration with the rest of Europe, their own right to self-determination, Ukraine's battlefield courage, and Ukraine's political commitment to democracy and freedom validate the 80 years of America's commitment to creating structures that can enforce and protect peace. Turning away from Ukraine now when it needs us most could mean the end of that 80-year success story.

We must stand by Ukraine and against that unlawful invasion by Mr. Putin. We must stand by our European allies. And we must reaffirm our continued dedication to the work of those who served here before us to build the alliances and to sustain the alliances that have preserved the peace in Europe. Their future and ours depend on it.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, before I begin my formal remarks, let me thank my neighbor from New Hampshire for organizing this bipartisan display of support for Ukraine.

On February 24, 2022, without justification, without provocation, Russia launched a full-scale, brutal invasion of its democratic neighbor Ukraine with missiles, air assaults, and army divisions.

As John Adams said, "Facts are stubborn things," and the facts of what happened on that terrible day are undeniable. It was Russia that started the war.

Many thought that Ukraine had no chance against the perceived might of the Russian armed forces. However, the Ukrainians fought so bravely against that initial onslaught and, since then, the West has come together with speed and clarity of purpose to support Ukraine.

Senator MCCONNELL stated it best last week by saying:

Russia's horrible invasion of Ukraine has had a unifying effect on the world's democracies.

As a result of the invasion, two nations, Sweden and Finland, joined NATO; Eastern Europe is completing a pivot away from Russia's energy sources; and NATO allies are surging to the 2 percent GDP goal for defense spending.

As for the brave Ukrainians, they pushed back the initial Russian invaders and are now doing their best to hold the line in eastern Ukraine, despite Russian soldiers, ammunition, and UAVs far outnumbering their Ukrainian counterparts. Ukraine decimated the Russian Black Sea Fleet and has forced Russia to augment its forces with North Korean soldiers and Iranian weapon systems.

But despite the successes in the past 3 years, the war drags on with devastating consequences: 390,000 Ukrainians have been wounded, with more than 46,000 deaths so far. Hundreds of thousands of Ukrainian families have been displaced, and estimates are that

approximately 29,000 civilian Ukrainians have lost their lives. In many cases, they were targeted by the Russians.

It is not American troops who are dying on the Ukrainian frontlines. It is the Ukrainians who are courageously defending their country, their democracy, their way of life. And their defenses directly connect to our efforts in NATO and the defense of Eastern Europe.

If Vladimir Putin is allowed to succeed in Ukraine, as several of my colleagues have pointed out, he will not stop there. He will continue to pursue his dream, his goal, of recreating the former Soviet Union. He has made that crystal clear. In my judgment, he would most likely seize Moldova next; again, invade Georgia, as he did in 2008; threaten the Baltic States; and menace Poland and Finland.

The best way to ensure that the United States is not drawn into a larger regional war in Europe, which would directly threaten American troops, is by helping Ukraine defend itself against this unprovoked invasion.

The national security supplemental appropriations package that was signed into law last year included \$15.4 billion to help Ukraine purchase American-made weapons. It is strengthening our military readiness, rebuilding our industrial base, and assisting our partners and allies at a volatile and dangerous time in world history.

For the past 3 years, we have heard repeatedly the myth that somehow the European countries were not doing their part in helping to equip Ukraine, but let's take a look at the facts. As a percentage of GDP, the United States ranks 17th—17th—in support for Ukraine. The top three countries include Denmark, Estonia, and Latvia. These NATO nations are all in on supporting Ukraine's defenses because they understand that the stakes are so high. Furthermore, NATO allies have committed \$185 billion to buy weapons and defense systems produced right here in the United States, which helps us sustain good jobs and strengthens the industrial base.

Both the Biden administration's slow-walking of the delivery of weapons to Ukraine and the Trump administration's pausing military aid and intelligence sharing sent the wrong signal to an aggressive Russia. The decision this afternoon to restart U.S. military aid and intelligence sharing are welcome steps to strengthening Ukraine's position in negotiations. With the tentative cease-fire signed by Ukraine and now up for Russia's concurrence, resumed aid and intelligence sharing with our ally Ukraine allows that country to be in a much stronger position moving forward.

History is filled with examples of well-intentioned leaders who sought to avoid war but who actually made war more likely by refusing to recognize the evil with which they were confronted. Neville Chamberlain declared

"peace in our time," trying to appease Germany before World War II. We should not make the same mistake today by appeasing Russia.

We cannot avert our eyes. We cannot leave an ally to fend for itself, and we must show resolve to deter possible future aggression by China, Iran, and North Korea.

Our adversaries are watching closely our response in Ukraine.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, Putin will only stop when we stop him. That piece of wisdom was shared with me on a trip to Europe by a former colleague, Senator McCain, and it seems to me to predict what has now unfolded over the last 3 years.

Three years ago, I was in Europe with colleagues, visiting American troops training with NATO allies and partners in Poland and Lithuania, on the day that the Russians began their illegal, unjustified, full-spectrum invasion of Ukraine. As more than 100,000 combat troops poured over the border, missiles flew in the air, and jets bombed, the world recoiled in horror and watched, expecting that the Ukrainians would be overrun in just 3 days.

Instead, President Zelenskyy, the elected President of a democracy, stood firm and stayed fast and defended his country. When offered a last-minute evacuation by America, he said: I don't need a ride. I need ammunition.

And I am thrilled to be on the floor today with a bipartisan group of my colleagues. Thank you to my colleague from New Hampshire for organizing this, and to my colleague from Maine for her words, which I will agree with from beginning to end. We must deter Russia's aggression in Ukraine.

If you look at who has joined the fight alongside Russia—Iran, North Korea—this is not a team America should be on. And if we look at who has come to the defense and aid of Ukraine, it is democracies from throughout Europe and the world—more than 50 countries—that, in combination, have done more than we have, significantly, to welcome Ukrainian refugees; to support the recovery of their economy; and to arm them in this ongoing, desperate, and critical fight for freedom in Ukraine.

Who is Vladimir Putin? He is a brutal and aggressive dictator. He is a war criminal. He is someone who has used every ounce of power and resource at his grasp to shatter the peace of Europe that has lasted decades since the Second World War and to attempt to drive a wedge between the United States and our European partners and allies.

The bravery, the determination, the skill, and the capacity of the Ukrainian people to stand and fight is breathtaking. And all of us who have had the honor of visiting Kyiv, of visiting Ukraine, of spending time with those who, behind the frontline, support

their troops and those who have served and sacrificed have been forever changed.

I had the opportunity, with our former colleague and friend Senator Portman, to go to Kyiv and to present the Liberty Medal from our National Constitution Center to President Zelenskyy. And to travel through a city shattered by war and to visit with people determined to continue their fight was as inspiring to me as I know it has been to many of my colleagues who have made that same trip.

We are here today to ask: Who are we and what will we do?

We are Americans. We have stood alongside and fought alongside those who have pursued democracy, those who have stood up for liberty, for decades, around the world, and we should not shrink from this fight. We can and should insist on a just and lasting peace.

We would all like to see this brutal war come to an end. We would all like to see the suffering stop. But to force on Ukraine a cease-fire that is really a surrender masked as a cease-fire would be to betray the sacrifice and service of so many. Asking Ukraine to willingly give up conquered territory and recognize Russian sovereignty, asking Ukraine to give up its desire for security and for integration into the West, to ask Ukraine to agree to limits on its military and its capacity to be prepared for what is a likely renewed Russian assault in the future—all of these would lead to not a neutral Ukraine but a neutered Ukraine.

We know what happens next. What happens next is that the world will look at whatever peace we can secure for Ukraine and ask: Are we reliable? Is the United States a reliable ally and partner?

Putin has already suffered a strategic defeat. NATO has already been expanded. The border between NATO and Russia has doubled. Our partners throughout the world have come to this fight, and they are committing even more, in recent weeks, as Europe has stepped up to pledge hundreds of billions of dollars more.

If we are to restore deterrence, if we are to sustain the peace, if we are to be the indispensable Nation that we have worked and fought so long to be, we must finish the job. We must deter Putin from future aggression by demanding that Ukraine be secured by a just and lasting peace.

The news today that intelligence and security cooperation has restarted is encouraging, but we have a resolution cosponsored by all the Members on the floor today that makes clear where we stand: We stand with Ukraine. We stand with democracy. We insist on a just and lasting peace in this instance, and we stand for Ukraine. "Slava Ukraini."

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, my views on America's interest in Ukraine

are well known. I spent the better part of the last 3 years, here on this floor, pointing out the glaring connections between European security and the security of America's interest all across the globe—core national security interests that determine our prosperity.

Ukraine's victory and stability in Europe is squarely in the interest of the United States—our interests. Europe is our largest trading partner. Russia is a thuggish autocracy with an economy smaller than Italy's. The Russian economy is smaller than Italy's. There is simply no equivalence. There is no grand realignment opportunity that has gone unnoticed.

So let me start with this. The most harmful possible outcome of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, for U.S. interests, would be this headline: Russia wins; America loses.

Russia wins; America loses.

We can't let that be how this ends, but look at where we are right now:

On one side, fellow members of the most successful military alliance in world history, with a combined GDP of more than \$17 trillion, are openly—openly—planning for a world in which America does not call the shots and where our word no longer carries any weight. These are the closest allies and partners who have worked hand in glove with America, bought American equipment, and taken America's lead. But, if America turns its back on them, they will look elsewhere for guidance, for coordination, for weapons, and even for trade.

On the other side is Putin's Russia and its \$2 trillion GDP, where Kremlin officials now say that America's current "foreign policy configurations" now "largely align with our vision" and that hiccups in the U.S.-Ukraine relations are "useful" because they drive a wedge between America and our European allies. That is how the Russians look at this.

Well, it is not hard to imagine why they look at it that way. Freezing lethal assistance and intelligence support to Ukraine made Russia's job a lot easier. It was easier to hit Ukraine's defenders along with its schools, hospitals, and nurseries; and after 3 years of immense progress toward a stronger and more capable Transatlantic Alliance, with greater commitments to burden-sharing and European leadership, the West that had resolved to check Putin's neo-Soviet ambitions is now in danger of being consumed by internal recrimination.

What welcome news for an autocrat whose grip on power depends on the endurance of a wartime economy.

The will to force Putin to make serious concessions in the interests of lasting peace is fragmented, and too many on this side of the Atlantic seem to believe, foolishly, that his appetite will be satisfied in eastern Ukraine. His appetite will be satisfied in eastern Ukraine. This is the same mistake made by the architects of the Minsk I and Minsk II agreements. The cir-

cumstances are not crying out for a Minsk III.

Somehow, this doesn't sound like the makings of a successful deal for America. Somehow, these don't seem like the conditions for advancing America's interests in European peace and security, let alone pretending to mediate a dispute between equals.

Russia wins; America loses. It is not too late to avoid that outcome, but it will require that America and our allies operate from the same set of facts. So let's talk about actual facts.

First, the dollars and cents: America's total Ukraine-related spending comes in at \$175 billion—not \$350 billion but half that much. As a share of GDP, 11 European countries have allocated more Ukraine-related spending than the United States. In real terms, total European aid is twice—twice—U.S. spending, with more military aid than America, more budgetary assistance than America—period. Those are the actual facts.

Our allies' increasing investments have been good news for American security and the strength of our alliance. They have meant expanding arsenals and industrial capacity along with bigger defense budgets for buying American for now.

But what if—what if—even in having established the correct math, you think it is still too much to spend on helping to degrade a major American adversary without putting a single American servicemember in harm's way—not a single American servicemember in harm's way? What if you still think, somehow, we are getting a raw deal?

Consider where most of the Ukraine-related spending—\$120 billion—has actually gone: to investing in U.S. capabilities and expanding our own defense industrial capacity. We are already \$120 billion closer to restoring the sort of forces and capacity we will need to deter conflict in the Indo-Pacific than we were 3 years ago; or consider—consider—the value of the operational and tactical lessons the U.S. and our allies are drawing from Ukraine's battlefield experience. The conflict in Ukraine is a battle lab—a glimpse at the future of warfare—and our Ukrainian partners are innovating faster than American industry is often able to. Concerned about the next major conflict? We are learning how to prepare better for it. U.S.-made systems are literally feeding performance data back to us.

The American people are not getting fleeced. I am going to say it again. The American people are not getting fleeced—far from it—but if we mistake surrender for peace, we will be risking far worse.

China is watching what we do. So are America's allies and partners in Asia. To believe that we can torch our credibility in one region and not tarnish it in another is foolish. When we treat withholding assistance from Ukraine like a cudgel and insist that the victim of aggression is the side that has to

make concessions, what should we expect other partners to conclude?

Now, I have heard that Ukraine needs to be prepared to “do difficult things.” I am curious which difficult thing our frontline partners haven’t been doing for the past 3 years, like defending besieged towns and cities, like burying their sons and daughters. Will Russia be expected to do difficult things as well, like ending its onslaught? By what means are we prepared to compel them? War is hell, and the worst consequences are always borne by innocent civilians in flight and by brave soldiers holding the line.

Ending the war in Ukraine is a noble aim—preventing war, even more so. But peace is different than surrender, and being honest about who is to blame doesn’t hinder lasting peace; it enables it. Why should we be less willing to call Russia out for its brutal aggression than we are to call Hamas or Hezbollah out for theirs? Would we be afraid to call Iran out if it had nuclear weapons? Is that the lesson we want the world to draw from this conflict?

Ronald Reagan epitomized peace through strength, not by just saying the words but by action. He called the Soviet Union an Evil Empire at the same time as he dealt productively with Gorbachev.

In July of 1983, he spoke to the people of the captive nations of the Soviet Union and communist regimes.

He said:

[T]o every person trapped in tyranny, whether in the Ukraine, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Cuba, or Vietnam, we send our love and support and tell them they are not alone. Our message must be: Your struggle is our struggle, your dream is our dream, and someday, you, too, will be free.

In the fall of the Soviet Union, Ukraine got its chance at freedom. Putin intends to extinguish it. Ukraine is serious about a just and stable peace. How do we know? We know because the Ukrainians preferred it overwhelmingly until their neighbor chose war instead again and again.

I will reserve my skepticism, my disdain, and my condescension of the authoritarian thug who treats the slaughter of innocent children like a sport, and anyone who cares about not getting played for a sucker should do the same. In the face of our hesitation, Putin has escalated. He has insulted the sincere pursuit of peace. It is a crystal-clear reminder that what he is after isn’t an end to the bloodshed. America cannot afford to get played. So let’s not.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CURTIS). The Senator from Colorado.

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be permitted to speak for up to 6 minutes, Senator TILLIS for up to 10 minutes, and Senator SANDERS for up to 20 minutes prior to the scheduled rollcall vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I would like to thank Senator MCCONNELL for his constancy over the last 3 years. We have been out on the floor together many times to speak about the need to support Ukraine.

I also want to thank my colleague Senator SHAHEEN from New Hampshire, the ranking member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, for organizing this bipartisan gathering.

Senator TILLIS from North Carolina is here as well. It is nice to be here in a bipartisan way with people from both sides of the aisle to work on something of this critical importance to my State of Colorado, to the country, and to the world.

Senator MCCONNELL, not surprisingly today, talked about that very, very famous lesson that Ronald Reagan taught all of us, and that was his pursuit of peace through strength. I was on the floor talking about that last week. Today we have a corollary to Ronald Reagan’s rule of peace through strength from Senator MCCONNELL, which is, don’t mistake surrender for peace. Don’t mistake surrender for peace.

The lesson Ronald Reagan was teaching when he said “peace through strength” was a lesson that history had taught him and history had taught the free world.

Dust off your reliable 10th-grade Western civics textbook and look up President Woodrow Wilson’s attempts to achieve “peace without victory” for either side—that is how he described it—as an example of the failure that weakness invites, the kind of weakness that Leader MCCONNELL was talking about.

Before the United States even had entered World War I, President Wilson tried to force both sides to accept a peace deal they didn’t want by depriving them of weapons and depriving them of funds.

In 1916—again, before the United States was directly aiding the allies—financiers from the United States were financing the UK, which was at war, and also funding their allies in mainland Europe. So Wilson’s government cautioned U.S. investors against issuing short-term bonds to the UK and to France.

This Presidential expression of disapproval had the effect of cutting off U.S. private assistance to Europe altogether, and the record is painfully clear. President Wilson’s decision created a financial crisis in the United Kingdom, but it did nothing to end the war. Instead, Germany, in 1917, only escalated their attacks on civilian shipping from the United States, prompting Congress finally to declare war and approve a \$3 billion loan to France and to England.

By the way, just to amplify what the leader has already said this morning, that \$3 billion loan was about \$81 billion in today’s dollars, when you think about the roughly \$120 billion that we have invested in Ukraine.

In 1938, British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain even more famously than Wilson tried to appease Hitler with the infamous Munich Agreement, through which the UK, France, and Italy allowed Nazi Germany to annex part of peaceful Czechoslovakia. As our history textbooks show, Hitler never stopped in Czechoslovakia but continued his war throughout Europe.

Just as Wilson and Chamberlain failed, friends of freedom in Ukraine and around the world should not pressure Ukraine into accepting an unjust peace that will never, ever last. Only with security guarantees from Europe and the United States can we have some assurance that Putin will not invade Ukraine again at a moment when he thinks the world is not watching. That is a guarantee. That is a guarantee.

I visited Ukraine last month with my friends Senator SHAHEEN and Senator TILLIS, who are both here today. We saw the courage of the Ukrainian people up close. We saw the courage they have forged to save their country and the suffering they have endured—43,000 deaths and another almost 400,000 casualties—not just on behalf of Ukraine but on behalf of Europe, the West, democracy, freedom, our national security.

In cemeteries all across Ukraine, fresh graves are piled high with dirt and flowers, testifying to the Ukrainian people’s sacrifice. To put it in American terms, Coloradoan terms, there is not a county in the entire country where somebody hasn’t lost somebody to this war.

But the Ukrainian people have not had to fight this fight alone. The American people have steadfastly and generously backed this fight to the tune of, as I mentioned, \$125 billion.

I won’t go through all the reasons why that has been good for the United States, as Senator MCCONNELL said—and that is a lot of money, but it is just about 0.53 percent of our GDP. That is about \$365 an American.

Our European allies and far-flung ones, like Australia and Japan, have stepped up as well because they know that supporting Ukraine means standing with people willing to do anything to fight for their country. They know that with American weapons and those of our allies, the American people have literally kept Putin’s army at the gates of Europe while forcing him to squander more than \$200 billion and staggering casualties of 700,000 people.

We learned while we were in Ukraine that the Ukrainians are killing more Russians today than they were 6 months ago.

We all want this war to end, which is why I was glad to see the United States commit today to resuming intelligence sharing and security assistance to Ukraine as part of the potential U.S.-brokered, 30-day cease-fire with Russia. But for the sake of Ukraine and the rest of the free world, we must not pressure Ukraine to silence their guns

unless Russia commits to doing the same. We cannot force Ukraine to accept an end to this war that is anything other than a just and enduring peace.

This requires that the United States, our allies, and Ukraine continue working together to establish terms of the peace and negotiate with Putin while the Ukrainians continue their brave fight. They are not asking to be relieved of this terrible burden.

I couldn't even imagine the other day when we were in Kyiv how cold it must have felt to people who were on the frontlines of that war. It was cold enough just in the streets of Kyiv. It was cold enough just getting on the train from Poland to go to Kyiv. But they are embracing their responsibility because they know that any cease-fire without credible security guarantees will allow Putin to rebuild his army and attack again, and they know that how this war ends will determine whether Putin sets his sites on our NATO allies like Poland and the Baltics.

To conclude that any other result is possible is to completely ignore history, is to completely ignore what Putin has said and whether dictators like China's Xi Jinping test our resolve by invading Taiwan, whether the post-World War II international order the United States and our allies created persists, and whether the United States continues to provide the leadership our parents and grandparents supplied since the end of that war. That is what Senator MCCONNELL calls on us to remember.

Throughout history, it has been too easy for some to ignore the moral responsibility we have to people who are sacrificing their lives a continent away on behalf of our shared values and interests. It is harder in these moments but important and, I would say, necessary for the living to stand for freedom and democracy and those willing to give their last breaths to make those values eternal.

We in this Chamber have to demand moral and strategic clarity by continuing to support Ukraine's fight to secure a truly just peace through strength because, as the Ukrainian-born author Vasily Grossman wrote nearly 70 years ago, "In the cruel and terrible time in which our generation has been condemned to live on this earth, we must never make peace with evil. We must never become indifferent to others or undemanding of ourselves."

With that, I thank my bipartisan colleagues again. I look forward to the day when we are out here not with 8 Senators but 80 Senators in support of freedom and in support of the fight Ukraine is leading.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Carolina.

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, last night, I had someone reach out to me and say they heard I was going to

speak again on Ukraine on the floor, and they asked me what I was going to talk about. I said to reinforce that Ukraine needs our help, that Europe needs to step up, and that Vladimir Putin is the personification of evil. I am going to try to accomplish all of that in less than 10 minutes so we can get on with the vote.

Everybody needs to remember how this war started. Just to show you—you can believe me when I tell you that you know when Putin is lying: when his lips are moving.

Let's go back to October, before the invasion in February. He said he was just putting troops together on a training mission—thousands of troops just coincidentally near the Ukrainian border but a training mission. Then it became a military exercise. Now it has become an illegal invasion of a sovereign, democratic nation that has experienced 80,000 dead servicemembers, more than 13,000 dead civilians, 400,000 wounded servicemembers, and 30,000 injured civilians.

Let me tell you a little bit about those civilians. They are 16-year-olds who had their legs blown off because Vladimir Putin ordered the launching of dumb bombs into residential areas. He allowed drones to hit children's hospitals that we visited.

This is the carnage that the Ukrainian people are experiencing every single day—24/7, 365—since the invasion 3 years ago.

Vladimir Putin is a murderer. He has not only allowed his servicemembers—some estimated 800,000—lose their lives on the battlefield, but he has gone so far as to engage mercenaries—the Wagner Group that he had down in Africa—in Ukraine, murdering indiscriminately anybody who moves.

If you want to see the best example of that, you need to go to Bucha and hear the story we heard when we were there. Bucha is a community of a couple of hundred thousand people just outside of Kyiv. Shortly after they invaded and it was clear they weren't to achieve their objectives, they decided that they were going to invoke terror in the minds of those who were fighting and the civilians in Ukraine, so they decided to go into a community that would be similar to going to Northern Virginia. So imagine Kyiv is Washington, DC, and they go out in Northern Virginia, and they just indiscriminately start murdering people. They killed over 500 people in 33 days, all of them civilians. This isn't like urban legend; this was caught on video—people riding a bicycle, walking a dog, being murdered. Vladimir Putin ordered that. Vladimir Putin allowed that.

Ladies and gentlemen, the surprise to Vladimir Putin was that he had no earthly idea of the strength democracy and freedom have in the hearts and minds of human beings. The Ukraine people, in spite of overwhelming odds—numbers and weapons—they defended it. They have been defending it for 3 years. So we have to help them.

There is good and evil here. There is no kind of "Putin is just misunderstood." This man is a murderer. This man is a rapist. He is a rapist by virtue of allowing systematic rapes to happen in places that he invades. That is how he operates. He is evil.

Ukraine needs help. Before I talk more about that help, I want to talk about Europe having to step up.

I really appreciated what Senator COLLINS put together in terms of the contribution to the Ukraine effort. I know, Senator SHAHEEN and I—and I thank Senator SHAHEEN for having this colloquy today—spend a lot of time tracking NATO countries. Let's make sure that, on one hand, we thank Europe for stepping up and doing its part in supporting this effort, but let's not forget that our NATO partners have come up short in satisfying their obligation in NATO to the tune of over \$2 trillion over the last 20 years.

The mind races. What would have happened if all that money had been spent and that our NATO alliance was even stronger if everybody had just met the bare minimum for NATO support? Two more trillion dollars would have been spent over the last 20 years.

Would that have been enough to possibly dissuade Putin from invading Ukraine? We will never know. But what I do know is that I want Europe to not just get credit for supporting Ukraine, but Europe also has to shoulder some responsibility for NATO being more vulnerable by not living up to their commitment over the last 20 years.

Let's just get that right, folks, so that we don't have the distraction and the American people get confused between NATO members not stepping up and doing their fair share.

So why are you asking for more money for Ukraine?

The reason we are asking for more money for Ukraine is because Vladimir Putin has a plan, and we could play right into it. People need to understand: Ukraine is a doormat to Europe. It is how he gets from Russia into countries that are trying to democratize and come closer to the West. If he succeeds in Ukraine, he will move into Moldova. He is already actively causing problems in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

As a matter of fact, Senator SHAHEEN, I don't know if you are aware, but tomorrow the Republika Srpska legislature is going to consider a resolution to separate from BiH. That is Bosnia and Herzegovina. That has got Vladimir Putin all over it. He is already getting his chess pieces around the board. If he feels like he can get some level of success in Ukraine, he is going to march right through there, folks. It is going to happen.

And then, finally, I had somebody ask me: Why are you so animated over Ukraine? Why are you so concerned with Russia?

I give them a one-word answer: China. China is supporting Putin, at

least economically. There is even an argument that ammunitions and other things are going their way.

Does anybody really believe that North Korea would send people to the battlefield—they have lost a few thousand since they have been there—unless China was OK with it?

And then we have Iran. Iran is sending drones to Russia to kill innocent civilians and military personnel in Ukraine.

They are the “axis of evil,” and now they have regenerated themselves. We can’t let Putin have a win in Ukraine, ladies and gentlemen. We have to step up and make sure that the American people know that it is in our national interest to support Ukraine.

And we also have to let Vladimir Putin know that we do owe him thanks in one way: Thanks for waking up Europe in understanding the grave, existential threat that he represents. Thanks for actually getting Finland and Sweden into NATO and adding 800 miles of border on the Russian border. Thank you for that.

And now I want to thank him for receding back into the cave that he should live the rest of his life in and let democratic nations be free—and free from his threats. And until we are sure of that, we should not relent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 939

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, my office and I suspect all Senate offices are getting a whole lot of calls from senior citizens who are experiencing a great deal of fear and anxiety with all of the confusion and chaos that is currently going on here in Washington.

When we have the President and my Republican colleagues talking about cutting Medicaid by some \$880 billion—let us be clear—they are not just talking about throwing millions of children and others off of the health insurance they have; they are also talking about cuts to community health centers, which receive about 43 percent of their funding from Medicaid and where millions of seniors go to get their primary care. So cutting Medicaid impacts primary care.

At a time when we have a major crisis in nursing home availability—I know that is true in Vermont; I expect it is true in almost every State in the country—let us understand that Medicaid provides approximately two out of three seniors with the funding they need to live in nursing homes. Make drastic cuts in Medicaid, and it is going to be harder for your mom, your dad to get into a nursing home or to stay in a nursing home. Cuts in Medicaid would be a disaster for seniors in nursing homes.

But it is not just Medicaid cuts that worry seniors. At a time when the Social Security Administration is already understaffed—and again, for years, I have been hearing in my office—I expect other Senators have been hearing in their offices—from seniors who tell

us they are calling up Social Security, they have got a problem, and they are not getting a response. And the result of that is that some 30,000 people a year die—die—waiting for their Social Security disability benefits.

And in the midst of all of that, in the midst of a crisis where Social Security is understaffed, when our response should be to significantly increase staffing so that Social Security can better respond to the needs of our constituents, we have Elon Musk and his minions at DOGE cutting some 2,500 of Social Security staff. And, incredibly, they are now threatening to cut up to half of Social Security Administration staffing.

And then, on top of all that, you have Mr. Musk claiming that Social Security, which has paid out every benefit owed to every eligible American for over 80 years, claiming that it is a Ponzi scheme. Social Security is not a Ponzi scheme. It has paid out every benefit owed to every eligible American for over 80 years.

And then you have the President of the United States—State of the Union—lying about millions of people: Oh, millions of people, 200 years of age, 300 years of age, imagine that, getting Social Security benefits.

Seniors understand what all of that is about. They know that Musk and Trump want us to lose faith in Social Security and that, over a period of time, they want to give that indispensable program over to Wall Street.

So let us be clear: In America today, 22 percent of Americans living who are 65 years of age are trying to survive on an income of less than \$15,000 a year. Think about that: 22 percent of seniors in America trying to survive on \$15,000 a year or less. Half of seniors are trying to get by on \$30,000 a year or less. Frankly, I don’t know how any senior living on \$15,000, \$20,000 survives. I don’t know. The high cost of prescription drugs, food, housing, keeping warm in the winter, I don’t know how they can do that.

According to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, we now have the dubious distinction of having one of the highest rates of senior poverty compared to other wealthy nations. In America today, according to the latest OECD estimates, 23 percent of seniors are living in poverty compared to just 4 percent in Norway, 6 percent in France, and 11.5 percent in Canada.

Yes, we have more nuclear weapons than any other country; we have more billionaires than any other country, but we also have one of the highest rates of senior poverty of any country on Earth. We might want to get our priorities right.

Now, while my Republican colleagues would like to make massive cuts to Medicaid in order to provide more tax breaks to billionaires, some of us have a better idea. We think that it makes more sense to substantially improve the lives of our Nation’s seniors by ex-

panding Medicare to cover dental, vision, and hearing benefits.

In 1965, President Lyndon Johnson signed Medicare, one of the most popular and successful government programs in our Nation’s history, into law. Before the enactment—this is really quite interesting. Before the enactment of Medicare, about half of our seniors were uninsured. Today, everyone in America age 65 or older is guaranteed healthcare benefits through Medicare regardless of their income or medical condition. That is the good news.

The bad news is that, since its inception 60 years ago, Medicare has failed to cover such basic healthcare needs as hearing, dental care, and vision. The result: Millions of senior citizens have teeth that are rotting in their mouths. They are unable to hear what their children say or they are unable to read a newspaper because of failing eyesight.

This is the United States of America. We are the wealthiest country in the history of the world. Senior citizens should not be walking around with no teeth in their mouth. They should not be unable to hear conversations. They should not be unable to afford glasses so that they can read a newspaper.

The need to expand Medicare to cover dental, hearing, and eyeglasses is absolutely critical. Nobody—nobody—denies that oral health, hearing, and vision are essential parts of healthcare. We cannot continue to deny seniors these basic healthcare benefits. We can no longer tolerate the fact that 26 million seniors and people with disabilities in America have no dental insurance and no idea how they will be able to pay for the very expensive dental procedures that they need.

The results have been tragic. Nearly one out of five seniors in America have lost all of their natural teeth. Twenty percent of seniors in America have no natural teeth in their mouths. Disgracefully, 60 percent of our Nation’s seniors have untreated gum disease, which can increase the risk of cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and rheumatoid arthritis.

Further, it is not acceptable that while nearly two-thirds of seniors over the age of 70 experience hearing loss, less than 30 percent of seniors above this age have ever used a hearing aid, primarily because hearing aids are too expensive. In my view, no senior in America should face isolation from their families and friends simply because they cannot afford the extremely high price of a hearing aid.

In addition, we cannot continue to allow seniors with poor vision to go without routine eye exams or properly prescribed glasses. Poor vision can lead to injury, cognitive impairment, and depression.

Adding dental, vision, and hearing benefits to Medicare is not just good public policy; it will not only ease human suffering and improve the health of our Nation’s seniors; it is precisely what the overwhelming majority

of the American people want. Poll after poll tells us exactly that.

According to a poll conducted by Data for Progress last year, it found that 92 percent of the American people support expanding Medicare to provide dental, vision, and hearing benefits, and that is why I have introduced legislation today with Senators WARREN, BOOKER, WELCH, MARKEY, DUCKWORTH, MERKLEY, and BLUMENTHAL to do just that. Congressman LLOYD DOGGETT, in the House, has introduced similar legislation, which has more than 110 cosponsors.

Now, I am sure that some of my Republican colleagues may say: Well, you know, it is an interesting idea. It is a good idea, but how are you going to pay for it?

So let me tell you how we are going to pay for it. We are going to pay for it by requiring Medicare to pay no more for prescription drugs than the VA. Right now, we pay the highest prices in the world for prescription drugs, and that means significantly increased expenses for Medicare. By making sure that Medicare pays no more than the VA, which has for years—for decades—negotiated prices with the pharmaceutical industry, we could not only cut the price of prescription drugs for our seniors in half, we will save over \$800 billion over the next decade, which would more—more—than pay for this legislation. Lower the costs of prescription drugs, and get the revenue we need to cover dental, vision, and hearing for seniors.

Now, some of my Republican friends may also argue that this bill is not needed. Some Medicare Advantage plans already offer dental, vision, and hearing benefits, yes, but what my Republican friends may not tell you is, one, seniors still pay thousands of dollars out of pocket because these private Medicare Advantage benefits are totally inadequate. Further, the non-partisan Medicare Payment Advisory Commission has estimated that Medicare Advantage plans overcharge the Federal Government by \$83 billion a year.

In other words, if we are serious about waste, fraud, and abuse—hear a lot about that—we may want to take a look at the massive waste and fraud that is taking place with private Medicare Advantage plans. Those savings would also more than fully pay for this legislation.

Therefore, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 939, which was introduced earlier today, that the bill be considered read three times and passed, and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, I share my colleague's frustration with the Medicare system that far too often fails our seniors. Medicare's coverage and reim-

bursement paradigms routinely prioritize treating the symptoms instead of the underlying causes of chronic stress and disease. Research shows that patients with diminished vision, hearing, or oral health are more likely to suffer chronic conditions like kidney, Alzheimer's, and heart disease.

We should modernize Medicare to focus on prevention and maintenance interventions. Patients should have access to a full spectrum of specialized providers working together as a team, from nutritionists, to dentists, to psychologists and surgeons. However, we must tackle these reforms without increasing the costs for patients or taxpayers. My colleague's proposal would increase the deficit by tens of billions of dollars and risk spiking seniors' premiums.

After years of record inflation, we cannot rush to enact a policy that has not been carefully considered and appropriately integrated into Medicare. This bill was just introduced today. It hasn't even been looked at by the Finance Committee. No hearing has been held, and no evaluation of how to effectively integrate these types of policies has been made.

I welcome the opportunity to work with my colleague to enact meaningful improvements to Medicare that deliver better outcomes for Americans. However, simply introducing a bill and then moving to have it passed on the floor of the Senate before there has been any consideration is not the way to proceed. We must proceed within the committee and floor process, within the regular order that this Senate requires.

Therefore, for these reasons, Mr. President, I object to the request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. SANDERS. I ask my colleague, my friend, the chairman of the Finance Committee a question. I hear what you are saying. Do I hear you correctly that you are prepared to discuss this legislation in committee?

Mr. CRAPO. I am prepared to discuss the issue. I am not telling you that I will limit the discussion to this piece of legislation. But, yes, we are prepared to discuss significant approaches to how we improve and expand proper healthcare treatment in America.

Mr. SANDERS. Look, I understand that this bill would bring forth serious debate and discussion, but I would appreciate if we could have a starting point. This bill is pretty simple. It says—and I hear you saying that you need—am I hearing you correctly to say that the idea of covering dental, vision, and hearing is something that you entertain, you think is a good idea, or am I not hearing that?

Mr. CRAPO. I do think that idea—that outcome is a good outcome to seek to achieve. I can't say that I want to have your legislation or even my legislation—

Mr. SANDERS. Right. OK. Fair enough. That is fair enough. But what

I would like to do—and I appreciate—you know, I think you and I can agree that we don't use the committee structure here in the Senate as effectively as we might. That is the place to have serious debate and discussion, correct?

Mr. CRAPO. Correct.

Mr. SANDERS. OK. I would hope in one way or another—I would appreciate if we could start off with my bill. You could come in and tell me what you don't like about it, and we can go from there. But this is a crisis situation—I think you and I agree—that too many of our seniors are suffering because of lack of dental, hearing, and vision. I look forward to hearing what you have to say. Let's debate it. But can we get this into the committee and have a serious discussion on it?

Mr. CRAPO. I assume that this bill will be referred to the Finance Committee.

Mr. SANDERS. It will.

Mr. CRAPO. If this bill is referred to the Finance Committee, then it, like all other legislation in this area that is referred to the Finance Committee, will be reviewed by us. I can't tell you that it will have a specific hearing. I can't tell you exactly how that will work.

We will look at developing a very significant and I hope broad and successful approach to reducing the cost of our healthcare system and increasing the focus and successes in our healthcare system, and I look forward to working with you on that.

Mr. SANDERS. Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you, Mr. President.

I yield the floor.

VOTE ON SLATER NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Slater nomination?

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 legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. JUSTICE).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN) are necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 78, nays 19, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 115 Ex.]

YEAS—78

Baldwin	Collins	Fischer
Banks	Coons	Gallego
Barrasso	Cornyn	Graham
Bennet	Cortez Masto	Grassley
Blackburn	Cotton	Hagerty
Booker	Cramer	Hassan
Boozman	Crapo	Hawley
Britt	Cruz	Hickenlooper
Budd	Curtis	Hoeben
Cantwell	Daines	Husted
Capito	Durbin	Hyde-Smith
Cassidy	Ernst	Johnson

Kaine	Moreno	Sheehy
Kelly	Mullin	Smith
Kennedy	Murkowski	Sullivan
Kim	Padilla	Thune
King	Peters	Tillis
Klobuchar	Ricketts	Tuberville
Lankford	Risch	Warner
Lee	Rosen	Warnock
Lummis	Rounds	Warren
Marshall	Schiff	Welch
McConnell	Schmitt	Whitehouse
McCormick	Scott (FL)	Wicker
Moody	Scott (SC)	Wyden
Moran	Shaheen	Young

NAYS—19

Alsobrooks	Markey	Sanders
Blumenthal	Merkley	Schatz
Blunt Rochester	Murphy	Schumer
Gillibrand	Murray	Slotkin
Heinrich	Ossoff	Van Hollen
Hirono	Paul	
Luján	Reed	

NOT VOTING—3

Duckworth	Fetterman	Justice
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The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The majority leader.

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. 30.

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 William Pulte, of Florida, to be Director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency for a term of five years.

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. 30, William Pulte, of Florida, to be Director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency for a term of five years.

John Thune, Tim Sheehy, Lindsey Graham, Cynthia M. Lummis, Dan Sullivan, Ashley Moody, Pete Ricketts, Bill Cassidy, Jon Husted, Mike Rounds, James Lankford, Todd Young, Joni

Ernst, John R. Curtis, John Kennedy, Cindy Hyde-Smith, John Boozman.

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. 32.

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 Jeffrey Kessler, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Industry and 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 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. 32, Jeffrey Kessler, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Industry and Security.

John Thune, Tim Sheehy, Lindsey Graham, Dan Sullivan, Ashley Moody, Pete Ricketts, Bill Cassidy, Jon Husted, Mike Rounds, James Lankford, Todd Young, Joni Ernst, John R. Curtis, John Kennedy, Cindy Hyde-Smith, John Boozman, Ted Cruz.

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—Continued

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, what is the pending business?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the pending business.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 331) 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 for Calendar No. 18, S. 331.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented

under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on Calendar No. 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, Ted Budd, Tom Cotton, Tim Sheehy, Lindsey Graham, Cynthia M. Lummis, Dan Sullivan, Ashley Moody, Pete Ricketts, Bill Cassidy, Jon Husted, Mike Rounds, James Lankford, Todd Young, Joni Ernst, John R. Curtis, John Kennedy.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate resume legislative session and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

DEMOCRATIC MEMBERS OF THE SENATE NATO OBSERVER GROUP

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, for the 119th Congress, I ask that the Democratic cochair of the Senate NATO Observer Group be Senator SHAHEEN and, at her recommendation, the following Democratic Senators participate in the group: Senators MERKLEY, COONS, KING, BOOKER, VAN HOLLEN, and ROSEN.

JOINT COMMITTEE ON PRINTING AND JOINT COMMITTEE OF CONGRESS ON THE LIBRARY RULES OF PROCEDURE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the rules of procedure for the Joint Committee on Printing and the Joint Committee of Congress on the Library for the 119th Congress be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

119TH CONGRESS—JOINT COMMITTEE ON PRINTING

RULES OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON PRINTING FOR THE 119TH CONGRESS

Rule 1.—Committee Rules

(a) The rules of the Senate and House insofar as they are applicable, shall govern the Committee.

(b) The Committee's rules shall be published in the Congressional Record as soon as possible following the Committee's organizational meeting in each odd-numbered year.

(c) Where these rules require a vote of the members of the Committee, polling of members either in writing or by telephone shall not be permitted to substitute for a vote taken at a Committee meeting, unless the Ranking Minority Member assents to waiver of this requirement.

(d) Proposals for amending Committee rules shall be sent to all members at least one week before final action is taken thereon, unless the amendment is made by unanimous consent.

Rule 2.—Regular Committee Meetings

(a) The regular meeting date of the Committee shall be the second Wednesday of every month when the House and Senate are in session. A regularly scheduled meeting need not be held if there is no business to be considered and after appropriate notification is made to the Vice-Chair and Ranking Minority Member. Additional meetings may be called by the Chair, as the Chair may deem necessary or at the request of the majority of the members of the Committee.

(b) If the Chair of the Committee is not present at any meeting of the Committee, the Vice-Chair or the Chair's designee from the members of the Committee who are present, shall preside at the meeting.

Rule 3.—Quorum

(a) Five members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum, which is required for the purpose of closing meetings, promulgating Committee orders or changing the rules of the Committee.

(b) Three members shall constitute a quorum for purposes of taking testimony and receiving evidence.

Rule 4.—Open and Closed Meetings

(a) Each meeting for the transaction of business of the Committee shall be open to the public except when the Committee, in open session and with a quorum present, determines by roll call vote that all or part of the remainder of the meeting on that day shall be closed to the public. No such vote shall be required to close a meeting that relates solely to internal budget or personnel matters.

(b) No person other than members of the Committee, and such congressional staff and other representatives as they may authorize, shall be present in any business session that has been closed to the public.

Rule 5.—Alternating Chair and Vice-Chair by Congresses

(a) The Chair and Vice-Chair of the Committee shall alternate between the House and the Senate by Congresses: The senior member of the minority party in the House of Congress opposite of that of the Chair shall be the Ranking Minority Member of the Committee.

(b) In the event the House and Senate are under different party control, the Chair and Vice-Chair shall represent the majority party in their respective Houses. When the Chair and Vice-Chair represent different parties, the Vice-Chair shall also fulfill the responsibilities of the Ranking Minority Member as prescribed by these rules.

Rule 6.—Parliamentary Questions

(a) Questions as to the order of business and the procedures of Committee shall in the first instance be decided by the Chair; subject always to an appeal to the Committee.

Rule 7.—Hearings: Public Announcements and Witnesses

(a) The Chair, in the case of hearings to be conducted by the Committee, shall make public announcement of the date, place and subject matter of any hearing to be conducted on any measure or matter at least one week before the commencement of that hearing unless the Committee determines that there is good cause to begin such hearing at an earlier date. In the latter event, the Chair shall make such public announcement at the earliest possible date. The staff director of the Committee shall promptly notify the Daily Digest of the Congressional Record as soon as possible after such public announcement is made.

(b) So far as practicable, all witnesses appearing before the Committee shall file advance written statements of their proposed testimony at least 48 hours in advance of their appearance and their oral testimony shall be limited to brief summaries. Limited insertions or additional germane material will be received for the record, subject to the approval of the Chair.

Rule 8.—Official Hearing Record

(a) An accurate stenographic record shall be kept of all Committee proceedings and actions. Brief supplemental materials when required to clarify the transcript may be inserted in the record subject to the approval of the Chair.

(b) Each member of the Committee shall be provided with a copy of the hearing transcript for the purpose of correcting errors of transcription and grammar, and clarifying questions or remarks. If any other person is authorized by a Committee Member to make their corrections, the staff director shall be so notified.

(c) Members who have received unanimous consent to submit written questions to witnesses shall be allowed two days within which to submit these to the staff director for transmission to the witnesses. The record may be held open for a period not to exceed two weeks awaiting the responses by witnesses.

(d) A witness may obtain a transcript copy of their testimony given at a public session or, if given at an executive session, when authorized by the Committee. Testimony received in closed hearings shall not be released or included in any report without the approval of the Committee.

Rule 9.—Witnesses for Committee Hearings

(a) Selection of witnesses for Committee hearings shall be made by the Committee staff under the direction of the Chair. A list of proposed witnesses shall be submitted to the members of the Committee for review sufficiently in advance of the hearings to permit suggestions by the Committee members to receive appropriate consideration.

(b) The Chair shall provide adequate time for questioning of witnesses by all members, including minority Members and the rule of germaneness shall be enforced in all hearings notified.

(c) Whenever a hearing is conducted by the Committee upon any measure or matter, the minority on the Committee shall be entitled, upon unanimous request to the Chair before the completion of such hearings, to call witnesses selected by the minority to testify with respect to the measure or matter during at least one day of hearing thereon.

Rule 10.—Confidential Information Furnished to the Committee

The information contained in any books, papers or documents furnished to the Committee by any individual, partnership, corporation or other legal entity shall, upon the request of the individual, partnership, corporation or entity furnishing the same, be maintained in strict confidence by the members and staff of the Committee, except that any such information may be released outside of executive session of the Committee if the release thereof is effected in a manner which will not reveal the identity of such individual, partnership, corporation or entity in connection with any pending hearing or as a part of a duly authorized report of the Committee if such release is deemed essential to the performance of the functions of the Committee and is in the public interest.

Rule 11.—Broadcasting of Committee Hearings

The rule for broadcasting of Committee hearings shall be the same as Rule XI, clause 4, of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

Rule 12.—Committee Reports

(a) No Committee report shall be made public or transmitted to the Congress without the approval of a majority of the Committee except when Congress has adjourned: provided that any member of the Committee may make a report supplementary to or dissenting from the majority report. Such supplementary or dissenting reports should be as brief as possible.

(b) Factual reports by the Committee staff may be printed for distribution to Committee members and the public only upon authorization of the Chair either with the approval of a majority of the Committee or with the consent of the Ranking Minority Member.

Rule 13.—Confidentiality of Committee Reports

No summary of a Committee report, prediction of the contents of a report, or statement of conclusions concerning any investigation shall be made by a member of the Committee or by any staff member of the Committee prior to the issuance of a report of the Committee.

Rule 14.—Committee Staff

(a) The Committee shall have a staff director, selected by the Chair. The staff director shall be an employee of the House of Representatives or of the Senate.

(b) The Ranking Minority Member may designate an employee of the House of Representatives or of the Senate as the minority staff director.

(c) The staff director, under the general supervision of the Chair, is authorized to deal directly with agencies of the Government and with non-Government groups and individuals on behalf of the Committee.

(d) The Chair or staff director shall timely notify the Vice-Chair and the Ranking Minority Member or the minority staff director of decisions made on behalf of the Committee.

(e) The Chair is authorized to appoint the Clerk of the Committee (and such deputies or assistants as the Chair in their discretion determines may be necessary) to perform the required and usual duties on behalf of the Committee.

(1) Upon such appointment, the Chair shall inform the Committee.

(2) Further, the Chair is authorized to appoint an acting Clerk of the Committee to perform the required and usual duties of the Clerk of the Committee on behalf of the Committee until a permanent clerk is named.

(f) The Chair is authorized to appoint the Parliamentarian of the Committee (and such deputies or assistants as the Chair in their discretion determines may be necessary) to perform the required and usual duties on behalf of the Committee.

(1) Upon such appointment, the Chair shall inform the Committee.

(2) Further, the Chair is authorized to appoint an acting Parliamentarian of the Committee to perform the required and usual duties of the Parliamentarian of the Committee on behalf of the Committee until a permanent parliamentarian is named.

Rule 15.—Committee Chair

The Chair of the Committee may establish such other procedures and take such actions as may be necessary to carry out the foregoing rules or to facilitate the effective operation of the Committee. Specifically, the Chair is authorized, during the interim periods between meetings of the Committee, to act on all requests submitted by any executive department, independent agency, temporary or permanent commissions and committees of the Federal Government, the Government Publishing Office and any other Federal entity, pursuant to the requirements of applicable Federal law and regulations.

Rule 16.—Other Procedures and Regulations

(a) The Chair may establish such other procedures and take such actions as may be necessary to carry out the responsibilities of the Committee or to facilitate its effective operation.

(b) The Chair may direct staff of the Committee to make any necessary technical or conforming changes to these Rules without intervening Committee action. In all cases, the Chair shall cause the most current version of the Rules to be available to members of the Committee.

119TH CONGRESS JOINT COMMITTEE OF
CONGRESS ON THE LIBRARY

RULES OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE OF CONGRESS
ON THE LIBRARY FOR THE 119TH CONGRESS

Rule 1.—Meetings of the Committee

(a) Regular meetings may be called by the Chair, with the concurrence of the Vice Chair, as may be deemed necessary or pursuant to the provision of paragraph 3 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate.

(b) Meetings of the committee, including meetings to conduct hearings, shall be open to the public, except that a meeting or series of meetings by the committee on the same subject for a period of no more than 14 calendar days may be closed to the public on a motion made and seconded to go into closed session to discuss only whether the matters enumerated in subparagraphs (A) through (F) would require the meeting to be closed followed immediately by a recorded vote in open session by a majority of the members of the committee when it is determined that the matters to be discussed or the testimony to be taken at such meeting or meetings—

(1) will disclose matters necessary to be kept secret in the interests of national defense or the confidential conduct of the foreign relations of the United States;

(2) will relate solely to matters of the committee staff personnel or internal staff management or procedures;

(3) will tend to charge an individual with crime or misconduct, to disgrace or injure the professional standing of an individual, or otherwise to expose an individual to public contempt or obloquy, or will represent a clearly unwarranted invasion of privacy of an individual;

(4) will disclose the identity of any informer or law enforcement agent or will disclose any information relating to the investigation or prosecution of a criminal offense that is required to be kept secret in the interest of effective law enforcement;

(5) will disclose information relating to the trade secrets or financial or commercial information pertaining specifically to a given person if—

(i) an Act of Congress requires the information to be kept confidential by Government officers and employees; or

(ii) the information has been obtained by the Government on a confidential basis, other than through an application by such person for a specific Government financial or other benefit, and is required to be kept secret in order to prevent undue injury to the benefit, and is required to be kept secret in order to prevent undue injury to the competitive position of such person; or

(6) may divulge matters required to be kept confidential under the provisions of law or Government regulation. (Paragraph 5(b) of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate.)

(c) Written notices of committee meetings will normally be sent by the committee's staff director to all members at least three days in advance. In addition, the committee staff will email or telephone reminders of committee meetings to all members of the committee or to the appropriate staff assistants in their offices.

(d) A copy of the committee's intended agenda enumerating separate items of committee business will normally be sent to all members of the committee by the staff director at least one day in advance of all meetings. This does not preclude any member of the committee from raising appropriate non-agenda topics.

(e) Any witness who is to appear before the committee in any hearing shall file with the clerk of the committee at least three business days before the date of their appearance, a written statement of their proposed testimony and an executive summary thereof, in such form as the Chair may direct, unless the Chair waived such a requirement for good cause.

Rule 2.—Quorums

(a) Pursuant to paragraph 7(a)(1) of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules, four members of the committee shall constitute a quorum.

(b) Pursuant to paragraph 7(a)(2) of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules, two members of the committee shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of taking testimony; provided, however, once a quorum is established, any one member can continue to take such testimony.

(c) Under no circumstance may proxies be considered for the establishment of a quorum.

Rule 3.—Voting

(a) Voting in the committee on any issue will normally be by voice vote.

(b) If a third of the members present so demand, a recorded vote will be taken on any question by roll call.

(c) The results of roll call votes taken in any meeting upon a measure, or any amendment thereto, shall be stated in the committee report on that measure unless previously announced by the committee, and such report or announcement shall include a tabulation of the votes cast in favor and the votes cast in opposition to each measure and amendment by each member of the committee. (Paragraph 7(b) and (c) of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules.)

Rule 4.—Delegation and Authority to the Chair and Vice Chair

(a) The Chair and Vice Chair are authorized to sign all necessary vouchers and routine papers for which the committee's approval is required and to decide on the committee's behalf on all routine business.

RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF PACIFIC NORTHWEST NATIONAL LABORATORY

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, today, with my colleague Senator CANTWELL, we commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, or PNNL. As one of the Department of Energy's premier national laboratories over the past 60 years, PNNL has tackled some of our Nation's most complex and urgent challenges using its strengths in chemistry, Earth sciences, biology, and data science. As longtime supporters who are well versed in PNNL's valuable contributions to our Nation's scientific discovery, energy, and national security, we are proud to take the opportunity to recognize its 60th anniversary.

In January 1965, the Atomic Energy Commission, the predecessor Agency of the Department of Energy, selected Battelle, a nonprofit research and development organization, to take over the Hanford Laboratories at the Han-

ford Site in southeastern Washington State. Then known as Pacific Northwest Laboratory, the laboratory provided critical support to plutonium production and nuclear waste cleanup at Hanford and over the years evolved into one of DOE's most diverse multidisciplinary laboratories with significant portfolios in science, energy, and national security.

Over the past 60 years, PNNL has leveraged its scientific capabilities to make significant contributions in important areas such as supporting the cleanup of legacy nuclear waste, understanding Earth systems, modernizing the grid, advancing energy storage, enabling energy resilience, supporting nuclear nonproliferation, and protecting against cyberattacks, as well as building and applying artificial intelligence tools to accelerate scientific discovery in key areas related to national security and energy. PNNL has grown from just over 2,200 employees in 1965 to more than 6,400 today. It is the single largest employer in central Washington, with staff at its main campus in Richland, at PNNL-Sequim, DOE's only marine research facility, as well as in satellite offices in Seattle, Portland, Oregon, and College Park, MD.

We also want to highlight PNNL's collaborations with both academia and industry. PNNL has over 200 joint appointments with over 60 academic institutions and is home to seven joint institutes, combining the expertise and capabilities of universities and a national laboratory to accelerate science impact. In Washington, the Washington State University-PNNL Advanced Grid Institute is working to modernize the electric grid and provide secure energy infrastructure for the Nation. The WSU-PNNL Bioproducts Institute explores ways to transform engineered plants and industrial, agricultural, and municipal wastes into valuable materials and chemicals, including sustainable aviation fuel. The University of Washington-PNNL Northwest Institute for Materials Physics, Chemistry, and Technology, also known as NW Impact, focuses on advancements in materials that have the potential to transform multiple fields including energy, telecommunications, medicine, and information technology. Beyond Washington, PNNL has joint institutes with universities in Oregon, Maryland, and Georgia covering biomedical innovation, Earth systems, and cybersecurity and resilient infrastructure.

PNNL also collaborates with businesses large and small throughout the United States. One of the primary missions at PNNL is to move innovations developed at the lab into the marketplace where they can be used to solve national problems, improve lives, and enhance security. Airport security checkpoints use PNNL-developed millimeter wave technology scanning to detect concealed objects and increase security. Technology identifying molecular differences in samples as small as

a single cell and 1,000 times faster than current methods is helping advance medicine and environmental management. And PNNL's superconducting Qubit testbed is contributing to advances in quantum computing, which can help solve problems of energy production and sustainability. PNNL researchers were named on 59 patents granted in fiscal year 2024 and on nearly 1,700 U.S. patents since 1965.

During its long history, PNNL has committed to developing the future workforce in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Last year alone, the lab reached more than 51,000 students and 900 educators and hosted 1,717 students as interns, a 35 percent increase since 2020. In addition, PNNL created a STEM Ambassador Program, training its scientists on how best to communicate and convey the impact and relevance of their work to various audiences. STEM Ambassadors volunteer at outreach events throughout the Richland, Seattle, and Sequim areas using interactive, hands-on displays to spark interest in STEM learning and careers. STEM Ambassadors have been invited to present at DOE's National Science Bowl, a nationwide academic competition. PNNL's STEM Ambassador Program is now a model for similar efforts at other national laboratories.

As longtime champions of PNNL, we know that we are lucky in Washington State to have such a phenomenal resource in our backyard. We want to congratulate all past and present employees of PNNL on an incredible 60 years. Thank you for everything you do for our State, our country, and our entire world. We look forward to many more years of innovation and discovery that will make our world a better, cleaner, and safer place to live.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I was absent on Thursday, March 6, 2025, for rollcall vote No. 110. Had I been present, I would have voted Yea on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 18, S. 331, the Halt All Lethal Trafficking (HALT) of Fentanyl Act, rollcall vote No. 110.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:00 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate.

H.R. 495. An act to require annual reports on counter illicit cross-border tunnel operations, and for other purposes.

H.R. 708. An act to establish in the Department of Homeland Security a working group relating to countering terrorist, cybersecurity, border and port security, and transportation security threats posed to the United States by the Chinese Communist Party, and for other purposes.

H.R. 862. An act to reduce commuting burdens on Transportation Security Administration employees, and for other purposes.

H.R. 901. An act to require the Under Secretary of the Science and Technology Directorate of the Department of Homeland Security to develop a Department-wide policy and process to safeguard research and development from unauthorized access to or disclosure of sensitive information in research and development acquisitions, and for other purposes.

H.R. 993. An act to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to develop a plan to identify, integrate, and deploy new, innovative, disruptive, or other emerging or advanced technologies to enhance, or address capability gaps in, border security operations, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1166. An act to prohibit the Secretary of Homeland Security from procuring certain foreign-made batteries, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1374. An act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to make improvements to the Securing the Cities program, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 17. Concurrent resolution authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for a ceremony as part of the commemoration of the days of remembrance of victims of the Holocaust.

At 6:04 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1968. An act making further continuing appropriations and other extensions for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 495. An act to require annual reports on counter illicit cross-border tunnel operations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 708. An act to establish in the Department of Homeland Security a working group relating to countering terrorist, cybersecurity, border and port security, and transportation security threats posed to the United States by the Chinese Communist Party, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 862. An act to reduce commuting burdens on Transportation Security Administration employees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 901. An act to require the Under Secretary of the Science and Technology Directorate of the Department of Homeland Security to develop a Department-wide policy and process to safeguard research and development from unauthorized access to or disclosure of sensitive information in research and development acquisitions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 993. An act to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to develop a plan to identify, integrate, and deploy new, innovative,

disruptive, or other emerging or advanced technologies to enhance, or address capability gaps in, border security operations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 1166. An act to prohibit the Secretary of Homeland Security from procuring certain foreign-made batteries, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 1374. An act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to make improvements to the Securing the Cities program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME—MARCH 11 (LEGISLATIVE DAY MARCH 10) 2025

The following bill was read the first time:

H.R. 1968. An act making further continuing appropriations and other extensions for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. WICKER for the Committee on Armed Services.

*Stephen Feinberg, of New York, to be Deputy Secretary of Defense.

*John Phelan, of Florida, to be Secretary of the Navy.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mrs. CAPITO (for herself and Mr. BENNET):

S. 925. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a tax credit for working family caregivers; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. KING (for himself and Mr. SHEEHY):

S. 926. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a program to furnish to certain veterans items used for the secure storage of firearms, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. WELCH (for himself, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. WARNER, and Mr. CASSIDY):

S. 927. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to ensure accurate payments to pharmacies under Medicaid and to prevent the use of abusive spread pricing practices under Medicaid; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BANKS:

S. 928. A bill to amend the Employment Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to prohibit plan investments in foreign adversary and sanctioned entities, require disclosure of existing investments in such entities,

and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. COTTON (for himself, Mr. LEE, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. LANKFORD, and Mr. RISCH):

S. 929. A bill to prohibit National Laboratories from admitting certain foreign nationals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. MCCONNELL:

S. 930. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude from gross income capital gains from the sale of certain farmland property which are reinvested in individual retirement plans; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 931. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide incentives for behavioral health integration; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MULLIN (for himself and Mr. BENNET):

S. 932. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to molecularly targeted pediatric cancer investigations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. MORAN, Mr. PETERS, Mr. SCHMITT, Mr. LUJÁN, and Ms. DUCKWORTH):

S. 933. A bill to authorize programs for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration for fiscal year 2025, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. WARREN (for herself, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. WELCH, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. KIM):

S. 934. A bill to make housing more affordable, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. VAN HOLLEN:

S. 935. A bill to prohibit sales and the issuance of licenses for the export of certain defense articles to the United Arab Emirates, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. COTTON:

S. 936. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to apply a 6 percent excise tax on large endowments of certain private colleges and universities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. COTTON:

S. 937. A bill to establish that an individual who is convicted of any offense under any Federal or State law related to the individual's conduct at and during the course of a protest that occurs at an institution of higher education shall be ineligible to receive a Federal student loan or for forgiveness, cancellation, waiver, or modification of certain Federal student loans; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MCCORMICK (for himself, Mr. COONS, Mrs. BRITT, and Mr. FETTERMAN):

S. 938. A bill to establish the Joint Task Force to Counter the Illicit Synthetic Narcotics; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SANDERS (for himself, Ms. WARREN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. WELCH, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 939. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide coverage for dental and oral health care, hearing care, and vision care under the Medicare program; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. KENNEDY:

S. 940. A bill to require certain entities to submit to Congress information on the Basel

Committee on Bank Supervision, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. CURTIS (for himself and Mr. LEE):

S. 941. A bill to prohibit natural asset companies from entering into any agreement with respect to land in the State of Utah or natural assets on or in land in the State of Utah; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. ROSEN (for herself and Mr. BOOZMAN):

S. 942. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for interest-free deferment on student loans for borrowers serving in a medical or dental internship or residency program; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, and Ms. SMITH):

S. 943. A bill to establish a manufactured housing community improvement grant program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself, Mr. JOHNSON, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. HAGERTY, and Ms. ALSOBROOKS):

S. 944. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, with respect to the highway safety improvement program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. PADILLA, and Mr. SCHIFF):

S. 945. A bill to amend the Smith River National Recreation Area Act to include certain additions to the Smith River National Recreation Area, to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate certain wild rivers in the State of Oregon, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. BENNET (for himself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 946. A bill to clarify training requirements for prescribers of controlled substances; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida:

S. 947. A bill to prohibit importation of commercially produced fresh citrus fruit originating from the People's Republic of China; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself, Ms. SMITH, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. ALSOBROOKS, Mr. BENNET, Ms. ROSEN, and Mr. FETTERMAN):

S. 948. A bill to reauthorize the HOME Investment Partnerships Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. KELLY (for himself, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. GALLEGGO, Ms. SMITH, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. 949. A bill to ensure that the National Park Service is fully staffed, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. KELLY (for himself, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. GALLEGGO, Ms. SMITH, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. 950. A bill to ensure that the Forest Service is fully staffed, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. SMITH (for herself, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. REED, Ms. ROSEN,

Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCHIFF, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. WARNER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WELCH, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. KAINE, and Mr. HICKENLOOPER):

S. 951. A bill to revise sections 552, 1461, and 1462 of title 18, United States Code, and section 305 of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1305), and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CASSIDY (for himself, Mr. PETERS, and Mr. MCCONNELL):

S. 952. A bill to amend the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States to provide a uniform 8-digit subheading number for all whiskies; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. KELLY (for himself and Mr. GALLEGGO):

S. 953. A bill to provide for the settlement of the water rights claims of the Navajo Nation, the Hopi Tribe, and the San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Ms. LUMMIS (for herself, Mr. JUSTICE, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. MORENO, Mr. MARSHALL, and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

S. 954. A bill to establish a Strategic Bitcoin Reserve and other programs to ensure the transparent management of Bitcoin holdings of the Federal Government, to offset costs utilizing certain resources of the Federal Reserve System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 955. A bill to establish due process requirements for the investigation of intercollegiate athletics, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. CASSIDY (for himself and Ms. CORTEZ MASTO):

S. 956. A bill to facilitate the entry and processing of merchandise and trade enforcement, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LUJÁN (for himself and Mr. BOOZMAN):

S. 957. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to eliminate consideration of the income of organ recipients in providing reimbursement of expenses to donating individuals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. LUJÁN (for himself and Mr. SULLIVAN):

S. 958. A bill to support the use of technology in maternal health care, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. ALSOBROOKS (for herself, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. COONS, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. KAINE, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WARNER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. WELCH, Mr. SCHIFF, and Mr. KIM):

S. 959. A bill to require the United States International Trade Commission to conduct an investigation and submit a report on the impact on businesses in the United States of duties, and the threat of duties, on imports from Mexico and Canada, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. OSSOFF, and Mr. LEE):

S. 960. A bill to ensure that homicides can be prosecuted under Federal law without regard to the time elapsed between the act or omission that caused the death of the victim and the death itself; considered and passed.

By Mr. ROUNDS (for himself, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. RISCH, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. JUSTICE, Mr. BUDD, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, and Mr. CRUZ):

S. 961. A bill to amend chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code, to provide that a member of the Armed Forces and the spouse of that member shall have the same rights regarding the receipt of firearms at the location of any duty station of the member; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LANKFORD (for himself and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 962. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to preclude a provider of electronic communication service or remote computing service from receiving reimbursement or other compensation for information relating to child exploitation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CRAPO (for himself, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. RISCH, Mr. PADILLA, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BENNETT, and Mr. SCOTT of Florida):

S. 963. A bill to establish the Space National Guard; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. REED (for himself and Ms. LUMMIS):

S. 964. A bill to amend title I of the National Housing Act to increase the loan limits and clarify that property improvement loans may be used for construction of accessory dwelling units; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. REED (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. SMITH, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 965. A bill to strengthen the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. ROUNDS (for himself, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. RISCH, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. BUDD, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, and Mr. CRUZ):

S. 966. A bill to amend chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code, to define "State of residence" and "resident", and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WARNOCK (for himself, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. KAINE, Mr. WARNER, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 967. A bill to provide downpayment assistance to first-generation homebuyers to address multigenerational inequities in access to homeownership and to narrow and ultimately close the racial homeownership gap in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. WARNOCK:

S. 968. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow for a credit against tax for rent paid on the personal residence of the taxpayer; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. WARNOCK (for himself, Ms. SMITH, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. REED, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. WELCH, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 969. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to deny interest and depreciation deductions for taxpayers owning 50 or more single family properties; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. REED (for himself and Mrs. BRITT):

S. 970. A bill to establish a pilot program to improve the family self-sufficiency program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself, Ms. ALSOBROOKS, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. KAINE, and Mr. WARNER):

S. 971. A bill to provide for the conservation of the Chesapeake Bay, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. BANKS (for himself and Mr. GALLEGO):

S. 972. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to ensure that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs repays members of the Armed Forces for certain contributions made by such members towards Post-9/11 Educational Assistance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. ROUNDS (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. CRAPO, and Ms. LUMMIS):

S.J. Res. 36. 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 "Prohibition on Creditors and Consumer Reporting Agencies Concerning Medical Information (Regulation V)"; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. KAINE (for himself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. WARNER, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. KING, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. COONS):

S.J. Res. 37. A joint resolution terminating the national emergency declared to impose duties on articles imported from Canada; 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. BOOKER:

S. Res. 123. A resolution recognizing the contributions of the Charles B. Rangel Graduate Fellowship Program, the Thomas R. Pickering Foreign Affairs Graduate Fellowship Program, the William D. Clarke, Sr. Diplomatic Security Fellowship, and the Donald M. Payne International Development Graduate Fellowship Program in advancing the national security and the development and diplomacy efforts of the United States; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself and Mr. WYDEN):

S. Con. Res. 10. A concurrent resolution recognizing the essential work of the League of Oregon Cities; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 94

At the request of Mr. CRAMER, the names of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN), the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING), the Senator from Montana (Mr. SHEEHY) and the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) 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. 98

At the request of Mrs. CAPITO, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 98, a bill to require the Federal Communications Commission to establish a vetting process for prospective applicants for high-cost universal service program funding.

S. 127

At the request of Mr. FETTERMAN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. ALSOBROOKS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 127, a bill to establish a whole-home repairs program for eligible homeowners and eligible landlords, and for other purposes.

S. 206

At the request of Mr. COTTON, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. RICKETTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 206, a bill to suspend normal trade relations with the People's Republic of China and to increase the rates of duty applicable with respect to articles imported from the People's Republic of China, and for other purposes.

S. 237

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. MORENO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 237, a bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to provide public safety officer benefits for exposure-related cancers, and for other purposes.

S. 257

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 257, a bill to improve the resilience of critical supply chains, and for other purposes.

S. 262

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 262, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Master Sergeant Roderick "Roddie" Edmonds in recognition of his heroic actions during World War II.

S. 275

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 275, a bill to improve the provision of care and services under the Veterans Community Care Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 297

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 297, a bill to amend title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act to require group health plans and health insurance issuers offering group or individual health insurance coverage to provide coverage for prostate cancer screenings without the imposition of cost-sharing requirements, and for other purposes.

S. 315

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr.

OSSOFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. 315, a bill to require the Secretary of Transportation to issue a rule requiring access to AM broadcast stations in passenger motor vehicles, and for other purposes.

S. 331

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 331, a bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act with respect to the scheduling of fentanyl-related substances, and for other purposes.

S. 339

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER) 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. 381

At the request of Mr. SANDERS, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 381, a bill to amend the Truth in Lending Act to cap credit card interest rates at 10 percent.

S. 470

At the request of Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mrs. BRITT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 470, a bill to amend the CARES Act to remove a requirement on lessors to provide notice to vacate, and for other purposes.

S. 522

At the request of Mr. HAGERTY, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 522, a bill to amend the Federal Credit Union Act to modify the frequency of board of directors meetings, and for other purposes.

S. 554

At the request of Mr. SULLIVAN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor 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 Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY), the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) 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. 704

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 704, a bill to amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to reauthorize the

voluntary public access and habitat incentive program.

S. 752

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) 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 New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) 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. 802

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) and the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) were added as cosponsors of S. 802, a bill to amend title 14, United States Code, to make appropriations for Coast Guard pay in the event an appropriations Act expires before the enactment of a new appropriations Act, and for other purposes.

S. 811

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 811, a bill to express findings relating to the recreational trails program, and for other purposes.

S. 857

At the request of Mr. CURTIS, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 857, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the exclusion for certain conservation subsidies to include subsidies for water conservation or efficiency measures, storm water management measures, and wastewater management measures.

S. 876

At the request of Mr. SULLIVAN, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 876, a bill making continuing appropriations for military pay in the event of a Government shutdown.

S. 890

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 890, a bill to increase the number of landlords participating in the Housing Choice Voucher program.

S. 894

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 894, a bill to amend the Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993 to protect civil rights and otherwise prevent meaningful harm to third parties, and for other purposes.

S. 918

At the request of Mr. VAN HOLLEN, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. Kaine) was added as a cosponsor of

S. 918, a bill to allow Federal employees who are involuntarily separated from Government service while serving a probationary or trial period to resume that period upon reinstatement, and for other purposes.

S. CON. RES. 8

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 8, a concurrent resolution supporting the Local Radio Freedom Act.

S. RES. 86

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 86, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding United Nations General Assembly Resolution 2758 (XXVI) and the harmful conflation of China's "One China Principle" and the United States' "One China Policy".

S. RES. 116

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 116, a resolution celebrating the extraordinary accomplishments and vital role of women business owners in the United States.

AMENDMENT NO. 1231

At the request of Mr. WELCH, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSOFF) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 1231 intended to be proposed to S. 331, a bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act with respect to the scheduling of fentanyl-related substances, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1233

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSOFF), the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 1233 intended to be proposed to S. 331, a bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act with respect to the scheduling of fentanyl-related substances, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1234

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) and the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 1234 intended to be proposed to S. 331, a bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act with respect to the scheduling of fentanyl-related substances, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1235

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSOFF), the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) and the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 1235 intended to be proposed to S. 331, a bill to

amend the Controlled Substances Act with respect to the scheduling of fentanyl-related substances, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1236

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) and the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 1236 intended to be proposed to S. 331, a bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act with respect to the scheduling of fentanyl-related substances, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. REED: (for himself and Ms. LUMMIS):

S. 964. A bill to amend title I of the National Housing Act to increase the loan limits and clarify that property improvement loans may be used for construction of accessory dwelling units; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, today I am introducing the Property Improvement and Manufactured Housing Loan Modernization Act with Senator Lummis. Our bipartisan bill would help more families purchase an affordable home and maintain our housing supply by strengthening the Federal Housing Administration, FHA, Title I Loan Program.

Like its better known title II sister program, FHA Title I expands access to housing and boosts affordability for families by insuring private market loans. However, title I is targeted towards two underserved portions of our housing market—manufactured homes and property improvement.

For decades, title I has enabled families to access stable, affordable housing, while also helping maintain our Nation's housing stock. Indeed, manufactured homes are the largest source of unsubsidized affordable housing in the country, and property improvement loans help prevent more single-family homes and apartments from falling into disrepair and out of our housing supply.

These loans should be an important tool in helping to close our nationwide housing shortage, which the Brookings Institution estimates at nearly 5 million homes. However, outdated loan limits and statutory restrictions have turned title I from an effective program into a missed opportunity.

From the mid-1980s through the early 1990s, lenders offered 15,000 to 25,000 title I manufactured home loans each year. But in 2021, only three loans were issued. Similarly, lenders have gone from making more than 70,000 title I property improvement loans annually in the 1990s to making fewer than 1,000 in 2022. That is a 99-percent drop in loan volume or in other words, as many as 99,000 fewer homes being bought,

preserved, and included in our housing stock each year.

The Property Improvement and Manufactured Housing Loan Modernization Act would refurbish title I and return it to our housing toolbox. It would expand loan limits and terms for all title I loans—making the program fit market demand and needs. Perhaps more importantly, the bill would finally allow FHA to index property improvement loans for inflation and expand the data it uses to set manufactured home loan limits, ensuring title I will remain a crucial tool as home costs rise in future years.

Finally, our legislation makes accessible dwelling units, ADUs, which are small housing units added to a single-family property, eligible for title I financing. This small addition to title I will make the program an even more powerful home-creation program than it was during its prior peak years and will particularly help families who want to provide a safe, comfortable place for aging parents or young adult children to live.

Collectively, these improvements would help more families own a home, remain in homes they have spent decades in, and find an affordable place to live. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this bill and support its passage.

By Mr. REED: (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. SMITH, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 965. A bill to strengthen the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I am pleased to join Senator COLLINS and Senators VAN HOLLEN, CORTEZ MASTO, SMITH, and KLOBUCHAR in introducing legislation that would permanently reauthorize the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness, the Council or USICH.

The Council was established during the Reagan administration as part of the landmark McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act of 1987. Over the last three and a half decades, it has led and coordinated the Federal Government's response to homelessness. In 2009, the Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing, HEARTH, Act, which I authored along with Senator COLLINS, expanded the Council's role, allowing it to work with public, nonprofit, and private stakeholders to develop a national strategic plan to end homelessness. Despite its minimal budget and small staff, the Council has helped guide Federal, State, and local stakeholders in deploying their resources in a smart, effective, and coordinated fashion. The results have been evident. In the decade after USICH published its first plan, overall homelessness declined 9 percent. Family and veteran homelessness declined significantly, as well, with the total numbers dropping nearly 30 percent and 50 percent respectively.

In fact, the Council has been able to help 85 communities and 3 States effectively end veteran homelessness.

Despite these successes, homelessness has persisted, and skyrocketing housing prices since 2020 have brought a new surge in homelessness. The Department of Housing and Urban Development's 2024 Annual Homelessness Assessment Report to Congress found that, "[o]n a single night in January 2024, 771,480 people were experiencing homelessness in the United States." This is a record number of Americans experiencing homelessness since the count began. The face of homelessness—which individuals lack a safe, stable home—is also changing. Families with children had the largest increase in homelessness from 2023 to 2024. Indeed, nearly 150,000 children were experiencing homelessness on a single night last year. This staggering increase in homelessness is happening across the country.

USICH helps us meet this challenge by guiding how its 19 Federal member Agencies deploy and leverage their resources with non-Federal partners to help communities effectively address homelessness. We know that smart, coordinated investments in programs that address homelessness and increase affordable housing pay additional dividends. The National Alliance to End Homelessness has found that taxpayers pay an average of \$35,578 per year on each chronically homeless individual, while "based on 22 different studies from across the country, providing permanent supportive housing to chronically homeless people creates net savings of \$4,800 per person per year, through reduced spending on jails, hospitals, shelters, and other emergency services." In short, helping people avoid homelessness not only helps them, it also saves taxpayers money. USICH's coordinating work helps make our investments to address homelessness more informed and more effective.

Indeed, the Council continues to prove that the government can work and save money in the process. I thank HousingWorks RI for its support, and I urge my colleagues to join us in permanently authorizing USICH.

By Mr. REED (for himself and Mrs. BRITT):

S. 970. A bill to establish a pilot program to improve the family self-sufficiency program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, today I am reintroducing the Helping More Families Save Act with Senator Britt. This bipartisan legislation would help more families in HUD-assisted housing build savings and improve their financial security by creating a pilot program for Family Self-Sufficiency, FSS, universal escrow accounts.

The FSS Program was established under the National Affordable Housing Act of 1990 to help low-income families boost savings and improve their professional, educational, and financial

standing. In 2018, I worked with then-Senator Roy Blunt to expand the program to cover more households. Today, millions of public housing residents, Housing Choice Voucher Program participants, and residents of project-based rental assistance, PBRA, housing are eligible for FSS.

FSS provides two key tools for its participants. First, households work with FSS coordinators to develop long-term financial, professional, or educational goals. FSS coordinators also help connect participants with resources, training, and employment opportunities. Second, the program encourages FSS families to save by providing them with an interest-bearing escrow account. Participants who increase their incomes deposit a portion of their additional earnings into their escrow account instead of paying higher rent, as is typically required under federally subsidized housing programs. Upon graduation from the Program, families can use their escrowed savings to pay for job-related expenses, move to private market housing, buy a home, or save for the future.

After more than 30 years, FSS has become a proven financial independence program. For example, in 2022, 34 percent of FSS graduates no longer needed Federal rental assistance within 1 year of leaving FSS, and nearly 10 percent of graduates were ultimately able to purchase their own home. On average, FSS participants with escrow savings graduated from the program with approximately \$10,000 in their accounts. This is no small sum, and it helps HUD-assisted families strengthen their financial stability and move towards greater economic independence.

Despite the program's success and broad eligibility, program participation was effectively capped at about 70,000 enrollees in 2022 simply due to a lack of Federal funding for the required FSS coordinators.

The Helping More Families Save Act would help more Americans access the program by creating a new universal escrow pilot. Under the bill, public housing agencies, PHAs, and PBRA property owners could offer 5,000 additional households escrow accounts identical to those under the current FSS Program without having to wait for an FSS coordinator to be funded by the Federal Government. PHA and PBRA property owners would not be required to offer coordinator services to these new participants, although we expect many will work to offer counseling and support on their own or with outside partners. Moreover, we expect that this pilot will show that those enrolled in the program will be successful and make financially sound decisions.

Our pilot program would help more low-income families improve their financial security, achieve economic independence, and possibly even purchase their own homes, all with minimal cost to the Federal Government.

This is a commonsense, bipartisan proposal that would help more Ameri-

cans pull themselves out of poverty. It is a win for families, the Federal budget, and our economy. I thank Senator Britt for coleading this legislation and Compass Working Capital and LISC for their support. I urge our colleagues to cosponsor the Helping More Families Save Act and support its passage.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 123—RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE CHARLES B. RANGEL GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM, THE THOMAS R. PICKERING FOREIGN AFFAIRS GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM, THE WILLIAM D. CLARKE, SR. DIPLOMATIC SECURITY FELLOWSHIP, AND THE DONALD M. PAYNE INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM IN ADVANCING THE NATIONAL SECURITY AND THE DEVELOPMENT AND DIPLOMACY EFFORTS OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. BOOKER submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 123

Whereas the Department of State, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and other foreign affairs agencies require a workforce with diverse talents, skills, and experiences to effectively protect United States citizens abroad, expand commercial opportunities for United States businesses, and administer United States foreign policy;

Whereas Congress has required in statute and the Department of State and the USAID have committed to recruit, hire, and retain employees on the basis of merit that reflect the diverse backgrounds of the American people that they represent abroad;

Whereas, in 1990, Congress amended the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2651a et seq.) to authorize the Secretary of State to make grants to post-secondary educational institutions or students to increase knowledge of and interest in employment with the Foreign Service, with a special focus on minority students, broadening recruitment and retention efforts in order to ensure equal opportunity and draw on the strength of all United States citizens;

Whereas, pursuant to these authorities, the Department of State launched the Thomas R. Pickering Foreign Affairs Fellowship, the Charles B. Rangel International Affairs Program, and the William D. Clarke, Sr. Diplomatic Security Fellowship in 1992, 2002, and 2023, respectively;

Whereas these programs increase the inclusion of Pell-eligible and first-generation college graduates in the Foreign Service, with a majority of current fellows having been Pell grant recipients;

Whereas the Charles B. Rangel International Affairs Graduate Fellowship Program and the Thomas R. Pickering Foreign Affairs Fellowship Program—the Department of State's flagship initiatives to recruit top-tier talent—are merit-based, need-based, and highly competitive, with an annual acceptance rate of less than 5 percent;

Whereas all fellows pass the same rigorous selection, hiring, and security clearance

process as all other members of the Foreign Service;

Whereas research shows that developing a workforce representing all of the United States significantly contributes to better national security outcomes by providing a wider range of perspectives, experiences, and cultural understanding, enabling more effective threat identification, innovative solutions, and stronger diplomatic engagement across the globe;

Whereas international affairs fellowships that promote the employment of candidates who belong to historically excluded groups and who have financial needs, including the Charles B. Rangel International Affairs Graduate Fellowship Program, the Thomas R. Pickering Foreign Affairs Fellowship Program, the William D. Clarke, Sr. Diplomatic Security Fellowship, and the Donald M. Payne International Development Fellowship Program, represent smart investments vital for building a strong, merit-based, capable, and diverse national security workforce;

Whereas Congress, on a bipartisan basis, has authorized each of these fellowship programs, recognizing the importance of these fellowship programs in expanding merit- and need-based recruitment from a wide geographically and economically diverse talent pool, including from all 50 States and more than 500 institutions of higher education;

Whereas Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic-serving institutions, other minority-serving institutions and other institutions of higher education, including community colleges and trade schools, serve populations historically excluded from the Department of State and the USAID and prepare the next generation of international affairs professionals with the core skills necessary to meet the United States global diplomatic and development imperatives; and

Whereas the Secretary of State and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development are required by law to consult with Congress before taking steps to modify these programs: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the importance of efforts to recruit, hire, and retain for United States foreign affairs agencies employees from the broadest talent pool, in order for the United States to be globally competitive and ensure that the diplomatic and development agencies of the United States remain the best in the world;

(2) reaffirms that the Charles B. Rangel Graduate Fellowship Program, the Thomas R. Pickering Foreign Affairs Graduate Fellowship Program, the William D. Clarke, Sr. Diplomatic Security Fellowship, and the Donald M. Payne International Development Graduate Fellowship Program are statutorily mandated programs enacted into law on a bipartisan basis to address recognized issues that have plagued the Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development for decades of exclusion of women, racial and ethnic minority groups, and economically disadvantaged and rural populations;

(3) underscores the importance to United States national security and foreign policy of international affairs fellowships and similar career entry programs; and

(4) recognizes the substantial investment by United States taxpayers in ensuring the Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development can recruit top talent from across the country, provide them with critical training, and strengthen the development and diplomatic capabilities of the United States—efforts

that are undermined by attempts to dismantle these programs, wasting taxpayer resources and weakening national security.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 10—RECOGNIZING THE ESSENTIAL WORK OF THE LEAGUE OF OREGON CITIES

Mr. MERKLEY (for himself and Mr. WYDEN) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. CON. RES. 10

Whereas, in 1925, the League of Oregon Cities was founded by 25 cities in the State of Oregon with the mission of providing support, advocacy, and resources to all incorporated cities in the State;

Whereas, since 1925, the League of Oregon Cities has—

(1) played a pivotal role in advancing municipal governance, promoting best practices, and fostering collaboration among cities, thereby enhancing the quality of life of Oregonians throughout the State of Oregon, from Bandon to Baker City, Medford to Mosier, and Pendleton to Portland;

(2) lobbied tirelessly in advancement of issues that are vital to all cities in the State of Oregon, including sustainable development, infrastructure improvement, public safety, increased community engagement, and the preservation of home rule authority;

(3) empowered local governments to effectively address the ever-evolving needs of their communities through initiatives including legislative advocacy, professional development, and the delivery of essential services and resources; and

(4) worked with its congressional leaders to advance and support Federal policy to match local government priorities;

Whereas 241 cities in the State of Oregon are home to approximately 3,000,000 residents, accounting for 70 percent of the total population of the State;

Whereas the cities in the State of Oregon serve as the economic, cultural, and social hubs of the State, providing essential infrastructure services and opportunities for countless Oregonians;

Whereas continued investment in city infrastructure, including water systems, roads, and housing, is critical to supporting the needs of the State of Oregon, and driving statewide economic growth and contributing to the national economy;

Whereas, in 2022, the League of Oregon Cities supported congressional action to pass Public Law 117-167 (commonly known as the “CHIPS and Science Act of 2022”) (136 Stat. 1366) paving the way for increased investment in the semiconductor industry critical to the economy and educational focus of the State of Oregon;

Whereas, in 2021, the League of Oregon Cities supported congressional action responding to the COVID-19 pandemic with Coronavirus State and local fiscal recovery funds made possible through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (Public Law 117-2; 135 Stat. 4);

Whereas, in 2021, the League of Oregon Cities supported congressional action passing the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Public Law 117-58; 135 Stat. 429) that provided the State of Oregon with over \$4,500,000,000 in additional infrastructure investment throughout the State;

Whereas, in 2020, the League of Oregon Cities supported congressional action to provide stimulus funds under the CARES Act (Public Law 116-136; 134 Stat. 281) to help communities facing severe challenges from the COVID-19 pandemic;

Whereas, in 2019, the League of Oregon Cities supported congressional action to expand broadband deployment in rural communities through the ReConnect Loan and Grant Program authorized under section 779 of division A of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (Public Law 115-141; 132 Stat. 399); and

Whereas, across a century of steadfast advocacy, the League of Oregon Cities has made incomparable contributions to the resilience and vitality of communities throughout the State of Oregon and improved the lives of all Oregonians: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress recognizes the essential work of the League of Oregon Cities since 1925 and the role the League of Oregon Cities will play in the future in supporting municipalities in the State of Oregon with unparalleled research, technical expertise, and relentless advocacy as a key partner in preserving and strengthening the Federal-local partnership.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 1245. Mr. MERKLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 331, to amend the Controlled Substances Act with respect to the scheduling of fentanyl-related substances, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1246. Mr. MERKLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 331, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1247. Mr. RISCH (for himself and Mrs. SHAHEEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 331, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1248. Mr. HICKENLOOPER (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 331, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1249. Mr. WARNOCK submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 331, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1250. Mr. DURBIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 331, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1251. Mr. DURBIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 331, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1252. Mr. DURBIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 331, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1253. Mr. DURBIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 331, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1254. Mr. DURBIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 331, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1255. Mr. HAWLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 331, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1256. Mr. HAWLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 331, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1257. Ms. HIRONO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 331, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1258. Mr. WARNOCK submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 331, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 1245. Mr. MERKLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 331, to amend the Controlled Substances Act with respect to the scheduling of fentanyl-related substances, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ DEPARTMENT OF LABOR GUIDANCE AND REGULATIONS REGARDING OPIOID OVERDOSE REVERSAL MEDICATION AND EMPLOYEE TRAINING.

(a) NON-MANDATORY GUIDANCE FOR EMPLOYERS CONCERNING OPIOID OVERDOSE REVERSAL MEDICATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Labor, acting through the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, shall issue nonmandatory guidance to employers on—

(A) acquiring and maintaining opioid overdose reversal medication; and

(B) training employees on an annual basis on the usage of such medication.

(2) EMPLOYER DEFINED.—In this section, the term “employer” has the meaning given such term in section 3 of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 (29 U.S.C. 652), except that such term does not include the United States Postal Service.

(b) MANDATORY REGULATIONS FOR FEDERAL AGENCIES CONCERNING OPIOID OVERDOSE REVERSAL MEDICATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Labor, acting through the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, shall issue regulations to require each Federal agency to—

(A) acquire and maintain opioid overdose reversal medication; and

(B) train employees on an annual basis on the usage of such medication.

(2) FEDERAL AGENCY DEFINED.—In this section, the term “Federal agency” means any agency or instrumentality of the Federal Government, including the Veterans Health Administration, notwithstanding section 7425(b) of title 38, United States Code.

SA 1246. Mr. MERKLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 331, to amend the Controlled Substances Act with respect to the scheduling of fentanyl-related substances, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ SCHOOL ACCESS TO NALOXONE.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the “School Access to Naloxone Act of 2025”.

(b) GRANTS FOR REDUCING OPIOID OVERDOSE DEATHS.—

(1) USE OF FUNDS.—Section 544(c) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 290dd-3(c)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1), by inserting “or administering” after “prescribing”; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by inserting “or on the administration of” after “prescribing of”.

(2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 544(g) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 290dd-3(g)) is amended by striking “to carry out this section” and inserting “to carry out this section and section 544A”.

(c) GRANTS FOR REDUCING OPIOID OVERDOSE DEATHS IN ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY

SCHOOLS.—Title V of the Public Health Service Act is amended by inserting after section 544 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 290dd-3) the following:

“SEC. 544A. REDUCING OPIOID OVERDOSE DEATHS IN ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may award grants to eligible entities to provide for the administration, at public and private elementary and secondary schools under the jurisdiction of the eligible entity, of drugs or devices approved, cleared, licensed, or authorized by the Food and Drug Administration, for emergency treatment of known or suspected opioid overdose.

“(b) APPLICATIONS.—To seek a grant under this section, an eligible entity shall submit to the Secretary an application at such time, in such manner, and containing—

“(1) the information required under section 544(b);

“(2) the certifications specified in subsection (c); and

“(3) such other information as the Secretary shall require.

“(c) CERTIFICATIONS.—The certifications specified in this subsection, with respect to each elementary school and secondary school in the eligible entity’s jurisdiction, are the following:

“(1) The school has in place a program under which the school will permit trained personnel of the school to administer drugs or devices for purposes of providing emergency treatment of known or suspected opioid overdose.

“(2) The school will maintain a supply of such drugs or devices in a location that is easily accessible to trained personnel of the school for the purpose of administering such drugs or devices.

“(3) The school has in place a plan for having on the premises of the school during all operating hours one or more individuals who are such trained personnel.

“(4) The State attorney general of the State in which the school is located certifies that the State—

“(A) has reviewed any applicable civil liability protection law to determine the application of such law with regard to elementary and secondary school trained personnel who may administer drugs or devices for emergency treatment in the case of a known or suspected opioid overdose; and

“(B) has concluded that such law provides adequate civil liability protection applicable to such trained personnel.

“(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) The term ‘civil liability protection law’ means a State law offering legal protection to individuals who give aid in an emergency to an individual who is ill, in peril, or otherwise incapacitated.

“(2) The term ‘eligible entity’ has the meaning given to such term in section 544.

“(3) The term ‘trained personnel’ means, with respect to an elementary or secondary school, an individual—

“(A) who is a school nurse or other individual designated by the principal or other appropriate administrative staff of the school to administer drugs or devices for emergency treatment in the case of a known or suspected opioid overdose;

“(B) who has received training in the administration of such drugs or devices; and

“(C) whose training in the administration of such drugs or devices meets appropriate medical standards and has been documented by appropriate administrative staff of the school.”.

SA 1247. Mr. RISCH (for himself and Mrs. SHAHEEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him

to the bill S. 331, to amend the Controlled Substances Act with respect to the scheduling of fentanyl-related substances, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

TITLE II—BUST FENTANYL ACT

SEC. 201. SHORT TITLES.

This title may be cited as the “Break Up Suspicious Transactions of Fentanyl Act” or the “BUST FENTANYL Act”.

SEC. 202. INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL STRATEGY REPORT.

Section 489(a) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2291h(a)) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “March 1” and inserting “June 1”; and

(2) in paragraph (8)(A)(i), by striking “pseudoephedrine” and all that follows through “chemicals)” and inserting “chemical precursors used in the production of methamphetamine that significantly affected the United States”.

SEC. 203. STUDY AND REPORT ON EFFORTS TO ADDRESS FENTANYL TRAFFICKING FROM THE PEOPLE’S REPUBLIC OF CHINA AND OTHER RELEVANT COUNTRIES.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(A) the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate;

(B) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate;

(C) the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives; and

(D) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

(2) DEA.—The term “DEA” means the Drug Enforcement Administration.

(3) PRC.—The term “PRC” means the People’s Republic of China.

(b) STUDY AND REPORT ON ADDRESSING TRAFFICKING OF FENTANYL AND OTHER SYNTHETIC OPIOIDS FROM THE PRC AND OTHER RELEVANT COUNTRIES.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State and the Attorney General shall jointly submit to the appropriate committees of Congress an unclassified written report, with a classified annex, that includes—

(1) a description of United States Government efforts to gain a commitment from the Government of the PRC to submit unregulated fentanyl precursors, such as 4-AP, to controls;

(2) a plan for future steps the United States Government will take to urge the Government of the PRC to combat the production and trafficking of illicit fentanyl and synthetic opioids from the PRC, including the trafficking of precursor chemicals used to produce illicit narcotics in Mexico and in other countries;

(3) a detailed description of cooperation by the Government of the PRC to address the role of the PRC financial system and PRC money laundering organizations in the trafficking of fentanyl and synthetic opioid precursors;

(4) an assessment of the expected impact that the designation of principal corporate officers of PRC financial institutions for facilitating narcotics-related money laundering would have on PRC money laundering organizations;

(5) an assessment of whether the Trilateral Fentanyl Committee, which was established by the United States, Canada, and Mexico during the January 2023 North American Leaders’ Summit, is improving cooperation

with law enforcement and financial regulators in Canada and Mexico to combat the role of PRC financial institutions and PRC money laundering organizations in narcotics trafficking;

(6) an assessment of the effectiveness of other United States bilateral and multilateral efforts to strengthen international cooperation to address the PRC’s role in the trafficking of fentanyl and synthetic opioid precursors, including through the Global Coalition to Address Synthetic Drug Threats;

(7) an update on the status of commitments made by third countries through the Global Coalition to Address Synthetic Drug Threats to combat the synthetic opioid crisis and progress towards the implementation of such commitments;

(8) a plan for future steps to further strengthen bilateral and multilateral efforts to urge the Government of the PRC to take additional actions to address the PRC’s role in the trafficking of fentanyl and synthetic opioid precursors, particularly in coordination with countries in East Asia and Southeast Asia that have been impacted by such activities;

(9) an assessment of how actions the Government of the PRC has taken since November 15, 2023, has shifted relevant supply chains for fentanyl and synthetic opioid precursors, if at all; and

(10) the items described in paragraphs (1) through (4) pertaining to India, Mexico, and other countries the Secretary of State determines to have a significant role in the production or trafficking of fentanyl and synthetic opioid precursors for purposes of this report.

(c) ESTABLISHMENT OF DEA OFFICES IN THE PRC.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State and the Attorney General shall jointly provide to the appropriate committees of Congress a classified briefing on—

(1) outreach and negotiations undertaken by the United States Government with the Government of the PRC that was aimed at securing the approval of the Government of the PRC to establish of United States Drug Enforcement Administration offices in Shanghai and Guangzhou, the PRC; and

(2) additional efforts to establish new partnerships with provincial-level authorities in the PRC to counter the illicit trafficking of fentanyl, fentanyl analogues, and their precursors.

SEC. 204. PRIORITIZATION OF IDENTIFICATION OF PERSONS FROM THE PEOPLE’S REPUBLIC OF CHINA.

Section 7211 of the Fentanyl Sanctions Act (21 U.S.C. 2311) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (3) and (4) as paragraphs (4) and (5), respectively; and

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

“(3) PRIORITIZATION.—

“(A) DEFINED TERM.—In this paragraph, the term ‘person of the People’s Republic of China’ means—

“(i) an individual who is a citizen or national of the People’s Republic of China; or

“(ii) an entity organized under the laws of the People’s Republic of China or otherwise subject to the jurisdiction of the Government of the People’s Republic of China.

“(B) IN GENERAL.—In preparing the report required under paragraph (1), the President shall prioritize, to the greatest extent practicable, the identification of persons of the People’s Republic of China involved in the shipment of fentanyl, fentanyl analogues, fentanyl precursors, precursors for fentanyl analogues, pre-precursors for fentanyl and fentanyl analogues, and equipment for the manufacturing of fentanyl and fentanyl-laced counterfeit pills to Mexico or any

other country that is involved in the production of fentanyl trafficked into the United States, including—

“(i) any entity involved in the production of pharmaceuticals; and

“(ii) any person that is acting on behalf of any such entity.

“(C) **TERMINATION OF PRIORITIZATION.**—The President shall continue the prioritization required under subparagraph (B) until the President certifies to the appropriate congressional committees that the People’s Republic of China is no longer the primary source for the shipment of fentanyl, fentanyl analogues, fentanyl precursors, precursors for fentanyl analogues, pre-precursors for fentanyl and fentanyl analogues, and equipment for the manufacturing of fentanyl and fentanyl-laced counterfeit pills to Mexico or any other country that is involved in the production of fentanyl trafficked into the United States.”; and

(2) in subsection (c), by striking “the date that is 5 years after such date of enactment” and inserting “December 31, 2030”.

SEC. 205. EXPANSION OF SANCTIONS UNDER THE FENTANYL SANCTIONS ACT.

Section 7212 of the Fentanyl Sanctions Act (21 U.S.C. 2312) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “or” at the end;

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(3) the President determines has knowingly engaged in, on or after the date of the enactment of the BUST FENTANYL Act, a significant activity or significant financial transaction that has materially contributed to opioid trafficking; or

“(4) the President determines—

“(A) has received any property or interest in property that the foreign person knows—

“(i) constitutes or is derived from the proceeds of an activity or transaction described in paragraph (3); or

“(ii) was used or intended to be used to commit or to facilitate such an activity or transaction;

“(B) has knowingly provided significant financial, material, or technological support for, including through the provision of goods or services in support of—

“(i) any activity or transaction described in paragraph (3); or

“(ii) any foreign person described in paragraph (3); or

“(C) is or has been owned, controlled, or directed by any foreign person described in subparagraph (A) or (B) or in paragraph (3), or has knowingly acted or purported to act for or on behalf of, directly or indirectly, such a foreign person.”.

SEC. 206. IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO AGENCIES OR INSTRUMENTALITIES OF FOREIGN STATES.

(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section, the terms “knowingly” and “opioid trafficking” have the meanings given such terms in section 7203 of the Fentanyl Sanctions Act (21 U.S.C. 2302).

(b) **IN GENERAL.**—The President may—

(1) impose one or more of the sanctions described in section 7213 of the Fentanyl Sanctions Act (21 U.S.C. 2313) with respect to each political subdivision, agency, or instrumentality of a foreign government, including any financial institution owned or controlled by a foreign government, that the President determines has knowingly, on or after the date of the enactment of this Act—

(A) engaged in a significant activity or a significant financial transaction that has materially contributed to opioid trafficking; or

(B) provided financial, material, or technological support for (including through the provision of goods or services in support of)

any significant activity or significant financial transaction described in subparagraph (A); and

(2) impose one or more of the sanctions described in section 7213(a)(6) of the Fentanyl Sanctions Act (21 U.S.C. 2313(a)(6)) with respect to each senior official of a political subdivision, agency, or instrumentality of a foreign government that the President determines has knowingly, on or after the date of the enactment of this Act, facilitated a significant activity or a significant financial transaction described in paragraph (1).

SEC. 207. ANNUAL REPORT ON EFFORTS TO PREVENT THE SMUGGLING OF METHAMPHETAMINE INTO THE UNITED STATES FROM MEXICO.

Section 723(c) of the Combat Methamphetamine Epidemic Act of 2005 (22 U.S.C. 2291 note) is amended by striking the period at the end and inserting the following “,” which shall—

“(1) identify the significant source countries for methamphetamine that significantly affect the United States, and

“(2) describe the actions by the governments of the countries identified pursuant to paragraph (1) to combat the diversion of relevant precursor chemicals and the production and trafficking of methamphetamine.”.

SA 1248. Mr. HICKENLOOPER (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 331, to amend the Controlled Substances Act with respect to the scheduling of fentanyl-related substances, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ PEER-TO-PEER MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT.

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This section may be cited as the “Peer to Peer Mental Health Support Act”.

(b) **PILOT PROGRAM.**—The Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use (referred to in this section as the “Assistant Secretary”), in consultation with the Secretary of Education, may, as appropriate and within a relevant existing program, carry out a pilot program and make awards, on a competitive basis, to eligible entities to support evidence-based mental health peer support activities for students enrolled in secondary schools (as such term is defined in section 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801)).

(c) **ELIGIBILITY.**—To be eligible to receive an award under this section, an entity shall—

(1) be a State, political subdivision of a State, territory, or Indian Tribe or Tribal organization (as such terms are defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304)); and

(2) submit to the Assistant Secretary an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Assistant Secretary may require, including a description of how the entity will measure and evaluate progress of the program in improving student mental health outcomes.

(d) **USE OF AMOUNTS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to paragraph (2), an eligible entity may use amounts provided under this section to implement or operate evidence-based mental health peer support activities in 1 or more secondary schools (as such term is defined in section 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801)) within the jurisdiction

of such eligible entity, which may include providing training, as appropriate, to students, adult supervisors, and other appropriate individuals to improve the early identification of, response to, and recovery supports for mental health and substance use challenges, reduce associated risks, and promote resiliency.

(2) **PROGRAM OVERSIGHT.**—An eligible entity shall ensure that mental health peer support activities under paragraph (1) are overseen by a school-based mental health professional.

(3) **FERPA.**—Any education records of the student collected or maintained under this section shall have the protections provided in section 444 of the General Education Provisions Act (20 U.S.C. 1232g).

(e) **EVALUATION; REPORT.**—

(1) **EVALUATION.**—The Assistant Secretary shall carry out an evaluation to measure the efficacy of the program under this section. The evaluation shall—

(A) measure participation rates in mental health peer support activities, including any associated trends;

(B) describe the specific trainings provided, or other activities carried out under the pilot program;

(C) assess whether such mental health peer support activities impacted mental health outcomes of participating students; and

(D) measure the effectiveness of the pilot program in connecting students to professional mental health services compared to other evidence-based strategies.

(2) **REPORT.**—The Assistant Secretary shall prepare and submit to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Education and Workforce of the House of Representatives a report containing the results of the evaluation conducted under paragraph (1).

(f) **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.**—The Assistant Secretary, in coordination with the Secretary of Education, shall provide technical assistance to eligible entities applying for and receiving an award under this section, including the identification and dissemination of best practices for mental health peer support programs for students.

(g) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Section 4001 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7101) shall apply to an entity receiving a grant, contract, or cooperative agreement under this section in the same manner as such section applies to an entity receiving funding under title IV of such Act, except that section 4001(a)(2)(B)(i) of such Act shall not apply.

(h) **SUNSET.**—This section shall terminate on September 30, 2029.

SA 1249. Mr. WARNOCK submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 331, to amend the Controlled Substances Act with respect to the scheduling of fentanyl-related substances, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In subsection (e) of schedule I of section 202(c) of the Controlled Substances Act, as added by section 2 of this Act, add at the end the following:

“(5) Notwithstanding any other provision of this title or title III, an offense involving the trafficking of a fentanyl-related substance shall not be subject to a quantity-based mandatory minimum penalty.”.

SA 1250. Mr. DURBIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 331, to amend the Controlled Substances Act with respect

to the scheduling of fentanyl-related substances, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. REPEAL OF SECTION 230.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 230 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 230) is repealed.

(b) **CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**—

(1) **COMMUNICATIONS ACT OF 1934.**—The Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 151 et seq.) is amended—

(A) in section 223(h) (47 U.S.C. 223(h)), by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

“(2) The term ‘interactive computer service’ means any information service, system, or access software provider that provides or enables computer access by multiple users to a computer server, including specifically a service or system that provides access to the Internet and such systems operated or services offered by libraries or educational institutions.”; and

(B) in section 231(b)(4) (47 U.S.C. 231(b)(4)), by striking “or section 230”.

(2) **TRADEMARK ACT OF 1946.**—Section 45 of the Act entitled “An Act to provide for the registration and protection of trademarks used in commerce, to carry out the provisions of certain international conventions, and for other purposes”, approved July 5, 1946 (commonly known as the “Trademark Act of 1946”) (15 U.S.C. 1127), is amended by striking the definition relating to the term “Internet” and inserting the following:

“The term ‘Internet’ means the international computer network of both Federal and non-Federal interoperable packet switched data networks.”.

(3) **TITLE 17, UNITED STATES CODE.**—Section 1401 of title 17, United States Code, is amended by striking subsection (g).

(4) **TITLE 18, UNITED STATES CODE.**—Part I of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in section 1462, by striking “(as defined in section 230(e)(2) of the Communications Act of 1934)” each place the term appears and inserting “(as defined in section 223 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 223))”;

(B) in section 1465, by striking “(as defined in section 230(e)(2) of the Communications Act of 1934)” and inserting “(as defined in section 223 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 223))”;

(C) in section 2257(h)(2)(B)(v), by striking “, except that deletion of a particular communication or material made by another person in a manner consistent with section 230(c) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 230(c)) shall not constitute such selection or alteration of the content of the communication”; and

(D) in section 2421A—

(i) in subsection (a), by striking “(as such term is defined in defined in section 230(f) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 230(f)))” and inserting “(as that term is defined in section 223 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 223))”;

(ii) in subsection (b), by striking “(as such term is defined in defined in section 230(f) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 230(f)))” and inserting “(as that term is defined in section 223 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 223))”.

(5) **CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES ACT.**—Section 401(h)(3)(A)(iii)(II) of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 841(h)(3)(A)(iii)(II)) is amended by striking “, except that deletion of a particular communication or material made by another person in a manner consistent with section 230(c) of the Communications Act of 1934 shall not constitute

such selection or alteration of the content of the communication”.

(6) **WEBB-KENYON ACT.**—Section 3(b)(1) of the Act entitled “An Act divesting intoxicating liquors of their interstate character in certain cases”, approved March 1, 1913 (commonly known as the “Webb-Kenyon Act”) (27 U.S.C. 122b(b)(1)), is amended by striking “(as defined in section 230(f) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 230(f))” and inserting “(as defined in section 223 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 223))”.

(7) **TITLE 28, UNITED STATES CODE.**—Section 4102 of title 28, United States Code, is amended—

(A) by striking subsection (c); and

(B) in subsection (e)—

(i) by striking “construed to” and all that follows through “affect” and inserting “construed to affect”; and

(ii) by striking “defamation; or” and all that follows and inserting “defamation.”.

(8) **DANIEL ANDERL JUDICIAL SECURITY AND PRIVACY ACT OF 2022.**—Section 5933(7) of the Daniel Anderl Judicial Security and Privacy Act of 2022 (28 U.S.C. 601 note prec.; Public Law 117-263) is amended by striking “section 230 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 230)” and inserting “section 223 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 223)”.

(9) **TITLE 31, UNITED STATES CODE.**—Section 5362(6) of title 31, United States Code, is amended by striking “section 230(f) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 230(f))” and inserting “section 223 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 223)”.

(10) **NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION ORGANIZATION ACT.**—Section 157 of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration Organization Act (47 U.S.C. 941) is amended—

(A) by striking subsection (e); and

(B) by redesignating subsections (f) through (j) as subsections (e) through (i), respectively.

SA 1251. Mr. DURBIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 331, to amend the Controlled Substances Act with respect to the scheduling of fentanyl-related substances, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. REPEAL OF SECTION 230.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 230 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 230) is repealed.

(b) **CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**—

(1) **COMMUNICATIONS ACT OF 1934.**—The Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 151 et seq.) is amended—

(A) in section 223(h) (47 U.S.C. 223(h)), by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

“(2) The term ‘interactive computer service’ means any information service, system, or access software provider that provides or enables computer access by multiple users to a computer server, including specifically a service or system that provides access to the Internet and such systems operated or services offered by libraries or educational institutions.”; and

(B) in section 231(b)(4) (47 U.S.C. 231(b)(4)), by striking “or section 230”.

(2) **TRADEMARK ACT OF 1946.**—Section 45 of the Act entitled “An Act to provide for the registration and protection of trademarks used in commerce, to carry out the provisions of certain international conventions, and for other purposes”, approved July 5,

1946 (commonly known as the “Trademark Act of 1946”) (15 U.S.C. 1127), is amended by striking the definition relating to the term “Internet” and inserting the following:

“The term ‘Internet’ means the international computer network of both Federal and non-Federal interoperable packet switched data networks.”.

(3) **TITLE 17, UNITED STATES CODE.**—Section 1401 of title 17, United States Code, is amended by striking subsection (g).

(4) **TITLE 18, UNITED STATES CODE.**—Part I of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in section 1462, by striking “(as defined in section 230(e)(2) of the Communications Act of 1934)” each place the term appears and inserting “(as defined in section 223 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 223))”;

(B) in section 1465, by striking “(as defined in section 230(e)(2) of the Communications Act of 1934)” and inserting “(as defined in section 223 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 223))”;

(C) in section 2257(h)(2)(B)(v), by striking “, except that deletion of a particular communication or material made by another person in a manner consistent with section 230(c) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 230(c)) shall not constitute such selection or alteration of the content of the communication”; and

(D) in section 2421A—

(i) in subsection (a), by striking “(as such term is defined in defined in section 230(f) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 230(f)))” and inserting “(as that term is defined in section 223 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 223))”;

(ii) in subsection (b), by striking “(as such term is defined in defined in section 230(f) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 230(f)))” and inserting “(as that term is defined in section 223 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 223))”.

(5) **CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES ACT.**—Section 401(h)(3)(A)(iii)(II) of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 841(h)(3)(A)(iii)(II)) is amended by striking “, except that deletion of a particular communication or material made by another person in a manner consistent with section 230(c) of the Communications Act of 1934 shall not constitute such selection or alteration of the content of the communication”.

(6) **WEBB-KENYON ACT.**—Section 3(b)(1) of the Act entitled “An Act divesting intoxicating liquors of their interstate character in certain cases”, approved March 1, 1913 (commonly known as the “Webb-Kenyon Act”) (27 U.S.C. 122b(b)(1)), is amended by striking “(as defined in section 230(f) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 230(f))” and inserting “(as defined in section 223 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 223))”.

(7) **TITLE 28, UNITED STATES CODE.**—Section 4102 of title 28, United States Code, is amended—

(A) by striking subsection (c); and

(B) in subsection (e)—

(i) by striking “construed to” and all that follows through “affect” and inserting “construed to affect”; and

(ii) by striking “defamation; or” and all that follows and inserting “defamation.”.

(8) **DANIEL ANDERL JUDICIAL SECURITY AND PRIVACY ACT OF 2022.**—Section 5933(7) of the Daniel Anderl Judicial Security and Privacy Act of 2022 (28 U.S.C. 601 note prec.; Public Law 117-263) is amended by striking “section 230 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 230)” and inserting “section 223 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 223)”.

(9) **TITLE 31, UNITED STATES CODE.**—Section 5362(6) of title 31, United States Code, is amended by striking “section 230(f) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C.

230(f))" and inserting "section 223 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 223)".

(10) NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION ORGANIZATION ACT.—Section 157 of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration Organization Act (47 U.S.C. 941) is amended—

(A) by striking subsection (e); and
(B) by redesignating subsections (f) through (j) as subsections (e) through (i), respectively.

(C) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on January 1, 2027.

SA 1252. Mr. DURBIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 331, to amend the Controlled Substances Act with respect to the scheduling of fentanyl-related substances, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . FEDERAL TORT FOR FENTANYL TRAFFICKING VIA SOCIAL MEDIA.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COVERED SUBSTANCE.—The term "covered substance" means a substance containing—

(A) fentanyl; or
(B) a fentanyl-related substance, as defined in section 102 of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 802), as amended by section 6(c) of this Act.

(2) INTERACTIVE COMPUTER SERVICE.—The term "interactive computer service" has the meaning given the term in section 230 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 230).

(b) LIABILITY.—The provider of an interactive computer service shall be liable to any individual who suffers bodily harm attributable to the provider's intentional, knowing, or reckless—

(1) promotion of a covered substance; or
(2) facilitation of the sale of a covered substance.

(c) PRIVATE RIGHT OF ACTION.—An individual who suffers bodily harm attributable to the intentional, knowing, or reckless promotion, by the provider of an interactive computer service, of a covered substance, or attributable to the intentional, knowing, or reckless facilitation, by the provider of an interactive computer service, of the sale of a covered substance, may bring a civil action against the provider in an appropriate district court of the United States or a State court of competent jurisdiction for—

(1) actual damages;
(2) punitive damages; and
(3) attorney fees and costs.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE; APPLICABILITY.—This section—

(1) shall take effect on the date that is 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act; and

(2) shall not apply to any use of an interactive computer service that took place before the effective date under paragraph (1).

SA 1253. Mr. DURBIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 331, to amend the Controlled Substances Act with respect to the scheduling of fentanyl-related substances, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . EXCISE TAX ON OPIOID PAIN RELIEVERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT OF TAX.—Subchapter E of chapter 32 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by inserting after subchapter D the following new subchapter:

"Subchapter E—Opioid Pain Relievers

"Sec. 4191. Opioid pain relievers.

"SEC. 4191. OPIOID PAIN RELIEVERS.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—There is hereby imposed on the manufacturer or producer of any taxable active opioid a tax equal to the amount determined under subsection (b).

"(b) AMOUNT DETERMINED.—The amount determined under this subsection with respect to a manufacturer or producer for a calendar year is 1 cent per milligram of taxable active opioid in the production or manufacturing quota determined for such manufacturer or producer for the calendar year under section 306 of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 826).

"(c) TAXABLE ACTIVE OPIOID.—For purposes of this section—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The term "taxable active opioid" means any controlled substance (as defined in section 102 of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 802), as in effect on the date of the enactment of this section) manufactured in the United States which is opium, an opiate, or any derivative thereof.

"(2) EXCLUSIONS.—

"(A) OTHER INGREDIENTS.—In the case of a product that includes a taxable active opioid and another ingredient, subsection (a) shall apply only to the portion of such product that is a taxable active opioid.

"(B) DRUGS USED IN ADDICTION TREATMENT.—The term "taxable active opioid" shall not include any controlled substance (as so defined) which is used exclusively for the treatment of opioid addiction as part of a medication-assisted treatment."

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of subchapters for chapter 32 of such Code is amended by inserting after the item relating to subchapter D the following new item:

"SUBCHAPTER E—OPIOID PAIN RELIEVERS".

(3) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this subsection shall apply to calendar years beginning after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) FUNDING OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROGRAMS.—From time to time, beginning in the second calendar year that begins after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Treasury shall transfer from the general fund of the Treasury an amount equal to the total amount of taxes collected under section 4191 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as added by this Act, to the Director of the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration for programs of the Center, including the substance use prevention, treatment, and recovery services block grant program under subpart II of part B of title XIX of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300x–21 et seq.) and the program to address priority substance use disorder prevention needs of regional and national significance under section 516 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 290bb–22).

SA 1254. Mr. DURBIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 331, to amend the Controlled Substances Act with respect to the scheduling of fentanyl-related substances, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

TITLE II—STOP ARMING CARTELS ACT

SEC. 201. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the "Stop Arming Cartels Act of 2025".

SEC. 202. PROHIBITION ON RIFLES CAPABLE OF FIRING .50 CALIBER AMMUNITION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in section 922, by adding at the end the following:

"(aa) RIFLES CAPABLE OF FIRING .50 CALIBER AMMUNITION.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), it shall be unlawful for any person to import, sell, manufacture, transfer, or possess, in or affecting interstate or foreign commerce, a rifle capable of firing .50 caliber ammunition.

"(2) EXCEPTIONS.—

"(A) GOVERNMENT USE.—Paragraph (1) shall not apply to the importation for, manufacture for, sale to, transfer to, or possession by the United States, a department or agency of the United States, a State, or a department, agency, or political subdivision of a State, of a rifle capable of firing .50 caliber ammunition.

"(B) GRANDFATHERED RIFLES.—Paragraph (1) shall not apply to the sale, transfer, or possession of any rifle otherwise lawfully possessed on or before the date of enactment of the Stop Arming Cartels Act of 2025."; and

(2) in section 924(a)(1)(B), by striking "or (q)" and inserting "(q), or (aa)".

(b) INCLUSION OF CERTAIN RIFLES AS FIREARMS UNDER NATIONAL FIREARMS ACT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 5845(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking "and (8) a destructive device" and inserting "(8) a destructive device; and (9) a rifle which is capable of firing .50 caliber ammunition and is lawfully possessed on or before the date of enactment of the Stop Arming Cartels Act of 2025".

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), the amendments made by this subsection shall take effect on the date which is 12 months after the date of enactment of this Act.

(B) REGISTRATION.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding subparagraph (A) or any other provision of law, any person possessing a rifle which is capable of firing .50 caliber ammunition which is not registered to such person in the National Firearms Registration and Transfer Record shall register each such rifle so possessed with the Secretary in such form and manner as the Secretary may require within the 12-month period immediately following the date of enactment of this Act. No fee or tax shall be imposed with respect to any registration required under this subparagraph.

(ii) INCLUSION IN REGISTRY.—Any registration described in clause (i) shall become a part of the National Firearms Registration and Transfer Record. No information or evidence required to be submitted or retained by a natural person to register a firearm under this subparagraph shall be used, directly or indirectly, as evidence against such person in any criminal proceeding with respect to a prior or concurrent violation of law.

(C) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph:

(i) NATIONAL FIREARMS REGISTRATION AND TRANSFER RECORD.—The term "National Firearms Registration and Transfer Record" means the registry established pursuant to section 5841 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

(ii) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" has the same meaning given such term under section 7701(a)(11)(B) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

SEC. 203. EXCEPTION TO COVERAGE UNDER PROTECTION OF LAWFUL COMMERCE IN ARMS ACT.

Section 4(5)(A) of the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act (15 U.S.C. 7903(5)(A)) is amended—

(1) in clause (v), by striking “or” at the end;

(2) in clause (vi), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; or”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(vii) an action brought against a manufacturer or seller that knowingly sells or transfers a qualified product, or attempts or conspires to do so, knowing or having reasonable cause to believe that the transaction is prohibited under section 805(c) of the Foreign Narcotics Kingpin Designation Act (21 U.S.C. 1904(c)).”

SEC. 204. FEDERAL FIREARM PROHIBITOR FOR SIGNIFICANT FOREIGN NARCOTICS TRAFFICKERS AND CERTAIN OTHER FOREIGN PERSONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 922(d) of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (10), by striking “or” at the end;

(2) by redesignating paragraph (11) as paragraph (12);

(3) by inserting after paragraph (10) the following:

“(11) is—

“(A) a significant foreign narcotics trafficker publicly identified by the President in a report under subsection (b) or (h)(1) of section 804 of the Foreign Narcotics Kingpin Designation Act (21 U.S.C. 1903); or

“(B) a foreign person designated by the Secretary of the Treasury under section 805(b) of the Foreign Narcotics Kingpin Designation Act (21 U.S.C. 1904(b)); or”; and

(4) in paragraph (12), as so redesignated, by striking “(10)” and inserting “(11)”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS RELATING TO NICS.—Section 103 of the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act (34 U.S.C. 40901) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(2)(D), by inserting “or that transfer of a firearm or ammunition to the individual would violate subsection (d)(11) of such section 922” after “section 922 of title 18, United States Code,”;

(2) in subsection (e)(1)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by inserting “or to whom transfer of a firearm would violate subsection (d)(11) of such section 922,” after “section 922 of title 18, United States Code or State law,”;

(B) in subparagraph (C), by inserting “or that transfer of a firearm or ammunition to the person would violate subsection (d)(11) of such section 922,” after “section 922 of title 18, United States Code,”;

(C) in subparagraph (F)(iii)(I), by striking “(g) or (n)” and inserting “(d)(11), (g), or (n)”; and

(D) in subparagraph (G)(i), by striking “(g) or (n)” and inserting “(d)(11), (g), or (n)”; and

(3) in subsection (g), by inserting “or that transfer of a firearm to a prospective transferee would violate subsection (d)(11) of such section 922,” after “section 922 of title 18, United States Code or State law,”; and

(4) in subsection (i)(2)—

(A) by striking “persons,” and inserting “persons who are”; and

(B) by inserting before the period at the end the following: “, or to whom transfer of a firearm would violate subsection (d)(11) of such section 922”.

SEC. 205. ADDING RIFLES TO MULTIPLE FIREARM SALES REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.

Section 923(g)(3)(A) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by striking “pistols, or revolvers, or any combination of pistols and revolvers” and inserting “pistols, revolvers, or rifles, or any combination of pistols, revolvers, and rifles”.

SA 1255. Mr. HAWLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 331, to amend the Controlled Substances Act with respect

to the scheduling of fentanyl-related substances, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

SEC. 8. REPORT; AUTHORIZATION TO IMPOSE ADDITIONAL DUTIES.

(a) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit to Congress a report on the amount of fentanyl and fentanyl-related substances that crossed the southern international land border of the United States during the year preceding submission of the report.

(b) AUTHORITY TO IMPOSE ADDITIONAL DUTIES.—If, in any report submitted under subsection (a), the Secretary determines that the amount of fentanyl and fentanyl-related substances that crossed the southern international land border of the United States during the year preceding submission of the report did not decrease relative to the preceding year, the President may impose duties on imports of goods from Mexico that are in addition to the duties on such goods in effect on the date of the report.

SA 1256. Mr. HAWLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 331, to amend the Controlled Substances Act with respect to the scheduling of fentanyl-related substances, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . REAUTHORIZATION.

Section 1001(a)(21) of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10261(a)(21)) is amended by striking “2020 through 2024” and inserting “2025 through 2029”.

SA 1257. Ms. HIRONO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 331, to amend the Controlled Substances Act with respect to the scheduling of fentanyl-related substances, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . REPORT TO CONGRESS.

(a) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term “fentanyl-related substance” has the meaning given that term under section 102 of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 802), as amended by section 6(c) of this Act.

(b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Attorney General, in consultation with the Secretary of Education, shall submit to Congress a report that—

(1) identifies barriers to fentanyl and fentanyl-related substance abuse education in primary and secondary school; and

(2) describes best practices for fentanyl and fentanyl-related substance abuse education in primary and secondary schools.

SA 1258. Mr. WARNOCK submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 331, to amend the Controlled Substances Act with respect to the scheduling of fentanyl-related substances, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike sections 2 through 7 and insert the following:

SEC. 2. CLASS SCHEDULING OF FENTANYL-RELATED SUBSTANCES.

Section 202(c) of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 812(c)) is amended by adding at the end of schedule I the following:

“(e)(1) Unless specifically exempted or unless listed in another schedule, any material, compound, mixture, or preparation which contains any quantity of a fentanyl-related substance, or which contains the salts, isomers, and salts of isomers of a fentanyl-related substance whenever the existence of such salts, isomers, and salts of isomers is possible within the specific chemical designation.

“(2) For purposes of paragraph (1), except as provided in paragraph (3), the term ‘fentanyl-related substance’ means any substance that is structurally related to fentanyl by 1 or more of the following modifications:

“(A) By replacement of the phenyl portion of the phenethyl group by any monocycle, whether or not further substituted in or on the monocycle.

“(B) By substitution in or on the phenethyl group with alkyl, alkenyl, alkoxy, hydroxyl, halo, haloalkyl, amino, or nitro groups.

“(C) By substitution in or on the piperidine ring with alkyl, alkenyl, alkoxy, ester, ether, hydroxyl, halo, haloalkyl, amino, or nitro groups.

“(D) By replacement of the aniline ring with any aromatic monocycle whether or not further substituted in or on the aromatic monocycle.

“(E) By replacement of the N-propionyl group with another acyl group.

“(3) A substance that satisfies the definition of the term ‘fentanyl-related substance’ in paragraph (2) shall nonetheless not be treated as a fentanyl-related substance subject to this schedule if the substance—

“(A) is controlled by action of the Attorney General under section 201; or

“(B) is otherwise expressly listed in a schedule other than this schedule.

“(4)(A) The Attorney General may by order publish in the Federal Register a list of substances that satisfy the definition of the term ‘fentanyl-related substance’ in paragraph (2).

“(B) The absence of a substance from a list published under subparagraph (A) does not negate the control status of the substance under this schedule if the substance satisfies the definition of the term ‘fentanyl-related substance’ in paragraph (2).

“(5) Notwithstanding any other provision of this title or title III, an offense involving the trafficking of a fentanyl-related substance shall not be subject to a quantity-based mandatory minimum penalty.”

SEC. 3. REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS RELATED TO RESEARCH.

(a) ALTERNATIVE REGISTRATION PROCESS FOR SCHEDULE I RESEARCH.—Section 303 of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 823) is amended—

(1) by redesignating the second subsection (1) (relating to required training for prescribers) as subsection (m); and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(n) SPECIAL PROVISIONS FOR PRACTITIONERS CONDUCTING CERTAIN RESEARCH WITH SCHEDULE I CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding subsection (g), a practitioner may conduct research described in paragraph (2) of this subsection with 1 or more schedule I substances in accordance with subparagraph (A) or (B) of paragraph (3) of this subsection.

“(2) RESEARCH SUBJECT TO EXPEDITED PROCEDURES.—Research described in this paragraph is research that—

“(A) is with respect to a drug that is the subject of an investigational use exemption under section 505(i) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 355(i)); or

“(B) is—

“(i) conducted by the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Defense, or the Department of Veterans Affairs; or

“(ii) funded partly or entirely by a grant, contract, cooperative agreement, or other transaction from the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Defense, or the Department of Veterans Affairs.

“(3) EXPEDITED PROCEDURES.—

“(A) RESEARCHER WITH A CURRENT SCHEDULE I OR II RESEARCH REGISTRATION.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—If a practitioner is registered to conduct research with a controlled substance in schedule I or II, the practitioner may conduct research under this subsection on and after the date that is 30 days after the date on which the practitioner sends a notice to the Attorney General containing the following information, with respect to each substance with which the practitioner will conduct the research:

“(I) The chemical name of the substance.

“(II) The quantity of the substance to be used in the research.

“(III) Demonstration that the research is in the category described in paragraph (2), which demonstration may be satisfied—

“(aa) in the case of a grant, contract, cooperative agreement, or other transaction, or intramural research project, by identifying the sponsoring agency and supplying the number of the grant, contract, cooperative agreement, other transaction, or project; or

“(bb) in the case of an application under section 505(i) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 355(i)), by supplying the application number and the sponsor of record on the application.

“(IV) Demonstration that the researcher is authorized to conduct research with respect to the substance under the laws of the State in which the research will take place.

“(ii) VERIFICATION OF INFORMATION BY HHS OR VA.—Upon request from the Attorney General, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Department of Defense, or the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, as appropriate, shall verify information submitted by an applicant under clause (i)(III).

“(B) RESEARCHER WITHOUT A CURRENT SCHEDULE I OR II RESEARCH REGISTRATION.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—If a practitioner is not registered to conduct research with a controlled substance in schedule I or II, the practitioner may send a notice to the Attorney General containing the information listed in subparagraph (A)(i), with respect to each substance with which the practitioner will conduct the research.

“(ii) ATTORNEY GENERAL ACTION.—The Attorney General shall—

“(I) treat notice received under clause (i) as a sufficient application for a research registration; and

“(II) not later than 45 days of receiving such a notice that contains all information required under subparagraph (A)(i)—

“(aa) register the applicant; or

“(bb) serve an order to show cause upon the applicant in accordance with section 304(c).

“(4) ELECTRONIC SUBMISSIONS.—The Attorney General shall provide a means to permit a practitioner to submit a notification under paragraph (3) electronically.

“(5) LIMITATION ON AMOUNTS.—A practitioner conducting research with a schedule I substance under this subsection may only possess the amounts of schedule I substance identified in—

“(A) the notification to the Attorney General under paragraph (3); or

“(B) a supplemental notification that the practitioner may send if the practitioner needs additional amounts for the research,

which supplemental notification shall include—

“(i) the name of the practitioner;

“(ii) the additional quantity needed of the substance; and

“(iii) an attestation that the research to be conducted with the substance is consistent with the scope of the research that was the subject of the notification under paragraph (3).

“(6) IMPORTATION AND EXPORTATION REQUIREMENTS NOT AFFECTED.—Nothing in this subsection alters the requirements of part A of title III, regarding the importation and exportation of controlled substances.

“(7) INSPECTOR GENERAL REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Halt All Lethal Trafficking of Fentanyl Act, the Inspector General of the Department of Justice shall complete a study, and submit to Congress a report thereon, about research described in paragraph (2) of this subsection with fentanyl.”.

(b) SEPARATE REGISTRATIONS NOT REQUIRED FOR ADDITIONAL RESEARCHER IN SAME INSTITUTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 302(c) of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 822(c)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(4) An agent or employee of a research institution that is conducting research with a controlled substance if—

“(A) the agent or employee is acting within the scope of the professional practice of the agent or employee;

“(B) another agent or employee of the institution is registered to conduct research with a controlled substance in the same schedule;

“(C) the researcher who is so registered—

“(i) informs the Attorney General of the name, position title, and employing institution of the agent or employee who is not separately registered;

“(ii) authorizes that agent or employee to perform research under the registration of the registered researcher; and

“(iii) affirms that any act taken by that agent or employee involving a controlled substance shall be attributable to the registered researcher, as if the researcher had directly committed the act, for purposes of any proceeding under section 304(a) to suspend or revoke the registration of the registered researcher; and

“(D) the Attorney General does not, within 30 days of receiving the information, authorization, and affirmation described in subparagraph (C), refuse, for a reason listed in section 304(a), to allow the agent or employee to possess the substance without a separate registration.”.

(2) TECHNICAL CORRECTION.—Section 302(c)(3) of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 822(c)(3)) is amended by striking “(25)” and inserting “(27)”.

(c) SINGLE REGISTRATION FOR RELATED RESEARCH SITES.—Section 302(e) of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 822(e)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(4)(A) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), a person registered to conduct research with a controlled substance under section 303(g) may conduct the research under a single registration if—

“(i) the research occurs exclusively on sites all of which are—

“(I) within the same city or county; and

“(II) under the control of the same institution, organization, or agency; and

“(i) before commencing the research, the researcher notifies the Attorney General of each site where—

“(I) the research will be conducted; or

“(II) the controlled substance will be stored or administered.

“(B) A site described in subparagraph (A) shall be included in a registration described

in that subparagraph only if the researcher has notified the Attorney General of the site—

“(i) in the application for the registration; or

“(ii) before the research is conducted, or before the controlled substance is stored or administered, at the site.

“(C) The Attorney General may, in consultation with the Secretary, issue regulations addressing, with respect to research sites described in subparagraph (A)—

“(i) the manner in which controlled substances may be delivered to the research sites;

“(ii) the storage and security of controlled substances at the research sites;

“(iii) the maintenance of records for the research sites; and

“(iv) any other matters necessary to ensure effective controls against diversion at the research sites.”.

(d) NEW INSPECTION NOT REQUIRED IN CERTAIN SITUATIONS.—Section 302(f) of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 822(f)) is amended—

(1) by striking “(f) The” and inserting “(f)(1) The”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(2)(A) If a person is registered to conduct research with a controlled substance and applies for a registration, or for a modification of a registration, to conduct research with a second controlled substance that is in the same schedule as the first controlled substance, or is in a schedule with a higher numerical designation than the schedule of the first controlled substance, a new inspection by the Attorney General of the registered location is not required.

“(B) Nothing in subparagraph (A) shall prohibit the Attorney General from conducting an inspection that the Attorney General determines necessary to ensure that a registrant maintains effective controls against diversion.”.

(e) CONTINUATION OF RESEARCH ON SUBSTANCES NEWLY ADDED TO SCHEDULE I.—Section 302 of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 822) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(h) CONTINUATION OF RESEARCH ON SUBSTANCES NEWLY ADDED TO SCHEDULE I.—If a person is conducting research on a substance when the substance is added to schedule I, and the person is already registered to conduct research with a controlled substance in schedule I—

“(1) not later than 90 days after the scheduling of the newly scheduled substance, the person shall submit a completed application for registration or modification of existing registration, to conduct research on the substance, in accordance with regulations issued by the Attorney General for purposes of this paragraph;

“(2) the person may, notwithstanding subsections (a) and (b), continue to conduct the research on the substance until—

“(A) the person withdraws the application described in paragraph (1) of this subsection; or

“(B) the Attorney General serves on the person an order to show cause proposing the denial of the application under section 304(c);

“(3) if the Attorney General serves an order to show cause as described in paragraph (2)(B) and the person requests a hearing, the hearing shall be held on an expedited basis and not later than 45 days after the request is made, except that the hearing may be held at a later time if so requested by the person; and

“(4) if the person sends a copy of the application described in paragraph (1) to a manufacturer or distributor of the substance, receipt of the copy by the manufacturer or distributor shall constitute sufficient evidence

that the person is authorized to receive the substance.”.

(f) **TREATMENT OF CERTAIN MANUFACTURING ACTIVITIES AS COINCIDENT TO RESEARCH.**—Section 302 of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 822), as amended by subsection (e), is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(i) **TREATMENT OF CERTAIN MANUFACTURING ACTIVITIES AS COINCIDENT TO RESEARCH.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided in paragraph (3), a person who is registered to perform research on a controlled substance may perform manufacturing activities with small quantities of that substance, including activities described in paragraph (2), without being required to obtain a manufacturing registration, if—

“(A) the activities are performed for the purpose of the research; and

“(B) the activities and the quantities of the substance involved in the activities are stated in—

“(i) a notification submitted to the Attorney General under section 303(n);

“(ii) a research protocol filed with an application for registration approval under section 303(g); or

“(iii) a notification to the Attorney General that includes—

“(i) the name of the registrant; and

“(II) an attestation that the research to be conducted with the small quantities of manufactured substance is consistent with the scope of the research that is the basis for the registration.

“(2) **ACTIVITIES INCLUDED.**—Activities permitted under paragraph (1) include—

“(A) processing the substance to create extracts, tinctures, oils, solutions, derivatives, or other forms of the substance consistent with—

“(i) the information provided as part of a notification submitted to the Attorney General under section 303(n); or

“(ii) a research protocol filed with an application for registration approval under section 303(g); and

“(B) dosage form development studies performed for the purpose of requesting an investigational new drug exemption under section 505(i) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 355(i)).

“(3) **EXCEPTION REGARDING MARIHUANA.**—The authority under paragraph (1) to manufacture substances does not include the authority to grow marihuana.”.

(g) **TRANSPARENCY REGARDING SPECIAL PROCEDURES.**—Section 303 of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 823), as amended by subsection (a), is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(o) **TRANSPARENCY REGARDING SPECIAL PROCEDURES.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—If the Attorney General determines, with respect to a controlled substance, that an application by a practitioner to conduct research with the substance should be considered under a process, or subject to criteria, different from the process or criteria applicable to applications to conduct research with other controlled substances in the same schedule, the Attorney General shall make public, including by posting on the website of the Drug Enforcement Administration—

“(A) the identities of all substances for which such determinations have been made;

“(B) the process and criteria that shall be applied to applications to conduct research with those substances; and

“(C) how the process and criteria described in subparagraph (B) differ from the process and criteria applicable to applications to conduct research with other controlled substances in the same schedule.

“(2) **TIMING OF POSTING.**—The Attorney General shall make information described in paragraph (1) public upon making a determination described in that paragraph, regardless of whether a practitioner has submitted such an application at that time.”.

SEC. 4. TECHNICAL CORRECTION ON CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES DISPENSING.

Effective as if included in the enactment of Public Law 117–328—

(1) section 1252(a) of division FF of Public Law 117–328 (136 Stat. 5681) is amended, in the matter being inserted into section 302(e) of the Controlled Substances Act, by striking “303(g)” and inserting “303(h)”;

(2) section 1262 of division FF of Public Law 117–328 (136 Stat. 5681) is amended—

(A) in subsection (a)—

(i) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “303(g)” and inserting “303(h)”;

(ii) in the matter being stricken by subsection (a)(2), by striking “(g)(1)” and inserting “(h)(1)”;

(iii) in the matter being inserted by subsection (a)(2), by striking “(g) Practitioners” and inserting “(h) Practitioners”; and

(B) in subsection (b)—

(i) in the matter being stricken by paragraph (1), by striking “303(g)(1)” and inserting “303(h)(1)”;

(ii) in the matter being inserted by paragraph (1), by striking “303(g)” and inserting “303(h)”;

(iii) in the matter being stricken by paragraph (2)(A), by striking “303(g)(2)” and inserting “303(h)(2)”;

(iv) in the matter being stricken by paragraph (3), by striking “303(g)(2)(B)” and inserting “303(h)(2)(B)”;

(v) in the matter being stricken by paragraph (5), by striking “303(g)” and inserting “303(h)”;

(vi) in the matter being stricken by paragraph (6), by striking “303(g)” and inserting “303(h)”;

(3) section 1263(b) of division FF of Public Law 117–328 (136 Stat. 5685) is amended—

(A) by striking “303(g)(2)” and inserting “303(h)(2)”;

(B) by striking “(21 U.S.C. 823(g)(2))” and inserting “(21 U.S.C. 823(h)(2))”.

SEC. 5. RULEMAKING.

(a) **INTERIM FINAL RULES.**—The Attorney General—

(1) shall, not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act, issue rules to implement this Act and the amendments made by this Act; and

(2) may issue the rules under paragraph (1) as interim final rules.

(b) **PROCEDURE FOR FINAL RULE.**—

(1) **EFFECTIVENESS OF INTERIM FINAL RULES.**—A rule issued by the Attorney General as an interim final rule under subsection (a) shall become immediately effective as an interim final rule without requiring the Attorney General to demonstrate good cause therefor, notwithstanding subparagraph (B) of the undesignated matter following paragraph (4) of section 553(b) of title 5, United States Code.

(2) **OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMENT AND HEARING.**—An interim final rule issued under subsection (a) shall give interested persons the opportunity to comment and to request a hearing.

(3) **FINAL RULE.**—After the conclusion of such proceedings, the Attorney General shall issue a final rule to implement this Act and the amendments made by this Act in accordance with section 553 of title 5, United States Code.

SEC. 6. APPLICABILITY; OTHER MATTERS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Irrespective of the date on which the rules required by section 5 are finalized, the amendments made by this Act apply beginning as of the date of enactment of this Act.

(b) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in the amendments made by this Act may be construed as evidence that, in applying sections 401(b)(1) of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 841(b)(1)) and 1010(b) of the Controlled Substances Import and Export Act (21 U.S.C. 960(b)) with respect to conduct occurring before the date of the enactment of this Act, a fentanyl-related substance (as defined by such amendments) is not an analogue of N-phenyl-N-[1-(2-phenylethyl)-4-piperidinyl] propanamide.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I have four requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

The Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 11, 2025, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

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 11, 2025, at 9:30 a.m., to receive testimony.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 11, 2025, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

The Committee on Veterans' Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 11, 2025, at 10:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME—H.R. 1968

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill at the desk, and I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the first time.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1968) making further continuing appropriations and other extensions for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025, and for other purposes.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I now ask for a second reading, and in order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The bill will receive its second reading on the next legislative day.

JUSTICE FOR MURDER VICTIMS ACT

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate

proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 960, introduced earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 960) to ensure that homicides can be prosecuted under Federal law without regard to the time elapsed between the act or omission that caused the death of the victim and the death itself.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The bill (S. 960) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed as follows:

S. 960

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 "Justice for Murder Victims Act".

SEC. 2. HOMICIDE OFFENSES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 51 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"§ 1123. No maximum time period between act or omission and death of victim

"(a) IN GENERAL.—A prosecution may be instituted for any homicide offense under this title without regard to the time that elapsed between—

"(1) the act or omission that caused the death of the victim; and

"(2) the death of the victim.

"(b) RELATION TO STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS.—Nothing in subsection (a) shall be construed to supersede the limitations period under section 3282(a), to the extent applicable.

"(c) MAXIMUM TIME PERIOD APPLICABLE IF DEATH PENALTY IMPOSED.—A sentence of death may not be imposed for a homicide offense under this title unless the Government proves beyond a reasonable doubt that not more than 1 year and 1 day elapsed between—

"(1) the act or omission that caused the death of the victim; and

"(2) the death of the victim."

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of sections for chapter 51 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"1123. No maximum time period between act or omission and death of victim."

(c) APPLICABILITY.—Section 1123(a) of title 18, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), shall apply with respect to an act or omission described in that section that occurs after the date of enactment of this Act.

(d) MAXIMUM PENALTY FOR FIRST-DEGREE MURDER BASED ON TIME PERIOD BETWEEN ACT OR OMISSION AND DEATH OF VICTIM.—Section 1111(b) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting after "imprisonment for life" the following: ", unless the death of the victim occurred more than 1 year and 1 day after the act or omission that caused the death of the victim, in which case the punishment shall be imprisonment for any term of years or for life".

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to adjourn until 6:40 p.m. today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 6:39 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, March 11, 2025, at 6:40 p.m.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF CHAIRMAN BILLY CYPRESS

HON. SCOTT FRANKLIN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Billy Cypress, the longest-serving Chairman of the Miccosukee Tribe, which lies within my district. On behalf of Florida's 18th Congressional District, I extend my deepest condolences to Billy's family, the Miccosukee Tribe and all who mourn his loss.

Chairman Cypress was a visionary leader who dedicated his life to the sovereignty and prosperity of the Miccosukee Tribe. Elected to the Miccosukee Business Council in 1973, he served for over a decade before becoming Chairman—a position he held for more than 26 years.

During his tenure, he achieved significant milestones that transformed his community. Cypress was instrumental in expanding the Tribe's national prominence and self-governance and championed the creation of Miccosukee Resort and Gaming. In effort to commemorate the Tribe's culture and history, Chairman Cypress established the Miccosukee Indian Village and Museum. He standardized many of the Tribe's government processes, increasing professionalism and improving quality of life for the Miccosukee. And, his decisive leadership helped secure funding for vital programs, which greatly improved healthcare, education and economic opportunities.

A strong advocate for our environment, the Chairman played a critical role in protecting Florida's Everglades, working to restore natural waterflow into the everglades and helped implement the first pollution control standards. The Chairman's efforts underscored his people's deep connection with the Everglades and helped ensure their access to this land for future generations.

His influence extends beyond Florida, as he established the Tribe's first embassy and built diplomatic relationships with foreign nations. Perhaps most importantly, Billy will be remembered for far more than his accolades and impressive accomplishments.

As current Chairman, Talbot Cypress, recalls: "Billy was known for his humor, warmth and generosity—always making time for family, friends and Tribal members." Mr. Speaker, may his legacy of hard work, courage and wisdom continue to live on and inspire us all.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE LEAGUE OF UNITED LATIN AMERICAN CITIZENS TO THE LANDMARK CASE MENDEZ V. WESTMINSTER

HON. JIMMY GOMEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Mr. GOMEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of LULAC, the League of United Latin American Citizens—the oldest Hispanic civil rights organization in the United States, which for nearly one hundred years has advanced the civil, economic, and educational interests of Hispanic communities.

LULAC has been at the forefront of some of the most consequential battles for inclusion and recognition in our Nation's history, including the landmark case of Mendez v. Westminster.

When Sylvia Mendez was rejected from attending school because of her Mexican heritage, her parents, Felicitas and Gonzalo Mendez, joined together with the Estrada, Guzman, Palomino, and Ramirez families to challenge the status quo. As the families sought to take action against segregation in their school system, LULAC helped bring their fight to court. Its steadfast commitment and financial support helped to elevate the case from a local lawsuit to front and center in the national conversation on civil rights.

Together, these families led the struggle against segregation in California's public schools which culminated in a historic win, and which paved the way for the landmark Brown v. Board of Education decision just seven years later.

I am deeply honored to accept an award from LULAC in recognition of the efforts I led to rename the Los Angeles U.S. Courthouse after Felicitas and Gonzalo Mendez—the first Federal Courthouse to be named after a Latina. Usually, federal courthouses are named after judges, but history and the law are not just shaped by the judges that make the decisions. They are molded by the people who have the courage to challenge unjust laws. This recognition is a testament to the advocacy of all the parents, children, and advocates who challenged unjust laws and won. I congratulate LULAC on its continued action and advocacy which stands as an enduring commitment to championing civil rights and serving Hispanic communities across the country.

HIGHLIGHTING THE STORY OF KRIS LEBRON ROMERO

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share with my colleagues the remarks recently

given by my constituent, Kris Lebron Romero, a student at Common Ground High School in New Haven, Connecticut. Kris participated in a press conference held in New Haven highlighting some of the impacts our community is feeling due to the freeze of federal funding. It is a powerful reminder that behind every federal budget and program dollar we invest in our communities, there is a human face—a very real impact on the lives of those we are elected to serve.

"Hello, my name is Kris, I am a student at Common Ground High School, and I am deeply honored to stand here today as a voice for my fellow students. If you had told me a few weeks ago that a single order could drastically change my life, I wouldn't have believed you. Yet, here I am, and here we are. The federal funding freeze and the termination of critical giants have taken away so much from me and countless students and community members.

My school has a program called the Green Jobs Corps. This program provides New Haven High School students with leadership development training and paid internships. Not only within our school but in collaboration with non-profit organizations across New Haven. It is an incredible opportunity for students to connect, engage with their community, and gain real-world job experience before graduating high school. For many of us, including myself, it was more than just a job, it was a way to support our families and build a foundation for our futures.

I was a part of this program. I worked with one of its partner organizations, Haven's Harvest, a food recovery non-profit that collects food that would otherwise be thrown away and redistributes it to people in our community who are food insecure. I believe this is one of the most important and meaningful things anyone can do. Through this job, so many doors opened for me. I met elders from across the community, performed at events for other organizations, and learned to give back on my own time.

I have a clear vision for my future. I aspire to become a graphic designer working with nonprofit organizations that need assistance in communicating effectively with hard-to-reach audiences and amplifying their outreach efforts. Through my time in the Green Jobs Corps, I've discovered a deep passion for using design to help organizations connect with their communities and share their messages more effectively. A simple program at my school helped me map my career pathway. The mentorship, training, and work experience made all of this possible. I felt secure. But then the federal funding freeze happened, and everything changed.

Haven's Harvest, a volunteer-run organization that relies on grant funding to operate, is struggling to continue its mission. An organization that does nothing but feed those in need is now at risk of shutting down because of this freeze. Green Jobs Corps, which employed over 70 students with jobs, has also been put on hold. Without the necessary funding, they can no longer pay students for their very real and impactful work. This vital program, which did nothing but provide students with life-changing opportunities, is now in jeopardy.

And it's not just the Green Jobs Corps. My school itself is in danger. Common Ground

• 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.

operates on grants, community support, and state funding. If those grants are taken away, what does that mean for us? For the students? For me? It means our education is in danger. I am currently a junior at Common Ground High School. I have been here since I was a freshman and can't imagine being anywhere else. Common Ground has opened my eyes to so many possibilities. But now, I am worried that future generations won't have the same opportunities—they won't experience the transformative power of this school.

This is happening right now, and it's happening fast.

I came here today to ask you to fight. Fight for youth development programs. Fight for our schools. Fight for our teachers. Fight for the future of our students."

HONORING REVEREND JIMMY SWAGGART'S 90TH BIRTHDAY

HON. CLAY HIGGINS

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Reverend Jimmy Swaggart for his 90th birthday. Throughout his life, Reverend Swaggart has been a beacon of faith and inspiration, leaving a legacy through his preaching and ministry.

Reverend Swaggart hails from humble beginnings in Ferriday, Louisiana. Early in his career in the 1950's, Swaggart preached throughout rural Louisiana, living in church basements, and homes of pastors. During this time, Reverend Swaggart received an offer to join a record label as a gospel artist but opted instead to follow his calling "to preach the gospel."

By 1961, Reverend Swaggart was ordained by the Assemblies of God and began reaching wider audiences through the radio. He also founded his own brick-and-mortar church in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Over the following two decades, Reverend Swaggart began telecasting bible studies, Christian music, and his weekend services. 1987 was arguably Swaggart's most influential year on record. Swaggart's TV ministry reached an estimated 510 million people in 145 countries. His sermons and educational programs yielded \$150 million a year to his church, bible college, and mail-order business. On a daily basis, donations averaged an astounding \$500,000, and Reverend Swaggart poured every penny into delivering the word of God across the world.

Reverend Swaggart's influence gained international esteem and influence over the 1990's and 2000's by spreading the Word of God through his remarkable sermons. Today, Jimmy Swaggart Ministries is comprised of the Family Worship Center, Crossfire Youth Ministries, The Evangelist Magazine, Family Christian Academy, and Jimmy Swaggart Bible College (JSBC). Swaggart's SonLife Broadcasting Network (SBN) provides Christian programming 24/7 and is available around the world in English, Spanish, and Portuguese. The ministries remain headquartered on 270 acres in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Jimmy Swaggart Ministries has evolved into a family business with Frances, his wife of 72 years, their son Donnie, and grandson Gabriel. Frances Swaggart embodies unwavering faith, exceptional leadership, and substantial

impact on the Work of God, making her a personification of the 31st Chapter of Proverbs. Donnie serves as Executive Vice-President of Jimmy Swaggart Ministries and Pastor of the Family Worship Center Church. Donnie has traveled globally evangelizing and teaching from Holland to Papua New Guinea on the Holy Spirit, with his Pentecostal foundation clear in every message. Gabriel Swaggart, President of JSBC and co-pastor of Family Worship Center, has a Bachelor's in Liberal Arts, a Master's in Christian Ministries from Oral Roberts University, and is currently pursuing a Doctor of Strategic Leadership while managing operations at Jimmy Swaggart Ministries and SBN.

At 90 years old, Reverend Jimmy Swaggart continues his dedication to spreading the message of the Bible and Jesus Christ through his ministry. His unwavering commitment to spreading Christ's love has touched the hearts of millions around the world, leading countless people to salvation. Reverend Swaggart's contributions to Christian ministry and broadcasting have left an immeasurable mark on the world of evangelism.

Happy birthday to Reverend Swaggart. I greatly commend his dedication to God, to Country, and to the State of Louisiana.

RECOGNIZING THE BILTMORE'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. CARLOS A. GIMENEZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Mr. GIMENEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the iconic Biltmore hotel.

For a century, the Biltmore hotel and its renowned golf course have stood as a beacon of elegance, history, and world-class hospitality in the heart of Coral Gables.

Since opening its doors in 1926, this historic national landmark has welcomed presidents, dignitaries, and guests from around the world.

In 1942, the Biltmore was transformed into a military hospital, serving our brave service members as an Army Air Force hospital, and later as a Veterans Administration hospital until 1968.

After reopening in 1987 and following a 10-year restoration beginning in 1992, the grand hotel and golf course have entered a new era, reclaiming its former glory and embodying Miami's rich sporting heritage; its halls and tower have served as the backdrop for a century of unforgettable moments.

The Biltmore is more than just a hotel—it's a living landmark, a symbol of Miami, and a treasured piece of our community's history that will continue to inspire generations to come.

RECOGNIZING MARK KAPLAN

HON. KAT CAMMACK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Mrs. CAMMACK. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Florida's Third Congressional District, we thank Mark Kaplan, the University of Florida's

Vice President of Government and Community Relations and wish him the best in what comes next.

Kaplan, a Gator Grad, has served the University in this role since 2018. Calling it his dream job, Kaplan has built countless relationships and developed strong ties for the university at the local, state, and federal levels. The university community has benefited from his wisdom, collaborative spirit, calm, steady approach to his work, and ability to get things done.

Telling Florida Politics, Kaplan said, "We talk about UF being among the most comprehensive universities in the country, with one of the few places in the country that has a vet school and a pharmacy school and a medical school and a law school. And one of the things that comes from all of that is it adds to the scope of things that you're paying attention to and issues that you get to work on."

Kaplan worked as Governor Jeb Bush's chief of staff, special counsel for the Speaker of Florida's House of Representatives, and a judicial clerk to a member of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit. He also worked as the executive director for the Florida Housing Finance Corp. and as global head of public affairs at Mosaic Company.

We wish Mark and his wife Sherry a wonderful next chapter. I thank him for his service and Go Gators.

HONORING THE LEGACY OF ZAGLOUL "ABU SAAD" KADAH

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, today, the 12th Congressional District recognizes the incredible contributions of Zagloul "Abu Saad" Kadah, a pioneering Syrian American entrepreneur and innovator in Silicon Valley. His lifelong dedication to technology, business, and mentorship has paved the way for countless others in the industry.

After immigrating to the United States in 1966, Zagloul earned his M.S. in electronics from San Jose State University while working and raising a family. His entrepreneurial spirit led him to establish successful businesses in solid-state relay design and laser services for the medical industry. Beyond his professional achievements, he has dedicated himself to research and writing on religion and philosophy.

On February 21, 2025, Sync—Syria—Silicon Valley honored Zagloul with a Lifetime Achievement Award for his legacy. His work has inspired a new generation of Syrian technologists, and his impact will continue to be felt for years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I was delayed as a result of my delayed flight. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 63; YEA on Roll Call No. 64; and YEA on Roll Call No. 65.

RECOGNIZING THE COURAGEOUS
SERVICE OF THE SWIFT WATER
RESCUE TEAM OF BRISTOL, VIR-
GINIA

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the courageous service of Bristol, Virginia's Swift Water Rescue Team.

Formed in 2019, the group operates under the Bristol Fire Department and is the only such swift water team in Southwest Virginia, a region that encompasses more than twenty localities and is bigger in landmass than some U.S. states.

The personnel of the Bristol Rescue Team have fought heroically in the most trying of times.

In August of 2024, Tropical Storm Debby battered much of the Southeastern United States.

A month later, Hurricane Helene ravaged much of Virginia's Ninth Congressional District and devastated numerous communities. Historic levels of flooding resulted from the natural disaster.

In February of 2025, major winter storms hit the region and prompted widespread flooding and, in some cases, community evacuations.

These major weather events were met by courageous rescue officers to respond to severe emergency situations.

The Rescue Team tallied more than 80 rescues in the last six months. Their work is crucial as the region faces recovery challenges.

In the face of a historic natural disaster and other extreme weather events, the Bristol Swift Water Rescue Team has performed admirably.

The people of Southwest Virginia are grateful for the Bristol Swift Water Rescue Team, the hours the Team spends training, and its preparation to carry out brave rescue missions for local communities.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE HARIDOPOLOS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Mr. HARIDOPOLOS. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 64.

CELEBRATING MR. JOSEPH
SALONIA'S HAPPY 100TH BIRTH-
DAY

HON. KAT CAMMACK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Mrs. CAMMACK. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Florida's Third Congressional District, we wish Mr. Joseph Salonia a very happy 100th birthday.

Born in Lawrence, Massachusetts on February 17, 2025, Joseph moved to Connecticut as a young man where he grew up during the

Great Depression. He attended school until the eighth grade before being drafted into the U.S. Army in 1943. While in the Army, he served at Fort Hood, Texas for weapons and M-10 tank training before serving in Oregon and Alaska prior to joining the Second World War effort in Italy.

For his service in World War II, Mr. Salonia received two Bronze Stars and the Purple Heart for his combat wounds. After healing from his injuries, Joseph entered Army intelligence, serving in France, before being discharged from the Army and returning to his home in Connecticut.

For decades, Joseph worked as a construction labor iron worker, a tin knocker, and a real estate agent in Connecticut. He married his bride Margaret and had two daughters, Chris and Brooke.

He celebrates 100 incredible years at his Chiefland, Florida home in Florida's Third Congressional District. Happy birthday to Mr. Joseph Salonia.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DR. RENE
LICHTMAN

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, today, the 12th Congressional District honors the life and legacy of Dr. Rene Lichtman, a Holocaust survivor and activist in our community who was deeply committed to justice in Southeast Michigan and around the world.

Rene, who passed away at 87, dedicated his life to teaching others about the Holocaust, ensuring that the stories of survivors would never be forgotten. Through his art, film, and photography, he captured the resilience of the human spirit, and through his activism, he fought for social justice and an end to human suffering.

At the age of 63, Rene got his PhD in instructional technology and spent two decades working at Beaumont Hospital. Even at the end of his life, Rene was painting, organizing with JVP Detroit, and standing up for Palestinian human rights. His impact and legacy will live on through his work and the countless lives he touched. May his memory be a blessing.

HONORING JOANNE MANN

**HON. CHARLES J. "CHUCK"
FLEISCHMANN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the well-deserved retirement and honor the career of Joanne Mann.

Joanne spent much of her adult life in and around a military environment, serving on Active Duty and in the Reserves for the U.S. Army from 1986 to 1995 as a combat medic. Joanne then joined the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Nashville District in 1995 as a Legal Assistant.

Joanne Mann has served as the Nashville District's Executive Officer and Congressional

Liaison since 2007, where she has been an integral part of the delivering water resource projects for the Nation. She has been the primary liaison for the District, facilitating the building and maintaining of relationships with stakeholders and members of Congress. Joanne has also stepped up in times of need, deploying to Biloxi, MS immediately following Hurricane Katrina, in support of the Corps' Blue Roof program.

Joanne's contributions to the Nation have been recognized with numerous professional awards, including the Commander's Award for Civilian Service and the Bronze Order of the de Fleury Medal.

With a lifetime dedicated to service, partnerships, and people, Joanne's legacy stands as an example of what it means to live in service of our Nation. Her care and compassion, not only for the mission, but to the Army, her co-workers, and the community are an unparalleled example of a life of service.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Joanne for all she has done and continues to do for our community. We wish her all the best in retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SYDNEY KAMLAGER-DOVE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 63.

HONORING SISTER TO SISTER ON
ITS 30TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Sister To Sister on their 30th anniversary.

Sister To Sister is a community-based organization that empowers youth and their families in Hampton Roads, Virginia. Ms. Hakima Abdul Samad Muhammad and Dr. Pamela D. Hall founded the organization in 1992 as an organization to support Black women, but over time, the organization grew to support all children in our community.

Through the years they have launched many successful initiatives to engage young people in positive activities and support families. This can be seen in their S.U.P.E.R. (Supreme, Unity, Perpetuating, Eternal, Revolution) Saturday program and after-school enrichment programs that help young people focus on leadership, community service, civic engagement and other important social values.

Sister To Sister opened their first resource center, "Each One Teach One," in 2018. This center provides female empowerment workshops, computer literacy training for both young people and adults, job training programs for both men and women, parenting classes, supports for anger and substance abuse management, gun violence prevention programs and other assistance programs for homeless people.

Mr. Speaker, as Sister To Sister celebrates their 30th anniversary, I want to thank them for all they have done for the Hampton Roads community. I wish them many more years of success.

HONORING MELISSA SIGMOND FOR WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

HON. RITCHIE TORRES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Mr. TORRES of New York. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to rise today in recognition of Melissa Sigmond, a remarkable leader, executive, and community advocate, in celebration of Women's History Month. Throughout her career, Melissa has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to excellence and service, using her diverse skill set to benefit both the business and nonprofit sectors.

Melissa's professional journey is nothing short of inspiring. After earning her degree from UCLA, she began her career in Hollywood, where she worked on global feature film and television production. This experience provided her with a strong foundation in leadership, creativity, and strategic thinking. However, Melissa's career path took a pivot as she transitioned into the finance sector, working at Bank of America, where she led the corporate events team. She then continued her career in finance with hedge and venture funds in Manhattan, where her contributions were instrumental in driving business success.

In 2013, Melissa decided to apply her expertise to nonprofit leadership, an area where she shines. She led the design, build, and opening of New York City's first technology center for older adults, a project funded by former Mayor Bloomberg, Google, Sony, and a range of corporate donors and private foundations. This groundbreaking initiation not only provided critical resources for older adults but also reflected Melissa's deep commitment to using her skills to serve others and address the needs of marginalized communities.

Today, as Chief Executive Officer at the Riverdale Y, Melissa continues to make a profound impact. She has proven herself as a transformational leader, dedicated to building and strengthening community in the Bronx. Her work at the Riverdale Y reflects her dedication to creating inclusive and supportive environments that benefit individuals and families across the borough.

Melissa's multifaceted career and unwavering commitment to social impact highlight her exceptional leadership and ability to create positive change. She has worked with numerous philanthropic organizations, technology and education nonprofits, and faith-based institutions, always focusing on advancing the well-being of the communities she serves. It is with great admiration that I honor Melissa Sigmond for her outstanding accomplishments and tireless dedication to making a difference in the lives of others. Her ability to bring together diverse sectors for the greater good, as well as her devotion to the Bronx and beyond, exemplify the values we celebrate during Women's History Month.

HONORING DR. STANLEY AND PEARL GOODMAN

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Dr. Stanley and Pearl Goodman, two extraordinary individuals whose unwavering dedication to service, philanthropy, and cultural enrichment has profoundly impacted South Florida and beyond.

Since making Broward County, Florida then home in 1962, Dr. Stanley and Pearl Goodman have been steadfast champions of initiatives that uplift individuals, families, and seniors. Then generosity and leadership have played a vital role in expanding social services, advancing education, promoting Jewish values, fostering a love for the arts, and supporting groundbreaking research in Multiple Myeloma.

Through their philanthropy, the Goodmans have cultivated a spirit of giving, inspiring others to contribute their time, talents, and resources to causes that create lasting change. Their contributions have not only provided immediate support to those in need but have also established a legacy of enduring impact through endowments and promised gifts that will benefit generations to come.

Today, we recognize and celebrate Dr. Stanley and Pearl Goodman for their remarkable generosity, vision, and commitment to strengthening our community. Their efforts serve as a beacon of inspiration, reminding us of the power of service and the profound impact compassionate, thoughtful individuals can make on others.

On behalf of the constituents of Florida's 25th District, I extend my deepest gratitude to Dr. Stanley and Pearl Goodman for their lifelong contributions. May their legacy of kindness and philanthropy continue to enrich lives for years to come.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF JAMES MUNS

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Mr. James Muns of Plano, Texas, who peacefully passed away on March 6, 2025.

Mr. Muns was born on January 6, 1932. He attended Abilene Christian University, where he met his wife Betty. In the 1970's, Mr. Muns and Betty moved to Plano, where he established the Muns Enterprises investment company that specialized in real estate. One of his first investments in Plano was in the El Rancho Estates, allowing it to become one of the most spectacular and successful properties in the region. From 1992 to 1996, Mr. Muns proudly served as the Mayor of Plano. Under his leadership, Plano experienced significant economic growth, commerce, and population growth, setting the stage for it to be nationally recognized as one of the best cities to live in Texas and the United States. For his

outstanding contributions to the City of Plano, Mr. Muns and Betty were named Plano's citizens of the year in 1994.

In 2007, the Muns established the Betty and James Muns Foundation to support philanthropic, educational, and humanitarian initiatives throughout North Texas. Mr. Muns was a devoted husband, father, and grandfather to four children, ten grandchildren, and many more great-grandchildren. One of his sons, Mr. John Muns, currently serves as the Mayor of Plano in the footsteps of his father. I am deeply saddened to hear of Mr. Muns's passing, as he has made a positive and lasting impact on our community.

I have requested the United States flag to be flown over our Nation's Capitol in recognition of Mr. Muns's wonderful life and service. He will be dearly missed by his friends, family, and all who knew him.

APPRECIATING MIA LOVE

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, Mia Love served her country with honor and distinction and to those that know her, she is a trusted friend and loving person.

I had the honor of calling Mia a colleague when she served Congress in 2015 through 2019, as the Congresswoman representing the 4th Congressional District of Utah. Notably, she was the first black female Republican to serve in the U.S. Congress.

Among her distinctions in Congress, Mia served on the Financial Services Committee, as well as the Terrorism and Illicit Finance, Financial Institutions and Monetary Policy and Trade subcommittees. She was also appointed as the only freshman to serve on the Select Panel for Infant Lives, to investigate the selling of organs. Additionally, she was a champion for reducing burdensome regulations and was also a leader in the push for immigration reform.

Mia's commitment to the citizens of Utah began prior to her time in Congress as she served on the city council and mayor in her home of Saratoga Springs, Utah.

After Congress, Mia became a contributor to CNN and was appointed a fellow of the institute of politics and public service at the McCourt School of Public Policy at Georgetown University.

Born in New York City to Haitian immigrant parents, Mia is married and a mother of three.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Congresswoman Love and her family.

HONORING ROSEMARY ORDONEZ-JENKINS FOR WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

HON. RITCHIE TORRES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Mr. TORRES of New York. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to rise today to recognize an exceptional leader, advocate, and community servant, Rosemary Ordóñez-Jenkins, in

recognition of her outstanding contributions to our community and her enduring commitment to social justice. In celebration of Women's History Month, we take this opportunity to highlight the invaluable impact that Rosemary has made in the Bronx and beyond.

A lifelong resident of the Bronx, Rosemary is an Afro Latina and a proud member of the Garifuna community. She has spent her life dedicated to serving others, with a focus on empowerment, advocacy, and uplifting those in need. Rosemary's work continues to reflect her deep-rooted belief in the power of community and the importance of ensuring that every individual has the opportunity to thrive.

Currently serving as Deputy Executive Director for Community & Economic Empowerment at Phipps Neighborhoods, Rosemary oversees a variety of programs aimed at ensuring that Bronx residents receive the support and resources they need. She leads the Resident Services portfolio, assisting households transitioning from homelessness to permanent housing. Through her leadership, Rosemary and her team provide critical services that enable families to move into stable, long-term housing and integrate successfully into their communities.

Rosemary's efforts extend beyond housing support, as she also manages essential social service programs, including food pantries, services for older adults, and community development initiatives such as Beacons, Cornerstones, and Arches Re-Entry. Her work touches the lives of residents across the Bronx, Manhattan, Brooklyn, and Queens, and she continues to be a tireless advocate for those seeking financial stability and community involvement.

Her exceptional service to the community has earned Rosemary numerous accolades, including being named one of the Power Women of the Bronx by Schneps Media in 2022, as well as being named one of the 25 Most Influential Women in Bronx County by the Bronx Times in 2010. She has received widespread recognition from elected officials and organizations for her unwavering commitment to enhancing the quality of life for economically challenged communities.

In addition to her professional accomplishments, Rosemary is a prominent civic leader. She serves as Vice President of the Bronx Democratic Party, a Judicial Delegate, and a County Committee Member. She also holds a leadership role as a Special Advisor to the Garifuna Coalition and is an active member of Friends of Crotona Park. Furthermore, Rosemary serves as a Board Member of the Lincoln Fund, a renowned philanthropic organization working to foster positive change in underserved communities.

Her academic accomplishments are equally impressive. Rosemary holds a master's degree in social work from Fordham University and is a New York State Licensed Master Social Worker. She also earned a bachelor's degree in Sociology from Marymount Manhattan College.

Rosemary's legacy is one of profound service, dedication, and leadership. Through her work, she has created lasting change in the lives of countless individuals and families. Her tireless efforts to advocate for social justice, economic opportunity, and community empowerment continue to inspire those around her.

It is with great respect and admiration that I recognize Rosemary Ordóñez-Jenkins as a

true champion of the Bronx, a leader in her community, and an outstanding woman whose contributions to our society exemplify the values we celebrate during Women's History Month.

RECOGNIZING THE NEW BRAUNFELS NOON LIONS CLUB

HON. CHIP ROY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the New Braunfels Noon Lions Club on their 100 dedicated years of service to the New Braunfels community. Originally chartered as the Lions Club of New Braunfels on April 10, 1925, and later known as the New Braunfels Noon Lions Club, this organization has been an integral part of the community for 100 years, embodying the spirit of service and leadership.

Lions Clubs International is the world's largest service club organization, with more than 1.35 million members in over 220 nations and geographic areas, united by the motto "We Serve;" the Lions focus on five core pillars of service. Preventing blindness and improving quality of life for those who are blind or visually impaired, ensuring access to food for all in the community, reducing the prevalence of diabetes and enhancing the lives of those afflicted, supporting programs that assist children with cancer, and protecting and restoring the environment to promote community well-being.

Recently, the Noon Lions volunteered at elementary schools in Comal County to provide free vision screenings for thousands of elementary school children. In the coming months, the Lions will travel to Belize and partner with the Belize City Lions Club to provide vision screening, meals to those in need, and support for the city. I know the Lions will be a beacon of light and hope and they will represent Texas well during their trip abroad.

Over the past century, the New Braunfels Noon Lions Club has exemplified the Lions' mission by making a profound impact in the local community through service, leadership, and philanthropy. They have made a lasting impact on the community by contributing hundreds of thousands of dollars to local causes, funding its charitable work through dedicated volunteer efforts at various fundraising activities throughout the community, and fostering a spirit of patriotism and community pride. I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the New Braunfels Noon Lions. Here's to 100 more.

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF THE EPHRATA LIONS CLUB

HON. LLOYD SMUCKER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to congratulate and recognize the Ephrata Lions Club of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania for their 100th anniversary.

Epitomized by the motto "We Serve," the Ephrata Lions Club has dedicated itself to

public service since its chartering on February 26, 1925. Presently led by President Kendra Rhinier, the club consists of fifty men and women who work tirelessly to better their community. Alongside robust community service programming, such as food drives and cleaning trash from highways, the Lions Club gives out around \$30,000 a year to those in need, as a result, they have raised funds for social services, disaster relief, youth programs, and more. The zeal of the Ephrata Lions Club is not limited to their town, but has uplifted people across the state, the Nation, and the world.

The Ephrata Lions Club is one of 49,000 clubs across 200 countries and regions, and Lions Club International boasts 1.4 million members.

As the Ephrata Lions Club celebrates this significant milestone, I would like to thank the club and its members for their record of selflessness. Their efforts have made both Ephrata and Pennsylvania's 11th District a better place.

HONORING J. MARK SWEENEY ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE LI- BRARY OF CONGRESS

HON. BRYAN STEIL

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of myself and the Committee on House Administration Ranking Member JOE MORELLE, I rise today to recognize J. Mark Sweeney, Principal Deputy Librarian of Congress, for his exemplary service to Congress and the American people upon his retirement.

Mr. Sweeney began his career at the Library in 1985 as a Library Technician, sorting, organizing, and shelving government publications. Nearly forty years later, he retires as one of the agency's most impactful leaders, leaving behind a commendable legacy of public service.

His legacy includes advancing several critical Library-wide initiatives that have enhanced the Library's services and enriched its offerings to users. Since stepping into the role of Principal Deputy Librarian in 2018, he has provided executive leadership to further the institution's priorities, including leading a process to develop and launch a user-centered strategic plan and improving the visitor experience for Americans traveling to the Library's Thomas Jefferson Building on Capitol Hill. His strong management skills also successfully guided the Library's operations through the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond.

As Associate Librarian for Library Services, beginning in 2015, he was responsible for acquiring, securing, and preserving the Library's universal collections. His career contributions include playing an instrumental role in preserving and ensuring access to hundreds of years of American newspapers, from the eighteenth century to the present. His work with the United States Newspaper Program, along with his leadership in expanding digital accessibility within the National Digital Newspaper Program, continues to serve as a model of national cooperation in preserving important aspects of America's cultural heritage for Congress, researchers, and future generations.

Throughout his distinguished career in public service, Mr. Sweeney has held multiple positions at the Library, including Chief of the Preservation Reformatting Division, Chief of the Serial and Government Publications Division, Chief of the Humanities and Social Sciences Division, and Director of Preservation, among other roles.

On behalf of the Committee on House Administration, Ranking Member MORELLE and I commend Mr. Sweeney for his many years of dedication and outstanding contributions to the Library of Congress.

HONORING SOPHIA L. REID FOR
WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

HON. RITCHIE TORRES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Mr. TORRES of New York. Mr. Speaker, It is my great honor to rise today to recognize and celebrate the exceptional contributions of Sophia L. Reid, a true champion for seniors and community empowerment in the Bronx. In celebration of Women's History Month, I proudly honor Sophia for her tireless commitment to enhancing the lives of older adults and for her selfless dedication to building a stronger, more vibrant community.

Sophia has served as the Program Director of the R.A.I.N. (Regional Aid for Interim Needs) Eastchester Neighborhood Older Adults Center since November 2016. Prior to her current role, she was the Program Director at the R.A.I.N. Boston Secor Older Adults Center, where she laid the foundation for her distinguished career in senior services. In her role, Sophia is responsible for fostering healthy aging and well-being for older adults by offering a wide array of programs, including physical exercise activities, mental stimulation sessions, and health awareness initiatives. She ensures that every member of the community has access to the resources and support they need to live a fulfilling life.

Sophia's journey in service began at the Eastchester Center in 2006, when she joined as an Administrative Assistant. Over the years, her dedication, hard work, and passion for community service led her to rise through the ranks, ultimately becoming the Program Director in 2016. Sophia's educational background, which includes a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from The College of New Rochelle, a Certificate in Information Processing from New York Business School, and a Medical Assistant Diploma from Blake Business School, has provided her with the foundation to thrive in both healthcare and community services. She has also pursued additional certifications, including training as a Diabetes Self-Management Program Peer Leader and a Certified Trainer for Bronx Health Corps. Her commitment to ongoing education underscores her dedication to improving the lives of those around her.

Sophia's impact extends far beyond her professional roles. She has received numerous awards and recognitions for her exemplary service, including a Certificate of Appreciation from the New York City Department for the Aging, a Citation of Merit from Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr., and the Live On New York Appreciatively Certificate. In 2023

alone, Sophia received the Phenomenal Woman Award, the Women of Influence Award, and a Proclamation from the New York City Council, among other honors.

Sophia has created an environment at the Eastchester Older Adults Center where members feel safe, valued, and supported. As one of her seniors put it, Sophia is like a "mother hen," always looking out for everyone, and no one is too far out of reach for her care. Sophia's love and commitment to her community, particularly her "seasoned Seenagers," is not only reflected in her numerous awards but in the lives she touches every day.

It is with great admiration and gratitude that I recognize Sophia L. Reid for her remarkable dedication to the Bronx and to the well-being of our senior citizens. Her exemplary service and her unwavering commitment to the community exemplify the qualities we celebrate during Women's History Month.

HONORING THE LIFE AND MEM-
ORY OF PASTOR EDDIE D.
SMITH, SR.

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to honor the life and memory of a dedicated pastor, loving father and husband, visionary servant leader, and friend of longstanding, Pastor Eddie D. Smith, Sr. Sadly, Pastor Smith passed from labor to reward on February 28, 2025. A celebration of his life was held on March 8, 2025, at Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church in Macon, Georgia.

Pastor Smith, a native of Macon, Georgia, was born to the union of the late Pastor Jack Smith, Jr., and Mrs. Mattie Mae Myers Smith. A highly educated man, Pastor Smith attended Bibb County public schools and went on to earn a Bachelor and a Master of Science from Fort Valley State College, now Fort Valley State University. On April 26, 1969, Pastor Smith received a calling that would change his life forever—he was called to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Pastor Smith served as a classroom teacher and a media specialist in the Bibb County Public School system for fourteen years before retiring to serve full-time at Macedonia Church, accepting the role of pastor in 1972. While Pastoring, he was also called to public service, serving as a Macon City Councilman from 1975 to 1978, as well as a member of the Bibb County Board of Education for two consecutive terms.

The scripture reminds us in Proverbs 29 that "where there is no vision, the people perish." Pastor Smith's vision for Macedonia was evident from the very beginning of his ministry. In his early years at Macedonia, Pastor Smith led the congregation in raising the funds to pay off the church's fifteen-year mortgage in a record five years. In 1999, Pastor Smith led Macedonia Baptist in the purchasing of a struggling sister church. Together, they relocated and revived the church's congregation and liquidated its \$1.35 million debt in under three years. In more recent years, he oversaw the funding and construction of the \$1.7 million dollar Family Life Center, a comprehensive faith-based service ministry which edu-

cates clergy across Middle Georgia. Over the course of his ministry, Pastor Smith licensed and ordained more than forty-five ministers, extending the reach of his servant leadership to the members of many congregations throughout the region. Also, he led his flock through the COVID-19 pandemic, establishing community-wide food distribution services and virtual church services and tithing, while ensuring all bills were paid and no church staff lost their jobs.

Sir Winston Churchill often said: "You make your living by what you get, you make your life by what you give." Pastor Smith gave so much to so many for so long. His service extended beyond the walls of the church, as he was affiliated with several social and civic organizations throughout his career. He served on the boards of the United Way, the American Cancer Society, the Macon Ministerial Association, and the Macon Police and Fire-fighter Disciplinary Hearing Board.

Pastor Eddie Smith always fought for what is right. He was guided by his love of God and his love of people. Mother Teresa once said that "at the end of life we will not be judged by how many diplomas we have received, how much money we have made, how many great things we have done. We will be judged by 'I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat, I was naked, and you clothed me. I was homeless and you took me in.'" This is how Pastor Eddie Smith lived his life and served people in the name of Jesus Christ.

At the center of Pastor Smith's accomplished life was the unwavering love and support of his family and his loving wife, Martha Kate. Pastor Smith was the father of five children: Suwandia; Eddie, Jr., Corey and the late Alvy Smith and Edwanna Smith Stephens. He is survived by fourteen grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

On a personal note, Pastor Smith was my friend for many years. He never told me what I wanted to hear, but he always told me what he felt I needed to hear. I will be forever grateful for his wise advice and sage counsel.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me, my wife Vivian, and the more than 765,000 people of Georgia's Second Congressional District in honoring the life and legacy of Pastor Eddie D. Smith, Sr. and in extending our deepest sympathies to his family, friends, colleagues, and all those who mourn his loss. We pray that all will be consoled by an abiding faith and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks, and months ahead.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANN WAGNER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I was not present for the following Roll Call Vote on March 10, 2025. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 63.

TRIBUTE TO SALVATORE RIZZA

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor to recognize Salvatore Rizza, a prime example of an Italian immigrant who came to this country, started his own business, married the woman of his dreams, raised three amazing daughters, and at the age of 90 is still going strong and contributing to the country he loves. Born in Siracusa, Italy, to Antonio and Nancy Rizza, husband to his beloved Josephine, and father of Nancy Larson, Susan Mahoney, and Cynthia Campbell, Sal's story is an example of the rich contributions immigrants make to our communities, our culture, and our Nation. Sal is the former owner and operator of the S & G restaurant in Hartford and was a star soccer player. He was the captain of the Italian-American Stars Soccer team that won the 1967 amateur soccer championship and was later inducted into the Connecticut Soccer Hall of Fame in 2018. And while he himself never had the privilege of a college education, Sal worked hard and sacrificed to make sure all three of his daughters did.

It is in tribute to Sal and his accomplishments—his love of family, his Italian heritage, his community, his state, and the Nation he loves. On behalf of his daughter, Nancy, his grandson, Matthew, his granddaughter, Arianna, and his son-in-law, Tim, it is a privilege to honor this remarkable man—another great story in American history.

HONORING ROSETTA KIRKLAND
FOR WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH**HON. RITCHIE TORRES**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Mr. TORRES of New York.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to honor Rosetta Kirkland, a dedicated community leader, advocate for workers' rights, and steadfast supporter of her neighborhood in the Bronx. In celebration of Women's History Month, we recognize Rosetta for her exceptional contributions to her community, her advocacy for social justice, and her ongoing efforts to improve the lives of working people in the Bronx.

Rosetta is a pillar of her community, serving as the President of the Board of Directors for Concourse Village. As an active leader, she has worked alongside elected officials, including Congress Member RITCHIE TORRES and Bronx Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson, to improve the quality of life for her fellow residents. Through her tireless work, Rosetta has become a vital force in making her community a better place for all.

In addition to her leadership in the Bronx, Rosetta has been deeply involved in her faith community, contributing to the Greater Universal and New Seasons Churches. She has served in various capacities, including as a Choir Member, President of the Pastor Aide Committee, Deaconess, and Chair of the Prayer Warriors. Her commitment to her faith

and her community is an integral part of who she is, inspiring others through her example of service and devotion.

Professionally, Rosetta has had an impactful career, having worked for 21 years at MTA/ NYCT, and today serving as a proud member of 1199 SEIU. Her peers elected her as their Union Delegate, a role in which she demonstrated tireless advocacy for the rights of workers. As a Delegate, Rosetta has been instrumental in grievance procedures, ensuring that workers' rights were upheld and protected, as well as engaging members in campaigns to preserve essential healthcare funding. She also serves on the 1199 Candidates Screening Team, where she plays a crucial role in helping the union choose and endorse political candidates who share their values and commitment to improving the lives of working people.

In her personal life, Rosetta enjoys spending time with her family, traveling, attending Broadway musicals, watching movies, socializing with friends, cooking, and studying God's word. She finds fulfillment in encouraging others to remain faithful, regardless of the challenges they may face in life.

It is with immense respect and admiration that I honor Rosetta Kirkland for her dedicated service to her community, her advocacy for workers' rights, and her ongoing commitment to improving the lives of those around her. Her leadership, compassion, and tireless work on behalf of others exemplify the values we celebrate during Women's History Month.

PULASKI DAY SPEECH BY JUSTICE
AURELIA PUCINSKI**HON. MIKE QUIGLEY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following remarks made by Justice Aurelia Pucinski on Pulaski Day, March 3, 2025, at the Polish Museum of America in Chicago.

We celebrate Casimir Pulaski as twice a hero. First, he sacrificed everything: his home, his family, his freedom, fighting the evil Czar of Russia to protect his beloved Poland. Then he came here, to help the American Colonists fight the tyranny of King George. He died for our freedom and liberty. It was worth his life. It was everything.

LIBERTY: THE CORE OF OUR POLISH IDENTITY

We've had other Polish heroes in America. The Poles who came to the shores of Jamestown with Captain John Smith in 1609, not knowing what in the world they faced, but knowing it was better than the life they left behind. Those brave glassmakers led the first labor strike in the new colony for the right to vote and own land: Liberty. They fought for it and won.

Thaddeus Kosciuszko joined our Revolution for the principles of freedom from tyranny and the goal of independence: both values etched into the heart of every Pole. So fiercely did he believe in liberty that he provided in his will for the freedom of slaves.

There are more modern heroes too: Thaddeus Senzimer, the inventor of modern steel techniques. Henry Magnuski, who developed the WWII walkie talkies that became out modern cellphones. Paul Baran, an internet pioneer. Steve Wozniak, the co-founder of Apple. Roman Pucinski, who had to fight

tooth and nail to get Black Boxes into all commercial airplanes.

Poles started coming to Chicago in 1830. By 1920 there were 400,000 in Chicago. Today there are 900,000 people of Polish heritage in Cook County.

The first and largest immigration was between 1850-1920. Then huge numbers of immigrants were displaced by World War II. Many left in the 1980's after martial law was declared in Poland and the struggle to bring democracy to Poland took new strength from "Solidarity."

John Napieralski, is believed to be the first Pole in Chicago, arriving around 1830. He dreamed of a vibrant Polonia in our City. He might have predicted the hard-working men and women of Polonia building neighborhoods anchored by beautiful churches: St. Stanislaus Kostka, Holy Trinity, St. Adalbert, St. Mary of the Angels, St. John Cantius and so many more.

We have benefitted from major Polish language newspapers, a vibrant Polish theater, radio and now TV community. And our truly remarkable Polish organizations: the Polish Museum, the Polish Roman Catholic Union the Polish National Alliance, the Polish American Congress the Highlanders, the Alliance of Polish Clubs, the Legion of Young Polish Women, our hundreds of Polish schools and more.

Generations of Poles have come to Chicago. A very few of us actually remember the horrors of the Nazi invasion of Poland, the death and destruction of Nazi occupation, the cruelty of war, the horror of Russian genocide at Katyn, the death of freedom under the new Russian czars of communism. But if we are not old enough to actually remember it, we certainly have heard the stories from family, or read the history.

Whether your family came here in 1830 or later we are here because someone in our family decided to leave behind the life of uncertainty and oppression for a life of opportunity and freedom. To seek free speech, economic opportunity, freedom of religion, freedom of assembly, freedom of press and most important, the freedom of ideas. Things that are unreachable in nations under Russian influence. Would we trade our freedoms here for the slow death of the new communism?

Poland is democratic and free now. Some of us plan to return, and why not? It is a beautiful country. How much do we want to keep it free? What about the nations in the former Soviet bloc?

WHAT WOULD PULASKI DO?

Those who left that life behind are heroes too. They forged for us the opportunities we enjoy here. They gave us freedom. They gave us liberty. They gave us everything. We honor those who fought to get here. We recognize that some of us did it ourselves. Some of us rest on the shoulders of those who made the choice to leave that empty life behind. But no matter what the history of your family, it requires that we always remember what we left behind and why.

RECOGNIZING 150 YEARS OF BAY
VIEW ASSOCIATION**HON. JACK BERGMAN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize and celebrate Bay View Association for 150 years of dedicated service and charity. Bay View Association serves as an inspiration to the community, standing by their mission of

promoting Christian values through lively services and events for those in Northern Michigan.

Founded in 1875, Bay View Association has since played an integral role in the Petoskey area. The organization has evolved into a vibrant community dedicated to cultural and educational enrichment and spiritual growth. Bay View boasts over 337 acres of land, encompassing more than 30 public buildings and 440 cottages. This feat earned Bay View the designation of a National Historic Landmark by the National Parks Service in 1987.

For 150 years, the list of services that Bay View Association offers, have expanded substantially. Bay View is renowned for its exceptional religious services, educational lectures, summer programs, and so much more. The distinguished Music Bay View Music Festival stands as the country's longest-running collegiate music festival. Bay View Association's commitment to lifelong learning is also evident through its robust educational program, which offers courses in history, literature, religion, and the arts.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to congratulate Bay View Association for 150 outstanding years of service to the Northern Michigan community. I'd like to thank Bay View for their continued commitment to education, the arts, and spiritual enrichment, and I wish them the best in their future endeavors.

HONORING THE LIFE OF GEORGE
LESTER

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of George Lester, who passed away on January 31st at the age of 85. Mr. Lester is regarded as one of the most important business leaders and community advocates in the Martinsville-Henry County region of Southside Virginia.

On April 4, 1939, Mr. Lester was born. His father, of the same name, raised his son and the rest of his family in the Martinsville area. Mr. Lester graduated from Martinsville High School before attending college at North Carolina State University.

In 1963, Mr. Lester started working full-time for the family business.

Working hard and dedicating great amounts of time towards the family business, Mr. Lester eventually took over the business. He became president in 1974. Following this rise to a monumental role, Mr. Lester reorganized the business as the Lester Group, and diversified the business. New deals included work with lumber manufacturing, real estate and retail store development, among other endeavors.

Because of Mr. Lester's leadership, the Lester Group promoted strong economic growth in the region. This growth contributed to robust job creation and business development. His tenure lasted until 2018, when he retired from the Lester Group.

Another significant idea by Mr. Lester resulted in the founding of an influential committee that advocated for a future highway connecting Roanoke, Virginia, and Greensboro, North Carolina. The modern-day I-73 corridor greatly benefited from the creative

and authentic thinking of leaders like Mr. Lester.

Appreciated by many in the community, Mr. Lester dedicated a lot of time to different local projects. He served as chairman of the local United Way, the Martinsville-Henry County Chamber of Commerce and the separate Martinsville-Henry County Economic Development Corporation. In recognition of his work on the Chamber, he received the Heck Ford Award, the Chamber's highest honor. A charitable and thoughtful man, Mr. Lester gave land for civic causes and also donated to charitable organizations. Numerous community leaders and officials credit Mr. Lester for his positive impact on the region.

Mr. Lester is survived by his wife, Lee; daughters, Elizabeth Walsh of Lynchburg, Virginia, Ann Papadakis of Melbourne, Australia, and Sara Jedelsky, of Monroe, North Carolina; stepdaughter, Tracy Turlington of Barboursville, Virginia; mother-in-law, Ina Richmond; 11 grandchildren, and many other family members.

Mr. Lester was an exceptional business entrepreneur and community member. The Martinsville-Henry County region are incredibly grateful for his powerful leadership and influential support. He will be missed by many, including his family, his community and myself.

HONORING VANESSA L. GIBSON
FOR WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

HON. RITCHIE TORRES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Mr. TORRES of New York. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to honor and celebrate Vanessa L. Gibson, the 14th Bronx Borough President, in recognition of her exemplary leadership, dedication to public service, and unwavering commitment to the people of the Bronx. As we celebrate Women's History Month, we reflect on the incredible achievements of women like Ms. Gibson, who continue to shape and inspire our communities with their hard work and determination.

A proud native New Yorker, Ms. Gibson's journey in public service began while she was still a student at the University at Albany, when she joined the New York State Assembly Intern Program in 2001. There, she was assigned to work with then-Assemblywoman Aurelia Greene, where she quickly demonstrated her passion for legislative work and serving her community. From that moment, Ms. Gibson knew that public service would be her life's calling.

Upon graduating, Ms. Gibson transitioned to the role of Legislative Aide and later became the District Manager of Assemblywoman Greene's Bronx office. As District Manager, she played a vital role in ensuring effective administrative services and constituent outreach. After Assemblywoman Greene's resignation in 2009, Ms. Gibson ran in a special election for the 77th Assembly District, winning the seat and making a powerful mark on the state legislature.

During her two terms in the New York State Assembly, Ms. Gibson was a dedicated advocate for the issues that matter most to the Bronx. Her tireless work on education, afford-

able housing, public safety, and criminal justice reform earned her respect from her colleagues and the community alike. In 2013, she ran for a seat on the New York City Council, was elected, and quickly became known as a leader in the fight for tenant protections, alternatives to incarceration, enhanced police training, and criminal justice reform.

One of her landmark achievements as a Council Member was her collaboration with then-Council Member Mark Levine to pass the Right to Counsel legislation in 2017, which ensures free legal representation for low-income tenants facing eviction. Additionally, she championed the development of a ten-year food strategy for New York City, which addresses food deserts and promotes access to healthy, sustainable food options for all New Yorkers. It was my immense honor to have served alongside Ms. Gibson in the New York City Council.

In 2020, Ms. Gibson announced her candidacy for Bronx Borough President, presenting a bold vision for the future of the borough. With a focus on public safety, food equity, housing insecurity, health and wellness, gender equity, and support for the LGBTQIA+ community, Ms. Gibson's campaign resonated deeply with Bronx residents. After winning both the primary and general elections, she made history as the first woman and the first African American to be elected as Bronx Borough President.

As Borough President, Ms. Gibson has continued her lifelong work of advocating for equitable opportunities and improving the quality of life for all Bronxites. Her leadership is transforming the borough, with a focus on community-centered initiatives that empower residents, strengthen neighborhoods, and create sustainable economic growth.

It is with great admiration and respect that I honor Vanessa L. Gibson for her trailblazing accomplishments, her dedication to justice, and her unwavering commitment to the Bronx. Ms. Gibson exemplifies the power of public service and the profound impact that women can have on shaping our communities and our future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. WILLIAM R. TIMMONS IV

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Mr. TIMMONS. Mr. Speaker, I was on the phone with a constituent and missed the first vote of the series. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 63.

HONORING THE LEGACY AND
STRENGTH OF LAUREN SMALL

HON. VINCE FONG

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Mr. FONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the legacy of Lauren Paige Small, whose courage in the face of cancer will continue to inspire countless individuals.

Lauren Small was born on August 1, 1994, to her caring parents, Kevin and Tuesday in

Bakersfield, California. She was an engaged student at both Olive Drive Elementary and Norris Middle School, with hobbies including music, horseback riding, tennis, swimming, wakeboarding, skiing, and eating her favorite food—mashed potatoes. Though many people fear riding or simply mounting a horse, Lauren fearlessly pranced and galloped on her cherished horse, Nickel Citation Nickie, winning Rookie of the Year, Champion Walk/Job, and placing in the top ten finalists at the 2005 Bakersfield Open Horse Show.

She won these awards and pursued these hobbies while she fought an intense battle with cancer, one to which she would unfortunately succumb on December 1, 2005. Though cancer had cruelly afflicted Lauren since 2003, she shocked her doctors, parents, and peers with her continued joy in life. Even as she endured the pains of chemotherapy and other health related challenges, she remained positive and continued to pursue her passion for horseback riding.

While Lauren is no longer with us, her drive and enthusiasm in her final years remain in the memories of all those who knew her. Lauren is survived by her parents, her brother, Kyle, great aunt, her grandparents, aunts, uncles, great uncles, and cousins, all of whom continue to deeply love and miss her.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me as we remember the undaunted life of Lauren Small and carry on her legacy of upholding strength.

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

(Legislative Days of Monday, March 10, 2025, and Tuesday, March 11, 2025)

Routine Proceedings, pages S1641–S1676

Measures Introduced: Forty-eight bills and four resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 925–972, S.J. Res. 36–37, S. Res. 123, and S. Con. Res. 10.

Pages S1662–64

Measures Passed:

Justice for Murder Victims Act: Senate passed S. 960, to ensure that homicides can be prosecuted under Federal law without regard to the time elapsed between the act or omission that caused the death of the victim and the death itself.

Pages S1675–76

Measures Considered:

Halt All Lethal Trafficking of Fentanyl Act—Cloture: Senate continued consideration of S. 331, to amend the Controlled Substances Act with respect to the scheduling of fentanyl-related substances, and taking action on the following amendment proposed thereto:

Page S1659

Pending:

Thune (for Grassley) Amendment No. 1237, of a perfecting nature.

Page S1659

A motion was entered to close further debate on 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 Jeffrey Kessler, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Industry and Security.

Page S1659

Pulte Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of William Pulte, of Florida, to be Director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency for a term of five years.

Page S1659

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 Keith Sonderling, of Florida, to be Deputy Secretary of Labor

Page S1659

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session.

Page S1659

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination.

Page S1659

Kessler Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Jeffrey Kessler, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Industry and Security.

Page S1659

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 William Pulte, of Florida, to be Director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency for a term of five years.

Page S1659

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session.

Page S1659

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination.

Page S1659

Miran and Sonderling Nominations—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that at approximately 11 a.m., on Wednesday, March 12, 2025, Senate resume consideration of the nomination of Stephen Miran, of New York, to be Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers; that at 12 noon, Senate vote on the motion to invoke cloture thereon; if cloture is invoked on the nomination of Stephen Miran, the post-cloture time expire at 2:15 p.m., and Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination; if cloture is invoked on the nomination of Keith Sonderling, of Florida, to be Deputy Secretary of Labor, the post-cloture time expire at 5:15 p.m., and Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination.

See Next Issue

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

By 51 yeas to 46 nays (Vote No. EX. 113), Steven Bradbury, of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary of Transportation.

Pages S1641–49

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 51 yeas to 46 nays (Vote No. EX. 112), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S1649**

By 78 yeas to 19 nays (Vote No. EX. 115), Abigail Slater, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Attorney General. **Pages S1058–59**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 77 yeas to 19 nays (Vote No. EX. 114), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S1649**

Messages from the House: **Page S1662**

Measures Referred: **Page S1662**

Measures Placed on the Calendar: **See Next Issue**

Measures Read the First Time: **Pages S1662, S1675**

Executive Reports of Committees: **Page S1662**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S1664–66**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:
Pages S1666–68

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S1668–75**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S1675**

Record Votes: Four record votes were taken today. (Total—115) **Pages S1648–49, S1658–59**

Motion to Adjourn: Senate agreed to the motion to adjourn until 6:40 p.m., on Tuesday, March 11, 2025. **Page S1176**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 6:39 p.m., and reconvened at 6:40 p.m., on the same day, and adjourned at 7:07 p.m., until 11 a.m., on Wednesday, March 12, 2025. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page See Next Issue.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

AGRICULTURAL ECONOMY

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: Committee concluded a hearing to examine risk management, credit, and rural business views on the agricultural economy, focusing on views from the field, after receiving testimony from Tara Durbin, Farm Credit Mid-America, Louisville, Kentucky; Caleb Hopkins, First Dakota National Bank, Halibur, Iowa, on behalf of American Bankers Association; Sedrick Rowe, Rowe Organic Farms, Albany, Georgia; Dalynn Hoch, Rural Community Insurance Services, Anoka, Minnesota; and Ben Noble, Riceland Foods, Stuttgart, Arkansas.

MILITARY HEALTH SYSTEM

Committee on Armed Services: Committee concluded a hearing to examine stabilizing the Military Health System to prepare for large-scale combat operations, after receiving testimony from Lieutenant General Douglas J. Robb, USAF (Ret.), former Director of the Defense Health Agency, Major General Paul A. Friedrichs, USAF (Ret.), former Joint Staff Surgeon, and Colonel Jeremy W. Cannon, USAFR (Ret.), University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine, all of the Department of Defense.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Armed Services: Committee ordered favorably reported the nominations of Stephen Feinberg, of New York, to be Deputy Secretary, and John Phelan, of Florida, to be Secretary of the Navy, both of the Department of Defense.

STOP CSAM ACT

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Crime and Counterterrorism concluded a hearing to examine the STOP CSAM Act, after receiving testimony from Michelle DeLaune, National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, Alexandria, Virginia; Greg Schiller, Child Rescue Coalition, Boca Raton, Florida; John Tanagho, International Justice Mission, Washington, D.C.; John Pizzuro, Raven, Irving, Texas; and Taylor Sines, Maryland.

LEGISLATION

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine S. 124, to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for disciplinary procedures for supervisors and managers at the Department of Veterans Affairs and to modify the procedures of personnel actions against employees of the Department, S. 201, to provide for a study by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine on the prevalence and mortality of cancer among individuals who served as active duty aircrew in the Armed Forces, S. 275, to improve the provision of care and services under the Veterans Community Care Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, S. 410, to amend titles 10 and 38, United States Code, to improve benefits and services for surviving spouses, S. 478, to amend title 38, United States Code, to prohibit the Secretary of Veterans Affairs from transmitting certain information to the Department of Justice for use by the national instant criminal background check system, S. 607, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish an integrated project team to improve the process for scheduling appointments for health care from the Department of Veterans Affairs, S. 610, to expand

the VetSuccess on Campus program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, S. 611, to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve and to expand eligibility for dependency and indemnity compensation paid to certain survivors of certain veterans, S. 654, to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish an external provider scheduling program to assist the Department of Veterans Affairs in scheduling appointments for care and services under the Veterans Community Care Program, S. 702, to require a study on the quality of care difference between mental health and addiction therapy care provided by health care providers of the Department of Veterans Affairs compared to non-Department providers, S. 787, to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish a commission to review operations at the Veterans Health Administration and submit to Congress reports with respect to that review, and for other programs, S. 831, to amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to improve telephone communication by the

Department of Veterans Affairs, S. 892, to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the repayment by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs of benefits misused by a fiduciary, an original bill entitled, “Veterans’ Claims Act of 2025”, and an original bill entitled, “Servicemembers and Veterans Empowerment and Support Act”, after receiving testimony from Mark R. Engelbaum, Assistant Secretary, Office of Human Resources and Administration/Operations, Security, and Preparedness, Al Montoya, Deputy Chief Operating Officer, Veterans Health Administration, and Melissa Cohen, Acting Deputy Under Secretary for Policy and Oversight, Kenesha Britton, Assistant Deputy Under Secretary for Field Operations, Kevin Friel, Executive Director, Pension and Fiduciary Service, each of the Veterans Benefits Administration, all of the Department of Veterans Affairs; and Cole Lyle, The American Legion, Ashlynn Haycock-Lohmann, Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors, and Patrick Murray, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, all of Washington, D.C.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 69 public bills, H.R. 2023–2091; and 10 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 19; and H. Res. 212–220, were introduced. **Pages H1147–51**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H1153–54**

Report Filed: A report was filed today as follows:

H. Res. 211, providing for consideration of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 25) 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”; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1156) to amend the CARES Act to extend the statute of limitations for fraud under certain unemployment programs, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1968) making further continuing appropriations and other extensions for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025, and for other purposes; and for other purposes (H. Rept. 119–15). **Page H1147**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative De La Cruz to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H1071**

Recess: The House recessed at 11:21 a.m. and reconvened at 12 p.m. **Page H1080**

Returning Senate Joint Resolution 3 to the Senate: The House agreed to H. Res. 212, returning Senate Joint Resolution 3 to the Senate. **Page H1093**

Pandemic Unemployment Fraud Enforcement Act: The House passed H.R. 1156, to amend the CARES Act to extend the statute of limitations for fraud under certain unemployment programs, by a yeas-and-nays vote of 295 yeas to 127 nays, Roll No. 68. **Pages H1093–99, H1124**

Pursuant to the Rule, the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Ways and Means now printed in the bill shall be considered as adopted. **Page H1083**

H. Res. 211, the rule providing for consideration of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 25) and the bills (H.R. 1156) and (H.R. 1968) was agreed to be a recorded vote of 215 yeas to 214 nays, Roll No. 67, after the previous question was ordered by a yeas-and-nays vote of 216 yeas to 212 nays, Roll No. 66. **Pages H1092–93**

Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025: The House passed H.R. 1968, making further continuing appropriations and other extensions for the fiscal year ending September 30,

2025, by a yea-and-nay vote of 217 yeas to 213 nays, Roll No. 70. **Pages H1102–1124, H1125–26**

Rejected the Meng motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Appropriations with a yea-and-nay vote of 213 yeas to 216 nays, Roll No. 69.

Pages H1124–25

Pursuant to the Rule, the amendment printed in H. Rept. 119–15 shall be considered as adopted.

Page H1102

H. Res. 211, the rule providing for consideration of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 25) and the bills (H.R. 1156) and (H.R. 1968) was agreed to be a recorded vote of 215 yeas to 214 noes, Roll No. 67, after the previous question was ordered by a yea-and-nay vote of 216 yeas to 212 nays, Roll No. 66.

Pages H1092–93

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 House passed H.J. Res. 25, 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”, by a yea-and-nay vote of 292 yeas to 132 nays with one answering “present”, Roll No. 71.

Page H1126

H. Res. 211, the rule providing for consideration of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 25) and the bills (H.R. 1156) and (H.R. 1968) was agreed to be a recorded vote of 215 yeas to 214 noes, Roll No. 67, after the previous question was ordered by a yea-and-nay vote of 216 yeas to 212 nays, Roll No. 66.

Pages H1092–93

Suspensions—Proceedings Resumed: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures. Consideration began Monday, March 10th.

DHS Biodefense Improvement Act: H.R. 706, to improve the biodefense functions of the Department of Homeland Security; and

Page H1126

Amending the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to enable secure and trustworthy technology through other transaction contracting authority: H.R. 1692, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to enable secure and trustworthy technology through other transaction contracting authority.

Page H1127

Committee Elections: The House agreed to H. Res. 213, electing Members to a certain standing committee of the House of Representatives.

Page H1127

Committee Elections: The House agreed to H. Res. 214, electing Members to certain standing committees of the House of Representatives.

Page H1127

Work Period Designation: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he designated the period from Tuesday, March 11, 2025, through Sunday, March 23, 2025, as a “district work period” under clause 13 of rule 1.

Page H1130

Quorum Calls Votes: Five yea-and-nay votes and one recorded vote developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H1092, H1092–93, H1124, H1124–25, H1125–26 and H1126.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Committee Meetings

INNOVATIVE TECHNIQUES IN MILITARY CONSTRUCTION

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies held a hearing entitled “Innovative Techniques in Military Construction”. Testimony was heard from Dave Morrow, Director of Military Programs, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; Keith Hamilton, Chief Engineer, Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command, U.S. Navy; and public witnesses.

THE STATE OF U.S. SHIPBUILDING

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Seapower and Projection Forces held a hearing entitled “The State of U.S. Shipbuilding”. Testimony was heard from Eric Labs, Senior Analyst for Naval Forces and Weapons, Congressional Budget Office; Shelby Oakley, Director, Contracting and National Security Acquisitions, Government Accountability Office; Ronald O’Rourke, Naval Affairs Analyst, Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress; and Brett Seidle, Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development, and Acquisition, U.S. Navy.

EDUCATION WITHOUT LIMITS: EXPLORING THE BENEFITS OF SCHOOL CHOICE

Committee on Education and Workforce: Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education held a hearing entitled “Education Without Limits: Exploring the Benefits of School Choice”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

MAXIMIZING OPPORTUNITIES FOR REDEVELOPING BROWNFIELDS SITES: ASSESSING THE POTENTIAL FOR NEW AMERICAN INNOVATION

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Environment held a hearing entitled “Maximizing

Opportunities for Redeveloping Brownfields Sites: Assessing the Potential for New American Innovation”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

NAVIGATING THE DIGITAL PAYMENTS ECOSYSTEM: EXAMINING A FEDERAL FRAMEWORK FOR PAYMENT STABLECOINS AND CONSEQUENCES OF A U.S. CENTRAL BANK DIGITAL CURRENCY

Committee on Financial Services: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Navigating the Digital Payments Ecosystem: Examining a Federal Framework for Payment Stablecoins and Consequences of a U.S. Central Bank Digital Currency”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

REAUTHORIZING THE U.S. DEVELOPMENT FINANCE CORPORATION

Committee on Foreign Affairs: East Asia and Pacific Subcommittee held a hearing entitled “Reauthorizing the U.S. Development Finance Corporation”. Testimony was heard from former Member Ted Yoho; and public witnesses.

ARMS CONTROL, INTERNATIONAL SECURITY, AND U.S. ASSISTANCE TO EUROPE: REVIEW AND REFORMS FOR THE STATE DEPARTMENT

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Europe Subcommittee held a hearing entitled “Arms Control, International Security, and U.S. Assistance to Europe: Review and Reforms for the State Department”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

REGULATORY HARM OR HARMONIZATION? EXAMINING THE OPPORTUNITY TO IMPROVE THE CYBER REGULATORY REGIME

Committee on Homeland Security: Subcommittee on Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Protection held a hearing entitled “Regulatory Harm or Harmonization? Examining the Opportunity to Improve the Cyber Regulatory Regime”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

ELIMINATING WASTE, FRAUD, AND ABUSE AT THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY: ADDRESSING THE BIDEN-HARRIS ADMINISTRATION'S FAILURES

Committee on Homeland Security: Subcommittee on Oversight, Investigations, and Accountability held a hearing entitled “Eliminating Waste, Fraud, and Abuse at the Department of Homeland Security: Addressing the Biden-Harris Administration's Failures”. Testimony was heard from Chris Currie, Director, Homeland Security and Justice Team, Government

Accountability Office; Kristen Bernard, Deputy Inspector General, Office of Audits, Office of the Inspector General, Department of Homeland Security; Erika Lang, Assistant Inspector General, Office of Inspections and Evaluations, Office of the Inspector General, Department of Homeland Security; and public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on House Administration: Full Committee held a markup on H. Res. 198, providing for the expenses of certain committees of the House of Representatives in the One Hundred Nineteenth Congress; Committee Resolution 119–10, resolution to approve allocation from the Paid House Committee Internship Program to Committees for 2025; Committee Resolution 119–11, resolution to approve Franked Mail Allowances for Committees in the 119th Congress; Resolution dismissing the election contest relating to the office of Representative from the Fourteenth Congressional District of Florida, 1; Resolution dismissing the election contest relating to the office of Representative from the Fourteenth Congressional District of Florida, 2; Resolution dismissing the election contest relating to the office of Representative from the Thirtieth Congressional District of Texas; Resolution dismissing the election contest relating to the office of Representative from the Twenty-eighth Congressional District of Texas; and Resolution dismissing the election contest relating to the office of Representative from the at-large Congressional District of Alaska. H. Res. 198, providing for the expenses of certain committees of the House of Representatives in the One Hundred Nineteenth Congress; Committee Resolution 119–10, resolution to approve allocation from the Paid House Committee Internship Program to Committees for 2025; Committee Resolution 119–11, resolution to approve Franked Mail Allowances for Committees in the 119th Congress; Resolution dismissing the election contest relating to the office of Representative from the Fourteenth Congressional District of Florida, 1; Resolution dismissing the election contest relating to the office of Representative from the Fourteenth Congressional District of Florida, 2; Resolution dismissing the election contest relating to the office of Representative from the Thirtieth Congressional District of Texas; Resolution dismissing the election contest relating to the office of Representative from the Twenty-eighth Congressional District of Texas; and Resolution dismissing the election contest relating to the office of Representative from the at-large Congressional District of Alaska. H. Res. 198 was ordered reported, as amended. Committee Resolution 119–10; Committee Resolution 119–11; Resolution dismissing the election contest relating to

the office of Representative from the Fourteenth Congressional District of Florida, 1; Resolution dismissing the election contest relating to the office of Representative from the Fourteenth Congressional District of Florida, 2; Resolution dismissing the election contest relating to the office of Representative from the Thirtieth Congressional District of Texas; Resolution dismissing the election contest relating to the office of Representative from the Twenty-eighth Congressional District of Texas; and Resolution dismissing the election contest relating to the office of Representative from the at-large Congressional District of Alaska were ordered reported, without amendment.

ANTITRUST LAW AND THE NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION: EXAMINING THE CURRENT CLIMATE

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on the Administrative State, Regulatory Reform, and Antitrust held a hearing entitled “Antitrust Law and the NCAA: Examining the Current Climate”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURE

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Federal Lands held a hearing on H.R. 1820, the “FLASH Act”. Testimony was heard from Representative Ciscomani, Thaddeus C. Cleveland, Sheriff, Terrell County, Texas; Larry Lopez, Lieutenant, Sheriff's Department, San Bernardino County, California; and public witnesses.

SHIFTING GEARS: MOVING FROM RECOVERY TO PREVENTION OF IMPROPER PAYMENTS AND FRAUD

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform: Subcommittee on Government Operations held a hearing entitled “Shifting Gears: Moving from Recovery to Prevention of Improper Payments and Fraud”. Testimony was heard from Ken Dieffenbach, Executive Director, Pandemic Response Accountability Committee, Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency; Kristen Kocielek, Managing Director, Financial Management and Assurance, Government Accountability Office; and a public witness.

ENHANCING FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL COORDINATION IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CRIMINAL ILLEGAL ALIENS

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform: Subcommittee on Federal Law Enforcement held a hearing entitled “Enhancing Federal, State, and Local Coordination in the Fight Against Criminal Illegal Aliens”. Testimony was heard from Bob Gualtieri,

Sheriff, Pinellas County, Florida; and public witnesses.

MEMBER DAY HEARING: HOUSE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Member Day Hearing: House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology”. Testimony was heard from Representative Foster.

RESTORING THE SBA: PUTTING MAIN STREET AMERICA FIRST

Committee on Small Business: Subcommittee on Oversight, Investigations, and Regulations held a hearing entitled “Restoring the SBA: Putting Main Street America First”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

WATER INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCING: WATER INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCE AND INNOVATION ACT AND THE CLEAN WATER STATE REVOLVING FUND

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment held a hearing entitled “Water Infrastructure Financing: WIFIA and the Clean Water State Revolving Fund”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity held a hearing on H.R. 913, the “Streamlining Aviation for Eligible Veterans Act of 2025”; H.R. 980, the “Modernizing the Veterans On-Campus Experience Act of 2025”; H.R.1364, the “Automotive Support Services to Improve Safe Transportation Act of 2025”; H.R. 1458, the “Veterans Education and Technical Skills Opportunity Act of 2025”; H.R. 1960, the “Simplifying Veterans Assistance Act of 2025”; H.R. 1527, the “Reforming Education for Veterans Act”; H.R. 1793, the “Veterans Readiness and Employment Transparency Act of 2025”; H.R. 1872, the “Fairness in Veterans' Education Act”; H.R. 1815, the “VA Home Loan Program Reform Act”; H.R. 1814, the “Restoring the VA Home Loan Program in Perpetuity Act of 2025”; H.R. 1957, the “End Veteran Homelessness Act of 2025”; H.R. 1423, the “Guard and Reserve Parity Act of 2025”; legislation to amend title 38, United States Code, to modify the conditions under which the Secretary of Veterans Affairs is required to redevelop the individualized vocational rehabilitation plan for a veteran, and for other purposes; and H.R. 1803, the “Fair Access to Co-ops for Veterans Act

of 2025". Testimony was heard from John Bell, Executive Director, Loan Guaranty Service, Department of Veterans Affairs; and public witnesses.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Subcommittee on Health held a hearing on legislation on the Standardizing Treatment and Referral Times Act; legislation on the No Wrong Door for Veterans Act; legislation on the Providing Veterans Essential Medications Act; legislation on the Veterans Supporting Prosthetics Opportunities and Recreational Therapy Act; legislation 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; H.R. 217, the "CHIP IN for Veterans Act"; H.R. 1107, the "Protecting Veteran Access to Telemedicine Services Act of 2025"; H.R. 1336, the "Veterans National Traumatic Brain Injury Treatment Act"; H.R. 658, to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish qualifications for the appointment of a person as a marriage and family therapist, qualified to provide clinical supervision, in the Veterans Health Administration; legislation on the Copay Fairness for Veterans Act; legislation on the Saving Our Veterans Lives Act; and legislation on the Women Veterans Cancer Care Coordination Act. Testimony was heard from Representatives Bergman, Murphy, Womack, Bacon, Garcia of Texas, Underwood, and Deluzio; Thomas O'Toole, Deputy Assistant Undersecretary for Health for Clinical Services, Quality and Field Operations, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs; and public witnesses.

AFTER THE HOSPITAL: ENSURING ACCESS TO QUALITY POST-ACUTE CARE

Committee on Ways and Means: Subcommittee on Health held a hearing entitled "After the Hospital: Ensuring Access to Quality Post-Acute Care". Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

Joint Meetings

BUSINESS MEETING

Joint Committee on the Library: Committee designated the Chair and Vice Chair, and adopted its rules of procedure for the 119th Congress.

BUSINESS MEETING

Joint Committee on Printing: Committee designated the Chair and Vice Chair, and adopted its rules of procedure for the 119th Congress.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12, 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 current readiness of the Joint Force, 9:30 a.m., SD-G50.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: to hold hearings to examine housing roadblocks, focusing on paving a new way to address affordability, 10 a.m., SD-538.

Committee on the Budget: business meeting to consider the nomination of James Bishop, of North Carolina, to be Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget, 2 p.m., S-120, Capitol.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: business meeting to consider S. 28, to require the disclosure of a camera or recording capability in certain internet-connected devices, S. 97, to require SelectUSA to coordinate with State-level economic development organizations to increase foreign direct investment in semiconductor-related manufacturing and production, S. 244, to direct the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information, to conduct a study of the national security risks posed by consumer routers, modems, and devices that combine a modem and router, S. 289, to ban the sale of products with a high concentration of sodium nitrate to individuals, S. 323, to direct the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information to develop a National Strategy to Synchronize Federal Broadband Programs, S. 389, to establish consumer standards for lithium-ion batteries, S. 414, to require covered digital advertising platforms to report their public service advertisements, S. 428, to promote space situational awareness and space traffic coordination and to modify the functions and leadership of the Office of Space Commerce, S. 433, to require the Secretary of Commerce to establish the National Manufacturing Advisory Council within the Department of Commerce, S. 582, to provide for the authorized use of Federal vehicle transportation by certain astronauts, S. 613, to require the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere to maintain the National Mesonet Program, S. 759, to provide for standardization, publication, and accessibility of data relating to public outdoor recreational use of Federal waterways, S. 792, to require the National Telecommunications Information Administration to estimate the value of electromagnetic spectrum assigned or otherwise allocated to Federal entities, S. 841, to require online dating service providers to provide fraud ban notifications to online dating service members, S. 843, to require the Secretary of Commerce to establish the Sea Turtle Rescue Assistance Grant Program, and the nominations of Mark Meador, of Virginia, to be a Federal Trade Commissioner, and Michael Kratsios, of South Carolina, to be Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, 9:30 a.m., SR-253.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: to hold hearings to examine S. 362, to allow certain Federal minerals to be mined consistent with the Bull Mountains Mining Plan Modification, S. 544, to provide for the location of multiple hardrock mining mill sites, to establish the Abandoned Hardrock Mine Fund, S. 596, to establish a pilot program to support domestic critical material processing, S. 714, to amend the Energy Act of 2020 to include critical materials in the definition of critical mineral, S. 789, to require reports on critical mineral and rare earth element resources around the world and a strategy for the development of advanced mining, refining, separation, and processing technologies, and S. 859, to modify the requirements applicable to locatable minerals on public domain land, 10 a.m., SD-366.

Committee on Foreign Relations: business meeting to consider pending calendar business, 10 a.m., S-116, Capitol.

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship: to hold hearings to examine the nomination of William Briggs, of Texas, to be Deputy Administrator, and Casey Mulligan, of Illinois, to be Chief Counsel for Advocacy, both of the Small Business Administration, 2:30 p.m., SR-428A.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: business meeting to consider Major Medical Lease Committee Resolution FY25, Major Medical Lease Committee Resolution PACT Act, and the nomination of Paul Lawrence, of Virginia, to be

Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Time to be announced, Room to be announced.

Select Committee on Intelligence: to receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH-219.

Special Committee on Aging: to hold hearings to examine breaking the cycle of senior loneliness, focusing on strengthening family and community support, 3:30 p.m., SD-106.

House

Committee on Foreign Affairs, Africa Subcommittee, hearing entitled "Conflict and Persecution in Nigeria: The Case for a CPC Designation", 9 a.m., 2200 Rayburn.

Committee on Ways and Means, Full Committee, markup on H. Res. 127, of inquiry requesting the President and directing the Secretary of the Treasury to transmit, respectively, certain documents to the House of Representatives relating to the Department of Government Efficiency's access to the Treasury payment systems and confidential taxpayer information; and H. Res. 195, of inquiry requesting the President of the United States to furnish certain information to the House of Representatives relating to the operations of the Social Security Administration after January 20, 2025, including information on the Department of Government Efficiency's access to the Social Security Administration and to information in the possession of such Administration, 9:15 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

11 a.m., Wednesday, March 12

Senate Chamber

Program for Wednesday: Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of Stephen Miran, of New York, to be Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers, and vote on the motion to invoke cloture thereon at 12 noon. If cloture is invoked on the nomination, all post-cloture time expire at 2:15 p.m. and Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination.

Following disposition of the nomination of Stephen Miran, Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Keith Sonderling, of Florida, to be Deputy Secretary of Labor. If cloture is invoked on the nomination, all post-cloture time expire at 5:15 p.m., and Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

9 a.m., Friday, March 14

House Chamber

Program for Friday: House will meet in Pro Forma session at 9 a.m.

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