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No. 49

House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SMITH of Nebraska).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
March 14, 2025.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ADRIAN SMITH to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

MIKE JOHNSON,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

Reverend Daniel B. Carson, St. Peter's Catholic Church, Washington, D.C., offered the following prayer:

Holy and gracious Lord, You are the fullness of light and peace, and You have made each of us for good and freedom. We praise You for Your glory and all Your abundant gifts.

As a Nation, we look to You for Your guidance and divine providence. Be our shepherd and strength, we beseech You. Send forth the grace of Your wisdom and justice to shine in all the proceedings of our government so that they may tend to the promotion of a good and just society in the blessings of equal liberty.

Help us to live up to the Nation's highest principles that we might be agents of hope and goodness.

We ask this in Your holy name, O Lord.
Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 13 of rule I, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The SPEAKER 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.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

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

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, March 12, 2025.

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on March 12, 2025, at 11:10 a.m.:

That the Senate passed S. 960.

Appointment:

Senate National Security Working Group.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,
Clerk.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under clause 5(d) of rule XX, the Chair announces to the House that, in light of the passing of the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA), the whole number of the House is 431.

PUBLICATION OF COMMITTEE RULES

RULES OF THE COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY FOR THE 119TH CONGRESS

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY,
Washington, DC, March 12, 2025.

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to Clause 2, rule XI, Rules of the House of Representatives, I submit the Rules of the Committee on Homeland Security for the 119th Congress for publication in the Congressional Record. On January 22, 2025, the Committee on Homeland Security met in open session and adopted these Committee Rules by voice vote, a quorum being present.

Sincerely,

MARK E. GREEN, MD,
Chairman.

RULE I.—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 Committee on Homeland Security (the "Committee") and its subcommittees insofar as applicable.

(B) *Applicability to Subcommittees.*—Except where 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) *Appointments by the Chair.*—Clause 2(d) of Rule XI of the House shall govern the designation of a Vice Chair of the Full Committee.

(D) *Conferences.*—The Chair is authorized to offer a motion under clause 1 of Rule XXII of the Rules of the House whenever the Chair considers it appropriate.

(E) *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 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

□ 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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display a link on its home page to the website maintained by the Ranking Minority Member.

(F) *Activity Report*.—The Committee shall submit a report to the House on the activities of the Committee in accordance with House rule XI 1(d).

RULE II.—SUBCOMMITTEES

(A) *Generally*.—The Full Committee shall be organized into the following six standing subcommittees and each shall have specific responsibility for such measures or matters as the Chair refers to it:

(1) Subcommittee on Border Security and Enforcement

(2) Subcommittee on Counterterrorism and Intelligence

(3) Subcommittee on Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Protection

(4) Subcommittee on Emergency Management and Technology

(5) Subcommittee on Oversight, Investigations, and Accountability

(6) Subcommittee on Transportation and Maritime Security

(B) *Selection and Ratio of Subcommittee Members*.—The Chair and Ranking Minority Member of the Full Committee shall select their respective Members of each subcommittee. The ratio of Majority to Minority Members shall be comparable to the Full Committee, consistent with the party ratios established by the Majority.

(C) *Ex Officio Members*.—The Chair and Ranking Minority Member of the Full Committee shall be ex officio members of each subcommittee but are not authorized to vote on matters that arise before each subcommittee. The Chair and Ranking Minority Member of the Full Committee shall only be counted to satisfy the quorum requirement for the purpose of taking testimony and receiving evidence.

(D) *Powers and Duties of Subcommittees*.—Except as otherwise directed by the Chair of the Full Committee, each subcommittee is authorized to meet, hold hearings, receive testimony, markup legislation, and report to the Full Committee on all matters within its purview. Subcommittee Chairs shall set hearing and meeting dates only with the approval of the Chair of the Full Committee. To the greatest extent practicable, no more than one meeting and hearing should be scheduled for a given time.

RULE III.—SPECIAL COMMITTEE PANELS

(A) *Designation*.—The Chair of the Full Committee may designate a special panel of the Committee consisting of Members of the Committee to inquire into and take testimony on a matter or matters that warrant enhanced consideration, and to report to the Committee.

(B) *Party Ratios and Appointment*.—The chair of a special panel shall be appointed by the Chair of the Full Committee. The Ranking Minority Member of the Full Committee may select a ranking minority member for a special panel and may appoint additional minority members, consistent with the ratio of the full committee. The Chair and Ranking Minority Member may serve as *ex officio* members.

(C) *Duration*.—No special panel shall continue in existence for more than six months.

(D) *Jurisdiction*.—No special panel shall have legislative jurisdiction.

RULE IV.—REGULAR MEETINGS

(A) *Regular Meeting Date*.—The regular meeting date and time for the transaction of business of the Full Committee shall be at 10:00 a.m. on the first Wednesday that the House is in Session each month, unless otherwise directed by the Chair.

(B) *Additional Meetings*.—At the discretion of the Chair, additional meetings of the

Committee may be scheduled for the consideration of any legislation or other matters pending before the Committee, or to conduct other Committee business. The Committee shall meet for such purposes pursuant to the call of the Chair.

(C) *Consideration*.—Except in the case of a special meeting held under clause 2(c)(2) of House Rule XI, the determination of the business to be considered at each meeting of the Committee shall be made by the Chair.

RULE V.—NOTICE AND PUBLICATION

(A) *Notice*.—

(1) *Hearings*.—(a) Pursuant to clause 2(g)(3) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Chair of the Committee shall make public announcement of the date, place, and subject matter of any hearing before the Full Committee or subcommittee, which may not commence earlier than one week after such notice.

(b) However, a hearing may begin sooner than specified in (a) if the Chair of the Committee, with the concurrence of the Ranking Minority Member, determines that there is good cause to begin such hearing sooner, or if the Committee so determines by majority vote, a quorum being present for the transaction of business. If such a determination is made, the Chair shall make the announcement required under (a) at the earliest possible date. To the extent practicable, the names of all witnesses scheduled to appear at such hearing shall be provided to Members no later than 48 hours prior to the commencement of such hearing.

(2) *Meetings*.—(a) The Chair shall announce the date, time, place and subject matter of any meeting, which may not commence earlier than the third calendar day (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, or legal holidays except when the House is in session on such a day) on which Members have notice thereof except in the case of a special meeting called under clause 2(c)(2) of House Rule XI. These notice requirements may be waived if the Chair with the concurrence of the Ranking Minority Member, determines that there is good cause to begin the meeting sooner or if the Committee so determines by majority vote, a quorum being present for the transaction of business.

(b) At least 48 hours prior to the commencement of a meeting for the markup of legislation, or at the time of announcement of the meeting, if less than 48 hours under Rule V(A)(2), the text of such legislation to be marked up shall be provided to the Members, made publicly available in electronic form, and posted on the official Committee website.

(c) Not later than 24 hours after concluding a meeting to consider legislation, the text of such legislation as ordered forwarded or reported, including any amendments adopted or defeated, shall be made publicly available in electronic form and posted on the official Committee website.

(3) *Briefings*.—The Chair shall provide notice of the date, time, place, and subject matter of a Member briefing. To the extent practicable, a Member briefing shall not commence earlier than the third day on which Members have notice thereof.

(B) *Publication*.—House Rule XI 2(g)(3)(C) is hereby incorporated by reference.

RULE VI. OPEN MEETINGS AND HEARINGS; BROADCASTING

(A) *Open Meetings*.—

(1) All meetings and hearings of the Committee shall be open to the public including to radio, television, and still photography coverage, except as provided by Rule XI of the Rules of the House or when the Committee, in open session and with a majority present, determines by recorded vote that all or part of the remainder of that hearing on

that day shall be closed to the public because disclosure of testimony, evidence, or other matters to be considered would endanger the national security, compromise sensitive law enforcement information, tend to defame, degrade or incriminate a witness, or violate any law or rule of the House of Representatives.

(2) The Committee or Subcommittee may meet in executive session for up to five additional consecutive days of hearings if agreed to by the same procedure.

(B) *Broadcasting*.—Whenever any hearing or meeting conducted by the Committee is open to the public, the Committee shall permit that hearing or meeting to be covered by television broadcast, internet broadcast, print media, and still photography, or by any of such methods of coverage, in accordance with the provisions of clause 4 of Rule XI of the Rules of the House. Operation and use of any Committee operated broadcast system shall be fair and nonpartisan and in accordance with clause 4(b) of Rule XI and all other applicable rules of the Committee and the House. Priority shall be given by the Committee to members of the Press Galleries. Pursuant to clause 2(e) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee shall, to the greatest extent practicable, provide audio and video coverage of each hearing or meeting in a manner that allows the public to easily listen to and view the proceedings and shall maintain the recordings of such coverage in a manner that is easily accessible to the public.

(C) *Transcripts*.—A transcript shall be made of the testimony of each witness appearing before the Committee during a Committee hearing. All transcripts of meetings or hearings that are open to the public shall be made available.

RULE VII. PROCEDURES FOR MEETINGS AND HEARINGS

(A) *Opening Statements*.—At any meeting of the Committee, the Chair and Ranking Minority Member shall be entitled to present oral opening statements of five minutes each. Other Members may submit written opening statements for the record. The Chair presiding over the meeting may permit additional opening statements by other Members of the Full Committee or of that subcommittee, with the concurrence of the Ranking Minority Member.

(B) *The Five-Minute Rule*.—The time any one Member may address the Committee on any bill, motion, or other matter under consideration by the Committee shall not exceed five minutes, and then only when the Member has been recognized by the Chair, except that this time limit may be extended when permitted by unanimous consent.

(C) *Voting*.—The Chair may conduct any recorded vote by electronic device in accordance with clause 2(n) of House Rule XI.

(D) *Postponement of Vote*.—The Chair may postpone further proceedings when a recorded vote is ordered on the question of approving any measure or matter or adopting an amendment and may resume proceedings on a postponed vote at any time after reasonable notice to Members by the Clerk or other designee of the Chair. 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.

(E) *Record*.—Members may have 10 business days to submit to the Chief Clerk of the Committee their statements for the record, and, in the case of a hearing, additional questions for the hearing record to be directed towards a witness at the hearing.

RULE VIII.—WITNESSES

(A) *Questioning of Witnesses*.—

(1) Questioning of witnesses by Members will be conducted under the five-minute rule unless the Committee adopts a motion permitted by clause 2(j)(2) of House Rule XI.

(2) In questioning witnesses under the five-minute rule, the Chair and the Ranking Minority Member shall first be recognized. In a subcommittee meeting or hearing, the Chair and Ranking Minority Member of the Full Committee are then recognized. To the extent practicable, all other Members will be recognized in the order of seniority on the Committee, alternating between Majority and Minority Members. To the extent practicable, each Member shall be recognized at least once before any Member is given a second opportunity to question a witness.

(3) The Chair, in consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, or the Committee by motion, may permit a specified number of Members to question a witness for a period longer than five minutes, but the time allotted must be equally apportioned to the Majority and the Minority and may not exceed one hour in the aggregate.

(4) The Chair, in consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, or the Committee by motion, may permit Committee staff of the Majority and Minority to question a witness for a specified period of time, but the time allotted must be equally apportioned to the Majority and Minority staff and may not exceed one hour in the aggregate.

(5) Subsection 3(i) of H. Res. 5 is hereby incorporated by reference.

(B) *Minority Witnesses.*—House Rule XI 2(j)(1) is hereby incorporated by reference.

(C) *Oath or Affirmation.*—The Chair of the Committee or any Member designated by the Chair, may administer an oath to any witness.

(D) *Statements by Witnesses.*—

(1) Consistent with the notice given, and to the greatest extent practicable, each witness shall submit a prepared or written statement for the record of the proceedings (including, where practicable, an electronic copy) with the Clerk of the Committee no less than 48 hours in advance of the witness' appearance before the Committee.

(2) In the case of a witness appearing in a non-governmental capacity, a written statement of proposed testimony shall include a curriculum vita and a disclosure of any Federal grants or contracts, or contracts or payments originating with a foreign government, received during the current calendar year or either of the two preceding calendar years by the witness or by an entity represented by the witness and related to the subject matter of the hearing. Such disclosures shall include the amount and source of each Federal grant (or subgrant thereof) or contract (or subcontract thereof) related to the subject matter of the hearing, and the amount and country of origin of any payment or contract related to the subject matter jurisdiction of the hearing originating with a foreign government. Such statements, with the appropriate redactions to protect the privacy or security of the witness, shall be made publicly available in electronic form not later than one day after the witness appears.

RULE IX.—QUORUM

Quorum Requirements.—Two Members shall constitute a quorum for purposes of taking testimony and receiving evidence. One-third of the Members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum for conducting business, except for (1) reporting a measure or recommendation; (2) closing Committee meetings to the public, pursuant to Committee Rule IV; (3) any other action for which an actual majority quorum is required by any rule of the House of Representatives or by law.

The Chair's staff shall consult with the Ranking Minority Member's staff when scheduling meetings and hearings, to ensure that a quorum for any purpose will include at least one Minority Member of the Committee.

RULE X.—DECORUM

(A) *Breaches of Decorum.*—The Chair may punish breaches of order and decorum, by censure and exclusion from a hearing or meeting; and the Committee may cite the offender to the House for contempt.

(B) *Access to Dais.*—Access to the dais before, during, and after a hearing, markup, or other meeting of the Committee shall be limited to Members and staff of the Committee. Subject to availability of space on the dais, Committee Members' personal staff may be present on the dais during a hearing if their employing Member is seated on the dais and during a markup or other meeting if their employing Member is the author of a measure or amendment under consideration by the Committee, but only during the time that the measure or amendment is under active consideration by the Committee, or otherwise at the discretion of the Chair, or of the Ranking Minority Member for personal staff employed by a Minority Member.

(C) *Wireless Communications Use Prohibited.*—During a hearing, markup, or other meeting of the Committee, ringing or audible sounds or conversational use of cellular telephones or other electronic devices is prohibited in the Committee room.

RULE XI.—REFERRALS TO SUBCOMMITTEES

Referral of Bills and Other Matters by the Chair.—Except for bills and other matters retained by the Chair for Full Committee consideration, each bill or other matter referred to the Full Committee shall be referred by the Chair to one or more subcommittees within two weeks of receipt by the Committee. In referring any measure or matter to a subcommittee, the Chair may specify a date by which the subcommittee shall report thereon to the Full Committee. Bills or other matters referred to subcommittees may be reassigned or discharged by the Chair.

RULE XII.—SUBPOENAS; COUNSEL

(A) *Authorization.*—The power to authorize and issue subpoenas is delegated to the Chair of the Full Committee, as provided for under clause 2(m)(3)(A)(i) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives. The Chair shall notify the Ranking Minority Member prior to issuing any subpoena under such authority. To the extent practicable, the Chair shall consult with the Ranking Minority Member at least 24 hours in advance of a subpoena being issued under such authority, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and Federal holidays. The Chair of the Full Committee shall notify Members of the Committee of the authorization and issuance of a subpoena under this rule as soon as practicable, but in no event later than one week after service of such subpoena.

(B) *Disclosure.*—Provisions may be included in a subpoena with the concurrence of the Chair and the Ranking Minority Member of the Full Committee, or by the Committee, to prevent the disclosure of the Full Committee's demands for information when deemed necessary for the security of information or the progress of an investigation, including but not limited to prohibiting the revelation by witnesses and their counsel of Full Committee's inquiries.

(C) *Subpoena duces tecum.*—A subpoena *duces tecum* may be issued whose return to the Committee Clerk shall occur at a time and place other than that of a regularly scheduled meeting.

(D) *Counsel.*—When representing a witness or entity before the Committee in response

to a document request, request for transcribed interview, or subpoena from the Committee, or in connection with testimony before the Committee at a hearing, counsel for the witness or entity must promptly submit to the Committee a notice of appearance specifying the following: (a) counsel's name, firm or organization, and contact information; and (b) each client represented by the counsel in connection with the proceeding. Submission of a notice of appearance constitutes acknowledgement that counsel is authorized to accept service of process by the Committee on behalf of such client(s), and that counsel is bound by and agrees to comply with all applicable House and Committee rules and regulations.

(E) *Deposition Authority.*—Subsection 3(t) of H. Res. 5 is hereby incorporated by reference.

RULE XIII.—COMMITTEE STAFF

(A) *Generally.*—Committee staff members are subject to the provisions of clause 9 of House Rule X and must be eligible to be considered for routine access to classified information.

(B) *Staff Assignments.*—For purposes of these rules, Committee staff means the employees of the Committee, detailees, fellows, interns, or any other person engaged by contract or otherwise to perform services for, or at the request of, the Committee. All such persons shall be either Majority, Minority, or shared staff. The Chair shall appoint, supervise, where applicable determine remuneration of, and may remove Majority staff. The Ranking Minority Member shall appoint, supervise, where applicable determine remuneration of, and may remove Minority staff. In consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, the Chair may appoint, supervise, determine remuneration of and may remove shared staff that is assigned to service of the Committee. The Chair shall certify Committee staff appointments, including appointments by the Ranking Minority Member, as required.

(C) *Divulgence of Information.*—Prior to the public acknowledgement by the Chair or the Committee of a decision to initiate an investigation of a particular person, entity, or subject, no member of the Committee staff shall knowingly divulge to any person any information, including non-classified information, which comes into his or her possession by virtue of his or her status as a member of the Committee staff, if the member of the Committee staff has a reasonable expectation that such information may alert the subject of a Committee investigation to the existence, nature, or substance of such investigation, unless authorized to do so by the Chair or the Committee.

RULE XIV.—CLASSIFIED AND CONTROLLED UNCLASSIFIED INFORMATION

(A) *Security Precautions.*—Committee Members and staff shall operate under strict security precautions administered by the Security Officer of the Committee consistent with the Committee's Security and Access Control Policy. A security officer shall be on duty at all times during normal office hours. Classified documents and controlled unclassified information (CUI)—formerly known as sensitive but unclassified (SBU) information—may be destroyed, discussed, examined, handled, reviewed, stored, transported and used only in an appropriately secure manner in accordance with all applicable laws, executive orders, and other governing authorities. Such documents may be removed from the Committee's offices only in furtherance of official Committee business. Appropriate security procedures, as determined by the Chair in consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, shall govern the handling of such documents removed from the Committee's offices.

(B) *Temporary Custody of Executive Branch Material.*—Executive branch documents or other materials containing classified information in any form that were not made part of the record of a Committee hearing, did not originate in the Committee or the House, and are not otherwise records of the Committee shall, while in the custody of the Committee, be segregated and maintained by the Committee in the same manner as Committee records that are classified. Such documents and other materials shall be returned to the Executive branch agency from which they were obtained at the earliest practicable time.

(C) *Access by Committee Staff.*—Access to classified information supplied to the Committee shall be limited to Committee staff members with appropriate security clearances and a need-to-know, as determined by the Chair or Ranking Minority Member, and under the direction of the Majority or Minority Staff Director.

(D) *Maintaining Confidentiality.*—No Committee Member or Committee staff shall disclose, in whole or in part or by way of summary, to any person who is not a Committee Member or authorized Committee staff for any purpose or in connection with any proceeding, judicial or otherwise, any testimony given before the Committee in executive session except for purposes of obtaining an official classification of such testimony. Classified information and controlled unclassified information (CUI) shall be handled in accordance with all applicable laws, executive orders, and other governing authorities and consistently with the provisions of these rules and Committee procedures.

(E) *Oath.*—Before a Committee Member or Committee staff may have access to classified information, the following oath (or affirmation) shall be executed:

I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will not disclose any classified information received in the course of my service on the Committee on Homeland Security, except as authorized by the Committee or the House of Representatives or in accordance with the Rules of such Committee or the Rules of the House.

Copies of the executed oath (or affirmation) shall be retained by the Clerk of the Committee as part of the records of the Committee.

(F) *Disciplinary Action.*—The Chair shall immediately consider disciplinary action in the event any Committee Member or Committee staff member fails to conform to the provisions of these rules governing the disclosure of classified or unclassified information. Such disciplinary action may include, but shall not be limited to, immediate dismissal from the Committee staff, criminal referral to the Justice Department, and notification of the Speaker of the House. With respect to Minority staff, the Chair shall consider such disciplinary action in consultation with the Ranking Minority Member.

RULE XV.—COMMITTEE RECORDS

(A) *Committee Records.*—House Rule XI 2(e) is hereby incorporated by reference.

(B) *Legislative Calendar.*—The Clerk of the Committee shall maintain a printed calendar for the information of each Committee Member showing any procedural or legislative measures considered or scheduled to be considered by the Committee, and the status of such measures and such other matters as the Committee determines shall be included. The calendar shall be revised from time to time to show pertinent changes. A copy of such revisions shall be made available to each Member of the Committee upon request.

(C) *Members Right to Access.*—Members of the Committee and of the House shall have

access to all official Committee Records. Access to Committee files shall be limited to examination within the Committee offices at reasonable times. Access to Committee Records that contain classified information shall be provided in a manner consistent with these rules.

(D) *Removal of Committee Records.*—Files and records of the Committee are not to be removed from the Committee offices. No Committee files or records that are not made publicly available shall be photocopied by any Member.

(E) *Executive Session Records.*—Evidence or testimony received by the Committee in executive session shall not be released or made available to the public unless authorized by the Committee, a majority being present. Such information may be made available to appropriate government personnel for purposes of classification. Members may examine the Committee's executive session records, but may not make copies of, or take personal notes from, such records.

(F) *Availability of Committee Records.*—The Committee shall keep a complete record of all Committee action including recorded votes and attendance at hearings and meetings. Information so available for public inspection shall include a description of each amendment, motion, order, or other proposition, including the name of the Member who offered the amendment, motion, order, or other proposition, and the name of each Member voting for and each Member voting against each such amendment, motion, order, or proposition, as well as the names of those Members present but not voting. Such record shall be made available to the public at reasonable times within 9 the Committee offices and also made publicly available in electronic form and posted on the official Committee website within 48 hours of such recorded vote.

(G) *Separate and Distinct.*—All Committee records and files must be kept separate and distinct from the office records of the Members serving as Chair and Ranking Minority Member. Records and files of Members' personal offices shall not be considered records or files of the Committee.

(H) *Disposition of Committee Records.*—At the conclusion of each Congress, non-current records of the Committee shall be delivered to the Clerk of the House in accordance with Rule VII of the Rules of the House.

(I) *Archived Records.*—The records of the Committee at the National Archives and Records Administration shall be made available for public use in accordance with Rule VII of the Rules of the House. The Chair shall notify the Ranking Minority Member of any decision, pursuant to clause 3(b)(3) or clause 4(b) of the Rule, to withhold a record otherwise available, and the matter shall be presented to the Committee for a determination on the written request of any member of the Committee. The Chair shall consult with the Ranking Minority Member on any communication from the Archivist of the United States or the Clerk of the House concerning the disposition of noncurrent records pursuant to clause 3(b) of the Rule.

RULE XVI.—COMMITTEE RULES

(A) *Availability of Committee Rules in Electronic Form.*—House Rule XI 2(a) is hereby incorporated by reference.

(B) *Changes to Committee Rules.*—These rules may be modified, amended, or repealed by the Full Committee provided that a notice in writing of the proposed change has been given to each Member at least 48 hours prior to the meeting at which action thereon is to be taken and such changes are not inconsistent with the Rules of the House of Representatives.

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 13 of rule I, the House stands adjourned until noon on Tuesday, March 18, 2025.

Thereupon (at 9 o'clock and 2 minutes a.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Tuesday, March 18, 2025, at noon.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

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

Mr. WALBERG: Committee on Education and Workforce. H.R. 1048. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to strengthen disclosure requirements relating to foreign gifts and contracts, to prohibit contracts between institutions of higher education and certain foreign entities and countries of concern, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 119-16). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House of the state of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Ms. DE LA CRUZ (for herself, Mr. EVANS of Colorado, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. PANETTA, Ms. NORTON, Ms. PETERSEN, Ms. LEE of Nevada, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. VALADAO, and Mrs. KIM):

H.R. 2092. A bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish a task force to improve access to health care information technology for non-English speakers; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CALVERT (for himself, Mr. GARAMENDI, and Mr. ROUZER):

H.R. 2093. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act with respect to permitting terms, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. RUTHERFORD (for himself, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. GARBARINO, and Mr. GOTTHEIMER):

H.R. 2094. A bill to amend the National Housing Act to establish a mortgage insurance program for first responders, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. GARBARINO:

H.R. 2095. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to modify the role and duties of United States Postal Service police officers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, 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. GARBARINO (for himself and Mr. STAUBER):

H.R. 2096. A bill to restore the right to negotiate matters pertaining to the discipline of law enforcement officers of the District of Columbia through collective bargaining, to restore the statute of limitations for bringing disciplinary cases against members or civilian employees of the Metropolitan Police Department of the District of Columbia, and

for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey:

H.R. 2097. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a refundable credit against income tax for tuition expenses incurred for each qualifying child of the taxpayer in attending public or private elementary or secondary school; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. ADERHOLT (for himself, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK, Ms. TENNEY, Ms. CRAIG, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. COLE, Mr. COSTA, Mrs. FOUSHEE, Mr. LAWLER, and Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ):

H.R. 2098. A bill to require on-time delivery of periodicals to unlock additional rate authority, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. ALLEN:

H.R. 2099. A bill to amend the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act to authorize a study to review specific outcomes of entrepreneurial skills development programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

By Mr. BABIN:

H.R. 2100. A bill to prohibit the United States Government from providing bailouts or other financial assistance to any State or local government that enacts any law providing reparations for slavery, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mrs. BICE (for herself and Mr. SELF):

H.R. 2101. A bill to prohibit the award of Federal grants to applicants submitting duplicative or fraudulent applications, to require the Director of Office of Management and Budget to establish a tracking and deconfliction system for Federal grant applications, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. BILIRAKIS (for himself, Mr.

RUIZ, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. OWENS, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. KEATING, Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. FEENSTRA, Mr. TORRES of New York, Mr. BISHOP, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. MCGARVEY, Mr. MILLER of Ohio, Ms. NORTON, Mr. GOLDEN of Maine, Ms. SCANLON, Ms. SHERRILL, Mr. FINSTAD, Mr. CISCOMANI, Mr. TURNER of Ohio, Mr. THANEDAR, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. SORENSEN, Ms. ROSS, Ms. BUDZINSKI, Ms. PETTERSEN, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mrs. BICE, Mr. MULLIN, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. BARR, Mr. MORELLE, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Ms. SCHRIER, Mr. TONKO, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mrs. CAMMACK, Ms. SALINAS, Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK, Ms.

BROWNLEY, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Ms. BROWN, Ms. PEREZ, Mr. LAWLER, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. POCAN, Mr. MRVAN, Ms. CRAIG, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Mr. NORCROSS, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Ms. VAN DUYN, Ms. STRICKLAND, Ms. LETLOW, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. MEUSER, Mr. NEGUSE, Mr. BEYER, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mr. STAUBER, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Ms. JACOBS, Mr. BACON, Mr. CARSON, Mr. PFLUGER, Mr. VALADAO, Mrs. TORRES of California, Mr. GARCIA of California, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi,

Mr. VAN DREW, Ms. McCLELLAN, Ms. KING-HINDS, Mr. CASE, Mr. WIED, Mr. McDOWELL, Mr. STRONG, Mr. HAMADEH of Arizona, Mr. ZINKE, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. FROST, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. COSTA, Mrs. KIM, Ms. DE LA CRUZ, Mr. IVEY, Mr. GIMENEZ, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. FRY, Mr. GARBARINO, Mr. EZELL, Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas, Mrs. McCLAIN DELANEY, Ms. TITUS, Ms. GOODLANDER, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. EVANS of Colorado, Mr. MOSKOWITZ, Ms. STANSBURY, Ms. OMAR, Mr. OBERNOLTE, Mr. BAUMGARTNER, Mr. HURD of Colorado, Mr. MAGAZINER, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. HOYLE of Oregon, Mr. McCAUL, Mr. TIFFANY, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Ms. SALAZAR, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Ms. SCHOLTEN, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. STANTON, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. SUBRAMANYAM, Mr. LANDSMAN, Ms. HOULAHAN, Mr. LANGWORTHY, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. ESPALLAT, Mr. HARDER of California, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. CRANK, Ms. MENG, Mr. KEAN, Mr. LUCAS, Mr. RYAN, Ms. PINGREE, Ms. MACE, Mr. JAMES, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. HIMES, Mr. GREEN of Tennessee, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. CROW, Mr. YAKYM, Mr. TIMMONS, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Ms. BARRAGAN, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Mr. CASTEN, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. COURTNEY, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. MASSIE, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Ms. FRIEDMAN, Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. MILLS, Ms. STEVENS, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. GUEST, Mr. LUTTRELL, Mr. MIN, Mr. FOSTER, Mrs. TRAHAN, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. GOODEN, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. BARRETT, Mr. DUNN of Florida, and Ms. SIMON):

H.R. 2102. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for concurrent receipt of veterans' disability compensation and retired pay for disability retirees with combat-related disabilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. BUDZINSKI (for herself, Ms. HAGEMAN, Mr. GOLDEN of Maine, Mr. BERGMAN, and Mr. PAPPAS):

H.R. 2103. A bill to modify the procedures used by the United States Postal Service for the closure or consolidation of any post office or any processing and distribution center, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. CAREY (for himself and Mrs. BEATTY):

H.R. 2104. A bill to establish a National STEM Week to promote American innovation and enhance STEM education pathways for all students, including those in rural, urban, and underserved communities; to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

By Mr. CASTEN (for himself, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. NORTON, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Ms. TITUS, Ms. SCANLON, Ms. STEVENS, Mr. NEGUSE, Mrs. FLETCHER, Mr. MAGAZINER, Ms. BALINT, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. LANDSMAN, Ms. CHU,

Mr. QUIGLEY, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. CROCKETT, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Ms. BROWN, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. AUCHINCLOSS, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Mrs. FOUSHEE, Ms. SCHRIER, Mr. CONNOLLY, and Ms. BROWNLEY):

H.R. 2105. A bill to address the importation and proliferation of machinegun conversion devices; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, and Homeland Security, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. COSTA (for himself and Mr. GRAY):

H.R. 2106. A bill to establish a grant program to support schools of medicine and schools of osteopathic medicine in underserved areas; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CRENSHAW (for himself, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Mr. PFLUGER, Mr. ELLZEY, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. GREEN of Tennessee, Mr. ROUZER, Mrs. HARSHBARGER, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. JACKSON of Texas, and Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida):

H.R. 2107. A bill to amend title III of the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the program of payments to children's hospitals that operate graduate medical education programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. DAVIS of Illinois (for himself, Ms. CHU, Mr. EVANS of Pennsylvania, Mr. GOMEZ, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, and Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi):

H.R. 2108. A bill to prevent and address intentional misuse of subrecipient TANF funds; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina (for himself and Mr. NUNN of Iowa):

H.R. 2109. A bill to include cybersecurity technical assistance in the national rural water and wastewater circuit rider program of Department of Agriculture; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mrs. DINGELL (for herself, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. MIN, Mr. THANEDAR, Ms. ROSS, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. SALINAS, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. TITUS, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. SEWELL, Ms. NORTON, and Ms. STEVENS):

H.R. 2110. A bill to establish a process for survivors to request the termination or disabling of connected vehicle services that abusers misuse, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. DONALDS (for himself, Mr. LANGWORTHY, Ms. TITUS, and Mr. PANETTA):

H.R. 2111. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to exempt the premium cigar industry from certain regulations; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. DONALDS:

H.R. 2112. A bill to give the force and effect of law to the Executive Order issued on March 6, 2025 entitled "Establishment of the Strategic Bitcoin Reserve and United States Digital Asset Stockpile"; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. DONALDS (for himself, Mr. COLLINS, Mr. TIFFANY, and Mr. MOORE of Alabama):

H.R. 2113. A bill to require agencies to use the term "Taiwan" instead of "Chinese Taipei", and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. DUNN of Florida (for himself, Mr. BILIRAKIS, and Mr. MOOLENAAR):

H.R. 2114. A bill to amend titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act, title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act, and the National Organ Transplant Act to prohibit certain organ transplants with specified connections to the People's Republic of China; 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. DUNN of Florida (for himself, Mrs. HINSON, and Mr. MOOLENAAR):

H.R. 2115. A bill to prohibit funding for the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change until China is no longer defined as a developing country; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, 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. EVANS of Colorado (for himself, Mr. PFLUGER, and Mr. MAGAZINER):

H.R. 2116. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to conduct a law enforcement support and counter transnational repression public service announcement campaign, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security, 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. FEENSTRA (for himself and Ms. CRAIG):

H.R. 2117. A bill to amend the Federal Crop Insurance Act to promote crop insurance support for beginning farmers and ranchers and veteran farmers and ranchers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

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

H.R. 2118. A bill to provide temporary Ukrainian guest status for eligible aliens, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. FITZPATRICK:

H.R. 2119. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to establish St. Patrick's Day as a Federal holiday; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. FITZPATRICK (for himself, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania, and Mr. TONKO):

H.R. 2120. A bill to amend Title XVIII of the Social Security Act to create a Radiation Oncology Case Rate Value Based Payment Program exempt from budget neutrality adjustment requirements, and to amend section 1128A of title XI of the Social Security Act to create a new statutory exception for the provision of free or discounted transportation for radiation oncology patients to receive radiation therapy services; 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. FITZPATRICK (for himself, Mr. NEAL, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. LAWLER, Mr. TONKO, Mr. KEATING, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. DELUZIO, Ms. MCBRIDE, Ms. LEE of Nevada, and Mr. KENNEDY of New York):

H.R. 2121. A bill to establish the Commission to study the potential creation of a National Museum of Irish American History, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, 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. FOUSHEE (for herself and Mr. MILLER of Ohio):

H.R. 2122. A bill to strengthen and enhance the competitiveness of cement, concrete, asphalt binder, and asphalt mixture production in the United States through the research, development, demonstration, and commercial application of technologies to reduce emissions from cement, concrete, asphalt binder, and asphalt mixture production, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. GARBARINO:

H.R. 2123. A bill to amend the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 to reauthorize the National Flood Insurance Program; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. GILL of Texas (for himself, Mr. BRECHEN, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Ms. GREENE of Georgia, and Mr. STUTZMAN):

H.R. 2124. A bill to require that a foreign purchaser of agricultural land be subject to the same restrictions as are applicable to United States citizens and nationals in the home country of such foreign purchaser; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. GREEN of Tennessee (for himself, Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia, and Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina):

H.R. 2125. A bill to establish a National Commission on the Maritime Industrial Base, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, 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 Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana (for himself, Mr. MEUSER, Mr. COLLINS, Mr. OGLES, Mr. SELF, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. GILL of Texas, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. PERRY, Mr. CRANE, Mr. CLINE, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. EZELL, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Ms. MACE, Mr. NEHLS, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. HARRIS of Maryland, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. BIGGS of Arizona, Mr. PALMER, Ms. DE LA CRUZ, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. CISCOMANI, Mr. BENTZ, Mr. FITZGERALD, Mr. BURCHETT, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. DUNN of Florida, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Ms. HAGEMAN, Mr. MANN, Ms. BOEBERT, Mrs. BIGGS of South Carolina, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. ONDER, Mr. GREEN of Tennessee, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mrs. BICE, Mr. GUEST, Mr. MCGUIRE, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. BEAN of Florida, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. TIMMONS, Mr. HUNT, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. BURLISON, Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia, Ms. MALOY, Mr. TIFFANY, Mr. HARIDOPOLIS, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. PFLUGER, Mr. KNOTT, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. SMUCKER, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. STRONG, Mr. KUSTOFF, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. DONALDS, Mr. STEUBE, Mr. FRY, Ms. LETLOW, Mr. DAVIDSON, Ms. FOX, Mr. HURD of Colorado, Mr. CLOUD, Mrs. HOUCHIN, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr.

HILL of Arkansas, Mrs. HARSHBARGER, Mrs. CAMMACK, Mr. GOODEN, Mr. FALLON, Mr. CLYDE, Mr. WOMACK, Mr. COMER, Mr. BARRETT, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas, and Mrs. MCCLAIN):

H.R. 2126. A bill to preserve open competition and Federal Government neutrality towards the labor relations of Federal Government contractors on Federal and federally funded construction projects, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mrs. HINSON (for herself, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. BALDERSON, Mr. DUNN of Florida, Mr. NUNN of Iowa, Mrs. BICE, and Mr. CISCOMANI):

H.R. 2127. A bill to impose sanctions with respect to police departments in the People's Republic of China and other persons seeking to establish a Chinese police presence in the United States; 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. JACKSON of Texas (for himself, Ms. DE LA CRUZ, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. LUTTRELL, Mr. ELLZEY, Mr. PFLUGER, Mr. GOODEN, Mr. BABIN, Mr. GILL of Texas, Mr. SESSIONS, and Mr. GOSAR):

H.R. 2128. A bill to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to make grants to certain border communities for the purpose of reimbursing such communities for expenses related to security measures along the United States land border with Mexico, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Ms. JAYAPAL (for herself, Ms. CHU, Mr. CORREA, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. GARCIA of Illinois, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mrs. MCIVER, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. NORTON, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Ms. OMAR, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Ms. SIMON, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. TLAI, Ms. TOKUDA, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. VELAZQUEZ, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Ms. LOFGREN, Ms. ANSARI, and Ms. CLARKE of New York):

H.R. 2129. A bill to repeal the Alien Registration Act of 1940; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota (for himself, Mr. ZINKE, Mr. COLE, and Mr. NEGUSE):

H.R. 2130. A bill to require the Bureau of Indian Affairs to process and complete all mortgage packages associated with residential and business mortgages on Indian land by certain deadlines, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. KEAN (for himself and Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida):

H.R. 2131. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to authorize Secret Service to reimburse State and local governments for the use of services, personnel, equipment, and facilities; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. KING-HINDS:

H.R. 2132. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to exempt Northern Mariana Islands from certain eligibility requirements for essential air service program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. LANGWORTHY:

H.R. 2133. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to end the investment tax credit for offshore wind facilities in the inland navigable waters of the United States; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. LEE of Nevada (for herself and Mr. AMODEI of Nevada):

H.R. 2134. A bill to provide for conservation and economic development in the State of Nevada, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ (for herself and Mr. FRY):

H.R. 2135. A bill to provide for an exchange of certain Federal and non-Federal land in Artesia, New Mexico, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. LUNA (for herself and Mr. NEHLS):

H.R. 2136. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide for enhanced penalties for officers and employees of the Department of Justice and the intelligence communities who conceal, remove, or mutilate Government records, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LUTTRELL (for himself, Mr. MCGARVEY, Mr. WEBER of Texas, and Mr. PFLUGER):

H.R. 2137. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to limit the authority of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to deny the claim of a veteran for benefits under the laws administered by such Secretary on the sole basis that such veteran failed to appear for a medical examination associated with such claim; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. LUTTRELL (for himself, Mr. MCGARVEY, Mr. WEBER of Texas, and Mr. PFLUGER):

H.R. 2138. A bill to increase, effective as of December 1, 2025, the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. MAGAZINER (for himself, Mr. PFLUGER, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, and Mr. EVANS of Colorado):

H.R. 2139. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to prioritize strengthening of State and local law enforcement capabilities to combat transnational repression and terrorism threats related to transnational repression, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. MATSUI (for herself, Mr. CALVERT, Ms. PINGREE, and Mr. LANGWORTHY):

H.R. 2140. A bill to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to reauthorize the diesel emissions reduction program; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. MCCLELLAN:

H.R. 2141. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 409 South Hicks Street in Lawrenceville, Virginia, as the "James Solomon Russell Post Office"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Ms. McDONALD RIVET (for herself and Mr. NUNN of Iowa):

H.R. 2142. A bill to amend the Social Security Act to limit the recovery of overpayments under titles II and XVI to a ten-year period; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia:

H.R. 2143. A bill to direct the Administrator of General Services to establish a pilot program to sell motor vehicles to certain small businesses that provide ground transportation service, and for other pur-

poses; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS:

H.R. 2144. A bill to clarify that eRINs are not authorized for purposes of satisfying the volume of renewable fuel that needs to be contained in transportation fuel for purposes of the Renewable Fuel Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS (for herself, Ms. SHERRILL, Mr. JOYCE of Ohio, Ms. TENNEY, and Ms. MCCLELLAN):

H.R. 2145. A bill to establish a pilot grant program to improve recycling accessibility, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin (for herself, Mr. WIED, Mr. STEIL, Mr. POCAN, Mr. VAN ORDEN, Mr. FITZGERALD, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. TIFFANY, and Ms. VAN DUYN):

H.R. 2146. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide refunds with respect to certain dyed fuels that are exempt from tax and with respect to which tax was previously paid; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MOORE of West Virginia (for himself, Mr. OGLES, Mr. PERRY, Mr. NEHLS, Mr. GILL of Texas, and Mr. MCDOWELL):

H.R. 2147. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to prohibit the admission of Chinese nationals as nonimmigrant students, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MORELLE (for himself and Mr. CISCOMANI):

H.R. 2148. A bill to expand medical, employment, and other benefits for individuals serving as family caregivers for certain veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, 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. MOYLAN (for himself, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. LALOTA, Mr. MOULTON, Ms. TITUS, Ms. NORTON, Ms. LEE of Nevada, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. CHU, Mr. MORELLE, Ms. MENG, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mr. POCAN, Mr. SWALWELL, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, and Ms. HOYLE of Oregon):

H.R. 2149. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand eligibility for a presumption of service connection for diseases associated with exposure to certain herbicide agents for certain veterans who served in Guam; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. NEGUSE (for himself, Mr. BURCHETT, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. LAWLER, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, and Mr. FITZPATRICK):

H.R. 2150. A bill to direct the Attorney General to include a data field in the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System to indicate whether the last known location of a missing person was confirmed or was suspected to have been on Federal land, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. NORCROSS (for himself, Mr. COSTA, and Mr. FITZPATRICK):

H.R. 2151. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to authorize a grant program to support students who have epilepsy or a seizure disorder; to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

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

H.R. 2152. A bill to require a strategy to defend against the economic and national secu-

rity risks posed by the use of artificial intelligence in the commission of financial crimes, including fraud and the dissemination of misinformation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. NUNN of Iowa (for himself and Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina):

H.R. 2153. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make the credit for the adoption of special needs children refundable; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. OBERNOLTE (for himself and Ms. MCCLELLAN):

H.R. 2154. A bill to establish a cybersecurity literacy campaign, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. OGLES:

H.R. 2155. A bill to amend the Right to Financial Privacy Act of 1978 to preserve the confidentiality of certain records, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, Rules, the Budget, 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. PANETTA (for himself, Mrs. CAMMACK, Ms. LOFGREN, and Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia):

H.R. 2156. A bill to amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to establish an exception to certain payment limitations in the case of person or legal entity that derives income from agriculture, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. PANETTA (for himself, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. MOORE of Utah, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. NUNN of Iowa, Mr. MCCORMICK, Mr. MESSMER, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mr. VAN ORDEN, Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia, Ms. HOULAHAN, Mr. MOULTON, and Mr. MILLS):

H.R. 2157. A bill to provide that members of the Armed Forces performing services in Kenya, Mali, Burkina Faso, and Chad shall be entitled to tax benefits in the same manner as if such services were performed in a combat zone; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. PFLUGER (for himself, Mr. MAGAZINER, Mr. EVANS of Colorado, Mr. OGLES, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. GUEST, and Ms. LEE of Florida):

H.R. 2158. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to authorize a dedicated transnational repression working group within the Department of Homeland Security to analyze and monitor transnational repression and terrorism threats related to transnational repression, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security, 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. ROY (for himself, Mrs. MCBATH, Mr. BIGGS of Arizona, and Mr. COHEN):

H.R. 2159. A bill to direct the Attorney General of the United States to submit to the Congress a report on Federal criminal offenses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SMITH of Nebraska (for himself, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. SCHRIER, Ms. TENNEY, and Ms. GOODLANDER):

H.R. 2160. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to support upgrades at existing hydroelectric dams in order to increase clean energy production, improve the resiliency and reliability of the United States electric grid, enhance the health of the Nation's rivers and associated wildlife habitats, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey (for himself, Mr. HARRIS of Maryland, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, and Mr. ADERHOLT):

H.R. 2161. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit certain types of human-animal chimeras; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. STEUBE (for himself, Mr. PANNETTA, and Mr. EZELL):

H.R. 2162. A bill to provide for the protection of the integrity of honey marketed in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. STEVENS:

H.R. 2163. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to waive early withdrawal penalties from retirement accounts for victims of fraud; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. TURNER of Ohio:

H.R. 2164. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into an agreement with the Montgomery County Land Bank for the transfer of certain land near Dayton National Cemetery to the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. WALBERG (for himself, Mr. FULCHER, Mr. BILIRAKIS, and Mr. ALLEN):

H.R. 2165. A bill to amend the Clean Air Act to ensure that tailpipe regulations do not limit the availability of new motor vehicles; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. WIED (for himself, Mr. GOLDEN of Maine, Mr. EZELL, Mr. TIFFANY, and Mr. VAN ORDEN):

H.R. 2166. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, with respect to vehicle weight limitations for certain logging vehicles, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. WILSON of Florida (for herself, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. CARSON, Ms. TLAIB, and Mrs. MCIVER):

H.R. 2167. A bill to re-establish an advisory committee to provide independent advice and recommendations to the Secretary of Transportation regarding comprehensive, interdisciplinary issues related to transportation from a variety of stakeholders in transportation planning, design, research, policy, and advocacy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. YAKYM:

H.R. 2168. A bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to conduct a study and submit to Congress a report on the use of home cardiorespiratory monitors for infants, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. FOSTER (for himself, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. CARSON, Mr. CASTEN, Mr. COHEN, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Ms. KAPTUR, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MULLIN, Ms. RIVAS, and Ms. STEVENS):

H. Res. 221. A resolution expressing support for designation of March 14, 2025, as "National Pi Day"; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. ISSA:

H. Res. 222. A resolution recognizing the patriotism and contributions of veterans service organizations, veteran advocacy groups, and volunteers; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. JAMES (for himself, Mr. BARRETT, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. BERGMAN, Ms. SCHOLTEN, Mr. HUIZENG, Mr. THANEDAR, Mrs. MCCLAIN, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Ms. McDONALD RIVET, Ms. STEVENS, and Mr. WALBERG):

H. Res. 223. A resolution honoring the 108th anniversary of Selfridge Air National Guard Base and the contributions of Selfridge Air National Guard Base to the military and national security of the United States; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mrs. MILLER of Illinois (for herself, Mr. HARRIS of Maryland, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. OGLES, Mr. BABIN, Mr. ROSE, and Mr. CRENSHAW):

H. Res. 224. A resolution expressing support for the recognition of "Detransition Awareness Day"; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. STEVENS:

H. Res. 225. A resolution supporting the designation of March as "Autoimmune Awareness Month" and supporting efforts to increase awareness of autoimmune diseases and increase funding for autoimmune disease research; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia (for herself, Mr. JACK, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. BISHOP, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mrs. MCBATH, Mr. MCCORMICK, Mr. COLLINS, Mr. LOUDERMILK, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. AMODEI of Nevada, Mr. BERGMAN, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mr. NEHLS, Mr. SOTO, Mr. THANEDAR, Mr. YAKYM, and Mr. ZINKE):

H. Res. 226. A resolution commemorating the centennial of Delta Air Lines; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

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. DE LA CRUZ:

H.R. 2092.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article I, Section 8

By Mr. CALVERT:

H.R. 2093.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1, Clause 3, and Clause 18 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. RUTHERFORD:

H.R. 2094.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. GARBARINO:

H.R. 2095.

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

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to section 8 of Article 1 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. GARBARINO:

H.R. 2096.

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

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to Article 1, Section 8, Clause 17 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey:

H.R. 2097.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the US Constitution

By Mr. ADERHOLT:

H.R. 2098.

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

Article 1, Section 1 and Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. ALLEN:

H.R. 2099.

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

Clause 18 of section 8 of article 1 of the Constitution

By Mr. BABIN:

H.R. 2100.

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

Article 1, Section 8, clause 1 (Taxing and Spending Clause);

By Mrs. BICE:

H.R. 2101.

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. BILIRAKIS:

H.R. 2102.

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

Article 1, Section 8

By Ms. BUDZINSKI:

H.R. 2103.

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

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. CAREY:

H.R. 2104.

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

Article 1 Section 8

By Mr. CASTEN:

H.R. 2105.

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

Clause 18 of Section 8 of Article 1 of the Constitution

By Mr. COSTA:

H.R. 2106.

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

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. CRENSHAW:

H.R. 2107.

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

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. DAVIS of Illinois:

H.R. 2108.

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

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina:

H.R. 2109.

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 Mrs. DINGELL:

H.R. 2110.

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

The constitutional authority of Congress to enact this legislation is provided by Article I, section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. DONALDS:
H.R. 2111.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Art. 1, Sec. 8

By Mr. DONALDS:
H.R. 2113.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Art. I, Sec. 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. DUNN of Florida:
H.R. 2114.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, clause 3

By Mr. DUNN of Florida:
H.R. 2115.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, clause 1 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. EVANS of Colorado:
H.R. 2116.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8

By Mr. FEENSTRA:
H.R. 2117.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8
To amend the Federal Crop Insurance Act to promote crop insurance support for beginning farmers and ranchers and veteran farmers and ranchers, and for other purposes.

By Mr. FITZPATRICK:
H.R. 2118.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1 Section 8 Clause 18

By Mr. FITZPATRICK:
H.R. 2119.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section VIII, Clause 18

By Mr. FITZPATRICK:
H.R. 2120.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. FITZPATRICK:
H.R. 2121.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section VIII, Clause 18

By Mrs. FOUSHEE:
H.R. 2122.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
ARTICLE 1

By Mr. GARBARINO:
H.R. 2123.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. GILL of Texas:
H.R. 2124.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. GREEN of Tennessee:
H.R. 2125.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution

By Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana:
H.R. 2126.
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. HINSON:
H.R. 2127.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. JACKSON of Texas:
H.R. 2128.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. JAYAPAL:
H.R. 2129.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, clause 4 provides Congress with the power to establish a "uniform rule of Naturalization."

By Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota:
H.R. 2130.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. KEAN:
H.R. 2131.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
The U.S. Constitution: Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1

By Ms. KING-HINDS:
H.R. 2132.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution.

By Mr. LANGWORTHY:
H.R. 2133.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Ms. LEE of Nevada:
H.R. 2134.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 provides Congress with the power to "lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises" in order to "provide for the . . . general Welfare of the United States."

By Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ:
H.R. 2135.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8

By Mrs. LUNA:
H.R. 2136.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. LUTTRELL:
H.R. 2137.
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 in any Department or Officer thereof."

By Mr. LUTTRELL:
H.R. 2138.
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 in any Department or Officer thereof."

By Mr. MAGAZINER:
H.R. 2139.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8

By Ms. MATSUI:
H.R. 2140.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8

By Ms. MCCLELLAN:
H.R. 2141.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8

By Ms. McDONALD RIVET:
H.R. 2142.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
U.S. Constitution, Article 1, Section 8

By Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia:
H.R. 2143.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8

By Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS:
H.R. 2144.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS:
H.R. 2145.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin:
H.R. 2146.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
The Congress enacts this bill pursuant to Sections 7 & 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution and Amendment XVI of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. MOORE of West Virginia:
H.R. 2147.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3.

By Mr. MORELLE:
H.R. 2148.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. MOYLAN:
H.R. 2149.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. NEGUSE:
H.R. 2150.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8

By Mr. NORCROSS:
H.R. 2151.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Necessary and Proper Clause (Art. 1, Sec. 8, Cl. 18)

By Mr. NUNN of Iowa:
H.R. 2152.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution
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. NUNN of Iowa:
H.R. 2153.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution
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. OBERNOLTE:

H.R. 2154.

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

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. OGLES:

H.R. 2155.

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

Article I, Section VIII of the United States Constitution

By Mr. PANETTA:

H.R. 2156.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. PANETTA:

H.R. 2157.

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

Article I, Section 8, clause 1

By Mr. PFLUGER:

H.R. 2158.

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

Article I Section 8

By Mr. ROY:

H.R. 2159.

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

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. SMITH of Nebraska:

H.R. 2160.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey:

H.R. 2161.

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

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. STEUBE:

H.R. 2162.

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

Article I Section 8

By Ms. STEVENS:

H.R. 2163.

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

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

Mr. TURNER of Ohio:

H.R. 2164.

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

Article I, Section VIII

By Mr. WALBERG:

H.R. 2165.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. WIED:

H.R. 2166.

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

Article 1 Section 8

By Ms. WILSON of Florida:

H.R. 2167.

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

Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution

By Mr. YAKYM:

H.R. 2168.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 7: Mr. FINSTAD.

H.R. 32: Ms. TENNEY.

H.R. 51: Mr. LEVIN and Mrs. HAYES.

H.R. 217: Mr. VALADAO.

H.R. 247: Ms. LOFGREN.

H.R. 284: Mr. WIED.

H.R. 349: Mr. SORESENSE and Mr. FROST.

H.R. 369: Mr. McDOWELL.

H.R. 452: Mr. PANETTA.

H.R. 485: Ms. VELAZQUEZ.

H.R. 491: Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.R. 492: Mr. MAGAZINER and Ms. GOODLANDER.

H.R. 493: Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. LEVIN, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Ms. OMAR.

H.R. 530: Ms. BROWNLEY.

H.R. 563: Mr. TAYLOR.

H.R. 574: Mr. BARR and Mr. KILEY of California.

H.R. 740: Mr. LUTTRELL and Mr. McDOWELL.

H.R. 741: Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H.R. 783: Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. CRENSHAW, and Ms. TITUS.

H.R. 820: Mr. MAGAZINER.

H.R. 821: Mr. FOSTER.

H.R. 834: Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 842: Mr. GUEST, Mr. BRESNAHAN, Ms. LETLOW, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. FROST, Mr. NORCROSS, Mr. CASE, Ms. PINGREE, and Mrs. FOUSHEE.

H.R. 900: Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H.R. 909: Mr. TIMMONS, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. MORELLE, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. KENNEDY of New York, and Ms. BYNUM.

H.R. 924: Mr. CORREA.

H.R. 928: Mr. FITZPATRICK and Ms. ELFRETH.

H.R. 945: Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. BALINT, Mr. AMO, Mr. PANETTA, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. SOTO, Mr. NADLER, and Mr. CASTEN.

H.R. 951: Mr. VAN DREW.

H.R. 960: Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H.R. 973: Ms. MALLIOTAKIS.

H.R. 1002: Mr. FOSTER.

H.R. 1026: Mr. ONDER.

H.R. 1065: Mr. SHERMAN.

H.R. 1077: Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H.R. 1107: Mr. BRESNAHAN.

H.R. 1151: Mr. CALVERT, Mr. VAN ORDEN, and Mr. DELUZIO.

H.R. 1162: Mr. ONDER.

H.R. 1253: Mr. HURD of Colorado.

H.R. 1284: Mr. HUDSON.

H.R. 1285: Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H.R. 1307: Mr. PETERS.

H.R. 1328: Mrs. RAMIREZ.

H.R. 1332: Mr. LEVIN and Mr. CASE.

H.R. 1357: Mr. TAYLOR.

H.R. 1379: Mrs. SYKES.

H.R. 1393: Mr. HUFFMAN.

H.R. 1417: Mr. WESTERMAN.

H.R. 1418: Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ.

H.R. 1422: Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Mr. RULLI, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. LANDSMAN, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. COLLINS, Mr. BELL, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Mr. STEUBE, Mr. SOTO, Mr. STUTZMAN, Mr. WOMACK, Ms. HOULAHAN, Mr. LICCARDO, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. BRECHEEN, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. BARRETT, Mr. MEUSER, Mr. GOMEZ, and Mr. CRANE.

H.R. 1458: Mr. MURPHY.

H.R. 1474: Mr. DONALDS.

H.R. 1488: Ms. GREENE of Georgia and Ms. BALINT.

H.R. 1494: Mr. LAHOOD.

H.R. 1505: Mr. DOGGETT and Ms. FRIEDMAN.

H.R. 1517: Mr. SMITH of Nebraska and Mr. RYAN.

H.R. 1518: Mr. CRENSHAW.

H.R. 1521: Mr. FOSTER.

H.R. 1522: Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. WHITESIDES, Mr. GARCIA of Illinois, Mr. GARAMENDI, and Ms. HOYLE of Oregon.

H.R. 1530: Mr. SUBRAMANYAM, Ms. MORRISON, and Ms. LEE of Nevada.

H.R. 1551: Mr. HARRIGAN, Mr. BARR, Ms. CRAIG, Mr. NUNN of Iowa, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. FINSTAD, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. EDWARDS, and Mr. LAWLER.

H.R. 1556: Mr. HAMADEH of Arizona.

H.R. 1569: Mr. GUEST and Mr. GOLDMAN of Texas.

H.R. 1625: Mr. GIMENEZ.

H.R. 1638: Mr. GARCIA of Illinois.

H.R. 1643: Mr. FULCHER.

H.R. 1676: Mr. GUEST.

H.R. 1684: Ms. CRAIG and Mr. NEGUSE.

H.R. 1702: Mr. PETERS and Mr. VARGAS.

H.R. 1703: Mr. MEUSER.

H.R. 1725: Mr. CASTEN.

H.R. 1726: Mr. KILEY of California.

H.R. 1732: Ms. BUDZINSKI, Ms. FRIEDMAN, Mr. THANEDAR, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. NEGUSE, Mr. LANDSMAN, Mr. POCAN, Mrs. MCCLAIN Delaney, Ms. MORRISON, Mr. MRVAN, and Ms. TLAIB.

H.R. 1773: Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, Mr. YAKYM, Mr. CLINE, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, and Mr. COMER.

H.R. 1775: Mr. SMITH of Nebraska and Mr. ESTES.

H.R. 1781: Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. NORTON, and Ms. MCCLELLAN.

H.R. 1790: Mr. COLLINS.

H.R. 1808: Mr. PALLONE.

H.R. 1818: Mr. BERGMAN, Mr. STAUBER, Mr. EZEEL, Mr. MCCORMICK, Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, and Ms. TITUS.

H.R. 1820: Mr. LAWLER and Mr. COLLINS.

H.R. 1881: Mr. LAHOOD.

H.R. 1896: Mr. LAHOOD.

H.R. 1897: Mr. COLLINS and Mr. CALVERT.

H.R. 1916: Mr. VAN ORDEN.

H.R. 1932: Ms. HOULAHAN, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mr. MCGUIRE, Mr. DUNN of Florida, Mr. LOUDERMILK, Mr. BRESNAHAN, and Mr. EVANS of Colorado.

H.R. 1940: Mr. ROUZER.

H.R. 1989: Ms. ANSARI, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. FIGURES, Mr. TONKO, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. TOKUDA, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H.R. 2023: Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 2039: Mr. YAKYM and Mr. COLLINS.

H.R. 2046: Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. CLARKE of New York, and Mrs. HAYES.

H.R. 2050: Ms. LEE of Florida.

H.R. 2055: Mr. MIN.

H.R. 2072: Ms. LETLOW.

H.R. 2083: Mr. TURNER of Ohio and Mr. COLLINS.

H.R. 2086: Mr. TONKO, Mr. GARBARINO, Ms. JAYAPAL, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. NORCROSS, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. FIGURES, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. GARCIA of California, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. BARRAGAN, Mrs. MCBATH, Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK, Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. NORTON, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, and Ms. TITUS.

H.J. Res. 7: Mr. BRESNAHAN.

H.J. Res. 19: Mr. SMITH of Missouri.

H.J. Res. 28: Mr. HARRIS of North Carolina.

H.J. Res. 59: Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota.

H.J. Res. 65: Mr. ROUZER, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, and Mr. SMUCKER.

H. Con. Res. 12: Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. SUOZZI, Ms. McDONALD RIVET, Mr. CRANK, Mr. JORDAN, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, and Mr. OBERNOLTE.

H. Res. 116: Mr. HIMES.

H. Res. 120: Mr. MURPHY.

H. Res. 148: Mr. VAN ORDEN.

H. Res. 151: Ms. BROWN, Mr. SMITH of Washington, and Mr. COHEN.

H. Res. 154: Mr. SCHNEIDER.

H. Res. 155: Ms. ANSARI, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Mr. SORESENSE.

H. Res. 166: Mr. MANNION.

H. Res. 217: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.

DISCHARGE PETITIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XV, the following discharge petition was filed:

Petition 1, March 10, 2025, by Mrs. LUNA on House Resolution 164, was signed by the following Members: Mrs. Luna, Ms. Friedman, Mr. Rulli, Mr. Whitesides, Mr. Burchett, Ms. Bynum, Ms. McClellan, Ms. Williams of Georgia, Ms. Morrison, Mr. Jackson of Illinois, Mr. Thompson of California, Mr. McGovern, Ms. Leger Fernandez, Mr. Lynch, Mr. Davis of Illinois, Ms. Scanlon, Mr. Casten, Mrs. Cherfilus-McCormick, Ms. McDonald Rivet, Mrs. Torres of California, Mrs. Watson Coleman, Mr. Crenshaw, Mr. Min, Ms. Randall, Ms. Pou, Ms. Velázquez, Mr. Tran, Ms. Johnson of Texas, Mr. Conaway, Ms. McBride, Mr. Amo, Mr. Tonko, Mr. Subramanyam, Mr. Ruiz, Mr. Foster, Mr. Donalds, Mr. Vargas, Mr. Carter of Louisiana, Mrs. Foushee, Mr. Olszewski, Ms. Ansari, Ms. Lofgren, Mrs. Trahan, Ms. Ross, Ms. Dexter, Ms. Goodlander, Mr. Deluzio, Ms. Rivas, Ms. Simon, Ms. Budzinski, Ms. Tlaib, Mr. Kennedy of New York, Mr. Van Drew, Ms. Bonamici, Ms. Tokuda, Mr. McGarvey, Mr. Mannion, Mr. Courtney, Mr. Larson of Connecticut, Ms. Stansbury, Mr. Moskowitz, Ms. Sánchez, Ms. Jacobs, Mr. Liccardo, Mr. Menendez, Mr. Espaillet, Mr. Keating, Ms.

Strickland, Ms. Titus, Ms. Schrier, Mr. Riley of New York, Mrs. McBath, Mr. Bell, Ms. Elfeth, Mr. Mrvan, Mr. Johnson of Georgia, Ms. Wasserman Schultz, Mr. Carbajal, Mr. Evans of Pennsylvania, Ms. Lois Frankel of Florida, Ms. Brown, Mrs. Hayes, Mrs. McIver, Mr. Gomez, Ms. Stevens, Ms. Clarke of New York, Ms. DeLauro, Mr. Fields, Mr. Figures, Mr. Vindman, Mrs. McClain Delaney, Mr. Green of Texas, Ms. Dean of Pennsylvania, Mr. Vasquez, Ms. Escobar, Ms. Houlahan, Ms. Meng, Mr. Latimer, Mrs. Ramirez, Mr. Stanton, Mr. Thanedar, Ms. DeGette, Mr. Connolly, Ms. Scholten, Ms. Crockett, Mr. Magaziner, Ms. Davids of Kansas, Mr. Horsford, Mr. Peters, Mr. Cisneros, Mr. Khanna, Ms. Kelly of Illinois, Mr. Casar, Ms. DelBene, Mr. Landsman, Mr. Ivey, Ms. McCollum, Ms. Garcia of Texas, Mr. Panetta, Mrs. Dingell, Mr. Sherman, Ms. Salinas, Ms. Underwood, Ms. Ocasio-Cortez, Mr. Bishop, Mr. Takano, Mr. Lieu, Ms. Wilson of Florida, Mr. Nadler, Ms. Lee of Nevada, Mr. Soto, Ms. Craig, Ms. Jayapal, Mr. Auchincloss, Ms. Lee of Pennsylvania, Ms. Balint, Mr. Torres of New York, Mr. Neguse, Mr. Gottheimer, Mr. Goldman of New York, Mr. Mfume, Mr.

Quigley, Mr. Vicente Gonzalez of Texas, Mrs. Sykes, Mr. Castro of Texas, Mr. Garcia of California, Ms. Brownley, Mr. Raskin, Mr. Carson, Ms. Omar, Mr. Meeks, Mr. Levin, Mr. Ryan, Ms. Matsui, Ms. Castor of Florida, Mr. Scott of Virginia, Mr. Cleaver, Mr. Sorensen, Mr. Pocan, Mr. Suozzi, Ms. Chu, Mr. Hoyer, Mr. DeSaulnier, Mr. Case, Mr. Garcia of Illinois, Ms. Moore of Wisconsin, Mr. Clyburn, Ms. Clark of Massachusetts, Mrs. Beatty, Mr. Gray, Mr. Doggett, Ms. Barragán, Ms. Schakowsky, Mr. Mullin, Mr. Ogles, Mr. Costa, Mr. Bera, Ms. Kaptur, Mr. Pallone, Mr. Beyer, Mr. Thompson of Mississippi, Mr. Cohen, Ms. Sewell, Mr. Aguilar, Mr. Swalwell, Ms. Pingree, Mr. Huffman, Mr. David Scott of Georgia, Mr. Krishnamoorthi, Mr. Correa, Ms. Pettersen, Mr. Meuser, Mr. Moulton, Ms. Adams, Mr. Hunt, Mr. Crow, Ms. Hoyle of Oregon, Ms. Gillen, Ms. Waters, Mr. Pappas, Mr. McCormick, Mr. Veasey, Mr. Smith of Washington, Mr. Neal, Mr. Cuellar, Ms. Pressley, Mr. Frost, Ms. Sherrill, Mr. Jeffries, Mrs. Fletcher, Mr. Larsen of Washington, Mr. Schneider, Mr. Harder of California, Ms. Pelosi, Ms. Perez, Mr. Joyce of Ohio, Mr. Garamendi, and Mr. Lawler.



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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Most Holy and gracious God, who turns the shadow of night into the glory of morning, shower our lawmakers with Your mercy this day. Lord, calm troubled thoughts and guide their feet in the way of peace. Let Your strength be more than sufficient to meet and manage their challenges. Make them instruments of Your grace and goodness as You renew in them the joy of belonging to You.

Lord, make them ever grateful to You for burdens lifted, suffering assuaged, sin forgiven, life renewed, and hopes restored.

We pray in Your gracious 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. MULLIN). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will 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 Stephen Feinberg, of New York, to be Deputy Secretary of Defense.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

IRAN

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, last Tuesday, I released a committee report. The committee report was about my investigation about the Obama-Biden administration's obstruction of FBI law enforcement efforts against Iran. My report was based in large part on whistleblower disclosure and FBI records. The FBI records show that the Obama-Biden administration blocked arrests of indicted Iranian terrorists in 2015 and 2016.

Now, I know, to my constituents and my fellow Senators, that is history, but it is history that we don't want to repeat. The records show that interference was done against our own people to score political points for what ended up being the failed Iran nuclear deal. Specifically, then-Secretary of State Kerry actually stopped the FBI from doing its job, and the purpose of that interference was to appease Iran.

One FBI agent emailed:

We're all beside ourselves on asking the field to stand down on a layup arrest, however, as it stands right now we all have to sit back and wait until all the US and Iran negotiations resolve themselves.

The Obama-Biden administration made our country less safe. We don't want history to repeat itself.

So, as you might expect, none of this changed until President Trump took office in his first term. Records show international banks stopped financing projects in Iran because of the incoming Trump Presidency. Whistleblower disclosures show the Trump administration brought criminals to justice when the Obama-Biden administration did not bring those same criminals to justice.

So now we are in a new Trump administration. I encourage President Trump and his new Director of the FBI, Patel, to take heed of the positive impact in the first Trump term and let the FBI line agents do their jobs without political rot getting in the way.

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.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I have spoken a lot about it being a new day in America. It is also a new day in the U.S. Senate. When I became leader, I promised we would do things differently around here. I think the last 10 weeks show I was serious about that.

Unfortunately, today, our business is cleaning up from the old way of doing things. We are voting on yet another continuing resolution today because last year's Democrat majority pushed off full-year appropriations again and again.

Last summer, the Appropriations Committee reported out 11 of its 12 bills with bipartisan support. Six of those bills passed out of the committee unanimously. But month after month, Leader SCHUMER found something more important to do than fund the government, and not 1—not 1—of those 11 bipartisan bills ever came to the floor.

So, today, we are trying to finish up last year's work so that we can begin to do this year's work. To be clear, Republicans aren't thrilled about another CR, but it is our best option to make sure that last year's failure by Democrats doesn't interfere with this year's appropriations process.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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S1753

I am hopeful that enough Democrats will reject their party's threat of shutting down the government and get this bill passed today. As I said yesterday, it is time to move on, and moving forward, appropriation bills are going to be a priority in the Senate.

When the Appropriations Committee sends a bill to the floor, my goal is to bring it to the floor for consideration, and I hope that my Democrat colleagues will cooperate in that effort. We are going to have a debate, consider amendments, and vote; and we are going to try to avoid the end-of-year pileup in continuing resolutions that I know we are all tired of.

Another continuing resolution—another CR—was nobody's first choice, but I can tell you this: The next time the Senate votes on an appropriations bill, it won't be on the eve of another shutdown.

So I appreciate my colleagues' support for this continuing resolution, and I look forward to a much better process for fiscal year 2026.

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. 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.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, well, as everyone knows, government funding expires at midnight tonight. As I announced yesterday, I will vote to keep the government open.

I believe it is the best way to minimize the harm that the Trump administration will do to the American people. Clearly, this is a Hobson's choice. The CR is a bad bill. But as bad as the CR is, I believe allowing Donald Trump to take even much more power via a government shutdown is a far worse option. A shutdown would allow DOGE to shift into overdrive.

Let me repeat: A shutdown will allow DOGE to shift into overdrive. It would give Donald Trump and DOGE the keys to the city, State, and country. Donald Trump and Elon Musk would be free to destroy vital government services at a much faster rate than they can right now and over a much broader field of destruction that they would render.

In a shutdown, Donald Trump and DOGE will have the power to determine what is considered essential and what is not, and their views on what is not essential would be mean and vicious and would decimate vital services and cause unimaginable harm to the American people.

Making matters even worse, in a shutdown, there is no check on their determinations, Trump and DOGE's determinations on what is essential and what is not. In fact, on February 26,

OMB, led by Russell Vought, told Agencies to work with DOGE to create a list of nonessential workers so that they could reduce staffing even faster in a shutdown.

They are already preparing for a shutdown. Musk has told everybody he wants a shutdown because he knows it will help him achieve his horrible goal of just decimating the Federal Government from one end to the other. In other words, if government were to shut down, DOGE has a plan in place to exploit the crisis for maximum destruction.

In a shutdown, American families would be hurt in ways they almost have never been. It could disrupt regional Veterans Affairs offices, curtail mental health services, and accelerate plans to slash staff at Social Security offices. The list goes on and on and on of the damage—the severe damage—they could do, virtually unchecked.

They can stay in a shutdown as long as they want. There is no off-ramp unless they decide to take that off-ramp, and they won't because this is their best tool for achieving their goal: slash government, slash spending, and use that money for tax breaks for billionaires.

So a shutdown would be the best distraction Donald Trump could ask for—distraction from his awful agenda. Donald Trump owns the chaos in government. He owns the chaos in the stock market. He owns the damage happening to the economy. But he knows that if government shuts down and all the fighting is over which Agencies should be kept and which shouldn't and Republican Senators and Congressmen in just obeisance to Trump keep putting bills on the floor to decide that, it will totally distract from the most important fight of all: fighting Republicans for eviscerating Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid while giving trillions in tax cuts to the ultrarich. That is the fight American people must know about. A shutdown will be a costly distraction from this all-important fight.

Finally, I want to close by reminding everyone it was Republicans who pushed this false shutdown choice. Their inability to govern has led us to this precipice. Our caucus Members have been torn between two awful alternatives, and my colleagues and I have wrestled with which alternative would be worse for the American people. Different Senators come down on different sides of this question, but that does not mean that any Senate Democrat supports a shutdown.

Whatever the outcome, our caucus will be united in our determination to continue the long-term fight to stop Donald Trump's dangerous war on our democracy and on America's working families.

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. PETERS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

WAIVING QUORUM CALL

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to waive the mandatory quorum call with respect to the Feinberg 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 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. 35, Stephen Feinberg, of New York, to be Deputy Secretary of Defense.

John Thune, Tim Sheehy, Cynthia M. Lummis, Rick Scott of Florida, Kevin Cramer, Ted Budd, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Lindsey Graham, Markwayne Mullin, Marsha Blackburn, Thom Tillis, Tommy Tuberville, John R. Curtis, Chuck Grassley, James Lankford, John Barrasso, Todd Young.

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 Stephen Feinberg, of New York, to be Deputy Secretary of Defense, 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 Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. JUSTICE), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY) and, the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS) would have voted "yea."

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) and, the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) are necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 56, nays 39, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 125 Ex.]

YEAS—56

Banks	Ernst	McCormick
Barrasso	Fetterman	Moody
Blackburn	Fischer	Moran
Boozman	Graham	Moreno
Britt	Grassley	Mullin
Budd	Hagerty	Murkowski
Capito	Hoeven	Paul
Cassidy	Husted	Reed
Collins	Hyde-Smith	Ricketts
Cornyn	Johnson	Risch
Cotton	Kaine	Rounds
Cramer	Kennedy	Schmitt
Crapo	Lankford	Scott (FL)
Cruz	Lee	Scott (SC)
Curtis	Marshall	Shaheen
Daines	McConnell	Sheehy

Slotkin
Sullivan
Thune

Tillis
Tuberville
Warner

Wicker
Young
Warner

NAYS—39

Alsobrooks
Baldwin
Bennet
Blumenthal
Blunt Rochester
Cantwell
Coons
Cortez Masto
Durbin
Galleo
Gillibrand
Hassan
Heinrich

Hickenlooper
Hirono
Kelly
Kim
King
Klobuchar
Lujan
Markey
Merkley
Murphy
Murray
Ossoff
Padilla

Peters
Rosen
Sanders
Schatz
Schiff
Schumer
Smith
Van Hollen
Warnock
Warren
Welch
Whitehouse
Wyden

NOT VOTING—5

Booker
Duckworth

Hawley
Justice

Lummis

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HUSTED). On this vote, the yeas are 56, the nays are 39.

The motion is agreed to.

The Senator from Iowa.

HALT FENTANYL ACT

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, today is a good day for the Senate and a good day for the American people. The Senate will soon pass a bill that is entitled "HALT Fentanyl Act." The House is expected to take the measure up very soon and send it to President Trump, who is waiting with pen in hand to enact one of his campaign promises.

The HALT Fentanyl Act permanently schedules these deadly substances that have been the main driver of overdose deaths in the United States. No longer does the Drug Enforcement Agency need to play this game of Whac-A-Mole every time a cartel develops a new fentanyl knockoff. In other words, today, a fentanyl knockoff might be illegal, and then they change the chemical makeup of it, and it becomes legal. It is a nightmare for law enforcement.

So no longer will Congress be kicking the can down the road with temporary extensions. We have had many, many extensions over the last several years to keep fentanyl scheduled and its analogs scheduled in I. It also revises policies to research schedule I substances. These are changes the research community has welcomed.

Drug overdoses in the United States have exploded to the highest levels we have ever seen, and, of course, this is thanks to fentanyl and fentanyl knockoffs. The Drug Enforcement Agency has called fentanyl and its knockoffs the "deadliest drug threat the United States has ever faced."

Since 2016, I have been raising the alarm on deadly synthetic drugs like fentanyl. As chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, I held a hearing on these substances and the need to stay ahead of the peddlers of this poison. Sadly, it has taken us 9 long years to get to permanently scheduling these deadly knockoffs.

Of course, we thank each of the previous Congresses that, on a temporary basis, extended the scheduling of fentanyl and fentanyl knockoffs, but this bipartisan HALT Fentanyl Act

takes care of this by making it permanent.

Senators CASSIDY, HEINRICH, and JOHNSON were very instrumental in this effort. Their interest in permanently scheduling fentanyl knockoffs inspired the Senate to move this bill to the floor. Republican leadership was also crucial in prioritizing this bill for the floor and helping us navigate the floor process.

Credit is also due to our House colleagues—Representative GRIFFITH, Chairman GUTHRIE, and now retired Chairwoman McMorris Rodgers—who led and championed the HALT Fentanyl Act on the House side.

I would also like to thank Dr. Tim Westlake, who came up with the temporary scheduling structure that we have been using since the year 2018. He has testified before my committee and before the Congress on numerous occasions, and I thank him for his hard work and unflappable dedication.

So, in the end, this campaign earned the support of nearly every major law enforcement organization and also several medical associations and research associations supporting the research component of this bill.

Most importantly, we must say thanks to the countless families organized over a long period of time across the country that have lost loved ones to fentanyl poisoning and have not given up on this type of legislation to make permanent the scheduling.

I want to thank my Senate staff who helped make this possible, especially Colleen Bloss and Michael Perkins, who spearheaded this effort for me and all the committee members. Together, we have taken steps to open the doors of research to permanently schedule the deadliest substance the United States has ever faced and to send a clear message that Congress is willing and ready to act. Together, we have taken an important step to live up to our commitment to our constituents and to the loved ones lost to put them first and to serve them.

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. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Wyoming.

REMEMBERING ALAN K. SIMPSON

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I come to the floor with my colleague from Wyoming, Senator CYNTHIA LUMMIS, to mourn one of Wyoming's most beloved and fiercest champions. He passed earlier this morning. That would be former U.S. Senator Al Simpson—not just former Senator; former member of the Wyoming House of Representatives and former Army veteran. He passed away earlier today at the age of 93 in his hometown of Cody, Wy-

oming. I talked to his wife Ann this morning. She said it was a beautiful, full Moon, and Al went to Heaven on a moonbeam.

He is known in Wyoming and in this body and across the country for his incredible life of service and really an unparalleled sense of humor.

Throughout his life, Al boldly fought to uphold the values and the ideals of this great Nation. Whether he was serving in the Army or the Wyoming House of Representatives or the U.S. Senate, his commitment and his contributions were evident everywhere.

He was well known for rolling up his sleeves and working with anyone regardless of party to do what he thought was best for Wyoming and the Nation. When the Nation called on Al Simpson, when they called on him to serve, he was always there fighting for our best interests.

Al once said:

Never let them distort who you are.

So let me tell you about the real Al Simpson. His life and his legacy are defined by the c's—the c's standing for his hometown of Cody, and collegiality is a big part, but also there was courage, character, and credibility.

He represented Wyoming in this Chamber as a U.S. Senator from 1979 to 1997, and for that reason alone, Al looms very large in Wyoming's political history. There is a lot more. He left an indelible mark here in the Senate. While others ran from tough issues, Al welcomed them. It was an opportunity to serve. He actually never backed down from a fight. He embraced the fights as long as he was fighting for what he thought was right.

He sponsored legislation that helped protect our clean water and our clean air. He secured better grazing rights for Wyoming farmers and ranchers. He fought to secure our borders and imposed stiff sanctions on employers who hired illegal immigrants.

He once said:

The first duty of every nation is to secure its border.

He was so right.

He was elected by our Republican conference in the Senate in 1985 to serve as the assistant Republican leader. He was the first Republican whip from the State of Wyoming. He was the whip for 10 years, and he did it under the leadership of Senator Bob Dole. So I am proud to hold the office today that he once held. His leadership brought Wyoming values to Washington, and he left a lasting national impact.

Al came from a family of public servants. His father Milward was both Wyoming Governor and Senator. His dad Milward was Al's role model for public service and civic leadership. His big brother Pete once explained:

The extent to which we became men we owe to our father.

Everyone who knew Al well knows that his most important influence in his life came from the love of his life,

his wife Ann—his wife of 70 years. Al and Ann first began dating when they were students at the University of Wyoming. They were married in 1954. For seven decades, Wyoming was fortunate to listen to and learn from Al and from Ann.

They were an inspiration to all of us—to me, to my wife Bobbi, and they were, I know, to Cynthia and her husband Al. They made a legendary team, always working together to make both Wyoming and Washington a better place.

Al liked to say:

Everything in Wyoming is political, except for politics, which was personal.

Yet, for Al, politics was never personal. His debates were passionate and they were principled. He was friends with Ted Kennedy. They collaborated together on legislation. From energy, to border security, to fiscal responsibility, Al worked across the aisle to tackle the tough issues. He always did what he believed was best for the country. In today's political environment, Al's example of bridging partisan divides is more important than ever.

In the art of persuasion, Al Simpson could teach a master class. One reason Al was so persuasive was his humor. He had an incredible sense of humor. He had close personal relationships with Presidents Ronald Reagan and George Herbert Walker Bush. The title of his biography tells a lot about Al. It is called "Shooting from the Lip." Al was a gunslinger when it came to clever quips. There are too many to count. We don't want to recount some of them on the floor of the Senate; they would probably be stricken from the record. But that is who Al Simpson was. He made you laugh. He also made you think. And that is what made Al so special. He took his service seriously, but he never took himself too seriously.

Al and Ann returned to Wyoming after he retired from the Senate. Fortunately for Wyoming and our Nation, that service did not end because they never really retired. Al enthusiastically served numerous groups and organizations, which all have benefited from his presence. From his beloved alma mater, the University of Wyoming, to the world-renowned Buffalo Bill historical center, Al Simpson devoted his time, his talent, and his treasure.

When Al saw an unmet need in his community, he worked to see that it was addressed. He was especially active in mentoring future leaders. It is no wonder that he was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2022. It is the highest honor an American civilian can get for service to our country.

He was a model of leadership for everyone, regardless of party. He did it all across Wyoming and through the years here in Congress. Once, he said:

If you have integrity, nothing else matters. If you don't have integrity, nothing else matters.

Integrity, work ethic, incredible wit—Al truly leaves behind a leg-

endary career. For Wyoming, Al is a native son and also a North Star and a rock star.

For the U.S. Senate, Al is a leader, a legislative craftsman, and a principled lawmaker.

For me, he was a mentor and friend. To Ann; to their children, Bill, Collin, and Sue—I talked to Bill and Collin this morning; to their entire extended family, I join the Nation and Wyoming in sending you our heartfelt condolences.

We can take solace in knowing that the decades of work Al did to make Wyoming and our country a better place will be felt for generations to come.

Senator LUMMIS.

Ms. LUMMIS. Thank you, Senator BARRASSO, for those lovely remarks. We both loved Al Simpson, and we will always love Al Simpson.

Today, we join the entire State of Wyoming, his family, and his close friends in celebrating his life and mourning the passing of U.S. Senator Al Simpson.

He was absolutely larger than life and always will be a beloved statesman. He dedicated his entire life to serving others, his entire life of 93 years—for 18 years here in the U.S. Senate, 12 years in the Wyoming House of Representatives, and 28 years as a very active elder statesman, particularly in his efforts to help and serve our beloved alma mater, the University of Wyoming.

He tirelessly advocated for the State of Wyoming, fighting to ensure that every corner of our State was not only a great place to work but a great place to make a home and raise a family. Indeed, he contributed to that as well with his children and grandchildren and his beloved, beautiful Ann Simpson.

My gosh, I saw a picture in the hallway in their home of Ann Simpson when she was in college. She was an absolute knockout. They became the inseparable, dynamic duo of Wyoming—she playing the straight woman to his hilarious antics that everyone so loved.

There was no stronger advocate for the needs, industries, and interests of Wyoming than Senator Al Simpson.

As Senator BARRASSO mentioned, during his U.S. Senate tenure, he was repeatedly chosen by his colleagues to serve in leadership as the Republican whip and was a close friend and ally of both Presidents Reagan and George H. W. Bush.

Those who met Senator Al Simpson knew he never forgot a face or an interaction, good or bad, and he was happy to remind you of either. Those who were privileged enough to call him friend enjoyed his fierce loyalty, truly fierce loyalty—the kind we all hope we might have with someone in our lives.

His famous sense of humor—I once went to a reception here in Washington, DC, at a beautiful home, and we walked in, and there was a fireplace in the hallway with an original

Pissarro hanging over the fireplace, and he goes: Oh, look, Cynthia, it is a "piss-a-roo." That was classic Al Simpson. Al was well known around the Capitol for his pithy one-liners.

Families in Cody looked forward to spotting him towering—he was a very tall man, maybe 6 feet 7 inches or so, and he would tower above the trick-or-treaters—in his costume, by the way, of Frankenstein. He called himself Frankenal. He would imitate the monster, which he also had perfected over the years.

Al loved life. He loved public service. He loved the State of Wyoming and, particularly, the University of Wyoming.

My gosh, he was so good to the law school, to the trial advocacy clinics. There was just nothing he wouldn't do to help the University of Wyoming excel as an institution.

But he never missed an opportunity to praise his beloved Ann, his children, his grandchildren. I was in law school with both Colin and Bill Simpson. The legacy of that family for the practice of law in Wyoming and elsewhere in the country is truly significant, in addition to the many other legislative victories and policy wins and the fabulous museum, the Buffalo Bill Historical Center, in Wyoming, which is truly a world-class—world-class—institution, in large part because of Ann and Al's complete dedication to it.

Last year, Ann and Al celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary. How did they celebrate it? They held an ice cream social at Cody City Park with family, friends, and neighbors. That was the Simpson way of doing things. At every gathering Al Simpson attended, people flocked to him—and I mean flocked—for a moment with a man each considered one of their closest friends. That is the effect that he had on people. That is the incredible aura that was part of Al Simpson. He truly was a proud son of Cody, WY.

Coming from an early pioneer family, Al never forgot his ancestors and the people who came before him. Senator BARRASSO just mentioned that his father Milward was also a noted Wyoming character; and that trait continues on in the entire family.

He never forgot his goals, which were to spread integrity, humor, service, and to make sure that the Wyoming he left, the country he left, would be better for the next generation. And I can tell you, he accomplished that. He is one of those people you can look to and say: He did that in his life.

Al's family were his pride and joy, and he was our pride and joy as a beloved son of Wyoming, a great mentor, a fabulous human being, someone in your life that if you met Al Simpson, it was something you would say: What was one of my great joys in life? And one would certainly be: I knew Al Simpson.

So I ask you all to join us in celebrating the tremendous, extraordinary, curious life of U.S. Senator Al Simpson.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I wanted to join my colleagues from Wyoming. I heard they were paying a tribute to Al Simpson who recently passed away. It was my good fortune 15 years ago to be a member of the Simpson-Bowles Commission where Al Simpson, who had been retired from the Senate, cohosted that with Erskine Bowles in a bipartisan effort to deal with the deficit.

I never had a better time and a more educational experience than to be on that Commission. And, of course, you can't talk about Al Simpson's public service without referring to his sense of humor.

I said to a friend the other day on the floor of the Senate, I miss that part of the Senate. There used to be, you could count on several Senators to always have a joke, and he was one of them.

And good joke-tellers, I have found, have two qualities. First, they tell the same joke many times, but it seems like it is the first time. And, second, they usually start laughing before the punchline because they are enjoying the joke so much themselves.

But in addition to his good humor and nice way about him, he was a wonderful person to work with—really bipartisan. Being a Democrat, I didn't know quite how I would deal with him since we had never served together in the Senate, but he took me under his shoulder like any Member of his own party or family.

I might also mention for the record that Al and his wife were close friends with Paul and Jeanne Simon from Illinois, my predecessor; and Ann Simpson attended the funeral service for Jeanne Simon in Carbondale, IL, and I thought that was a nice tribute family to family.

I am sorry we don't have people like Al Simpson still serving. Maybe it is an incentive for all of us to learn a joke or two.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

HALT FENTANYL ACT

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, we are in the tenth week of the first 10 weeks, obviously, of this Senate's session. It has been exceptionally productive during this time period.

We have not only moved more nominees into confirmation for President Trump than any Senate has done in more than two decades, we have passed bills like the Laken Riley Act, which will absolutely help us in trying to remove criminal aliens out of the country.

We have rolled back a lot of Biden's last-minute regulations that he literally threw in in the final hours that did not have the oversight, did not have the appearance. And they, obviously, didn't do it in the first 3½ years of their term. They stalled it till the very end on that for a reason: because it was unpopular with the American people.

Those have been rolled back, many of them, and we still have several to go.

Today we are finishing up a bill called HALT Fentanyl. The fentanyl epidemic is raging in our country.

If you go back to just 2019 and compare that to 2023, in that short period of time, in my State of Oklahoma in 2019, we had 50 people who died of fentanyl. Fast-forward 4 years to 2023, the last year that we have complete records on; that is actually 730 people died. In 2023, across the country, we had 74,000 Americans who died from fentanyl overdose.

Again, go back to 2019. Only about 10 percent of the opioid deaths in my State had fentanyl connected to it. Fast forward to 2023, 90 percent of the opioid-related deaths were connected to fentanyl.

What the Mexican cartels are doing and what Chinese precursor chemicals coming into the country are causing is the death of fellow citizens, as they slip it into different fake pills, as they slip it into methamphetamine, as they slip fentanyl into cocaine, as they slip it into different places, to have someone who is using a drug or someone who never intended to use that drug to take their life. It has to stop.

Even worse, the cartels not only know what they are doing, but they are trying to find specific ways to be able to avoid our laws. Fentanyl has a very specific definition in science of exactly what makes up fentanyl. And so what the cartels are doing is they are changing that chemical makeup ever so slightly in what they call an analog, and so it is really not "fentanyl" as a definition—meaning law enforcement, when they see it on the street, it has the same effect: It still kills you, but it is, actually, technically, not fentanyl, so you can't be prosecuted for it.

This bill that we are bringing to the floor today opens up the fentanyl definitions to deal with fentanyl and the analogs of fentanyl so that the cartels can't continue to bring these deadly drugs into our country to take the lives and increase addiction in America and get away with it. This puts it in the hands of law enforcement, where they have been disarmed in that area, enforcement priorities, so they can actually enforce the law on these cartels and on the drug dealers and so we can identify it for what it really is. It is a killer drug.

The HALT Fentanyl Act is incredibly important. And I am fully aware that in a week where our country is talking about: Are we going to have another government shutdown, it is going to slip through and people aren't even going to notice it. But law enforcement will notice it, and families in the future will notice it.

The folks aren't dealing with the same addiction, as we are putting one more piece out there to be able to take this off.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. President, as we talk about the government shutdown looming tonight

at midnight, I want to remind you and this body again: This is something I have spoken out on for years. Years ago, I sat down with my Democratic colleagues and said: How do we take government shutdowns off the table? How do we end this?

There have been proposals for literally decades to be able to end government shutdowns. Republicans have had a proposal for decades that said: Well, if we get to the end of the fiscal year and we haven't passed all the bills, we will just cut spending 1 percent every month, and that will force us to come to the table. And my Democratic colleagues have said to me over and over again: You guys are so crazy about reducing Federal spending, you will never reopen the government; you will just cut funding every single month. It is easy. Never going to vote for that.

My Democratic colleagues literally have a bill to say: We will end government shutdowns by every single month that we don't have a bill passed on it; we will increase funding by 1 percent every single month. And Republicans have looked at our Democratic colleagues and said: You have lost your mind. You want to increase spending every single month anyway. You will never pass a bill. We are never going to do that. There was a bill that was out there for a while—it sounds great—called No Budget No Pay.

That says if we don't pass our budget, we don't get our appropriations bill done, then Members of Congress won't be paid. And a lot of people say that is a great idea. I smile at folks back home, and I say: I hate to be blunt, but do you know how much most Members of the Senate are worth? Their congressional salary for many of my colleagues is a rounding error to their investment portfolio.

They are really not worried about their congressional pay to be able to make ends meet at the end of that month. In addition to that, constitutionally, you actually can't change a Member's pay during the time that they are actually set. So all it would mean is they wouldn't get their paycheck for however long it took to negotiate it, then they would still get their money.

That is really not going to make a difference. When I sat down with my Democratic colleagues several years ago and said: What is the one pressure point that we all feel that we can hold the American people harmless but actually get our work done? It is the same thing, rich or poor, live far away, live close, all of us have the same precious possession that we are all attentive to and it is time.

We all have the same amount of time in a day. And we all fight our calendars because they are full. So our simple solution to end government shutdowns is, if we get to the end of a fiscal year, like we are at tonight, and we haven't got our work done, like it has happened so far, the government stays open, same year's level as last year, nothing

changes on it. The American people are held harmless, all the Agencies are held harmless, but Members of Congress, both House and Senate, we stay in session 7 days a week. We have a quorum call at noon every single day. And we can't move to any bill other than appropriations.

In other words, if you don't have your work done, you have got to stay until your work is actually done. And we can't go do something else. We have to stay here to be able to get it done. I guarantee you, if this body was in session 7 days a week for two weeks, by the end of the second week, we would all be staring at each other saying: I want to go see my family. I want to be able to do the other things that are responsibilities that a Senator has. I need to be able to do those things; let's get this thing resolved.

If you remove all of our time, it puts the pressure on us to be able to actually get our work done. If I can say it just as simple as this: My mom, when my brother and I—and I know it may be shocking to some people that my brother and I didn't always get along every day growing up—but when my brother and I would get into a fight, my mom would send both of us into our rooms and say: You guys stay in that room, fight it out, then when you are done, then you can come out to the rest of the house. But go settle it in there, but make sure it is settled before you come out here.

As silly as it sounds, this government shutdown prevention bill I have brought year after year is just as simple as my mom's advice, don't make everybody else have to listen to the fight. Members of Congress should get in the room, fight it out, settle it; and when we are done, we come out and actually vote for it.

But, in the meantime, the rest of the country shouldn't have to suffer because we didn't get our work done on time. That seems pretty straightforward to me. It has had wide bipartisan support, and there have been lots of moments when we have been very close to passing it. There is no trick in it. There is no anything else. It is just, why do we have these crazy government shutdown fight moments that the rest of the world looks at us as Americans and says: Why can't the Americans get their act together?

And the rest of the country looks at us and says: We have to work out all of our details. Why don't you have to work out all of your details?

Those folks are not wrong.

We will, one day, solve this. Apparently, it is not today. Today, there is still a fight over whether we are going to keep the government open for tomorrow.

Federal workers that are already dealing with a lot of tension in their life, quite frankly, they have gotten emails and messages. They are hearing about downsizing in Federal Agencies. They are anxious right now.

And there are a lot of folks in my State, and, quite frankly, around the

country, that say we need to reduce the size of the bureaucracy, which we do. The last time we had a major reduction in the size of the bureaucracy was under Bill Clinton. When Bill Clinton was President, he declared: We are going to reinvent government.

And under Bill Clinton's Presidency, they reduced the Federal workforce by 400,000 people. That was a big reduction in Federal workforce. That is the last time that has occurred, decades ago.

We have grown now to a massive size that we have got to reduce again. Everybody knows it. But if you are a Federal worker or a family member or a next-door neighbor or you go to church together, you know how agonizing this really is. The last thing those Federal workers need is one more thing hanging over their head and a government shutdown at the same time. But it is being debated right now, and my Democratic colleagues are trying to determine if we are going to go into shutdown tonight still.

I would simply say: Let's get our work done. We disagree on many issues. OK? That is what grownups have; we have disagreements. Let's settle our disagreements. Let's keep us operating. Let's take this off the table for good at some point so we don't have this threat hanging over us and some countdown clock on 24-hour news: Here is how many minutes it is until we have a government shutdown. Let's take that off the table, and let's get our work done.

We have a giant deficit—giant—\$2 trillion in overspending this year. We should have budget fights. We should be more efficient. We should allow DOGE and some of those folks to be able to go after some of the wasteful spending.

I don't have a lot of people back in my State that are contacting me and saying: I really want to make sure that we are still spending money for the grants to go to the transgender opera in Colombia that USAID is funding, or the DEI initiatives in Serbia that the USAID is funding. No one is calling me and saying: We need to make sure we keep doing those things.

Everyone looks at it and shakes their head and says: What in the world? I want my tax money to go to education, and I want it to go to roads, and I want it to go to national defense. Don't do that.

So let's find ways to be more efficient. Let's find ways to be able to reduce waste and fraud. But let's also have the fight during office hours so the American people don't have to feel the effects of a government shutdown.

The clock is ticking today. My Democratic colleagues have got to determine if we are going to have this vote today. Let's pass it.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

REMEMBERING ALAN K. SIMPSON

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, before I begin my comments, I wanted to

acknowledge the extraordinary life and the contributions of Senator Alan Simpson from Wyoming. I had an opportunity to hear several of my colleagues speak to the accomplishments of Senator Alan Simpson. And while I did not have an opportunity to serve with him, my father served many years with Al Simpson, and he and my mother Nancy were very close friends with Al and his wife Ann. They traveled together. They joked together.

And I had an opportunity to occasionally meet with Al Simpson. As has been mentioned, his humor was legendary. And as a young woman who was kind of observing, here you have this very important person, this Senator from Wyoming, who was very accomplished in so many years, with a sense of humor and a joke for just about everything—sometimes appropriate, maybe sometimes not quite as appropriate. But he was a genuinely beautiful individual, and you saw how he reacted and interacted with people at all levels.

I can only imagine the depth of appreciation and love that he had from the people in the great State of Wyoming because those of us who had just mere glimpses of an opportunity to see him and to know him found him to just be truly a lovely and a good man.

So I know that my parents would want me to be able to express my condolences to the Simpson family and the great appreciation for the contributions that he made to his State of Wyoming and to our great country.

IDITAROD

Mr. President, I come to the floor this morning with my annual update. As the occupant of the Chair heard, just a couple of weeks ago, we began the "Last Great Race," also known as the Iditarod. This is the sled dog race that typically begins from Willow, AK, and goes northward to Nome, a little less than a thousand miles.

This was the 53rd running of the Iditarod this year, and with great excitement, I am able to announce the winner of this year's Iditarod. At 2:55 a.m., this morning, Jessie Holmes crossed the finish line. He crossed the finish line in a remarkable time of 10 days, 14 hours, 55 minutes, and 41 seconds.

Now, this is not the fastest Iditarod, but it is by far the longest Iditarod. I mentioned that typically you have an Iditarod race of just about 1,000 miles. This was 1,128 miles through extraordinary wilderness, across conditions that were grueling in perhaps different ways: soft snow, howling winds, blasting sand—believe it or not—as they were crossing through river areas. It is a tough race every year, but this year was particularly rough.

They moved the start of the race, this year, from Willow to begin in the community of Fairbanks—my home town is there—but took a northern route through the interior, along the Yukon River, circling all the way down and doing a loop-the-loop down in Grayling, Anvik, and Shageluk.

The conditions coming up into Eagle Island were described as some of the worst. Actually, the terms that were used were not ones that I am going to share on the floor here, but it was a pretty tough trail, hard conditions on everyone.

But then, moving back to Kaltag and coming along here, across Norton Sound, an 8-hour stop here, just out of Nome, in safety, and Jesse Holmes, again, came under the burlled arch at 2:55 a.m., this morning, with 10 dogs in harness.

His lead dogs were Polar and—gosh, who was the other? It was Polar and—I have got to find it here because you got to remember. You have got to acknowledge the names of your dogs because it is the dogs themselves that make sure that you come across safely and with honor.

I can remember Polar, and I can't remember the name of the other dog.

Hercules. Hercules and Polar. I mean isn't that appropriate for your lead dogs that are taking you over 1,100 miles. It is a herculean effort. So it is, indeed, something that we as Alaskans look on with great pride each and every year.

It is a test of endurance of the animals, certainly. It is a test of endurance for the mushers themselves.

Keep in mind, when they set out, on the 3rd of March—that is when they left out of Fairbanks—you are moving. You are moving day and night, although for most of the mushers, they actually prefer to mush at night, when it is cold, because the conditions are actually easier on the dogs so that the dogs don't get overheated.

But it is not like you are checking into a roadhouse or checking into a hotel. When you stop, you are literally getting bales of straw that you have had airdropped to a location. You are putting the straw out as bedding for your dogs. You are tending to your animals. And what I mean by "tending to them"—I mean that is feeding them, that is watering them, that is taking their booties off, that is massaging their feet, that is massaging their muscles, that is working your dogs to get them in shape to run, before you can pause and heat up a pot of stew over your kerosene burner.

Think about what it means to melt snow—enough snow—to water 10 to 14 dogs that have been running miles and miles.

So the effort there is physical endurance—physical endurance, most certainly—but also mental endurance because when you are just head down, running into the wind, taking on conditions that look the same as you have seen for the past 17 miles, because you are running down the width of the wide-open river or going through tussocks and hillocks and a trail that is just so rough and jerky that you have got to stay mentally awake. You have got to be physically on target. But it is hard in every sense of the word.

And so there is an appreciation for the athletes, both human but particularly the dogs themselves. This is not something where you can have a strategy and say: I am going to run for the next 43 miles, and I am going to rest my dogs for 4 hours, and then we are going to move on.

If you are a musher that is a winning musher and a safe musher, you can only go so far as your dogs will tell you. And when the dogs say it is time to take a pause, you know it is time to take a pause.

The third place, the individual who is going to come in third, Paige Drobny here, had a comment just yesterday. She says she has to make sure that she is watching what her dogs say. And when the dogs give her the look that says, "We are not with the CEO right now," she knows and she says, I am listening to them. I have to make sure that they trust me just as I am trusting them. So there is a relationship that is extraordinary when you think about the humans and the canines teaming together.

We have Jessie Holmes, who came in first; Matt Hall has come in second—he is already a known; and Paige Drobny is well on her way in. But every single one of these mushers is a winner. Every single 1 of these 33 teams are winners, and those dogs remind us of that.

People have asked me: What do you get if you win the Iditarod? If this is something that mushers train for day in and day out of each year, there must be some big grand prize. Well, this year, the prize is \$52,000, I believe, the total sum was. In addition to that, Jessie Holmes has won several other acknowledgements as he has entered different checkpoints ahead of the rest of the pack here. His winnings, in addition to the first-place finish, totaled \$4,500 in cash on top of what he is receiving, \$4,500 in gold nuggets, 25 pounds of fresh Bristol Bay salmon, and multiple trophies to commemorate each event. It is not just about the money; it is not just about the accomplishment, but getting some good old Bristol Bay salmon is also not a bad way to be recognized.

A little bit about our first-place winner this year, Jessie Holmes. I was able to share this with my colleague from Alabama. Jessie Holmes hails from Alabama. Alabama is a far piece from Alaska. The temperatures are a little bit different. But Jessie came to Alaska in 2004. He has been there ever since. He fell in love with Alaska. He found running dogs on a remote track line along the Yukon River was a lifestyle he wanted to adopt, and he has embraced it.

Some of you may recognize the name. He was a regular, between 2015 to 2023, on the Alaska reality TV show "Life Below Zero." Maybe some of the people follow "Life Below Zero." A lot of you follow Alaska reality TV shows.

Let me tell you, Jessie Holmes is the real deal. You may see him on reality TV, but he is the real deal. He has

raced in the Iditarod every year since 2018. He placed seventh then as a first-time runner and became the 2018 Iditarod Rookie of the Year. So this guy has just been cruising. He has placed in the top 10 now five times. Again, an extraordinary musher, but a gentleman who has been proving his worth all along for years now, and we are just honored to be able to congratulate him.

This race is one that my colleagues know I get excited about it. This is March Madness, I know, but for us, it is also about the excitement that comes with this amazing race. It is a reminder to us that Alaska is a place that does not yield to those who are unprepared. It rewards those who respect it, who understand its power, and who find strength when faced with some pretty impossible obstacles.

Most people would say it is impossible to run 1,128 miles on a dog sled across these conditions. But the Iditarod is a living tribute to the pioneer spirit and a reminder that hardships are not something to be feared but just faced with courage—just run into the storm.

I want to recognize the values that it upholds: The perseverance in the face of adversity, the partnership that transcends words, and really the unbreakable will to keep it going no matter what the storm is. I wanted to share that with colleagues.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. President, before I conclude my time here on the floor, I just want to acknowledge the place that we are at here today on the 14th of March, a day that we have seen coming, not just on the calendar, but we here in the Congress have known that this is the day that our continuing resolution was going to run out, the clock runs, and we had a choice.

We have a choice we have to make. That choice is: Does the government shut down at 11:59 tonight or do we keep it open? And I think most of us would say a shutdown is never ever a good idea. But you want to be able to have an option that is tenable.

I stood here earlier this week, and I described what a Morton's fork is. It is a phrase that basically refers to a choice between two equally untenable positions. That is exactly where we are. We have two equally untenable positions, in my view. We have a shutdown, which we cannot do, and we have a long-term CR in front of us, meaning a continuing resolution that continues the operations of the government until the 30th of September.

People would say that is good. But it doesn't allow for the good work that those of us that have tried to shepherd the appropriations bills through this process—it doesn't allow for that direction from the Congress. It basically continues fiscal year 2024 levels but without the parameters that the Congress, that we have directed—not just those of us on the Appropriations Committee but along with all of our colleagues.

I don't like—I do not like—a long-term continuing resolution. If we had had the ability to move our appropriations bills through the floor as we should have, as we set ourselves up to do, but as we were not allowed to do. We were not able to bring those completed appropriations bills—even though the vast majority of them were not only bipartisan but overwhelmingly supported through the committee—and the Democratic leader didn't bring them to the floor. It didn't happen. So we didn't have the chance to finish our work.

We need to be able to make sure that the work that we do here is concluded. Why? Because that is the responsibility that we have as Members of Congress. This is our job. This is our job under the Constitution. It is not the executive's; it is not the President's; it is our job.

If we had had the ability to have a short-term CR to just give us a little more room to finish these up, that could have given us a better option. It could have given us a third option that would have been tenable. But my colleague, the chairman now of the Appropriations Committee, working with her ranking member, tried to get us to that place, multiple offers were extended. We didn't get there, and that is a shame. It is a shame because it puts us, again, in a place where we have two untenable, equally untenable, choices in front of us.

I am reluctant—I am very reluctant—to support a long-term CR. I do not like the fact that it gives the executive branch the authority that we own as Members of Congress when it comes to defining spending priorities. But I also cannot—I cannot—be part of anything that ultimately shuts this government down. I have been in the Senate for a long while now. I have never voted to go into a government shutdown. In fact, I have been, along with my colleague, engaged in many of those ventures where once the shutdown happened, we were scurrying to try to find ways to avoid extending it because the danger to our governmental functions and our operations, the harm that it brings to good individuals, is simply not worth it.

We are in a bad place. We are in a bad place. It is a place that I regret. But I can tell you, for one, as a member of the Appropriations Committee, I want us to be able to do our work, and I want to be able to see our work completed, voted on, and then signed into law as the American people expect us to do.

I see that my friend from Maine and the chairman of this great committee that we are going to make sure is able to do its work is here. I yield to her.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

Ms. COLLINS. I want to thank the Senator from Alaska, who is an extraordinarily talented leader on the Appropriations Committee, for her comments.

Mr. President, I rise to urge passage of this funding measure to prevent an unnecessary, harmful, and costly government shutdown at midnight tonight.

Government shutdowns are inherently a failure to govern effectively and have negative consequences all across government. They inevitably require certain government employees, such as Border Patrol agents, members of our military and Coast Guard, TSA screeners, and air traffic controllers, to report to work with no certainty at all on when they will receive their next paycheck. That is just unfair.

Shutdowns also put critical investments in our national defense on hold. Training exercises would be limited, which could hurt our Nation's readiness. New programs would be paused, delaying new capabilities from getting to our warfighters. That is why we have always, in the past, avoided CRs for the Department of Defense. At our borders, the men and women performing vital law enforcement activities would have to do so without pay and without the assistance of support staff, putting more pressure on frontline operators.

Other harmful potential impacts include curtailed operations to the Veterans Benefits Administration, resulting in the closure of education and GI bill call centers and the suspension of career counseling and transition assistance for our veterans; the closure of our wonderful national parks to visitors; increased travel delays as the onboarding of additional TSA agents would stall, and some FAA employees would face furloughs; and costly delays for projects at the Army Corps of Engineers and critical water infrastructure projects.

That is just a very partial list of the harm that would be done from a government shutdown. This unfortunate situation that we are in with a continuing resolution should, however, have been avoided. The Senate should have finished these bills last year. I called for that repeatedly, as did many other Members.

Senator MURRAY and I worked as a team, provided leadership, consulted with the members of our Senate Appropriations Committee. Each of us worked so hard to report 11 of the 12 bills with overwhelming bipartisan support, including 6 which came out of our committee unanimously. Unfortunately, these bipartisan bills languished on the calendar for months, never being brought to the floor for consideration.

This decision by the then-Senate majority leader denied Senators the opportunity to debate and amend our reported bills and denied the House and the Senate the chance to go to conference and work out the differences among the bills. Similarly, attempts since January by House Chairman TOM COLE and I to reach agreement with our Democratic counterparts regrettably were not successful, despite my

making five good-faith offers. Now that opportunity is gone. A yearlong CR is, by no means, my first choice, but our focus now, given where we are, must be on preventing a government shutdown.

For the most part, this is a straightforward CR that simply continues fiscal year 2024 funding levels. Now, it does include—and this is important—a number of needed anomalies that are aimed at addressing pressing needs.

For example, the CR realigns funding in the appropriations accounts for the Department of Defense to meet current global threats and covers the cost of pay raises for junior enlisted personnel.

It provides increased funding for housing assistance and for what is known as the WIC Program—for Women, Infants, and Children—to maintain support for these vulnerable families.

Within the Department of Homeland Security, the continuing resolution includes targeted increases to support ICE operations, to avoid furloughs of TSA airport screeners, and to fund much needed pay raises for members of our Coast Guard.

It also includes increased funding for the FAA so that more air traffic controllers can be hired to make our Nation's airspace safer.

We can delay no longer. It is essential that the continuing resolution be adopted today in order to prevent a harmful government shutdown. I urge its adoption. Let each and every one of us here commit to working together on the fiscal year 2026 budget so that we can enact appropriations bills prior to the start of the new fiscal year.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. MOODY). The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to complete my remarks before the vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I have made no secret of my opposition to this bill. For weeks, I have been warning about the real dangers of a yearlong CR like the one that has come before us from the House Republicans. But before I talk about those dangers and why I will be voting no on cloture and on final passage, I want my colleagues to hear what I have to say, but I do hope that they will join me in voting no.

I want to talk for a moment about how we did get here because I fear some Members of the Republican leadership may need a history lesson. The fact of the matter is, the only reason we are staring down a shutdown deadline halfway into this fiscal year is that the House Republicans decided to kick the can down the road with a major punt and because they have repeatedly walked away from the table. This is just a historical record. We were all here for it. We saw what happened. Perhaps it is worth ticking through once more because I will admit it can get easy to lose track of all that has happened over the last few months

and just how many times House Republicans have made a deal just to break it in recent years. So I want to give a refresher. It has been a while since my time as a preschool teacher, but I guess school is back in session because I am not going to let anyone get away with ignoring how Republicans forced us to the edge of a shutdown today.

Remember, last year, after a bruising fiscal year 2024 process in which House Republicans made one ridiculous demand after the next and caused one delay after the other, as Appropriations chair, I worked hard alongside my colleagues, including Senator COLLINS, who is here today, within our committee to write and pass serious bipartisan spending bills for this current fiscal year. It was no easy feat. We had fewer resources at our disposal to make use of, and we had even more challenges to address, but we managed to work together—Senator COLLINS and I and our committee members—and we cleared all but one of our bills overwhelmingly in committee, and many of those bills cleared on unanimous votes.

Then, come November, after the election, I was pushing very hard to get our funding bills done and wrapped up by the end of the year. My Democratic colleagues and even many of my Republican colleagues wanted to get that done, but Speaker JOHNSON and Trump chose to kick the can down the road. They chose to. Trump reportedly wanted to make sure his fingerprints were on our spending bills for this fiscal year. The Speaker not only wanted to, of course, please Trump, but he was worried about how a messy funding fight might complicate his path to becoming Speaker again. So the decision was made, and Speaker JOHNSON punted from December to March.

Then we negotiated a bipartisan CR to fund the government through March 14, today. Along with that, we passed disaster relief, and we extended critical laws. We reached a bipartisan-bicameral deal. Then House Republicans walked away and blew that deal up at the last minute. Why? I will tell you—because the richest man in the world sent a bunch of completely inaccurate tweets, and instead of saying, “Do you know what? Actually, Elon, you have no clue what you are talking about. These are programs that help my constituents,” House Republicans said, “Let’s put this guy in charge.” They killed that bipartisan agreement, rolled out an altogether different bill not long thereafter and punted on government funding.

That is what happened, and that is essentially what they have been doing ever since—cheering and clapping as Trump and Elon got basic facts wrong, broke laws, blocked funding that our communities needed, dismantled entire Agencies, fired veterans, shuttered our Social Security offices, and broke government to enrich themselves.

While Trump and Republican leadership were fixating on whether they would pass one bill or two for their

plan to gut healthcare for kids and to pass more tax cuts for billionaires, a fast approaching deadline was on its way to us, the one that is here now.

For the next several months, I have remained at the table, ready to negotiate funding bills. I and my Democratic counterpart in the House, ROSA DELAUNO, never left the table—not once. We made offer after offer as did our Republican counterparts. My top priority has been and continues to be doing what we do, what we do every year—every year—which is passing full-year funding bills with the detailed directives that we include in our spending laws every year. I have wanted to make sure we continue to provide those and make sure that our constituents’ voices are heard—that they are heard in Federal funding—which, I have to say, this CR fails to do.

Instead of working with us in good faith to fund the government in a bipartisan way, Speaker JOHNSON and Republican leadership walked away and started working on a Republican funding bill without an ounce—not an ounce—of Democratic input. I remained at the table. My counterparts on Appropriations and I continued to talk, to keep the ball rolling. By the end of last week, for all intents and purposes, we had an agreement on topline funding, but the call had already been made. JOHNSON was in on it. Trump was in on it. Russ Vought was in on it. JOHNSON decided: Instead of talking with Democrats, it would be easier to have Trump get on the phone and scream and bully House Republicans into submission. He figured, if outright intimidation from Trump was enough to convince every Republican to vote for a budget resolution that will cut Medicaid for seniors and kids, then it might also be enough for them to pass a Republican CR, especially if Trump threatened dissenters with political retribution, which, of course, he did. That is the bill they rolled out on Saturday and passed earlier this week.

Now, as I have laid out in depth, the yearlong CR that House Republicans sent our way hands a blank check to Elon Musk and Donald Trump to decide how our constituents’ taxpayer dollars get spent, all while cutting the funding working people count on each and every day. It is anything but a “clean CR.” What Republicans are pushing here is not a continuing resolution. In this case, “CR” stands for “complete resignation” because what Republicans are doing here is ceding more discretion to two billionaires to decide what does and does not get funded in their States. It is a power grab CR.

Not only that, it does make serious cuts to domestic funding. It leaves our working families in the dust. We are talking about a nearly 50-percent cut to lifesaving medical research and to conditions affecting our servicemembers. It is a giant shortfall in funding for the NIH. It is a massive cut in funding for Army Corps projects and is \$15 billion less for our domestic priorities.

This bill will force Social Security to cut staff and close offices and make it harder for our seniors to get the benefits they have spent their careers paying into the system to earn. It creates a devastating shortfall that risks tens of thousands of Americans losing their housing. So this bill causes real pain for communities across the country.

Let me be clear: This bill empowers Trump and Musk to pick winners and losers. I guarantee you they will not only go after Democrats. Inexplicably, House Republicans are saying: Give Trump all this power or we will shut down government.

Well, let’s be very clear: That is and always has been a false choice. The reality is, there were other options House Republicans could have chosen, but they chose—they chose—to pull out of bipartisan negotiations and send a deeply partisan bill here to the Senate today. Democrats did not have an ounce of input into writing this bill, and now House Republicans expect us to support it? That makes zero sense.

Let me be clear: In my time in Congress, never ever has one party written partisan, full-year appropriations bills for all of government and expected the other party to go along without any input.

To my colleagues here who want to pass individual appropriations bills in a timely manner for the next fiscal year, how are Democrats supposed to trust that those will be good-faith negotiations after we did the hard work of negotiating overwhelmingly bipartisan appropriations bills last year only for us to see this, today, from the Republicans in the House and only for Republicans to now say, “Swallow this partisan House Republican CR or it will be Democrats who are shutting down the government”? That is a false choice and one we cannot accept going forward.

When I cast my vote today, I am representing nearly 8 million people in Washington State, and in this democracy, their voices count for something. So you had better believe I am not handing over my vote in exchange for nothing. The choice is not a government shutdown or passing a bill to write a blank check to Elon Musk. That is not how this works. On Monday, I rolled out a clean 4-week extension to prevent a shutdown and to keep government funded while it gives us the time to hammer out a bipartisan agreement. We could still pass that right here, right now. If any Member has any suggestions on what they want to see in this CR, I am all ears. House Republicans may have already left town, but I am pretty sure they know how to get on a plane. That is their job—show up and vote.

The bottom line is, this bill will mean more pain and chaos for our country. I cannot support it.

Please let’s remember, Republicans control the House, the Senate, and the White House. If you refuse to put forward an offer that includes any Democratic input, you don’t get Democratic

votes. That is on Republicans. If you don't get any input from Democrats, it is a Republican vote. A shutdown is on Republicans.

The American people rightly understand that Republicans have pushed this country towards a shutdown. They do understand that Donald Trump has created a massive economic uncertainty and is putting us on track for a Republican recession with his indiscriminate layoffs, his illegal funding freeze, his incoherent trade war, and now by threatening a Republican shutdown.

Democrats did not write this bill. We did not have any input, but if we had, we sure wouldn't have handed over more of our power to two billionaires. You can bet we would not have cut our domestic investments by billions. Democrats did not write this bill, but if we did, we would have protected our public schools. Democrats did not write this bill, but if we did, we would have put our veterans first, and you can bet we would not have prevented the District of Columbia from spending its own taxpayer dollars and be forced to lay off police and teachers. Democrats did not have any say on this bill, but if we did, we would have protected our public lands and your healthcare and lifesaving cancer research.

So I hope my Democratic and, yes, my Republican colleagues as well will join me in voting no on this bill and swiftly passing a 4-week extension so we can hammer out a better bipartisan solution.

I am voting no because my constituents should have a say in how their tax dollars are spent. I am voting no because Congress—Congress, each one of us, not Elon Musk—should decide which schools or which hospitals get funding. I am voting no, and I hope my colleagues will join me.

Before I close, I want to say to my constituents who are frightened and scared: I understand your fears. Some days, I share them. But your voice matters. Speaking out matters. You elected me to be your voice, and you better believe I will keep fighting for you. So shoulders up. Keep the faith. We stand strong, but we do not stand down. We are going to keep fighting for the America we love.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Mississippi.

Mr. WICKER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 5 minutes prior to the scheduled rollcall votes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. WICKER. Madam President, I have the greatest respect for the previous speaker and also for the distinguished chair of the Appropriations Committee.

If she gets her way this afternoon or later tonight, the government will shut down. We would have to call the House back in. It will be a long period of uncertainty in a shutdown. That is the choice we are faced with.

The Speaker of the House has been faced with a very, very slim margin in the House of Representatives. He has had to do a deal that none of us likes, but he has decided that we have a responsibility to govern, and the better choice is to keep the government open.

The previous speaker has had 6 months to try to negotiate the deal which she says we can do now in 30 days. It is not going to happen.

We are here to make tough choices. Today, Senator COLLINS and I and others will make tough choices. We don't like the choices before us, but that is the way you have to govern.

NOMINATION OF STEPHEN FEINBERG

Mr. WICKER. Let me talk about an easy choice that the Senate will soon have to make, and that is the nomination of Mr. Stephen Feinberg, President Trump's choice to serve as Deputy Secretary of Defense.

Here is the reason it is going to be an easy choice for us in just a few moments. He was reported from the Armed Services Committee by an 18-to-9 vote—a bipartisan overwhelming vote—and he will do a good job.

The Secretary of Defense focuses on policy, on the overall policy. The Deputy Secretary of Defense—the position that Mr. Feinberg will hold if he is confirmed, as I am sure he will be—this person oversees the day-to-day operations of the vast Pentagon by leading its budget process, managing its people, and driving crucial internal reforms. Steve Feinberg is the exact person for this.

Now, under normal circumstances, the Deputy Secretary of Defense requires exemplary skills in management, budgeting, and problem-solving, but today's extraordinary environment requires even more than that—a manager of the highest caliber in that role. So let's look at just two or three items from Steve Feinberg's resume.

He has been founder and cochief executive officer and chief investment officer of Cerberus. He founded and co-founded other Cerberus affiliates and Cerberus funds. He managed separate pools of capital for Gruntal & Company, and he also had high responsibilities in Drexel Burnham Lambert. He knows how to manage huge, billion-dollar operations and to manage people.

He is also a perfect person for this role. He is well-spoken. He is calm. He is understated. He will be largely invisible. But he is the man to help us rebuild the military, reform the way the Pentagon does business, and turn this unaudited Pentagon bureaucracy around.

He will get a resounding bipartisan vote on the floor, I predict, as he did in the committee.

I congratulate the President on this nomination and on the bipartisan vote that we will soon get on a vote that is relatively easy compared to some of the harder votes later on today.

I yield the floor.

VOTE ON FEINBERG NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Feinberg nomination?

Mr. WICKER. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) is necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 59, nays 40, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 126 Ex.]

YEAS—59

Banks	Grassley	Murkowski
Barrasso	Hagerty	Paul
Blackburn	Hawley	Reed
Boozman	Hoeven	Ricketts
Britt	Husted	Risch
Budd	Hyde-Smith	Rounds
Capito	Johnson	Schmitt
Cassidy	Justice	Scott (FL)
Collins	Kaine	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Kennedy	Shaheen
Cotton	Lankford	Sheehy
Cramer	Lee	Slotkin
Crapo	Lummis	Sullivan
Cruz	Marshall	Thune
Curtis	McConnell	Tillis
Daines	McCormick	Tuberville
Ernst	Moody	Warner
Fetterman	Moran	Wicker
Fischer	Moreno	Young
Graham	Mullin	

NAYS—40

Alsobrooks	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Baldwin	Hirono	Sanders
Bennet	Kelly	Schatz
Blumenthal	Kim	Schiff
Blunt Rochester	King	Schumer
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Smith
Coons	Lujan	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Markley	Warnock
Duckworth	Merkley	Warren
Durbin	Murphy	Welch
Galleo	Murray	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Wyden
Hassan	Padilla	
Heinrich	Peters	

NOT VOTING—1

Booker

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 immediately be notified of the Senate's action.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

HALT ALL LETHAL TRAFFICKING OF FENTANYL ACT—Resumed

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume legislative session and resume consideration of S. 331, which the clerk will report.

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.

Pending:

Thune (for Grassley) amendment No. 1237, of a perfecting nature.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on the Judiciary with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Halt All Lethal Trafficking of Fentanyl Act” or the “HALT Fentanyl Act”.

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, alkoxyl, hydroxyl, halo, haloalkyl, amino, or nitro groups.

“(C) By substitution in or on the piperidine ring with alkyl, alkenyl, alkoxyl, 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).”.

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

“(ii) 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)”; and

(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)”; and

(vi) in the matter being stricken by paragraph (6), by striking “303(g)” and inserting “303(h)”; and

(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)”; and

(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. PENALTIES.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 401(b)(1) of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 841(b)(1)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A)(vi), by inserting “or a fentanyl-related substance” after “any analogue of N-phenyl-N-[1-(2-phenylethyl)-4-piperidinyl] propanamide”; and

(2) in subparagraph (B)(vi), by inserting “or a fentanyl-related substance” after “any analogue of N-phenyl-N-[1-(2-phenylethyl)-4-piperidinyl] propanamide”.

(b) **IMPORTATION AND EXPORTATION.**—Section 1010(b) of the Controlled Substances Import and Export Act (21 U.S.C. 960(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)(F), by inserting “or a fentanyl-related substance” after “any analogue of N-phenyl-N-[1-(2-phenylethyl)-4-piperidinyl] propanamide”; and

(2) in paragraph (2)(F), by inserting “or a fentanyl-related substance” after “any analogue of N-phenyl-N-[1-(2-phenylethyl)-4-piperidinyl] propanamide”.

(c) **DEFINITION OF FENTANYL-RELATED SUBSTANCE.**—Section 102 of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 802) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(60) The term ‘fentanyl-related substance’ has the meaning given the term in subsection (e)(2) of schedule I of section 202(c).”.

SEC. 7. 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.

(c) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—Congress agrees with the interpretation of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 801 et seq.) in *United States v. McCray*, 346 F. Supp. 3d 363 (W.D.N.Y. 2018).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority whip.

Mr. BARRASSO. I ask unanimous consent that the order of yesterday be amended so that the committee-reported substitute amendment to S. 331 be agreed to with all other remaining provisions in effect.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Under the previous order, all postclosure time on the bill is expired; amendment No. 1237 is withdrawn; the committee-reported substitute is agreed to; and the clerk will read the bill by title for the third time.

The amendment (No. 1237) was withdrawn.

The committee-reported amendment, in the nature of a substitute, was agreed to.

The bill, as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

VOTE ON S. 331

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 senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 84, nays 16, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 127 Leg.]

YEAS—84

Baldwin	Graham	Mullin
Banks	Grassley	Murkowski
Barrasso	Hagerty	Murray
Bennet	Hassan	Ossoff
Blackburn	Hawley	Paul
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Peters
Boozman	Hickenlooper	Reed
Britt	Hoeven	Ricketts
Budd	Husted	Risch
Cantwell	Hyde-Smith	Rosen
Capito	Johnson	Rounds
Cassidy	Justice	Schatz
Collins	Kaine	Schmitt
Coons	Kelly	Schumer
Cornyn	Kennedy	Scott (FL)
Cortez Masto	Kim	Scott (SC)
Cotton	King	Shaheen
Cramer	Klobuchar	Sheehy
Crapo	Lankford	Slotkin
Cruz	Lee	Smith
Curtis	Lujan	Sullivan
Daines	Lummis	Thune
Durbin	Marshall	Tillis
Ernst	McConnell	Tuberville
Fetterman	McCormick	Warner
Fischer	Moody	Whitehouse
Galego	Moran	Wicker
Gillibrand	Moreno	Young

NAYS—16

Alsobrooks	Merkley	Warnock
Blunt Rochester	Murphy	Warren
Booker	Padilla	Welch
Duckworth	Sanders	Wyden
Hirono	Schiff	
Markey	Van Hollen	

The bill (S. 331), as amended, was passed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. McCORMICK). Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table.

The Senator from North Carolina.

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there be up to 20 minutes of debate under the control of Senator PAUL for debate only.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. At this time?

Mr. COTTON. Yes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Kentucky.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, President Trump has pledged to balance the budget. I want to help him. I want to help him with this task. But to balance the budget requires much less spending than this current bill entails.

Our national debt now exceeds \$36 trillion. That is 124 percent of the size of our economy. That should not be a surprise. We are adding \$2 trillion every year to the debt, this year included.

Critics of excessive Federal spending have rightly argued that we should return spending to prepandemic levels. This is something I could support. The spending bill before us, though, spends \$400 billion more than we were spending before the pandemic. Spending went through the roof during the pandemic, and it never came back down, and the deficits are out of control. In order for this bill to get back to prepandemic levels, it would have to be \$400 billion less. That is something I could support.

Three months ago, when the current continuing resolution was passed at the end of last year, we were told that we just needed to clear the decks. President Trump was going to come in, the Republicans would be in charge, and then everything would be OK. Just wait. Pass it. Pass it along in September. Come March, Republicans will be in charge, and something will happen.

Yet the bill before us doesn't change anything. The bill before us keeps the same Biden spending levels.

We were told with relentless fury that we would fight for the taxpayers come spring, and we were given a bill

that doesn't change. It doesn't change the course of accumulating \$2 trillion in debt every year.

The powers that be, I believe, waved the white flag of surrender when they presented the American people with this bill that fails to make the cuts that are necessary to slow down the accumulation of our debt.

The malpractice is made even worse this time around. Presidents of both parties pay lip service to the idea that the national debt must be addressed. Despite tough talk, deficits and the debt inevitably keep rising. We now have over \$36 trillion in debt.

Unlike past Presidents, though, President Trump created the Department of Government Efficiency—affectionately known as DOGE—to identify wasteful programs and eliminate them. Despite DOGE working around the clock identifying appalling waste of taxpayers' dollars, this bill continues to fund the same programs that are funding the waste and fraud that have been located.

How can that be? If we have located the waste and fraud, why are we not telling them to reduce foreign aid? If the foreign aid budget is full of all kinds of crazy, leftwing advocacy and nonsense, reduce the amount of money you give them.

This bill will give them the same amount of money they got last year. This bill allows foreign aid to continue. It doesn't incorporate any of the DOGE cuts. It doesn't cut waste. This bill embraces the waste. It allows the waste to continue. This bill doesn't respect the taxpayer. It continues to throw their money away.

This bill continues the Biden levels of spending that caused historic inflation, that caused prices to rise, that caused people to be outraged, to vote for a new President. Why in the world would we continue the same spending levels that led to the debt that led to the inflation that is plaguing us?

This malpractice is compounded by the fact that President Trump and DOGE made it easy for Congress to fix. They actually told us where the waste was and where the waste and abuse was and told us how to root it out, how to remove it.

The waste found by DOGE truly shocks the conscience. Taxpayers paid \$25,000 for an LGBT trans opera in Colombia. They spent \$2 million on sex changes in Guatemala. They spent \$1.5 million advancing DEI initiatives in Serbia. They spent \$6 million on tourism in Egypt. They spent \$32,000 for a transgender comic book in Peru.

Some of the USAID's programs have actually gone beyond woke absurdity into pouring money and support to people who are the enemies of the United States. The Agency provided millions of dollars to EcoHealth, which funded the dangerous research in Wuhan which, in all likelihood, created and caused the pandemic.

From this account, also, millions of dollars went to support agriculture in

Afghanistan, including fertilizer for the poppy fields grown by the Taliban.

And yet, even after all that DOGE has uncovered—and I commend them—Congress is still on the verge of passing a bill that fully funds foreign aid. Many in this Chamber think it is wasteful to do all these things, and they say: Well, why should we keep spending money on foreign aid that is paying for sex changes in Guatemala? And yet the funding levels in this bill stay the same. These are the same funding levels for the foreign aid that were occurring under the Biden administration.

Let me say that again and clearly: This bill fully funds the outrageous foreign aid programs that Elon Musk and DOGE have exposed. Something doesn't make sense here.

While Congress seems slow to open its eyes to waste and abuse, Secretary Rubio has acted. He recently said that the United States is canceling 83 percent of the foreign aid contracts. I am for that. In fact, that is what my amendment will do. My amendment will take the contracts—the dollar amount of the contracts—that President Trump and Secretary Rubio have canceled and put them into language so they don't get funded. Why in the world would we not be for getting rid of the funding for the crazy programs we are trying to get rid of? Something doesn't make sense here.

President Trump and his team identified the cuts that need to be made, but it is ultimately Congress, not the Executive, that has the power of the purse. Congress has to act to make the cuts identified by the administration a reality. And on that score, the bill under consideration today is a disappointment. The bill is a disappointment to those who believe that congressional leadership should have used the 3 months since they came into office, since DOGE and Elon Musk have identified this waste—they should have used that waste and incorporated it into the spending bill.

None of the DOGE cuts, none of Elon Musk's suggestions, have been incorporated into the spending bill. The spending bill continues spending at the Biden levels. When everybody wakes up and scratches their head and says, "What happened here?" the spending will lead to \$2 trillion in debt. People will wake up and say: Well, what about all those cuts? What happened? I thought we were cutting out waste and fraud. And come September, the deficit for the year will be \$2 trillion. Because we are not actually cutting the spending. Congress has to do the heavy lifting.

We owe the American people an answer to this question: Exactly how many Republican seats are required in Congress to achieve a majority that will actually fight to lower government spending?

I don't think the taxpayers need to wait for that fight any longer. I am not willing to say: Oh, just wait, young

man. Wait for another day. We will be fixing this 6 months from now.

It never comes. This is the story of this place: Wait until another day. Wait until the sun shines; we will finally cut some spending.

It never comes. Someone must make a stand and fight. To that end, I offer a DOGE cuts 1.0 amendment that would codify the cuts in foreign aid, reducing USAID's budget by 83 percent and aligning with Secretary Rubio's recent decision to eliminate thousands of these programs.

So what I am doing is not inconsistent with the Trump administration; what I am doing is in support of the Trump administration. What I am doing is taking the preliminary cuts that Secretary Rubio has given to foreign aid and making them law.

Why? Because the whole judiciary is opposing the President. They are telling him he can't fire people, that he can't cut spending. He needs Congress to step up and do their job. The people who support the President need to be supporting the President's cuts. They need to be supporting an amendment—DOGE 1.0—that puts those cuts into law.

I am not even talking about codifying all of the cuts. I am only taking a small sliver of them in foreign aid. This is the low-hanging fruit. This is the worst of the worst. This is \$3 million for girl-centric climate change in Brazil. This is \$4.8 million for social media influencers in Ukraine. This is hundreds of thousands of dollars spent sending Ukrainian fashion designers to the Paris fashion show. This is waste—utter and simple waste—and it ought to be cut.

Why would people tell you publicly they are for it and then vote against it? It doesn't seem to make any sense. What my amendment does is put DOGE's findings into action, eliminating much of the funding for an Agency that spent tax dollars on woke entertainment and advocacy. It sets in law the reductions that the Trump administration has made known to be necessary.

I applaud DOGE's work to uncover these many instances of abuse of taxpayer dollars, and it is now Congress's turn to make the cuts stick. If we do not adopt my amendment, then taxpayers will simply continue spending substantial amounts of money to defund components of the government rather than using savings to pay down our mounting debt. In other words, you might cut it and think it is cut one day; but what if the courts say you have to spend it somewhere else? It never comes back. The cuts are never real. The only way the cuts the administration is making will ever be real, will ever be counted, will ever lessen the debt in the country is to vote in Congress. That is what this is about.

It would be the height of hypocrisy for Congress to pay lip service to DOGE's exceptional work, support it on the superficial, and then vote

against it when you have a chance to vote on it.

Continuing to spend at this bill's level will add \$2 trillion in debt. That is a fact. All the newspapers reporting yesterday—it was all over the news: record-setting accumulation of debt.

We have accumulated over a trillion, and we are not halfway through the year. It is a record accumulation of debt. It only stops when people stand up and say: Enough is enough.

The least we can do is make sure that it doesn't include the egregious spending that has come from the foreign aid, the craziness, the sex change operations in Guatemala, trans operas, trans comic books. All of these ludicrous things that no American supports will only go away and will only go away with permanence if we vote for it.

Before us is a chance to enact about \$16 billion worth of DOGE's cuts in foreign aid. These cuts are only real in the long term if they are reflected in congressional action. If we continue to fund the Federal Government at the Biden administration levels, which is what this bill does, then the money from DOGE's hard-found savings will just be spent somewhere else.

I urge all of my colleagues who have praised DOGE's work to match their actions to their words and vote yes on this amendment.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, notwithstanding rule XXII, I ask unanimous consent that Senator WYDEN, Senator SANDERS, and Senator SCOTT be recognized for up to 25 minutes, and that following their remarks, the majority leader be recognized.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 891

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I come to the floor with my colleague from Vermont Senator SANDERS to pass a set of critical improvements to America's healthcare system. This legislation is overwhelmingly bipartisan, fully paid for, and targeted at two objectives every Senator ought to support: improving healthcare for Americans and cracking down on the middlemen who take advantage of the system.

Mr. President, 597 days ago, the Senate Finance Committee passed the most comprehensive legislation in history to address the pharmacy benefit managers' predatory business practices, and it was passed by a vote of 26 to 1. And 493 days ago, the Senate Finance Committee passed another piece of healthcare legislation that improves

mental healthcare for Americans with Medicaid, expands and strengthens telehealth, and more PBM policies, by a vote, again, of 26 to 0. Since that time, negotiations about how to sign these policies into law have been fatally intertwined with the dysfunctional debate over congressional appropriations, as the public can see on full display this week.

These policies are too important to leave behind due to an unrelated disagreement. Community pharmacists are counting on this legislation. Doctors who don't want to see a pay cut are counting on this legislation. Seniors and working families who want better care at a lower cost are counting on this legislation. So the time to act is now.

In December, Democrats and Republicans struck a deal on this bill. I have the press release on my website to prove it. It was introduced in the House and set for passage. But along came Elon Musk and his now familiar wrecking ball. With one tweet, he killed the entire package for reasons that had nothing to do with the bill before the Senate today.

Musk even had the gall to tweet, "What is a 'pharmacy benefit manager'?" less than 2 weeks after he single-handedly killed the bill.

While this unelected billionaire rifles through Americans' private information and earned benefits, claiming to be looking for waste, fraud, and abuse, he doesn't even know about the middlemen who skim billions off the Federal Government.

Since Musk's tweeting adventure, 237 independent pharmacies have closed their doors. That is nearly three small businesses closing every day. Our bill includes critical protections that stop the giant PBMs from bullying even more local pharmacies into the abyss. Every day matters. That is why it is critical to act now.

Now, I would like to yield to the ranking member of the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, Senator SANDERS, so he can explain the important pieces of this bill that are in his committee's jurisdiction that also need to pass as soon as possible.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, let me thank Senator WYDEN for his outstanding work as the former chairman of the Finance Committee and now as the ranking member.

I get around Vermont a bit. I get around the country a bit. And, generally speaking, when I talk to a group of people, I ask them a simple question.

I say: What do you think about the healthcare system? Is it working well or is it broken? Is it dysfunctional?

And, overwhelmingly, the hands go up that the American healthcare system today is broken, it is dysfunctional, and it is cruel. And what people understand is the function of the American healthcare system, today, is

not to provide quality healthcare to all of our people, which, in fact, goes on in every other major country on Earth. It is to make huge profits for the drug companies and the insurance companies.

The current healthcare system is a system in which we spend twice as much per capita on healthcare as do the people of any other nation—an astronomical sum of money. And yet despite all that money, 85 million Americans are uninsured or underinsured, and the cost of healthcare keeps going up every single year. One out of four Americans cannot afford the costs of the drugs that their doctors prescribe. And, unbelievably, it is a system in which 60,000 Americans die each year because they can't get to a doctor on time.

It is a system in which we don't have enough doctors, we don't have enough nurses, we don't have enough dentists, and we don't have enough pharmacists. But the good news is the insurance companies and the drug companies are making huge profits.

The current healthcare system is a system in which our life expectancy is lower than in any other major country, and if you are working class in America, you are going to live 7 years of shorter life than if you are wealthy.

It is a system in which some 500,000 people go bankrupt each year because of medically related debt. It is a system where, in large parts of our country, rural hospitals are being shut down and where people even with decent insurance have to travel hours in order to find a doctor.

As Senator WYDEN indicated, in December, after months and months of difficult negotiations—and I want to congratulate Senator WYDEN, Senator CRAPO, and all of the people involved in those negotiations—we made some progress on this healthcare crisis by coming together on a bipartisan and bicameral agreement on a healthcare package.

That legislation, while more modest than I would have wanted, would have provided \$4.5 billion for community health centers this year and \$4.6 billion next year, up 15 percent from a few years ago.

Community health centers provide primary healthcare to 32 million Americans—working-class, lower income people. They do a phenomenal job, but they are under financial stress.

That legislation would have provided \$350 million a year, over 2 years, for the National Health Service Corps, so we can attract young people to go out and work—young doctors to work in underserved areas. And it would have provided \$300 million a year for teaching health centers.

It would have also lowered the outrageous price of prescription drugs by taking on the greed of pharmacy benefit managers.

It was a bipartisan bill. And just before that bill was going to be passed, Elon Musk, the wealthiest man in the

world, who does not have to worry about whether he and his friends can afford healthcare, he sent out a series of tweets—some of them outrageously dishonest—to kill this legislation, and he succeeded in doing so.

So, today, it is important that we take a step forward and undo the damage that Mr. Musk caused, and the legislation that we are proposing today would, in fact, begin to take us back where we were. It would increase funding for community health centers and do all of the other important work that Senator WYDEN wanted.

We have a healthcare crisis in America today. The CR that we are going to be voting on in a little while will make a bad situation worse. This is an opportunity to tell the American people that we are aware of the healthcare crisis; we are at least trying to do something.

And I would yield back to Senator WYDEN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, very briefly, I want to thank my colleague. We have been working, as we have indicated, for months and months, because Americans, with respect to healthcare, feel like they are getting hit by a wrecking ball here in terms of the costs and inability to get quality care.

So with that, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate Committee on Finance be discharged from further consideration of S. 891 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration; that the Wyden substitute amendment, which is at the desk, be considered and agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table. The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Florida.

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. SANDERS. That is it?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. SANDERS. We have a healthcare crisis—85 million uninsured or underinsured, people dying because they can't afford healthcare. We pay the highest prices in the world for prescription drugs. We have reached a bipartisan conclusion to go forward in a modest way, but it would have some impact in approving healthcare in America, and my Republican colleague objects. That is about it.

Well, I hope the American people are watching.

Mr. WYDEN. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the cloture motion with respect to the motion to proceed to H.R. 1968 be withdrawn and that the motion to proceed to H.R. 1968 be agreed to; further, if cloture is filed on H.R. 1968, the Senate immediately vote on the motion to invoke cloture, and if cloture is invoked, the only amendments in order to H.R. 1968 be the following: Merkley No. 1273, Duckworth No. 1274, Van Hollen No. 1272, and Paul No. 1266; that the Senate vote on adoption of the amendments in the order listed, with 60-affirmative votes required for adoption with the exception of the Paul amendment; that there be 2 minutes for debate, equally divided, prior to each vote; further, that upon disposition of the Paul amendment, all postcloture time be expired, the bill be considered read a third time, and the Senate vote on passage of the bill as amended, if amended, all without further intervening action or debate; further, that following disposition of H.R. 1968, the Senate proceed to immediate consideration of S. 1077; that there be up to 10 minutes for debate on the bill, equally divided between the two leaders or their designees; that upon the use or yielding back of time, the bill be considered read a third time and the Senate vote on passage, with no amendments or motions in order to the bill, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; finally, following disposition of S. 1077, notwithstanding rule XXII, the Senate resume executive session and vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the Phelan nomination; and if cloture is invoked on the Phelan nomination, all postcloture time be expired and the Senate immediately vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the Landau nomination; and if cloture is invoked on the Landau nomination, all postcloture time be expired and the Senate vote on confirmation of the nominations at a time to be determined by the majority leader in consultation with the Democratic leader no earlier than Monday, March 24.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

FULL-YEAR CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS AND EXTENSIONS ACT, 2025

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the clerk will report the bill by title.

The 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.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, before we finish today, I would like to say that soon, the Senate will vote on a bipartisan piece of legislation that will make an important DC funding fix.

This legislation will make sure that we take care of the residents of the District; that we will support law enforcement and firefighters and teachers and city services. The legislation is very good news for the residents of the District of Columbia. I am happy we are passing the bill today.

I thank my colleagues for working quickly to bring this bill to the floor. Once the Senate acts, we urge the House to act quickly.

Government funding expires at midnight tonight, and the vote before us is a Hobson's choice. The CR bill is a bad bill, but as bad as the CR is, I believe that allowing Donald Trump to take even more power via a government shutdown is a far worse option.

A shutdown would allow DOGE to shift into overdrive. It would give Donald Trump and DOGE the keys to the city, the State, and country, and that is a far worse alternative.

I want to remind everyone that it was Republicans who pushed this false shutdown choice. Their inability to govern has led us to this precipice. Our caucus Members have two bad choices. Different Senators will come down on different sides of the question, but that does not mean that any Senate Democrat supports a shutdown.

Whatever the outcome, our caucus will be united in our determination to continue the long-term fight to stop Donald Trump's dangerous war on our democracy and on America's working families.

Now, I want to be clear about what this bill does and does not do. The full-year CR is a law that sets funding levels for the full year. The President and executive branch have a legal and constitutional duty to faithfully execute the CR. The CR does not change the underlying law making the Trump administration's impoundments and mass firings illegal. This is true as a matter of law.

Nothing in the CR changes the Impoundment Control Act, the foundation of Congress's appropriations authority, and the authorization laws that require USAID and other Agencies to exist and to operate the programs as Congress has assigned to them. Nothing changes title 5, governing the civil service, the Administrative Procedure Act, and so on.

One of the reasons I am voting for cloture is for the very reason that these actions are illegal and no new law is needed to declare that.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The 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. 26, H.R. 1968, a bill making further continuing appropriations and other extensions for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025, and for other purposes.

John Thune, Markwayne Mullin, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Tom Cotton, Tim Scott of South Carolina, Pete Ricketts, Shelley Moore Capito, James E. Risch, Joni Ernst, Katie Britt, John Kennedy, Todd Young, Tim Sheehy, Kevin Cramer, Jon A. Husted, John Barrasso, Bernie Moreno.

WAIVING QUORUM CALL

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, for information of all Senators, there will be up to nine rollcall votes. I will ask unanimous consent that all votes following the first vote be 10 minutes in length, and that if Senators will stay in their seats, we should be able to get them done even more quickly than that. Everybody be here after this first vote. These are going to be 10-minute votes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the motion to invoke cloture.

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 Calendar No. 26, H.R. 1968, a bill making further continuing appropriations and other extensions for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025, and for other purposes.

John Thune, Markwayne Mullin, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Tom Cotton, Tim Scott of South Carolina, Pete Ricketts, Shelley Moore Capito, James E. Risch, Joni Ernst, Katie Britt, John Kennedy, Todd Young, Tim Sheehy, Kevin Cramer, Jon A. Husted, John Barrasso, Bernie Moreno.

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 H.R. 1968, a bill making further continuing appropriations and other extensions for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025, and for other purposes, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 62, nays 38, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 128 Leg.]

YEAS—62

Banks	Britt	Collins
Barrasso	Budd	Cornyn
Blackburn	Capito	Cortez Masto
Boozman	Cassidy	Cotton

Cramer	Hyde-Smith	Ricketts
Crapo	Johnson	Risch
Cruz	Justice	Rounds
Curtis	Kennedy	Schatz
Daines	King	Schmitt
Durbin	Lankford	Schumer
Ernst	Lee	Scott (FL)
Fetterman	Lummis	Scott (SC)
Fischer	Marshall	Shaheen
Gillibrand	McConnell	Sheehy
Graham	McCormick	Sullivan
Grassley	Moody	Thune
Hagerty	Moran	Tillis
Hassan	Moreno	Tuberville
Hawley	Mullin	Wicker
Hoeven	Murkowski	Young
Husted	Peters	

NAYS—38

Alsobrooks	Kaine	Rosen
Baldwin	Kelly	Sanders
Bennet	Kim	Schiff
Blumenthal	Klobuchar	Slotkin
Blunt Rochester	Lujan	Smith
Booker	Markey	Van Hollen
Cantwell	Merkley	Warner
Coons	Murphy	Warnock
Duckworth	Murray	Warren
Gallego	Ossoff	Welch
Heinrich	Padilla	Whitehouse
Hickenlooper	Paul	Wyden
Hirono	Reed	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 62, the nays are 38.

Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn having voted in the affirmative, the motion is agreed to.

The majority leader.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, we have already locked in 10-minute votes for the balance of the number of votes, but if people stay here in their seats, we can execute that a lot more quickly.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

AMENDMENT NO. 1273

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I call up my amendment No. 1273 and ask that it be reported by number.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment by number.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Oregon [Mr. MERKLEY] proposes an amendment numbered 1273.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To except the application of certain rescissions)

On page 6, line 11, strike “and 639” and insert “639, and 640”.

On page 7, line 15, strike “and”.

On page 7, line 18, insert “, and except section 530” before the period at the end.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There will now be 2 minutes of debate, equally divided.

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, colleagues, let me keep this very simple. We provided a lot of funding in the Inflation Reduction Act so that those who have very sophisticated finances and very powerful advisers that try to avoid ever paying their taxes don't get away with it, because it is a fundamental fairness all across America.

Ordinary working people have the money taken out of their paychecks every week. Just because people have enormous paychecks and fancy consultants, it shouldn't mean that they get a license to cheat.

And all of that money went to make sure that those upper income folks knew that somebody might be taking a look at their finances.

If this amendment fails, it will increase the deficit by \$46 billion. So I hope all of you who are fiscally responsible and care about fundamental fairness to workers across America will vote for this amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Idaho.

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, this isn't about spending \$46 billion; it is about saving \$20 billion.

The Democrats' partisan supersized IRS funding is something we have been battling over for a couple of years now. It is a textbook example of the type of out-of-control spending that President Trump and Republicans have rightly opposed.

Rather than working together to help the IRS solve its massive taxpayer service and IT shortcomings, the misnamed Inflation Reduction Act went to fund untargeted and heavily handed enforcement improvement.

As I had mentioned at the time, the last thing hard-working Americans need is an IRS funding bloat that disproportionately hurts them.

I urge my colleagues to vote against this amendment to provide the IRS nearly two times its entire annual budget in unaccountable enforcement dollars.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 1273

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question now occurs on the adoption of the amendment.

Mr. MERKLEY. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 47, nays 53, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 129 Leg.]

YEAS—47

Alsobrooks	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Baldwin	Hirono	Sanders
Bennet	Kaine	Schatz
Blumenthal	Kelly	Schiff
Blunt Rochester	Kim	Schumer
Booker	King	Shaheen
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Slotkin
Coons	Lujan	Smith
Cortez Masto	Markey	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Merkley	Warner
Durbin	Murphy	Warnock
Fetterman	Murray	Warren
Gallego	Ossoff	Welch
Gillibrand	Padilla	Whitehouse
Hassan	Peters	Wyden
Heinrich	Reed	

NAYS—53

Banks	Ernst	McConnell
Barrasso	Fischer	McCormick
Blackburn	Graham	Moody
Boozman	Grassley	Moran
Britt	Hagerty	Moreno
Budd	Hawley	Mullin
Capito	Hoeven	Murkowski
Cassidy	Husted	Paul
Collins	Hyde-Smith	Ricketts
Cornyn	Johnson	Risch
Cotton	Justice	Rounds
Cramer	Kennedy	Schmitt
Crapo	Lankford	Scott (FL)
Cruz	Lee	Scott (SC)
Curtis	Lummis	Sheehy
Daines	Marshall	

Sullivan	Tillis	Wicker
Thune	Tuberville	Young

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 47, the nays are 53.

Under the previous order requiring 60 votes for the adoption of this amendment, the amendment is not agreed to.

The amendment (No. 1273) was rejected.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

AMENDMENT NO. 1274

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. President, I call up my amendment No. 1274 and ask that it be reported by number.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment by number.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Illinois [Ms. DUCKWORTH] proposes an amendment numbered 1274.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To make veteran Federal employees who were involuntarily dismissed without cause eligible for reinstatement and to require reports from Executive agencies on the number of veteran employees fired from such agencies)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ REINSTATEMENT ELIGIBILITY FOR VETERAN FEDERAL EMPLOYEES; EXECUTIVE AGENCY REPORTS ON REMOVAL OF VETERANS.

(a) ELIGIBILITY FOR REINSTATEMENT.—Any individual who is a veteran and who was involuntarily removed or otherwise dismissed without cause from a position in the civil service during the period beginning on January 20, 2025, and ending on the date of the enactment of this Act shall be eligible for reinstatement to such position or any other position in the civil service for which the individual is qualified.

(b) REPORTS REQUIRED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 90 days thereafter until January 20, 2029, the head of each Executive agency shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on former employees of such agency who are veterans and were removed or otherwise dismissed from the agency.

(2) ELEMENTS.—Each report required by paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) The total number of former employees of the agency who are veterans and were removed or otherwise dismissed from the agency during the period covered by the report.

(B) The reason for each such removal or dismissal.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives.

(2) CIVIL SERVICE.—The term “civil service” has the meaning given that term in section 2101 of title 5, United States Code.

(3) EXECUTIVE AGENCY.—The term “Executive agency” has the meaning given that term in section 105 of title 5, United States Code.

(4) VETERAN.—The term “veteran” has the meaning given that term in section 101 of title 38, United States Code.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There will now be 2 minutes of debate equally divided.

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. President, what Trump and Musk have done to our veterans in just 8 weeks since Trump has been back in office amounts to a total betrayal. He has already fired more veterans than any other President in modern history—6,000 and counting—for no apparent reason, forcing the bravest people you and I could ever meet to have to worry about how they are going to put food on their family's table next week or keep a roof over their heads next month.

These are folks who did one, two, six, seven tours and then came home and chose to continue serving their Nation by joining Federal service. These are heroes who deserve our utmost gratitude. Instead, Trump and Musk are giving them the middle finger.

Cadet Bone Spurs may like to wrap himself in the flag with one hand, but with the other, he is signing off on the orders that sell out our veterans to line billionaires' pockets, and our warriors deserve better.

That is one reason I am urging my colleagues to vote yes on my Protect Veteran Jobs Act—a simple amendment that would reinstate every veteran who has been fired because of Trump and Musk's betrayal.

If Republicans actually care about our veterans like they claim to on FOX News—

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

Ms. DUCKWORTH.—then they will vote yes on this bill and help give our veterans their jobs back. Otherwise, they are making it clear that they would rather bow down at the altar of Donald Trump than stand up for our heroes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana.

Mr. SHEEHY. Mr. President, where was the Democrat outrage when 8,000 Active-Duty Reserve troops were unceremoniously and with no due process fired out of the military without benefits? Where was the outrage when thousands of first responders and police officers, firefighters, nurses, and doctors lost their employment because they had COVID vaccine hesitancy? There was no outrage, there was no call of betrayal under President Biden when all that happened.

The truth is, this bill is pro-veteran. It adds \$6 billion to our veteran spending. It adds the largest pay increase for our warfighters in a generation. This is a pro-veteran bill.

Let's stop using veterans as political pawns and keep the government funded.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 1274

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question now occurs on the adoption of the amendment.

Ms. DUCKWORTH. 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.

The result was announced—yeas 47, nays 53, as follows:

The result was announced—yeas 47, nays 53, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 130 Leg.]

YEAS—47

Alsobrooks	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Baldwin	Hirono	Sanders
Bennet	Kaine	Schatz
Blumenthal	Kelly	Schiff
Blunt Rochester	Kim	Schumer
Booker	King	Shaheen
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Slotkin
Coons	Lujan	Smith
Cortez Masto	Markey	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Merkley	Warner
Durbin	Murphy	Warnock
Fetterman	Murray	Warren
Gallago	Ossoff	Welch
Gillibrand	Padilla	Whitehouse
Hassan	Peters	Wyden
Heinrich	Reed	

NAYS—53

Banks	Graham	Moreno
Barrasso	Grassley	Mullin
Blackburn	Hagerty	Murkowski
Boozman	Hawley	Paul
Britt	Hooven	Ricketts
Budd	Husted	Risch
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Rounds
Cassidy	Johnson	Schmitt
Collins	Justice	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
Fischer	Moran	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 47, the nays are 53.

Under the previous order requiring 60 votes for the adoption of this amendment, the amendment is not agreed to.

The amendment (No. 1274) was rejected.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

AMENDMENT NO. 1272

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, together with my Maryland and Virginia Senate colleagues, I call up my amendment No. 1272 and ask that it be reported by number.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Maryland [Mr. VAN HOLLEN] proposes an amendment numbered 1272.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To prohibit the use of appropriated amounts by DOGE)

At the appropriate place in division A, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . LIMITATION ON USE OF AMOUNTS FOR DOGE.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, appropriations and funds made available and authority granted pursuant to this Act may not be used by—

(1) the United States DOGE Service, or any successor agency;

(2) the U.S. DOGE Service Temporary Organization, or any successor agency; or

(3) a detailee of an agency described in paragraph (1) or (2) working at any other agency.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, this amendment shuts down the illegal

Musk DOGE operation, which has nothing to do with government efficiency and everything—could I have order, please, Mr. President

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Order.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, this amendment shuts down the illegal Elon Musk operation, which has nothing to do with government efficiency and everything to do with rigging the government for people like Elon Musk and powerful special interests.

That is why they started by firing all the independent inspectors general in the U.S. Government, which just opens the door to more corruption. And they have lied and lied to the American people.

They illegally fired over 200,000 patriotic Federal employees, including 6,000 veterans, and added insult to injury by lying that they were fired for poor performance. That was untrue, and this is why judges are ordering the Trump administration to return them to their jobs.

They gained access illegally to highly sensitive personal information on Americans, and just today we learned—

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. I ask unanimous consent for 10 seconds.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. No objection.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Finally, they also have essentially tried to clear the way—clear the way—for tax cuts for very wealthy Americans.

And I will end with this. They have also lied about their savings.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Senator, your time has expired.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. I say it is time to delete DOGE. Please adopt the amendment.

Thank you, my colleagues.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, since January, DOGE has saved \$115 billion. That amounts to—order, please.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Order.

Ms. ERNST. That amounts to \$714 per taxpayer.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Order.

Ms. ERNST. Some of DOGE's findings include that the Small Business Administration gave out more than \$300 million in loans to thousands of children 11 years and younger; Agencies were paying for tens of thousands of unused software licenses; and the Department of Veterans Affairs was paying \$56,000 to water eight plants for 5 years.

Thanks to DOGE, that contract was canceled. Now the plants will actually be watered for free.

While DOGE keeps delivering more savings every day, Democrats are more upset by the effort to stop wasteful spending than by the misuse of tax dollars.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

Ms. ERNST. As I always say, if you can't find waste in Washington, you are not looking.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

Ms. ERNST. I urge my colleagues to vote no on this amendment. We can't afford the Washington business as usual that gave us \$36 trillion of debt.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

Ms. ERNST. I yield.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Would the Senator yield for a question?

Ms. ERNST. No.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The time has expired. The Senator's time has expired.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 1272

The question now occurs on adoption of the amendment.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 48, nays 52, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 131 Leg.]

YEAS—48

Alsobrooks	Hickenlooper	Reed
Baldwin	Hirono	Rosen
Bennet	Kaine	Sanders
Blumenthal	Kelly	Schatz
Blunt Rochester	Kim	Schiff
Booker	King	Schumer
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Coons	Lujan	Slotkin
Cortez Masto	Markey	Smith
Duckworth	Merkley	Van Hollen
Durbin	Murkowski	Warner
Fetterman	Murphy	Warnock
Gallo	Murray	Warren
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Welch
Hassan	Padilla	Whitehouse
Heinrich	Peters	Wyden

NAYS—52

Banks	Graham	Moreno
Barrasso	Grassley	Mullin
Blackburn	Hagerty	Paul
Boozman	Hawley	Ricketts
Britt	Hoeven	Risch
Budd	Husted	Rounds
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Schmitt
Cassidy	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Collins	Justice	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Kennedy	Sheehy
Cotton	Lankford	Sullivan
Cramer	Lee	Thune
Crapo	Lummis	Tillis
Cruz	Marshall	Tuberville
Curtis	McConnell	Wicker
Daines	McCormick	Young
Ernst	Moran	
Fischer		

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 48, the nays are 52.

Under the previous order requiring 60 votes for the adoption of this amendment, the amendment is not agreed to.

The amendment (No. 1272) was rejected.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kentucky.

AMENDMENT NO. 1266

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, I call up my amendment No. 1266 and ask that it be reported by number.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report. A14MR6.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. PAUL] proposes an amendment numbered 101.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To reduce the amount appropriated for the United States Agency for International Development)

On page 77, between lines 10 and 11, insert the following:

SEC. 11209. (a) Notwithstanding section 1101, the levels for the following accounts in title II of division F of Public Law 118-47 shall be as follows:

(1) "Operating Expenses", \$288,150,000, of which up to \$43,222,500 may remain available until September 30, 2026.

(2) "Capital Investment Fund", \$44,047,000.

(3) "Office of Inspector General", \$14,535,000, of which up to \$2,180,250 may remain available until September 30, 2026.

(b) Notwithstanding section 1101, the levels for the following accounts in title III of division F of Public Law 118-47 shall be as follows:

(1) "Global Health Programs", \$677,526,500.

(2) "Development Assistance", \$668,270,000.

(3) "International Disaster Assistance", \$812,430,000, of which \$127,500,000 is designated by 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.

(4) "Transition Initiatives", \$12,750,000, and up to an additional \$2,550,000 of the funds appropriated to carry out the provisions of part I of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 if the Secretary of State determines that it is important to the national interest of the United States to provide transition assistance in excess of such base amount.

(5) "Complex Crises Fund", \$9,350,000.

(6) "Economic Support Fund", \$661,368,000, of which \$51,000,000 is designated by 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.

(7) "Bureau for Democracy, Human Rights, and Governance", \$23,800,000.

(8) "Assistance for Europe, Eurasia, and Central Asia", \$130,956,780, of which \$52,700,000 is designated by 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.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, I compliment President Trump and DOGE for exposing waste and abuse in foreign aid spending. It boggles the mind to think that some in Congress defend spending \$2 million on sex changes in Guatemala, thousands on an LGBT opera in Colombia, and thousands on a trans comic book in Peru. This is the low-hanging fruit. If Congress can't vote to cut this egregious, crazy, left-wing lunacy, will Congress ever have the courage to tackle entitlements?

Yet there does remain a significant constitutional question as to whether these cuts need a congressional vote to give them permanence. Today, with my amendment, Congress can make these foreign aid cuts the law.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, the Senator's amendment would indiscriminately cut \$16 billion from State and USAID, including lifesaving assistance Secretary Rubio said he wants to maintain for the purchase of food from American farmers, programs to counter the PRC influence, and efforts to ensure American businesses are more competitive overseas.

This amendment would cut funding for the USAID inspector general by 83 percent, making any waste, fraud, or abuse hard to uncover.

And it would gut global health programs like Trump, Rubio, and Musk say they allegedly want to conserve. Not even House Republicans went this far.

This amendment would undermine American workers, American businesses, and our national security. I urge a "no" vote.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 1266

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question now occurs on adoption of the amendment.

Mr. PAUL. 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.

The result was announced—yeas 27, nays 73, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 132 Leg.]

YEAS—27

Banks	Ernst	Marshall
Blackburn	Hagerty	Moody
Britt	Hawley	Moreno
Budd	Husted	Paul
Cornyn	Johnson	Risch
Cotton	Justice	Schmitt
Cruz	Kennedy	Scott (FL)
Curtis	Lee	Sheehy
Daines	Lummis	Tuberville

NAYS—73

Alsobrooks	Heinrich	Ricketts
Baldwin	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Barrasso	Hirono	Rounds
Bennet	Hoeven	Sanders
Blumenthal	Hyde-Smith	Schatz
Blunt Rochester	Kaine	Schiff
Booker	Kelly	Schumer
Boozman	Kim	Scott (SC)
Cantwell	King	Shaheen
Capito	Klobuchar	Slotkin
Cassidy	Lankford	Smith
Collins	Lujan	Sullivan
Coons	Markey	Thune
Cortez Masto	McConnell	Tillis
Cramer	McCormick	Van Hollen
Crapo	Merkley	Warner
Duckworth	Moran	Warnock
Durbin	Mullin	Warren
Fetterman	Murkowski	Welch
Fischer	Murphy	Whitehouse
Gallo	Murray	Wicker
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Wyden
Graham	Padilla	Young
Grassley	Peters	
Hassan	Reed	

The amendment (No. 1266) was rejected.

The bill was ordered to a third reading and was read the third time.

VOTE ON H.R. 1968

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. MURKOWSKI). Under the previous order, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

Mrs. MURRAY. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 54, nays 46, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 133 Leg.]

YEAS—54

Banks	Graham	Moran
Barrasso	Grassley	Moreno
Blackburn	Hagerty	Mullin
Boozman	Hawley	Murkowski
Britt	Hoeben	Ricketts
Budd	Husted	Risch
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Rounds
Cassidy	Johnson	Schmitt
Collins	Justice	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cotton	King	Shaheen
Cramer	Lankford	Sheehy
Crapo	Lee	Sullivan
Cruz	Lummis	Thune
Curtis	Marshall	Tillis
Daines	McConnell	Tuberville
Ernst	McCormick	Wicker
Fischer	Moody	Young

NAYS—46

Alsobrooks	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Baldwin	Hirono	Sanders
Bennet	Kaine	Schatz
Blumenthal	Kelly	Schiff
Blunt Rochester	Kim	Schumer
Booker	Klobuchar	Slotkin
Cantwell	Lujan	Smith
Coons	Markey	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Warner
Duckworth	Murphy	Warnock
Durbin	Murray	Warren
Fetterman	Ossoff	Welch
Gallego	Padilla	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Paul	Wyden
Hassan	Peters	
Heinrich	Reed	

The bill (H.R. 1968) was passed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA LOCAL FUNDS ACT, 2025

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to the consideration of S. 1077, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1077) to approve local funds for the District of Columbia for fiscal year 2025, in accordance with the Fiscal Year 2025 Local Budget Act of 2024, and to establish provisions for the use of such funds.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There will now be up to 10 minutes of debate, equally divided.

The Senator from Maine.

Ms. COLLINS. Madam President, I am pleased to introduce this bill with Senators VAN HOLLEN, MURRAY, ALSOBROOKS, WARNER, and KAINE. It has been endorsed by President Trump and also by the chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, TOM COLE.

This bill would simply fix a mistake in the House CR that prevents the District of Columbia from spending its own tax dollars as part of its budget, which Congress routinely approves. Congress approves the authorization of the expenditure of DC local funds, which are paid for by DC tax revenues.

The first CR that we enacted last year included language to approve the DC's fiscal year 2025 budget, and that language was continued in the second CR. However, the House did not extend this anomaly in the yearlong CR. As a

result, unless this bill is passed, DC would have to operate under its fiscal year 2024 budget for the remainder of 2025, potentially requiring \$1.1 billion in local spending cuts.

Reducing DC's local funding expenditures will not result in a dollar of Federal savings. Since October 1 of 2024, the District has been operating under and spending at its approved level for the fiscal year 2025 budget. According to the CBO, this bill does not have any budgetary cost to the Federal Government. There are no Federal dollars involved. The issue here is just allowing the DC Government to proceed to spend its own tax revenues.

Accordingly, I urge all of my colleagues to support this measure to correct a true inequity.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam President, I want to thank Senator COLLINS for working on an emergency basis to fix this problem in the House bill. She said it well, so I only want to emphasize two points.

One, what the House did does not save the Federal taxpayer one penny—not one penny. What it does is cap what the District of Columbia can spend in using its own money and based on its own decisions. So taxpayers are not saved a dime by what they did nor will they gain by our fix. The people of the District of Columbia should be able to make these decisions, and if they are having to make a budget with \$1 billion less, it will mean fewer resources, fewer firefighters, and less money for schools.

So I want to thank the Senator from Maine for working with us on this. I am pleased to be joined by my colleagues from Virginia and Maryland—Senator WARNER, Senator ALSOBROOKS, and Senator KAINE. We urge its adoption unanimously.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. WARNER. Madam President, I also want to thank my dear friend from Maine. She is moving back up much higher on all of our lists for being willing to step up and help correct this.

You know, we all want what the President wants. The President wants our Nation's Capital to be the safest, cleanest, most welcoming city. DC gets 26 million tourists every year. In 2026, we are going to celebrate 250 years. We want to show off DC and the whole region. If we allow this mistake to take place, DC will lay off cops. It will close schools. It will shut down our trash removal. For those of us in the region who use the Metro, there will be dramatic cutbacks.

Let's correct this mistake. Let's make sure that we show on our 250th anniversary the cleanest, safest city in America. This will be a giant step toward that.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Ms. ALSOBROOKS. Madam President, I, too, want to thank Senators

COLLINS, VAN HOLLEN, WARNER, and KAINE. I am glad we can work together in this bipartisan way to ensure fairness for the residents of Washington, DC.

I rise today to speak for the over 700,000 DC residents who do not have representation in this body. They are our friends and our neighbors. Beyond those who work in DC, Maryland partners with DC on resources like emergency services, police, water, and more. This bipartisan, stand-alone bill ensures that DC tax dollars stay in DC. Again, these funds that have been cut are tax dollars that have literally already been paid by DC residents. All this bill does is to continue to ensure that DC receives what it is owed. So I urge all of my colleagues today to join me in voting yes.

Thank you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. KAINE. Madam President, I can make it fast or slow.

I am joining all of my colleagues to advocate for this bill.

One-third of the Virginia population is a resident of the DC metro area and enjoys this Capital, and 150,000 Virginians come to work in DC every day. They want DC police and services to be well funded. Please support this bill. Thank you.

VOTE ON S.1077

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (S. 1077) was passed, as follows:

S. 1077

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 “District of Columbia Local Funds Act, 2025”.

SEC. 2. DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA LOCAL FUNDS.

Local funds are appropriated for the District of Columbia for the current fiscal year out of the General Fund of the District of Columbia (“General Fund”) for programs and activities set forth in the Fiscal Year 2025 Local Budget Act of 2024 (D.C. Law 25–218) and at rates set forth under such Act, as amended as of the date of enactment of this Act: *Provided*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, except as provided in section 450A of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act (section 1–204.50a, D.C. Official Code), sections 816 and 817 of the Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act, 2009 (secs. 47–369.01 and 47–369.02, D.C. Official Code), and provisions of this Act, the total amount appropriated in this Act for operating expenses for the District of Columbia for fiscal year 2025 by this section shall not exceed the estimates included in the Fiscal Year 2025 Local Budget Act of 2024, as amended as of the date of enactment of this Act or the sum of the total revenues of the District of Columbia for such fiscal year: *Provided further*, That the amount appropriated may be increased by proceeds of one-time transactions, which are expended for emergency or unanticipated operating or capital needs: *Provided further*, That such increases shall be approved by enactment of local District law and shall comply with all reserve requirements contained

in the District of Columbia Home Rule Act: *Provided further*, That the Chief Financial Officer of the District of Columbia shall take such steps as are necessary to assure that the District of Columbia meets these requirements, including the apportioning by the Chief Financial Officer of the appropriations and funds made available to the District during fiscal year 2025, except that the Chief Financial Officer may not reprogram for operating expenses any funds derived from bonds, notes, or other obligations issued for capital projects.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table.

The majority leader.

WAIVING QUORUM CALLS

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum calls with respect to the Phelan and Landau nominations be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume executive session.

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. 36, John Phelan, of Florida, to be Secretary of the Navy.

John Thune, Tim Sheehy, Cynthia M. Lummis, Rick Scott of Florida, Kevin Cramer, Ted Budd, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Lindsey Graham, Markwayne Mullin, Marsha Blackburn, Thom Tillis, Tommy Tuberville, John R. Curtis, Chuck Grassley, James Lankford, John Barrasso, Todd Young.

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 John Phelan, of Florida, to be Secretary of the Navy, 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 Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY).

Mr. SCHUMER. I announce that the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) are necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 64, nays 33, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 134 Ex.]

YEAS—64

Banks	Grassley	Mullin
Barrasso	Hagerty	Murkowski
Blackburn	Hassan	Paul
Boozman	Hawley	Reed
Britt	Hoeven	Ricketts
Budd	Husted	Risch
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Rosen
Collins	Johnson	Rounds
Coons	Justice	Schmitt
Cornyn	Kaine	Scott (FL)
Cortez Masto	Kelly	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Kennedy	Shaheen
Cramer	King	Sheehy
Crapo	Lankford	Sullivan
Cruz	Lee	Thune
Curtis	Lummis	Tillis
Daines	Marshall	Tuberville
Ernst	McConnell	Warner
Fetterman	McCormick	Wicker
Fischer	Moody	Young
Gallego	Moran	
Graham	Moreno	

NAYS—33

Alsobrooks	Hirono	Schatz
Baldwin	Kim	Schiff
Bennet	Klobuchar	Schumer
Blumenthal	Lujan	Slotkin
Blunt Rochester	Markey	Smith
Booker	Merkley	Van Hollen
Cantwell	Murphy	Warnock
Duckworth	Murray	Warren
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Welch
Heinrich	Padilla	Whitehouse
Hickenlooper	Peters	Wyden

NOT VOTING—3

Cassidy	Durbin	Sanders
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The PRESIDING OFFICER. The yeas are 64, the nays are 33.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of John Phelan, of Florida, to be Secretary of the Navy.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, 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. 41, Christopher Landau, of Maryland, to be Deputy Secretary of State.

John Thune, Katie Britt, Bernie Moreno, Mike Rounds, Tom Cotton, Markwayne Mullin, John Barrasso, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Rick Scott of Florida, John Hoeven, Roger Marshall, Thom Tillis, Jim Justice, Tim Sheehy, James Lankford, Joni Ernst, John R. Curtis.

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 Christopher Landau, of Maryland, to be Deputy Secretary of State, 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 Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY).

Mr. SCHUMER. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER), and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), are necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 63, nays 32, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 135 Ex.]

YEAS—63

Banks	Graham	Moran
Barrasso	Grassley	Moreno
Bennet	Hagerty	Mullin
Blackburn	Hassan	Murkowski
Boozman	Hawley	Paul
Britt	Hoeven	Ricketts
Budd	Husted	Risch
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Rosen
Collins	Johnson	Rounds
Coons	Justice	Schmitt
Cornyn	Kaine	Scott (FL)
Cortez Masto	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cotton	King	Shaheen
Cramer	Klobuchar	Sheehy
Crapo	Lankford	Sullivan
Cruz	Lee	Thune
Curtis	Lummis	Tillis
Daines	Marshall	Tuberville
Ernst	McConnell	Warner
Fetterman	McCormick	Wicker
Fischer	Moody	Young

NAYS—32

Alsobrooks	Kim	Schiff
Baldwin	Lujan	Schumer
Blumenthal	Markey	Slotkin
Blunt Rochester	Merkley	Smith
Cantwell	Murphy	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Murray	Warnock
Gallego	Ossoff	Warren
Gillibrand	Padilla	Welch
Heinrich	Peters	Whitehouse
Hirono	Reed	Wyden
Kelly	Schatz	

NOT VOTING—5

Booker	Durbin	Sanders
Cassidy	Hickenlooper	

The motion is agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CRAMER). On this vote, the yeas are 63, the nays are 32.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Christopher Landau, of Maryland, to be Deputy Secretary of State.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican whip.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 38.

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 Michael Kratsios, of South Carolina, to be Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. BARRASSO. 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. 38, Michael Kratsios, of South Carolina, to be Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy.

John Thune, Tim Sheehy, Mike Crapo, Markwayne Mullin, Joni Ernst, David McCormick, Rick Scott of Florida, Bernie Moreno, Mike Rounds, Tommy Tuberville, Katie Britt, Shelley Moore Capito, Jim Justice, John Barrasso, Steve Daines, Jon Husted.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. BARRASSO. 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. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 44.

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 Jayanta Bhattacharya, of California, to be Director of the National Institutes of Health.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. BARRASSO. 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. 44, Jayanta Bhattacharya, of California, to be Director of the National Institutes of Health.

John Thune, Tim Scott of South Carolina, Ashley B. Moody, Ted Budd, Tommy Tuberville, Jim Justice, James Lankford, Steve Daines, Ron Johnson, Josh Hawley, John R. Curtis, Tim Sheehy, Marsha Blackburn, David McCormick, Katie Britt, Todd Young, Cindy Hyde-Smith.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. BARRASSO. 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. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 45.

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 Martin Makary, of Virginia, to be Commissioner of Food and Drugs, Department of Health and Human Services.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. BARRASSO. 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. 45, Martin Makary, of Virginia, to be Commissioner of Food and Drugs, Department of Health and Human Services.

John Thune, Tim Sheehy, Mike Crapo, Markwayne Mullin, Joni Ernst, David McCormick, Rick Scott of Florida, Bernie Moreno, Mike Rounds, Tommy Tuberville, Katie Britt, Shelley Moore Capito, Jim Justice, John Barrasso, Steve Daines, Jon Husted.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. BARRASSO. 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. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 39.

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 James Bishop, of North Carolina, to be Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. BARRASSO. 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. 39, James Bishop, of North Carolina, to be Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

John Thune, Tim Sheehy, Mike Crapo, Markwayne Mullin, Joni Ernst, David McCormick, Rick Scott of Florida, Bernie Moreno, Mike Rounds, Tommy Tuberville, Katie Britt, Shelley Moore Capito, Jim Justice, John Barrasso, Steve Daines, Jon Husted.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. BARRASSO. 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. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 48.

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 Aaron Reitz, of Texas, to be an Assistant Attorney General.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. BARRASSO. 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. 48, Aaron Reitz, of Texas, to be an Assistant Attorney General.

John Thune, Chuck Grassley, James Lankford, Tim Scott of South Carolina, Ashley B. Moody, Ted Budd, Tommy Tuberville, Jim Justice, Steve Daines, Ron Johnson, Josh Hawley, John R. Curtis, Tim Sheehy, Marsha Blackburn, David McCormick, Mike Lee, Rick Scott of Florida.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate resume legislative session and be in a period of morning business for debate

only, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HALT FENTANYL ACT

• Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I voted today against final passage of the HALT Fentanyl Act because of the unintended consequences that could have been corrected by amendments that were blocked by the majority. Our Nation and my State of Maryland are experiencing a crisis with synthetic opioids like fentanyl and related drugs, and I strongly support action to combat drug trafficking and prevent overdoses. We need public health solutions that will help American families and our communities, but instead, the bill before us could lead to harmful unintended consequences, including limiting the potential for less addictive pain therapies and treatments like Naloxone that could prevent and reverse overdose. It also expands mandatory minimums, which increase incarceration but do not reduce crime, and applies them to a broad class of drugs regardless of their actual physiological effects, so that someone could be incarcerated for a decade or more for drugs that are effectively harmless.

My colleagues Senators BOOKER and WARNOCK put forward amendments to correct flaws in the bill, and Senator HASSAN filed an amendment to address substance use disorders and prevent overdose. However, because those amendments were blocked, I could not support passage of this legislation. I hope we can take future action to address the public health opioid and fentanyl crisis and that my colleagues who claim to care about this issue do not slash dollars for Medicaid and substance use disorder treatment programs that are a lifeline to so many American families.●

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING THE GANGPLANK

• Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, as a member and former chairman of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each month I recognize and celebrate the American entrepreneurial spirit by highlighting the success of a small business in my home State of Idaho. Today, I am pleased to honor The Gangplank as the Idaho Small Business of the Month for March 2025.

Newell and Carol Walker opened The Gangplank in 1970 in Idaho Falls. Originally named Arthur Treacher's Fish and Chips, the restaurant was part of a national chain that ceased operation in the early 1980s. After an incident that knocked over the restaurant's marquee sign, the pair renamed the seafood joint to The Gangplank in 1982. When Newell decided to retire in 2002, he sold the businesses to Jeff and Sharlene

Croney, who took over the restaurant with their then-teenage son Jason.

Twenty-three years later, Jason is now co-owner of The Gangplank, bringing new ideas to the business and becoming an integral part of the restaurant's success. In 2022, Jeff and Jason purchased a mobile food truck to serve more southeast Idahoans during the summer months. The Croneys also have big plans to expand The Gangplank's operations in Pocatello, open a second Idaho Falls location, and launch an additional food truck for catering services. This family-owned business hopes a third generation of Croneys carry on The Gangplank legacy for another 55 years and beyond.

The Gangplank has been an established and reputable name in the Idaho Falls community over the last half-century. The restaurant sponsors and donates to local fundraising and charity events, including Boy Scouts of America, Festival of Trees, and the Distinguished Young Women program. The Croneys also support and encourage staff to seek further education at all of Idaho's local colleges and universities.

Congratulations to the Croneys and all of the employees at The Gangplank on their selection as the Idaho Small Business of the Month for March 2025. Thank you for serving Idaho as small business owners and entrepreneurs. You make our great State proud, and I look forward to your continued growth and success.●

TRIBUTE TO ADRIK FISHER

• Mr. ROUNDS. Mr. President, today I recognize Adrik Fisher, an intern in my Washington, DC, office, for all the hard work he has done on behalf of my office and the State of South Dakota. Mr. Fisher is originally from New Underwood, SD. He is currently attending Patrick Henry College, where he studies American politics and policy. Mr. Fisher is a dedicated and diligent individual who has been devoted to getting the most out of his internship experience. He has been a true asset to my office. I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Mr. Fisher for all of the work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO NORA WINCKLER

• Mr. ROUNDS. Mr. President, today I recognize Nora Winckler, an intern in my Washington, DC, office, for all the hard work she has done on behalf of my office and the State of South Dakota. Ms. Winckler is a graduate of Scotland High School in Scotland, SD. She is currently attending Augustana University, where she studies government and international affairs, English, and journalism. Ms. Winckler is a dedicated and diligent individual who has been devoted to getting the most out of her internship experience. She has been a true asset to my office. I extend my

sincere thanks and appreciation to Ms. Winckler for all of the work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.●

RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF PREVENTED

• Mr. SCHMITT. Mr. President, I rise today to honor PreventEd in St. Louis, MO, for 60 years of reducing and preventing the harms of alcohol and other drug use.

As our country reels from the devastating effects of drug and alcohol abuse, our Nation's young people must be educated about the dangers of these addictive substances. Founded on March 16, 1965, PreventEd has been dedicated to education, intervention, and advocacy to reduce the abuse of alcohol and other drugs in eastern Missouri. Their key focus areas include school-based prevention education and early intervention efforts for K-12 programming, peer support provided by certified peer specialists to address substance abuse, assessment and referral services, community coalitions, and advocacy to provide a voice to Missourians who have been impacted by substance misuse with Federal, State, and local government and their agencies. PreventEd realizes that drug and alcohol abuse have effects on individuals and society, and both components must be addressed to substantially mitigate the devastating effects like overdose deaths, chronic health problems, family dysfunction, and involvement in crime.

When I served as Attorney General of Missouri, I sued pharmaceutical giants over their role in the opioid crisis. Missouri received \$458 million as part of that settlement which went to fund drug treatment and prevention programs. Organizations like PreventEd have stood in the gap to ensure that young people are fully aware of drug misuse and have the proper resources for recovery. In their 60 years, they have served over 55,000 young people and more than 200,000 community members in the eastern region of Missouri. I am proud of the work they do and wish them continued success as they persevere in the important work of curbing alcohol and drug abuse in eastern Missouri.●

TRIBUTE TO CARLOS AND JANELLE BERUFF

• Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, I rise to congratulate Carlos and Janelle Beruff of Bradenton, FL, on their 15th wedding anniversary. Over the years, my wife Ann and I have had the privilege of becoming friends with Carlos and Janelle. Together, they have built a beautiful family and are the proud parents of two children. Carlos and Janelle are an example of what it means to be Floridians. Following success in business, they have contributed tremendously to their community. They know the challenges so

many people face, and they are always there to help. It is always wonderful to see them, and I congratulate them on their anniversary with best wishes for many more to come.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Hanley, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations and a withdrawal which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 6:31 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 1968. An act making further continuing appropriations and other extensions for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bill was subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

MEASURES DISCHARGED PETITION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, hereby direct that the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works be discharged from further consideration of S.J. Res. 31, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to "Review of Final Rule Reclassification of Major Sources as Area Sources Under Section 112 of the Clean Air Act," and, further, that the joint resolution be immediately placed upon the Legislative Calendar under General Orders.

Mike Lee, John R. Curtis, Mike Rounds, Joni Ernst, Katie Boyd Britt, Roger F. Wicker, James Lankford, Shelly Moore Capito, James E. Risch, John Kennedy, Kevin Cramer, Markwayne Mullin, Tim Sheehy, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Lindsey Graham, Tommy Tuberville, Ashley Moody, Bernie Moreno, Ron Johnson, Bill Cassidy, Eric Schmitt, Jerry Moran, Cynthia Lummis, Marsha Blackburn, Jon Husted, John Cornyn, Chuck Grassley, John Hoeven, Tom Cotton, Mike Crapo.

MEASURES DISCHARGED

The following joint resolution was discharged from the Committee on Environment and Public Works, by petition, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 802(c), and placed on the calendar:

S.J. Res. 31. Joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of

title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to "Review of Final Rule Reclassification of Major Sources as Area Sources Under Section 112 of the Clean Air Act".

PRIVILEGED NOMINATIONS REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

On request by Senator CHRISTOPHER MURPHY, under the authority of S. Res. 116, 112th Congress, the following nomination was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations: Kenneth Jackson, of Texas, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Inter-American Foundation.

On request by Senator CHRISTOPHER MURPHY, under the authority of S. Res. 116, 112th Congress, the following nomination was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations: Laken Rapiere, of Texas, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the African Development Foundation.

On request by Senator BRIAN SCHATZ, under the authority of S. Res. 116, 112th Congress, the following nomination was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations: Russell Vought, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the African Development Foundation.

On request by Senator BRIAN SCHATZ, under the authority of S. Res. 116, 112th Congress, the following nomination was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations: Russell Vought, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Inter-American Foundation.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Ms. COLLINS, from the Committee on Appropriations:

Special Report entitled "Further Revised Allocation to Subcommittees of Budget Totals for Fiscal Year 2025" (Rept. No. 119-3).

By Mr. CRUZ, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, without amendment:

S. 195. A bill to amend the Visit America Act to promote music tourism, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 119-4).

EXECUTIVE REPORT OF COMMITTEE

The following executive report of a nomination was submitted:

By Mr. CRAPO for the Committee on Finance.

*Michael Faulkender, of Maryland, to be Deputy Secretary of the Treasury.

*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 Ms. ERNST (for herself and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 1070. A bill to establish a National STEM Week to promote American innovation and enhance STEM education pathways for all students, including those in rural, urban, and underserved communities; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mr. CRUZ):

S. 1071. A bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to disinter the remains of Fernando V. Cota from Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery, Texas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. LEE (for himself, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. DAINES, Mr. RISCH, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. JUSTICE, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CRUZ, and Ms. LUMMIS):

S. 1072. A bill to amend the Clean Air Act to eliminate a waiver under that Act, to eliminate an authorization for States to use new motor vehicle emission and new motor vehicle engine emissions standards identical to standards adopted in California, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. THUNE):

S. 1073. A bill to amend the Federal Crop Insurance Act to promote crop insurance support for beginning farmers and ranchers and veteran farmers and ranchers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. BENNET (for himself and Ms. LUMMIS):

S. 1074. A bill to provide for a study on the accessibility of substance use disorder treatment and mental health care providers and services for farmers and ranchers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. ALSOBROOKS (for herself, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WARNER, and Mr. KAINE):

S. 1075. A bill to require the reinstatement of recently terminated probationary Federal employees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. PETERS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. PADILLA, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. MARKEY):

S. 1076. A bill to address the importation and proliferation of machinegun conversion devices; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. ALSOBROOKS, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. WARNER, Mr. KAINE, and Mr. KIM):

S. 1077. A bill to approve local funds for the District of Columbia for fiscal year 2025, in accordance with the Fiscal Year 2025 Local Budget Act of 2024, and to establish provisions for the use of such funds; considered and passed.

By Mr. WICKER (for himself, Ms. BALDWIN, and Mr. BOOZMAN):

S. 1078. A bill to establish the Mississippi River Basin Fishery Commission, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. CRUZ, and Mr. JUSTICE):

S. 1079. A bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to establish a grant program for law enforcement

agencies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 1080. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude from gross income certain federally subsidized loan repayments for dental school faculty; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself and Ms. DUCKWORTH):

S. 1081. A bill to require the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to submit certain reports to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. BARRASSO (for himself, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. WICKER, Ms. LUMMIS, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, and Mr. DAINES):

S. 1082. A bill to apply the Medicaid asset verification program to all applicants for, and recipients of, medical assistance in all States and territories, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BARRASSO (for himself, Mr. DAINES, and Mr. KING):

S. 1083. A bill to provide for certain improvements to the housing and workforce programs of Federal land management agencies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. HOEVEN (for himself and Mr. CRAMER):

S. 1084. A bill to authorize the relinquishment and in lieu selection of land and minerals in the State of North Dakota, to restore land and minerals to Indian Tribes within the State of North Dakota, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. ROUNDS (for himself and Mr. HEINRICH):

S. 1085. A bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to implement a pandemic preparedness and response program using artificial intelligence; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. MOODY:

S. 1086. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to prohibit the admission of Chinese nationals as nonimmigrant students, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. TILLIS):

S. 1087. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to adjust allowable direct and indirect costs for nursing and allied health education programs; 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. PETERS (for himself and Ms. SLOTKIN):

S. Res. 127. A resolution honoring the 108th anniversary of Selfridge Air National Guard Base and the contributions of Selfridge Air National Guard Base to the Armed Forces and national security of the United States; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. BOOKER:

S. Res. 128. A resolution recognizing March 14, 2025, as "Black Midwives Day" and the longstanding and invaluable contributions of

Black midwives to maternal and infant health in the United States; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. HEINRICH (for himself, Mrs. BRITT, Ms. HIRONO, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KING, Mr. REED, Ms. SMITH, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. FETTERMAN):

S. Res. 129. A resolution recognizing and honoring teachers who have earned or maintained National Board Certification; considered and agreed to.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Ms. COLLINS):

S. Res. 130. A resolution honoring the life and legacy of Dr. Mary Edwards Walker; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. BOOZMAN (for himself and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. Res. 131. A resolution designating the third week of March 2025 as "National CACFP Week"; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 177

At the request of Ms. ERNST, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 177, a bill to prohibit Federal funding of Planned Parenthood Federation of America.

S. 186

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. McCORMICK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 186, a bill to prohibit taxpayer funded abortions.

S. 339

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. GALLEGOS) were added as cosponsors of S. 339, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for Medicare coverage of multi-cancer early detection screening tests.

S. 356

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. SCHIFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. 356, a bill to extend the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000.

S. 410

At the request of Mr. WARNOCK, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 410, a bill to amend titles 10 and 38, United States Code, to improve benefits and services for surviving spouses, and for other purposes.

S. 522

At the request of Mr. HAGERTY, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. RICKETTS) 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. 576

At the request of Mr. MARSHALL, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. MORENO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 576, a bill to prohibit the flying, draping, or other display of any flag other than the flag of the United States at

covered public buildings, and for other purposes.

S. 615

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 615, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the excise taxes on taxable chemicals and taxable substances.

S. 646

At the request of Ms. ROSEN, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 646, a bill to prohibit the use of funds to carry out Executive Order 14160.

S. 691

At the request of Mr. YOUNG, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. SLOTKIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 691, a bill to amend the Tariff Act of 1930 to improve the administration of antidumping and countervailing duty laws, and for other purposes.

S. 696

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 696, a bill to provide temporary Ukrainian guest status for eligible aliens, and for other purposes.

S. 903

At the request of Mr. ROUNDS, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 903, a bill to amend the Defense Production Act of 1950 to require the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States to review and prohibit certain transactions relating to agriculture.

S. 914

At the request of Mr. WARNER, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 914, a bill to make veteran Federal employees who were involuntarily dismissed without cause eligible for reinstatement, to require reports from Executive agencies on the number of veteran employees fired from such agencies, and for other purposes.

S. 928

At the request of Mr. BANKS, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. MORENO) was added as a cosponsor of 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.

S. 934

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 934, a bill to make housing more affordable, and for other purposes.

S. 978

At the request of Mrs. MOODY, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 978, a bill to amend the National Housing Act to establish a mortgage insurance program for first responders, and for other purposes.

S. 995

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 995, a bill to repeal a rule of the Environmental Protection Agency with respect to multi-pollutant emissions standards, to amend the Clean Air Act to ensure that tailpipe regulations do not limit the availability of new motor vehicles, and for other purposes.

S. 997

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 997, 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.

S. 1032

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1032, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for concurrent receipt of veterans' disability compensation and retired pay for disability retirees with combat-related disabilities, and for other purposes.

S. 1056

At the request of Mr. ROUNDS, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1056, a bill to establish a home-based telemental health care grant program for purposes of increasing mental health and substance use services in rural medically underserved populations and for individuals in farming, fishing, and forestry occupations.

S. 1064

At the request of Mr. YOUNG, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1064, a bill to preserve open competition and Federal Government neutrality towards the labor relations of Federal Government contractors on Federal and federally funded construction projects, and for other purposes.

S. 1068

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1068, a bill to amend title 5 and title 38, United States Code, to put veteran and military families first and to provide protections for employees, benefits, and programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 1

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 1, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relative to limiting the number of terms that a Member of Congress may serve.

S. CON. RES. 8

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 8, a concurrent resolution supporting the Local Radio Freedom Act.

S. RES. 68

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. KIM) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 68, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the United States shall not deploy United States military assets or personnel to Gaza for purposes of "taking over" Gaza.

AMENDMENT NO. 1267

At the request of Ms. ALSOBROOKS, the names of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. KIM), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL), the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 1267 intended to be proposed to H.R. 1968, a bill making further continuing appropriations and other extensions for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1270

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1270 intended to be proposed to H.R. 1968, a bill making further continuing appropriations and other extensions for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1271

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1271 intended to be proposed to H.R. 1968, a bill making further continuing appropriations and other extensions for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1272

At the request of Mr. VAN HOLLEN, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 1272 proposed to H.R. 1968, a bill making further continuing appropriations and other extensions for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. BARRASSO (for himself, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. WICKER, Ms. LUMMIS, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, and Mr. DAINES):

S. 1082. A bill to apply the Medicaid asset verification program to all appli-

cants for, and recipients of, medical assistance in all States and territories, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 1082

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 "Safeguarding Medicaid Act".

SEC. 2. APPLICATION OF MEDICAID ASSET TEST TO ALL APPLICANTS FOR, AND RECIPIENTS OF, MEDICAL ASSISTANCE IN ALL STATES AND TERRITORIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1940 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396w) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking paragraph (4); and

(2) in subsection (b)(1)(A), by striking "on the basis of being aged, blind, or disabled".

(b) RULES.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall promulgate such rules as are necessary to implement the amendments made by subsection (a).

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), the amendments made by subsection (a) shall take effect on the date that is 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act.

(2) PHASE-IN OF IMPLEMENTATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—During the 1-year period that begins on the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall require States to submit and implement a plan for an electronic integrated asset verification program that meets the requirements of section 1940 of the Social Security Act (as amended by subsection (a)).

(B) IMPLEMENTATION BEFORE EFFECTIVE DATE.—Nothing in this subsection or section 1940 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396w) shall be construed as prohibiting a State from implementing an asset verification program that meets the requirements of such section (as amended by subsection (a)) in advance of the effective date specified under paragraph (1).

(C) DELAY OF EFFECTIVE DATE.—If a State requests a delay of the effective date specified under paragraph (1) on the basis of ongoing economic hardship limitations, as determined by the chief executive officer of the State, the Secretary of Health and Human Services may delay such effective date for up to 365 days.

SEC. 3. MEDICAID RESOURCES ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1902(e)(14)(C) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396a(e)(14)(C)) is amended to read as follows:

"(C) RESOURCES TEST REQUIREMENT.—

"(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in clause (iii), notwithstanding any other provision of this title, in the case of an individual with respect to whom a determination of income eligibility for medical assistance under the State plan or under any waiver of such plan is required, the State shall also apply a resources eligibility test that meets the requirement of clause (ii).

"(ii) REQUIREMENT.—A State resources eligibility test meets the requirement of this clause if the test precludes eligibility for any individual whose resources (as determined under section 1613 for purposes of the supplemental security income program) exceed the maximum amount of resources that an individual may have and obtain benefits under that program, or such amount as the State shall establish.

“(iii) NO EFFECT ON CONTINUOUS ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR PREGNANT AND POSTPARTUM WOMEN OR CHILDREN.—Nothing in this subparagraph shall affect the application of paragraph (6), (12), or (16) of this subsection (relating to continuous eligibility for pregnant and postpartum women and children under the age of 19).”

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 1902(e)(6) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396a(e)(6)) is amended by inserting “or resources” after “income” each place it appears.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on the date that is 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 4. REQUIRING CMS TO TRACK STATE ASSET VERIFICATION OF FEDERAL MEDICAID PROGRAMS.

(a) TRACKING ASSET VERIFICATION PROGRAM SAVINGS.—Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, shall create a Federal tracking system of the savings in Federal expenditures on the Medicaid program under title XIX of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396 et seq.) that are associated with the asset verification program requirement added under section 2(a).

(b) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Beginning with the first year that begins on or after the date of enactment of this Act, each State shall submit to the Secretary, as part of the triennial review required under the Payment Error Rate Measurement program of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, a report, that the Secretary shall make publicly available, on the activities of the State relating to eligibility determinations and renewals conducted during the year for which the report is submitted, and which includes, with respect to such year, the following information:

(A) The number of eligibility renewals initiated, and asset checks conducted, beneficiaries renewed on a total and ex parte basis.

(B) The number of asset checks conducted out of the number of new applications initiated and the number of applicants determined eligible after such checks.

(C) Such other information related to eligibility determinations and renewals during such month, as identified by the Secretary.

(2) APPLICATION TO TERRITORIES.—For purposes of applying the reporting requirements of paragraph (1) to Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, and American Samoa, the Secretary shall promulgate regulations to modify such requirements so that they are similar to the reporting requirements that apply under such paragraph to the 50 States and the District of Columbia but are reasonable given the circumstances of each such territory.

(c) ENFORCEMENT AND CORRECTIVE ACTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may assess a State's compliance with all Federal requirements applicable to eligibility determinations, redeterminations, and Medicaid payment error rate measurement (PERM) reporting requirements, and, if the Secretary determines that a State did not comply with any such requirements during the 180 day period preceding the assessment, the Secretary may require the State to submit and implement a corrective action plan in accordance with paragraph (2).

(2) CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN.—A State that receives a written notice from the Secretary that the Secretary has determined that the State is not in compliance with a requirement described in paragraph (1) shall—

(A) not later than 90 days after receiving such notice, submit a corrective action plan to the Secretary;

(B) not later than 90 days after the date on which such corrective action plan is submitted to the Secretary, receive approval or disapproval for the plan from the Secretary; and

(C) begin implementation of such corrective action plan not later than 90 days after such approval.

By Mr. BARRASSO (for himself, Mr. DAINES, and Mr. KING):

S. 1083. A bill to provide for certain improvements to the housing and workforce programs of Federal land management agencies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 1083

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “Land Manager Housing and Workforce Improvement Act of 2025”.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title.

Sec. 2. Definitions.

TITLE I—EXPANDING AUTHORITY

Sec. 101. Prioritizing National Park Service workforce housing.

Sec. 102. Authorizing the National Park Service to address workforce housing off-park.

Sec. 103. Expanding National Park Service rental options.

Sec. 104. Leveraging National Park Service rental receipts for workforce housing programming.

Sec. 105. Empowering the Forest Service to address workforce housing needs.

TITLE II—EXPANDING PARTNERSHIP CAPACITY

Sec. 201. Engaging partners to address National Park Service workforce housing.

Sec. 202. Encouraging public-private cooperative management.

Sec. 203. Leveraging philanthropic support to address National Park Service workforce housing.

TITLE III—SUPPORTING WORKFORCE

Sec. 301. Supporting the land manager workforce.

Sec. 302. Supporting the seasonal National Park Service workforce.

TITLE IV—REPORTS AND OVERSIGHT

Sec. 401. Quantifying the workforce housing needs of land managers.

Sec. 402. Conducting oversight on the housing programming of land managers.

Sec. 403. Justifying emergency spending.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

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

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

(C) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;

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

(E) the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives; and

(F) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(2) COVERED AGENCIES.—The term “covered agencies” means—

(A) the National Park Service;

(B) the Bureau of Land Management;

(C) the United States Fish and Wildlife Service; and

(D) the Forest Service.

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

TITLE I—EXPANDING AUTHORITY

SEC. 101. PRIORITIZING NATIONAL PARK SERVICE WORKFORCE HOUSING.

Section 103502(a)(3) of title 54, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by inserting “quarters for field employees (as those terms are defined in section 101331),” after “prioritize”; and

(2) by inserting a comma after “facilities”.

SEC. 102. AUTHORIZING THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE TO ADDRESS WORKFORCE HOUSING OFF-PARK.

Section 100901 of title 54, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(i) ACQUISITION OF LAND FOR ADMINISTRATION OF SYSTEM UNITS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—To facilitate the administration of a System unit, the Secretary may acquire, by donation, exchange, or transfer from another Federal agency, not more than 20 acres of land or interests in land, cumulatively, within the vicinity of the System unit boundary for the development, construction, maintenance, or operation of quarters for field employees (as those terms are defined in section 101331) for the System unit.

“(2) MANAGEMENT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—With respect to any land or interest in land acquired by the Secretary under paragraph (1)—

“(i) the land or interest in land shall not—

“(I) be administered as part of the System; or

“(II) be subject to the laws (including regulations) governing the associated System unit; but

“(ii) the Secretary shall—

“(I) have the authority to supervise, manage, and control the land; and

“(II) issue such rules and regulations as the Secretary may determine to be necessary and proper for the use and management of the land.

“(B) AUTHORIZATIONS.—The Secretary may grant exclusive privileges, leases, and permits for the use of land acquired under paragraph (1) and enter into contracts relating to such authorizations as authorized under this title, notwithstanding any restriction on such authorizations to land within a System unit boundary.

“(3) DISPOSAL.—If the Secretary determines that any land or interest in land acquired under paragraph (1) no longer supports the administration of the System unit—

“(A) the Secretary may determine the land and any improvements to the land to be excess property for disposal; and

“(B) the proceeds from the disposal of excess property under subparagraph (A) shall be retained by the Secretary and deposited in the special fund established for the development, construction, maintenance, or operation of quarters for field employees (as so defined) described in section 101338(b), to be expended by the Secretary without further appropriation.”.

SEC. 103. EXPANDING NATIONAL PARK SERVICE RENTAL OPTIONS.

Section 101336 of title 54, United States Code, is amended, in the first sentence, by striking “management, repair, and maintenance of field employee quarters” and inserting “development, construction, maintenance, or operation of quarters for field employees”.

SEC. 104. LEVERAGING NATIONAL PARK SERVICE RENTAL RECEIPTS FOR WORKFORCE HOUSING PROGRAMMING.

Section 101338 of title 54, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(c) **USE OF SPECIAL FUND BY NATIONAL PARK SERVICE.**—Amounts deposited by the Service in the special fund described in subsection (b) and established under section 320 of Public Law 98-473 (5 U.S.C. 5911 note) shall be available for the development, construction, maintenance, or operation of quarters for field employees at System units.”.

SEC. 105. EMPOWERING THE FOREST SERVICE TO ADDRESS WORKFORCE HOUSING NEEDS.

(a) **USE OF FOREST SERVICE STRUCTURES OR IMPROVEMENTS.**—Section 7 of the Act of April 24, 1950 (commonly known as the “Granger-Thye Act”) (64 Stat. 84, chapter 97; 16 U.S.C. 580d), is amended by striking “thirty years as determined by him” and inserting “30 years, or in the case of a permit for workforce housing and related infrastructure, 50 years, as determined to be appropriate by the Secretary of Agriculture”.

(b) **CONVEYANCES OF FOREST SERVICE ADMINISTRATIVE SITES.**—Title V of the Forest Service Facility Realignment and Enhancement Act of 2005 (16 U.S.C. 580d note; Public Law 109-54) is amended—

- (1) in section 503—
- (A) by striking subsection (f); and
- (B) by redesignating subsection (g) as subsection (f); and
- (2) in section 504(c)(2), by striking “by competitive sale” and inserting “by soliciting not fewer than 2 competitive bids”.

TITLE II—EXPANDING PARTNERSHIP CAPACITY**SEC. 201. ENGAGING PARTNERS TO ADDRESS NATIONAL PARK SERVICE WORKFORCE HOUSING.**

Section 101701(a) of title 54, United States Code, is amended—

- (1) in paragraph (1), by inserting, “, including projects for quarters for field employees (as those terms are defined in section 101331),” after “responsibilities of the Secretary”; and
- (2) in paragraph (2)—
- (A) by inserting “, Tribal,” after “State”;
- (B) by inserting “(including an organization that has a philanthropic agreement to fundraise or otherwise generate donations on behalf of, or for the benefit of, the Service)” after “organization”; and
- (C) by inserting “(including an individual that has a philanthropic agreement to fundraise or otherwise generate donations on behalf of, or for the benefit of, the Service)” after “individual”.

SEC. 202. ENCOURAGING PUBLIC-PRIVATE COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT.

Section 101703 of title 54, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“§ 101703. Cooperative management agreements

“(a) **DEFINITION OF STATE.**—In this section, the term ‘State’ means each of the several States, the District of Columbia, and each territory of the United States.

“(b) **COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT AGREEMENTS.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary, in accordance with the laws generally applicable to System units and under such terms and

conditions as the Secretary considers appropriate, may enter into a cooperative management agreement with a State, Indian Tribe, or local government with park land adjacent to a System unit, if the agreement would provide for more effective and efficient management of a System unit and the adjacent non-Federal park land.

“(2) **NO TRANSFER OF ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES.**—The Secretary may not transfer administration responsibilities for any System unit under this subsection.

“(c) **PROVISION OF GOODS AND SERVICES.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary may provide or acquire goods and services on a reimbursable basis as part of a cooperative management agreement entered into under subsection (b).

“(2) **RETENTION OF FUNDS.**—The Secretary may retain and expend any funds received under this section without further appropriation.

“(d) **CO-LOCATION.**—The Secretary and a State, Indian Tribe, or local government may co-locate in offices or facilities owned or leased by either party as part of a cooperative management agreement entered into under subsection (b).

“(e) **EMPLOYEES.**—

“(1) **ASSIGNMENT OF EMPLOYEE.**—The Secretary may arrange an assignment under section 3372 of title 5 of a Federal employee or an employee of a State, Indian Tribe, or local government, as mutually agreed on, for work, on the applicable Federal, State, local, or Tribal park land covered by the cooperative management agreement.

“(2) **EXTENSION OF ASSIGNMENT.**—An assignment under paragraph (1) may be extended if the Secretary and the State, Indian Tribe, or local government determine the extension to be mutually beneficial.”.

SEC. 203. LEVERAGING PHILANTHROPIC SUPPORT TO ADDRESS NATIONAL PARK SERVICE WORKFORCE HOUSING.

Section 103501(c)(3) of title 54, United States Code, is amended by striking “(including funds and fairly valued durable goods and materials)” and inserting “(including any combination of cash, fairly valued services, and durable goods and materials)”.

TITLE III—SUPPORTING WORKFORCE**SEC. 301. SUPPORTING THE LAND MANAGER WORKFORCE.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary or the Secretary of Agriculture, as applicable, may recruit and directly appoint qualified individuals into the competitive service who are certified, in accordance with procedures established by the Secretary or the Secretary of Agriculture, as applicable, as maintaining a permanent and exclusive residence within the vicinity of a site administered by the National Park Service, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, or the Forest Service to a field unit which the individual would report to work into any position at or below grade GS-9 of the General Schedule, WG-15 of the Federal Wage System, or equivalent within the applicable field unit.

(b) **REQUIREMENTS.**—An appointment by the Secretary under subsection (a) shall be considered compliant with all applicable provisions of chapter 33 of title 5, United States Code, if the Secretary ensures that the appointment action—

- (1) is consistent with the merit principles of section 2301 of that title; and
- (2) complies with the public notice requirements of section 3327 of that title.

(c) **TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.**—The authority provided under subsection (a) shall terminate on September 30, 2030.

SEC. 302. SUPPORTING THE SEASONAL NATIONAL PARK SERVICE WORKFORCE.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, for purposes of deter-

mining the noncompetitive rehire eligibility of temporary seasonal employees of the National Park Service—

(1) the Secretary shall establish a definition of what constitutes a major subdivision of the National Park Service; and

(2) any requirement that a position be in the same local commuting area shall not apply.

(b) **TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.**—The authority provided under subsection (a) shall terminate on September 30, 2030.

TITLE IV—REPORTS AND OVERSIGHT**SEC. 401. QUANTIFYING THE WORKFORCE HOUSING NEEDS OF LAND MANAGERS.**

Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary and the Secretary of Agriculture shall jointly submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a needs assessment report that provides, with respect to housing the workforce of covered agencies, as applicable—

(1) an analysis of the unit type and condition of—

(A) housing owned by the covered agencies; and

(B) housing leased by the covered agencies;

(2) an analysis of the employment status of the occupants of the housing analyzed under paragraph (1), including—

(A) whether the occupants are—

(i) members of the permanent workforce; or

(ii) members of the seasonal workforce; and

(B) which positions identified under subparagraph (A) required housing provided by the applicable covered agency as a condition of employment with the covered agency; and

(3) an analysis of the private housing markets within the vicinity of a covered agency field unit, including—

(A) the availability and affordability of housing for sale or lease; and

(B) the impact of vacation rental services on—

(i) the cost of living; and

(ii) the available supply of housing.

SEC. 402. CONDUCTING OVERSIGHT ON THE HOUSING PROGRAMMING OF LAND MANAGERS.

(a) **REPORT TO CONGRESS.**—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report that—

(1) assesses, in consultation with the National Housing Council described in Office of Management and Budget Circular A-45, the effect of Office of Management and Budget Circular A-45R on the housing of the workforce of covered agencies;

(2) assesses the effect of Office of Management and Budget Circular A-11 on the housing of the workforce of covered agencies;

(3) assesses the effect of department-level guidance on the housing of the workforce of covered agencies;

(4) assesses the effect of agency-level guidance on the housing of the workforce of covered agencies; and

(5) identifies suggested administrative actions and legislative proposals to reform the guidance assessed under paragraphs (1) through (4), including—

(A) improvements to tenant experience;

(B) improvements to workforce housing supply, including—

(i) housing managed by the covered agencies; and

(ii) leased private market housing;

(C) improvements to financing options;

(D) improvements to public-private partnerships;

(E) improvements to philanthropic engagement; and

(F) improvements to commuting times to report stations, including—

(i) available housing in the gateway communities;

(ii) available housing in the nearest established community (as defined in Office of Management and Budget Circular A-45); and

(iii) differences between normal commuting conditions and peak-commute traffic conditions, including considerations for—

(I) road quality and condition;

(II) availability of public transportation;

(III) winter driving; and

(IV) visitor traffic.

(b) IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later than 1 year after the date on which the report is submitted under subsection (a), the heads of the covered agencies shall carry out the administrative actions identified under paragraph (5) of that subsection.

SEC. 403. JUSTIFYING EMERGENCY SPENDING.

Section 5 of the Act of August 3, 1956 (70 Stat. 1033, chapter 950; 7 U.S.C. 2228), is amended—

(1) by striking the section designation and all that follows through “The Department” and inserting the following:

“SEC. 5. EMERGENCY SUBSISTENCE FOR EMPLOYEES.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Department”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(b) REPORT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (3), not later than 30 days after the date on which the Secretary of Agriculture furnishes subsistence to employees under subsection (a), the Secretary of Agriculture shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress (as defined in section 2 of the Land Manager Housing and Workforce Improvement Act of 2025) a report providing—

“(A) 1 or more justifications for the use of the authority;

“(B) the number of employees that were furnished subsistence;

“(C) the estimated cost of furnishing subsistence; and

“(D) the expected duration for which subsistence is to be provided.

“(2) OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET.—The information for a report required under paragraph (1) shall be produced in coordination with, and approved by, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

“(3) EXCEPTION.—A report under paragraph (1) shall not be required in the case of an emergency resulting from a natural disaster, act of terrorism, or other man-made disaster.”.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 127—HONORING THE 108TH ANNIVERSARY OF SELFRIDGE AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE AND THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF SELFRIDGE AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE TO THE ARMED FORCES AND NATIONAL SECURITY OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. PETERS (for himself and Ms. SLOTKIN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services:

S. RES. 127

Whereas Selfridge Air National Guard Base is named after Army 1st Lieutenant Thomas E. Selfridge, the first aerial military casualty during a demonstration flight with Orville Wright in 1908;

Whereas the Army commissioned Selfridge Field in Harrison Township, Michigan, on

July 1, 1917, and it is one of the oldest military airfields in the United States still in use;

Whereas the 332d Fighter Group of the famed Tuskegee Airmen, an all-African-American unit, moved to Selfridge Field on March 29, 1943, and Colonel Benjamin O. Davis became the first African-American commander on October 8, 1943;

Whereas, on July 1, 1971, Selfridge Field was transferred to the Michigan Air National Guard, becoming the first major Air Force installation under the jurisdiction of the Michigan Air National Guard;

Whereas, on April 1, 1996, the 127th Wing of the Michigan Air National Guard was established at Selfridge Air National Guard Base;

Whereas, after the terrorist attacks on the United States on September 11, 2001, Selfridge Air National Guard Base became a key center for security operations to protect and secure the northern border of the United States;

Whereas the 127th Wing of the Michigan Air National Guard was the 2016 recipient of the Carl A. Spaatz Award, a prestigious award given to the best flying organization in the Air National Guard, and was awarded the Meritorious Unit Award in the same year for “outstanding devotion and exceptional performance”;

Whereas opportunities for investment in aerospace, as well as more fighter missions, will keep Selfridge Air National Guard Base successful and will contribute to a dominant Air Force and to a strong national defense;

Whereas annual joint service and international Northern Strike exercises, combined with the critical manufacturing base of the “Arsenal of Democracy”, position the State of Michigan as an invaluable cornerstone of national defense and aerospace;

Whereas the State of Michigan is home to the “Arsenal of Democracy” along with the United States Army Tank-automotive and Armaments Command, the United States Army DEVCOM Ground Vehicle Systems Center, and Selfridge Air National Guard Base;

Whereas Selfridge Air National Guard Base finds itself surrounded by premier institutions of higher education and with ample space and resources to become a hub of defense and aerospace research and innovation;

Whereas the resolute support of residents of Macomb County, Michigan, and elected officials of the State of Michigan has resulted in continued investment and resources from the Federal Government for Selfridge Air National Guard Base and the defense industry in the State of Michigan;

Whereas Selfridge Air National Guard Base is a source of community pride and enjoys unparalleled community support;

Whereas Selfridge Air National Guard Base generates hundreds of millions of dollars to the surrounding cities and townships of the State of Michigan and supports over 4,500 jobs;

Whereas Selfridge Air National Guard Base is a joint military installation and home to many national security assets of the United States, including assets of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard;

Whereas, on January 12, 2024, Selfridge Air National Guard Base was selected by the United States Air Force for a beddown of 12 KC-46A Pegasus tanker aircraft; and

Whereas Selfridge Air National Guard Base provides a strategic location for northern border security and homeland defense in response to any threats coming from the north through Canada and the Great Lakes region: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) honors Selfridge Air National Guard Base in Harrison Township, Michigan, on its 108th anniversary;

(2) commends the thousands of men and women who have worked and trained at Selfridge Air National Guard Base;

(3) reinforces the commitment of the Armed Forces to Selfridge Air National Guard Base as a facility that is key to the national security of United States;

(4) encourages continued cooperation and dialogue with the Department of Defense in support of Selfridge Air National Guard Base; and

(5) acknowledges the ongoing investments of the State of Michigan in its defense assets and workforce and continued contributions to the defense of the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 128—RECOGNIZING MARCH 14, 2025, AS “BLACK MIDWIVES DAY” AND THE LONGSTANDING AND INVALUABLE CONTRIBUTIONS OF BLACK MIDWIVES TO MATERNAL AND INFANT HEALTH IN THE UNITED STATES

Mr. BOOKER submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 128

Whereas recognizing March 14, 2025, as “Black Midwives Day” underscores the importance of midwifery in helping to achieve better maternal health outcomes by addressing fundamental gaps in access to high-quality care and multiple aspects of well-being;

Whereas the Black Midwives Day campaign, founded and led by the National Black Midwives Alliance in 2023, is a day of awareness, activism, education, and community building;

Whereas March 14, 2025, is intended to increase attention for the state of Black maternal health in the United States, the root causes of poor maternal health outcomes, and for community-driven policy, program, and care solutions;

Whereas the United States is experiencing a maternity care desert crisis in which 2,200,000 women of childbearing age live in maternity care deserts where they have no hospital or birth center offering maternity care, and no obstetric providers;

Whereas maternity care deserts lead to higher risks of maternal morbidity and mortality as most complications occur in the postpartum period when birthing people are far away from their providers;

Whereas midwife-led care has been shown to result in cost savings, reduced medical interventions, lower cesarean rates, decreased preterm births, and improved health outcomes for both mothers and infants;

Whereas midwives provide essential maternal healthcare services across diverse settings, including homes, communities, hospitals, birth centers, clinics, and health units, ensuring accessibility and continuity of care;

Whereas increasing the number of Black midwives in the workforce is critical to addressing maternal health disparities, as Black midwives offer culturally competent care that builds trust, enhances maternal satisfaction, and improves health outcomes for Black mothers and their infants;

Whereas incorporating midwives fully into the United States maternity care system would reduce maternal health disparities and address the maternity care desert crisis;

Whereas, despite the medicalization of childbirth in the United States, the maternal mortality rates in the United States are among the highest in the developed world, increasing rapidly, and disproportionately higher among Black birthing people;

Whereas Black birthing people in the United States suffer from life threatening pregnancy complications, known as “maternal morbidities”, twice as often as White birthing people;

Whereas deaths from maternal morbidities have devastating effects on Black children and families, and the vast majority of maternal morbidities are entirely preventable through assertive efforts to ensure that Black birthing people have access to information, services, and supports to make their own health care decisions, particularly around pregnancy and childbearing;

Whereas according to the 2023 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Report, the maternal mortality rate for Black women in the United States has continuously increased to 50.3 deaths per 100,000 live births, compared to a decreased rate observed for—

(1) White women, with a rate of 14.5 deaths per 100,000 live births;

(2) Hispanic women, with a rate of 12.4 deaths per 100,000 live births; and

(3) Asian women, with a rate of 10.8 deaths per 100,000 live births;

Whereas the high rates of maternal mortality among Black birthing people span across income levels, education levels, and socioeconomic statuses;

Whereas structural racism, gender oppression, and the social determinants of health inequities experienced by Black birthing people in the United States significantly contribute to the disproportionately high rates of maternal mortality and morbidity among Black birthing people;

Whereas Black birthing people are more likely to report experiences of disrespect, abuse, and neglect when birthing in facility-based settings as compared to White people;

Whereas Black families benefit from access to Black midwives to receive culturally sensitive and congruent care established through trust and respect, backed with the wisdom of time-honored techniques and best practices;

Whereas the work and contributions of past and present midwives who have ushered in new life have done so despite a history fraught with persecution, enslavement, violence, racism, and the systematic erasure of traditional and lay Black midwives throughout the 20th century;

Whereas the decimation of midwifery across the southern United States reduced the numbers of Black midwives from thousands to dozens in a 50-year period from the 1920s to the 1970s, leaving many communities without care providers;

Whereas some States have criminalized and suppressed direct-entry midwives, despite rising maternal mortality rates across the United States;

Whereas the criminalization and overregulation of midwifery disproportionately impacts Black midwives and birthing families, exacerbating maternal health disparities and reducing access to culturally competent care;

Whereas the resurgence of Black midwifery is a testament to the resilience, resistance, and determination of spirit in the preservation of healing modalities that are practiced all over the world;

Whereas the focus on holistic care, which involves caring for the whole person, family, and community, is what makes a difference in midwifery;

Whereas midwifery honors the right to bodily autonomy of the birthing person and can be facilitated at home, in a birth center, or hospital, and works in tandem with doulas, community health workers, obstetricians, pediatricians, and other maternal, reproductive, and perinatal health care providers;

Whereas the Midwifery Model of Care has been proven to have better pregnancy outcomes through preventing infant mortality and morbidity, lowering preterm births, reducing medical interventions, and providing the birthing person continuous support;

Whereas, in 2022, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (referred to in this preamble as “CERD”) of the United Nations expressed concerns regarding the impact of systemic racism and intersecting factors on access to comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services for women, and the limited availability of culturally sensitive and respectful maternal health care, particularly for those with low incomes, rural residents, individuals of African descent, and indigenous communities;

Whereas CERD recommended that the United States further develop policies and programs to eliminate racial and ethnic disparities in the field of sexual and reproductive health and rights, while integrating an intersectional and culturally respectful approach in order to reduce the high rates of maternal mortality and morbidity affecting racial and ethnic minorities, including through midwifery care;

Whereas, in 2023, the Human Rights Committee of the United Nations expressed similar concerns as CERD and further recommended that the United States take measures to remove restrictive and discriminatory legal and practice barriers to midwifery care, including those affecting Black and indigenous peoples;

Whereas a fair distribution of resources, especially with regard to reproductive health care services, is critical to closing the racial disparity gap in maternal health outcomes;

Whereas an investment must be made in robust, quality, and comprehensive health care for Black birthing people, with policies that support and promote affordable and holistic maternal health care that is free from gender and racial discrimination;

Whereas it is fitting and proper on Black Midwives Day to recognize the tremendous impact of the human rights, reproductive justice, and birth justice frameworks have on protecting and advancing the rights of Black birthing people;

Whereas Black Midwives Day is an opportunity to acknowledge the fight to end maternal mortality locally and globally;

Whereas maternal health is intractably linked to infant health, and the United States infant mortality rate rose 3 percent from a rate of 5.44 infant deaths per 1,000 live births in 2021 to 5.60 infant deaths per 1,000 live births in 2022, the largest increase in the infant mortality rate in 2 decades; and

Whereas Congress must mitigate the effects of systemic and structural racism to ensure that all Black people have access to midwives, doulas, and other community-based, culturally matched perinatal health providers: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes March 14, 2025, as “Black Midwives Day”;

(2) encourages the Federal Government and State and local governments to take proactive measures to address racial disparities in maternal health outcomes by supporting initiatives aimed at diversifying the perinatal workforce, increasing access to culturally congruent maternal health care;

(3) commits to collaborating with relevant stakeholders to develop and enact policy solutions that promote health equity, address systemic racism, and support the advancement of Black midwifery;

(4) calls for—

(A) increased funding for education, training, and access to Black preceptors;

(B) removing barriers and restrictions to Black preceptors;

(C) providing financial pathways to support students and preceptors;

(D) mentorship programs that focus on promoting and sustaining Black midwifery; and

(E) removing barriers related to accreditation by recognizing midwives across all training pathways;

(5) encourages the Federal Government and State governments to authorize the autonomous practice of all midwives to the full extent of their training;

(6) promotes the authorization or reauthorization of funding for TRICARE and Medicaid coverage of maternity care provided by midwives of all training pathways;

(7) encourages the Federal Government and State and local governments to take active steps to destigmatize and decriminalize midwifery pathways in the setting of choice of the pregnant person, including their homes, birth centers, clinics, or health units; and

(8) supports and recognizes the longstanding and invaluable contributions of Black midwives to maternal and infant health in the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 129—RECOGNIZING AND HONORING TEACHERS WHO HAVE EARNED OR MAINTAINED NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFICATION

Mr. HEINRICH (for himself, Mrs. BRITT, Ms. HIRONO, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KING, Mr. REED, Ms. SMITH, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. FETTERMAN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 129

Whereas National Board Certification is based on rigorous standards developed by teachers for teachers to demonstrate the ability of teachers to advance student learning and achievement;

Whereas research shows that students taught by National Board Certified teachers learn more than their peers;

Whereas National Board Certified teachers often positively amplify their expertise by serving in leadership roles as teacher mentors, principals, administrators, and district leaders;

Whereas National Board Certified teachers rank National Board Certification as their most important ongoing formal education, above graduate-level coursework and other training programs;

Whereas National Board Certified teachers are among the thousands of educators around the United States who play a critical role in addressing the learning loss incurred during the COVID-19 pandemic;

Whereas 29 States provide salary incentives for National Board Certified teachers, including 13 States that prioritize incentives in high-needs schools;

Whereas, in 2024, 4,355 teachers earned their National Board Certification for the first time and 4,884 teachers successfully maintained their certification, benefitting thousands of students across the country; and

Whereas, as of March 2025 there are a total of 141,464 teachers who have achieved National Board Certification: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) honors the teachers who earned or maintained National Board Certification as of March 2025;

(2) recognizes the importance and contributions of National Board Certified teachers to student learning and achievement; and

(3) encourages educators, administrators, school districts, and States to—

(A) promote increasing the number of new National Board Certified teachers; and

(B) provide the necessary incentives and support to candidates for National Board Certification.

SENATE RESOLUTION 130—HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF DR. MARY EDWARDS WALKER

Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Ms. COLLINS) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 130

Whereas, on November 26, 1832, Dr. Mary Edwards Walker (referred to in this preamble as “Dr. Walker”) was born in the town of Oswego, New York;

Whereas, at the start of the Civil War, Dr. Walker decided to serve as an unpaid volunteer surgeon at the United States Patent Office Hospital in Washington, DC, as she was not allowed to serve in the Army as a medical officer because she was a woman;

Whereas, in 1862, Dr. Walker moved to the Commonwealth of Virginia and started treating wounded soldiers near the front lines at Fredericksburg and Chattanooga, Tennessee;

Whereas, during her work as a surgeon in the war, Dr. Walker often crossed battle lines to care for soldiers and civilians;

Whereas, in September 1864, Dr. Walker was contracted as the assistant surgeon of the Ohio 52nd Infantry, becoming the first female surgeon in the Army;

Whereas Dr. Walker served at the Louisville Women's Prison Hospital and at an orphan asylum in Clarksville, Tennessee;

Whereas, after the conclusion of the Civil War in 1865, Dr. Walker was awarded the Medal of Honor for Meritorious Service by President Andrew Johnson; and

Whereas Dr. Walker continued to advocate for women's rights, including promoting dress reform and pushing for women's suffrage, believing strongly in the power of self-determination and equality between men and women: Now, therefore be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) honors the life and legacy of Dr. Mary Edwards Walker, recognizing her as a trailblazer in medicine, a champion for women's rights, and a true United States hero who exemplified the ideals of service, courage, and resilience; and

(2) commits to ensuring the story of Dr. Mary Edwards Walker is remembered and celebrated for generations to come, inspiring others to follow in her footsteps in pursuit of justice and equality.

SENATE RESOLUTION 131—DESIGNATING THE THIRD WEEK OF MARCH 2025 AS “NATIONAL CACFP WEEK”

Mr. BOOZMAN (for himself and Ms. KLOBUCHAR) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 131

Whereas the third week of March is annually recognized as “National CACFP Week” to raise awareness of the Child and Adult Care Food Program (referred to in this preamble as the “CACFP”) of the Department of Agriculture;

Whereas the Department of Agriculture has reaffirmed—

(1) the vital role positive nutrition habits play in the healthy growth of children in the United States; and

(2) the importance of nutrition education for the most vulnerable and youngest children, as well as adults, through centers and homes throughout the United States;

Whereas, in 2024, the CACFP provided daily meals and snacks to more than 4,500,000 children in child care centers, family day care homes, emergency shelters, and after-school programs, and more than 115,000 adults in adult day care, providing almost 1,700,000,000 meals and snacks in total;

Whereas the CACFP not only provides nutritious meals and education but also increases the overall quality of child care in general, especially for children in low-income areas;

Whereas the innovative approach to oversight of the CACFP, which pairs child care, adult day care, and after-school sites with a non-profit sponsoring organization or a State agency, highlights a unique public-private partnership that supports working families and small businesses;

Whereas, although child care can be expensive in many locations throughout the United States, the CACFP increases the effectiveness and viability of child and adult care small businesses for many providers, especially in rural areas; and

Whereas an increasing number of studies demonstrate that access to the CACFP can measurably and positively impact the cognitive, social, emotional, and physical health and development of children, leading to more favorable outcomes, such as—

(1) a decreased likelihood of being hospitalized;

(2) an increased likelihood of healthy weight gain; and

(3) an increased likelihood of a more varied diet: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week beginning on March 16, 2025, as “National CACFP Week”; and

(2) recognizes the role of the Child and Adult Care Food Program in improving the health of the most vulnerable children and adults in child care centers, family day care homes, emergency shelters, adult day care facilities, and after-school care in the United States by providing nutritious meals and snacks.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 1273. Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. SCHATZ) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 1968, making further continuing appropriations and other extensions for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025, and for other purposes.

SA 1274. Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself, Mr. KIM, Mr. KAINE, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. KELLY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. GALLEGO, Ms. ROSEN, and Mr. WARNER) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 1968, supra.

SA 1275. Mr. REED submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1968, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1276. Mr. BLUMENTHAL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1968, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1277. Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself and Ms. ROSEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1968, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1278. Mrs. SHAHEEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her

to the bill H.R. 1968, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1279. Ms. ALSOBROOKS (for herself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 1968, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1280. Ms. ALSOBROOKS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 1968, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1281. Mr. WARNER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1968, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1282. Ms. CORTEZ MASTO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 1968, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1283. Ms. CORTEZ MASTO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 1968, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1284. Mrs. SHAHEEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 1968, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1285. Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1968, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1286. Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. KING, Mr. KAINE, Ms. HIRONO, and Mr. SCHATZ) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 1966, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 620 East Pecan Boulevard in McAllen, Texas, as the “Agent Raul H. Gonzalez Jr. Memorial Post Office Building”; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1287. Mr. BOOKER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1968, making further continuing appropriations and other extensions for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1288. Ms. ERNST submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1272 proposed by Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself, Ms. ALSOBROOKS, and Mr. KAINE) to the bill H.R. 1968, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 1273. Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. SCHATZ) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 1968, making further continuing appropriations and other extensions for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025, and for other purposes; as follows:

On page 6, line 11, strike “and 639” and insert “639, and 640”.

On page 7, line 15, strike “and”.

On page 7, line 18, insert “, and except section 530” before the period at the end.

SA 1274. Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself, Mr. KIM, Mr. KAINE, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. KELLY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. GALLEGO, Ms. ROSEN, and Mr. WARNER) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 1968, making further continuing appropriations and other extensions for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025, and for other purposes; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ REINSTATEMENT ELIGIBILITY FOR VETERAN FEDERAL EMPLOYEES; EXECUTIVE AGENCY REPORTS ON REMOVAL OF VETERANS.

(a) **ELIGIBILITY FOR REINSTATEMENT.**—Any individual who is a veteran and who was involuntarily removed or otherwise dismissed without cause from a position in the civil service during the period beginning on January 20, 2025, and ending on the date of the enactment of this Act shall be eligible for reinstatement to such position or any other position in the civil service for which the individual is qualified.

(b) **REPORTS REQUIRED.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 90 days thereafter until January 20, 2029, the head of each Executive agency shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on former employees of such agency who are veterans and were removed or otherwise dismissed from the agency.

(2) **ELEMENTS.**—Each report required by paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) The total number of former employees of the agency who are veterans and were removed or otherwise dismissed from the agency during the period covered by the report.

(B) The reason for each such removal or dismissal.

(c) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.**—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the House of Representatives.

(2) **CIVIL SERVICE.**—The term “civil service” has the meaning given that term in section 2101 of title 5, United States Code.

(3) **EXECUTIVE AGENCY.**—The term “Executive agency” has the meaning given that term in section 105 of title 5, United States Code.

(4) **VETERAN.**—The term “veteran” has the meaning given that term in section 101 of title 38, United States Code.

SA 1275. Mr. REED submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1968, making further continuing appropriations and other extensions for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ EXEMPTING SOCIAL SECURITY, MEDICARE, MEDICAID, AND THE CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM FROM THE JURISDICTION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY (DOGE) AND THE APPLICATION OF CERTAIN EXECUTIVE ORDERS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—With respect to the agencies, personnel, systems, and benefits and programs described in subsection (b)—

(1) the U.S. DOGE Service Temporary Organization shall have no authority or jurisdiction; and

(2) the executive orders described in subsection (c) shall not apply.

(b) **COVERED AGENCIES, PERSONNEL, SYSTEMS, AND BENEFITS AND PROGRAMS.**—The agencies, personnel, systems, and benefits and programs described in this subsection are the following:

(1) **SOCIAL SECURITY.**—The Social Security Administration, any officer or employee of

the Social Security Administration, the data, information technology, and operating systems of the Social Security Administration, and any benefits or program administered by the Social Security Administration, including the Old-Age and Survivors Insurance and Disability Insurance programs and associated benefits under title II of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 401 et seq.).

(2) **MEDICARE, MEDICAID, AND CHIP.**—The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, any officer or employee of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, the data, information technology, and operating systems of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, and any benefits or program administered by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, including the Medicare program, the Medicaid program, and the Children’s Health Insurance Program and associated benefits under titles XVIII, XIX, and XXI of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq., 1396 et seq., 1397aa et seq.).

(c) **EXECUTIVE ORDERS.**—The executive orders described in this subsection are—

(1) Executive Orders 14158, 14210, 14219, and 14222 (90 Fed. Reg. 8441, 9669, 10583, 11095); and

(2) any other order relating to the U.S. DOGE Service Temporary Organization.

SA 1276. Mr. BLUMENTHAL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1968, making further continuing appropriations and other extensions for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ PROHIBITION ON USE OF FUNDS FOR EMPLOYEE TERMINATIONS, FUNDING CUTS, AND CONTRACT RESCISSIONS THAT WOULD IMPEDE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PACT ACT.

None of the funds made available under any provision of any division of this Act may be used for terminations of employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs, cuts to funding for the Department, or contract rescissions that would impede the implementation of the Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act of 2022 (Public Law 117-168) (commonly known as the “PACT Act”) or the amendments made by that Act.

SA 1277. Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself and Ms. ROSEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1968, making further continuing appropriations and other extensions for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in division A, insert the following:

SEC. ____ (a) No funds made available under this Act may be used for any removal, demotion, or suspension of a veteran, military spouse, caregiver, survivor, or member of a reserve component who is serving in a position in the civil service.

(b) In this section—

(1) the term “caregiver” means an adult family member or other individual who has a significant relationship with, and who provides a broad range of assistance to, a wounded, ill, injured, or disabled member of the armed forces or veteran or a dependent of such a member or veteran with a chronic or other health condition, disability, or functional limitation;

(2) the term “civil service” has the meaning given that term in section 2101 of title 5, United States Code;

(3) the term “demotion” means a reduction in grade (as defined in section 7511(a) of title 5, United States Code);

(4) the term “member of the armed forces” has the meaning given that term in 315.612(b)(4) of title 5, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor thereto;

(5) the term “military spouse” means—
(A) the husband or wife of a member of the armed forces;

(B) the husband or wife of a retired, totally disabled, or separated member of the armed forces; or

(C) the widow or widower of a member of the armed forces killed while performing active duty or who died from a service-connected injury or illness;

(6) the term “removal” means removing an individual from the civil service;

(7) the term “reserve component” has the meaning given that term in section 101 of title 38, United States Code;

(8) the term “suspension” means the placing an individual in a temporary status without duties and pay for a period of longer than 7 days;

(9) the term “survivor” means a family member of a member of the armed forces or veteran who died while on active duty or after military retirement or of a service-connected injury or illness; and

(10) the term “veteran” means a person who served on active duty as a member of the armed forces, regardless of length of service, and who was discharged or released therefrom, except that the term “veteran” does not include a person who—

(A) received a dishonorable discharge from the Armed Forces; or

(B) was discharged or dismissed from the Armed Forces by reason of the sentence of a general court-martial.

SA 1278. Mrs. SHAHEEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 1968, making further continuing appropriations and other extensions for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title XIII of division A, insert the following:

SEC. ____ No funds made available under this Act for the Federal Aviation Administration may be used to purchase equipment from, enter into agreement with, or otherwise contract with Starlink Services, LLC.

SA 1279. Ms. ALSOBROOKS (for herself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 1968, making further continuing appropriations and other extensions for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 29, line 24, strike “\$40,395,072,000” and insert “\$41,254,072,000”.

On page 30, beginning on line 5, strike “\$1,695,436,000” for” and all that follows through line 7 and insert the following “, and \$2,554,436,000” for “\$2,877,048,000”.

SA 1280. Ms. ALSOBROOKS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 1968, making further continuing appropriations and other extensions for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, none of the funds made available by this Act may be used to carry out any reduction in force pursuant to subchapter I of chapter 35 of title 5, United States Code, or section 3595 of that title, at any department or agency in the executive branch of the Federal Government unless that reduction in force has been provided for in this Act.

SA 1281. Mr. WARNER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1968, making further continuing appropriations and other extensions for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. PROHIBITION ON FUNDS FOR CERTAIN RELOCATIONS.

None of the funds made available by this Act may be used by an agency, as defined in section 902 of title 5, United States Code, to relocate the agency to a location outside of the National Capital Region, as defined in section 8702 of title 40, United States Code.

SA 1282. Ms. CORTEZ MASTO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 1968, making further continuing appropriations and other extensions for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. PROHIBITING THE USE OF FUNDS TO TAKE ACTIONS THAT WEAKEN THE SOCIAL SECURITY PROGRAM.

No funds appropriated or otherwise made available under this Act or any other Federal law may be used to—

- (1) close, terminate the lease of, or reduce service levels at any office of the Social Security Administration; or
- (2) initiate any reduction in force procedures at the Social Security Administration.

SA 1283. Ms. CORTEZ MASTO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 1968, making further continuing appropriations and other extensions for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to remove any Federal employee who is a veteran.

SA 1284. Mrs. SHAHEEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 1968, making further continuing appropriations and other extensions for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in division A, insert the following:

SEC. _____. PROHIBITION ON REDUCTION OF BOP RETENTION INCENTIVES.

The Director of the Bureau of Prisons may not modify the retention incentives made available to employees of the Bureau of Prisons, as in effect on March 13, 2025, until on or after the first day of fiscal year 2026.

SA 1285. Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1968, making further continuing appropriations and other extensions for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 29, line 24, strike “\$40,395,072,000” and insert “\$41,576,684,000”.

On page 30, beginning on line 5, strike “, \$1,695,436,000” for” and all that follows through line 7 and insert a period.

SA 1286. Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. KING, Mr. KAINE, Ms. HIRONO, and Mr. SCHATZ) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 1986, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 620 East Pecan Boulevard in McAllen, Texas, as the “Agent Raul H. Gonzalez Jr. Memorial Post Office Building”; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. PROHIBITION ON USE OF FUNDS TO REDUCE THE WORKFORCE AT PUBLIC SHIPYARDS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—None of the funds made available under any provision of any division of this Act may be used to reduce the workforce at public shipyards, including probationary employees.

(b) EXEMPTION.—The workforce at public shipyards and any other positions at a public shipyard not specified in subsection (c) shall be exempt from any workforce reductions related to spending cuts, reprogramming of funds, or the probationary status of employees.

(c) WORKFORCE AT PUBLIC SHIPYARDS DEFINED.—In this section, the term “workforce at public shipyards” includes any of the following positions at a public shipyard:

- (1) Welders.
- (2) Pipefitters.
- (3) Shipfitters.
- (4) Radiological technicians and engineers.
- (5) Engineers and engineer technicians.
- (6) Apprentices.
- (7) Positions supporting a workforce development pipeline.
- (8) Positions supporting nuclear maintenance and refueling.
- (9) Mechanics.
- (10) Painters and blasters.
- (11) Positions supporting maintenance and operations of infrastructure.
- (12) Positions supporting implementation of the Shipyard Infrastructure Optimization Program.

SA 1287. Mr. BOOKER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1968, making further continuing appropriations and other extensions for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FUNDING.

The Secretary of Agriculture—

(1) shall, immediately after the enactment of this Act, unfreeze funding for and implement all contracts entered into by the Secretary prior to the date of enactment of this Act;

(2) shall, as rapidly as possible after the enactment of this Act, pay all past due

amounts owed by the Secretary under contracts described in paragraph (1);

(3) shall not cancel any signed contract with a farmer or an entity providing assistance to farmers, unless the farmer or entity has failed to comply with the terms and conditions of the contract; and

(4) shall not use any funds made available by this Act to close any Farm Service Agency county office or Natural Resources Conservation Service field office.

SA 1288. Ms. ERNST submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1272 proposed by Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself, Ms. ALSOBROOKS, and Mr. KAINE) to the bill H.R. 1968, making further continuing appropriations and other extensions for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 1, line 6, insert “to fund or otherwise pay for the waste, fraud, and abuse identified” after “used.”

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I have two requests for committees to meet during today’s session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today’s session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Committee on Finance is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Friday, March 14, 2025, at 10 a.m., to consider favorably reporting a nomination.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Committee on Finance is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Friday, March 14, 2025, at 10:30 a.m., to consider a nomination.

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following resolutions, which are at the desk: S. Res. 129, S. Res. 130, S. Res. 131, and H. Con. Res. 17.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to; the preambles, where applicable, be agreed to; and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, all en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolutions (S. Res. 129, S. Res. 130, and S. Res. 131) were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.
(The resolutions, with their preambles, are printed in today’s RECORD under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

The resolution (H. Con. Res. 17) was agreed to.

APPOINTMENTS AUTHORITY

Mr. BARRASSO. I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the adjournment of the Senate, the President of the Senate, the President Pro Tempore, and the majority and minority leaders be authorized to make appointments to Commissions, committees, Boards, Conferences, or inter-parliamentary Conferences authorized by law by concurrent action of the two Houses or by order of the U.S. Senate. The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

REPORTING AUTHORITY

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that committees be authorized to report out legislation on Tuesday, March 18, from 12 noon until 12:30 p.m. The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, MARCH 18, 2025, THROUGH MONDAY, MARCH 24, 2025

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn and then convene for pro forma session only, with no business being conducted, on the following dates and times: Tuesday, March 18, at 12:15 p.m. and Thursday, March 20, at 12 noon; further, that when the Senate adjourns on Thursday, March 20, it stand adjourned until 3 p.m. on Monday, March 24; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, morning business be closed, and the Senate proceed to executive session and resume consideration of Calendar No. 36, John Phelan, and that at 5:30 p.m., the Senate vote on confirmation of the Phelan nomination, followed by confirmation of Calendar No. 41, Christopher Landau; further, that the cloture motions filed during today's session of the Senate ripen on Tuesday, March 25; finally, that if any nominations are confirmed during Monday's session, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's actions.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL TUESDAY, MARCH 18, 2025, AT 12:15 P.M.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come be-

fore the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the previous order. There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:14 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, March 18, 2024, at 12:15 p.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

IN THE MARINE CORPS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED LIMITED DUTY OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S. C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant colonel

CHRISTOPHER L. JUNKINS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED LIMITED DUTY OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S. C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant colonel

ANDREW M. ADKINS
IAN P. PAQUETTE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED LIMITED DUTY OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S. C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant colonel

ADAM J. ROMNEK

THE FOLLOWING NAMED LIMITED DUTY OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S. C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant colonel

JAMES A. BERRY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED LIMITED DUTY OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S. C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant colonel

SERGIO ABREU

THE FOLLOWING NAMED LIMITED DUTY OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S. C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant colonel

STEVEN L. FERWERDA

THE FOLLOWING NAMED LIMITED DUTY OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S. C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant colonel

BENJAMIN D. KASTNING

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major

CHRISTOPHER V. POSADAS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED LIMITED DUTY OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S. C., SECTION 624:

To be major

JOHN H. HILDEBRANDT
TYLER W. MONTAGUE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED LIMITED DUTY OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S. C., SECTION 624:

To be major

MICHAEL J. DILLING
GASPAR PEREZ
MELAINÉ D. WEAVER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED LIMITED DUTY OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S. C., SECTION 624:

To be major

KEVIN M. PETTY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED LIMITED DUTY OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S. C., SECTION 624:

To be major

CARLOS L. FIGUEROA

THE FOLLOWING NAMED LIMITED DUTY OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S. C., SECTION 624:

To be major

STEVEN A. TAMM

THE FOLLOWING NAMED LIMITED DUTY OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S. C., SECTION 624:

To be major

THOMAS F. STONE
MICHAEL C. VANARSDDEL

THE FOLLOWING NAMED LIMITED DUTY OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S. C., SECTION 624:

To be major

RYAN S. DEAN
JASON E. KELLAM
DANIEL B. KRAKE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED LIMITED DUTY OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S. C., SECTION 624:

To be major

AUSTIN J. NELSON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED LIMITED DUTY OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S. C., SECTION 624:

To be major

JOSHUA S. BRIDGES
JAMESON R. HASTINGS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED LIMITED DUTY OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S. C., SECTION 624:

To be major

JASON A. MOORE
PATRICK S. WEBB

THE FOLLOWING NAMED LIMITED DUTY OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S. C., SECTION 624:

To be major

NATHAN C. HESS
CHRISTOPHER S. LAMBERT

THE FOLLOWING NAMED LIMITED DUTY OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S. C., SECTION 624:

To be major

JONATHAN R. CARUTHERS
HUGO A. PANIAGUA
ROBERT J. PHELAN III
GREGORY C. SCOTT, JR.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED LIMITED DUTY OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S. C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant colonel

MATTHEW A. BEARD

CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate March 14, 2025:

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

STEPHEN FEINBERG, OF NEW YORK, TO BE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE.

WITHDRAWAL

Executive Message transmitted by the President to the Senate on March 14, 2025 withdrawing from further Senate consideration the following nomination:

ADAM BOEHLER, OF TENNESSEE, TO BE SPECIAL PRESIDENTIAL ENVOY FOR HOSTAGE AFFAIRS, WITH THE RANK AND STATUS OF AMBASSADOR, WHICH WAS SENT TO THE SENATE ON JANUARY 28, 2025.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT P. BRESNAHAN, JR.

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2025

Mr. BRESNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, this vote closed prior to me being able to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 71.

RECOGNIZING EULESS POLICE DEPARTMENT CORPORAL THOMAS "WADE" TICE

HON. BETH VAN DUYNÉ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2025

Ms. VAN DUYNÉ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Euless Police Corporal Thomas "Wade" Tice, a dedicated public servant who has devoted more than three decades to serving our community. Raised in the rural community of Burleson, Corporal Tice went on to attend Texas A&M University and later Tarrant County Junior College before entering the workforce. After several years in the construction industry, he sought a more fulfilling career, leading him to law enforcement.

In 1989, Corporal Tice began his career in public service as a jailer with the Johnson County Sheriff's Department. Committed to advancing in the field, he attended the night police academy at Tarleton State University while working full-time. His hard work and determination paid off when, in May 1990, he was hired by the Euless Police Department. Corporal Tice served as a field training officer and bicycle patrol officer before being promoted to Corporal in 1993. In 2002, he was assigned to the Tarrant County Regional Auto Theft Task Force before returning to the patrol division, where he still serves today.

Throughout his 34 years in law enforcement, Corporal Tice received over 50 commendations and was honored with the department's Distinguished Service Award. He holds a Master Police Officer license and completed specialized training in areas such as basic bicycle tactics, intermediate accident investigations, mental health peace officer certification, and crisis intervention training. Corporal Tice's proactive approach to law enforcement resulted in numerous felony arrests, and his compassion for victims of crime was evident in every interaction. He consistently went above and beyond the call of duty, ensuring that those in need received the help and support they deserved.

Corporal Tice's service has made a profound difference in the lives of many, and I express my deepest gratitude for his dedication to our community. Congratulations on a well-deserved retirement.

CELEBRATING THE DEDICATED SERVICE AND RETIREMENT OF MR. DOUG NGUYEN

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2025

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the long career of Mr. Doug Nguyen, who is retiring after over three decades of service with the Social Security Administration. I want to share my gratitude for a job well done. I want to thank Doug for all that he has done for my constituents. While Mr. Nguyen's retirement is well-earned, I have no doubt that residents will miss his unselfish and diligent work on their behalf.

Doug Nguyen's life story is emblematic of a mantra that I repeat over and over as I meet residents of my congressional district: our Nation is stronger because of its diversity. Arriving in America after fleeing a tragic situation in Vietnam as a child, Doug set down roots and has spent decades improving his community and helping his neighbors live better lives.

Doug's dedication to setting the highest standard of public service is outstanding and his insistence that everyone who interacts with the Social Security Administration receives respectful and helpful treatment will have a lasting impact long beyond his many years of service. My staff have nothing but respect for Doug and his contributions and they actively looked forward to collaborating with him at every opportunity. We could not have asked for a better partner.

It is clear from Doug Nguyen's many acknowledgements and awards that our Nation recognizes the value he brought into whatever role he served on our behalf. Whether it is with his service with Social Security, with the White House Initiative on Asian American Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders, or on the various boards upon which he has served, Doug has always been a strong leader who is helping to improve Americans' lives and pull our community and our Nation in the right direction.

Our Nation no doubt faces some difficult challenges in the months and years ahead. Federal employees like Doug Nguyen who have devoted their professional lives to serving our Nation are under siege. But I have confidence that we can emerge victorious from these challenges because of the foundation that Doug and so many like him have laid over their decades of work on our behalf.

On behalf of the residents of the 9th Congressional District of Illinois, I again want to thank Doug Nguyen for his many years of service. Doug successfully bridged the gap between a federal agency and the human beings it serves, and that is an accomplishment that deserves endless praise. I wish him nothing but the best in his future endeavors.

VOTING ONLY THROUGH ENGLISH ACT (VOTE ACT)

HON. ABRAHAM J. HAMADEH

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2025

Mr. HAMADEH. Mr. Speaker, I take this opportunity to present before the House H.R. 2054, the Voting Only Through English Act, or the VOTE Act. This bill requires states to use only English language ballots to qualify for federal election funds; in compliance with President Trump's Executive Order which made English the language of the United States. When my family arrived in America, we, like millions of others, accepted the language and the culture of this nation. That is what makes America special—we are a nation of immigrants with one set of values and one language. The naturalization process requires English proficiency for a reason—it is the basis of full participation in American civic life. However, we have got it so that we are spending taxpayers' money on printing ballots in dozens of languages although citizens have previously established their English proficiency. It does not just muddle things—it erodes the unity which is the essence of any nation. I have been heartened by the backing this bill has got, including from Latino civic groups like Conserva Mi Voto. As they put it, requiring standard ballots in English is not about keeping people out—it is about making sure every voter goes into the booth knowing that their vote will be counted. The VOTE Act is not only reasonable—it is revolutionary, and a common sense action to restore election integrity. I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting this rational proposal.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIM MOORE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2025

Mr. MOORE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 70.

HONORING MR. DORIAN PACE

HON. SHONTEL M. BROWN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2025

Ms. BROWN. Mr. Speaker, today I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. Dorian Pace, a Cleveland Heights School Bus Driver, whose heroism, service, and character saved the lives of fifteen students.

It was the morning of February 27th when Mr. Pace heard a loud boom from under the bus. This is when the experience he accumulated from his eleven years working with the

• 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.

Cleveland Heights School District kicked in to save the lives of students as the bus began to be engulfed in flames.

From the moment the school bus doors open in the early morning to dropping out children off at the bus stop in the afternoon, school bus drivers are vital to ensuring that the most precious among our community have a safe passage to and from school. Mr. Pace is a proud member of the Ohio Association of Public School Employees/American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (OAPSE/AFSCME) Local 4 and The American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO).

Prior to working for the Cleveland Heights School District, he worked with the Bellefaire JCB, mental health facility, which provides 24/7 treatment for youth and adolescents in Northeast, Ohio. Mr. Pace's commitment to public service is a testament to the many hardworking individuals of OH-11.

I thank Mr. Pace for saving the lives of fifteen children and for dedicating his life to serving our community.

THANKING MR. JEFFREY ASKEW

HON. KAT CAMMACK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2025

Mrs. CAMMACK. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Florida's Third Congressional District, we thank Mr. Jeffrey Askew for his storied career in Marion County.

A native of Auburn, Alabama, Jeffrey joined the U.S. Navy in July 1977 after completing his high school studies. He completed his basic training in San Diego, California and his first duty station was Naval Air Station Pensacola where he worked as a plane captain for A-4s and T-2s. While there he qualified for the A-4 back seat rider before transferring in 1980 to the USS *Coral Sea* CV-43 which was stationed in Alameda, California. While on the Coral Sea he visited the Philippines, Thailand, Korea, Hong Kong, Singapore, and a host of other countries. He says his most rewarding job on the ship was the Primary Fly Control Tower Supervisor.

Jeffrey participated in the Iran Hostage rescue where he was awarded the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal. He also participated in Operation Desert Shield and the Liberation and Defense of Kuwait, earning 12 medals in his 22-year tenure, including four Navy Achievement Medals and two Navy Commendation Medals. His duty stations include USS *O'Bannon* (DD-987), USS *Lexington* (CVT-16), USS *Dwight D. Eisenhower* (CVN-69), and various Shore Commands.

His final duty station was Naval Air Station Jacksonville, Detachment Astor, located in the Ocala National Forest. He served as an operations officer where he conducted training with 50 air squadrons in various air to land operations. Retiring in 1999 as a Navy Chief, Mr. Askew went on to serve as Marion County's Veterans Services Director and the Administrator of the Ocala/Marion Veterans Memorial Park. He and his staff were awarded the "Service Office of the Year" in 2009 and 2012, making Marion County the only county to have received the award twice from the Department of Florida and the VFW.

I congratulate him on an incredible career and thank him for his service. We wish him the best as he moves on from Marion County and continues to make a tremendous difference in the lives of our heroes.

HONORING THE LIFE OF BILL SMITH

HON. MIKE EZELL

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2025

Mr. EZELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Bill Smith, a lifelong resident of Pascagoula, Mississippi. Bill was more than a neighbor—he was a light in our community. As a child, I grew up alongside Bill and his sister, Kim, forming a bond that has lasted a lifetime.

Bill gave his heart to Jesus at a young age and lived his faith every day. He witnessed many miracles, but he himself was one.

A proud graduate of the Jackson County Exceptional School, Class of 1982, Bill was a dedicated worker, spending years at Wendy's, Checkers, and Jerry Lee's Deli. He was a cherished member of the Sanctuary of Pascagoula and a shining example that Jesus works through all of us, no matter our abilities. Bill's legacy of faith, kindness, and unwavering belief in God's power will not be forgotten. May we all strive to share his heart for prayer and compassion.

CELEBRATING WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

HON. FRANK J. MRVAN

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2025

Mr. MRVAN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect and sincere admiration that I rise to celebrate Women's History Month and its 2025 theme—Moving Forward Together! Women Educating & Inspiring Generations. This year's theme celebrates the collective strength and influence of women who have dedicated their lives to education, mentorship, and leadership. Through their efforts, they have served as an inspiration for all generations—both past and present.

As we celebrate the women who have devoted their lives to education, mentorship, and leadership, I would like to take this time to honor a lifelong educator in Northwest Indiana, Ms. Janice Jordan. Ms. Jordan was born and raised in Hurtsboro, Alabama and earned a bachelor's degree in early childhood education from Auburn University. In 1982, she moved to Gary, Indiana to continue her education at Indiana University Northwest, where she earned a master's degree in education. Ms. Jordan went on to serve the School City of East Chicago as a teacher and administrator for 33 years, where she shaped the lives of countless students. Throughout her career, Ms. Jordan demonstrated a deep commitment to her students by creating enriching learning experiences and ensuring they had the support to grow and thrive.

Although she retired in 2016, Ms. Jordan's passion for teaching led her to return to the

classroom. Since 2023, Ms. Jordan has taught preschoolers at St. Mark Early Learning Academy, a Head Start facility in Gary. Ms. Jordan loves engaging her students through the curriculum, which promotes language development, literacy, and individualized instruction tailored to each child's needs. Her favorite part of the day is when children explore different learning centers to create, build, use their imagination, and share new discoveries with their peers. Her philosophy in life is, "Set the atmosphere, engage the community, and get to work!"

Outside of the classroom, Ms. Jordan is also an active member of Mount Moriah Missionary Baptist Church in Gary, a sister of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., and a volunteer with the Gary Literacy Coalition, Inc., demonstrating her unwavering commitment to education and community service. For her dedicated contributions to students, families, and communities throughout Northwest Indiana, Ms. Jordan is worthy of the highest praise.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in celebrating Women's History Month and recognizing the lifelong service of Ms. Janice Jordan and so many other extraordinary women who have dedicated their lives to education, mentorship, and leadership.

HONORING ELEANOR "ELDIE" ACHESON

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2025

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Eleanor "Eldie" Acheson, who retired from Amtrak on February 1, 2025, after 18 years of service to our country's passenger rail system.

Coming from a long line of public servants, Eldie's family instilled in her the value of public service and an appreciation for her country from a young age. Eldie's father, David Campion Acheson, worked as an attorney for the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission and later as a U.S. attorney for the District of Columbia. Her grandfather, Dean Acheson, served as Secretary of State under President Truman. Her great-grandfather, Louis Stanley, was a railroad attorney. Eldie's family history also includes painters, such as her grandmother, Alice Acheson, and great-great-grandfather, John Mix Stanley, the renowned painter of Native American life in the West.

The principles of service and advocacy are values that Eldie has carried with her over the years. Throughout her career, Eldie strove to create greater opportunities for women and other underrepresented groups, dating back to her time as an undergraduate student at Wellesley College. Prior to 1969, Wellesley College never had a student commencement speaker. Although Wellesley's commencements included remarks by college administrators and special guests, students were not granted the opportunity to address their peers during graduation. Eldie spearheaded efforts to have a student commencement speaker. Despite facing opposition from administrators, Eldie's efforts ultimately proved successful, and her class was the first in Wellesley College's history to have a student commencement speaker. That speaker was then student-

body president and future Secretary of State, U.S. Senator, and First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Eldie's remarkable career was one of many firsts as she continuously broke down barriers. After graduating from George Washington University Law School, Eldie became the first female Associate, and later Partner, at the Boston-based law firm Ropes & Gray and served as the founding Director of Public Policy and Government Affairs at the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, the nation's first LGBTQ civil rights advocacy organization. In 1993, President Clinton appointed Eldie as Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Policy Development at the U.S. Department of Justice, where she helped expand the number of female federal judges by over 80 percent. For her work, Eldie was awarded the American Bar Association's Margaret Brent Women Lawyers of Achievement Award.

In 2007, Eldie began her tenure as General Counsel at Amtrak, where she sought to improve passenger experience, rail accessibility, and workplace inclusiveness. She played a key role in the creation of the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act (PRIIA) of 2008, which directed Amtrak and the Federal Railroad Administration to develop minimum standards for passenger train on-time performance. Eldie also championed a company-wide effort to ensure Amtrak stations complied with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Her work led to new training for front-line employees and clear guidelines for Amtrak's ADA Stations Program. Additionally, Eldie sat on Amtrak's Executive Diversity Council, setting the strategic direction for diversity, inclusion, and belonging initiatives, and served as an executive sponsor of Express Pride, Amtrak's Employee Resource Group for LGBTQ+ employees and allies.

On February 1, 2025, Eldie retired from Amtrak, leaving behind a legacy and career highlighted by her commitment to expanding opportunities for underrepresented groups, improving passenger rail, and continuing her family's legacy of public service. I wish Eldie many years of well-deserved happiness in retirement to spend hiking, playing tennis, and sailing on Cape Cod with her family and her wife, Emily.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Eldie Acheson, and I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing Eldie's career and thanking her for her years of service.

HONORING TEXAS-24 HOMETOWN HEROES LUKE AND JEN HUCH

HON. BETH VAN DUYNÉ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2025

Ms. VAN DUYNÉ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize our Texas-24 Hometown Heroes, Luke and Jen Huch of Euless. They faced every parent's nightmare when their son, Lion, was diagnosed with leukemia at just seven months old. Lion was given a 47 percent chance of survival and began an intensive chemotherapy journey.

Determined to defy the odds, the Huch family lived in the hospital for the first six months of their fight. Music became a key part of Lion's survival, giving the family a boost in

faith and spirits. With instruments like drums, a keyboard, and a guitar, Luke and Jen would write songs and sing with Lion to keep his spirits high. This led to Lion's passion for music, and inspired the Huches to create Free Music, a local nonprofit that provides instruments to children who are battling or recovering from life-threatening illness.

Rooted in their belief that music can provide hope, inspire kids to keep fighting, and bring joy to families, through Free Music, the Huches are providing sick children with a creative outlet and something to focus on other than their medical journey. In their words, these children have incredible perspectives on life, their stories need to be told, and their voices need to be heard through the gift of music.

North Texas is lucky to have Luke and Jen who turned Lion's devastating diagnosis into an opportunity to offer hope and strength to other children and families. I'd like to thank the Huch family for their commitment to spreading joy and hope through music.

RECOGNIZING PI DAY

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2025

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate March 14, 3.14, or Pi day. Pi is a Greek letter, and in mathematics it is a symbol for the number you always get when you divide a circle's circumference by its diameter. Many people approximate pi as 3.14 or 3.14159.

But the number is irrational and will continue infinitely without repeating. If you were to try to write down the exact number for pi, there would be infinite numbers to the right of the decimal point and there would be no pattern. This means we're down to a mere infinity digits yet to be found. To date, it has been calculated to over 202 trillion digits. But there is still new math to be discovered. And mathematics is critical to everything we do. It's the language of science, engineering, and technology. So, today, don't be rational. Be irrational and celebrate Pi Day.

This celebration is not only about the number itself, but also about what this day can represent for our country. One of the most important investments that we can make is getting students interested in STEM subjects—science, technology, engineering, and math. Since World War II, over half of U.S. economic growth has been driven by science and technology, and through the end of the decade, the growth rate of STEM employment is expected to be more than double the growth rate of non-STEM employment.

However, we do not have enough students graduating from high school and college with necessary skills in the STEM fields to fill these jobs. As times change and we move into a more STEM-based economy, it is important that our students get the education and training they will need to succeed.

This is why recognizing March 14 as Pi Day is important. It shows the fun and exciting side to math and other STEM subjects, and will hopefully lead to a crop of students developing an interest in becoming the next generation's mathematicians, engineers, and physicists.

I am planning to reintroduce a resolution to support designating March 14 as National Pi Day. I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating this day and supporting our future scientists for generations to come.

HONORING MR. AND MRS. DILLARD'S COMMUNITY SERVICE

HON. EUGENE SIMON VINDMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2025

Mr. VINDMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend Mr. Jimmy and Mrs. Dottie Dillard for their remarkable dedication to serving their community and exceptional volunteer efforts at the Mary Washington Hospital in Fredericksburg, Virginia.

Just recently, The Dillard's were nominated for the Winter 2025 Serve Virginia Honor Roll by the 2024 Governor's Volunteerism & Community Service Awards. The Bi-annual Serve Virginia Honor Roll recognizes the valuable contributions of volunteers and organizations across the Commonwealth.

Twenty-seven years ago, after retiring from their successful careers—Mr. Jimmy from managing the Dillard Alarm Security company and Mrs. Dottie as the administrative representative of the company—the couple made the decision to give back by volunteering at their local hospital. Since then, they have accumulated over 13,000 hours of service to the hospital, where their contributions have touched nearly every staff member and patient.

From distributing newspapers, delivering flowers to patient rooms, and pushing patients in wheelchairs, to working in the Patient Access department. The Dillard's have consistently gone above and beyond in their roles. Their willingness to serve and their commitment to making a difference is a testament to their selflessness and devotion to others.

Their peers describe them as hardworking and reliable, never letting snow, extreme heat, or cold weather deter them from their volunteer shifts.

I am truly inspired by their passion for serving others and their commitment to their community. Mr. Speaker, I am honored in recognizing Mr. Jimmy and Mrs. Dottie for their unwavering service and impact at the Mary Washington Hospital.

PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL OF THE RULE SUBMITTED BY THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE RELATING TO "GROSS PROCEEDS REPORTING BY BROKERS THAT REGULARLY PROVIDE SERVICES EFFEC- TUATING DIGITAL ASSET SALES"

SPEECH OF

HON. LATEEFAH SIMON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Ms. SIMON. Mr. Speaker, I will vote for H.J. Res. 25, 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."

My constituents in the East Bay are among the many adopters of digital assets and cryptocurrencies. And while I have consistently opposed any Congressional Review Act (CRA) joint resolutions advanced by the House Majority—and am concerned about the loss in critical tax revenue as a result of this CRA—I believe the digital asset space offers new pathways for economic opportunity, especially for historically marginalized communities; and I strongly believe we must craft an inclusive regulatory framework that protects consumers, holds bad actors accountable, and supports financial inclusion for those who utilize these services.

I welcome the opportunity to work with my colleagues to thoughtfully legislate oversight of and implement necessary guardrails around digital assets so that we protect consumers—especially Black and Brown entrepreneurs, small investors, and working people—and promote innovation.

RECOGNIZING THE CAREER OF SKOKIE MAYOR GEORGE VAN DUSEN

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2025

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments and long career of my dear friend, George Van Dusen. George is retiring after serving as an excellent Mayor of Skokie for 25 years. I have had the privilege of representing the Village of Skokie for the entirety of my congressional career, and George Van Dusen has been a fierce and effective advocate for his community throughout my tenure. George was a partner who I knew I could rely upon, and my staff and I took every possible opportunity to work with him and his team.

Mayor Van Dusen has dedicated 52 years of his life to public service—41 of those years serving as an elected official with the Village of Skokie. Mayor Van Dusen has been a proud Skokie resident since 1974, and it comes as no surprise that his engagement in the community led him to serve as both a trustee and eventually mayor.

Mayor Van Dusen served as my predecessor, Congressman Sydney Yates' Director of Suburban Operations from 1973 until Representative Yates' retirement in 1999. This experience as a congressional staffer provided George with invaluable knowledge about how a legislative office works and how to best collaborate with me and my staff to improve the lives of Skokie residents.

While serving in his capacity as Director of Suburban Operations, Van Dusen was elected to the Skokie Village Board as a Trustee in 1984 and was appointed mayor in 1999. Thanks to Mayor Van Dusen's 26 years of leadership, the Village of Skokie is in very good shape. Skokie has seen significant growth and prosperity under his stewardship. Thanks to Mayor Van Dusen's steady hand, the Village has seen significant economic de-

velopment and Skokie's population has consistently grown. George has been a leader on everything from infrastructure investment to promoting affordable housing to ensuring that sustainability issues are front and center for the Village. Mayor Van Dusen was a key supporter of the Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center, which opened in Skokie under his tenure. This institution is now a landmark that has received national acclaim as it combats hatred and bigotry.

Skokie is a wonderfully diverse community where more than 90 languages are spoken, and has long been a village that welcomes, respects and values all residents. Mayor Van Dusen has lifted up and celebrated the cultural richness of Skokie, through events like the Festival of Cultures and by ensuring respect and access to village services for everyone.

I am grateful to have had Mayor Van Dusen as a partner within the 9th Congressional District of Illinois these past 26 years, and I am even more grateful to be able to call him a friend.

On behalf of the residents of the 9th Congressional District of Illinois, I thank Mayor Van Dusen for his service and wish he and wife Susan all the best. He leaves shoes that will be very hard to fill. I hope Skokie's future leaders have the same skill and compassion that he showed throughout his career. I wish him nothing but the best in future endeavors.

MARIANAS AIR SERVICE IMPROVEMENT ACT

HON. KIMBERLYN KING-HINDS

OF NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2025

Ms. KING-HINDS. Mr. Speaker, today, I am proud to introduce critical legislation that would include my district, the Northern Mariana Islands, in the Department of Transportation's Essential Air Service (EAS) program. This would place the Northern Mariana Islands alongside Alaska and Hawaii as locations exempt from EAS requirements, ensuring that scheduled air service remains consistently available for residents and visitors of the Marianas.

Air service is vital and the only practical means of transportation between the islands of the Marianas. Unfortunately, commuter air service has often been unreliable. In recent years, fare prices have surged and remain at historically high levels. For nearly two decades, only one carrier has provided air service between the islands of Tinian, Rota, and Saipan, as well as to Guam.

The sole carrier has suspended air service multiple times for extended periods due to disputes with airport authorities. This instability and uncertainty are a constant worry for the local community knowing air service can cease at any moment for our remote, isolated islands. This uncertainty not only disrupts daily life but also hampers our ability to attract tourists, draw investments, and rebuild our economy. Restoring EAS eligibility would guarantee that the Northern Marianas always have a baseline level of daily air service across all three of our airports.

While the Northern Mariana Islands was originally eligible for EAS, none of our airports participated in the program in Fiscal Year

2011. As a result, we became ineligible following the enactment of the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012, which changed the definition of 'eligible place' for EAS assistance.

By amending this eligibility, we would ensure that EAS support is available to us if the need arises. This change would not automatically place Marianas airports in the program, but it would ensure that assistance is available whenever necessary to guarantee reliable air service.

I urge all my colleagues to support this legislation.

HONORING ASRA HUSSAIN RAZA

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2025

Mr. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Asra Hussain Raza, a remarkable individual whose dedication, compassion, and unwavering commitment to excellence left an enduring mark on all who had the privilege of knowing her.

Born to Indian immigrants, Asra was raised in Carmel, Indiana. She attended Orchard Park Elementary, Towne Meadow Elementary, and Creekside Middle School, graduating from Carmel High School in 2016. Her academic journey continued at Indiana University, where she earned a bachelor's degree in healthcare management and graduated with honors. Asra's pursuit of knowledge led her to Columbia University, where she completed her Master of Health Administration, further solidifying her commitment to improving healthcare systems.

Professionally, Asra was a dedicated healthcare compliance specialist. She relocated to Washington, D.C. to further her career. Her work involved traveling to Wichita, Kansas, to assist a hospital in need, exemplifying her dedication to patient care and health equity.

Beyond her professional achievements, Asra was known for her kindness, generosity, and vibrant spirit. She had a passion for hosting gatherings, delighting guests with her culinary skills, and ensuring everyone felt welcomed and valued. Her family and close friends described her as a "kind and caring soul" who had a gift for making others feel special.

Tragically, on January 29, 2025, Asra's life was cut short in a devastating midair collision between American Airlines Flight 5342 and a U.S. Army Black Hawk helicopter near Washington, D.C.

Mr. Speaker, Asra's life was a testament to the power of kindness, dedication, and the pursuit of excellence. Her unwavering commitment to improving healthcare, her boundless generosity, and her vibrant spirit continue to inspire all who knew her. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the extraordinary life and enduring legacy of Asra Hussain Raza. Her memory will forever be cherished, and her impact will continue to resonate in our community and beyond.

RECOGNIZING EULESS POLICE DEPARTMENT SERGEANT TODD BELLAH

HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2025

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Euless Police Sergeant Todd Bellah, whose dedicated service in law enforcement has made a lasting impact on our community and the officers he served alongside.

After graduating from Haltom High School, Sergeant Bellah pursued a degree in criminal justice from Tarleton State University and Tarrant County College. Committed to continuous learning and professional excellence, he earned a Master Peace Officer license and a series of specialized certifications, including

Basic-Advanced SWAT, Basic-Advanced Police Sniper, SWAT Instructor, Sniper Instructor, Master TCOLE Instructor, Firearms Instructor-Range Master, and Department Master Armorer. His extensive expertise in tactical operations and instruction has been invaluable to his colleagues and the law enforcement profession.

Before his career in law enforcement, Sergeant Bellah honed his skills in machining, working at George Conover Tool & Manufacturing, Allen Duncan Company, and later Bose Machine Company. In 1991, he answered the call to public service, joining the City of Euless as a Public Service Officer. His leadership earned him steady promotions, becoming a police officer in March 1992 and moving up the ranks to Corporal, Senior Police Corporal, and, ultimately, Sergeant in 2015.

Throughout his tenure, Sergeant Bellah served in a variety of critical roles, including assignments in patrol, the Criminal Investiga-

tions Division (CID), and the Auto Theft Task Force. His expertise and leadership were particularly evident during his 23 years with the Euless Tactical Team and the Joint SWAT Team (NETCAST), where he held his final assignment as Assistant Commander. His contributions to these specialized units enhanced the safety and security of both his fellow officers and the community he faithfully served. He has been honored with numerous accolades, including Officer of the Year, the Life-Saving Award, multiple Certificates of Merit, and the prestigious Supervisor of the Year award reflecting his commitment to excellence and his courage in the face of danger.

Sergeant Bellah's career is a testament to the values of integrity and leadership, he will be greatly missed. I congratulate him on his well-deserved retirement, I wish him the best as he embarks on this new journey.

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

Senate passed S.331, Halt All Lethal Trafficking of Fentanyl Act, as amended.

Senate passed H.R.1968, Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S1753–S1786

Measures Introduced: Eighteen bills and five resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 1070–1087, and S. Res. 127–131. **Pages S1776–77**

Measures Reported:

Special Report entitled “Further Revised Allocation to Subcommittees of Budget Totals for Fiscal Year 2025”. (S. Rept. No. 119–3)

S. 195, to amend the Visit America Act to promote music tourism. (S. Rept. No. 119–4)

Page S1776

Measures Passed:

Halt All Lethal Trafficking of Fentanyl Act: By 84 yeas to 16 nays (Vote No. 127), Senate passed S. 331, to amend the Controlled Substances Act with respect to the scheduling of fentanyl-related substances, after agreeing to the committee reported substitute amendment, and taking action on the following amendment proposed thereto: **Pages S1762–68**

Withdrawn:

Thune (for Grassley) Amendment No. 1237, of a perfecting nature. **Page S1765**

Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act: By 54 yeas to 46 nays (Vote No. 133), Senate passed H.R. 1968, making further continuing appropriations and other extensions for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025, after agreeing to the motion to proceed, and taking action on the following amendments proposed thereto: **Pages S1768–72**

Rejected:

By 47 yeas to 53 nays (Vote No. 129), Merkley Amendment No. 1273, to except the application of certain rescissions. (A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the amendment, having

failed to achieve 60 affirmative votes, was not agreed to.) **Page S1769**

By 47 yeas to 53 nays (Vote No. 130), Duckworth Amendment No. 1274, to make veteran Federal employees who were involuntarily dismissed without cause eligible for reinstatement and to require reports from Executive agencies on the number of veteran employees fired from such agencies. (A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the amendment, having failed to achieve 60 affirmative votes, was not agreed to.) **Pages S1770–71**

By 48 yeas to 52 nays (Vote No. 131), Van Hollen Amendment No. 1272, to prohibit the use of appropriated amounts by DOGE. (A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the amendment, having failed to achieve 60 affirmative votes, was not agreed to.) **Page S1771**

By 27 yeas to 73 nays (Vote No. 132), Paul Amendment No. 1266, to reduce the amount appropriated for the United States Agency for International Development. **Page S1771**

During consideration of this measure today, Senate also took the following action:

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill, be withdrawn. **Page S1768**

By 62 yeas to 38 nays (Vote No. 128), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn, having voted in the affirmative, Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the bill. **Pages S1768–69**

District of Columbia Local Funds Act: Senate passed S. 1077, to approve local funds for the District of Columbia for fiscal year 2025, in accordance with the Fiscal Year 2025 Local Budget Act of 2024, and to establish provisions for the use of such funds. **Pages S1772–73**

National Board Certification Teachers: Senate agreed to S. Res. 129, recognizing and honoring teachers who have earned or maintained National Board Certification. **Page S1785**

Honoring Dr. Mary Edwards Walker: Senate agreed to S. Res. 130, honoring the life and legacy of Dr. Mary Edwards Walker. **Page S1785**

National CACFP Week: Senate agreed to S. Res. 131, designating the third week of March 2025 as “National CACFP Week”. **Page S1785**

Use of Emancipation Hall: Senate agreed to H. Con. Res. 17, 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. **Page S1785**

Authorizing Leadership to Make Appointments—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that, notwithstanding the upcoming adjournment of the Senate, the President of the Senate, the President Pro Tempore, and the Majority and Minority Leaders be authorized to make appointments to commissions, committees, boards, conferences, or interparliamentary conferences authorized by law, by concurrent action of the two Houses, or by order of the Senate. **Page S1786**

Authority for Committees—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that Committees be authorized to report out legislation on Tuesday, March 18, 2025, from 12 noon until 12:30 p.m. **Page S1786**

Pro Forma Sessions—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the Senate convene for pro forma sessions only, with no business being conducted on the following dates and times: Tuesday, March 18, 2025, at 12:15 p.m.; Thursday, March 20, 2025, at 12 noon; and that when the Senate adjourns on Thursday, March 20, 2025, it next convene at 3 p.m., on Monday, March 24, 2025. **Page S1786**

Phelan Nomination: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of John Phelan, of Florida, to be Secretary of the Navy. **Page S1773**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 64 yeas to 33 nays (Vote No. EX. 134), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S1773**

Landau Nomination: Senate continued consideration of the nomination of Christopher Landau, of Maryland, to be Deputy Secretary of State. **Page S1773**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 63 yeas to 32 nays (Vote No. EX. 135), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S1773**

Phelan and Landau Nominations—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that all post-cloture time on the nominations of John Phelan, of Florida, to be Secretary of the Navy, and Christopher Landau, of Maryland, to be Deputy Secretary of State, be expired and Senate vote on confirmation of the nominations at a time to be determined by the Majority Leader, in consultation with the Democratic Leader, no earlier than Monday, March 24, 2025. **Page S1786**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that at approximately 3 p.m., on Monday, March 24, 2025, Senate resume consideration of the nomination of John Phelan, of Florida, to be Secretary of the Navy, and that at 5:30 p.m., Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination of John Phelan, followed by a vote on confirmation of the nomination of Christopher Landau, of Maryland, to be Deputy Secretary of State; and that the motions to invoke cloture filed during the session of the Senate of Friday, March 14, 2025, ripen on Tuesday, March 25, 2025. **Page S1786**

Kratsios Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Michael Kratsios, of South Carolina, to be Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy. **Pages S1773–74**

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, and pursuant to the unanimous-consent agreement of Friday, March 14, 2025, a vote on cloture will occur on Tuesday, March 25, 2025. **Page S1786**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session.

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S1773**

Bhattacharya Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Jayanta Bhattacharya, of California, to be Director of the National Institutes of Health. **Page S1774**

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 Michael Kratsios, of South Carolina, to be Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy. **Page S1774**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S1774**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S1774**

Makary Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Martin Makary, of Virginia, to be Commissioner of Food and Drugs, Department of Health and Human Services.

Page S1774

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 Jayanta Bhattacharya, of California, to be Director of the National Institutes of Health.

Page S1774

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S1774**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S1774**

Bishop Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of James Bishop, of North Carolina, to be Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

Page S1774

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 Martin Makary, of Virginia, to be Commissioner of Food and Drugs, Department of Health and Human Services.

Page S1774

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S1774**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S1774**

Reitz Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Aaron Reitz, of Texas, to be an Assistant Attorney General.

Page S1774

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 James Bishop, of North Carolina, to be Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

Page S1774

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S1774**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S1774**

Nomination Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nomination:

By 59 yeas to 40 nays (Vote No. EX. 126), Stephen Feinberg, of New York, to be Deputy Secretary of Defense.

Pages S1753–55 S1786

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 56 yeas to 39 nays (Vote No. EX. 125), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination.

Pages S1754–55

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Routine lists in the Marine Corps. **Page S1786**

Nomination Withdrawn: Senate received notification of withdrawal of the following nomination:

Adam Boehler, of Tennessee, to be Special Presidential Envoy for Hostage Affairs, with the rank and status of Ambassador, which was sent to the Senate on January 28, 2025

Page S1786

Messages from the House: **Page S1776**

Measures Discharged: **Page S1776**

Privileged Nominations Referred to Committee: **Page S1776**

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Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S1777–78**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S1778–83**

Additional Statements: **Pages S1775–76**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S1783–85**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S1785**

Record Votes: Eleven record votes were taken today. (Total—135)

Pages S1754–55, S1762, S1765, S1768–73

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 7:14 p.m., until 12:15 p.m. on Tuesday, March 18, 2025. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S1786.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Finance: Committee ordered favorably reported the nomination of Michael Faulkender, of Maryland, to be Deputy Secretary of the Treasury.

NOMINATION

Committee on Finance: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nomination of Mehmet Oz, of Pennsylvania, to be Administrator of the Centers for

Medicare and Medicaid Services, after the nominee, testified and answered questions in his own behalf.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 77 public bills, H.R. 2092–2168; and 6 resolutions, H. Res. 221–226, were introduced. **Pages H1158–62**

Additional Cosponsors: **Page H1164**

Report Filed: A report was filed today as follows: H.R. 1048, to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to strengthen disclosure requirements relating to foreign gifts and contracts, to prohibit contracts between institutions of higher education and certain foreign entities and countries of concern, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 119–16). **Page H1158**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Smith (NE) to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H1155**

Guest Chaplain: The prayer was offered by the Guest Chaplain, Rev. Daniel Carson, St. Peter's Catholic Church, Washington, DC. **Page H1155**

Whole Number of the House: The Speaker announced to the House that, in light of the passing of the gentleman from Arizona, Mr. Grijalva, the whole number of the House is 431. **Page H1155**

Senate Referral: S. 960 was held at the desk. **Page H1155**

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appears on page H1155.

Quorum Calls—Votes: There were no Yea and Nay votes, and there were no Recorded votes. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 9 a.m. and adjourned at 9:02 a.m.

Committee Meetings

No hearings were held.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR TUESDAY, MARCH 18, 2025

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

House

No hearings are scheduled.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

12:15 p.m., Tuesday, March 18

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

12 noon, Tuesday, March 18

Senate Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Senate will meet in a pro forma session.

House Chamber

Program for Tuesday: House will meet in Pro Forma session at 12 noon.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

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