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No. 53

## House of Representatives

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

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,  
March 24, 2025.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ABRAHAM J. HAMADEH to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

MIKE JOHNSON,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

### MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

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

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with time equally allocated between the parties and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 1:50 p.m.

### PRESIDENT TRUMP BRINGING BACK INVESTMENTS

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

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, during President Trump's inaugural address, he spoke of an aggressive artificial intelligence agenda to keep America competitive with the Chinese Communist Party.

Just a few months later, President Trump announced a historic \$1.4 trillion investment into our economy from the United Arab Emirates. This invest-

ment will support American artificial intelligence infrastructure. It will support semiconductors made in America. It will support energy production from America. It will support American manufacturing.

Our two nations worked closely together during President Trump's first term to bring peace to the Middle East through the historic Abraham Accords. Now, with President Trump's leadership back in the White House, I am encouraged to see this partnership grow even stronger with this investment.

President Trump promised to bring investment back to the United States, and he is already delivering on this promise just 2 months into his term.

#### AGRICULTURE IS CRITICAL IN PENNSYLVANIA

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, as a leading producer of dairy products in the country, Pennsylvania dairymen know just how important food additives are for the safety of our food supply. However, the FDA's approval process for these additives has resulted in a decades-long approval process that stifles innovation and leaves American farmers falling behind their international competitors.

I am proud to join a bipartisan group of Members on the Innovative FEED Act to streamline this process and cut the approval time down by years.

Nutrient supplements keep our food supply safe and our livestock healthy and allow American farmers to stay competitive on the international market.

Agriculture is a critical industry in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and I am proud to help lead this fight in Congress to give farmers access to the innovative products that they need to compete.

#### RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF LLOYD PECK

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the remarkable life and distinguished legacy of Lloyd Peck, a proud veteran, a

beloved community leader, and a true American patriot who passed away on March 17.

Lloyd Peck served as a first lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps during the Korean war. In civilian life, Lloyd filled many various roles as an advocate for veterans. In addition to serving as the commander of the Blair County War Veterans Council, Lieutenant Peck was a founding member of the Blair County Honor Guard, the chief parade marshal for the Memorial Day and the Veterans Day parades in Altoona, and a volunteer at the James E. Van Zandt Medical Center, where he worked tirelessly to help local veterans receive their benefits.

In the true spirit of Semper Fidelis, Lieutenant Peck continually demonstrated his steadfast loyalty to his fellow veterans and continually worked to help our Nation become that more perfect Union.

As we remember Lloyd Peck, we also keep in mind his loved ones, including his wife, Judy; his daughter, Heather; and his sister, Betty. We offer them our condolences and our heartfelt prayers.

Mr. Speaker, please join me, and all members of Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District, in remembering the incredible life and legacy of Lieutenant Lloyd Peck.

### IT HAS BEEN OVER 50 YEARS SINCE CONGRESS HAS ENHANCED SOCIAL SECURITY

(Mr. LARSON of Connecticut was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the body with regard to Social Security and the lack of congressional action.

It might interest people in the audience to know, Mr. Speaker, that it has been over 50 years since Congress has enhanced Social Security on behalf of

□ 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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its recipients. That is why I have introduced legislation specifically to address this issue.

Yet, Mr. Speaker, at the same time, we see that Mr. Musk has been charged by the President of the United States to cut \$2 trillion from the budget. Mr. Musk has made no bones about the fact that he plans to privatize Social Security and Medicare, amongst others.

Social Security, Medicare, and defense, as a number of people in the audience knows, makes up more than 70 percent of the budget. He has been instructed to find \$2 trillion. Coincidentally, that is just about how much Trump's tax cut for the wealthiest 1 percent is, \$2 trillion.

Where will it come from, Mr. Speaker? Obviously, he has his designs on Social Security, the only one of those entities—defense, Medicare, and Medicaid—that has a trust fund, a trust fund of \$2.7 trillion of hardworking people's money.

It might surprise you, Mr. Speaker, to know that, in your district, you have over 183,000 Social Security recipients, over 13,000 who are disabled, 7,000-plus children, 8,000 widows, and 4,000 spouses.

Here is the critical thing: Republicans should wake up in this time of inflation. Your district and every district on average, by the way, receives more than \$200 million monthly for its Social Security recipients. Your district, Mr. Speaker, receives \$354 million.

That hasn't been changed since 1971. People in America should be outraged by the fact that Congress has not fulfilled its responsibility to act on behalf of its citizens.

Social Security is the number one insurance program in the country, serving over 70 million people. Mr. Speaker, 10,000 baby boomers a day become eligible for Social Security, and Congress continues to ignore them and ignore their needs.

Shamefully, more than 5 million of our fellow Americans get below-poverty-level checks from the wealthiest Nation in the world and the most successful insurance program because of congressional inaction. Most of those 5 million are women, and among those, most of them are women of color.

People have been taxed on their Social Security when they continue to work after retirement, and that is false, as well. I have had a proposal, Mr. Speaker, to correct all of that, to change it, and, by the way, pay for it.

How do we do that, Mr. Speaker? Very simple: We lift the cap on people who pay nothing or very little or are through paying the first day and second day of January. Lifting the cap on over 400,000 people, as President Biden proposed, will provide us the benefits and solvency that Social Security needs.

Why is it that hardworking people in this gallery should pay into a system all their lives and get a benefit, yet billionaires can be excluded and don't

have to pay in the same amount or some totally circumvent the law altogether and pay nothing?

It is long overdue, Mr. Speaker, don't you agree, for a vote to take place. For all the citizens in your district, the more than \$300 million that comes in, imagine what that does to the local economy in your district, how it will help out the local grocery store, the pharmacy, and, most importantly, the individual families in that region.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that Republicans stand up to join us in enhancing Social Security, not cutting it.

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

#### CELEBRATING STEPHEN BUCHANAN'S WRESTLING TITLE

(Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS of Iowa was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today after 5 minutes of fiction to bring a little Iowa reality to Washington, D.C.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate Stephen Buchanan, who secured the 197-pound national wrestling title at the NCAA championships in Philadelphia. His victory was witnessed by President Donald Trump, highlighting the significance of this achievement.

Stephen's journey is one of transformation. Transferring to Iowa for his final season, he found not just a team but a family. Under the guidance of Coaches Tom and Terry Brands, Stephen's passion for wrestling was reignited, propelling him to become a four-time all-American and now a national champion.

Stephen's triumph not only adds to Iowa's storied wrestling legacy but also serves as an inspiration to aspiring athletes nationwide.

Stephen Buchanan exemplifies the power of dedication, resilience, and a community support system.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Stephen on this well-deserved honor. His achievement made the Hawkeye Nation proud.

#### HONORING 100 GREAT IOWA NURSES

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor 33 outstanding nurses from Iowa's First Congressional District who have been named among the 2025 100 Great Iowa Nurses.

These dedicated professionals are at the heart and soul of our healthcare system, showing up every day with compassion, strength, and an unwavering commitment to their patients.

As a former nurse, I understand the immense challenges they face and the dedication required to provide exceptional care.

I am incredibly proud to see so many from our district recognized for their hard work, sacrifice, and service.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the nurses being honored today and all of those across Iowa for their tireless efforts to

make our communities healthier, stronger, and better places for everyone. Their work truly makes a lasting difference.

#### HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF GLEN KEPPEY

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of a great Iowan, Glen Keppy.

A lifelong resident of Eldridge, Glen dedicated his life to family, farming, and his community. His passion for agriculture was unmatched. Whether raising award-winning livestock, advocating for Iowa pork producers, or mentoring the next generation of farmers, Glen's impact stretched far beyond the fields.

Glen served his neighbors through organizations like the North Scott Rotary, Farm Bureau, and 4-H, always leading with integrity and kindness.

I saw this firsthand at his visitation last Thursday when there were more people there than I have ever seen at a visitation in my lifetime.

Glen's leadership in agriculture took him all the way here to Washington, D.C., where he served as a political appointee in the George W. Bush administration, working on behalf of rural America. Yet, no matter how far his work took him, his heart remained in Iowa, where he welcomed thousands of students to his farm to share his story of agriculture.

Glen's legacy is one of hard work, service, and an unwavering love for his family.

Mr. Speaker, may his wife, Jean, and their children and grandchildren find comfort in knowing his spirit lives on in the land he nurtured and in the lives he touched. God bless Glen Kempy.

Mr. Speaker, I wish a happy birthday to my brother Fred. Happy birthday, Fred. I also wish my amazing daughter, Taylor, a very happy birthday. Happy birthday, Taylor.

□ 1215

#### KEATON BEASLEY TEACHES IMPORTANCE OF FINANCIAL LITERACY

(Mr. HILL of Arkansas was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Keaton Beasley of Simmons Bank.

Keaton is a graduate of Henderson State University, a member of the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity, and a banker in Little Rock.

Keaton exemplifies the ethos of a community banker, frequently working with children, adults, and seniors to teach them the importance of financial literacy. His efforts prove it is never too late or too early to learn how to manage your finances.

As a former community banker, I admire his efforts to uplift his community and help those around him build a stronger foundation in finance.

I look forward to seeing Keaton's continued impact in central Arkansas

and wish him the best of luck in his bright future in banking.

HONORING JOHN EDWARD HAIN, JR., ON HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor John Edward Hain, Jr., who celebrated his 100th birthday on March 20.

A Little Rock native, John graduated from Catholic High School at age in 1941 and is currently the school's oldest living alumnus.

He is a World War II veteran. John was drafted at 18 and served in England, Belgium, Germany, France, and the Netherlands as an Army corporal in the field artillery attachment of the 5th Army Division, the 9th Army spearhead, the 5th Armored Division, and the 29th Division in Operation Kaput.

John married his wife, Beverly, in 1947. They have 5 daughters, 17 grandchildren, and 19 great-grandchildren.

After his service to our Nation in World War II, he worked at the Krebs Brothers Supply Company as a traveling salesman, and he retired as president of Krebs after working there for 50 years.

I thank John for his long service to our community, and I congratulate him on reaching this amazing milestone.

#### PAWS FOR JUSTICE

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Susan Bradshaw and Fawn Borden of PAWS for Justice.

PAWS for Justice is an Arkansas charity that provides courthouse facility dogs to assist witnesses and victims as they go through difficult court proceedings. For children who are recounting heartbreaking terrible events, these dogs provide comfort and support to make those difficult moments just a little bit better.

While these dogs can often cost courthouses around \$50,000 each, PAWS for Justice provides them free of charge.

As a proud owner of my great pup, Taft, I have an incredible appreciation for PAWS for Justice's efforts and thank them for their hard work in providing comfort for those who need it the most.

#### RECOGNIZING LANCE RESTUM

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lance Restum, director of community relations for the Arkansas Travelers baseball team.

Lance has been with the championship-winning Travelers since 2006 and is the founder of the Arkansas Travelers Youth Foundation.

Since 2021, the foundation has been introducing kids across the Natural State to America's pastime. They provide baseball clinics, equipment, grants, and scholarships to get kids active and interested in baseball.

Lance and the foundation's work serve as an excellent example for those of us who want to make a difference in our communities.

I wish Lance and the Arkansas Travelers the best of luck in their new sea-

son, and I look forward to my next game at Dickey-Stephens Park.

#### HONORING COACH BUBBA LUCKETT

(Mr. KUSTOFF of Tennessee was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. KUSTOFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a true icon in Tennessee basketball, Coach Bubba Luckett of Christian Brothers High School in Memphis. For over 40 years, Bubba Luckett has been more than a coach. He has been a mentor, a role model, and a steadfast leader both on and off the court. This will be Bubba Luckett's final year coaching high school basketball.

Bubba became the heart and soul of CBHS basketball as a player, shattering records along the way. By the time he graduated in 1979, Bubba Luckett had scored almost 1,700 points, holding the record of all-time leading scorer at CBHS for over 40 years. After high school, Bubba was able to play for an elite college basketball team for 4 years at the University of Memphis under Head Coach Dana Kirk and Assistant Coaches Larry Finch and Lee Fowler.

Bubba Luckett's journey came full circle when his own high school coach, Charlie Leonard, invited him to return to CBHS as an assistant basketball coach in the mid-1980s. Several years later, in 1990, Bubba took over as the head coach.

Over the course of 30-plus years as a varsity high school coach, Bubba Luckett has amassed impressive records and stats. Here are just a few:

Over 700 career victories, 10 regional titles, 5 State championship appearances, and 2 State championship titles.

Indeed, Bubba Luckett has dedicated four decades of his life shaping young men into champions, on the court, in the classroom, and also in life.

Mr. Speaker, Reese McMullen is a former standout player at CBHS who was coached by Bubba Luckett. Reese is a true scholar and a gifted athlete, going on to play basketball at the University of Pennsylvania. More importantly, Reese appreciates the coaching at CBHS that prepared him to play college basketball.

Reese told me that Coach Luckett cared so much about all the players that Bubba Luckett emphasized to his young men: Character, academics, and basketball, in that order. Reese told me, and I wrote this down: "Coach cared about my development beyond basketball. He would also post our grades in the locker room to demonstrate the importance of grades. Coach cared about all aspects of our lives and that it is important to lead by example."

Mr. Speaker, I also talked with Brother David Poos, the president of CBHS. Brother David told me: Integrity is a hallmark of Bubba Luckett. He is a good role model for the players

and students. Bubba is a "Brothers' Boy" through and through.

There is no doubt that Coach Luckett's impact at CBHS extends far beyond wins and losses. He has coached almost 50 young men over the years who would go on to play college basketball. As he steps away from the sidelines, Bubba leaves behind not only a successful program, but a family, a brotherhood, and a tradition that will endure for generations. His lasting impact will be all the young men he nurtured in his program.

Now, while he may no longer be drawing plays or calling timeouts, one thing is certain: Bubba Luckett's legacy will always be part of Christian Brothers High School.

Roberta and I wish Bubba, Amy, and their entire family all the best as they begin this next chapter. I thank him for his years of dedication and for the lives that he has influenced through coaching and teaching.

Go Brothers.

#### RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 23 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MOORE of West Virginia) at 2 p.m.

#### PRAYER

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

Into Your hands, O Lord, our faithful God, we commend to You the life of our colleague and friend, Representative Raul Grijalva. In the embrace of Your everlasting arms, may he find rest from his labors and reward for his good and faithful service to You, his family, and his country.

May his unwavering commitment to justice serve as a measure to our own pursuit of righteousness. May his public service of over 40 years serve as an inspiration to our own desire to contribute to the welfare of our communities.

Grant Congressman Grijalva's wife, Ramona, his three daughters, Adelita, Raquel, Marisa, and their families the comfort of Your spirit in these days of grief.

To all whom he served in Arizona's Seventh District and whom he impacted here in the House, grant the lasting desire to look for opportunities to champion and advocate for a better future and to mentor those who are now entrusted with the Congressman's legacy.

Now in Your eternal home, may Representative Grijalva lay down the burdens of this life and rejoice in the hope he strove to give to so many.

In Your eternal name we pray.  
Amen.

### THE JOURNAL

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

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

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. FOXX 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.

### CELEBRATING PERSIAN HOLIDAY OF NOWRUZ

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the beginning of Nowruz, an exuberant occasion for the Persian people across the entire world that marks the beginning of the Persian New Year and spring.

During this time, many pause to reflect upon and recognize the blessings of the previous year. Many also take this time to look forward to the coming spring with optimism and gratitude.

Persian culture, and the contributions made to broader civil society through it, deserve to be celebrated by all.

I wish members of the Persian community, both within the United States and across the world, a joyous and memorable holiday.

### RECOGNIZING SEYMOUR JOHNSON AIR FORCE BASE

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

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the remarkable servicemembers of Seymour Johnson Air Force Base in Goldsboro, North Carolina.

During a recent base visit, I toured the child development center, the fitness center, and the dorms.

Quality of life remains essential to readiness, along with the CATM upgrades. Aircraft maintenance remains vital, as well as addressing the challenges with delivery of parts and the supply chain.

Seymour Johnson Air Force Base plays a huge role in eastern North Carolina's economy and our national defense.

As an Air Force veteran, I am so proud to represent Seymour Johnson and Wayne County. I will not stop advocating for the base, our warfighters, and eastern North Carolina.

### WATER RATE INCREASE

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

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, water is a human right. We can't live without it, but far too often our government treats it as just another product to be sold.

In Michigan, the Great Lakes Water Authority voted to increase water rates by 5.9 percent and sewage rates by 4.5 percent. They approved these unaffordable increases despite unanimous and passionate public opposition, Mr. Speaker.

I want folks to imagine how it feels for many of our residents in Detroit who have been living out of hotels for weeks after a massive water main break flooded their neighborhood, their homes, and even their vehicles. Now they are going to have to be paying more for their water.

The Trump administration is already slashing every critical support program that the most vulnerable in our communities, especially our seniors, rely on to pay their bills. This will mean more water shutoffs and more stories of families melting snow and harvesting rainwater to shower and cook with.

Our policy has to meet our principles. Water must be a human right in the United States of America.

### CELEBRATING PERSIAN NEW YEAR

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

Ms. ANSARI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions of the Iranian-American community and all those who celebrate Nowruz, the Persian New Year.

Alongside Congresswoman LOFGREN, I am proud to introduce two pieces of legislation today, one which designates March as Iranian-American Heritage Month and the other to provide congressional recognition of Nowruz.

At the same time, I recognize the fear and pain in many communities about the Trump administration's war on immigrants and refugees. I was proud to lead a letter of over 30 Democrats to the President urging him to reconsider an immoral and harmful potential travel ban.

Each year, millions of people around the world join together in celebration of the Persian New Year. The roots lie

in ancient, secular Persian traditions and an annual celebration of rebirth, renewal, and community.

I am proud to host perhaps the first Haft Seen table in the Halls of Congress outside of my office, and I thank the many individuals who helped put it together, especially Mitra Ghahramani and Parisa Bahadoran of Designs by Mitra.

This is such a meaningful time for me, as the daughter of Iranian immigrants, and I am honored to be celebrating our community in this special way.

### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

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

### COST-SHARE ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2025

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 359) to Amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to require reporting relating to certain cost-share requirements, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 359

*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 "Cost-Share Accountability Act of 2025".

#### SEC. 2. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.

Section 988 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16352) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(g) REPORTING.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this subsection and at least quarterly thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology and Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, and shall make publicly available, a report on the use by the Department during the period covered by the report of the authority to reduce or eliminate cost-sharing requirements provided by subsection (b)(3) or (c)(2)."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BABIN) and the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. STEVENS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 359, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

H.R. 359, the Cost-Share Accountability Act of 2025, is a good government bill that does exactly what it says: It improves accountability.

Led by Mr. OBERNOLTE, this bill requires the Department of Energy (DOE) to submit a quarterly report to Congress describing instances where it has modified or waived cost-share requirements and make these reports publicly available.

DOE is subject to cost-share requirements when making awards for research, development, demonstration, and commercial application activities. This means that each project must have a certain funding percentage, usually at least 50 percent, contributed by the award recipient. However, DOE can modify or eliminate those requirements, when necessary, which is an authority that can be critical to supporting early-stage technologies.

H.R. 359 does not prevent DOE from waiving cost-share requirements. It simply ensures that any changes are reported to Congress and are made public. Transparency and accountability are important because they allow us to track how taxpayer dollars are spent once appropriated to DOE.

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

□ 1415

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

I join the chairman of the committee to rise in support of the Cost-Share Accountability Act of 2025.

I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. OBERNOLTE) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. FOSTER) for reintroducing this bipartisan, commonsense bill.

The Department of Energy spends billions of dollars every year supporting research, development, demonstration, and commercialization activities. Per the Energy Policy Act of 2005, the Department of Energy requires not less than 20 percent for research and development and not less than 50 percent for demonstration or commercial application activities to be provided from a non-Federal source so that all stakeholders have some skin in the game and to control costs for taxpayers.

To ensure that the cost-match requirement is not a barrier to entry, the Secretary of Energy has the discretion to reduce or eliminate this cost-share requirement if the Secretary determines that it is necessary or appropriate to do so.

While it is important that the Secretary has this flexibility, current law contains no permanent requirement for the Department of Energy to notify Congress of the use of this flexible au-

thority to reduce or eliminate such requirements.

Thus, H.R. 359, the Cost-Share Accountability Act of 2025, will direct the Department of Energy to provide quarterly reporting requirements to Congress on the use of the Secretary of Energy's cost-share waiver authority. This bill would ensure that Congress is able to perform its oversight responsibilities and help inform future potential legislation to modify the cost-share requirements.

Mr. Speaker, I again thank our colleagues from both sides of the aisle for introducing and reintroducing this bipartisan bill. I urge everyone to vote "yes" on H.R. 359, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. OBERNOLTE) to speak on his bill.

Mr. OBERNOLTE. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise in support of my bill, H.R. 359, the Cost-Share Accountability Act of 2025. I thank my colleague and my friend from Illinois, Congressman BILL FOSTER, for leading this bipartisan piece of legislation with me.

Mr. Speaker, cutting-edge research and development and energy technology is often catalyzed through grants awarded by the Department of Energy. Normally those grants come with a cost-sharing requirement usually of around 50 percent. That is important because it makes sure that the entity that the grant is awarded to has some skin in the game, and it also ensures the taxpayers get the best value for their dollar when that grant is performed. However, the Department of Energy has the ability under Federal law to waive or reduce that grant amount.

It has become clear in recent years that it is not transparent when the DOE uses that authority. It is hampering our ability as Members of Congress to provide the oversight necessary into the activities of the DOE.

This bill will impose a quarterly reporting requirement on the Department of Energy during which they must report to Congress and the public occasions under which in the last 90 days they have utilized the ability to reduce or eliminate the cost-share requirement. This will provide us in Congress the information we need to do our job of oversight, and it will also make sure that the ability to reduce or eliminate the cost sharing is used appropriately and in appropriate circumstances.

Mr. Speaker, this is transparent, bipartisan, good government legislation, and I urge my colleagues to vote "yes."

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

Mr. Speaker, it is a thing of beauty to watch Mr. OBERNOLTE and Mr. FOSTER legislate together. I have seen it for a number of years on the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology. It is one of the reasons

why I am so excited for H.R. 359 and to see its passage here in the House of Representatives.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues for introducing this bill and for their work. I urge a very strong "yes" vote on H.R. 359, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, this bill passed the House with unanimous support in the 118th Congress and is a prime example of the bipartisan backing for Congress' role in overseeing transparent and efficient spending by Federal agencies. I thank Representative OBERNOLTE for leading this legislation again in the 119th Congress and Representative FOSTER for cosponsoring it.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to join me in support of this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BABIN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 359.

The question was taken.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

#### MATHEMATICAL AND STATISTICAL MODELING EDUCATION ACT

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 730) to coordinate Federal research and development efforts focused on modernizing mathematics in STEM education through mathematical and statistical modeling, including data-driven and computational thinking, problem, project, and performance-based learning and assessment, interdisciplinary exploration, and career connections, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 730

*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 "Mathematical and Statistical Modeling Education Act".

#### SEC. 2. MATHEMATICAL AND STATISTICAL MODELING EDUCATION.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) The mathematics taught in schools, including statistical problem solving and data science, is not keeping pace with the rapidly evolving needs of the public and private sector, resulting in a STEM skills shortage and employers needing to expend resources to train and upskill employees.

(2) According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the United States will need 1,000,000

additional STEM professionals than it is on track to produce in the coming decade.

(3) The field of data science, which is relevant in almost every workplace, relies on the ability to work in teams and use computational tools to do mathematical and statistical problem solving.

(4) Many STEM occupations offer higher wages, more opportunities for advancement, and a higher degree of job security than non-STEM jobs.

(5) The STEM workforce relies on computational and data-driven discovery, decision making, and predictions, from models that often must quantify uncertainty, as in weather predictions, spread of disease, or financial forecasting.

(6) Most fields, including analytics, science, economics, publishing, marketing, actuarial science, operations research, engineering, and medicine, require data savvy, including the ability to select reliable sources of data, identify and remove errors in data, recognize and quantify uncertainty in data, visualize and analyze data, and use data to develop understanding or make predictions.

(7) Rapidly emerging fields, such as artificial intelligence, machine learning, quantum computing and quantum information, all rely on mathematical and statistical concepts, which are critical to prove under what circumstances an algorithm or experiment will work and when it will fail.

(8) Military academies have a long tradition in teaching mathematical modeling and would benefit from the ability to recruit students with this expertise from their other school experiences.

(9) Mathematical modeling has been a strong educational priority globally, especially in China, where participation in United States mathematical modeling challenges in high school and higher education is orders of magnitude higher than in the United States, and Chinese teams are taking a majority of the prizes.

(10) Girls participate in mathematical modeling challenges at all levels at similar levels as boys, while in traditional mathematical competitions girls participate less and drop out at every stage. Students cite opportunity for teamwork, using mathematics and statistics in meaningful contexts, ability to use computation, and emphasis on communication as reasons for continued participation in modeling challenges.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) DIRECTOR.—The term “Director” means the Director of the National Science Foundation.

(2) FEDERAL LABORATORY.—The term “Federal laboratory” has the meaning given such term in section 4 of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3703).

(3) FOUNDATION.—The term “Foundation” means the National Science Foundation.

(4) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The term “institution of higher education” has the meaning given such term in section 101(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a)).

(5) MATHEMATICAL MODELING.—The term “mathematical modeling” has the meaning given such term in the 2019 Guidelines to Assessment and Instruction in Mathematical Modeling Education (GAIMME) report, 2nd edition.

(6) OPERATIONS RESEARCH.—The term “operations research” means the application of scientific methods to the management and administration of organized military, governmental, commercial, and industrial processes to maximize operational efficiency.

(7) STATISTICAL MODELING.—The term “statistical modeling” has the meaning given such term in the 2021 Guidelines to Assess-

ment and Instruction in Statistical Education (GAISE II) report.

(8) STEM.—The term “STEM” means the academic and professional disciplines of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, including computer science.

(c) PREPARING EDUCATORS TO ENGAGE STUDENTS IN MATHEMATICAL AND STATISTICAL MODELING.—The Director shall make awards on a merit-reviewed, competitive basis to institutions of higher education and nonprofit organizations (or a consortium thereof) for research and development to advance innovative approaches to support and sustain high-quality mathematical modeling education in schools that are operated by local educational agencies, including statistical modeling, data science, operations research, and computational thinking. The Director shall encourage applicants to form partnerships to address critical transitions, such as middle school to high school, high school to college, and school to internships and jobs.

(d) APPLICATION.—An entity seeking an award under subsection (c) shall submit an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Director may require. The application shall include the following:

(1) A description of the target population to be served by the research activity for which such an award is sought, including student subgroups described in section 1111(b)(2)(B)(xi) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6311(b)(2)(B)(xi)), and students experiencing homelessness and children and youth in foster care.

(2) A description of the process for recruitment and selection of students, educators, or local educational agencies to participate in such research activity.

(3) A description of how such research activity may inform efforts to promote the engagement and achievement of students, including students from groups historically underrepresented in STEM, in prekindergarten through grade 12 in mathematical modeling and statistical modeling using problem-based learning with contextualized data and computational tools.

(4) In the case of a proposal consisting of a partnership or partnerships with one or more local educational agencies and one or more researchers, a plan for establishing a sustained partnership that is jointly developed and managed, draws from the capacities of each partner, and is mutually beneficial.

(e) PARTNERSHIPS.—In making awards under subsection (c), the Director shall encourage applications that include the following:

(1) Partnership with a nonprofit organization or an institution of higher education that has extensive experience and expertise in increasing the participation of students in prekindergarten through grade 12 in mathematical modeling and statistical modeling.

(2) Partnership with a local educational agency, a consortium of local educational agencies, or Tribal educational agencies.

(3) An assurance from school leaders to making reforms and activities proposed by the applicant a priority.

(4) Ways to address critical transitions, such as middle school to high school, high school to college, and school to internships and jobs.

(5) Input from education researchers and cognitive scientists, as well as practitioners in research and industry, so that what is being taught is up-to-date in terms of content and pedagogy.

(6) A communications strategy for early conversations with parents, school leaders, school boards, community members, employers, and other stakeholders.

(7) Resources for parents, school leaders, school boards, community members, and other stakeholders to build skills in modeling and analytics.

(f) USE OF FUNDS.—An entity that receives an award under this section shall use the award for research and development activities to advance innovative approaches to support and sustain high-quality mathematical modeling education in public schools, including statistical modeling, data science, operations research, and computational thinking, which may include the following:

(1) Engaging prekindergarten through grade 12 educators in professional learning opportunities to enhance mathematical modeling and statistical problem solving knowledge, and developing training and best practices to provide more interdisciplinary learning opportunities.

(2) Conducting research on curricula and teaching practices that empower students to choose the mathematical, statistical, computational, and technological tools they will apply to a problem, as is required in life and the workplace, rather than prescribing a particular approach or method.

(3) Providing students with opportunities to explore and analyze real data sets from contexts that are meaningful to the students, which may include the following:

(A) Missing or incorrect values.

(B) Quantities of data that require choice and use of appropriate technology.

(C) Multiple data sets that require choices about which data are relevant to the current problem.

(D) Data of various types including quantities, words, and images.

(4) Taking a school or district-wide approach to professional development in mathematical modeling and statistical modeling.

(5) Engaging rural local agencies.

(6) Supporting research on effective mathematical modeling and statistical modeling teaching practices, including problem- and project-based learning, universal design for accessibility, and rubrics and mastery-based grading practices to assess student performance.

(7) Designing and developing pre-service and in-service training resources to assist educators in adopting transdisciplinary teaching practices within mathematics and statistics courses.

(8) Coordinating with local partners to adapt mathematics and statistics teaching practices to leverage local natural, business, industry, and community assets in order to support community-based learning.

(9) Providing hands-on training and research opportunities for mathematics and statistics educators at Federal laboratories, institutions of higher education, or in industry.

(10) Developing mechanisms for partnerships between educators and employers to help educators and students make connections between their mathematics and statistics projects and topics of relevance in today's world.

(11) Designing and implementing professional development courses and experiences, including mentoring for educators, that combine face-to-face and online experiences.

(12) Reducing gaps in access to learning opportunities for students from groups historically underrepresented in STEM.

(13) Providing support and resources for students from groups historically underrepresented in STEM.

(14) Addressing critical transitions, such as middle school to high school, high school to college, and school to internships and jobs.

(15) Researching effective approaches for engaging students from groups historically underrepresented in STEM.



(16) Any other activity the Director determines will accomplish the goals of this section.

(g) **EVALUATIONS.**—All proposals for awards under this section shall include an evaluation plan that includes the use of outcome oriented measures to assess the impact and efficacy of the award. Each recipient of an award under this section shall include results from such evaluative activities in annual and final project reports.

(h) **ACCOUNTABILITY AND DISSEMINATION.**—

(1) **EVALUATION REQUIRED.**—The Director shall evaluate the portfolio of awards made under this section. Such evaluation shall—

(A) use a common set of benchmarks and tools to assess the results of research conducted under such awards and identify best practices; and

(B) to the extent practicable, integrate the findings of research resulting from the activities funded through such awards with the findings of other research on student's pursuit of degrees or careers in STEM.

(2) **REPORT ON EVALUATIONS.**—Not later than 180 days after the completion of the evaluation under paragraph (1), the Director shall submit to Congress and make widely available to the public a report that includes the following:

(A) The results of the evaluation.

(B) Any recommendations for administrative and legislative action that could optimize the effectiveness of the awards made under this section.

(i) **FUNDING.**—\$1,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2026 through 2030 is authorized to be used by the Directorate for STEM Education of the National Science Foundation to carry out this section.

**SEC. 3. NASEM REPORT ON MATHEMATICAL AND STATISTICAL MODELING EDUCATION IN PREKINDERGARTEN THROUGH 12TH GRADE.**

(a) **STUDY.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the National Science Foundation (in this section referred to as the “Director”) shall seek to enter into an agreement with the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine (in this section referred to as “NASEM”) (or if NASEM declines to enter into such an agreement, another appropriate entity) under which NASEM, or such other appropriate entity, agrees to conduct a study on the following:

(1) Factors that enhance or barriers to the implementation of mathematical modeling and statistical modeling in elementary and secondary education, including opportunities for and barriers to use modeling to integrate mathematical and statistical ideas across the curriculum, including the following:

(A) Pathways in mathematical modeling and statistical problem solving from kindergarten to the workplace so students are able to identify opportunities to use their school mathematics and statistics in a variety of jobs and life situations and so employers can benefit from students’ school learning of data science, computational thinking, mathematics, statistics, and related subjects.

(B) The role of community-based problems, service-based learning, and internships for connecting students with career preparatory experiences.

(C) Best practices in problem-, project-, performance-based learning and assessment.

(2) Characteristics of teacher education programs that successfully prepare teachers to engage students in mathematical modeling and statistical modeling, as well as gaps and suggestions for building capacity in the pre-service and in-service teacher workforce.

(3) Mechanisms for communication with stakeholders, including parents, administrators, and the public, to promote under-

standing and knowledge of the value of mathematical modeling and statistical modeling in education.

(b) **PUBLIC STAKEHOLDER MEETING.**—In the course of completing the study described in subsection (a), NASEM or such other appropriate entity shall hold not fewer than one public meeting to obtain stakeholder input on the topics of such study.

(c) **REPORT.**—The agreement under subsection (a) shall require NASEM, or such other appropriate entity, not later than 24 months after the effective date of such agreement, to submit to the Director, the Secretary of Education, and the Congress a report containing the following:

(1) The results of the study conducted under subsection (a).

(2) Recommendations to modernize the processes described in subsection (a)(1).

(3) Recommendations for such legislative and administrative action as NASEM, or such other appropriate entity, determines appropriate.

(d) **FUNDING.**—\$1,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2026 through 2030 is authorized to be used by the Directorate for STEM Education of the National Science Foundation to carry out this section.

**SEC. 4. LIMITATIONS.**

(a) **LIMITATION ON FUNDING.**—Amounts made available to carry out sections 2 and 3 shall be derived from amounts appropriated or otherwise made available to the National Science Foundation.

(b) **SUNSET.**—The authority to provide awards under this Act shall expire on September 30, 2029.

The **SPEAKER** pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BABIN) and the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. STEVENS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

**GENERAL LEAVE**

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 730, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to support H.R. 730, the Mathematical and Statistical Modeling Education Act, sponsored by my colleagues Representatives HOULAHAN and BAIRD.

The importance of STEM education to our economy cannot be overstated. The National Science Board’s 2024 Science and Engineering Indicators report estimates that our country’s STEM workforce constitutes 24 percent of all U.S. jobs. Further still, the Bureau of Labor Statistics predicts that the need for STEM jobs will increase by another 11 percent by 2032.

America’s education sector must ensure that we meet this growing demand head-on. Many STEM jobs require data comprehension to inform decision-making, but we are currently not providing a strong foundation for that skill in our schools.

H.R. 730 would modernize our mathematics curriculum by providing com-

petitive, merit-based grants to support mathematical and statistical modeling education.

Having served on the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology since joining Congress, and now as the sitting chairman, I understand the importance of mathematical and statistical analyses. I have had a front row seat to the extraordinary accomplishments of our domestic STEM talent across many industries and professions. One thing they all share is a solid foundation and understanding of mathematics and modeling.

These skills are crucial to a wide variety of occupations, informing computational and data-driven thinking that supports the growth of a versatile STEM workforce. Statistical analysis underpins everything from the development of artificial intelligence to improving advanced manufacturing.

This bill will allow us to teach these skills more effectively through R&D and new curricula and methodologies. H.R. 730 also directs the National Academies to conduct a study identifying best practices for mathematical and statistical modeling education.

I thank Representatives HOULAHAN and BAIRD for their work on this logical legislation that supports our students and our economy. This bill passed the House in the 117th and 118th Congresses, and I urge my colleagues to pass it again today.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, this is a real honor and a delight to be speaking on behalf of and in support of the Mathematical and Statistical Modeling Education Act, otherwise known as H.R. 730.

We have here in the House Chamber gallery an audience of about 75 people. It is really quite amazing to have the outside public in the Hall of the House of Representatives watch this debate today, because if you are interested in government, maybe sometimes you are attuned to what is going on, on social media or the cable news, and sometimes that really misses the mark of what we are doing here in the Nation’s Capital, which is bipartisan legislation committed to moving this Nation forward.

Mr. Speaker, I don’t say that lightly. I look at Representative HOULAHAN and Representative BAIRD, two Members of the class of 2018, both in their fourth term. I have passed legislation with both of them. Now they have joined together to pass H.R. 730, a STEM bill, science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. You don’t have STEM without mathematics.

We call on the National Science Foundation to support mathematical and statistical modeling education starting in elementary school and secondary schools. These activities include providing grants to academic institutions and nonprofit organizations

that improve data, science skills, enhance computational thinking, and enable access to professional development opportunities. My friends, this is how we compete and win on the world's stage.

It is so very important to me, as somebody who worked in a manufacturing research lab. I have brought in expert witnesses to the Science Committee that, yes, our great chairman has been a part of for his whole tenure in Congress. We have heard this from the researchers. I have heard this since before I came to Congress. We need this skill set.

This is what we want to say to the young people we have observing the floor right now. I don't know the full curriculum that they are in and what-not. I imagine there is an interest in government. STEM is also of note. When we were doing STEM education in the lab I was in, we had a great researcher. This man had a great engineering degree, and we would do the STEM education. He would tell the students that he didn't always pass his math classes the first round, but he had the surrounding cushion to help him go back for a second round.

That is what it is all about in America. If you want to be an engineer or if you want to contribute to our advanced manufacturing economy, we want your talent. With the Baird-Houlihan bill, what we are going to do is see NSF do what it is already doing but double down for a continuing educational experience at the NSF so that students can thrive.

What we don't want is a bunch of one-offs and all of a sudden you are graduating high school and maybe you had some exposure to these computational skills. We are competing across the world with talent. Our schools need to have the best ability to thrive. I urge everybody in this data-driven, AI, exciting world that the United States is leading, and encourage our colleagues on both sides of the aisle to say, yes, we want this bill, H.R. 730, to move forward.

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

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

□ 1430

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

Ms. STEVENS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. HOULAHAN) for her remarks.

Ms. HOULAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative HALEY STEVENS for this opportunity to speak on behalf of this really important legislation.

Imagine, if you will, the ability to model a manufacturing process to design a basketball shoe, maybe modeling the opportunity to cure a disease, maybe modeling market behavior, per-

haps modeling a system to be able to equitably donate organs to people or molecules to cure a disease, modeling energy sources so that we can have a more safe and healthy planet, or maybe even, unfortunately, having to model the destruction of our infrastructure so that we can make sure that we have the national security resources to be able to protect our fine Nation.

H.R. 730, the Mathematical and Statistical Modeling Education Act, is designed to address all of these different issues in our society, but I come to the floor with really bad news, as though we needed more. America's K-12 students are falling further and further behind, particularly behind China's students, academically.

This lag is particularly concerning when we talk about the STEM fields because our industrial base continues to tell us that we are not educating and preparing the designers, engineers, and modelers of the future in order to be able to compete with our adversaries.

The National Assessment on Education Progress, which is colloquially known as the Nation's report card, has shown us that this knowledge and talent shortage is a nationwide challenge. In 2022, the assessment registered the largest decline in mathematics scores since we first started assessing in 1990. The scores of the average fourth grader were down 5 points. Worse, the average eighth grader recorded a score of 8 points lower than the previous assessment. The 2024 survey was even more concerning because it showed an overall growth of zero from 2022 and even declines among some students, as well.

With all the chaos that is unfolding in other parts of our government, particularly in the education sector, now is the time to invest in math and STEM education.

The Mathematical and Statistical Modeling Education Act is just one answer to this challenge. It is a bipartisan bill, and it directs \$10 million of already-appropriated money to the National Science Foundation for a grant program that will support the modernization of mathematical and statistical modeling for education across this Nation.

As a former educator myself and an engineer by education and profession, I know personally that there is a very serious need to improve mathematics education for our K-12 students. Indeed, when I taught chemistry, I saw firsthand how my students struggled because they lacked the basic foundations in math that are necessary for the sciences. Today, I hear from both our generals and our CEOs about what these gaps mean for our country. It doesn't just hurt our economy. It hurts our national security, as well.

Math skills form the basis for all the STEM disciplines, and importantly, they also form the basis just for critical thinking and problem-solving in general. If our students can't get ahead in school, how will they get ahead in

the STEM workforce as engineers, computer scientists, chemists, nurses, doctors, and much more?

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

Ms. STEVENS. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania.

Ms. HOULAHAN. Mr. Speaker, importantly, how will those who may decide to pursue STEM fields succeed where these same skills are useful among the trades or manufacturing?

Thankfully, schools across the country are developing new tools and curricula with students to help them learn these challenging topics.

I will repeat again that this is without any additional cost. This is with funds already appropriated.

I will also repeat again that this is a bipartisan piece of legislation that will provide our young people with the skills they need to succeed in our marketplace.

It passed in the 118th Congress unanimously out of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology as well when it was last marked up. I hope that my colleagues will support this unanimously and make this bill finally a law.

Lastly, I thank my Republican colleague and fellow veteran, Mr. BAIRD, for his hard work on this legislation and extend appreciation to the staff of the SST Committee, as well as Representative STEVENS and Representative BABIN, who have helped shepherd this legislation through today.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues on both sides to support this commonsense, bipartisan measure to strengthen our national security and our economy.

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

Ms. STEVENS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

Mr. Speaker, I thank our wonderful sponsors of this bill. It is really quite exciting. We continue to move toward urging colleagues to vote "yes" on H.R. 730, the Mathematical and Statistical Modeling Education Act.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, as teachers prepare the next generation of American STEM workers, we must invest in the best curricula and teaching methods. H.R. 730 will improve mathematical and statistical modeling education in the United States, ensuring American businesses have qualified workers with the necessary skills to drive innovation in STEM fields, including artificial intelligence and advanced manufacturing. This is good policy, which is why this same bill passed the House in the 117th and the 118th Congresses.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support it once again, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, the Mathematical and Statistical Modeling Education Act seeks



to improve the quality of STEM education in America. This bill will allow us to modernize math curricula and improve K–12 science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education.

While this bill directs the National Science Foundation to grant awards to educational institutions, it does not award any new funding. As we look at reining in the out-of-control government spending and bureaucracy, we must work with the resources we already have.

As an animal scientist, I understand the life-changing effects STEM education can have when it comes to our livestock, creating innovative, more effective farming techniques, our food quality, and ultimately our Nation's well-being.

Proper STEM education has an invaluable impact on American innovation. It equips our students—our future workforce—to tackle the challenges of our modern digital economy. Modernizing STEM education also has wide-ranging impacts on our national security.

The United States' ability to create cutting-edge technologies has been vital to defeating our adversaries, especially as our adversary, Communist China, continues to make huge investments in STEM to try and out-compete the U.S. Beating China and maintaining our global competitive edge begins with strengthening STEM education in K–12 schools.

That is why I am proud to co-lead this bipartisan legislation to ensure that the United States continues to dominate when it comes to STEM education.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BABIN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 730, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

## UNITED STATES RESEARCH PROTECTION ACT

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1318) to amend the Research and Development, Competition, and Innovation Act to clarify the definition of foreign country for purposes of malign foreign talent recruitment restriction, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1318

*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 “United States Research Protection Act”.

### SEC. 2. CLARIFICATION OF DEFINITION OF FOREIGN COUNTRY FOR PURPOSES OF MALIGN FOREIGN TALENT RECRUITMENT RESTRICTION.

Paragraph (4) of section 10638 of title VI of division B of the Research and Development, Competition, and Innovation Act (Public Law 117–167; 42 U.S.C. 19237) is amended—

(1) by inserting “of concern” after “foreign country” each place such term appears;

(2) by striking “means—” and all that follows through “any program, position, or ac-

tivity” and inserting “means any program, position, or activity”;

(3) by striking subparagraph (B);

(4) by redesignating clauses (i) through (ix) as subparagraphs (A) through (I), respectively, and moving such subparagraphs, as so redesignated, two ems to the left;

(5) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), as so redesignated, by striking “directly provided” and inserting “whether directly or indirectly provided”; and

(6) in subparagraph (I), as so redesignated, by striking “; and” and inserting a period.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BABIN) and the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. STEVENS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 1318, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to stand in support of H.R. 1318, the United States Research Protection Act, sponsored by my colleagues, Representatives KENNEDY and STEVENS. This legislation passed the House in the 118th Congress, and I am pleased that we are taking it up again today.

America's leadership in science and technology is built on the foundation of Federal investments and basic research. These investments enhance our national security, strengthen our economy, and improve the lives of our citizens.

Our unique research ecosystem, which combines Federal, academic, and private R&D efforts, drives America's advancement in science and technology. However, for this system to work, we need a degree of open science that facilitates collaboration and transparency. The challenge is ensuring this openness does not compromise our research security.

While the U.S. has significantly profited from this system, other countries—friends and foes—also benefit from U.S. investments. The theft of our basic research poses a significant risk to our global competitiveness. It takes our cutting-edge innovations and puts them to work for our adversaries, undermining our economy and hindering our ability to stay at the forefront of discovery.

A 2023 survey by the Center for Strategic and International Studies found 224 reported instances of Chinese espionage directed at the United States since 2000.

After conducting oversight of recently enacted research security requirements, the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee was informed that complicated and confusing

language in the CHIPS and Science Act was preventing the academic community from fully securing taxpayer-funded research.

H.R. 1318 will update and clarify the definition of a malign foreign talent recruitment program to assist universities and agencies in protecting our national investments. This bill is a simple bipartisan solution to protect our tax dollars and the research that they fund from foreign espionage.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Representatives KENNEDY and STEVENS for their work on this critical legislation. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1318, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of my bill, H.R. 1318, alongside Congressman KENNEDY of Utah, the United States Research Protection Act. I certainly thank Mr. KENNEDY for his bipartisan leadership on this exciting and important topic and, frankly, an essential topic.

In the 117th Congress, we got the CHIPS and Science Act done. It included a lot of provisions focused on improving research security. This landmark law also included a prohibition on Federal researchers' participation in foreign talent recruitment programs sponsored by adversaries of the United States seeking to undermine our Nation's competitiveness. This is a serious and very real topic.

By installing safeguards and creating informed practices for our agencies, institutions, and researchers to implement, the CHIPS and Science Act is continuing the innovation ecosystem necessary to win into the mid-21st century.

From my vantage point of serving on the Science, Space, and Technology Committee and the Select Committee on the Strategic Competition Between the United States and the Chinese Communist Party, I certainly understand the risks. Many of us who are delving into these topics have really glommed on to the risks posed to our research enterprise from adversaries like China and Russia.

The committees that are enabling us to operate in a bipartisan way have also explored the methods used to circumvent the safeguards that our country has put into place, including going through third-party countries.

This is why we want to ensure our research institutions have the best interests in mind, the best talent going to them, American talent, doing very innovative things, but they need to have the necessary clarity to faithfully implement research security measures that the CHIPS and Science Act put into place to protect our national research assets.

H.R. 1318 clarifies—it is always nice to clarify in legislation—the definition of malign foreign talent recruitment program so that our beloved universities and research institutions can

readily ensure that their faculty members are not affiliated with malign foreign talent.

□ 1445

The National Science Foundation affirmed that our amendment, this adjustment, would improve their ability to ensure institutional compliance because people want to follow the law. They need the guardrails, and they need the clarity of the law. So even minor differences in definitions can have large consequences and can make implementation difficult. So we have the chance, and this year we are eager to make this one right and to strengthen the United States and to strengthen our research enterprise.

We have got a good example in this bill of how to address gaps in policy and improve the efficiency of our agencies. In this case our academic stakeholders are the ones who came to us, and they said that we have a problem with a definition in a law that we wrote. So in a bipartisan and in an informed process we worked with these stakeholders, and we worked through the committee, the agency, and certainly the NSF, to fix this issue.

This is how improving efficiency and accountability at our agencies should be handled, with stakeholder consultation and congressional action.

This bipartisan bill passed the 118th Congress. The Senate didn't act, but we are going to encourage them in the 119th to act when we urge all of our colleagues in the House Chamber to support this bill once again.

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

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Utah (Mr. KENNEDY).

Mr. KENNEDY of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support the passage of my legislation, the United States Research Protection Act. H.R. 1318 is a critical piece of legislation that seeks to protect the future of our Nation's scientific and technological advancement. The stakes could not be higher in this era of rapid global innovation and increasingly complex geopolitical dynamics.

I thank Chairman BABIN for working with me to bring this important bipartisan legislation to the floor quickly. I also thank my colleague from Michigan, Congresswoman STEVENS, for co-leading this bill with me.

I am proud that my very first bill to pass the House will protect crucial research done here in the United States from adversarial foreign actors seeking to exploit our research, talent, and resources for their own gain.

Everyone in this Chamber knows the growing threat from the Chinese Communist Party. This adversary has made no secret of its intentions to surpass the United States in key technological areas, from artificial intelligence to quantum computing to biotechnology.

In 2022, Congress passed the Research and Development, Competition, and In-

novation Act as part of the CHIPS and Science Act. That bill prohibited researchers who receive Federal funds from participating in malign foreign talent recruitment programs in which foreign countries incentivize or compensate researchers for activities that present a conflict of interest for the researcher or that are otherwise unauthorized.

The Science, Space, and Technology Committee has been conducting vigorous oversight of the implementation of the CHIPS Act and has found that complicated and confusing language in the bill was impeding the ability of American researchers and their institutions to protect taxpayer-funded research.

This ambiguity could also allow for loopholes, allowing malign foreign talent recruitment programs in our universities and other research labs to recruit researchers or access sensitive data, effectively funding breakthrough research for the Chinese Communist Party with American taxpayers' dollars.

China's government has embarked on an aggressive strategy to acquire critical American research and intellectual property. We have seen a troubling pattern of intellectual property theft, economic espionage, and illicit influence over academic institutions. These efforts are not just limited to the economic realm. They are a matter of national security.

The United States Research Protection Act updates and clarifies the definition of malign foreign talent recruitment programs to protect our national investments.

If we do not act now, we risk losing the technological edge that has kept our country secure, prosperous, and at the forefront of global innovation.

We have a responsibility to protect American research, safeguard our intellectual property, and ensure that the innovations of today will remain in the hands of those who work to benefit our Nation, not those who seek to undermine it.

By passing this bipartisan bill, H.R. 1318, we are making a strong commitment to future generations of Americans. We are telling them we will not stand idly by as American innovations are put at risk. We are telling the world that the United States will continue to lead in the global technological race, and we will do so on our terms.

I thank Chairman BABIN for his leadership on this issue. He is a thoughtful and dedicated patriot who is making certain that our grandchildren are better off as a result of our efforts today.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all my colleagues to support this bill.

Ms. STEVENS. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time to speak on this bill, and I am prepared to close. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I thank, again, my colleague, Mr. KENNEDY for his were very

affirming and wonderful remarks on the importance of this legislation.

I think from what everyone can hear today, we have bipartisan technical improvement legislation that will only strengthen our Nation and our research enterprise.

Mr. Speaker, I urge everyone to vote "yes" on H.R. 1318, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, the government needs clear and explicit guidance for our agencies and federally funded researchers. While this body has passed multiple bills to protect American research, unintentional ambiguity has created confusion within the academic research community. H.R. 1318 will eliminate confusion around the implementation of research security requirements and increase protections of our R&D enterprise.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this simple and noncontroversial bipartisan legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BABIN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1318.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### COMMERCIAL REMOTE SENSING AMENDMENT ACT OF 2025

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1325) to provide for transparent licensing of commercial remote sensing systems, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1325

*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 "Commercial Remote Sensing Amendment Act of 2025".

#### SEC. 2. ANNUAL REPORTS.

(a) DEADLINES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 60121(c) of title 51, United States Code, is amended by striking "120" and inserting "60".

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 60126(a)(1)(E) of title 51, United States Code, is amended by striking "120" and inserting "60".

(b) NOTIFICATIONS.—Section 60126(a)(2) of title 51, United States Code, is amended by striking "section 60122; and" and inserting "paragraphs (5) and (6) of section 60122(b);".

(c) CONDITIONS.—Section 60126(a) of title 51, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (4); and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following new paragraph:

"(3) all terms, conditions, or restrictions placed on licensees pursuant to section 60122; and".

(d) TIERS.—Section 60126(a)(1) of title 51, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (D), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (E), by inserting “and” at the end; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(F) a list of all applications submitted and licenses granted in accordance therewith, listed by tier as defined in regulation, as well as the rationale for each tier categorization;”.

(e) SUNSET.—Section 60126 of title 51, United States Code, is amended by striking “September 30, 2020” and inserting “September 30, 2030”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BABIN) and the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. STEVENS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 1325, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1325, the Commercial Remote Sensing Amendment Act of 2025.

This bill updates reporting requirements for NOAA's Office of Commercial Remote Sensing Regulatory Affairs, giving Congress the ability to monitor how regulations are affecting the expansion and development of the commercial and remote sensing industry.

Remote sensing uses data collected from satellites to produce images of Earth and has become a crucial tool in fields like agriculture, finance, trade, energy, and national security. Commercial remote sensing also provides us with vital information for many important applications. The technology behind it is constantly evolving, and the industry is seeing tremendous growth.

To effectively support and manage remote sensing activities, it is imperative that Congress receives timely and comprehensive reports in order to evaluate the state of the industry and how regulations are affecting this growth.

The Commercial Space Launch Competitiveness Act of 2015 established a reporting requirement for the Department of Commerce on the status of commercial remote sensing licensing and regulation. That requirement expired in 2020. H.R. 1325 will reinstate this reporting requirement and keep Congress informed of agency actions, their impact on licensees, and the state of the commercial remote sensing industry.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1325 is a no-nonsense, bipartisan bill that will ensure the U.S. remains at the helm of this important field.

I thank the former chairman of the Science, Space, and Technology Committee, Mr. LUCAS, for introducing this bill and his leadership on this important topic. This bill passed the House by a voice vote in the last two Congresses, and I look forward to working with the Senate to see it finally cross the finish line.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I join my colleague and chair, Mr. BABIN, and rise in support of the Commercial Remote Sensing Amendment Act of 2025, H.R. 1325. We are very pleased to see this legislation being reintroduced this Congress, and certainly it is coming from the leadership of our former chair of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Mr. FRANK LUCAS, and our ranking member, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN. It is another bipartisan bill.

Commercial remote sensing is a vibrant and growing industry. Data and imagery from commercial remote sensing satellites are used widely in energy, agriculture, disaster monitoring, mapping, and national security applications such as maritime surveillance.

Commercial space-based images provide vital scientific information on the health of our Great Lakes informing policy in my beloved home State of Michigan and across the basin. These images also provide visibility and insight into life-threatening events, such as the before and after observations of the devastating Palisades and Eaton wildfires in southern California.

In 1992, Congress, led by the Science, Space, and Technology Committee, authorized the Secretary of Commerce to license and regulate private-sector parties to operate commercial remote sensing space systems. Since that time, the commercial remote sensing industry has changed quite dramatically.

Today, companies from across the world are launching commercial remote sensing systems and selling the data. We must ensure that the United States remains at the forefront of this industry, especially as the Chinese Communist Party is advancing in the remote sensing sector.

As a 2024 report from the Center for Strategic and International Studies plainly put it: “Should any one country dominate the commercial remote sensing market, not only could it gain economic advantages, but it would also control the information narrative about the entire planet, from the environment to natural resources to human conflict.”

So this bill provides Congress the transparency and insight we need to oversee the licensing and regulation of private remote sensing systems. It modifies the timeline for completing licenses to conform with updated regulations. It also requires information to provide Congress with details on licensing related to regulatory changes. Fur-

ther, it extends the requirement for an annual report on commercial remote sensing licenses through 2030.

I am very enthusiastic about this important bipartisan commercial space legislation. It is always a good day in the Chamber when Chair BABIN is talking about commercial space legislation, and it is always a good day when we are doing bipartisan things on behalf of American competitiveness.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote “yes” on H.R. 1325, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LUCAS), who is our former chairman.

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Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I have to acknowledge this: I can't think of a better set of hands to have the chairmanship of this critically important committee of Science, Space, and Technology in than Chairman BABIN and Ranking Member LOFGREN and my good friend, the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. STEVENS) over there. The committee that the chairman presides over represents the future of this great country. I always tell people that the Science, Space, and Technology Committee is not just about yesterday or tomorrow, but it is 5 years, it is 50 years, it is 250 years into the future, and that is just an amazing thing.

Today, I rise in support of H.R. 1325, the Commercial Remote Sensing Act. I have introduced this bipartisan legislation in the past two Congresses, and on both occasions, the measures passed the House by voice vote. I reintroduced the bill this Congress along with my colleague and friend, the ranking member of the Science, Space, and Technology Committee, Ms. LOFGREN.

It updates the reporting requirements for NOAA's Office of Commercial Remote Sensing Regulatory Affairs so that Congress can monitor how regulations are impacting the growth and improvement of the commercial remote sensing industry.

Congress first authorized the licensing and regulation of commercial remote sensing space systems in 1992. Since then, the industry has become a crucial resource in a number of industries including agriculture, finance, trade, and energy.

Remote sensing uses data collected from satellites to produce images of Earth. This imagery and data has a number of important applications. It can allow farmers to improve crop production by more efficiently applying water and fertilizer. It can inform the future commodity prices by actively monitoring weather and crop health.

It can also improve our ability to prepare for and respond to natural disasters by instructing flood plain mapping, tornado tracking, and drought monitoring, topics that are all front-of-mind for all Americans, but especially those in my home State of Oklahoma.

Commercial remote sensing can also be helpful in humanitarian relief efforts and monitoring treaty compliance, among other national security and foreign affairs applications.

This technology provides us with critical information for a number of fields. As the industry is constantly evolving and growing, we must make sure that Congress is receiving timely and comprehensive reports to accurately evaluate how regulations are affecting the state of the industry.

The Commercial Space Launch Competitiveness Act of 2015 established a reporting requirement from the Department of Commerce on the status of commercial remote sensing licensing and regulation. That requirement expired in 2020.

H.R. 1325 will reinstate the reporting requirement and keep Congress informed of agency actions, their impact on licensees, and the state of the commercial remote sensing industry.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1325 is a simple, bipartisan bill that will help ensure that the United States remains the global leader in the commercial remote sensing industry.

I thank Ranking Member LOFGREN for joining me in advancing this legislation, and I urge all of my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I am prepared to close.

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

Ms. STEVENS. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time to speak on this bill, and I am prepared to close. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, it is always a good thing when we have a Lucas bill, and particularly when it is a bipartisan bill, and usually it is. You just heard his remarks in this debate. He has really nailed this one.

H.R. 1325 remains an important and necessary piece of legislation that I am proud to support and urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on.

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

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, as I said previously, commercial remote sensing provides us with critical information related to a number of fields important to U.S. competitiveness.

H.R. 1325 will ensure that Congress receives the updates necessary to monitor industry regulations. Updating these reporting requirements will ensure the U.S. remains the global leader in this crucial sector.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BABIN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1325.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### DOE AND USDA INTERAGENCY RESEARCH ACT

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1326) to provide for Department of Energy and Department of Agriculture joint research and development activities, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1326

*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 "DOE and USDA Interagency Research Act".

##### SEC. 2. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE JOINT RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Energy and the Secretary of Agriculture (in this section referred to as the "Secretaries") shall carry out cross-cutting and collaborative research and development activities focused on the joint advancement of Department of Energy and Department of Agriculture mission requirements and priorities.

(b) MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.—The Secretaries shall carry out and coordinate the activities under subsection (a) through the establishment of a memorandum of understanding, or other appropriate interagency agreement. Such memorandum or agreement shall require the use of a competitive, merit-reviewed process, which considers applications from Federal agencies, National Laboratories, institutions of higher education, nonprofit institutions, and other appropriate entities.

(c) COORDINATION.—In carrying out the activities under subsection (a), the Secretaries may carry out the following:

(1) Conduct collaborative research over a variety of focus areas, such as the following:

(A) Modeling and simulation, machine learning, artificial intelligence, data assimilation, large scale data analytics, and predictive analysis in order to optimize algorithms for purposes related to agriculture and energy, such as life cycle analysis of agricultural or energy systems.

(B) Fundamental agricultural, biological, computational, and environmental science and engineering, including advanced crop science, crop protection, breeding, and biological pest control, in collaboration with the program authorized under section 306 of the Department of Energy Research and Innovation Act (42 U.S.C. 18644).

(C) Integrated natural resources and the energy-water nexus, including in collaboration with the program authorized under section 1010 of the Energy Act of 2020 (enacted as division Z of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (42 U.S.C. 16183)).

(D) Advanced biomass, biobased products, and biofuels, including in collaboration with the activities authorized under section 9008(b) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8108(b)).

(E) Diverse feedstocks for economically and environmentally sustainable fuels, including aviation and naval fuels.

(F) Colocation of agricultural resources and activities and ecosystem services with diverse energy technologies and resources.

(G) Colocation of agricultural resources and activities with carbon storage and utilization technologies.

(H) Invasive species management to further the work done by the Federal Interagency Committee for the Management of Noxious and Exotic Weeds.

(I) Long-term and high-risk technological barriers in the development of transformative science and technology solutions in the agriculture and energy sectors, including in collaboration with the program authorized under section 5012 of the America COMPETES Act (42 U.S.C. 16538).

(J) Grid modernization and grid security.

(K) Rural technology development, including manufacturing, precision agriculture technologies, and mechanization and automation technologies.

(L) Wildfire risks and prevention, including the power sector's role in fire prevention and mitigation and wildfire impacts on energy infrastructure.

(2) Develop methods to accommodate large voluntary standardized and integrated data sets on agricultural, environmental, supply chain, and economic information with variable accuracy and scale.

(3) Promote collaboration, open community-based development, and data and information sharing between Federal agencies, National Laboratories, institutions of higher education, nonprofit institutions, industry partners, and other appropriate entities by providing reliable access to secure data and information that are in compliance with Federal rules and regulations.

(4) Support research infrastructure and workforce development as the Secretaries determine necessary.

(5) Conduct collaborative research, development, and demonstration of methods and technologies to accomplish the following:

(A) Improve the efficiency of agriculture operations and processing of agricultural products.

(B) Reduce greenhouse gas emissions associated with such operations and such processing.

(d) AGREEMENTS.—In carrying out the activities under subsection (a), the Secretaries are authorized to—

(1) carry out reimbursable agreements between the Department of Energy, the Department of Agriculture, and other entities in order to maximize the effectiveness of research and development; and

(2) collaborate with other Federal agencies as appropriate.

(e) REPORT.—Not later than two years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretaries shall submit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology and the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate, a report detailing the following:

(1) Interagency coordination between each Federal agency involved in the research and development activities carried out under this section.

(2) Potential opportunities to expand the technical capabilities of the Department of Energy and the Department of Agriculture.

(3) Collaborative research achievements.

(4) Areas of future mutually beneficial successes.

(5) Continuation of coordination activities between the Department of Energy and the Department of Agriculture.

(f) RESEARCH SECURITY.—The activities authorized under this section shall be applied in a manner consistent with subtitle D of title VI of the Research and Development, Competition, and Innovation Act (enacted as division B of Public Law 117-167; 42 U.S.C. 19231 et seq.).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from

Texas (Mr. BABIN) and the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. STEVENS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 1326, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1326, the DOE and USDA Interagency Research Act is a perfect example of government efficiency. This bill directs the Department of Energy and the Department of Agriculture to share their resources and knowledge to achieve common mission priorities.

DOE and USDA already have a successful track record of collaboration in topics such as the energy-water nexus, invasive species control, wildfire risk mitigation, and biofuels. Through the expanded interagency agreement authorized in this bill, DOE and USDA can tackle additional complex research challenges, such as genomics-based research, rural energy development, and grid modernization.

These joint efforts advance clean energy and agricultural technologies and promote rural economic growth. As global competition intensifies and our adversaries seek to gain an advantage by feeding and clothing the rest of the world, it is vital that we strengthen and preserve this interagency collaboration to keep pace through innovation.

This bill will do exactly that. We have two world-class agencies, DOE and USDA, conducting research, so it only makes sense that we ensure they are both at the table to coordinate on a wide range of topics.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I am rising in support of the DOE and USDA Interagency Research Act, H.R. 1326.

I thank the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LUCAS), again, our former committee chair, for reintroducing this legislation alongside the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LOFGREN), our ranking member of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

The Department of Energy and the United States Department of Agriculture have a long and established history of partnering to address multidisciplinary research areas like biomass energy development, sustainable aviation fuels, and various methods for improving clean energy development and deploying that development in rural America.

H.R. 1326 is going to codify and strengthen these cross-cutting and collaborative research and development activities between these two departments, the Department of Energy and the Department of Agriculture. This bill positions these agencies to overcome future international competition challenges while accelerating the production of biofuels, renewable chemical feed stocks, and conversion systems that can support clean energy technologies and, of course, rural economic growth.

Mr. Speaker, I join in encouraging my colleagues to support this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LUCAS), our former chairman.

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1326, the DOE and USDA Interagency Research Act. This bill allows the Department of Energy and the Department of Agriculture to work together to improve how we grow our food, fiber, and fuel in America.

I introduced this bill in the last Congress with the help of the ranking member of the Science, Space, and Technology Committee, Ms. LOFGREN. The measure passed with unanimous support through the committee and by voice vote on the House floor.

As a farmer and rancher myself, I am proud to sponsor this bill, which will help us address cross-cutting research challenges that will advance crop science, maximize carbon storage, enhance precision agriculture technologies, and much more.

DOE and USDA already have a successful track record of collaboration to mitigate invasive species, modernize the grid, address the energy-water nexus, develop biofuels, and improve agriculture operations.

DOE has some of our country's most advanced computing capacities, as well as world-class research facilities and a depth of scientific expertise.

These resources can be used to support the work being done by America's farmers and ranchers, ultimately strengthening our agricultural production.

This bill before us today is a smart, bipartisan legislation that codifies the partnership between DOE and USDA, ensuring that they can continue to work together on these interindustry challenges.

I thank Ms. LOFGREN for working with me these past two Congresses on this bill, and I deeply appreciate her support of agricultural research. It is always a pleasure to be on the floor with Ms. STEVENS from Michigan.

I urge all my colleagues to join us in supporting this bill.

Ms. STEVENS. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests to speak on this bill, and I am prepared to close. I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, let's make this a reality with H.R. 1326. I urge a "yes" vote,

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

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, this bill passed the House with unanimous support last Congress. That is because smart, bipartisan legislation rarely faces opposition.

I thank former Science, Space, and Technology Committee chairman, Mr. LUCAS, and Ranking Member LOFGREN for once again leading this effort.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BABIN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1326.

The question was taken.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

#### DOE AND NSF INTERAGENCY RESEARCH ACT

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1350) to provide for Department of Energy and National Science Foundation research and development coordination, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1350

*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 "DOE and NSF Interagency Research Act".

#### SEC. 2. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT COORDINATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Energy (in this section referred to as the "Secretary") and the Director of the National Science Foundation (in this section referred to as the "Director") shall carry out cross-cutting and collaborative research and development activities focused on the joint advancement of Department of Energy and National Science Foundation mission requirements and priorities.

(b) MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.—The Secretary and the Director shall coordinate the activities under subsection (a) through the establishment of a memorandum of understanding, or other appropriate interagency agreement. Such memorandum or agreement, as the case may be, shall require the use of a competitive, merit-reviewed process, which considers applications from Federal agencies, National Laboratories, institutions of higher education, non-profit institutions, and other appropriate entities.

(c) COORDINATION.—In carrying out the activities under subsection (a), the Secretary and the Director may—

(1) conduct collaborative research in a variety of focus areas, such as—

(A) basic plasma science and engineering, including applications in astrophysics, materials science, fusion science, and accelerator science;

(B) fundamental biological and computational science and engineering, including computational neuroscience and neuromorphic computing, including in collaboration with the program authorized under section 306 of the Department of Energy Research and Innovation Act (42 U.S.C. 18644);

(C) modeling and simulation, machine learning, artificial intelligence, data assimilation, large-scale data analytics, predictive analysis, and advanced computational, storage, and networking capabilities in order to optimize algorithms for purposes related to energy and climate;

(D) quantum information sciences, including quantum computing and quantum network infrastructure, including in collaboration with the programs authorized under sections 403 and 404 of the National Quantum Initiative Act (15 U.S.C. 8853 and 8854);

(E) energy and materials science and engineering, including artificial photosynthesis, plasma, solar fuels, and fusion, including in collaboration with the programs authorized under sections 303 and 307 of the Department of Energy Research and Innovation Act (42 U.S.C. 18641 and 18645), and section 973 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16313);

(F) advanced manufacturing technologies, including efficient storage systems and alternatives to high-temperature processing, for the purposes of optimizing energy consumption, including in collaboration with the program authorized under section 975 of the Department of Energy Research and Innovation Act (42 U.S.C. 16315);

(G) microelectronics, including novel chip architectures, memory systems, and interconnects; and

(H) advanced physics, including high energy and particle physics, accelerator research and development, and high performance computational tools, including in collaboration with the programs authorized under section 303 of the Department of Energy Research and Innovation Act (42 U.S.C. 18641);

(2) promote collaboration, open community-based development, and data and information sharing between Federal agencies, National Laboratories, institutions of higher education, nonprofit institutions, and other appropriate entities by providing the necessary access and secure data and information transfer capabilities;

(3) support research infrastructure, including new facilities and equipment, as the Secretary and Director determine necessary; and

(4) organize education, training, and research initiatives relating to STEM education and workforce development, including—

(A) internships, fellowships, and other research or work-based learning opportunities;

(B) educational programming for students at all levels, especially experiential and project-based learning opportunities; and

(C) professional development opportunities for educators and researchers.

(d) AGREEMENTS.—In carrying out the activities under subsection (a), the Secretary and the Director are authorized to—

(1) carry out reimbursable agreements between the Department of Energy, the National Science Foundation, and other entities in order to maximize the effectiveness of research and development; and

(2) collaborate with other Federal agencies, as appropriate.

(e) REPORT.—Not later than two years after the date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary and the Director shall submit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and the Committee on Commerce,

Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report detailing the following:

(1) Interagency coordination between each Federal agency involved in the research and development activities carried out under this section.

(2) Potential opportunities to expand the technical capabilities of the Department of Energy and the National Science Foundation.

(3) Collaborative research achievements.

(4) Areas of future mutually beneficial successes.

(5) Continuation of coordination activities between the Department of Energy and the National Science Foundation.

(f) RESEARCH SECURITY.—The activities authorized under this section shall be applied in a manner consistent with subtitle D of title VI of the Research and Development, Competition, and Innovation Act (enacted as division B of Public Law 117-167; 42 U.S.C. 19231 et seq.).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BABIN) and the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. STEVENS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 1350, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1350, the DOE and NSF Interagency Research Act, which passed the House in the 118th Congress. This bill supports the longstanding partnership between the Department of Energy and the National Science Foundation, allowing these agencies to work on cutting-edge research and technological challenges.

As this body is aware, our adversaries, like the Chinese Communist Party, are quickly closing the gap on innovative technologies like artificial intelligence, quantum information science, and advanced manufacturing.

□ 1515

The CCP's efforts to outspend, out-educate, and outpace the the United States in these critical areas are increasingly concerning and something that we cannot ignore.

This legislation will bolster U.S. leadership on the global stage in emerging technologies, ensuring that our competitors do not eclipse us. Additionally, by authorizing this interagency collaboration, we maximize our investments to maintain our competitive edge.

DOE is our Nation's largest supporter of basic research in physical sciences, while NSF is the backbone of the collaborative research environment between government and academia. Together, these agencies can fuel innovation across multiple disciplines, including physics, quantum information

sciences, artificial intelligence, and materials science.

This bill enhances the capabilities of DOE and NSF, leveraging their research and development investments to maximize the impact of taxpayer dollars. By authorizing collaboration between DOE and NSF, we maximize our return on investment and ensure that we remain at the forefront of technological progress.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Representatives STEVENS and BAIRD and the members of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology for reintroducing this important legislation.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, hopefully, our friends and colleagues in the other Chamber are listening because we are moving once again to pass an incredible piece of legislation, H.R. 1350, the DOE and NSF Interagency Research Act, that I and Dr. JIM BAIRD have introduced yet again to see it, hopefully, pass in the House, and we eagerly await the Senate to take it up.

Simply put, H.R. 1350 authorizes collaborative research between the Department of Energy and the National Science Foundation in areas that are essential to our national competitiveness. This legislation will build on the longstanding partnership between the Department of Energy and the National Science Foundation to leverage the unique investments and expertise in a wide range of fields, including quantum science, artificial intelligence, fusion energy, and, of course, advanced manufacturing.

Alongside these research partnerships, this legislation also authorizes collaborative initiatives in education, training, and development to build a stronger workforce in the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics fields.

Lastly, this legislation promotes secure data and information transfer capabilities between these agencies so that we are not working in silos but are working together in a safe and secure environment to develop a shared, agile data ecosystem.

In August 2024, the Australian Strategic Policy Institute updated its dataset, exposing a dramatic shift in U.S. technology leadership. Once dominant in 60 of the 64 critical technologies, according to this policy institute, the U.S. now leads in just 7. China has surged from 3 to 57 since the start of the century.

This is not to put a wet blanket on our incredible country and our innovation capabilities. We want to be measuring, coordinating, and strategic, and we want to be effective stewards of any taxpayer dollars, which is why this bill is not appropriating any such thing.

We are in a wake-up call moment, but this isn't over. To reclaim our edge, we have to empower our top



science agencies to unite, to collaborate, and to drive the innovation necessary to lead before any of our competitors seek to leave us behind. That is why we have this bill. As the chair said, this has passed the House. Our colleagues in the Senate just need to do their jobs.

This collaboration between NSF and the DOE is not new. In fact, they have an extensive history of joint activities, such as support for the development of the Vera C. Rubin Observatory, a world-class tool for scientific discovery and astronomy located in Chile. We are proud of that partnership.

A testament to the power of these collaborations, this observatory just reached a major milestone with the installation of the Large Synoptic Survey Telescope, the LSST, the largest digital camera ever built. This facility will soon be ready to scan the sky for the next 10 years, creating an ultrahigh definition, time-lapsed record of our universe.

The DOE and NSF Interagency Research Act strengthens the legislative foundation of our beloved CHIPS and Science Act, a landmark bill that enables both agencies to foster a more collaborative research environment to maximize their collective impacts for our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, for all of these reasons, this bipartisan legislation falls upon us, and I encourage all of my colleagues to support it.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BAIRD), my dear friend and one of my favorite colleagues—if that is okay and germane to say—for his collaboration on this bill. We are both midwesterners. He is an incredibly accomplished academic, veteran, and businessman from an important part of our Nation. I have had the sincere privilege of collaborating on legislation with the gentleman since we were first sworn into Congress.

Mr. Speaker, we are again partnering on H.R. 1350, and I urge my colleagues to vote in support of this bill, as I have done in other sessions, so that we can implore the Senate to do their part. We are introducing this bill early in the 119th session. We will pass it through the House and, hopefully, see this become law.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1350, the DOE and NSF Interagency Research Act, will support U.S. competitiveness in emerging technologies and key economic sectors while leveraging taxpayer dollars, enabling more to be accomplished with fewer resources.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the good work of my colleagues, Representatives STEVENS and BAIRD. I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Department of Energy and National Science Foundation Interagency Research

Act, and I thank Congresswoman HALEY STEVENS for working with me on this bipartisan bill.

The Department of Energy and the National Science Foundation are vehicles for some of our nation's cutting-edge scientific research. Combined, these agencies tackle the modern challenges of physics, quantum information sciences, Artificial Intelligence, and beyond. However, there is no clear directive for these organizations to work together.

This Legislation explicitly directs the Secretary of Energy and the Director of the NSF to coordinate their activities to accelerate research and unlock new opportunities.

Operating in a silo is never the best practice when it comes to conducting scientific research, especially as our country looks to maximize the use of Americans' taxpayer dollars AND bolster our science and technology sectors to combat the growing threat of the Chinese Communist Party.

With this bill, the Department of Energy and the NSF can maximize their impact through coordination and leveraging each other's investments in research and development. The United States has earned its reputation as a world leader in scientific research and innovation, and now more than ever, we must reinforce critical partnerships that promote these advancements.

As we face increased competition from Communist China, we must ensure WE lead the world in research and development, including in areas like Artificial Intelligence, so that our country—not Communist China—continues to set the rules of the road.

Thank you again to Congresswoman Stevens for working with me on this commonsense, bipartisan approach that empowers American innovation. This legislation unanimously passed the U.S. House of Representatives in 2023, and I hope we see this bill across the finish line this Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KENNEDY of Utah). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BABIN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1350.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### DOE AND NASA INTERAGENCY RESEARCH COORDINATION ACT

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1368) to provide for Department of Energy and National Aeronautics and Space Administration research and development coordination, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H. R. 1368

*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 “DOE and NASA Interagency Research Coordination Act”.

#### SEC. 2. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT COORDINATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Energy (in this section referred to as the “Secretary”) and the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (in this section referred to as the “Administrator”) may carry out, as practicable, cross-cutting and collaborative research and development activities to support the advancement of Department of Energy and National Aeronautics and Space Administration mission requirements and priorities. The Secretary and Administrator, in accordance with subsection (e), may make competitive awards to carry out such activities.

(b) MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING.—The Secretary and the Administrator shall coordinate the activities under subsection (a) through memoranda of understanding, or other appropriate interagency agreements.

(c) COORDINATION.—In carrying out the activities under subsection (a), the Secretary and the Administrator may carry out the following:

(1) Conduct collaborative research and development activities in a variety of focus areas that may include the following:

(A) Propulsion systems and components, including nuclear thermal and nuclear electric propulsion, radioisotope power systems, thermoelectric generators, advanced nuclear fuels, and heater units.

(B) Modeling and simulation, machine learning, data assimilation, large scale data analytics, and predictive analysis in order to optimize algorithms for mission-related purposes.

(C) Fundamental high energy physics, astrophysics, and cosmology, including the nature of dark energy and dark matter, in accordance with section 305 of the Department of Energy Research and Innovation Act (42 U.S.C. 18643).

(D) Fundamental earth and environmental sciences, in accordance with section 306 of the Department of Energy Research and Innovation Act (42 U.S.C. 18644) and section 60501 of title 51, United States Code.

(E) Quantum information sciences, including quantum computing and quantum network infrastructure, in accordance with sections 403 and 404 of the National Quantum Initiative Act (15 U.S.C. 8853 and 8854).

(F) Radiation health effects, in accordance with section 306 of the Department of Energy Research and Innovation Act (42 U.S.C. 18644).

(G) Ground- and space-based technology necessary for the transmission to the Earth's surface of solar energy collected in space.

(H) Other areas of potential research and development collaboration the Secretary and the Administrator determine important to achieving agency missions and objectives.

(2) Develop methods to accommodate large voluntary data sets on space and aeronautical information on high-performance computing systems with variable quality and scale.

(3) Promote collaboration and data and information sharing between the Department of Energy, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the National Laboratories, and other appropriate entities by providing the necessary access and secure data and information transfer capabilities.

(4) Support the Administration's access to the Department's research infrastructure and capabilities, as practicable.

(d) AGREEMENTS.—In carrying out the activities under subsection (a), the Secretary and the Administrator are authorized to—

(1) carry out reimbursable and non-reimbursable agreements between the Department of Energy and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration; and

(2) collaborate with other Federal agencies, as appropriate.

(e) **MERIT REVIEW PROCESS.**—The Secretary and the Administrator shall ensure any competitive awards made to carry out the activities under section (a) shall follow all appropriate laws and agency policies, including the following:

(1) Selection by merit-review-based processes.

(2) Consideration of applications from Federal agencies, National Laboratories, institutions of higher education, non-profit institutions, and other appropriate entities.

(f) **REPORT.**—Not later than two years after the date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary and the Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, a report detailing the following:

(1) Interagency research and development coordination activities between the Department of Energy and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration carried out under this section.

(2) How such coordination activities expand the technical capabilities of the Department and the Administration.

(3) Collaborative research and development achievements.

(4) Areas of future mutually beneficial activities, including potential applications of clean energy technologies, such as marine energy.

(5) Continuation of coordination activities between the Department of Energy and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

(g) **RESEARCH SECURITY.**—The activities authorized under this section shall be applied in a manner consistent with subtitle D of title VI of the Research and Development, Competition, and Innovation Act (enacted as division B Public Law 117-167; 42 U.S.C. 19231 et seq.).

The **SPEAKER pro tempore**. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BABIN) and the gentleman from Michigan (Ms. STEVENS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 1368, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1368, the DOE and NASA Interagency Research Coordination Act.

The Department of Energy and NASA have an extensive history of collaboration, which has enhanced both our understanding of the universe and our ability to explore well beyond our planet.

The Voyager spacecrafts, which were launched more than 40 years ago and are now flying far beyond our own solar system in interstellar space, continue to operate with DOE's groundbreaking propulsion systems.

This DOE-NASA partnership has driven and will continue to drive advancements in high-performance computing, keeping us at the forefront of research and development.

Additionally, their collaborative work on nuclear energy is vital to establishing a long-term human presence on the Moon and next-generation in-space propulsion. However, these joint technological breakthroughs not only aid our space endeavors, but they also can be utilized here on Earth to increase global energy production from reliable energy resources.

Furthermore, this partnership will help to propel satellite development, space situational awareness, and even planetary defense from near-Earth objects.

In short, this bill enables two of our chief scientific agencies to do better work by tackling some of our most challenging scientific problems together.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague, Representative BEGICH, for introducing this legislation. I also thank Representative WHITESIDES for cosponsoring it. This bipartisan bill earned unanimous support in the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology and passed in the House last Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to once again support it on the floor today, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the DOE and NASA Interagency Research Coordination Act, H.R. 1368.

The gentleman from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) and the gentleman from California (Mr. WHITESIDES), the vice ranking member of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, introduced this bill. It is another great bipartisan bill.

These Members of Congress from the Western part of this Nation fully understand and appreciate what it means to have coordinated interagency activities on behalf of our competitive abilities. Enhancing this type of collaboration between the Department of Energy and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration will have a multiplier effect on the creative, innovative, and inspiring work of these two agencies. It is an important tool in furthering agency missions and the Nation's goals in science and exploration.

The Department of Energy and NASA's partnership is already demonstrating impressive results. For example, earlier this year, NASA and the DOE collaborated on selecting an award for continued industry work on a space microreactor design that could provide a supply of power for use on the Moon and beyond.

Just last week, scientists posted new data from the Department of Energy's ground-based Dark Energy Spectroscopic Instrument, providing insights on the mysterious dark energy of the universe that NASA's science satellites also study from space.

□ 1530

We are on the tipping point of major things. We are working on and seeing efficiency breathe its way into our government. The whole deal here is that if we get H.R. 1368, the Department of Energy and NASA will build on their longstanding partnership and do even more. They will save the taxpayer money, and they will advance this Nation. They will showcase that we are not getting in the way of where we want to go as a country because we are trimming bureaucracy.

The act authorizes the agencies to carry out cross-cutting and collaborative R&D activities and identifies nuclear power and propulsion, high energy physics and astrophysics, Earth and environmental sciences, and quantum information sciences as potential areas for joint activity.

I only hope that the citizens of America are tuned into this debate in this moment because this is really exciting.

The bill directs DOE and NASA to coordinate activities through MOUs, memorandum of understanding. The legislation authorizes the use of reimbursable and nonreimbursable agreements. Again, the effective utilization of the taxpayer dollar of which we here in the United States Congress are stewards of.

In addition, I will be providing direction on a merit review process between the two agencies, reporting and compliance with research security requirements in carrying out collaborative activities pursued under the act. This is a practical and awe-inspiring bill to maximize the research and development activities and capabilities and results of our Federal agencies.

Mr. Speaker, I enthusiastically urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on H.R. 1368.

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

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH).

Mr. BEGICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of my bill, H.R. 1368, the Department of Energy and NASA Interagency Research Coordination Act.

This legislation authorizes the U.S. Department of Energy and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to carry out research and development activities focused on the advancement of shared DOE and NASA mission priorities. This includes R&D in critical technology areas like nuclear thermal propulsion systems, astrophysics, radiation health effects, machine learning, and more.

DOE and its predecessor, the Atomic Energy Commission, have a long and successful history of interagency collaboration with NASA. Over the last 60 years, this relationship has evolved from radioisotope power systems to new areas of research such as quantum information and environmental sciences.

This interagency relationship has greatly benefited my home State of

Alaska. The North Slope of Alaska is home to the Department of Energy's Atmospheric Radiation Measurement, or ARM, user facility, which gathers data pertaining to clouds and radiation processes in cold environments and high altitudes.

Given its strengths, NASA has partnered with this DOE facility to conduct research in areas such as aerosols. In addition, any atmospheric data from ARM stands to benefit the Pacific Spaceport Complex on Kodiak Island in my home State of Alaska, which supports commercial and government suborbital and orbital launch missions, as well.

Additionally, H.R. 1368 requires the Secretary and the Administrator to implement research security provisions consistent with the CHIPS and Science Act of 2022. Given the transformational nature of these emerging technologies and their impact on national security, this language is necessary to protect our investments and breakthroughs from hostile powers such as the Chinese Communist Party.

I thank my colleague, Mr. WHITESIDES of California, for working with me on this important legislation and continuing the bipartisan tradition of the Science, Space, and Technology Committee.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1368 is a good governance and commonsense bill, and I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

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

Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from the West, Mr. BEGICH and Mr. WHITESIDES, along with Mr. KENNEDY, who appear to be three freshman Members of Congress, have come together in an important way to introduce H.R. 1368. I continue to urge a "yes" vote on the DOE and NASA Interagency Research Coordination Act.

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

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1368, the DOE and NASA Interagency Research Act is a smart piece of legislation that will ensure that we stay competitive in the global race to return humans to the Moon and then send crewed missions on to Mars.

Without key partnerships like this, we would be unable to take the crucial steps in energy production and propulsion technologies necessary to extend our reach beyond Earth. I thank Representative BEGICH and Representative WHITESIDES for their leadership in moving this bill forward.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support it, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BABIN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1368.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

# INNOVATIVE MITIGATION PARTNERSHIPS FOR ASPHALT AND CONCRETE TECHNOLOGIES ACT

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1534) to strengthen and enhance the competitiveness of American industry through the research and development of advanced technologies to improve the efficiency of cement, concrete, and asphalt production, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1534

*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 "Innovative Mitigation Partnerships for Asphalt and Concrete Technologies Act" or the "IMPACT Act".

## SEC. 2. ADVANCED CEMENT, CONCRETE, AND ASPHALT PRODUCTION RESEARCH PROGRAM.

(a) PROGRAM.—Part I of subtitle C of title V of division D of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Public Law 117-58) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

### "SEC. 40523. ADVANCED CEMENT, CONCRETE, AND ASPHALT PRODUCTION RESEARCH PROGRAM.

"(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

"(1) ADVANCED PRODUCTION.—The term 'advanced production' means production of cement, concrete, or asphalt with one or more of the following improvements with respect to the production of commercially available cement, concrete, or asphalt:

"(A) Improved cost-effectiveness.

"(B) Improved quality, durability, engineering performance, and resilience.

"(C) Improved efficiency of resource consumption and material demand.

"(2) ALTERNATIVE FUELS.—The term 'alternative fuels' means any solid, liquid, or gaseous materials, or a combination thereof, used to replace or supplement any portion of fuels used in combustion or pyrolysis for low-emissions cement, concrete, or asphalt.

"(3) COMMERCIALLY AVAILABLE.—The term 'commercially available', with respect to cement, concrete, and asphalt, means that the cement, concrete, or asphalt is—

"(A) readily and widely available for purchase in the United States; and

"(B) produced using a production method of cement, concrete, or asphalt products, as applicable, that is widely in use.

"(4) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term 'eligible entity' means any of the following:

"(A) An institution of higher education.

"(B) An appropriate State or Federal entity, including a federally funded research and development center of the Department.

"(C) A nonprofit research institution.

"(D) A private entity.

"(E) Any other relevant entity the Secretary determines appropriate.

"(F) A partnership or consortium of two or more entities described in subparagraphs (A) through (E).

"(5) ENGINEERING PERFORMANCE-BASED STANDARD.—The term 'engineering performance-based standard' means an existing engineering standard with respect to which the requirements applicable to such standard are stated in terms of required results, with cri-

teria for verifying compliance rather than specific composition, design, or procedure.

"(6) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The term 'institution of higher education' has the meaning given such term in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).

"(7) LOW-EMISSIONS CEMENT, CONCRETE, AND ASPHALT.—The term 'low-emissions cement, concrete, and asphalt' means cement, concrete, asphalt binder, or asphalt mixture that reduces, to the maximum extent practicable, greenhouse gas or directly-related copollutant emissions to levels below commercially available cement, concrete, or asphalt.

"(8) RURAL AREA.—The term 'rural area' has the meaning given such term in section 343(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1991(a)).

"(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary shall establish a program of research, development, demonstration, and commercial application of advanced tools, technologies, and methods for advanced production and use of low-emissions cement, concrete, and asphalt in order to accomplish the following:

"(1) Increase the technological and economic competitiveness of industry and production in the United States.

"(2) Expand and increase the stability of supply chains through enhanced domestic production, nearshoring, and cooperation with allies.

"(3) Achieve measurable greenhouse gas or directly related copollutant emissions reductions in the production processes for cement, concrete, and asphalt products.

"(4) Create quality domestic jobs.

"(c) REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out the program under subsection (b), the Secretary shall carry out the following:

"(1) Coordinate with the programs and activities authorized under title VI of division Z of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (relating to industrial and manufacturing technologies) and the amendments made by such title.

"(2) Coordinate across all relevant program offices of the Department, including the Office of Science, the Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy, the Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations, the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, the Office of Fossil Energy, the Office of Industrial Efficiency and Decarbonization, the Office of Manufacturing and Energy Supply Chains, and the Office of Nuclear Energy.

"(3) Leverage, to the extent practicable, the research infrastructure of the Department, including scientific computing user facilities, x-ray light sources, neutron scattering facilities, and nanoscale science research centers.

"(4) Conduct research, development, demonstration, and commercial application of the advanced production of low-emissions cement, concrete, and asphalt that have the potential to increase domestic production and employment in both advanced and commercially available processes.

"(d) STRATEGIC PLAN.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the establishment of the program under subsection (b), the Secretary shall develop a 5-year strategic plan identifying research, development, demonstration, and commercial application goals for such program. The Secretary shall submit such plan to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate.

"(2) CONTENTS.—The strategic plan under paragraph (1) shall—

“(A) identify programs at the Department related to the advanced production of low-emissions cement, concrete, and asphalt that support the research, development, demonstration, and commercial application activities described in this section, and the demonstration projects under subsection (f);

“(B) establish technological and programmatic goals to achieve the requirements specified in subsection (c); and

“(C) include timelines for the accomplishment of such goals developed under the plan.

“(3) UPDATES TO PLAN.—Not less than once every two years, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate an updated version of the strategic plan under paragraph (1).

“(e) FOCUS AREAS.—In carrying out the program under subsection (b), the Secretary shall focus on the following:

“(1) Carbon capture technologies for low-emissions cement, concrete, and asphalt production processes, which may include the following:

“(A) Oxycombustion and chemical looping technologies.

“(B) Precombustion technologies.

“(C) Post combustion technologies.

“(D) Direct carbon dioxide separation technologies.

“(2) Materials, technologies, inputs, and processes that—

“(A) produce fewer greenhouse gas or directly related copollutant emissions during production, use, and end use of cement, concrete, and asphalt; or

“(B) provide quality, durability, resilience, engineering, or other performance metrics equal to or greater than commercially available products.

“(3) Medium- and high-temperature heat-generation technologies used for the advanced production of low-emissions cement, concrete, and asphalt, which may include the following:

“(A) Alternative fuels.

“(B) Renewable heat-generation and storage technology.

“(C) Electrification of heating processes.

“(D) Other clean heat-generation technologies and sources.

“(4) Technologies and practices that increase the efficiency of energy use, natural resource consumption, or material demand, which may include the following:

“(A) Designing products that encourage reuse, refurbishment, remanufacturing, and recycling.

“(B) Minimizing waste, including waste heat, from low-emissions cement, concrete, and asphalt production processes, including through the reuse of waste as a resource in other industrial processes for mutual benefit.

“(C) Increasing the overall energy efficiency of low-emissions cement, concrete, and asphalt production processes, including through life cycle assessments.

“(5) Technologies and approaches to reduce greenhouse gas or directly related copollutant emissions from the advanced production of cement, concrete, and asphalt.

“(6) High-performance computing to develop advanced materials and production processes that may contribute to the focus areas described in paragraphs (1) through (5), including the following:

“(A) Modeling, simulation, and optimization of the design of cost-effective and energy-efficient products and processes.

“(B) The use of digital prototyping and additive production to enhance product design.

“(7) Advanced sensor technologies and methods to monitor and quantify the performance of low-emissions cement, concrete,

and asphalt materials at scale and under a variety of conditions.

“(8) Technologies that can be retrofitted at cement, concrete, and asphalt plants that represent the most common facility types in the United States and in other countries, with consideration for field validation of such retrofits.

“(9) Best practices for data standardization and data sharing tools and technologies, in coordination with relevant Federal agencies.

“(10) Fundamental research in chemistry and materials science to identify the following:

“(A) Novel materials and alternative domestic feedstocks and processing operations for the advanced production of low-emissions cement, concrete, and asphalt.

“(B) Improved understanding by eligible entities of the mechanisms that determine the performance and durability of low-emissions cement, concrete, and asphalt over time.

“(f) DEMONSTRATIONS.—

“(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary, in carrying out the program under subsection (b), and in collaboration with the Secretary of Transportation, the Administrator of General Services, industry partners, institutions of higher education, and National Laboratories, shall support demonstrations of advanced production of low-emissions cement, concrete, and asphalt that uses either—

“(A) a single technology or practice; or

“(B) a combination of multiple technologies or practices.

“(2) SELECTION REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out the demonstrations under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall select eligible entities to carry out demonstration projects and to the maximum extent practicable—

“(A) encourage regional diversity among eligible entities, including participation by entities located in rural areas;

“(B) encourage technological diversity among eligible entities; and

“(C) ensure that specific projects selected—

“(i) expand on the existing technology demonstration programs of the Department;

“(ii) are based on the extent of greenhouse gas emissions reductions achieved; and

“(iii) prioritize leveraging matching funds from non-Federal sources.

“(3) REPORTS.—The Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate—

“(A) not less frequently than once every two years for the duration of the demonstrations under paragraph (1), a report describing the performance of such demonstrations; and

“(B) if any such demonstration is terminated, an assessment of the success of, and education provided by, the measures carried out by such demonstration.

“(4) TERMINATION.—The Secretary may terminate the demonstrations under paragraph (1) if the Secretary determines that sufficient low-emissions cement, concrete, and asphalt produced through advanced production are commercially available domestically at a price comparable to the price of cement, concrete, and asphalt produced through traditional methods of production.

“(g) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Transportation, the Secretary of Commerce (acting through the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology), the Administrator of General Services, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, and appropriate representatives of relevant standards development organiza-

tions, shall provide technical assistance to eligible entities to carry out an activity described in paragraph (2) to promote the commercial application of technologies for the production and use of low-emissions cement, concrete, and asphalt.

“(2) ACTIVITIES DESCRIBED.—An activity referred to in paragraph (1) is any of the following:

“(A) Efforts related to collecting data that could be used in the updating of local codes, specifications, and standards to engineering performance-based standards.

“(B) A lifecycle assessment of the final product.

“(C) An environmental impact comparison between different cements, concretes, and asphalts.

“(D) A techno-economic assessment.

“(E) An environmental permitting or other regulatory process.

“(F) An evaluation or testing activity.

“(G) Any other activity that promotes the commercial application of technologies developed through the program under subsection (b).

“(3) APPLICATIONS.—The Secretary shall seek applications for technical assistance under this subsection—

“(A) on a competitive basis; and

“(B) on a periodic basis, but not less frequently than once every 12 months.

“(4) REGIONAL CENTERS.—The Secretary may designate or establish one or more regional centers to provide technical assistance to eligible entities to carry out the activity described in paragraph (2)(A).

“(h) ADDITIONAL COORDINATION.—

“(1) MANUFACTURING USA.—In carrying out this section the Secretary shall consider the following:

“(A) Leveraging the resources of relevant existing Manufacturing USA Institutes described in section 34(d) of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278s(d)).

“(B) Integrating program activities into a relevant existing Manufacturing USA Institute.

“(C) Awarding financial assistance, consistent with section 34(e) of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278s(e)), to a person or group of persons to assist the person or group of persons in planning, establishing, or supporting a Manufacturing U.S.A. Institute focused on advanced production of low-emissions cement, concrete, and asphalt.

“(2) OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary shall coordinate with other Federal agencies, including the Department of Defense, the Department of Transportation, and the National Institute of Standards and Technology, that are carrying out research and development initiatives to increase industrial competitiveness and achieve measurable greenhouse gas or directly related copollutant emissions reductions through the advanced production of cement, concrete, and asphalt.

“(i) SUNSET.—This section shall terminate seven years after the date of the enactment of this section.

“(j) RESEARCH SECURITY.—The activities authorized under this section shall be applied in a manner consistent with subtitle D of title VI of the Research and Development, Competition, and Innovation Act (enacted as division B of Public Law 117-167 (42 U.S.C. 19231 et seq.)).

“(k) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section may be construed to amend, alter, or affect the authorities of the Secretary to define, establish, or enforce new environmental industry standards for, or related to, cement, concrete, or asphalt.”

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Infrastructure

Investment and Jobs Act is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 40522 the following new item:

“Sec. 40523. Advanced cement, concrete, and asphalt production research program.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BABIN) and the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. STEVENS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 1534, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1534, the Innovative Mitigation Partnerships for Asphalt and Concrete Technologies Act, or IMPACT Act.

Today, much of the world is reliant on cement and concrete produced in China, which is home to the world's largest cement industry. It should go without saying that it is a big problem to be at the whims of the Chinese Communist Party when it comes to materials that are absolutely critical to our national defense, economic security, and our energy independence.

Beyond that, this reliance comes with severe negative environmental impacts. China's greenhouse gas emissions exceed all of the developed nations in the world combined. In fact, U.S. industrial manufacturing is nearly 28 percent cleaner than our competitors, including China.

If we want a cleaner, healthier environment and global security, U.S. leadership in this sector is an absolute must. The IMPACT Act ensures this by propelling America to the front in the cement, concrete, and asphalt industries. It will increase our Nation's competitiveness against global adversaries while also achieving significant reductions in emissions from manufacturing processes.

Specifically, this bill supports the research and development of innovative technologies, primarily at the Department of Energy. It builds off the cross-cutting Industrial Emissions Reduction Technology Development program established by the Energy Act of 2020 and provides specific direction for the advancement of tools, technologies, and methods related to cement, concrete, and asphalt production.

Concrete is the second most commonly used material on Earth, surpassed only by water. The demand is unlikely to decrease soon, making it crucial to allocate the Federal Government's top scientific resources to assist manufacturers in meeting our strategic goals, while ensuring the concrete sup-

ply that supports our economy continues to grow and thrive.

The IMPACT Act positions our country to rise to that challenge and become a resource for the entire world.

I thank Science, Space, and Technology Committee members, Mr. MILLER and Mrs. FOUSHEE, for cosponsoring this bill and working in a bipartisan fashion.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I enthusiastically rise in support of the Innovation Mitigation Partnerships for Asphalt and Concrete Technologies Act, or the IMPACT Act, H.R. 1534.

A good gentleman from Ohio (Mr. MILLER) and a fantastic gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. FOUSHEE) have reintroduced this bipartisan bill, and I salute them.

Mrs. FOUSHEE is very much a leader on the Science, Space, and Technology Committee, a cutting-edge voice in artificial intelligence, a ranking member on the Space and Aeronautics Subcommittee, and we are very grateful for her leadership and acumen here.

As our chair just extrapolated, the United States produces approximately 95 million metric tons of cement each year, representing nearly 400 million cubic yards of concrete, with another 454 million metric tons of asphalt pavement materials produced per year.

Now, as a Member of Congress, I am not fully in the composites business, but we must understand where our materials come from and how they are procured and produced. We must look it squarely in the face as to how we do not remain overly reliant on competitive countries for access.

A byproduct of these industrial processes are certainly greenhouse gas emissions. There is a State representative from Michigan, State Representative Kelly Breen of Novi, who has, on occasion, spoken to me at length about the materials used in our roads. We know right now that the byproduct of the industrial processes for these cement applications accounts for 8 percent of human-induced carbon dioxide emissions.

Now, I come from the Motor City. We like our paved roads. We like access to cement. Demand is not decreasing. It is going up. Demand is expected to increase by 12 percent when we hit the mid-21st century mark.

We here in the United States of America are building roads, bridges, factories, schools, so many things. It is really quite exciting, and the IMPACT Act can play a role. The bill will improve cost-effectiveness, durability, and material demand efficiency of widely used cement, and similar materials while achieving measurable greenhouse gas emissions reductions in their production processes. We like to call this a win-win.

H.R. 1534 would also accomplish this goal by directing the Secretary of En-

ergy to support research, development, and demonstration of innovative technologies that could become commercially viable.

□ 1545

Again, the State representative from Michigan, Kelly Breen, has talked to me about her desire to see this in Oakland County, Michigan. We have been working on this in the Motor City.

My colleagues from North Carolina and Ohio have put forward national legislation that will benefit us all, and we have got next-generation technologies that are a significant improvement over the processes used by these industries today, ensuring that we can continue to build while reducing negative environmental impacts that come about from producing building materials.

We have a good, practical bill to maximize our production capabilities while minimizing any negative impacts, and we have research and development and demonstration of novel cement, concrete, and asphalt processes.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote “yes” on a bill I am very excited about, H.R. 1534, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. MILLER).

Mr. MILLER of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1534, the Innovative Mitigation Partnerships for Asphalt and Concrete Technologies Act, or more simply known as the IMPACT Act, which is a lot easier to say.

I introduced this bill with my Science Committee colleague Mrs. FOUSHEE because we understand that the production of cement, concrete, and asphalt play a fundamental role in supporting United States infrastructure, national defense, and economic security.

The cement and concrete industry contributes over \$130 billion to the United States economy and employs over 577,000 people. In Ohio alone, this industry has an economic contribution of \$4.6 billion to the State.

It is no secret that the processes behind these products are extremely difficult to decarbonize and that American cement and concrete manufacturers must compete in a market that increasingly values lower carbon products. The leading companies and associations of this industry have committed to achieving net-zero emissions by 2050 and have made impressive progress thus far, reducing their carbon footprint by 21 percent since 2014.

However, more progress can be made. With projected demand for cement expected to increase 12 percent by 2050, utilizing the best scientific resources of the Federal Government will help manufacturers further reduce emissions of the products essential to our economy and civilization.

The IMPACT Act will support those resources while strengthening and enhancing the competitiveness of American manufacturing through advanced

technologies that can be exported around the globe.

We all want to see cement, concrete, and asphalt production continue to rise and help grow our country. That is critical to our economic well-being. We all want to see this growth go hand in hand with environmental stewardship, leaving our air and water just as pristine for the next generation.

The IMPACT Act builds on previous industrial decarbonization efforts by focusing specifically on cement, concrete, and asphalt. It enables industry and the Department of Energy to work collaboratively on fundamental research that will enhance existing production methods and unlock new, innovative techniques. This will ensure that the world-class tools and technologies at DOE are being used by the very taxpayers who funded them.

It also enables DOE, in consultation with other Federal agencies, to offer technical assistance to entities seeking to promote the commercial application of low-emission cement, concrete, and asphalt. This ensures that industry can continue their cutting-edge research unencumbered, but if they do hit a roadblock, there are subject matter experts available to assist them.

This bill is the perfect example of how the Federal Government can advance tangible environmental goals for construction material production without sacrificing material performance or, more importantly, economic growth that benefits every single citizen throughout our country.

I thank the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. FOUSHEE) for cosponsoring this bill and working in a bipartisan fashion to get it here today. I urge all my colleagues to support this bill.

Ms. STEVENS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. FOUSHEE) to speak on behalf of H.R. 1534.

Mrs. FOUSHEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1534, the bipartisan Innovative Mitigation Partnerships for Asphalt and Concrete Technologies Act, or the IMPACT Act, which will strengthen the competitiveness of American manufacturing through innovation and development of technologies to decarbonize and improve the efficiency of cement, concrete, and asphalt production.

U.S. producers are leading the way in the innovation of critical building materials production, and we have a real opportunity in front of us to bolster our Nation's infrastructure while making significant strides to reduce global emissions.

The climate crisis remains one of the most pressing issues of our lifetime, and it is vital that we take action now by investing in clean technologies and creating pathways here at home to accelerate and commercialize these new opportunities to reduce harmful emissions.

Globally, cement manufacturing accounts for nearly 8 percent of all car-

bon emissions, and we have a unique opportunity to reduce pollution in industrial emissions by creating new manufacturing opportunities here at home that can take the place of aging processes based on fossil fuels.

This bill will enable partnerships between industry, innovators, and the U.S. Government that will enhance existing production methods, unlock new and innovative techniques, and offer technical assistance to entities seeking to promote the application of low-emission cement, concrete, and asphalt.

Together, the IMPACT Act—alongside IMPACT Act 2.0, introduced in the House earlier this month by Congressman MILLER and me, and the Senate's Concrete and Asphalt Innovation Act, led by Senators COONS and TILLIS—will bolster U.S.-led efforts to deploy clean technologies in the industrial sector while enhancing the global competitiveness of American innovation.

The United States is leading the way into the 21st century, and this can be seen in my own district, North Carolina's Fourth, where local startup Biomason is revolutionizing the cement industry through its use of biotechnology to manufacture low-carbon concrete.

With global demand for building materials set to rise through this century, we must prioritize investments in advanced materials science and scale-up domestic manufacturing by fostering an innovation pipeline that creates jobs and enhances our competitiveness on the world stage. This bill does just that.

With this commonsense piece of legislation, everyone wins. It will help us achieve measurable and meaningful emissions reductions, modernize manufacturing, and improve workers' health and public health, all while creating good-paying jobs across America.

I am proud to join Representative MAX MILLER in introducing the IMPACT Act, which passed the House last Congress and through the House Science Committee unanimously. It has received strong and bicameral support from industry and industry partners, innovators, climate organizations, manufacturing, and trade associations nationwide.

I encourage my colleagues to support this bipartisan and commonsense legislation, which will unlock innovation and clean manufacturing in the United States, create domestic job opportunities, and protect our planet.

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

Ms. STEVENS. Mr. Speaker, I also have no further requests for time to speak on this bill, and I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

Mr. Speaker, I again thank my colleagues from the committee, Mr. MILLER and Mrs. FOUSHEE, for their work on this bill. I urge a "yes" vote on H.R. 1534. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1534 is commonsense legislation that passed unanimously last Congress. It has the support of major industry associations, including the Portland Cement Association, the National Asphalt Pavement Association, and the National Ready Mixed Concrete Association. It also has the endorsement of those groups affected by downstream impacts, like the U.S. Tire Manufacturers Association and Citizens for Responsible Energy Solutions.

This diverse support is a testament to just how important it is for the United States to retain its global competitive edge when it comes to advanced industrial technologies.

I urge my colleagues to join me in backing this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BABIN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1534.

The question was taken.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

## RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 55 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1830

## AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MURPHY) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Matthew Hanley, one of his secretaries.

## ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed. Votes will be taken in the following order:

Motions to suspend the rules and pass:

H.R. 359; and,  
H.R. 1326.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Pursuant



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

# COST-SHARE ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2025

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 359) to Amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to require reporting relating to certain cost-share requirements, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BABIN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 405, nays 0, not voting 26, as follows:

[Roll No. 72]

YEAS—405

Adams	Clarke (NY)	Foster
Aderholt	Cleaver	Foushee
Aguilar	Cline	Fox
Alford	Cloud	Frankel, Lois
Allen	Clyburn	Franklin, Scott
Amo	Clyde	Friedman
Amodei (NV)	Cohen	Frost
Ansari	Cole	Fry
Arrington	Collins	Fulcher
Auchincloss	Comer	Garcia (CA)
Babin	Conaway	Garcia (IL)
Bacon	Connolly	Garcia (TX)
Baird	Correa	Gill (TX)
Balderson	Costa	Gillen
Balint	Courtney	Gimenez
Barr	Craig	Golden (ME)
Barragán	Crane	Goldman (TX)
Barrett	Crank	Gomez
Baumgartner	Crawford	Gonzales, Tony
Bean (FL)	Crenshaw	Gonzalez, V.
Beatty	Crockett	Gooden
Begich	Crow	Goodlander
Bell	Cuellar	Gosar
Bentz	Davidson	Graves
Bera	Davis (IL)	Gray
Bergman	Davis (NC)	Green (TN)
Beyer	De La Cruz	Green, Al (TX)
Bice	Dean (PA)	Greene (GA)
Biggs (AZ)	DeGette	Griffith
Biggs (SC)	DeLauro	Grothman
Bilirakis	DelBene	Guest
Bishop	Deluzio	Guthrie
Boebert	DesJarlais	Hageman
Bonamici	Dexter	Hamadeh (AZ)
Bost	Diaz-Balart	Harder (CA)
Boyle (PA)	Dingell	Haridopolos
Brecheen	Doggett	Harrigan
Bresnahan	Donalds	Harris (MD)
Brown	Downing	Harris (NC)
Brownley	Budzinski	Harshbarger
Buchanan	Burchett	Hayes
Budzinski	Burlison	Hern (OK)
Burchett	Bynum	Higgins (LA)
Burlison	Calvert	Hill (AR)
Burns	Cammack	Himes
Burns	Carbajal	Hinson
Carey	Carey	Horsford
Carson	Carson	Houchin
Carter (GA)	Carter (LA)	Houlihan
Carter (LA)	Carter (TX)	Hoyle (OR)
Carter (TX)	Casas	Hudson
Casas	Case	Huffman
Casten	Casten	Huizenga
Castor (FL)	Castro (TX)	Hurd (CO)
Castro (TX)	Cherfilus-	Issa
Cherfilus-	McCormick	Ivey
Chu	Ciscomani	Jack
Ciscomani	Cisneros	Jackson (IL)
Cisneros	Clark (MA)	Jackson (TX)
Clark (MA)		Jacobs
		James
		Jayapal
		Jeffries
		Johnson (GA)

Johnson (LA)	Miller (OH)	Scott, Austin
Johnson (SD)	Miller (WV)	Scott, David
Johnson (TX)	Miller-Meeks	Self
Jordan	Mills	Sessions
Joyce (PA)	Min	Sewell
Kamlager-Dove	Moolenaar	Sherman
Kaptur	Moore (AL)	Shreve
Kean	Moore (NC)	Simon
Keating	Moore (UT)	Simpson
Kelly (IL)	Moore (WI)	Smith (MO)
Kelly (MS)	Moore (WV)	Smith (NJ)
Kelly (PA)	Moran	Smith (WA)
Kennedy (NY)	Morelle	Smucker
Kennedy (UT)	Morrison	Sorensen
Khanna	Moskowitz	Soto
Kiggans (VA)	Moulton	Spartz
Kiley (CA)	Mullin	Stansbury
Kim	Murphy	Stanton
Knott	Nadler	Staubert
Krishnamoorthi	Neal	Stefanik
Kustoff	Neguse	Steil
LaHood	Nehls	Steube
LaLota	Newhouse	Strickland
LaMalfa	Norcross	Strong
Landsman	Norman	Stutzman
Langworthy	Nunn (IA)	Subramanyam
Larsen (WA)	Obenroth	Suozzi
Larson (CT)	Ocasio-Cortez	Sykes
Latimer	Ogles	Takano
Latta	Olshewski	Taylor
Lawler	Omar	Tenney
Lee (FL)	Onder	Thanedar
Lee (NV)	Owens	Thompson (CA)
Lee (PA)	Pallone	Thompson (MS)
Leger Fernandez	Palmer	Thompson (PA)
Letlow	Panetta	Tiffany
Levin	Pappas	Timmons
Lieu	Pelosi	Titus
Lofgren	Perez	Tlaib
Loudermilk	Perry	Tokuda
Lucas	Peters	Tonko
Luna	Pfleger	Torres (CA)
Lynch	Pingree	Trahan
Mace	Pocan	Tran
Mackenzie	Pou	Turner (OH)
Magaziner	Pressley	Underwood
Malliotakis	Quigley	Valadao
Maloy	Ramirez	Van Drew
Mann	Randall	Van Dwyne
Mannion	Raskin	Van Orden
Massie	Reschenthaler	Vargas
Mast	Riley (NY)	Veasey
Matsui	Rivas	Velázquez
McBath	Rogers (AL)	Vindman
McBride	Rogers (KY)	Wagner
McClain	Rose	Walberg
McClain Delaney	Ross	Wasserman
McClellan	Rouzer	Schultz
McClintock	Roy	Waters
McCollum	Ruiz	Watson Coleman
McCormick	Rulli	Weber (TX)
McDonald Rivet	Rutherford	Westerman
McGarvey	Ryan	Whitesides
McGovern	Salinas	Wied
McGuire	Sánchez	Williams (GA)
McIver	Scalise	Williams (TX)
Meeks	Scanlon	Wilson (FL)
Menendez	Schakowsky	Wilson (SC)
Meng	Schmidt	Wittman
Messmer	Schrier	Womack
Meuser	Schweikert	Yakym
Miller (IL)	Scott (VA)	

NOT VOTING—26

Fong	Luttrell	Sherrill
Garamendi	McCaul	Smith (NE)
Garbarino	McDowell	Stevens
Goldman (NY)	Mfume	Swalwell
Gottheimer	Mrvan	Torres (NY)
Hoyer	Pettersen	Vasquez
Hunt	Salazar	Webster (FL)
Joyce (OH)	Schneider	Zinke
Liccardo	Scholten	

□ 1855

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1900

## IN MEMORY OF CONGRESSMAN RAÚL GRIJALVA

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

Mr. STANTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today alongside his colleagues in the Arizona delegation, alongside members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, alongside members of the Congressional Progressive Caucus, and so many others, to mourn the loss of a political and social justice giant, Congressman Raúl Grijalva.

Raúl's story is the American Dream. He was the proud son of a bracero cowboy from Mexico who went on to become the president of the Tucson Unified School District Governing Board, chairman of the Pima County Board of Supervisors, an 11-term Member of the United States Congress, and the dean of the Arizona delegation.

His accomplishments in this body are too numerous to list. We would be here all night, but it is his legacy of fighting for environmental causes that stands out. As chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee, Raúl led the charge to protect America's public lands, including and especially the Grand Canyon, to protect our most precious resources, including our water, and he stood up firm for Tribal sovereignty.

He has been a mainstay in these Capitol hallways for more than two decades, but he remained an activist at heart. He never forgot where he came from or the people who got him to where he was.

Raúl brought the lessons he learned as a Chicano activist in Tucson in the 1970s to Washington where he led the Progressive Caucus for more than a decade, leading the charge for immigrants and working people.

He spoke truth to power, but in his quiet way and always with good humor. Perhaps Raúl's greatest legacy is the generation of Latino leaders that he mentored, many of whom stand inside this body and many more that fill city halls, county seats, and school boards back home in Tucson. As Raúl would say: "It is all about the love."

He spent more than a half-century working on behalf of southern Arizona until the very end. We offer our deepest condolences to his wife, Ramona, his three daughters, and the community of Tucson who will dearly miss him. Rest now, my friend.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR), my colleague.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, it is no mystery that Raúl and I never saw eye to eye on pretty much anything, but it actually benefits this whole group because it is about the debate. We can come with our ideas to the floor and we can debate each other, and that is the way it should be.

If you had your idea yourself, Raúl would make it so it was important to

you to fight for it. He always was very principled. His humor was unwitting. He laughed and I chuckled when he laughed.

He emulated all of us and what we can do in this body. There are good ideas, there are bad ideas, and that is why we have to have this debate.

God bless Raúl and his family.

Remember him in your hearts and say a prayer.

Mr. STANTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman GOSAR for those kind words. When you and he disagreed, Raúl was normally right.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues at this moment to join me in a moment of silence for our departed colleague.

The SPEAKER. The Chair now asks all those present in the Chamber, as well as Members and staff throughout the Capitol, to please rise for a moment of silence in remembrance of the late Honorable Raúl Grijalva of Arizona.

#### DOE AND USDA INTERAGENCY RESEARCH ACT

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1326) to provide for Department of Energy and Department of Agriculture joint research and development activities, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BABIN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 372, nays 35, not voting 24, as follows:

[Roll No. 73]  
YEAS—372

Adams	Brownley	Courtney
Aderholt	Buchanan	Craig
Aguilar	Budzinski	Crank
Alford	Bynum	Crawford
Allen	Calvert	Crenshaw
Amo	Cammack	Crockett
Amodei (NV)	Carbajal	Crow
Ansari	Carey	Cuellar
Arrington	Carson	Davids (KS)
Auchincloss	Carter (GA)	Davidson
Babin	Carter (LA)	Davis (IL)
Bacon	Carter (TX)	Davis (NC)
Baird	Casar	De La Cruz
Balderson	Case	Dean (PA)
Balint	Casten	DeGette
Barr	Castor (FL)	DeLauro
Barragán	Castro (TX)	DelBene
Baumgartner	Cherfilus-	Deluzio
Beatty	McCormick	DeSaulnier
Begich	Chu	DesJarlais
Bell	Ciscomani	Dexter
Bentz	Cisneros	Diaz-Balart
Bera	Clark (MA)	Dingell
Bergman	Clarke (NY)	Doggett
Beyer	Cleaver	Donalds
Bice	Clyburn	Downing
Bilirakis	Cohen	Dunn (FL)
Bishop	Cole	Edwards
Bonamici	Comer	Elfreth
Bost	Conaway	Ellzey
Boyle (PA)	Connolly	Emmer
Bresnahan	Correa	Escobar
Brown	Costa	Españolat

Estes	LaMalfa	Reschenthaler
Evans (CO)	Landsman	Riley (NY)
Evans (PA)	Langworthy	Rivas
Ezell	Larsen (WA)	Rogers (AL)
Fedorchak	Larson (CT)	Rogers (KY)
Feenstra	Latimer	Rose
Fields	Latta	Ross
Figures	Lawler	Rouzer
Finstad	Lee (FL)	Ruiz
Fischbach	Lee (NV)	Rulli
Fitzgerald	Lee (PA)	Rutherford
Fitzpatrick	Leger Fernandez	Ryan
Fleischmann	Letlow	Salazar
Fletcher	Levin	Salinas
Flood	Liccardo	Sánchez
Foster	Lieu	Scalise
Foushee	Lofgren	Scanlon
Fox	Loudermilk	Schakowsky
Frankel, Lois	Lucas	Schmidt
Franklin, Scott	Luna	Schrier
Friedman	Lynch	Schweikert
Fulcher	Mace	Scott (VA)
Garamendi	Mackenzie	Scott, Austin
Garcia (CA)	Magaziner	Scott, David
Garcia (TX)	Malliotakis	Sessions
Gill (TX)	Maloy	Sewell
Gillen	Mann	Sherman
Gimenez	Mannion	Shreve
Golden (ME)	Mast	Simon
Goldman (TX)	Matsumi	Simpson
Gomez	McBath	Smith (MO)
Gonzales, Tony	McBride	Smith (NJ)
Gonzalez, V.	McClain	Smith (WA)
Gooden	McClain Delaney	Smucker
Goodlander	McClellan	Sorensen
Graves	McClintock	Soto
Gray	McCollum	Spartz
Green (TN)	McCormick	Stansbury
Green, Al (TX)	McDonald Rivet	Stanton
Griffith	McGarvey	Staubert
Grothman	McGovern	Stefanik
Guest	McGuire	Steil
Guthrie	McIver	Strickland
Hamadeh (AZ)	Meeks	Strong
Harder (CA)	Menendez	Stutzman
Haridopolos	Meng	Subramanyam
Harrigan	Messmer	Suozzi
Harshbarger	Meuser	Sykes
Hayes	Miller (OH)	Takano
Hern (OK)	Miller (WV)	Taylor
Higgins (LA)	Miller-Meeks	Tenney
Hill (AR)	Mills	Thanedar
Himes	Min	Thompson (CA)
Hinson	Moolenaar	Thompson (MS)
Horsford	Moore (NC)	Thompson (PA)
Houchin	Moore (UT)	Tiffany
Houlahan	Moore (WI)	Timmons
Hoyle (OR)	Moore (WV)	Titus
Hudson	Moran	Tlaib
Huffman	Morelle	Tokuda
Huizenga	Morrison	Tonko
Hurd (CO)	Moskowitz	Torres (CA)
Issa	Moulton	Trahan
Ivey	Mullin	Tran
Jack	Murphy	Turner (OH)
Jackson (IL)	Nadler	Underwood
Jackson (TX)	Neal	Valadao
Jacobs	Neguse	Van Drew
James	Newhouse	Van Dwyne
Jayapal	Norcross	Van Orden
Jeffries	Nunn (IA)	Vargas
Johnson (GA)	Obermole	Veasey
Johnson (LA)	Ocasio-Cortez	Velázquez
Johnson (SD)	Olzewski	Vindman
Johnson (TX)	Omar	Wagner
Joyce (PA)	Owens	Walberg
Kamlager-Dove	Pallone	Wasserman
Kaptur	Palmer	Schultz
Kean	Panetta	Waters
Keating	Pappas	Watson Coleman
Kelly (IL)	Pelosi	Weber (TX)
Kelly (MS)	Perez	Westerman
Kelly (PA)	Peters	Whitesides
Kennedy (NY)	Pfuger	Wied
Khanna	Pingree	Williams (GA)
Kiggans (VA)	Pocan	Williams (TX)
Kiley (CA)	Pou	Wilson (FL)
Kim	Pressley	Wilson (SC)
Krishnamoorthi	Quigley	Wittman
Kustoff	Ramirez	Womack
LaHood	Randall	Yakym
LaLota	Raskin	

NAYS—35

Barrett	Brecheen	Clyde
Bean (FL)	Burchett	Collins
Biggs (AZ)	Burlison	Crane
Biggs (SC)	Cline	Fallon
Boebert	Cloud	Fry

Garcia (IL)	Kennedy (UT)	Ogles
Gosar	Knott	Onder
Greene (GA)	Massie	Perry
Hageman	Miller (IL)	Roy
Harris (MD)	Moore (AL)	Self
Harris (NC)	Nehls	Steube
Jordan	Norman	

#### NOT VOTING—24

Fong	Luttrell	Sherrill
Frost	McCaul	Smith (NE)
Garbarino	McDowell	Stevens
Goldman (NY)	Mfume	Swalwell
Gottheimer	Mrvan	Torres (NY)
Hoyer	Pettersen	Vasquez
Hunt	Schneider	Webster (FL)
Joyce (OH)	Scholten	Zinke

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote) (Mr. MURPHY). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1908

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. GOLDMAN of New York. Mr. Speaker, I missed votes because of an important family matter. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 72 and YEA on Roll Call No. 73.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be in Washington, D.C. today due to a family medical event. Had I been present, I would have voted: YEA on Roll Call No. 72 and YEA on Roll Call No. 73.

#### DESIGNATION OF FUNDING AS AN EMERGENCY REQUIREMENT—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 119-31)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

*To the Congress of the United States:*

In accordance with section 1110 of the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025 (H.R. 1968; the “Act”) and the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (BBEDCA), I hereby designate as emergency requirements 16 appropriations (including the transfer and repurposing of funds) so designated by the Congress in the Act pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of BBEDCA, as outlined in the enclosed list of accounts.

My designation does not include the remaining 11 appropriations—totaling nearly \$3 billion—that were improperly designated by the Congress as emergency in the Act that stem from the June 2023 side deal with the Democrats to evade the spending caps signed into law, and I do not concur that the added spending is truly for emergency needs.

The details of this action are set forth in the enclosed memorandum from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

DONALD J. TRUMP.  
THE WHITE HOUSE, March 24, 2025.

#### REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 1851

Mr. BACON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to remove the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. NORMAN) as cosponsor of H.R. 1851.

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

There was no objection.

#### PROVIDING FOR THE EXPENSES OF CERTAIN COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES IN THE ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the resolution (H. Res. 198) providing for the expenses of certain committees of the House of Representatives in the One Hundred Nineteenth Congress, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

There was no objection.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 198

*Resolved,*

#### SECTION 1. COMMITTEE EXPENSES FOR THE ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—With respect to the One Hundred Nineteenth Congress, there shall be paid out of the applicable accounts of the House of Representatives, in accordance with this primary expense resolution, not more than the amount specified in subsection (b) for the expenses (including the expenses of all staff salaries) of each committee named in such subsection.

(b) COMMITTEES AND AMOUNTS.—The committees and amounts referred to in subsection (a) are: Committee on Agriculture, \$14,903,700; Committee on Armed Services, \$25,977,070; Committee on the Budget, \$11,990,000; Committee on Education and Workforce, \$22,033,321; Committee on Energy and Commerce, \$32,293,696; Committee on Ethics, \$9,276,290; Committee on Financial Services, \$22,402,184; Committee on Foreign Affairs, \$24,376,741; Committee on Homeland Security, \$20,466,000; Committee on House Administration, \$16,885,446; Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, \$19,240,928; Committee on the Judiciary, \$31,714,000; Committee on Natural Resources, \$19,311,600; Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, \$32,864,613; Committee on Rules, \$8,544,396; Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, \$18,617,085; Committee on Small Business, \$8,629,846; Select Committee on the Strategic Competition Between the United States and the Chinese Communist Party, \$10,740,218; Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, \$23,290,035; Committee on Veterans' Affairs, \$12,136,370; and Committee on Ways and Means, \$30,290,000.

#### SEC. 2. FIRST SESSION LIMITATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Of the amount provided for in section 1 for each committee named in

subsection (b), not more than the amount specified in such subsection shall be available for expenses incurred during the period beginning at noon on January 3, 2025, and ending immediately before noon on January 3, 2026.

(b) COMMITTEES AND AMOUNTS.—The committees and amounts referred to in subsection (a) are: Committee on Agriculture, \$7,231,375; Committee on Armed Services, \$12,988,535; Committee on the Budget, \$5,995,000; Committee on Education and Workforce, \$10,979,883; Committee on Energy and Commerce, \$15,774,974; Committee on Ethics, \$4,530,566; Committee on Financial Services, \$11,201,707; Committee on Foreign Affairs, \$11,683,048; Committee on Homeland Security, \$10,233,000; Committee on House Administration, \$8,031,523; Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, \$9,538,983; Committee on the Judiciary, \$15,857,000; Committee on Natural Resources, \$9,655,800; Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, \$15,907,947; Committee on Rules, \$4,272,198; Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, \$9,228,599; Committee on Small Business, \$4,232,534; Select Committee on the Strategic Competition Between the United States and the Chinese Communist Party, \$5,366,830; Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, \$11,102,513; Committee on Veterans' Affairs, \$5,985,270; and Committee on Ways and Means, \$14,963,888.

#### SEC. 3. SECOND SESSION LIMITATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Of the amount provided for in section 1 for each committee named in subsection (b), not more than the amount specified in such subsection shall be available for expenses incurred during the period beginning at noon on January 3, 2026, and ending immediately before noon on January 3, 2027.

(b) COMMITTEES AND AMOUNTS.—The committees and amounts referred to in subsection (a) are: Committee on Agriculture, \$7,672,325; Committee on Armed Services, \$12,988,535; Committee on the Budget, \$5,995,000; Committee on Education and Workforce, \$11,053,439; Committee on Energy and Commerce, \$16,518,722; Committee on Ethics, \$4,745,724; Committee on Financial Services, \$11,200,477; Committee on Foreign Affairs, \$12,693,693; Committee on Homeland Security, \$10,233,000; Committee on House Administration, \$8,853,923; Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, \$9,701,945; Committee on the Judiciary, \$15,857,000; Committee on Natural Resources, \$9,655,800; Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, \$16,956,666; Committee on Rules, \$4,272,198; Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, \$9,388,486; Committee on Small Business, \$4,397,312; Select Committee on the Strategic Competition Between the United States and the Chinese Communist Party, \$5,373,388; Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, \$12,187,522; Committee on Veterans' Affairs, \$6,151,100; and Committee on Ways and Means, \$15,326,112.

#### SEC. 4. VOUCHERS.

Payments under this resolution shall be made on vouchers authorized by the committee involved, signed by the chair of such committee, and approved in the manner directed by the Committee on House Administration.

#### SEC. 5. REGULATIONS.

Amounts made available under this resolution shall be expended in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Committee on House Administration.

#### SEC. 6. ADJUSTMENT AUTHORITY.

The Committee on House Administration shall have authority to make adjustments in amounts under section 1, if necessary to comply with an order of the President issued under section 251A or 254 of the Balanced

Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 or to conform to any change in appropriations for the purposes of such section 1.

#### COMMITTEE AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, I have an amendment at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the committee amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Strike out all after the resolving clause and insert the following:

#### SECTION 1. COMMITTEE EXPENSES FOR THE ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—With respect to the One Hundred Nineteenth Congress, there shall be paid out of the applicable accounts of the House of Representatives, in accordance with this primary expense resolution, not more than the amount specified in subsection (b) for the expenses (including the expenses of all staff salaries) of each committee named in such subsection.

(b) COMMITTEES AND AMOUNTS.—The committees and amounts referred to in subsection (a) are: Committee on Agriculture, \$14,903,700; Committee on Armed Services, \$25,977,070; Committee on the Budget, \$11,990,000; Committee on Education and Workforce, \$20,159,000; Committee on Energy and Commerce, \$28,800,000; Committee on Ethics, \$9,276,290; Committee on Financial Services, \$21,250,000; Committee on Foreign Affairs, \$22,700,000; Committee on Homeland Security, \$19,750,000; Committee on House Administration, \$16,885,446; Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, \$18,610,000; Committee on the Judiciary, \$30,250,000; Committee on Natural Resources, \$18,600,000; Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, \$30,651,000; Committee on Rules, \$8,544,396; Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, \$15,232,000; Committee on Small Business, \$8,100,000; Select Committee on the Strategic Competition Between the United States and the Chinese Communist Party, \$10,250,000; Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, \$22,854,319; Committee on Veterans' Affairs, \$11,916,000; and Committee on Ways and Means, \$26,600,000.

#### SEC. 2. FIRST SESSION LIMITATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Of the amount provided for in section 1 for each committee named in subsection (b), not more than the amount specified in such subsection shall be available for expenses incurred during the period beginning at noon on January 3, 2025, and ending immediately before noon on January 3, 2026.

(b) COMMITTEES AND AMOUNTS.—The committees and amounts referred to in subsection (a) are: Committee on Agriculture, \$7,231,375; Committee on Armed Services, \$12,988,535; Committee on the Budget, \$5,995,000; Committee on Education and Workforce, \$10,059,000; Committee on Energy and Commerce, \$14,300,000; Committee on Ethics, \$4,530,566; Committee on Financial Services, \$10,500,000; Committee on Foreign Affairs, \$11,200,000; Committee on Homeland Security, \$9,750,000; Committee on House Administration, \$8,031,523; Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, \$9,305,000; Committee on the Judiciary, \$15,000,000; Committee on Natural Resources, \$9,175,000; Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, \$15,151,000; Committee on Rules, \$4,272,198; Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, \$7,466,000; Committee on Small Business, \$4,000,000; Select Committee on the Strategic Competition Between the United States and the Chinese Communist Party, \$5,000,000; Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, \$11,427,160; Committee on Veterans' Affairs, \$5,870,000; and Committee on Ways and Means, \$13,100,000.

**SEC. 3. SECOND SESSION LIMITATIONS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Of the amount provided for in section 1 for each committee named in subsection (b), not more than the amount specified in such subsection shall be available for expenses incurred during the period beginning at noon on January 3, 2026, and ending immediately before noon on January 3, 2027.

(b) COMMITTEES AND AMOUNTS.—The committees and amounts referred to in subsection (a) are: Committee on Agriculture, \$7,672,325; Committee on Armed Services, \$12,988,535; Committee on the Budget, \$5,995,000; Committee on Education and Workforce, \$10,100,000; Committee on Energy and Commerce, \$14,500,000; Committee on Ethics, \$4,745,724; Committee on Financial Services, \$10,750,000; Committee on Foreign Affairs, \$11,500,000; Committee on Homeland Security, \$10,000,000; Committee on House Administration, \$8,853,923; Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, \$9,305,000; Committee on the Judiciary, \$15,250,000; Committee on Natural Resources, \$9,425,000; Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, \$15,500,000; Committee on Rules, \$4,272,198; Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, \$7,766,000; Committee on Small Business, \$4,100,000; Select Committee on the Strategic Competition Between the United States and the Chinese Communist Party, \$5,250,000; Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, \$11,427,160; Committee on Veterans' Affairs, \$6,046,000; and Committee on Ways and Means, \$13,500,000.

**SEC. 4. VOUCHERS.**

Payments under this resolution shall be made on vouchers authorized by the committee involved, signed by the chair of such committee, and approved in the manner directed by the Committee on House Administration.

**SEC. 5. REGULATIONS.**

Amounts made available under this resolution shall be expended in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Committee on House Administration.

**SEC. 6. RESERVE FUND FOR UNANTICIPATED EXPENSES.**

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is hereby established a reserve fund for unanticipated expenses of committees for the One Hundred Nineteenth Congress.

(b) AMOUNT.—The reserve fund under this section shall have a balance of \$4,000,000, of which—

(1) \$2,000,000 shall be available for unanticipated expenses incurred during the period beginning at noon on January 3, 2025, and ending immediately before noon on January 3, 2026; and

(2) \$2,000,000 shall be available for unanticipated expenses incurred during the period beginning at noon on January 3, 2026, and ending immediately before noon on January 3, 2027.

(c) ALLOCATION TO COMMITTEES.—Amounts in the reserve fund under this section shall be paid to a committee pursuant to an allocation approved by the Committee on House Administration.

**SEC. 7. ADJUSTMENT AUTHORITY.**

The Committee on House Administration shall have authority to make adjustments in amounts under section 1, if necessary to comply with an order of the President issued under section 251A or 254 of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 or to conform to any change in appropriations for the purposes of such section 1.

Mr. STEIL (during the reading). I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading.

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

There was no objection.

The committee amendment was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider is laid upon the table.

### EXPRESSING THE PROFOUND SORROW OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON THE DEATH OF THE HONORABLE RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

Mr. STANTON. Mr. Speaker, I offer a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

#### H. RES. 240

*Resolved*, That the House has heard with profound sorrow of the death of the Honorable Raúl M. Grijalva, a Representative from the State of Arizona.

*Resolved*, That the Clerk communicate these resolutions to the Senate and transmit a copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

*Resolved*, That when the House adjourns today, it adjourn as a further mark of respect to the memory of the deceased.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

### ADJOURNMENT

Mr. STANTON. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 7 o'clock and 14 minutes p.m.), under its previous order and pursuant to House Resolution 240, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, March 25, 2025, at 10 a.m., for morning-hour debate, as a further mark of respect to the memory of the late Honorable RAÚL M. GRIJALVA.

### EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

EC-586. A letter from the Chair, Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission, transmitting the Commission's March 2025 Report to Congress on Medicaid and CHIP, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 1396(b)(1)(C); Aug. 14, 1935, ch. 531, title XIX, Sec. 1900 (as amended by Public Law 111-148, Sec. 2801(a)(1)(A)(iv)); (124 Stat. 329); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-587. A letter from the Acting Inspector General, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting a notification of a federal vacancy in the position of Inspector General, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-277, Sec. 151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

EC-588. A letter from the Deputy General Counsel for Operations, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting a notification of a federal vacancy, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-277, Sec. 151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

EC-589. A letter from the Deputy General Counsel for Operations, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting a notification of a federal vacancy, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-277, Sec.

151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

EC-590. A letter from the Deputy General Counsel for Operations, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting a notification of a federal vacancy, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-277, Sec. 151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

EC-591. A letter from the Deputy General Counsel for Operations, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting a notification of a federal vacancy, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-277, Sec. 151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

EC-592. A letter from the Deputy General Counsel for Operations, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting a notification of a federal vacancy, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-277, Sec. 151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

EC-593. A letter from the Deputy General Counsel for Operations, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting notification of a designation of acting officer, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-277, Sec. 151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

EC-594. A letter from the Deputy General Counsel for Operations, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting notification of a designation of acting officer, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-277, Sec. 151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

EC-595. A letter from the Chief, Legal, External Affairs and Performance Branch, Office of Government Ethics, transmitting two notifications of a federal vacancy, designation of acting officer and discontinuation of service in acting role, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-277, Sec. 151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

### 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. WILLIAMS of Texas: Committee on Small Business. H.R. 1621. A bill to require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to submit to Congress a report on the entrepreneurial challenges facing entrepreneurs with a disability, and for other purposes (Rept. 119-31). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas: Committee on Small Business. H.R. 1634. A bill to provide for a memorandum of understanding between the Small Business Administration and the National Council on Disability to increase employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities, and for other purposes (Rept. 119-32). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas: Committee on Small Business. H.R. 1804. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to require a report on 7(a) agents, and for other purposes (Rept. 119-33). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas: Committee on Small Business. H.R. 787. A bill to require plain language and the inclusion of key words in covered notices that are clear, concise, and accessible to small business concerns, and for other purposes; with an

amendment (Rept. 119-34). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas: Committee on Small Business. H.R. 789. A bill to require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to issue rules for cancelled covered solicitations, to amend the Small Business Act to provide assistance to small business concerns relating to certain cancelled solicitations, and for other purposes (Rept. 119-35). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas: Committee on Small Business. H.R. 1642. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to include requirements relating to graduates of career and technical education programs for small business development centers and women's business centers, and for other purposes (Rept. 119-36). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas: Committee on Small Business. H.R. 1816. A bill to establish requirements relating to certification of small business concerns owned and controlled by women for certain purposes, and for other purposes (Rept. 119-37). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Ms. FOXX: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 242. Resolution providing for consideration of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 24) providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Energy relating to "Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Walk-In Coolers and Walk-In Freezers"; providing for consideration of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 75) providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy relating to "Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Commercial Refrigerators, Freezers, and Refrigerator-Freezers"; and providing for consideration of the bill (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 (Rept. 119-38). Referred to the House Calendar.

## PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. MOORE of West Virginia (for himself, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mr. GILL of Texas, and Mr. SMITH of New Jersey):

H.R. 2282. A bill to reauthorize the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990, to improve access to relative caregivers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Workforce, 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. BOST:

H.R. 2283. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program to provide grants to outpatient mental health facilities for the provision of culturally competent, evidence-based mental health care for veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. YAKYM:

H.R. 2284. A bill to amend part A of title IV of the Social Security Act to limit the percentage of funds made available for the program of block grants to States for temporary assistance for needy families that may be used for administrative expenses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. POU:

H.R. 2285. A bill to require reporting regarding accreditation of basic training programs of the Department of Homeland Security, 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. BURCHETT (for himself, Mrs. LUNA, and Mr. DAVIDSON):

H.R. 2286. A bill to prohibit the disclosure of certain genetic information to the People's Republic of China, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. BYNUM (for herself, Mr. FIELDS, and Mr. LICCARDO):

H.R. 2287. A bill to require the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System to conduct a study on the impact certain United States tariffs have on the cost of goods and services in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. CARTER of Georgia (for himself, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. PFLUGER, and Mr. WEBER of Texas):

H.R. 2288. A bill to nullify the final rule of the Environmental Protection Agency titled "Reconsideration of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Particulate Matter"; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CARTER of Georgia:

H.R. 2289. A bill to provide that an eligible facilities request under section 6409(a) of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 is not subject to requirements to prepare certain environmental or historical preservation reviews; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. DINGELL (for herself, Mr. FULCHER, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Ms. DELBENE, Ms. SHERRILL, Ms. STANSBURY, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Ms. PETTERSEN, Ms. TITUS, and Ms. BROWNLEY):

H.R. 2290. A bill to provide that the memorial to commemorate the sacrifice and service of the women who worked on the home front to support the efforts of the United States military during World War II may be located on the National Mall, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. DONALDS (for himself and Mr. GOLDEN of Maine):

H.R. 2291. A bill to amend section 7342 of title 5, United States Code, to require agencies to submit to the Office of Government Ethics and the Department of State the compiled listing of certain statements relating to the receipt and disposition of foreign gifts and decorations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. EDWARDS (for himself and Ms. CROCKETT):

H.R. 2292. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish special rules for capital gains invested in brownfield and

superfund sites; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. EZELL (for himself, Mr. GUEST, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, and Mr. KELLY of Mississippi):

H.R. 2293. A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to reissue certain regulations relating to the taking of double-crested cormorants at aquaculture facilities; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. EZELL (for himself, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mrs. DINGELL, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, and Mr. DAVIS of Illinois):

H.R. 2294. A bill to reauthorize the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act of 2009; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. FEENSTRA (for himself, Mrs. BICE, Mr. NEGUSE, Mr. HARIDPOLOS, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Mr. MOYLAN):

H.R. 2295. A bill to research the impact of obstructions on radar detection and prediction capabilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. FEENSTRA (for himself, Mrs. HINSON, Mr. SORENSEN, Mr. GRAVES, Mr. HARIDPOLOS, Mr. CRENSHAW, Ms. CRAIG, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. MCBRIDE, Ms. ROSS, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Mr. MOYLAN, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mrs. MCCLAIN DELANEY, and Mr. MOSKOWITZ):

H.R. 2296. A bill to upgrade the communications service used by the National Weather Service, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida:

H.R. 2297. A bill to require the heads of Federal agencies to submit to Congress an annual report regarding official time authorized under title 5, United States Code, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. FULCHER:

H.R. 2298. A bill to ensure that certain broadband projects are not subject to requirements to prepare certain environmental or historical preservation reviews, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GROTHMAN:

H.R. 2299. A bill to establish the Payroll Audit Independent Determination program in the Department of Labor; to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

By Mrs. HARSHBARGER (for herself and Mr. SCHNEIDER):

H.R. 2300. A bill to ensure national uniformity with respect to certain requirements relating to preterm infant formula, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. LEVIN:

H.R. 2301. A bill to promote the development of renewable energy on public land, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MCCLINTOCK:

H.R. 2302. A bill to take certain Federal land in the State of California into trust for the benefit of the Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. MCGARVEY (for himself and Mr. BLIRAKIS):

H.R. 2303. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to reform and enhance the pay of Board of Veterans' Appeals attorneys for recruitment and retention and to increase the decision quality and claims processing speed of the Board, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mrs. MILLER of Illinois:

H.R. 2304. A bill to preserve the companionship services exemption for minimum wage and overtime pay, and the live-in domestic services exemption for overtime pay, under the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938; to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

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

H.R. 2305. A bill to provide funding to the Bureau of Prisons, States, and localities to carry out mental health screenings and provide referrals to mental health care providers for certain corrections officers; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MOOLENAAR (for himself, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. MCCORMICK, Mr. GRIF-FITH, Mr. LYNCH, and Mr. MOULTON):

H.R. 2306. A bill to reauthorize the Adams Memorial Commission, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. MOORE of Alabama (for himself and Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina):

H.R. 2307. A bill to establish the Commission on National Agricultural Statistics Service Modernization to modernize the data collection and reporting processes of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

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

H.R. 2308. A bill to establish the Federal Emergency Management Agency as a cabinet-level independent agency, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on 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. PETERS (for himself, Mr. EVANS of Colorado, Mr. SUOZZI, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, and Mr. KENNEDY of Utah):

H.R. 2309. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to require certain additional provider screening under the Medicaid program; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey:

H.R. 2310. A bill to ensure that goods made using or containing cobalt refined in the People's Republic of China do not enter the United States market under the presumption that the cobalt is extracted or processed with the use of child and forced labor in the Democratic Republic of Congo; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Foreign Affairs, and Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. WILSON of South Carolina (for himself and Mr. PANETTA):

H.R. 2311. A bill to authorize the imposition of sanctions with respect to certain foreign persons who have knowingly engaged in

the wrongful persecution and imprisonment of political opponents in Pakistan, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. WOMACK:

H.R. 2312. A bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to revise the definition of the term "tipped employee", and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

By Ms. FEDORCHAK (for herself, Mr. BALDERSON, and Mr. ALLEN):

H.J. Res. 79. 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"; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. PRESSLEY (for herself, Ms.

GARCIA of Texas, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Ms. MCCLELLAN, Ms. TLATB, Mr. DELUZZO, Ms. STRICKLAND, Mrs. MCIVER, Mr. KEATING, Mr. FOSTER, Ms. TITUS, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. PETERS, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. GARCIA of California, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. VELAZQUEZ, Ms. CHU, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. MOULTON, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. OMAR, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. MRVAN, Mr. FROST, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. COSTA, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. NORCROSS, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. NEGUSE, Mrs. SYKES, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. EVANS of Pennsylvania, Ms. SHERRILL, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Ms. STANSBURY, Mr. AMO, Mr. POCAN, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. MORELLE, Mr. HOYER, Mr. MANNION, Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, Mr. PAPPAS, Ms. BALINT, Ms. ROSS, Ms. PEREZ, Mr. BEYER, Ms. LEE of Nevada, Mr. FIELDS, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. JACOBS, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. BROWN, Mrs. FOUSHEE, Ms. BYNUM, Ms. NORTON, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Ms. ELFPRETH, Ms. DEGETTE, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. VINDMAN, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. LAWLER, Mr. KENNEDY of New York, Mrs. MCCLAIN DELANEY, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Ms. CROCKETT, Mr. CARSON, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mrs. TRAHAN, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Ms. BUDZINSKI, Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. STEVENS, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. NADLER, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. BERA, Mr. RUIZ, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. TORRES of New York, Mr. SWALWELL, Mr. MULLIN, Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ, Mr. CASTEN, Mr. COURTNEY, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Ms. RIVAS, Mr. THANEDAR, Mr. LANDSMAN, Mrs. TORRES of California, Mr. CASE, Mr. SUBRAMANYAM, Ms. SIMON, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. CISNEROS, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. GOODLANDER, Ms. WATERS, Mr. RILEY of New York, Ms. DELBENE, Ms. ESCOBAR, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. GOLDEN of Maine, Mr. SORESENSEN, Mr. LATIMER, Mr. RASKIN, Ms. SEWELL, Ms. DEXTER, and Mr. GOTTHEIMER):

H.J. Res. 80. A joint resolution establishing the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. STEUBE:

H.J. Res. 81. A joint resolution authorizing the use of military force against certain Mexican cartels; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. HAMADEH of Arizona:

H. Con. Res. 20. Concurrent resolution establishing the Congressional Fitness Challenge, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. STANTON:

H. Res. 240. A resolution expressing the profound sorrow of the House of Representatives on the death of the Honorable Raúl M. Grijalva; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. CLYDE (for himself, Mr. CRANE, Mr. GILL of Texas, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. BRECHEEN, Mr. HARRIS of Maryland, Mr. PERRY, Mr. MILLS, Ms. GREENE of Georgia, and Mr. BURLISON):

H. Res. 241. A resolution impeaching John James McConnell Jr., Chief Judge of the United States District Court for the District of Rhode Island, for high crimes and misdemeanors; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. ANSARI (for herself, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. MIN, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Ms. LOFGREN, Mrs. MCBATH, Mr. COSTA, and Mr. CARSON):

H. Res. 243. A resolution expressing support for designating Iranian American Heritage Month; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Ms. LOFGREN (for herself, Ms. ANSARI, Mr. BACON, Mrs. BICE, Mr. CARSON, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. HIMES, Mrs. MCBATH, Mr. MIN, Mr. MULLIN, Ms. NORTON, Mr. PETERS, Ms. SALAZAR, Mr. SHERMAN, and Mr. SWALWELL):

H. Res. 244. A resolution recognizing the cultural and historical significance of Nowruz; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. MORELLE:

H. Res. 245. A resolution recognizing the significance of Sjögren's disease as a serious and systemic autoimmune disease and expressing support for the designation of April 2025 as "Sjögren's Awareness Month"; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. OGLES (for himself and Mr. DAVIDSON):

H. Res. 246. A resolution impeaching Theodore Chuang, a judge of the United States District Court for the District of Maryland, for high crimes and misdemeanors; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

## CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

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

By Mr. MOORE of West Virginia:

H.R. 2282.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. BOST:

H.R. 2283.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution, which states: "[t]he Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises, to pay the debts



and provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States; but all duties, imposts and excises shall be uniform throughout the United States"

By Mr. YAKYM:  
H.R. 2284.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Ms. POU:

H.R. 2285.

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

Article 1, Section 8: 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. BURCHETT:

H.R. 2286.

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

Article 1, Section 8

By Ms. BYNUM:

H.R. 2287.

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

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. CARTER of Georgia:

H.R. 2288.

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

Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution

By Mr. CARTER of Georgia:

H.R. 2289.

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

Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution

By Mrs. DINGELL:

H.R. 2290.

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. 2291.

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

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. EDWARDS:

H.R. 2292.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1

Provides Congress with the power to "lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts, and Excises."

By Mr. EZELL:

H.R. 2293.

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

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. EZELL:

H.R. 2294.

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

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. FEENSTRA:

H.R. 2295.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. FEENSTRA:

H.R. 2296.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida:

H.R. 2297.

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

Congress is granted the authority to introduce and enact this legislation pursuant to Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. FULCHER:

H.R. 2298.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 allows Congress to make all laws "Which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution" any of Congress' enumerated powers, including Congress' powers over appropriations.

By Mr. GROTHMAN:

H.R. 2299.

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

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mrs. HARSHBARGER:

H.R. 2300.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. LEVIN:

H.R. 2301.

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

Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2

By Mr. MCCLINTOCK:

H.R. 2302.

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

Clause 2 of Section 3 of Article IV of the Constitution

By Mr. MCGARVEY:

H.R. 2303.

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

Article I, Section 8

By Mrs. MILLER of Illinois:

H.R. 2304.

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

Article 1

By Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS:

H.R. 2305.

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

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. MOOLENAAR:

H.R. 2306.

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

Section 8 of article 1 of the Constitution

By Mr. MOORE of Alabama:

H.R. 2307.

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

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. MOSKOWITZ:

H.R. 2308.

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

Pursuant to clause 3(d)(1) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee find the authority for this legislation in article 1, section 8 of the Constitution.

By Mr. PETERS:

H.R. 2309.

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

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey:

H.R. 2310.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. WILSON of South Carolina:

H.R. 2311.

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

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. WOMACK:

H.R. 2312.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3:

The Congress shall have the power to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among States, and with the Indian Tribes.

By Ms. FEDORCHAK:

H.J. Res. 79.

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

Clause 14 of Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution.

By Ms. PRESSLEY:

H.J. Res. 80.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. STEUBE:

H.J. Res. 81.

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

Article 1, Section 8

### ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

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

H.R. 20: Mr. CLYBURN.

H.R. 22: Mr. LALOTA.

H.R. 154: Mr. COURTNEY.

H.R. 247: Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida and Ms. DEXTER.

H.R. 263: Mr. KENNEDY of Utah.

H.R. 286: Mrs. BICE and Ms. HAGEMAN.

H.R. 303: Mr. GRAY.

H.R. 401: Mr. MCGUIRE.

H.R. 433: Ms. BUDZINSKI, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. JACOBS, and Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.

H.R. 452: Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. KUSTOFF, Ms. DELAURO, and Mr. CUELLAR.

H.R. 484: Mr. SMITH of Washington.

H.R. 485: Mr. MOSKOWITZ.

H.R. 486: Mr. HORSFORD, Mr. CARBAJAL, and Ms. TOKUDA.

H.R. 516: Mr. HILL of Arkansas.

H.R. 530: Mrs. RADEWAGEN.

H.R. 609: Ms. ANSARI and Ms. JOHNSON of Texas.

H.R. 633: Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Mr. EDWARDS, Mr. CARBAJAL, and Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H.R. 647: Mrs. RADEWAGEN.

H.R. 649: Mr. DOWNING.

H.R. 696: Mr. CLINE.

H.R. 740: Mr. BEGICH.

H.R. 746: Mr. BRECHEEN.

H.R. 783: Mr. OBERNOLTE and Ms. ROSS.

H.R. 833: Mr. HURD of Colorado, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mrs. KIM, and Mr. BOST.

H.R. 842: Mr. FITZGERALD, Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. NUNN of Iowa, Ms. MCBRIDE, Ms. SALAZAR, Mrs. CAMMACK, Mr. LUCAS, Mr. HAMADEH of Arizona, Mrs. HINSON, Mr. ROUZER, Ms. McDONALD RIVET, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. MRVAN, Mrs. DINGELL, Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, and Ms. MORRISON.

H.R. 858: Ms. DELBENE.

H.R. 861: Ms. CHU.

H.R. 879: Mr. SESSIONS, Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. MCBRIDE, Mr. DELUZO, Mr. BALDERSON, Ms. BUDZINSKI, Mr. OBERNOLTE, Ms. SALAZAR, Mr. CISCOMANI, Mr. MCGUIRE, Mr. ZINKE, Mr. SOTO, Ms. RANDALL, Ms. SANCHEZ, Mr. NADLER, Ms. BONAMICI, and Ms. PEREZ.

H.R. 898: Ms. DELBENE.

H.R. 903: Ms. DEXTER.

H.R. 909: Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. MCGARVEY, Mr. KENNEDY of Utah, and Mr. MAGAZINER.

H.R. 930: Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.

H.R. 979: Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Mr. RULLI, Mr. PANETTA, Ms. SCHRIER, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mrs. TRAHAN, Mr. SMUCKER, and Mr. COURTNEY.

H.R. 987: Mr. GOODEN, Mr. BEAN of Florida, and Mr. HERN of Oklahoma.  
 H.R. 1002: Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida.  
 H.R. 1007: Mr. DONALDS.  
 H.R. 1013: Mr. SESSIONS.  
 H.R. 1020: Mr. VASQUEZ.  
 H.R. 1046: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.  
 H.R. 1055: Mr. TORRES of New York and Mr. NEWHOUSE.  
 H.R. 1065: Ms. TITUS, Mr. OLSZEWSKI, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. VASQUEZ, and Mr. MENENDEZ.  
 H.R. 1102: Mr. MOULTON, Mr. KENNEDY of New York, and Ms. SEWELL.  
 H.R. 1151: Mr. LUCAS, Ms. CRAIG, and Mr. FLOOD.  
 H.R. 1175: Mrs. TRAHAN.  
 H.R. 1178: Mrs. RADEWAGEN.  
 H.R. 1181: Mr. MILLER of Ohio.  
 H.R. 1196: Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. CARSON, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. BEYER, Ms. SCANLON, and Mr. BELL.  
 H.R. 1210: Mr. OGLES and Mr. MCGUIRE.  
 H.R. 1227: Mr. LIEU and Mr. FLEISCHMANN.  
 H.R. 1229: Ms. LEE of Nevada, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. GOODEN, Ms. SALAZAR, and Ms. CRAIG.  
 H.R. 1231: Mr. VASQUEZ.  
 H.R. 1241: Mr. BRECHEEN.  
 H.R. 1254: Mrs. TRAHAN, Ms. MCCLELLAN, and Ms. TLAIB.  
 H.R. 1267: Mr. DUNN of Florida and Mr. BRESNAHAN.  
 H.R. 1269: Mr. GOMEZ, Mrs. MCCLAIN DELANEY, Mr. SUBRAMANYAM, Ms. ROSS, Mr. COSTA, Mr. CARSON, Ms. SHERRILL, Mr. VINDMAN, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. PALLONE, and Ms. CRAIG.  
 H.R. 1285: Mr. KEAN.  
 H.R. 1301: Mr. SHREVE.  
 H.R. 1306: Mr. NUNN of Iowa and Mrs. DINGELL.  
 H.R. 1307: Mr. BELL.  
 H.R. 1340: Mr. VARGAS.  
 H.R. 1347: Ms. BYNUM.  
 H.R. 1348: Mr. BACON.  
 H.R. 1378: Mr. HURD of Colorado, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, and Ms. SALAZAR.  
 H.R. 1383: Ms. PINGREE, Mr. DELUZIO, Mr. OBERNOLTE, and Mr. MOYLAN.  
 H.R. 1414: Mr. CAREY.  
 H.R. 1417: Mr. GRAVES and Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia.  
 H.R. 1422: Mr. MILLER of Ohio, Mr. GOODEN, Mr. MOULTON, Ms. CRAIG, Ms. BROWN, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, and Mr. GOLDMAN of Texas.  
 H.R. 1461: Mr. RESCHENTHALER and Mr. MEUSER.  
 H.R. 1484: Mr. MIN and Ms. BONAMICI.  
 H.R. 1492: Mr. CRENSHAW, Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. KEAN, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Mr. MOORE of North Carolina, Mr. DUNN of Florida, Ms. VAN DUYNE, Mr. BUCHANAN, and Mr. YAKYM.  
 H.R. 1494: Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.  
 H.R. 1526: Mr. LANGWORTHY, Mr. MCGUIRE, Mr. SELF, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, and Mr. MEUSER.  
 H.R. 1529: Mr. GUEST.  
 H.R. 1535: Ms. NORTON and Mr. THANEDAR.  
 H.R. 1542: Ms. CRAIG.  
 H.R. 1551: Mr. COSTA, Mr. HARRIS of North Carolina, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. GIMENEZ, and Mr. NEHLS.  
 H.R. 1569: Mr. MOSKOWITZ.  
 H.R. 1571: Mr. EZELL.  
 H.R. 1578: Mrs. RADEWAGEN.  
 H.R. 1585: Mr. RILEY of New York and Ms. HOULAHAN.  
 H.R. 1611: Mrs. TRAHAN.  
 H.R. 1637: Mrs. MCCLAIN DELANEY.  
 H.R. 1657: Mr. MENENDEZ.  
 H.R. 1674: Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mrs. FLETCHER, Mr. NADLER, and Mrs. TRAHAN.  
 H.R. 1705: Mrs. MCBATH.  
 H.R. 1706: Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ and Mr. NADLER.  
 H.R. 1713: Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, Ms. PETTERSEN, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, and Mr. WEBSTER of Florida.

H.R. 1715: Mr. MULLIN.  
 H.R. 1752: Mr. FITZPATRICK.  
 H.R. 1769: Mr. TIFFANY.  
 H.R. 1771: Mr. FITZPATRICK.  
 H.R. 1773: Mr. VAN ORDEN, Mr. DONALDS, and Mr. SESSIONS.  
 H.R. 1781: Mr. SMITH of Washington.  
 H.R. 1788: Mr. CARSON, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, and Mr. MOULTON.  
 H.R. 1806: Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK.  
 H.R. 1808: Mr. MOYLAN.  
 H.R. 1812: Mr. SMITH of Washington.  
 H.R. 1816: Mr. FITZPATRICK.  
 H.R. 1822: Mr. ESTES, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. NUNN of Iowa, Mr. FIELDS, Ms. SCHOLTEN, Mr. SCHMIDT, Mr. NEGUSE, Mr. FITZGERALD, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. VAN ORDEN, Mr. STEIL, Ms. PETTERSEN, Mr. COSTA, Mr. MANN, and Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS.  
 H.R. 1844: Mr. LAMALFA.  
 H.R. 1851: Mr. TIMMONS, Ms. PETTERSEN, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Ms. MACE, Mr. BELL, Mr. HERN of Oklahoma, and Mr. CARSON.  
 H.R. 1876: Mr. KEATING, Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. CORREA, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Ms. MORRISON, Mr. TRAN, Mr. KENNEDY of New York, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. STRICKLAND, and Ms. BYNUM.  
 H.R. 1877: Mr. KEATING, Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. SCANLON, Ms. MORRISON, Mr. TRAN, Mr. KENNEDY of New York, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, and Ms. STRICKLAND.  
 H.R. 1880: Ms. NORTON.  
 H.R. 1893: Mr. HARDER of California.  
 H.R. 1940: Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. CALVERT, and Mr. BOST.  
 H.R. 1942: Mr. NUNN of Iowa.  
 H.R. 1969: Mr. BERGMAN.  
 H.R. 1970: Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. BERGMAN, and Mr. LALOTA.  
 H.R. 1989: Mrs. MCCLAIN Delaney and Mr. MAGAZINER.  
 H.R. 1993: Mr. FITZPATRICK.  
 H.R. 1995: Mr. VALADAO and Mr. FLOOD.  
 H.R. 2002: Ms. NORTON.  
 H.R. 2004: Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. LANDSMAN, and Mr. NUNN of Iowa.  
 H.R. 2010: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.  
 H.R. 2011: Ms. NORTON, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. CARSON, and Mr. BERGMAN.  
 H.R. 2013: Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania.  
 H.R. 2029: Ms. BYNUM, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, and Ms. MORRISON.  
 H.R. 2031: Mr. GARAMENDI.  
 H.R. 2033: Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas, Mr. VALADAO, Ms. HOULAHAN, Mr. MORELLE, Mr. WITTMAN, and Mr. FLOOD.  
 H.R. 2036: Mr. COLE and Ms. SHERRILL.  
 H.R. 2045: Ms. KELLY of Illinois and Ms. SIMON.  
 H.R. 2059: Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. AMO, Ms. STANSBURY, Mr. DOGGETT, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Mr. MOULTON, and Ms. TITUS.  
 H.R. 2060: Mr. DONALDS and Ms. TENNEY.  
 H.R. 2064: Mr. LATIMER.  
 H.R. 2071: Mr. HARIDOPOLOS.  
 H.R. 2072: Mr. DELUZIO.  
 H.R. 2079: Mrs. FOUSHEE, Mrs. DINGELL, and Ms. NORTON.  
 H.R. 2080: Mr. VALADAO.  
 H.R. 2086: Mr. PETERS, Ms. CLARKE of New York, and Ms. JOHNSON of Texas.  
 H.R. 2094: Mr. COSTA, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. EVANS of Pennsylvania, Mr. KEATING, Mr. MEUSER, Mr. CARBAJAL, and Ms. PETTERSEN.  
 H.R. 2098: Mrs. MCCLAIN DELANEY.  
 H.R. 2102: Mr. MEEKS, Mr. TRAN, Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas, Mr. LALOTA, and Mrs. RADEWAGEN.  
 H.R. 2103: Ms. CRAIG and Mr. FITZPATRICK.  
 H.R. 2109: Mr. FITZPATRICK.  
 H.R. 2110: Mr. MOULTON, Ms. SCHRIER, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, and Mr. FITZPATRICK.  
 H.R. 2113: Mr. OGLES.  
 H.R. 2117: Mr. FINSTAD.

H.R. 2121: Mr. LATIMER.  
 H.R. 2124: Ms. BOEBERT and Mr. CRANE.  
 H.R. 2125: Mrs. BIGGS of South Carolina and Mr. McCORMICK.  
 H.R. 2157: Mr. FALLON and Mr. FITZPATRICK.  
 H.R. 2160: Mr. LAWLER.  
 H.R. 2165: Mr. BALDERSON.  
 H.R. 2166: Mr. COLLINS, Mr. CLINE, and Mr. DUNN of Florida.  
 H.R. 2182: Mr. MANN.  
 H.R. 2191: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.  
 H.R. 2192: Mr. NEGUSE, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. STEVENS, and Mr. BOST.  
 H.R. 2193: Mr. MCGUIRE.  
 H.R. 2194: Mr. FITZPATRICK.  
 H.R. 2197: Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas.  
 H.R. 2199: Ms. VAN DUYNE and Ms. PETTERSEN.  
 H.R. 2201: Mrs. RADEWAGEN.  
 H.R. 2207: Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. STEVENS, Ms. SALINAS, Mrs. FOUSHEE, Mr. AMO, Mr. SUBRAMANYAM, Ms. RIVAS, Ms. MCBRIDE, Mr. WHITESIDES, Ms. FRIEDMAN, and Mrs. MCCLAIN DELANEY.  
 H.R. 2208: Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. ROSS, Ms. SALINAS, Mrs. FOUSHEE, Mr. AMO, Mr. SUBRAMANYAM, Ms. RIVAS, Ms. MCBRIDE, Mr. WHITESIDES, Ms. FRIEDMAN, and Mrs. MCCLAIN DELANEY.  
 H.R. 2209: Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. ROSS, Ms. SALINAS, Mrs. FOUSHEE, Mr. AMO, Mr. SUBRAMANYAM, Ms. RIVAS, Ms. MCBRIDE, Mr. WHITESIDES, Ms. FRIEDMAN, and Mrs. MCCLAIN DELANEY.  
 H.R. 2210: Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. STEVENS, Ms. ROSS, Ms. SALINAS, Mr. AMO, Mr. SUBRAMANYAM, Ms. RIVAS, Ms. MCBRIDE, Mr. WHITESIDES, Ms. FRIEDMAN, and Mrs. MCCLAIN DELANEY.  
 H.R. 2211: Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. STEVENS, Ms. ROSS, Ms. SALINAS, Mrs. FOUSHEE, Mr. SUBRAMANYAM, Ms. RIVAS, Ms. MCBRIDE, Mr. WHITESIDES, Ms. FRIEDMAN, and Mrs. MCCLAIN DELANEY.  
 H.R. 2225: Mr. FITZPATRICK.  
 H.R. 2226: Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mrs. BIGGS of South Carolina, and Mrs. FISCHBACH.  
 H.R. 2228: Mr. VALADAO.  
 H.R. 2229: Mr. VALADAO.  
 H.R. 2230: Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia and Ms. SALAZAR.  
 H.R. 2233: Mr. HORSFORD.  
 H.R. 2243: Mr. GREEN of Tennessee and Ms. VAN DUYNE.  
 H.R. 2246: Mrs. WAGNER and Mr. LAHOOD.  
 H.R. 2257: Ms. SCANLON.  
 H.R. 2277: Mr. MFUME.  
 H.J. Res. 24: Mr. CARTER of Georgia.  
 H.J. Res. 28: Mr. PALMER and Mr. OBERNOLTE.  
 H.J. Res. 54: Mrs. SYKES, Ms. TOKUDA, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. MULLIN, Ms. PRESSLEY, Ms. OMAR, Mr. DELUZIO, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. CASAR, Mr. HUFFMAN, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. PALLONE, Ms. BALINT, Mr. NEGUSE, and Mr. DESAULNIER.  
 H.J. Res. 65: Mr. MURPHY.  
 H.J. Res. 75: Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. LAWLER, Mr. MESSMER, Mr. MOORE of West Virginia, Mr. GILL of Texas, Mr. PERRY, and Mr. CRENSHAW.  
 H. Con. Res. 12: Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, and Mr. SHREVE.  
 H. Res. 64: Mr. MEEKS, Ms. TOKUDA, Ms. SEWELL, and Mr. FITZPATRICK.  
 H. Res. 68: Mrs. TORRES of California.  
 H. Res. 94: Mr. KEATING.  
 H. Res. 100: Ms. JAYAPAL.  
 H. Res. 152: Mr. VINDMAN.  
 H. Res. 155: Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. DEXTER, and Ms. JOHNSON of Texas.  
 H. Res. 157: Ms. GREENE of Georgia.  
 H. Res. 163: Mr. BARRETT.  
 H. Res. 166: Mr. BOST, Mr. OGLES, and Mr. COURTNEY.  
 H. Res. 174: Ms. GREENE of Georgia.

H. Res. 176: Mr. MILLER of Ohio.  
H. Res. 216: Ms. STRICKLAND, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. LEVIN, Ms. LOFGREN, Ms. BUDZINSKI, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. BROWN, and Ms. JOHNSON of Texas.  
H. Res. 219: Ms. NORTON, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, and Mr. QUIGLEY.  
H. Res. 221: Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H. Res. 226: Mr. FITZPATRICK.  
H. Res. 229: Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. MCGUIRE, and Mr. RULLI.  
H. Res. 238: Mr. WHITESIDES, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. EVANS of Pennsylvania, Mrs. TORRES of California, Mr. OLSZEWSKI, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. MATSUI, and Ms. MCCOLLUM.

DELETION OF SPONSORS FROM  
PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

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

H.R. 1851: Mr. NORMAN.



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 119<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

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## Senate

### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant executive clerk read the nomination of John Phelan, of Florida, to be Secretary of the Navy.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

#### TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I apologize to my colleagues. I am going to give a 1-minute remark on things that probably should have been said on January 21.

In January, Americans celebrated one of its greatest rituals of our Republic; the peaceful transfer of power. I was honored to bear witness to history. I look forward to working closely with President Trump to advance the golden age in America.

As part of the ceremonies, my wife Barbara and I joined the inaugural luncheon in Statutory Hall. We enjoyed a delicious meal featuring food from America's heartland, including Nebraska beef and Minnesota apples.

An Iowa-born artist provided a feast for the eyes at that luncheon. Her magnificent painting hung behind President Trump. It is entitled "American Horizon."

Jane Wilson was born on her family farm near Seymour, IA in 1924. It is the first time a female artist's work was selected for this occasion. She painted American Horizon 25 years ago, 10 years before her death at age 90.

Senator KLOBUCHAR told us she selected the piece for its vast, open landscape, noting how its enduring horizon reflects our enduring democracy.

I am proud to pay tribute to an Iowan whose work became part of history at the 60th inauguration ceremony here in the U.S. Capitol.

I suggest the absence of a quorum. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The majority leader is recognized.

#### BUSINESS BEFORE THE SENATE

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, we recently completed a 10-week session. The Senate's longest in-session stretch in 15 years. It was a very busy 10 weeks filled with substantial results. We confirmed nearly the President's entire Cabinet—the fastest pace since the administration of George W. Bush.

We laid the groundwork for a transformational investment in border security and national defense. We continued to develop legislation to extend the tax relief we put in place for American families in President Trump's first term.

We passed legislation to ensure that illegal aliens arrested for various crimes are detained instead of being returned to America's streets.

We considered other bills that Democrats blocked—bills to achieve such commonsense goals as protecting Americans and our allies from illegitimate targeting by the International Criminal Court, and ensuring that athletic opportunities for women and girls are not taken away from them by biological males.

In our final week of session, we passed the HALT Fentanyl Act—legislation to give law enforcement a critical tool to go after the people trafficking fentanyl into our country. We also passed legislation to fund the government, by a narrow margin. Ten Democrats voted to allow us to proceed to the bill and fund the government. The rest preferred to filibuster the bill and shut down the government.

#### PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Lord of life, rescue us from the faults to which we all are prone. Keep us from saying one thing and doing another. Keep us from criticizing others for what we allow in ourselves.

Lord, keep us from the reluctance to break habits which we know are wrong. Keep us from trying to please both others and You. Keep us from anything that prevents us from giving all our loyalty, allegiance, and courage to You.

Lord, today, give our Senators a faith that will not shrink though pressed by many a foe.

We pray in Your powerful 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. BUDD). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

#### CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

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



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It was a double dose of Democrat hypocrisy. Democrats who had campaigned to abolish the filibuster enthusiastically embraced it now that it served their purposes. And Democrats who had decried the evils of government shutdowns now embraced shutting down the government.

One Senator, for example, who just last March called shutdowns “as devastating as they are stupid,” voted for a shutdown 10 days ago.

Another Democrat, who last February noted that “even a partial shutdown could disrupt supply chains, hurt small businesses, risk travel delays, and increase food prices for millions of Americans,” that Democrat also voted to shut down the government.

Democrats are changing their positions so abruptly, it could give you whiplash. The only thing that doesn't look likely to change is Democrats' willingness to change their principles when it suits their political purposes.

A new period of session begins today, and I hope the Democrats will manage to move past the fact they weren't able to shut down the government. But whether they accept their defeat or decide to throw a tantrum about it, we are going to continue to do the job that we were elected and sent here to do. In the next three weeks, we will continue to build out the President's administration by voting on more of his nominees. With the Cabinet almost entirely confirmed, we will be turning to undersecretaries and deputy secretaries as well as ambassadors. And like the White House, this work period will be focused on rolling back burdensome government regulations—in our case, through the Congressional Review Act resolutions.

This week, we will send the President Senator CRUZ's resolution to roll back the Biden administration's digital asset broker rule, which puts at risk the privacy and security of tens of millions of Americans who trade digital assets. We will also look to take up Senator TIM SCOTT's overdraft fee resolution overturning a Consumer Financial Protection Bureau rule that threatens access to credit for individuals and small businesses.

And we will take up a number of other CR resolutions this work period. Finally, as I said, we have been hard at work on legislation to extend the tax relief we passed during President Trump's first term and to make a transformational investment in our border and national security.

And those efforts will accelerate over the next three weeks. Confirming nominations, lifting burdensome regulations, laying the ground work for tax and border security legislation, I look forward to another busy work period ahead.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Democratic leader is recognized.

THE ATLANTIC REPORT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, earlier today, The Atlantic magazine released a stunning and alarming report about the accidental leaking of the Trump administration's coordination on classified military operations targeting the Houthis in Yemen. According to the report, a member of the press was somehow added to an unsecured text chain with the Vice President, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of State, the CIA Director, and other national security officials. The text chain was not a secure conversation. The app used is not approved for discussing classified military operations. Nevertheless, on this text chain, conversations went at length about imminent military operations, including specific targets, weapons, and attack plans. These text messages very likely included classified U.S. intelligence. The entire time, nobody seemed to realize that a private citizen without security clearance had access to this conversation.

This is one of the most stunning breaches of military intelligence that I have read about in a very, very long time. What we have here are senior U.S. leaders, including the Vice President and Secretary of Defense, having classified discussions of military action over an unsecure app.

It is bad enough that a private citizen was added to this chain, but it is far worse that sensitive military information was exchanged on an unauthorized application, especially when that sensitive military information was so, so important.

If these detailed exchanges about coordinating military operations fell into the hands of America's enemies, it could get people killed; it could severely harm our military; it would put America's national security in danger.

This debacle requires a full investigation into how this happened, the damage it created, and how we can avoid it in the future. If our Nation's military secrets are being peddled around over unsecured text chains, we need to know that at once, and we need to put a stop to it immediately. Every single Senator, Republican and Democrat and Independent, must demand accountability.

If a government employee shared sensitive military plans like this, they would be investigated and face very harsh consequences. Again, this kind of carelessness is how people get killed; it is how our enemies can take advantage of us; it is how our national security falls into danger.

If you were up in arms over unsecured emails years ago, you should certainly be outraged by this amateurish behavior.

I ask that Leader THUNE and my Republican colleagues work with Democrats right away to hold a full investigation into why these military operations were coordinated over an unauthorized messaging service instead of the secure communications channels funded by taxpayers.

I want to finish with this: When Pete Hegseth came before the Senate as a nominee, Democrats warned that something like this might happen. These people are clearly not up for the job. We warned that confirming them was dangerous, that they would behave recklessly. Unfortunately, we were right. Now we must have accountability, and both parties in the Senate should investigate how this blunder was even possible.

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

Mr. President, now on Donald Trump and Social Security, for 60 days, Donald Trump has waged a campaign of destruction against America's very, very foundations. Each step of the way, Leader THUNE and the Republican majority have enabled his every whim.

In just the last week alone, among many other things that he did that hurt the country, he has, one, created pandemonium at the Social Security Administration, and, two, he has signed an Executive order closing down the Department of Education. Let me discuss each briefly.

When it comes to the Department of Education, of course Donald Trump cannot proceed without an act of Congress. That is the law. Let me be clear. Let me be very clear. If Republicans ever, ever, try to move a bill through the Senate that shuts down the Department of Education, Senate Democrats will halt it in its tracks. It will go nowhere. It will be dead on arrival.

On Social Security, Senate Republicans should do their jobs and stand up to Donald Trump and Elon Musk's reckless behavior. In just a few days, a new policy will be implemented at the Social Security Administration preventing Americans from signing up for benefits over the phone, which they have been able to do for a very long time. Seniors who can't drive themselves or use the internet will be in danger of losing benefits. As the Wall Street Journal says, “Dealing With Social Security Is Heading From Bad to Worse.”

There is no other way to describe this new policy. It is a direct attack from Donald Trump and Elon Musk on American seniors. Just because they are not stopping the checks directly that go to people, they are stopping people from getting them in indirect ways—just as bad when you don't have the money that you desperately need for drugs, for food, for rent. It is all part of DOGE's two-faced efforts to root out fraud within Social Security—the fraud that everyone knows does not exist. In fact, a judge last week called DOGE's fraud hunt little more than a “phishing expedition.”

We all know Donald Trump and Elon Musk's real goal: They want to run Social Security to the ground. They want to starve it, strain it, make it unworkable for the American people. They want to make Social Security so dysfunctional, so chaotic, so unworkable in order to justify cutting benefits for the American people.

If the American people don't believe this is coming directly from Donald Trump, just listen to his address to Congress, where he spent 10 minutes—a full 10 minutes—spreading lie after lie about fraud, about checks to people who are 150 or 200 years old. People who say Donald Trump isn't serious about attacking Social Security were not paying attention to what he said in his speech. Of course, those people weren't getting the checks.

Donald Trump wanted to ridicule and demean Social Security, which so many of our seniors depend on. Americans, of course, are outraged. Of course they are afraid. But the administration's response has been utterly heartless and cruel.

Listen to this. Last week, Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick suggested that most seniors won't mind if the government skipped a payment. Let me read his quote directly. "Let's say Social Security didn't send out their checks this month," said Lutnick. "My mother-in-law, who's 94, she wouldn't call and complain. . . . [S]he'll get it next month."

Of course his mother-in-law isn't worried. She could call her very wealthy son-in-law for a little help. Yeah, if every senior had a billionaire son-in-law, they wouldn't worry about not getting their check. Most people aren't so lucky.

To call this out of touch doesn't even begin to describe it. Does Mr. Lutnick realize that a lot of seniors are living paycheck to paycheck, that without even one check, they don't have enough money for food or medicine or the rent? To call this out of touch doesn't even begin to describe it; it is delusional.

But so far, unfortunately, we have not heard a peep from the Republican leader or the Republican majority about the crisis happening to Social Security.

I ask our Republican majority, I ask every Republican Senator sitting in this Chamber, who sits in this Chamber, I ask the Republican Senators: Are they fine with Elon Musk taking a chain saw to the Social Security Administration? Do they agree with Donald Trump and Elon Musk that Social Security is a scam? Do they agree with Howard Lutnick that seniors will be OK with missing a payment? If not, where is the outrage from Senate Republicans?

The richest man in the world, Elon Musk, is on the brink of detonating one of the most sacred social programs in America, and Republicans are completely silent. It is deafening, their silence.

Instead of standing on the sidelines, Leader THUNE and Senate Republicans should be using their majority to protect seniors' benefit, but they aren't doing that. Committees should be taking swift action. They should be writing letters to Musk telling him to get his hands off the people's benefits.

If Democrats were in the majority, the crisis happening to Social Security right now would be agenda item No. 1. Leader Thune and the Republican majority, meanwhile, are sleepwalking in the middle of the gravest danger Social Security has faced perhaps in its history.

If seniors miss out on benefits, the political blowback from the American people will be nothing short of immense.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I was happy to be back home last week, as were, I am sure, all the Members of the Senate. And as typically happens—as I was explaining to my constituents—typically, we are in session here about 3 weeks out of the month, and then we have a week back home where we can travel our States. Whether you are in North Carolina or you are in Texas, usually, you have a lot of ground to cover in a relatively short period of time, but it is always good to be back home.

I want to report a little bit on some of my travels because it was a very, very productive week. From Corpus Christi, which is on the gulf coast of Texas, and Houston, also along the gulf coast—now, the Gulf of America—to Midland, to Dallas, to San Antonio, to Austin, I had great conversations with folks that are praising the work we are doing here in Congress. It is nice to get some good reviews now and again, but particularly our support for President Trump's agenda and for his team.

The last time the President got elected, Democrats dragged out the confirmation process, and it took, literally, months before the President had his Cabinet in place. But as a result of keeping the Senate in session for an extended period of time without breaks, we finally broke the opposition and got, basically, most of the President's Cabinet confirmed to this point, and people are excited.

Of course, energy security is national security, and President Trump, unlike his predecessor, said he wants to usher in an era of American energy dominance, which is also important not only for our national security but also for our economy, bringing down gasoline prices at the pump so working families can feel that. It is already beginning to work.

During the week, I traveled out to Midland, TX, which is where the Permian Basin is located. This is a region that is famous for its energy production. It actually extends from Texas west into New Mexico. I went on a tour of a field where the oil is literally

being produced from the ground and then processed and then injected into a pipeline where it heads to refineries and other parts of the State and the country. This impressive facility is making a lot of headway thanks to the most advanced technology, delivering affordable and reliable energy while using state-of-the-art technology.

One of the issues that had been raised in the past because of environmental concerns is a release of various methane emissions into the atmosphere. This is as a result of loose connections in pipe and other designs that needed to be improved upon, and, indeed, they have been. New emissions monitoring systems use everything that include the use of helicopter-mounted sensors and other improved technology to help improve efficiency and reduce those emissions, which means cleaner air and lower costs.

I went down to Corpus Christi, which is on the gulf coast of the Coastal Bend region of Texas, and met with energy businesses located there. Primarily, they are in the export business. They are exporting American LNG and oil to our friends and allies around the world. Corpus Christi is home to a number of impressive and innovative projects. One of the things they are working on that I intend to do more to help them with is to put in place a desalinization plant.

(Mrs. BRITT assumed the Chair.)

One of the challenges we have in Texas because of the huge development of our State—31 million people and growing, 1,600 people a day moving into the State—is that our development is outstripping our ability to provide water to communities all across the State, and because of permitting problems, it takes forever to build a new reservoir. So one of the things that Corpus Christi is doing is using state-of-the-art desalination plants, modeled after what they have observed in Israel, for example, and it has six of these impressive facilities. Desalination uses nanofiltration to remove salt and other minerals from seawater. One thing we have an abundance of on the gulf coast of Texas—in Alabama as well—is we have a lot of seawater, which allows, in using this technology, our State and that region to meet future water needs.

This is something I want to engage in here in Washington with my friends and colleagues who may have similar issues in their home States. As I tell my constituents back home, usually when they identify a problem, I go on a hunt to try to find Senators from States that have similar issues and concerns and then build a consensus and support for solutions that we might be able to offer in cooperation with our State and local authorities. The technology is impressive, and it has the potential to address significant needs in a growing region. As I said, it is not even just in the Corpus Christi area; it is throughout the State and, perhaps, even throughout other parts of the Nation.



In addition to desalination, we had a great discussion about the importance of the Port of Corpus Christi and the product that passes through that port that helps America's energy independence and helps our friends and allies around the world.

I heard firsthand of the benefits that have come to the Coastal Bend from the Corpus Christi Ship Channel Improvement Project. Because of these ultralarge oil tankers, they are able to carry up to 30 percent more oil in these tankers to our friends and allies around the world than our existing ships, but the problem is, they need to deepen and widen the port, which is why the Corpus Christi Ship Channel Improvement Project is so important. This will dramatically increase the capacity for crude oil to our friends and allies and will save the port up to \$150 million every year. In 2015, Congress approved the lifting of the ban on crude oil exports, which has allowed the Port of Corpus Christi to become the third largest port for oil exports in the world.

America is one of the most significant energy producers, and in large part, it is because of what happens in the Lone Star State. The ship channel project will make the Port of Corpus Christi one of the deepest and widest in the Gulf of America. When America has the capacity, I believe, under the current administration, to drill and export more oil and gas, it means the rest of the world becomes more reliant on America and less reliant on our adversaries, like Russia. I have been a long-time advocate for the Corpus Christi Ship Channel Improvement Project, and after decades of hard work by so many, it is exciting to see this project move forward and come to completion here in the next few weeks.

But increasing energy production wasn't the only one of President Trump's agenda items we discussed when I was back home. Another important opportunity I had during the State work period was to meet with my constituents to talk about the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act and how it has helped their small businesses and their employees thrive.

I remember 2017, during President Trump's first term, when we passed the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. Democrat colleagues at the time said: Well, this is only going to help the rich. Well, it didn't just help the rich. It literally helped everybody in every tax bracket. So I thought it was important to go back and talk to my constituents and say: OK. What was your experience, and how important is it to you that we continue by renewing the expiring provisions of that legislation—some of which expire in 2025.

Well, not surprisingly, the folks back home disagreed with those who are reading from the talking points from the Democratic National Committee. For example, I met with the good folks at Southland Hardware in Houston, TX. Now, this is one of the original

hardware stores that you don't find very much anymore, where you can literally buy almost everything that you can imagine. We also had representatives from Empire Tools and Sylvia's Enchilada Kitchen and Tejas Office Products—all thriving small business owners who shared their support for the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act and explained why it needed to be extended.

I heard the same thing from business owners all across the State, including Austin, where I live. We went to Wally's Burger—even in Austin—right at the start. I went there in 2018, and I went back. Robert Mayfield, who employs a single franchise there in Austin, 7 years later, reported that the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act had been very, very helpful, allowing him to provide better benefits and bonuses to his employees whom he considers to be part of his family.

So I would encourage the naysayers of our Democratic colleagues to actually talk to real people about what their experiences have been. I would bet what I learned was not isolated. I am sure it is common throughout the country. I am sure they would find that the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act did not, contrary to our Democratic colleagues, just help a bunch of rich people. The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act has, in fact, allowed people in communities from Austin to Houston and everywhere across the country to provide more of what they have earned to their families; to provide employment opportunities for their neighbors, and contribute to their communities, which is just another way of saying: Help them to help contribute to the American dream.

So that is why we have no option but to extend the expiring provisions of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. Many are already benefiting—ordinary working families and small business owners—as I said, but if Congress fails to extend these expiring provisions, these same people who have sacrificed so much will no longer be able to offer the same benefits to their workers, making it harder for them to attract the talent they need and making it harder for them to literally keep their doors open.

If we fail to extend the tax cuts, 62 percent of American taxpayers will see a tax increase in 2026, including people like the ones I mentioned back home in Texas—small business owners, in particular, because they pay a business income, typically, on an individual tax return—their so-called passthrough organizations, not corporations. They will be particularly hard-hit. They would see their Federal tax rates increase nearly 50 percent. Working parents would see the child tax credit cut in half, and Texans, whom I represent, would see their taxes increase on an average of \$3,000 next year.

I would be happy to introduce our Democratic colleagues to these folks, and they can learn what I learned if they are willing to listen. Hope springs eternal. I am sure these same folks would be happy to give them an earful

about why their view of the tax cuts only benefiting millionaires and billionaires is dead wrong.

So I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues here in the Senate and our House colleagues to pass a budget resolution, then to get the necessary reconciliation instructions in order to make this happen. There is so much more we have to do. We have to get our country back on a sane fiscal path. We are now at, roughly, \$36.4 trillion in debt. In other words, the current generations and previous generations have racked up debt that our kids and grandkids and great-grandkids are going to be responsible for paying, which strikes me as profoundly immoral.

We know how to fix this. We should, and we can now thanks to President Trump's election and his commitment not only to reducing waste and inefficiency in the government, as identified by the Department of Government Efficiency, but also to looking at programs that we haven't revisited in decades: to look at whether they still make sense, whether there need to be some reasonable work requirements for able-bodied adults for means-tested programs. All of these things are on the table, and we need to roll up our sleeves and get to work here in the coming weeks so we can get this done without delay.

So I was delighted to be home, but now we are back at work. We need to roll up our sleeves and get the job done because failure is not an option.

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. LEE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

REMEMBERING MIA LOVE

Mr. LEE. Madam President, the State of Utah, last night, lost a dedicated public servant, a loving mother, and a trailblazing leader, as well as a friend to many: Mia Love returned home to her Heavenly Father at the age of 49 after a courageous battle with glioblastoma, leaving behind a legacy of faith, service, and an unshakable belief in the American dream.

Mia was a woman of many firsts. She was the first Haitian American elected to Congress. She was also the first Black Republican woman elected to Congress; a first generation American whose parents immigrated to this country with just \$10 in their pockets but with the firm belief that America was and still is a land of opportunity.

She was never one to follow a script, at least not one written by someone else. Mia spoke her mind and never allowed others to define her. Mia knew that this country wasn't defined by where you start but by the opportunities you seize and the work you put in.

Her parents Marie and Jean Maxime Bourdeau fled the brutal dictatorship

of Francois Duvalier and came to the United States in search of freedom.

Born in Brooklyn on December 6, 1975, Mia grew up watching her parents' sacrifices and learning the value of hard work:

[T]he America I came to know growing up was filled with all the excitement found in living the American dream, she once wrote.

Her family moved to Connecticut in 1981, and later, while she was attending the University of Hartford, Mia's life would drastically change in two ways: She became a convert to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and met Jason, then a young missionary for that church.

After Jason had completed his mission, the two would later reconnect, marry, and move to Utah, building a life together and raising three wonderful children: Alessa, Abigail, and Peyton.

Utah quickly realized the natural-born leader in Mia. She cited that one of the driving factors in her decision to run for Congress was an episode in which the Supreme Court was considering a case to remove the words "under God" from the Pledge of Allegiance. She believed that words mattered, and those words mattered in particular so much so that she got into the business of politics.

Her convictions carried her through her time on the Saratoga Springs City Council, throughout her tenure as mayor, and later in her historic election and service to Congress.

It quickly became apparent to everyone watching that Mia Love was a rising star in politics, not just throughout the State of Utah but throughout America, and we saw the beginning stages of that when Mia made the decision to run against a then-Democratic incumbent Congressman, Representative Jim Matheson, who is a member of one of Utah's most prominent political families.

The GOP field that year was crowded in the race to replace the Democrat, Matheson, with a Republican, but Mia Love delivered many powerful speeches that election season, including on the day of the Republican Convention, in 2012. Those speeches would make her an icon on the national Republican stage.

Her narrow loss in that race in 2012 would not deter her. If anything, her loss that year spurred her to action, returning her to the field with a reinvigorated sense of enthusiasm for pursuing office.

She ran for Congress again and was elected in 2014, defeating Democratic incumbent Doug Owens in one of the most competitive districts in the country. She would go on to defeat Owens a second time to win reelection in 2016.

Mia Love never backed down from a challenge, whether it was breaking barriers, standing up for constituents, or taking on difficult fights, like her relentless efforts to bring Josh Holt home after 2 years of unjust imprisonment in Venezuela.

When Josh Holt finally stepped off the plane in Salt Lake City, Mia was there to welcome him home. But that, of course, was the end and not the beginning of that process. She had actually been there the day before, when she met Josh in person for the first time. You see, Mia fought for 2 years to get this man out of a Venezuelan prison—a man she had never met, but she recognized him as a Utahn overseas in need of help.

I discovered that day, at the White House, while visiting with President Trump and Mia Love and a few others that were gathered there, that Mia had taken on this challenge and had been in constant contact with Josh Holt's family the entire time he was in prison. She would not let go until he was home, and she got him home.

Even when faced with her greatest personal challenge, she leaned on the same principles that guided her throughout her entire life: her faith, her optimism, and her refusal to give up.

"Don't underestimate the power of a positive attitude," she told CNN's Jake Tapper after her diagnosis, and she never, ever did give up.

Mia knew she had a role to play in our Nation's future. She was a fighter, a leader, and, above all, a woman of deep conviction who lived her life in service to her faith, to her family, and to her country.

I hope the Nation will join me in praying for Mia Love's family and remembering her as the friend, the mother, the trailblazer, and the patriot we all knew.

One of my favorite characteristics of Mia Love—one that surfaced in my every interaction with her—was her defiant positivity. No matter how hard things were in Washington at any given time, every single time I saw Mia, she had a smile on her face, and she had words of encouragement for me and for everyone around her.

Whether they agreed with her on a particular issue or not, she was there offering encouragement and a way forward. That is the kind of leader we all benefit from knowing and the kind of friend that I feel very blessed to have made.

May Mia Love rest in peace, and may the great things that she worked for in this life inspire the people of Utah—and all Americans, for that matter—to better serve each other, our families, and our country.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic whip.

Mr. DURBIN. I ask unanimous consent that the vote start immediately.

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

#### VOTE ON PHELAN NOMINATION

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

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY), the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER), and the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. RICKETTS).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN), the Senator from Washington (Mr. MURRAY), the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH), are necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 62, nays 30, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 136 Ex.]

#### YEAS—62

Banks	Hagerty	Moreno
Barrasso	Hassan	Mullin
Blackburn	Hawley	Murkowski
Boozman	Hickenlooper	Paul
Britt	Hoeven	Reed
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
Gallego	McCormick	Wicker
Graham	Moody	Young
Grassley	Moran	

#### NAYS—30

Alsobrooks	Heinrich	Schatz
Baldwin	Hirono	Schiff
Bennet	Kim	Schumer
Blumenthal	Klobuchar	Slotkin
Blunt Rochester	Lujan	Smith
Booker	Markey	Van Hollen
Cantwell	Merkley	Warnock
Duckworth	Murphy	Warren
Durbin	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Peters	Wyden

#### NOT VOTING—8

Cassidy	Murray	Sanders
Fetterman	Padilla	Welch
Fischer	Ricketts	

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SCHMITT). Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Christopher Landau, of Maryland, to be Deputy Secretary of State.

#### VOTE ON LANDAU NOMINATION

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

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY), the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER), and the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. RICKETTS).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN), the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER), and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) are necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 60, nays 31, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 137 Ex.]

YEAS—60

Banks	Grassley	Moody
Barrasso	Hagerty	Moran
Bennet	Hassan	Moreno
Blackburn	Hawley	Mullin
Boozman	Hickenlooper	Murkowski
Britt	Hoehen	Paul
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	Wicker
Graham	McCormick	Young

NAYS—31

Alsobrooks	Hirono	Schiff
Baldwin	Kelly	Schumer
Blumenthal	Kim	Slotkin
Blunt Rochester	Lujan	Smith
Booker	Markey	Van Hollen
Cantwell	Merkley	Warnock
Duckworth	Murphy	Warren
Durbin	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Gallago	Peters	Wyden
Gillibrand	Reed	
Heinrich	Schatz	

NOT VOTING—9

Cassidy	Murray	Sanders
Fetterman	Padilla	Warner
Fischer	Ricketts	Welch

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The Senate majority leader.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 51.

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 Faulkender, of Maryland, to be Deputy Secretary of the Treasury.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 51, Michael Faulkender, of Maryland, to be Deputy Secretary of the Treasury.

John Thune, Mike Crapo, Roger Marshall, Shelley Moore Capito, Tommy Tuberville, Jim Justice, James Lankford, John Barrasso, Markwayne Mullin, Tim Sheehy, Mike Rounds, Todd Young, Kevin Cramer, Ted Budd, Roger F. Wicker, Katie Boyd Britt, David McCormick.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate resume legislative session and be in a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is still available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications that have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such an annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY  
COOPERATION AGENCY,

Washington, DC.

Hon. JAMES E. RISCH,  
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,  
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 24-127, concerning the Navy's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Australia for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$165 million. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL F. MILLER,  
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 24-127

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Australia.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:  
Major Defense Equipment\* \$0.  
Other \$165 million.  
Total \$165 million.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

None.

Non-Major Defense Equipment:

The following non-MDE items will be included: MJU-61 decoy flares; MJU-64 decoy flares; MJU-66 flare countermeasures; MJU-76 flare countermeasures; RR-198A/L chaff cartridges; CCU-145/A impulse cartridges; other support equipment (MK-3 pallet); U.S. Government and contractor technical assistance; and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Navy (AT-P-ASW).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: AT-P-AEC, AT-P-AEF, AT-P-ADY, AT-P-AMG, AT-P-ANZ, and AT-P-AVD.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None known at this time.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: March 18, 2025.

\*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Australia—Countermeasures, Chaff, and Impulse Cartridges

The Government of Australia has requested to buy MJU-61 decoy flares; MJU-64 decoy flares; MJU-66 flare countermeasures; MJU-76 flare countermeasures; RR-198A/L chaff cartridges; CCU-145/A impulse cartridges; other support equipment (MK-3 pallet); U.S. Government and contractor technical assistance; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total cost is \$165 million.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security objectives of the United States. Australia is one of our most important allies in the Western Pacific. The strategic location of this political and economic power contributes significantly to ensuring peace and economic stability in the Western Pacific. It is vital to the U.S. national interest to assist our ally

in developing and maintaining a strong and ready self-defense capability.

The proposed sale will improve Australia's capability to meet current and future threats by protecting and increasing aircraft survivability. Australia will have no difficulty absorbing this equipment and services into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractors will be Kilgore Flores Company, LLC, located in Toone, TN; Armtec Countermeasures Company, located in Coachella, CA; Alloy Surface Company, Inc. located in Aston, PA; Chemring Australia PTY LTD, located in Lara, Australia; and CCI Capco LLC, located in Grand Junction, CO. At this time, the U.S. Government is not aware of any offset agreement proposed in connection with this potential sale. Any offset agreement will be defined in negotiations between the purchaser and the contractor.

Implementation of this proposed sale will require three U.S. Government personnel and one contractor representatives to visit Australia on a temporary basis in conjunction with program technical oversight and support requirements, including program and technical reviews.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

#### TRANSMITTAL NO. 24-127

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

#### Annex Item No. vii

##### (vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. Chaff and flare countermeasure systems are critical defensive technologies designed to protect tactical aircraft from enemy threats. Chaff consists of dispersed metallic or conductive strips that generate false radar reflections, confusing enemy radar systems and reducing the probability of a successful radar-guided missile engagement. Flare systems deploy intense infrared-emitting devices to counteract and mislead missiles and tracking systems, diverting them away from the aircraft. These countermeasures collectively enhance the aircraft's defensive capabilities by impairing enemy targeting systems. For training purposes, pilots use simulated chaff and flare systems to practice the deployment and effectiveness of these defensive measures in combat scenarios.

2. The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is SECRET.

3. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the specific hardware and software elements, the information could be used to develop countermeasures that might reduce system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

4. A determination has been made that Australia can provide substantially the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This proposed sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

5. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal have been authorized for release and export to the Government of Australia.

#### ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act

requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is still available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications that have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such an annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY  
COOPERATION AGENCY,  
Washington, DC.

Hon. JAMES E. RISCH,  
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,  
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(5)(C) of the Arms Export Control Act (AECA), as amended, we are forwarding Transmittal No. 25-0D. This notification relates to enhancements or upgrades from the level of sensitivity of technology or capability described in the Section 36(b)(1) AECA certification 22-63 of November 8, 2022.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL F. MILLER,  
Director.

Enclosure.

#### TRANSMITTAL NO. 25-0D

Report of Enhancement or Upgrade of Sensitivity of Technology or Capability (Sec. 36(b)(5)(c), AECA)

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Belgium.

(ii) Sec. 36(B)(1), AECA Transmittal No.: 22-63; Date: November 8, 2022; Implementing Agency: Air Force.

(iii) Description: On November 8, 2022, Congress was notified by congressional certification transmittal number 22-63 of the possible sale, under Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, of up to one hundred twenty (120) AIM-120C-8 Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missiles (AMRAAM); and ten (10) AMRAAM C-8 Guidance Sections. Also included were spare AIM-120 control sections and containers; AIM-120C Captive Air Training Missiles (CATM); other spare parts, consumables, accessories, and repair/return support; classified software; books, technical documentation, and other publications; training and training equipment; munitions support and support equipment; and other related elements of logistical and program support. The estimated total cost was \$380 million. Major Defense Equipment (MDE) constituted \$358 million of this total.

This transmittal notifies the inclusion of the following MDE items: one hundred fifty-nine (159) AIM-120D-3 Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missiles (AMRAAM); one (1) AMRAAM D-3 guidance section; and one (1) AIM-120D Integrated Test Vehicle. The following non-MDE items will also be included: weapon system support, including software; and KGV-135A COMSEC chips. The estimated total value of the new items and services is \$509 million. The estimated non-MDE value will increase by \$30 million to a revised \$52 million. The estimated total case

value will increase by \$509 million to a revised \$889 million. MDE constitutes \$837 million of this total.

(iv) Significance: This notification is being provided because the additional MDE and non-MDE items represent an increase in capability over what was previously notified. The proposed sale will improve Belgium's capability to meet current and future threats by maintaining its F-35 fleet in combat-ready status and providing a credible deterrent to regional threats.

(v) Justification: This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security objectives of the United States by improving the security of a NATO Ally that is a force for political stability and economic progress in Europe.

(vi) Sensitivity of Technology: The AIM-120D-series Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missile (AMRAAM) is a supersonic, air-launched, aerial intercept, guided missile featuring digital technology and micro-miniature, solid-state electronics. AMRAAM capabilities include look-down/shoot-down, multiple launches against multiple targets, resistance to electronic countermeasures, and interception of high- and low-flying and maneuvering targets. The AIM-120D features a quadrangle target detection device and an electronics unit within the guidance section that performs all radar signal processing, mid-course and terminal guidance, flight control, target detection, and warhead detonation.

The KGV-135A is a high-speed, general purpose encryptor/decryptor module used for wideband data encryption.

The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is SECRET.

(vii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: March 3, 2025.

#### ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is still available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications that have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such an annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY  
COOPERATION AGENCY,  
Washington, DC.

Hon. JAMES E. RISCH,  
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,  
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(5)(A) of the Arms Export Control Act (AECA), as amended, we are forwarding Transmittal No. OP-24. This notification relates to enhancements or upgrades from the level of sensitivity of technology or capability described

in the Section 36(b)(1) AECA certification 24-19 of February 15, 2024.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL F. MILLER,  
*Director.*

Enclosure.

TRANSMITTAL NO. OP-24

Report of Enhancement or Upgrade of Sensitivity of Technology or Capability (Sec. 36(b)(5)(a), AECA)

(i) Purchaser: Government of Italy.  
(ii) Sec. 36(b)(1), AECA Transmittal No.: 24-19; Date: February 15, 2024; Implementing Agency: Air Force.

(iii) Description: On February 15, 2024, Congress was notified by congressional certification transmittal number 24-19 of the possible sale, under Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, of twenty-four (24) AIM-120C-8 Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missiles (AMRAAM). Also included were Common Munitions Built-in-Test (BIT)/Reprogramming Equipment (CMBRE); ADU-891 adaptor group test sets; AMRAAM containers and support equipment; integration and test support and equipment; munitions support and support equipment; spare parts, consumables and accessories, and repair and return support; contractor logistics support; classified software delivery and support; classified and unclassified publications and technical documentation; studies and surveys; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total cost was \$69.3 million. Major Defense Equipment (MDE) constituted \$56.7 million of this total.

This transmittal reports the addition of the following MDE items: four (4) AIM-120D-3 AMRAAM missiles; two (2) AIM-120D-3 AMRAAM Integrated Test Vehicles (ITV); and two (2) AIM-120D-3 AMRAAM guidance sections, including precise position capability provided by either Selective Availability Anti-Spoofing Module or M-Code. Also included are non-MDE classified software delivery and support; Captive Air Training Missile (CATM) AIM-120C training missiles; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total value of the new items is \$49 million. The estimated MDE value will increase by \$16 million to a revised \$72.7 million. The estimated non-MDE value will increase by \$33 million to a revised \$45.6 million. The estimated total case value will increase by \$49 million to a revised \$118.3 million.

(iv) Significance: This notification is being provided because the additional MDE items were not enumerated in the original notification. The inclusion of this MDE represents an increase in capability over what was previously notified. The proposed sale will improve Italy's F-35 weapons capabilities.

(v) Justification: This proposed sale will support the foreign policy goals and national security objectives of the United States by improving the security of a NATO Ally that is a force for political stability and economic progress in Europe.

(vi) Sensitivity of Technology: The AIM-120D-series AMRAAM is a supersonic, air-launched, aerial intercept, guided missile featuring digital technology and micro-miniature, solid-state electronics. AMRAAM capabilities include look-down/shoot-down, multiple launches against multiple targets, resistance to electronic countermeasures, and interception of high and low-flying and maneuvering targets. The AIM-120D features a quadrangle target detection device and an electronics unit within the guidance section that performs all radar signal processing, mid-course and terminal guidance, flight control, target detection, and warhead detonation.

The Sensitivity of Technology Statement contained in the original notification applies to additional items reported here.

The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is SECRET.

(vii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: March 3, 2025.

#### ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is still available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications that have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such an annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY  
COOPERATION AGENCY,  
*Washington, DC.*

Hon. JAMES E. RISCH,  
*Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,  
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(5)(C) of the Arms Export Control Act (AECA), as amended, we are forwarding Transmittal No. 24-OR. This transmittal notifies a cost increase in excess of the total value previously described in the Section 36(b)(1) AECA certification 17-22 of November 1, 2017.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL F. MILLER,  
*Director.*

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 24-OR

Report of Enhancement or Upgrade of Sensitivity of Technology or Capability (Sec. 36(b)(5)(c), AECA)

(i) Purchaser: Government of Qatar.  
(ii) Sec. 36(b)(1), AECA Transmittal No.: 17-22; Date: November 1, 2017; Implementing Agency: Air Force; Funding Source: National Funds.

(iii) Description: On November 1, 2017, Congress was notified by congressional certification transmittal number 17-22 of the possible sale, under Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, of design and construction services, new parking/loading ramps, hot cargo pads, taxiways, hangars, back shops, alert facilities, weapons storage areas, hardened shelters, squadron operations facilities, maintenance facilities, training facilities, information technology support and cyber facilities, force protection support facilities, squadron operations facilities, other F-15QA related support structures, construction/facilities/design services, cybersecurity services, mission critical computer resources, support services, force protection services, and other related elements of logistics and program support. The total estimated cost was \$1.1 billion. There was no

Major Defense Equipment (MDE) associated with this sale.

This transmittal notifies increased value for continued design and construction services and other related elements of logistics and program support. The total non-MDE value will increase by \$0.52 billion, resulting in a new non-MDE and overall total case value of \$1.62 billion. There is no MDE included in this potential sale.

(iv) Significance: The proposed sale will support F-15QA CONUS basing construction to increase Qatar's interoperability objectives in combined operations supporting the United States.

(v) Justification: This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security objectives of the United States by helping to improve the security of a friendly country that continues to be an important force for political stability and economic progress in the Middle East.

(vi) Date Report Delivered to Congress: March 20, 2025.

#### ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is still available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications that have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such an annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY  
COOPERATION AGENCY,  
*Washington, DC.*

Hon. JAMES E. RISCH,  
*Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,  
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 24-124, concerning the Navy's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$100 million. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL F. MILLER,  
*Director.*

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 24-124

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:

Major Defense Equipment\* \$70 million.

Other \$30 million.

Total \$100 million.

Funding Source: National Funds.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE): Two thousand (2,000) Advanced Precision Kill Weapon Systems (APKWS).

Non-Major Defense Equipment: The following non-MDE items will be included: APKWS spare parts; support equipment; missile software; training; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Navy (SI-P-AAA).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: None.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None known at this time.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: March 20, 2025.

\*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

#### POLICY JUSTIFICATION

##### Kingdom of Saudi Arabia—Advanced Precision Kill Weapon Systems

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has requested to buy two thousand (2,000) Advanced Precision Kill Weapon Systems (APKWS). The following non-MDE items will be included: APKWS spare parts; support equipment; missile software; training; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total cost is \$100 million.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy goals and national security objectives of the United States by improving the security of a partner country that is a force for political stability and economic progress in the Gulf Region.

The proposed sale will improve the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's capability to meet current and future threats and give it the ability to precisely engage targets with much less risk of collateral damage than other guided missile systems. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia will have no difficulty absorbing this equipment into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractor will be BAE Systems, Inc., located in Falls Church, VA. At this time, the U.S. Government is not aware of any offset agreement proposed in connection with this potential sale. Any offset agreement will be defined in negotiations between the purchaser and the contractor.

Implementation of this proposed sale will require the assignment of up to two additional U.S. Government and up to two contractor representatives annually to Saudi Arabia for a duration of one week for program technical support and management oversight.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

#### TRANSMITTAL NO. 24-124

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

#### Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. The WGU-59/B Advanced Precision Kill Weapon System-II (APKWS-II) All-Up-Round (AUR) (Rotary Wing) and WGU-59A/B APKWS-II AUR (Single Variant) are a design conversion of an unguided Hydra 2.75-inch

rocket with a laser guidance kit to provide precision capability. As a low-cost weapon, it is intended as an inexpensive means to destroy targets while limiting collateral damage. The APKWS consists of an APKWS-II Guidance Section (GS) (Single Variant Block Upgrade (SVBU)) developed by BAE Systems, Inc., a legacy 2.75-inch MK66 Mod 4 Rocket Motor, and the MK-151 or MK-152 High Explosive Warhead.

2. The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is SECRET.

3. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the specific hardware or software elements, the information could be used to develop countermeasures that might reduce system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

4. A determination has been made that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia can provide substantially the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

5. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal have been authorized for release and export to Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

#### TRIBUTE TO CANDACE MCGRAW

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I want to take a moment today to congratulate Candace McGraw, CEO of Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport (CVG), on her upcoming retirement. Candace has been a friend and a leader in northern Kentucky for many years, and I would like to join her family, friends, and colleagues in celebrating her great success.

Over the last decade, CVG has undergone a complete transformation, today a national leader in aviation and e-commerce. Taking the helm in 2011, Candace brought a big vision to the airport, setting it on an upward trajectory right from the start. At a time when technology was rapidly becoming a part of our daily lives, Candace reimagined CVG as a powerhouse for e-commerce, expanding its cargo operations and forging historic partnerships with major shipping companies across the country. Under her leadership, CVG has not only become Kentucky's busiest airport—serving more than 9 million passengers annually—but also one of the fastest growing cargo hubs in the Nation. Candace's leadership proved invaluable during the pandemic when our airports and their workers found themselves right at the center of this unprecedented crisis. As passenger travel ground to a halt, CVG's robust cargo operations kept essential goods on the move all across the Nation. Even amid the challenges of the pandemic, CVG rose to become a vital e-commerce hub, setting records for air cargo and demonstrating the strength and foresight of Candace's vision.

The growth Candace worked so hard to forge at CVG has been a huge source

of strength for communities in northern Kentucky. Under her leadership, the airport has nearly tripled its economic impact, today bringing in over \$10 billion for the local economy. That has meant more jobs, more commerce, and more prosperity for thousands of families across this growing region. Over the years, I have enjoyed partnering with her on my work in the Senate, teaming up to overhaul airport infrastructure and aviation operations in the Commonwealth.

Because of the efforts of Candace and the airport's many dedicated staff, CVG consistently receives national recognition. Skytrax named CVG the Best Regional Airport in North America now eight times under Candace's leadership, and just this year, it earned the title of Best Airport in North America for customer experience by Airports Council International (ACI) World. Today, CVG ranks among the fastest growing airports in the United States. It should also come as no surprise that Candace herself has been widely recognized for her impact on the aviation industry. In 2019, Airport Experience News named her Director of the Year, and last year, she received the Excellence in Visionary Leadership Award from ACI North America.

Beyond her work at CVG, Candace also served her community as chairwoman on the board of the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce, our State's largest business association. Here, Candace worked hard to improve the business landscape for workers and job creators in the Commonwealth. Fortunately, even as she steps down from this role and her responsibilities at CVG, Candace's experience and leadership will continue to be invaluable assets to the aviation industry at the World Governing Board of Airports Council International, where she serves as the first female chair in the organization's history.

In her retirement, I know that Candace looks forward to spending more time with her husband Joe and their children, time she has certainly earned. I want to thank my friend for her leadership and dedication to CVG and northern Kentucky. Her steady hand has guided the airport through some of its most consequential years, leaving it stronger than ever. When she steps down at the end of June, Candace will leave behind a legacy of innovation, achievement, and extraordinary growth. So I urge my Senate colleagues to join me in celebrating Candace's remarkable career and wishing her the very best in the years ahead.

#### REMEMBERING KENDOLYN LOUISA HODGES-SIMONS

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I rise today in pay tribute to the memory of the late Kendolyn Louisa Hodges-Simons, a dedicated public servant and Marylander.

Originally from Brooklyn, Mrs. Hodges-Simons was raised in a loving



household by her parents and grandmothers. After the loss of her father, her mother and grandmother taught her the values of resilience, faith, and commitment to excellence. She carried these values throughout her life and career as a public servant.

Before her career with the government, Mrs. Hodges-Simons excelled academically. She earned a full academic scholarship to Vassar College and graduated with honors. Her passion for justice led her to earn her juris doctor at the University of California, Berkeley School of Law. Mrs. Hodges-Simons followed her pursuit for justice and practiced law as a clerk and as an attorney specializing in telecommunications law.

She continued to use her law degree as a public servant, serving our Nation through her positions at the Federal Communications Commission, the Washington Metropolitan Transit Authority, the Federal Aviation Administration, the District of Columbia's Office of the People's Counsel, and the DC Department of the Environment. Mrs. Hodges-Simons was a champion for strengthening our environmental policies. As chief of the Office of Enforcement and Environmental Justice for the DC Department of the Environment, she advocated for better environmental policies to protect underserved communities.

Mrs. Hodges-Simons was committed to serving her local community as well. She dedicated herself to community service, made a lasting impact as the first PTA president of Ernest Everett Just Middle School, and was an active member of her church, the First Baptist Church of Glenarden.

Mrs. Hodges-Simons' memory is cherished by the many people whose lives she touched, but especially by her family. She is survived by her husband Don; her children Donielle and Kenneth, who is a treasured former member of my Senate staff; her mother Mary; and her sister Karin. I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing our appreciation to the late Mrs. Hodges-Simons and her family for all she has done for our community and country.

#### TRIBUTE TO MARK SWEENEY

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a dedicated public servant and Marylander Mark Sweeney, Principal Deputy Librarian of Congress. With almost 40 years of unwavering service to the Library of Congress, Mr. Sweeney has faithfully served our Nation by preserving our knowledge, history, and culture.

Throughout his distinguished career, Mr. Sweeney served the Library of Congress in multiple positions. He began his career at the Library in 1985 as a Library technician. His hard work, expertise, and dedication led to multiple promotions, including to Chief of the Preservation Reformatting Division, Chief of the Humanities and Social Sciences Division, and the Library's Director of Preservation.

Throughout his career, Mr. Sweeney's dedication to preserving and enhancing knowledge strengthened the experiences of visitors to the Library of Congress. As Principal Deputy Librarian of Congress, he envisioned the Library's first user-centered strategic plan and contributed to the implementation of the Visitor Experience Master Plan.

In addition, through Mr. Sweeney's leadership and support, access to our Nation's historical newspapers increased, conserving our history and culture. As the Library's technical adviser to the U.S. Newspaper Program, Mr. Sweeney contributed to the locating, preservation, cataloging, and dissemination of newspapers from the 18th century to the present that were published in the United States. In addition, Mr. Sweeney guided and supported the Library's team for the National Digital Newspaper Program to strengthen access to newspapers through technology. Mr. Sweeney's leadership also extends past the Library of Congress; his efforts to increase the accessibility of America's history and culture have been used as a model throughout our Nation to better the conservation of newspapers.

I commend Mr. Sweeney for his remarkable commitment to preserving our Nation's history and strengthening accessibility to sources of knowledge. His legacy is one of drive, passion, and encouragement of his colleagues and many others. I congratulate and thank Mr. Sweeney for his dedication to our Nation. I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking him and wishing him a well-earned, enjoyable, and fulfilling retirement.

#### 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.)

#### PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

REPORT RELATIVE TO THE DESIGNATION AS EMERGENCY REQUIREMENTS 16 APPROPRIATIONS (INCLUDING THE TRANSFER AND REPURPOSING OF FUNDS) SO DESIGNATED BY THE CONGRESS IN THE FULL-YEAR CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS AND EXTENSIONS ACT, 2025 ("THE ACT") PURSUANT TO SECTION 251(b)(2)(A) OF THE BALANCED BUDGET AND EMERGENCY DEFICIT CONTROL ACT OF 1985, AS OUTLINED IN THE ENCLOSED LIST OF ACCOUNTS, AND DOES NOT INCLUDE THE REMAINING 11 APPROPRIATIONS—PM 16

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on the Budget:

*To the Congress of the United States:*

In accordance with section 1110 of the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025 (H.R. 1968; the "Act") and the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (BBEDCA), I hereby designate as emergency requirements 16 appropriations (including the transfer and repurposing of funds) so designated by the Congress in the Act pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of BBEDCA, as outlined in the enclosed list of accounts.

My designation does not include the remaining 11 appropriations—totaling nearly \$3 billion—that were improperly designated by the Congress as emergency in the Act that stem from the June 2023 side deal with the Democrats to evade the spending caps signed into law, and I do not concur that the added spending is truly for emergency needs.

The details of this action are set forth in the enclosed memorandum from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

DONALD J. TRUMP.

THE WHITE HOUSE, March 24, 2025.

#### EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-490. A communication from the Associate General Counsel, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs, Department of Agriculture, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 20, 2025; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-491. A communication from the Associate General Counsel, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Under Secretary of Agriculture for Research, Education, and Economics, Department of

Agriculture, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 20, 2025; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-492. A communication from the Associate General Counsel, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Under Secretary for Farm Production and Conservation, Department of Agriculture, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 20, 2025; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-493. A communication from the Associate General Counsel, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Under Secretary for Food Safety, Department of Agriculture, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 20, 2025; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-494. A communication from the Associate General Counsel, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment, Department of Agriculture, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 20, 2025; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-495. A communication from the Associate General Counsel, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Under Secretary of Rural Development, Department of Agriculture, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 20, 2025; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-496. A communication from the Associate General Counsel, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Department of Agriculture, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 20, 2025; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-497. A communication from the Associate General Counsel, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs, Department of Agriculture, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 20, 2025; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-498. A communication from the Associate General Counsel, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Deputy Secretary, Department of Agriculture, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 20, 2025; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-499. A communication from the Associate General Counsel, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations, Department of Agriculture, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 20, 2025; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-500. A communication from the Associate General Counsel, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of

Inspector General, Department of Agriculture, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 20, 2025; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-501. A communication from the Associate General Counsel, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Chief Financial Officer, Department of Agriculture, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 20, 2025; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-502. A communication from the Associate General Counsel, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of General Counsel, Department of Agriculture, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 20, 2025; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-503. A communication from the Associate General Counsel, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Secretary of Agriculture, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 20, 2025; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-504. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Metamitron; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 12591-01-OCSP) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 20, 2025; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-505. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Certain Existing Chemicals; Request to Submit Unpublished Health and Safety Data under the Toxic Substances Control Act; Extension of Submission Deadline" ((RIN2070-AL15) (FRL No. 11164.1-02-OCSP)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 20, 2025; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-506. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Potassium Polysparatate in Pesticide Formulations; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance" (FRL No. 12666-01-OCSP) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 20, 2025; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-507. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Pyridate; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 12388-01-OCSP) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 20, 2025; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-508. A communication from the Equal Employment Opportunity Director, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Farm Credit Administration's fiscal year 2024 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act); to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-509. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Depart-

ment of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of firearms, parts, and components controlled under Category I of the U.S. Munitions List to Israel in the amount of \$1,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 23-086) received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-510. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of firearms, parts, and components controlled under Category I of the U.S. Munitions List to Israel in the amount of \$1,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 23-077) received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-511. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of firearms, parts, and components controlled under Category I of the U.S. Munitions List to Israel in the amount of \$1,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 23-085) received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-512. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license amendment for the export of defense articles, including technical data, and defense services and the manufacture of significant military equipment abroad to the Republic of Korea in the amount of \$50,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 24-081) received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-513. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles, including technical data, and defense services to Saudi Arabia in the amount of \$50,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 24-085) received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-514. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license amendment for the export of defense articles, including technical data, and defense services to Turkey in the amount of \$50,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 23-014) received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-515. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 13694 with respect to significant malicious cyber-enabled activities; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-516. A communication from the Major General, Air Force, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Joint Safety Council Chairman's Annual Statement of Compliance and Semi-Annual Report to Congress"; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-517. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report that the national emergency with respect to the situation in

the West Bank established by Executive Order 14115 of February 1, 2024, was terminated by Executive Order 14148 of January 20, 2025; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-518. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report that Executive Order 13224 of September 23, 2001 (Blocking Property and Prohibiting Transactions with Persons Who Commit, Threaten to Commit, or Support Terrorism), was amended by Executive Order 14157 of January 20, 2025 (Designating Cartels and Other Organizations as Foreign Terrorist Organizations and Specially Designated Global Terrorists); to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-519. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Implementation of Executive Order 12938 Concerning the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction" received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-520. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing Revisions" (RIN2529-AB08) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 20, 2025; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-521. A communication from the Deputy General Counsel for Operations, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 20, 2025; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-522. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 14024 with respect to specified harmful foreign activities of the Government of the Russian Federation; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-523. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel, General Law, Ethics, and Regulation, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, two (2) reports relative to vacancies in the Department of the Treasury, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 20, 2025; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-524. A communication from the Director of Public Affairs and Congressional Relations, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office of the Comptroller's 2024 Annual Report to Congress; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

## REPORTS OF COMMITTEES DURING ADJOURNMENT

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of March 14, 2025, the following reports of committees were submitted on March 18, 2025:

By Mr. SCOTT, of South Carolina, from the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 875. A bill to curtail the political weaponization of Federal banking agencies by eliminating reputational risk as a component of the supervision of depository institutions.

S. 919. A bill to provide for the regulation of payment stablecoins, and for other purposes.

## INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Ms. DUCKWORTH):

S. 1088. A bill to provide that the memorial to commemorate the sacrifice and service of the women who worked on the home front to support the efforts of the United States military during World War II may be located on the National Mall, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. 1089. A bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to address disclosures by directors, officers, and principal stockholders of foreign private issuers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. LEE:

S. 1090. A bill to amend section 2284 of title 28, United States Code, to establish special procedures for civil actions seeking to restrain executive branch actions; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. ERNST (for herself and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. 1091. A bill to require certain public housing agencies to absorb port-in housing choice vouchers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. KING, Mr. MARKEY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. WYDEN, and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. 1092. A bill to require certain products to be labeled with "Do Not Flush" labeling, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Mr. KENNEDY):

S. 1093. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to enhance the Office of Rural Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. RISCH, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. CRAPO):

S. 1094. A bill to establish a contracting preference for public buildings that use innovative wood products in the construction of those buildings, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. WELCH, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 1095. A bill to enable the Federal Trade Commission to deter filing of sham citizen petitions to cover an attempt to interfere with approval of a competing generic drug or biosimilar, to foster competition, and facilitate the efficient review of petitions filed in good faith to raise legitimate public health concerns, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. ERNST, Mr. WELCH, Mr. KELLY, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 1096. A bill to prohibit brand name drug companies from compensating generic drug companies to delay the entry of a generic drug into the market, and to prohibit biological product manufacturers from compensating biosimilar and interchangeable companies to delay the entry of biosimilar biological products and interchangeable biological products; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. COONS, and Mr. WELCH):

S. 1097. A bill to amend title 35, United States Code, to establish an interagency task force between the United States Patent and Trademark Office and the Food and Drug Administration for purposes of sharing information and providing technical assistance with respect to patents, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. CANTWELL (for herself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 1098. A bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to enhance the Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Grant Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

## SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Ms. ROSEN (for herself, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. FETTERMAN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. SCHIFF):

S. Res. 132. A resolution designating March 24, 2025, as "National Women of Color in Tech Day"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SCHIFF (for himself, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. PETERS, Ms. ROSEN, Ms. SLOTKIN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WELCH, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. HEINRICH, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. Res. 133. A resolution expressing support for the local public K-12 schools of the United States and condemning any actions that would defund public education or weaken or dismantle the Department of Education; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself and Mrs. MOODY):

S. Res. 134. A resolution designating March 15, 2025, as "National Osceola Turkey Day"; considered and agreed to.

## ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 122

At the request of Mr. BANKS, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. MORENO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 122, a bill to amend the Revised Statutes to codify the defense of qualified immunity in the case of any action under section 1979, and for other purposes.

S. 237

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 237, a bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act

of 1968 to provide public safety officer benefits for exposure-related cancers, and for other purposes.

S. 262

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 262, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Master Sergeant Roderick "Roddie" Edmonds in recognition of his heroic actions during World War II.

S. 339

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the names of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) and the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN) 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. 410

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) 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. 470

At the request of Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. RICKETTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 470, a bill to amend the CARES Act to remove a requirement on lessors to provide notice to vacate, and for other purposes.

S. 554

At the request of Mr. SULLIVAN, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. 554, a bill to enhance bilateral defense cooperation between the United States and Israel, and for other purposes.

S. 556

At the request of Mr. SULLIVAN, the names of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL) and the Senator from California (Mr. SCHIFF) were added as cosponsors of S. 556, a bill to impose sanctions with respect to persons engaged in logistical transactions and sanctions evasion relating to oil, gas, liquefied natural gas, and related petrochemical products from the Islamic Republic of Iran, and for other purposes.

S. 649

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 649, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand eligibility for Post-9/11 Educational Assistance to members of the National Guard who perform certain full-time duty, and for other purposes.

S. 674

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the names of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) and the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) were added as cosponsors of S. 674, a bill to amend the

Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude certain broadband grants from gross income.

S. 688

At the request of Mr. SULLIVAN, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 688, a bill to combat illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing at its sources globally.

S. 698

At the request of Mr. MCCONNELL, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 698, a bill to require the Director of the Bureau of Prisons to be appointed by and with the advice and consent of the Senate.

S. 805

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 805, a bill to establish in the Department of State the Office to Monitor and Combat Islamophobia, and for other purposes.

S. 836

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. 836, a bill to amend the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act of 1998 to strengthen protections relating to the online collection, use, and disclosure of personal information of children and teens, and for other purposes.

S. 838

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 838, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude from gross income interest received on certain loans secured by rural or agricultural real property.

S. 868

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) and the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. RICKETTS) were added as cosponsors of S. 868, a bill to support democracy and the rule of law in Georgia, and for other purposes.

S. 959

At the request of Ms. ALSOBROOKS, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 959, a bill to require the United States International Trade Commission to conduct an investigation and submit a report on the impact on businesses in the United States of duties, and the threat of duties, on imports from Mexico and Canada, and for other purposes.

S. 966

At the request of Mr. ROUNDS, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 966, a bill to amend chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code, to define "State of residence" and "resident", and for other purposes.

S. 972

At the request of Mr. BANKS, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr.

CORNIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 972, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to ensure that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs repays members of the Armed Forces for certain contributions made by such members towards Post-9/11 Educational Assistance, and for other purposes.

S. 986

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 986, a bill to address and take action to prevent bullying and harassment of students.

S. 988

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 988, a bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to provide for greater spousal protection under defined contribution plans, and for other purposes.

S. 1003

At the request of Mrs. BRITT, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1003, a bill to require the Federal Communications Commission to issue an order providing that a shark attack is an event for which a wireless emergency alert may be transmitted, and for other purposes.

S. 1020

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1020, a bill to require the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to extend the time period during which licensees are required to commence construction of certain hydropower projects.

S. 1082

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. SCHMITT) was added as a cosponsor of 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.

S.J. RES. 31

At the request of Mr. CURTIS, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor 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".

S. RES. 86

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 86, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding United Nations General Assembly Resolution 2758 (XXVI) and the harmful conflation of China's "One China Principle" and the United States' "One China Policy".

AMENDMENT NO. 1285

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr.

SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1285 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.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. COONS, and Mr. WELCH):

S. 1097. A bill to amend title 35, United States Code, to establish an interagency task force between the United States Patent and Trademark Office and the Food and Drug Administration for purposes of sharing information and providing technical assistance with respect to patents, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 1097

*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 "Interagency Patent Coordination and Improvement Act of 2025".

#### SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Decisions by the United States Patent and Trademark Office relating to patents may implicate, or have relevance to, information housed at or involving other Federal agencies.

(2) Entities submitting patent applications to the United States Patent and Trademark Office may also submit information to, or share information with, other Federal agencies, necessitating accuracy and consistency in those representations.

(3) Research has shown that patent examiners may benefit from additional information that is housed at, or is available to, Federal agencies other than the United States Patent and Trademark Office in order to assess prior art and the state of science and technology.

(4) The Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office is encouraged to work with other Federal agencies.

#### SEC. 3. REPORT BY UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE.

Not later than 4 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office shall submit to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives a report that contains—

(1) a description of the frequency with which—

(A) information is provided by the Food and Drug Administration to the United States Patent and Trademark Office through the Interagency Task Force on Patents established under section 15 of title 35, United States Code, as added by section 4(a) of this Act, or under processes established by that Task Force; and

(B) the information described in subparagraph (A) is used in patent examinations;

(2) an identification of which methods of providing information, as described in paragraph (1)(A), and types of information so shared, are most useful to patent examiners;

(3) any recommendations for changes to be made by Congress to the mandate, funding, or operations of the Task Force described in paragraph (1)(A); and

(4) an identification of other Federal agencies with which the Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office should explore opportunities for coordination that are similar to those undertaken with the Food and Drug Administration through the activities of the Task Force described in paragraph (1)(A).

#### SEC. 4. INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE ON PATENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 1 of title 35, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in section 2(c), by adding at the end the following:

"(6)(A) In exercising the Director's powers and duties under this section relating to patents, and decisions or actions involving patents, for human drugs and biological products, the Director shall, through the Interagency Task Force on Patents established under section 15, consult with the Commissioner of Food and Drugs in the manner described in that section.

"(B) For purposes of subparagraph (A), the term 'decisions or actions involving patents' means decisions or actions taken with respect to patents under this title."; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

#### "§ 15. Interagency Task Force on Patents

"(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established an interagency task force, to be known as the Interagency Task Force on Patents (referred to in this section as the 'task force'), to coordinate efforts between the Director and the Commissioner of Food and Drugs (referred to in this section as the 'Commissioner') regarding communication about, evaluation of, and effective implementation of the activities of the Office and the Food and Drug Administration with respect to patents, and decisions or actions involving patents (as defined in section 2(c)(6)(B)), for human drugs and biological products.

"(b) MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.—The Director and the Commissioner shall enter into a memorandum of understanding, or update an existing memorandum of understanding, for the purposes of implementing and carrying out the duties of the task force.

"(c) MEMBERSHIP.—The task force shall be comprised of employees of the Office, who shall be appointed by the Director, and employees of the Food and Drug Administration, who shall be appointed by the Commissioner, who have appropriate expertise and decision-making authority regarding operational, administrative, technical, medical, pharmacological, clinical, and scientific matters to carry out the functions of the task force.

"(d) ACTIVITIES.—The task force shall carry out the following functions regarding interagency coordination to promote reciprocal access of information:

"(1) Sharing information on the general processes of the Office and the Food and Drug Administration, what each such agency considers in its respective review of applications, and how each such agency evaluates those applications, which may be undertaken through routine and ongoing meetings, workshops, and training sessions.

"(2) Sharing information on new approvals of patents, human drugs and biological products, new technologies and prior art (as appropriate on a case-by-case basis), and scientific trends and developments.

"(3) Establishing a process that requires—  
"(A) the Director to request from the Commissioner (and the Commissioner to provide to the Director, upon receiving such a request)—

"(i) appropriate information for use by employees of the Office with responsibility to examine patent applications under section 131 (referred to in this section as 'patent examiners') regarding when certain information relating to a human drug or biological product approval, which may include updates to a label or newly approved indications, is made publicly available, including when such information is posted online; and

"(ii) appropriate access for patent examiners to relevant sources of product application, approval, patent, and labeling information or communications between the Food and Drug Administration and the human drug or biological product sponsors that may not currently be subject to public disclosure, as appropriate and only to the extent necessary for the Office to carry out the responsibilities of the Office, such as ensuring accurate representations and access to information on whether the claimed invention that would be the subject of the patent was on sale before the effective filing date of the claimed invention, as described in section 102(a)(1); and

"(B) the Office to assist the Food and Drug Administration in its ministerial role of listing patents.

"(4) Establishing a process to ensure that, in appropriate circumstances, at the request of the Director, the Commissioner shall consult with or otherwise furnish specific, available information to the Office with respect to certain applications, responses, or affidavits after rejections in order to assist patent examiners in carrying out the duties of those patent examiners.

"(e) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in subsection (d)(3)(B) shall be construed as—

"(1) directing the Office to interfere with, delay, or supersede the ministerial function of the Food and Drug Administration of listing patents;

"(2) indicating the position of the Office regarding the ability to assert a patent in infringement litigation; or

"(3) changing the ministerial function of the Food and Drug Administration of listing patents.

"(f) CONFIDENTIALITY.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—With respect to any record or other information of the Food and Drug Administration or the Office that is confidential, either such agency may share any such information with the other agency in furtherance of the activities described in this section, which shall remain subject to such protections as if the information were held by the Food and Drug Administration.

"(2) PROTOCOLS.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—The task force shall establish appropriate protocols to safeguard confidentiality and prevent the inappropriate disclosure of information when sharing information between the Office and the Food and Drug Administration.

"(B) CONTENTS.—The protocols established under subparagraph (A) shall provide that—

"(i) before sharing any information described in paragraph (1), the sponsor of the human drug or biological product to which that information relates shall be provided notice of that sharing by the applicable agency and with a period of 30 days to consult with the agency sharing that information; and

"(ii) the Director shall, in order to protect against the inadvertent disclosure of information, maintain any information shared with the Director by the Commissioner separate from pending patent applications and

establish procedures for the identification of confidential information.

“(C) POTENTIAL REMEDIES.—In establishing protocols under this paragraph, the task force shall identify appropriate remedies for any potential injury suffered when confidential information is made available, including inadvertently, through the sharing of information described in this subsection.

“(3) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this subsection may be construed as superseding any other remedy available for the unauthorized disclosure of confidential information.”.

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 1 of title 35, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“15. Interagency Task Force on Patents.”.

## SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

### SENATE RESOLUTION 132—DESIGNATING MARCH 24, 2025, AS “NATIONAL WOMEN OF COLOR IN TECH DAY”

Ms. ROSEN (for herself, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. FETTERMAN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. SCHIFF) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 132

Whereas National Women of Color in Tech Day acknowledges the challenges many women of color face in the field of technology (referred to in this preamble as “tech”) and recognizes and emphasizes the importance of women of color in tech in the United States, including—

(1) Katherine Johnson, a former engineer at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration;

(2) Marie Van Brittan Brown, who invented the first home security system; and

(3) Patricia Bath, who invented the Laserphaco Probe for the removal of cataracts;

Whereas evidence suggests that structural and social barriers in tech education, tech workforce development, the tech workforce, and venture capital investment in tech can disproportionately and negatively affect women of color;

Whereas women are underrepresented in tech, and women of color often face additional systemic barriers in the tech ecosystem specifically and in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (referred to in this preamble as “STEM”) fields generally;

Whereas underrepresented minority students often face an opportunity gap in STEM education in the United States;

Whereas women and girls of color often face an achievement gap in science and engineering education;

Whereas women and girls overall often face a large opportunity gap in computer science;

Whereas the competitiveness of the United States in the 21st-century global economy largely depends on developing STEM-literate citizens;

Whereas the demand for professionals in tech and computing fields is expected to increase substantially over the next decade;

Whereas, as of March 2023, data showed that there were more than 750,000 open and unfilled cybersecurity jobs in the United States;

Whereas increasing the number of women of color in tech will be critical to building

and maintaining a competitive tech workforce;

Whereas women of color currently make up 41 percent of the female population in the United States and are projected to make up the majority of women by 2060;

Whereas, according to the National Center for Education Statistics, women of color in the United States earned 17 percent of bachelor's degrees and 7 percent of doctorates in STEM fields during the 2021–2022 school year;

Whereas the low number of women of color in tech positions who have not received a bachelor's degree, but who have earned other certificates, demonstrates that women of color may not be taking sufficient advantage of alternative pathways for reskilling in computing-related areas or may not have adequate access or exposure to these pathways;

Whereas increasing the inclusion of women of color in the science and tech sectors can provide role models who can inspire students of all backgrounds and identities, including young girls of color;

Whereas diversity in any field incorporates different experiences and ideas that can ultimately lead to more creative and pioneering solutions to the current and future problems of the United States;

Whereas a May 2020 study by McKinsey and Company shows that companies with a diverse workforce often perform better, hire more qualified employees, have more engaged employees, and are better at retaining workers than companies that do not prioritize diversity;

Whereas communities of color are underrepresented in corporate leadership roles, including in the tech sector; and

Whereas a pipeline of qualified tech candidates of color is critical for future growth, particularly as the tech industry works to improve the recruiting, hiring, and retaining of candidates and employees of color: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates March 24, 2025, as “National Women of Color in Tech Day”;

(2) recognizes the celebration of National Women of Color in Tech Day as a time to reflect on the many notable contributions that women of color have made to the field of technology in the United States;

(3) urges the people of the United States to observe National Women of Color in Tech Day with appropriate programs and activities;

(4) pledges to work to increase diversity and inclusion in the technology sector, including through robust plans to ensure recruitment, training, and retention of underrepresented minorities at all levels;

(5) commits to working to eliminate barriers to entering the technology sector faced by women of color and individuals from other underrepresented groups;

(6) reaffirms the commitment of the Senate to ensuring that all students have access to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (referred to in this resolution as “STEM”) education for a 21st-century economy, including computer science education in particular;

(7) supports efforts to strengthen investments in, and collaborations with, educational institutions, including community colleges, historically Black colleges and universities, Hispanic-serving institutions, Asian-American, Native American, and Pacific Islander-serving institutions, Tribal Colleges and Universities, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian-serving institutions, and other minority-serving institutions, to sustain a pipeline of diverse STEM graduates ready to enter the technology sector; and

(8) urges the President to work with Congress to improve data collection, data

disaggregation, and dissemination of information for greater understanding and transparency of diversity in STEM education and across the workforce of the United States.

### SENATE RESOLUTION 133—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE LOCAL PUBLIC K-12 SCHOOLS OF THE UNITED STATES AND CONDEMNING ANY ACTIONS THAT WOULD DEFUND PUBLIC EDUCATION OR WEAKEN OR DIMINUTE THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Mr. SCHIFF (for himself, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. PETERS, Ms. ROSEN, Ms. SLOTKIN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WELCH, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. HEINRICH, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 133

Whereas the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.) (referred to in this preamble as the “ESEA”) defines free public education as education that is “provided at public expense, under public supervision and direction, and without tuition charge” and “provided as elementary or secondary education in the applicable State or to preschool children”;

Whereas publicly funded local K-12 schools serve millions of students and families, including in rural and geographically isolated areas, providing economic opportunity for all;

Whereas 90 percent of students in pre-kindergarten through 12th grade in the United States attend a public school, as well as 95 percent of students with disabilities;

Whereas State and local funding for public K-12 schools varies dramatically within States and across the United States, creating additional need among schools in under-resourced communities;

Whereas the role of the Federal Government in public education has historically been to level the playing field by creating equity of opportunity for all students, regardless of their background, ability, or the State in which they are educated;

Whereas Federal funding plays a critical role in narrowing funding gaps for disadvantaged student groups, providing integrated and wraparound supports for students and families, and helping students meet challenging State academic standards and succeed in education and the workforce;

Whereas 2025 marks the 60th anniversary of the ESEA and the 50th anniversary of the Education for All Handicapped Children Act, now known as the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.) (referred to in this preamble as the “IDEA”);

Whereas the Department of Education Organization Act (20 U.S.C. 3401 et seq.), enacted in 1979, declares “that the establishment of a Department of Education is in the public interest, will promote the general welfare of the United States, will help ensure that education issues receive proper treatment at the Federal level, and will enable the Federal Government to coordinate its education activities more effectively”;

Whereas the Department of Education serves approximately 100,000 public K-12 schools across the country, which collectively educate more than 49,000,000 students;



Whereas reading and math scores and college degree attainment have substantially increased since the Department of Education was established;

Whereas the Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights enforces Federal laws prohibiting discrimination and harassment, and has investigated record numbers of incidents of discrimination and hate in recent years despite employing only about half of the staff the Office had when it was originally established;

Whereas the Department of Education administers grants under the IDEA to help public schools serve more than 7,500,000 students with disabilities, a substantial financial commitment that cannot reasonably be assumed by State or local governments, and provides monitoring and oversight to hold States accountable for providing a free appropriate public education for students with disabilities;

Whereas the Department of Education provides equitable supplementary funding through grants under part A of title I of the ESEA to more than 51,000 public schools serving concentrated populations of students from low-income families in rural, suburban, and urban communities;

Whereas the Department of Education provides funding through subtitle B of title VII of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11431 et seq.) to support the identification, enrollment, attendance, and success of nearly 1,400,000 students experiencing homelessness;

Whereas the Department of Education administers grants under part C of the IDEA to support the delivery of early intervention services to over 900,000 infants, toddlers, and preschoolers with disabilities;

Whereas the Department of Education directly invests in the special education teachers of the United States through grants under part D of the IDEA to support personnel development to improve services and results for children with disabilities;

Whereas the Department of Education supports parent training and information centers under part D of the IDEA to help students with disabilities and their families understand their rights and navigate the special education process;

Whereas the Department of Education directly invests in people with disabilities to pursue post-secondary education, competitive, integrated employment, and independent living by providing vocational rehabilitation services through Title I of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 720 et seq.);

Whereas the Department of Education provides protections from disability-based discrimination for students and staff in any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance, so all individuals with disabilities can access equal education and employment opportunities.

Whereas the Department of Education provides funding under part F of title IV of the ESEA to support full-service community schools, which partner with local stakeholders, parents, and families to provide commonsense, locally-driven solutions to the challenges students and families face, and are another major step forward in reclaiming the promise of public education;

Whereas the Department of Education provides vital support to thousands of rural school districts through the Rural Education Achievement program under part B of title V of the ESEA, which funds both the Small, Rural School Achievement grant program and the Rural and Low-Income School grant program;

Whereas the Department of Education directly invests in the quality and effectiveness of nearly 90 percent of teachers and approximately 20 percent of school leaders na-

tionwide through grants under part A of title II of the ESEA, ultimately improving retention rates, addressing the nationwide educator shortage, and improving student achievement;

Whereas the Department of Education provides supplementary funding to help more than 5,000,000 English language learners achieve language proficiency and meet State academic standards through grants under part A of title III of the ESEA;

Whereas the Department of Education provides supplementary funding to help tens of thousands of public schools provide well-rounded education, technology support, and school safety measures through grants under parts A, B, and F of title IV of the ESEA;

Whereas the Department of Education provides funds to strengthen and support career and technical education programs for more than 8,200,000 secondary students across the country through title I of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2321 et seq.);

Whereas the Department of Education provides grants under part E of title IV of the ESEA to support the work of Statewide Family Engagement Centers, which carry out parent education initiatives, family engagement programs, and family-school partnerships;

Whereas the Department of Education provides necessary oversight so that students have access to targeted interventions and services;

Whereas the Department of Education provides protections from sex-based discrimination for students and staff in any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance, so all individuals can access equal educational and employment opportunities;

Whereas the Department of Education invests in research to understand and disseminate information about the interventions and practices that are most effective at providing excellent educational opportunities for all students;

Whereas the Department of Education employs the smallest staff of any Cabinet agency, with the lowest overall staff-to-budget ratio of all 15 Departments;

Whereas dismantling or relocating any major offices within the Department of Education may substantially disrupt program administration and create a delay or loss of vitally important funding for public schools across the United States; and

Whereas, without Federal investment, State and local educational agencies would be forced to enact drastic funding cuts that will disproportionately affect students from rural areas, low-income families, students of color, and students with disabilities, as well as harm United States competition in the global economy; Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) strongly supports Federal investment in public K-12 schools and the students and families served by such schools;

(2) affirms that the Department of Education plays a vital role in the public education system of the United States;

(3) affirms that the Federal Government's investment is important to the success of public schools, and investment in public education should not be diverted, including through the use of vouchers, to privately-run K-12 schools; and

(4) condemns any executive or legislative action that would—

(A) dismantle or relocate major offices within the Department of Education;

(B) dismantle or relocate the Department of Education; or

(C) reduce Federal funding for public education, block major Federal grant programs for education, or transfer funding burdens

for education to State and local governments.

## SENATE RESOLUTION 134—DESIGNATING MARCH 15, 2025, AS “NATIONAL OSCEOLA TURKEY DAY”

Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself and Mrs. MOODY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

### S. RES. 134

Whereas wild turkey has been an important part of the history and family traditions of the United States;

Whereas wild turkey was on the table at the very first Thanksgiving, and turkey continues to be a mainstay during many holiday traditions;

Whereas wild turkey is a healthy, organic, and delicious source of lean protein;

Whereas, in the United States, turkey hunters have spent approximately \$76,900,000 per year since 1985 with an economic impact of \$128,700,000 annually;

Whereas Florida has a rich history of wild turkey hunting, management, and research;

Whereas Florida is home to the Wild Turkey Cost Share Program, which is the largest public-private partnership program in the United States for the maintenance of wild turkey habitat on wildlife management areas and other public lands open to hunting;

Whereas, since the Wild Turkey Cost Share Program began in 1994, upwards of 1,000,000 acres of upland habitat have received funding for turkey habitat management efforts;

Whereas, in the 2024 Florida spring wild turkey season, an estimated 31,085 hunters participated in turkey hunting, including an estimated 5,453 non residents of the Sunshine State;

Whereas, in Florida, revenue generated from the sale of wild turkey permits is used for conservation, research, and management of wild turkeys or promoting the cultural heritage of hunting;

Whereas turkey hunters are an important part of the Wild Turkey Cost Share Program, and the money generated from the sale of turkey permits, which are a requirement for hunting wild turkeys in Florida unless exempt, allows the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to make significant contributions to the Wild Turkey Cost Share Program each year;

Whereas Florida is home to 2 subspecies of wild turkey, the eastern wild turkey and the Osceola or Florida wild turkey;

Whereas the Osceola is 1 of 5 subspecies of wild turkey in North America;

Whereas the Osceola turkey exists only in peninsular Florida;

Whereas the Osceola subspecies of wild turkey is often perceived as mysterious and the most difficult to harvest because of its small geographic range and the often swampy habitat where it is found;

Whereas hunters in pursuit of the 4 subspecies of turkey in the United States, known as a “Grand Slam”, are required to hunt in Florida; and

Whereas March 1, 2025, is the opening day of turkey harvesting season in part of Florida, and March 15, 2025, is the opening day for the entire State of Florida: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates March 15, 2025, as “National Osceola Turkey Day”; and

(2) encourages the people of the United States to observe National Osceola Turkey Day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

## APPOINTMENT

The presiding officer. The Chair, on behalf of the Democratic Leader, pursuant to Public Law 96-114, as amended, appoints the following individual to the Congressional Award Board: the Honorable BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico vice the Honorable JOE MANCHIN of West Virginia.

## NATIONAL OSCEOLA TURKEY DAY

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 134, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 134) designating March 15, 2025, as "National Osceola Turkey Day".

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. THUNE. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to; the preamble be agreed to; and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 134) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

## ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, MARCH 25, 2025

Mr. THUNE. I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, March 25; 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, and the Senate be in a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each; and that notwithstanding rule XXII, the cloture motions filed on Friday, March 14, ripen at 12 noon; further, that at 12 noon, the Senate vote on cloture on the Kratsios nomination, and following the cloture vote, the Senate recess until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly conference meetings; and that at 2:15 p.m., if cloture is invoked, the Senate vote on confirmation of the Kratsios nomination; finally, if any nominations are confirmed during Tuesday's session, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M.  
TOMORROW

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:14 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, March 25, 2025, at 10 a.m.

## NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

## DEPARTMENT OF STATE

HERSCHEL WALKER, OF GEORGIA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS.

STACEY FEINBERG, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE GRAND DUCHY OF LUXEMBOURG.

KENNETH HOWERY, OF TEXAS, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE KINGDOM OF DENMARK.

RICHARD BUCHAN III, OF FLORIDA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE KINGDOM OF MOROCCO.

DAVID PERDUE, OF GEORGIA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA.

CALLISTA GINGRICH, OF FLORIDA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE SWISS CONFEDERATION, AND TO SERVE CONCURRENTLY AND WITHOUT ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION AS AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN.

KIMBERLY GUILFOYLE, OF FLORIDA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO GREECE.

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

ALEX ADAMS, OF IDAHO, TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR FAMILY SUPPORT. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, VICE JANUARY CONTRERAS.

## DEPARTMENT OF STATE

MELISSA ARGYROS, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF LATVIA.

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE  
ADMINISTRATION

GREGORY AUTREY, OF FLORIDA, TO BE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION, VICE MARGARET VO SCHAUS, RESIGNED.

FEDERAL MOTOR CARRIER SAFETY  
ADMINISTRATION

DEREK BARRS, OF FLORIDA, TO BE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE FEDERAL MOTOR CARRIER SAFETY ADMINISTRATION, VICE ROBIN MEREDITH COHN HUTCHESON.

## DEPARTMENT OF STATE

BILL BAZZL, OF MICHIGAN, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF TUNISIA.

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

BRYAN BEDFORD, OF INDIANA, TO BE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION FOR THE TERM OF FIVE YEARS, VICE MICHAEL G. WHITTAKER, RESIGNED.

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

THOMAS BELL, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE INSPECTOR GENERAL, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, VICE CHRISTI A. GRIMM.

## DEPARTMENT OF STATE

LYNDA BLANCHARD, OF ALABAMA, TO BE U.S. REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UNITED NATIONS AGENCIES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE, WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR.

## FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

MICHELLE BOWMAN, OF KANSAS, TO BE VICE CHAIRMAN FOR SUPERVISION OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM FOR A TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE MICHAEL S. BARR, RESIGNED.

## DEPARTMENT OF STATE

LEO BRENT BOZELL III, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA.

HOWARD BRODIE, OF FLORIDA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF FINLAND.

## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

JOHN BUSTERUD, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR, OFFICE OF SOLID WASTE, ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, VICE PETER C. WRIGHT.

## NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD

CRYSTAL CAREY, OF NEW JERSEY, TO BE GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD FOR TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE JENNIFER ANN ABRUZZO.

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

BRIAN CHRISTINE, OF ALABAMA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, VICE RACHEL LELAND LEVINE, RESIGNED.

## DEPARTMENT OF STATE

MICHAEL DESOMBRE, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE (EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC AFFAIRS), VICE DANIEL J. KRITENBRINK.

## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

MICHAEL DODD, OF INDIANA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE. (NEW POSITION)

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING RECLAMATION AND  
ENFORCEMENT

LANNY ERDOS, OF OHIO, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT, VICE LANNY ERDOS.

## DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

KAREN EVANS, OF WEST VIRGINIA, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY FOR MANAGEMENT, DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY, VICE CLAIRE M. GRADY.

## DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ARTHUR FISHER, OF NORTH CAROLINA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF AUSTRIA.

AMER GHALIB, OF MICHIGAN, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE STATE OF KUWAIT.

MELINDA HILDEBRAND, OF TEXAS, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF COSTA RICA.

## DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

JULIE HOCKER, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF LABOR, VICE TARYN MACKENZIE WILLIAMS, RESIGNED.

## DEPARTMENT OF STATE

MICHEL ISSA, OF FLORIDA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE LEBANESE REPUBLIC.

MICHAEL KAVOUKJIAN, OF FLORIDA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE KINGDOM OF NORWAY.

PETER LAMELAS, OF FLORIDA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.

BENJAMIN LEON, JR., OF FLORIDA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE KINGDOM OF SPAIN, AND TO SERVE CONCURRENTLY AND WITHOUT ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION AS AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE PRINCIPALITY OF ANDORRA.

JENNIFER LOCETTA, OF FLORIDA, TO BE ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA FOR SPECIAL POLITICAL AFFAIRS IN THE UNITED NATIONS, WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR.

## EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION

ANDREA LUCAS, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING JULY 1, 2030. (REAPPOINTMENT)

## DEPARTMENT OF STATE

NICHOLAS MERRICK, OF TEXAS, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE CZECH REPUBLIC.

DANIEL NEWLIN, OF FLORIDA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF COLOMBIA.

JARED NOVELLY, OF MISSOURI, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO NEW ZEALAND, AND TO SERVE CONCURRENTLY AND WITHOUT ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION AS AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE INDEPENDENT STATE OF SAMOA.

ROMAN PIPKO, OF FLORIDA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA.

JOSEPH POPOLO, OF TEXAS, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE KINGDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS.

## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

MICHAEL POWERS, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE, VICE KATHLEEN S. MILLER, RESIGNED.

FEDERAL MINE SAFETY AND HEALTH REVIEW  
COMMISSION

MARCO RAJKOVICH, JR., OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE FEDERAL MINE SAFETY AND HEALTH REVIEW COMMISSION FOR A TERM OF SIX YEARS EXPIRING AUGUST 30, 2030. (REAPPOINTMENT)

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

LUIGI RINALDI, OF NEW YORK, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE ORIENTAL REPUBLIC OF URUGUAY.

THOMAS ROSE, OF FLORIDA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

MICHAEL RUTHERFORD, OF FLORIDA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION. (NEW POSITION)

BRENT SADLER, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE MARITIME ADMINISTRATION, VICE ANN CLAIRE PHILLIPS, RESIGNED.

OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH REVIEW  
COMMISSION

JONATHAN SNARE, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH REVIEW COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING APRIL 27, 2029, VICE AMANDA WOOD LAIHOW, TERM EXPIRED.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

KATHERINE SUTTON, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE, VICE MICHAEL LOUIS SULMEYER, RESIGNED.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

BRYAN SWITZER, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A DEPUTY UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE (ASIA, TEXTILES, INVESTMENT, SERVICES, AND INTELLECTUAL

PROPERTY), WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR, VICE SARAH BIANCHI.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

ADAM TELLE, OF MISSISSIPPI, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY, VICE MICHAEL LEE CONNOR.

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

DEREK THEURER, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY, VICE JONATHAN DAVIDSON.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

CHRISTINE TORETTI, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE KINGDOM OF SWEDEN.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

USHA-MARIA TURNER, OF OKLAHOMA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, VICE JANE TOSHIKO NISHIDA, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

EDWARD WALSH, OF NEW JERSEY, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO IRELAND.

WILLIAM WHITE, OF NEW YORK, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE KINGDOM OF BELGIUM.

MERIT SYSTEMS PROTECTION BOARD

JAMES WOODRUFF II, OF FLORIDA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE MERIT SYSTEMS PROTECTION BOARD FOR THE TERM OF SEVEN YEARS EXPIRING MARCH 1, 2032, VICE RAYMOND A. LIMON, TERM EXPIRED.

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

*To be lieutenant general*

LT. GEN. CHRISTOPHER C. LANEVE

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate March 24, 2025:

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

JOHN PHELAN, OF FLORIDA, TO BE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

CHRISTOPHER LANDAU, OF MARYLAND, TO BE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF STATE.

WITHDRAWAL

Executive Message transmitted by the President to the Senate on March 24, 2025 withdrawing from further Senate consideration the following nomination:

LEO BRENT BOZELL III, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF THE UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR GLOBAL MEDIA, VICE AMANDA BENNETT, RESIGNED, WHICH WAS SENT TO THE SENATE ON MARCH 10, 2025.

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO MRS. EVELYN  
BENNETT GUILÉ

**HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 24, 2025*

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the extraordinary life of Evelyn Bennett Guile. Mrs. Guile transitioned on March 23, 2025, at the remarkable age of 107 years. Her life is a testament to resilience, dedication, and service to her family, church, and community.

Born on February 11, 1918, in Florence County, South Carolina, Evelyn was the middle child among five brothers and one sister. She grew up between South Carolina and Pennsylvania, attending both integrated and segregated schools before graduating from Wilson High School in 1936. These experiences shaped her lifelong passion for education and equality.

Ms. Bennett Guile was a devoted wife to Earl Ernest Guile for 44 years until his passing in 1980. Together, they raised two children, Georgia Guile Montgomery of Orangeburg, South Carolina, and Dr. Ernest Earl Guile, Jr., of Portland, Oregon. She is the proud matriarch of a large family, including grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren.

A lifelong member of Mount Zion AME Church, Mrs. Guile was active in church organizations, including the Stewardess Board and the Lay Organization. She used her talents as a seamstress to craft altar coverings and refurbished a meeting room dedicated to her late husband, who served as Sunday School superintendent for 30 years.

Evelyn's entrepreneurial spirit led her to establish the first sewing shop in Florence, South Carolina, serving a diverse clientele despite segregation. For over 50 years, she provided dressmaking services before teaching sewing classes. Her artistic talents extended to clothing and hat design, ceramics, painting, and China painting, which she embraced at age 60.

Alongside her husband, then-president of the Florence NAACP, she fought tirelessly for justice and equality. Despite threats, the Guiles opened their home to Civil Rights leaders such as Thurgood Marshall and Benjamin E. Mays, working to dismantle segregation in South Carolina.

Mrs. Bennett Guile remained vibrant and engaged throughout her life, attributing her longevity to exercise, a healthy diet, and mental stimulation. She lived independently until age 103 and continued to embrace lifelong learning. A world traveler, Evelyn visited all seven continents and explored the U.S. in her Air-stream camper. One of her most cherished experiences was driving over 6,000 miles across Africa, reconnecting with her ancestral homeland.

Even in her later years, she continued to inspire others with her wisdom and kindness.

She often reminded those around her to “follow your dreams,” a sentiment that perfectly encapsulates the way she lived her life—with purpose, passion, and a commitment to uplifting others.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and our colleagues join me in honoring the extraordinary life and legacy of Evelyn Bennett Guile. May her remarkable journey continue to inspire generations to come, and may we carry forward the values she held dear.

REMEMBERING DR. SAMPAT  
SHIVANGI

**HON. MICHAEL GUEST**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 24, 2025*

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and remember one of Mississippi's longstanding members of the Mississippi State Board of Mental Health, Dr. Sampat Shivangi. As a pioneering Indian-American physician, community leader, and advocate, Dr. Shivangi exemplifies resilience, vision, and an enduring legacy of dedication to healthcare. Over the course of his career, he was defined by a commitment to medicine, public health, and Indo-U.S. relations. His career was defined by a commitment to both medicine and public service.

Born in Athani, Karnataka, India, Dr. Shivangi's humble beginnings gave him a unique voice to those in the medical world who sought his expertise. He earned his MBBS from Kasturba Medical College, Manipal, and later his MD and DGO from Karnataka Medical College, Hubli. In 1976, he immigrated to the United States. During his time in the United States, he established himself as a prominent physician and a leader within the Indian-American community rising to serve as an advisor to the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services from 2005 to 2008, where he advocated for healthcare policies that benefited marginalized communities.

For his work across the world and my home state of Mississippi, Dr. Shivangi has been honored with various awards. He received the Ellis Island Medal of Honor and the Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas Sanman Award, and was named the Indian American Republican Committee Person of the Year for his political and community leadership in 2017. Additionally, as the past president-elect of the American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin, he helped shape the trajectory of Indian-American healthcare advocacy in the United States.

Dr. Shivangi was committed to serving the people around him and was instrumental in charitable giving to promote quality healthcare. He created the Dr. Sampat Shivangi Charitable Foundation to establish, promote, and provide the needy with opportunities to access quality education, promote mental health awareness, ensure healthcare equity, support tribal communities in their holistic develop-

ment, empower women to break barriers, and leverage sports as a catalyst for positive change.

His philanthropic vision took concrete form with the inauguration of the Dr. Sampat Kumar S. Shivangi Cancer Hospital in Belagavi, Karnataka. This hospital stands as a testament to Dr. Shivangi's unwavering commitment to improving healthcare access in underserved regions. Even in the final months of his life, Dr. Shivangi remained active in both India and the United States. On January 10, 2025, he participated in the naming ceremony of an English-medium school called Dr. Sampat Kumar Sidramappa Shivangi—Athani Vidyavardhak Sounsthe, demonstrating his dedication to advancing education in his birthplace.

I am honored to have had the opportunity to know Dr. Shivangi and to have the opportunity to recognize his commitment to the medical profession, mental health in Mississippi, and the betterment of people across the United States and India. Dr. Shivangi will be missed, and his contributions will not be forgotten.

RECOGNIZING BRAIN AWARENESS  
WEEK

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 24, 2025*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to announce that March 10th through March 16th marked Brain Awareness Week. The Brain Awareness Campaign is a worldwide celebration of the brain that brings together scientists, families, schools, and communities. Brain Awareness Week is the culmination of these efforts and is celebrated throughout the United States and in many parts of the world.

This global celebration, launched by The Dana Alliance for Brain Initiatives in 1996, and supported by partners like the Society for Neuroscience, presents an opportunity to bring attention to the significant advances in brain science and advocate for science funding. Brain Awareness Week provides opportunities to learn more about the brain and educate the public on the importance of continued research.

As co-chair of the Congressional Neuroscience Caucus, I am proud of the crucial neuroscience work being conducted in the United States, including in my district at the University of California, Davis and the California National Primate Research Center where I visited the lab of Dr. John Morrison, current President of the Society for Neuroscience, and learned more about his research into Alzheimer's disease.

It is essential that we keep supporting neuroscience research to enable world-class researchers to continue their vital work on a wide range of conditions, including Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases, autism spectrum

• 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.

disorders, depression, and addiction. Events like Brain Awareness Week helps every American understand how important this research is.

HONORING COMMISSIONER  
HEATHER EDELSON

HON. ILHAN OMAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 24, 2025*

Ms. OMAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend congratulations and to recognize the continued leadership of Heather Edelson, who was elected in 2024 as the Hennepin County Commissioner for District 6, after serving in the Minnesota House of Representatives for six years.

Ms. Edelson was raised in North and Northeast Minneapolis and attended grade school in Columbia Heights. She was the first person in her family to graduate from college and went on to earn a Master's degree in Social Work from the University of Minnesota. Prior to representing the constituents of Minnesota's District 50A, Ms. Edelson worked as a clinical outpatient mental health therapist. From a young age, she was taught by her grandfather, "that doing the right thing is not a question, it's the only answer." This sentiment led to her passion for service.

During her three terms as a State Representative, Ms. Edelson was committed to making a positive impact on the lives of her constituents by advancing policies that improved their quality of life. She has been a champion for disability rights, senior rights, the education system, environmental issues, as well as mental health and public safety. She served on multiple committees, including Education Finance, Human Services Policy, and Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy.

Growing up, her family depended on services provided by the county, so she deeply understands the important role she now plays as one of seven Commissioners on the Hennepin County Board.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to honor Ms. Heather Edelson and her commitment to public service. Our community is fortunate to have a leader like Commissioner Edelson, and I look forward to working with her in her new role to make our communities a better place to work and live.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT AND  
SERVICE OF JON RILEY

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 24, 2025*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate Jon Riley as he retires from his long and distinguished tenure with the Napa-Solano Central Labor Council (AFL-CIO). Throughout his career, Mr. Riley has been a tireless champion for the rights of working people, dedicating his time, energy, and passion to improving the lives of those he served.

Mr. Riley began his 40-year career of service as a firefighter with the Vallejo Fire Depart-

ment, where he served as Vice President Emeritus of Firefighters Local No. 1186. Mr. Riley fought to protect the communities of Vallejo and served as an invaluable mentor to the next generation of firefighters.

Mr. Riley went on to join the Napa-Solano Central Labor Council, where his work has left a lasting legacy on the labor movement in Napa and Solano counties and beyond. Mr. Riley served as President of the Labor Council from 2005 to 2009 before assuming the role of Executive Director in 2009, a position he has held ever since.

As Executive Director of the Labor Council, Mr. Riley oversaw various successful strategies, coalitions, and a significant growth in the membership of the Labor Council. His leadership has been fundamental in ensuring that working people in our region receive fair wages, safe working conditions, and opportunities for economic advancement.

Mr. Riley is a true champion for working people. His leadership and advocacy have been instrumental in fostering a strong and unified voice for workers across Napa and Solano counties, and his work has left an indelible mark on the Northern California labor movement.

On behalf of California's 8th Congressional District, I extend my congratulations to Jon Riley on his well-deserved retirement. Mr. Riley's years of service to the labor community will be remembered for generations to come.

HONORING AND COMMENDING EM3  
GILBERT KLEIN

HON. DONALD NORCROSS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 24, 2025*

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and commend EM3 Gilbert Klein. Born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, EM3 Gilbert Klein served in the United States Navy from March 1944 to May 1946 when he was honorably discharged as an Electricians Mate 3rd Class. He was stationed at USNTC Bainbridge, the U.S. Navy Training Center at Port Deposit in Maryland before serving on the USS YMS 283 mine clearing ship that sailed out of Yorktown, Virginia, the home of the Naval Mine Warfare School.

Gilbert Klein was deployed to serve in the East China Sea as a part of Operation Juneau and the American Occupation of Japan. He, alongside his fellow servicemen, had the distinct responsibility of clearing mines at the ports of Okinawa, Japan and in the East China Sea to prepare for the United States safe arrival as they occupied the island. He also served as a patrolman during the occupation in and around Okinawa, Japan.

For his service in the United States Armed Forces, Gilbert Klein is the recipient of The Honorable Discharge button and lapel pin awarded to those who served honorably in the federal military from 1925 to 1946 as well as the "Ruptured Duck" also known as the Honorable Service Lapel Pin awarded to servicemembers who were honorably discharged during the second World War. Alongside these two awards, he is the recipient of the Navy Occupation Service Medal with Asia Clasp, World War II Victory Medal, the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with Three Bronze

Campaign Medals, American Campaign Medal and the Combat Service Medal.

Following his service in the United States Navy, Gilbert Klein became a salesman at several companies and reached Sales Manager during his time with Reader's Digest. He lived in Pennsylvania and Ventnor, New Jersey before moving to Haddon Township 12 years ago where he resides today at the age of 99 years old. Although, his beloved wife and son with whom they raised together have both since passed, he has remaining family throughout the west coast in California, New Mexico and Arkansas.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in honoring and commending EM3 Gilbert Klein of Haddon Township, New Jersey, a resident dedicated to his community and country, and who has thoroughly served them both to the best of his ability.

REMEMBERING THE REMARKABLE  
LIFE OF BOB BOUWMAN OF  
BRANCHBURG, NEW JERSEY

HON. THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 24, 2025*

Mr. KEAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the legacy of Robert A. "Bob" Bouwman, a former Branchburg Committeeman who faithfully served the Branchburg community for over thirty-five years.

Bob's volunteer service began in 1990 when he was appointed to the Historic Preservation Commission, where he served until 2002. He was appointed again in 2012, serving until 2025. A true representation of New Jersey, he left a legacy of kindness, service, and dedication to his community. Inspired by change and seeing the potential to enhance his community, he became a founding member of the Country Fair in 1997. For 27 years, he diligently organized the annual "hometown" event, which brought community members together for a day of fun-filled activities and fireworks at White Oak Park. In addition to his long list of achievements, Bob was appointed to the Planning Board in 2001, serving until 2021. He also served on the Township Committee from 2003 to 2012 and was elected Mayor in both 2005 and 2010.

I wish to express my sincere appreciation to Robert A. Bouwman for his many years of dedicated service and countless contributions to the Township of Branchburg. May his memory continue to inspire us all and live on in the heart of our community.

COMMEMORATING THE 175TH ANNI-  
VERSARY OF BONHAM, TEXAS

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 24, 2025*

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 175th anniversary of the founding of Bonham, Texas.

Bonham's rich history began in autumn of 1837 as Fort Inglish, a small, fortified blockhouse and stockade constructed by Mr. Bailey Inglish and his neighbors to protect against

raids by Native Americans at the time. As the prior elected sheriff of nearby Miller County, Arkansas, Mr. Inglish was familiar with these attacks and determined to protect families who sought refuge at Fort Inglish. The fort and its settlement quickly grew, and in 1840, Mr. Inglish was appointed to lead its newly established post office. Initially known as Bois D'Arc, the settlement was renamed in 1844 in honor of James Butler Bonham, who died in 1836 as a messenger and one of the final defenders during the Battle of the Alamo. On February 2, 1848, Bonham officially became incorporated as a city.

From its early beginnings, Bonham has been enriched with deep history. The city rapidly grew as a trading post and key point for settlers heading west. Throughout the late 1800's, Bonham became a center for agriculture, especially cotton, and later developed a strong industrial base. The city saw the rise of various industries, including manufacturing, and Bonham became a regional hub for trade and commerce. Moreover, the concurrent evolution of the railroad further connected Bonham to other regions in Texas and beyond, opening the gate to new economic opportunities and westward expansion that built the Nation we know today.

I have requested the United States flag be flown over our Nation's Capitol to commemorate this historic occasion. We should always look to the past every now and then to protect and preserve our Nation's history for future generations to admire.

**HONORING THE DISTINGUISHED  
SERVICE AND EXTRAORDINARY  
LIFE OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL  
JOHANNY RODRIGUEZ**

**HON. NICOLE MALLIOTAKIS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 24, 2025*

Ms. MALLIOTAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember the distinguished service and extraordinary life of Lieutenant Colonel Johnny Rodriguez, a dedicated and decorated military officer who served our Nation with valor and integrity.

Lieutenant Colonel Rodriguez, a native of Manhattan, New York City, embarked on his distinguished military career by enlisting in the U.S. Marine Corps in 1998. Following his honorable service in the Marine Corps, he transitioned to the U.S. Army, receiving his commission as a Second Lieutenant in the Transportation Corps in 2004.

Throughout his career, Lieutenant Colonel Rodriguez held numerous critical positions, demonstrating unparalleled leadership and expertise. His assignments included roles such as Platoon Leader, Operations Officer, Mobility Officer in Iraq, and various leadership positions at Fort Dix, New Jersey. He served with distinction as the Executive Officer for the 354th Movement Control Battalion during Operation Enduring Freedom in Kuwait. Lieutenant Colonel Rodriguez pursued extensive education, earning a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, a Master of Business Administration, and a Master of Science in Health Services Administration.

His dedication and service were recognized by numerous awards and decorations, includ-

ing the Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal, and Army Commendation Medal, among many others. His service record reflects not only his valor and dedication but also his unwavering commitment to the principles of duty, honor, and country.

Beyond his professional achievements, Lieutenant Colonel Rodriguez was a devoted family man, deeply cherished by his wife and four children. His legacy of service and leadership will continue to inspire future generations of service members and citizens alike.

Mr. Speaker, it is with deep respect and gratitude that we remember and honor Lieutenant Colonel Johnny Rodriguez for his extraordinary contributions to our Nation.

**HONORING MARYALICE CROFTON**

**HON. CHELLIE PINGREE**

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 24, 2025*

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Speaker, I rise along with Congressman JARED GOLDEN to recognize the leadership of Maryalice Crofton as the Executive Director of Volunteer Maine. During her 30 years of dedicated public service, Maryalice has engaged thousands of volunteers across the state to tackle local challenges and strengthen their communities.

Under her leadership and innovation, Volunteer Maine has helped bridge the gap between persistent areas of need and state resources. Initiatives include the Maine Service Fellows program which connects passionate college graduates with service opportunities in rural, underserved communities, and the Maine Service Exchange, which matches nonprofits with skilled consultants via an online platform. During her tenure, she has also supervised 4,265 AmeriCorps members in over 3.9 million hours of service supporting and improving housing, education, environmental conservation, healthcare, childcare, and emergency preparedness initiatives in Maine.

Her tireless efforts have contributed to Maine's ranking as one of the top five states in the Nation for organized volunteerism. By facilitating government, nonprofit, and private sector collaboration and promoting the development and training of Maine's volunteer force, Maryalice has laid the foundation for Mainers to serve their communities for years to come.

I commend Maryalice for an outstanding career dedicated to promoting civic engagement and volunteerism. I wish her the best of luck in her next chapter.

**NEWSLETTER FROM  
CONGRESSMAN CHUCK EDWARDS**

**HON. CHUCK EDWARDS**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 24, 2025*

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following newsletter to give an update to my constituents on keeping our government funded, a grant for the Town of Canton, and hurricane recovery efforts.

DEAR FRIEND, Being accessible, listening, and answering questions for the people of

WNC are among my favorite activities, even if we might not always agree.

That is why in my first term as a congressman, I held eight in-person town halls, and recently I was eager to host my ninth one in Asheville.

It's always valuable to engage in discussions with the folks in our mountains about concerns or questions you have.

If you were unable to attend my town hall, stay tuned for my upcoming tele-town hall by following me on social media and subscribing to my newsletter.

KEEPING OUR GOVERNMENT OPEN AND SERVING  
THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

The U.S. House voted on a clean, long-term continuing resolution (CR) to keep our government open and providing critical services to the American people.

A CR is not the preferred method to keep our government funded. However, with a looming shutdown, the House was able to collaborate with President Trump on a bill that funds our federal government and reduces non-defense spending.

It's disappointing that 212 Democrat House Members chose a government shutdown instead when just in December, not one voted "no" on the CR.

This CR funds core government services; protects Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid recipients from payment disruptions, and strengthens veteran health care and housing programs as well as our defense. The long-term CR will also enable the House to keep our momentum to continue delivering an America First agenda and go after the waste, fraud, and abuse of your hard-earned tax dollars.

I will continue to fight for lower costs, safer communities, and common-sense legislation that will ensure a better future for folks in our mountains.

TOWN OF CANTON TO RECEIVE OVER \$40 MILLION  
DOLLAR GRANT

Canton Mayor Zeb Smathers and I announced that the Town of Canton will be receiving a \$40,780,000 grant as a result of the Water Resources Development Act of 2024 and the American Relief Act.

This grant will revolutionize the town's water and wastewater systems by funding the design and construction of stormwater improvements, water tank and waterlines, and a new wastewater treatment facility to serve the residents of Canton for decades to come.

WNC MAKES STRIDES IN RECOVERY AFTER  
HELENE

Western North Carolina has a long way to recovery, but we've certainly made great strides.

As we're nearing the six-month mark since Helene hit our mountains, I wanted to share some of the milestones we've achieved.

FEMA has approved applications for more than 157,000 households in WNC and more than \$400 million has been awarded for disaster-caused needs. Additionally, more than 6,000 families have received nearly \$19 million for repair or replacement of private-access roads and bridges.

One of our greatest challenges has been debris removal, especially from waterways, but as of this week, nearly 5 million cubic yards of debris have been cleared from public right of ways and another 600,000 cubic yards of debris were removed from waterways.

While there's more work to be done, we've achieved more than most communities in this period of time. Our mountain folk have shown resilience throughout the response and recovery process, and I'm proud of the way everyone continues to show up for one another during these difficult times. I'm optimistic that together, we will rebuild our



communities even stronger and better than before.

**BRINGING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO FOLKS ACROSS WNC**

In keeping with my office's motto of being "First in Constituent Services" and helping folks post-Hurricane Helene, my office has brought the Carolina Cruiser all across our mountains for mobile office hours.

In February alone, the Carolina Cruiser made 15 stops where members of my team heard about the issues that matter to WNC communities, answered questions about disaster recovery, and assisted with federal agencies. During these office hours, my team heard from nearly 400 individuals.

It is my goal as your congressman to remain accessible to you. In addition to mobile office hours, I hold Chat With Chuck meetings to hear from constituents one-on-one. Most recently, I was glad to discuss with 10 constituents their concerns and answer their questions individually. If you're interested in scheduling a meeting with me, please fill out the form on my website at [edwards.house.gov/chatwithchuck](https://edwards.house.gov/chatwithchuck).

If you want to stop by mobile office hours for assistance navigating a federal agency or to just provide feedback, stay updated on the office hours schedule by following the Carolina Cruiser on X and Facebook, and visiting my website at [edwards.house.gov/carolinacruiser](https://edwards.house.gov/carolinacruiser).

**SBA EXTENDS DEADLINE FOR PHYSICAL DAMAGE LOANS**

If your business suffered damage from Hurricane Helene, the Small Business Administration has extended the physical damage loan application deadline to April 27, 2025.

For the application and additional information, visit the SBA website linked here.

With my warmest regards,

CHUCK EDWARDS,  
*Member of Congress.*

**RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF  
KRISTA WYNNE MOORE**

**HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 24, 2025*

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of an extraordinary constituent and community member, Krista Wynne Moore, of Oaks, Pennsylvania, who passed away peacefully on March 13, 2025, at the age of 48. Krista was a woman whose warmth, leadership, and unwavering compassion profoundly impacted all who knew her, and her legacy will continue to inspire our community for years to come.

Krista's academic and professional journey was marked by dedication and excellence. She graduated with honors from Temple University and was selected for the prestigious Johnson & Johnson Financial Leadership Development Program. Her commitment to helping colleagues reach their fullest potential earned her the respect and admiration of her peers, and many of these professional relationships evolved into lifelong friendships that will endure in her memory.

Beyond her professional accomplishments, Krista was known for her kindness, generosity, and deep love for all living creatures. She was an avid animal lover, and her compassion extended far beyond her own pets. Krista carried an emergency kit in her car, always prepared to offer care to any animal in need. Her deep

empathy for animals was matched only by her unwavering dedication to helping others. Krista's compassion reflected her core values: to always act with care and humanity, to always lift others up.

In her personal life, Krista was a loving and assertive individual whose vibrant spirit and infectious laughter brought joy to every room she entered. Whether through her mentorship or her personal relationships, Krista taught all those around her how to live with purpose, to approach challenges with resilience and compassion, and to uplift others in the process. She was a dedicated wife, daughter, sister, stepmother, and friend, and her legacy lives on in the hearts of all who were fortunate enough to know her.

As we reflect on Krista's life, we recognize the profound impact she had on her community. From her work with colleagues to her commitment to helping animals and the countless friendships she fostered, Krista's influence will continue to resonate. Her leadership, compassion, and generosity have left an indelible mark, and it is a legacy we will carry forward with pride.

Krista's life was a testament to what it means to live with purpose, passion, and an unwavering commitment to the well-being of others. Her spirit of kindness and leadership will live on through the many lives she touched, and today, we honor her memory and celebrate the remarkable legacy she leaves behind.

May we all strive to embody the same compassion and commitment to lifting others up that Krista demonstrated throughout her life. She will be dearly missed.

**RECOGNIZING BLACK MATERNAL  
HEALTH WEEK IN SANTA CLARA  
COUNTY, CALIFORNIA**

**HON. RO KHANNA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 24, 2025*

Mr. KHANNA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Black Maternal Health Week from April 11 to April 17 in Santa Clara County. This annual observance highlights the urgent need to address disparities in maternal health outcomes for Black women, ensuring that all mothers receive equitable, respectful, and high-quality healthcare.

The United States continues to face a maternal health crisis, with Black women experiencing significantly higher rates of pregnancy-related complications and maternal mortality compared to their white counterparts. These tragic and preventable outcomes stem from systemic inequities, implicit bias in healthcare, and social determinants that disproportionately impact Black mothers.

Santa Clara County has taken meaningful steps to acknowledge and address these disparities and commit to initiatives that improve maternal health access, education, and outcomes. Community-based organizations, healthcare advocates, and local leaders are working tirelessly to ensure that Black mothers receive the culturally competent care and support they deserve.

I commend the leadership in Santa Clara County for prioritizing this critical issue and uplifting Black maternal health as a matter of

public health and racial justice. However, we must do more at the federal level to address these inequities. I call upon my colleagues in Congress to support legislation such as the Black Maternal Health Omnibus Act, which aims to expand access to healthcare, invest in community-driven solutions, and promote policies that will save lives.

Black Maternal Health Week is not just a time for awareness but a call to action. We must listen to the voices of Black mothers, amplify their experiences, and enact meaningful change to ensure that maternal health equity becomes a reality.

**CELEBRATING THE GRAND OPENING OF LIONSHEAD SPECIALTY TIRE AND WHEEL'S PARIS, TEXAS FACILITY**

**HON. PAT FALLON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 24, 2025*

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the grand opening of Lionshead Specialty Tire and Wheel's newest facility in Paris, Texas.

Since 1993, Lionshead has specialized in state-of-the-art contract manufacturing to produce and distribute a wide range of options for tires, wheels, and vehicle components for the trailer and recreational vehicle market nationwide. It is a family-owned business based in Goshen, Indiana, with facilities throughout Texas, North Carolina, Idaho, Georgia, and Minnesota.

This new 120,000 square foot facility is a notable milestone for Lionshead and Paris, as it represents the culmination of years of dedication and \$20 million dollars of investments in North Texas. Most importantly, it will create over 40 new jobs in the region within the next five years. I'm proud to recognize Lionshead for its continued commitment to uphold customer satisfaction and strengthen the economic success of Lamar County.

I have requested the United States flag be flown over our Nation's Capitol to commemorate this historic occasion and critical investment for the people of the 4th District of Texas. I congratulate Lionshead, and I wish them the best.

**CELEBRATING ST. MICHAEL'S  
CATHOLIC CHURCH 150TH ANNIVERSARY**

**HON. MICHAEL CLOUD**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 24, 2025*

Mr. CLOUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 150th anniversary of St. Michael's Catholic Church in Cuero, Texas—a beacon of faith, education, and community. Since 1875, St. Michael's has stood as a cornerstone for Cuero, proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ, fostering fellowship among believers, and serving as a pillar of the community.

Founded on land donated by the Cuero Land and Immigration Company, St. Michael's was established to provide local Roman

Catholics with a place of worship without the burden of traveling to Meyersville, Texas each Sunday. It began under the leadership of its first resident pastor, Rev. V.L. Mancini, S.J. The church was built on a foundation of faith and dedication—values that continue to flourish today under the guidance of Father Jacob Mendoza.

Two years later, in 1877, St Michael's Catholic School opened in the church's rear building, serving nearly 110 students annually and offering an education rooted in the power of God. These two institutions have long stood as backbones of the community. Beside them, the historic bell tower—completed in 1902—also remains a cherished landmark in Cuero. Together, they all remain a lasting symbol of the strong spirit of the Cuero community.

This 150th anniversary milestone reflects the enduring faith of St. Michael's parishioners and the church's lasting impact on the Cuero community. From holding food drives to yearly festivities—this congregation shows the power and true testament of God's faithfulness.

May God continue to bless St. Michael's, its parishioners, and the entire Cuero community for generations to come.

#### HONORING THE BOROUGH OF CHESILHURST, NEW JERSEY HOMETOWN HERO: RANDY DAVIS

#### HON. DONALD NORCROSS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 24, 2025

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and commend Randy Davis. Randy Davis was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania at Temple University Hospital on February 13, 1966. He was raised in the Borough of Chesilhurst for the first 15 years of his life before he and his family made the move to West Atco, New Jersey in the early 1980's. Randy continued and completed his high school education in West Atco, New Jersey where he graduated in the Class of 1984.

Following his graduation from High School, Randy Davis heeded the call to serve and enlisted in the United States Army in 1985. He was sent to Fort Leavenworth in Kansas where he completed his basic training prior to being stationed at Fort Knox, Kentucky. While in the service he was trained as a Tanks Specialist. At the time of his enlistment, Operation Desert Storm was in full effect and members of his unit with prior training were deployed overseas. During the operation, Randy served as a member of the 144th Supply Command out of Hammonton, New Jersey where he proudly worked to help supply his fellow servicemen and women fighting overseas.

Randy Davis proudly served in the United States Army for seven years before he was honorably discharged in 1992. After his active-duty service, he returned to the Borough of Chesilhurst, New Jersey where he built his civilian life for nearly another 15 years prior to moving to Pine Hill. Throughout his career, Randy spent 11 years as a bricklayer before working as an employee at Trump World's Fair at Trump Plaza in Atlantic City, New Jersey for another 11 years.

Today, Mr. Davis continues to serve his community. Inspired by a tradition that began with his mother while he was still a child,

Randy Davis works with a group of community members to put together an annual family and friends reunion that is free and open to all. An event where he provides food, music, movies and musical performances for members of the community and their children. When he was a child he recalled members of the community coming to his yard during barbecues where they would say "hello" and sit down to eat. Mr. Davis tries each year to preserve that tradition and sense of community within the Borough.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in honoring and commending Randy Davis of the Borough of Chesilhurst, New Jersey, a resident dedicated to his community, family and country, who has thoroughly served them to the best of his ability.

#### SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, March 25, 2025 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

#### MEETINGS SCHEDULED

##### MARCH 26

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services  
Subcommittee on Strategic Forces

To hold open hearings to examine the United States Strategic Command and United States Space Command in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2026 and Future Years Defense Program; to be immediately followed by a closed session in SVC-217.

SD-106

10 a.m.

Committee on Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Brian Nesvik, of Wyoming, to be Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and Jessica Kramer, of Wisconsin, and Sean Donahue, of Florida, both to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

SD-406

Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine Indo-Pacific alliances and burden sharing in today's geopolitical environment.

SD-419

10:15 a.m.

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine pending nominations.

SD-226

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Personnel

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the status of the Military Service Academies.

SR-222

Committee on Foreign Relations

Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere, Transnational Crime, Civilian Security, Democracy, Human Rights, and Global Women's Issues

To hold hearings to examine People's Republic of China influence and the status of Taiwan's diplomatic allies in the Western Hemisphere.

SD-419

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship

Business meeting to consider S. 1047, to prohibit individuals convicted of defrauding the Government from receiving any assistance from the Small Business Administration, S. 1093, to amend the Small Business Act to enhance the Office of Rural Affairs, and the nominations of William Briggs, of Texas, to be Deputy Administrator, and Casey Mulligan, of Illinois, to be Chief Counsel for Advocacy, both of the Small Business Administration.

SR-428A

Select Committee on Intelligence

To receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters.

SH-219

##### MARCH 27

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Troy Meink, of Virginia, to be Secretary of the Air Force, Michael Duffy, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary for Acquisition and Sustainment, Emil Michael, of Florida, to be Under Secretary for Research and Engineering, and Keith Bass, of Texas, to be an Assistant Secretary, all of the Department of Defense.

SD-G50

10 a.m.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Jonathan Gould, of Virginia, to be Comptroller of the Currency for a term of five years, Luke Pettit, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, Paul Atkins, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Securities and Exchange Commission for the remainder of the term expiring June 5, 2026, and Marcus Molinaro, of New York, to be Federal Transit Administrator.

SD-538

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Subcommittee on Aviation, Space, and Innovation

To hold hearings to examine the National Transportation Safety Board preliminary report, focusing on the DCA midair collision.

SD-106

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine ensuring safe learning environments for all students, focusing on protests on campus.

SD-430

10:15 a.m.

Committee on the Judiciary

Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.

SH-216

11 a.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

Business meeting to consider S. 860, to modify the information about countries exporting methamphetamine that is included in the annual International Narcotics Control Strategy Report, to require a report to Congress on the seizure and production of certain illicit drugs, to impose sanctions with respect to the production and trafficking into the United States, of synthetic opioids, S. 868, to support democracy and the rule of law in Georgia, S. Res. 86, expressing the sense of the Senate regarding United Nations General Assembly Resolution 2758 (XXVI) and the harmful conflation of China's "One China Principle" and the United

States' "One China Policy", S. Res. 98, condemning Beijing's destruction of Hong Kong's democracy and rule of law, S. Res. 106, supporting the goals of International Women's Day, S. 799, to establish and implement a multi-year Legal Gold and Mining Partnership Strategy to reduce the negative environmental and social impacts of illicit gold mining in the Western Hemisphere, S. 821, to provide for increased reporting regarding Department of State Taiwan guidelines, S. 555, to direct the Secretary of State to establish a national registry of Korean American divided families, and S. 842, to counter efforts by Hezbollah to conduct terrorist activities in Latin America, S. Res. 52, recognizing religious freedom as a fundamental right, expressing support for international religious freedom as a cornerstone of United States foreign policy, and expressing concern over increased threats to and attacks

on religious freedom around the world, and an original resolution recognizing the 204th anniversary of the independence of Greece and celebrating democracy in Greece and the United States, and the nominations of Peter Hoekstra, of Michigan, to be Ambassador to Canada, George Glass, of Oregon, to be Ambassador to Japan, and Ronald Johnson, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the United Mexican States, all of the Department of State.

S-116

2:15 p.m.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Arielle Roth, of the District of Columbia, to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information.

SR-253

# Daily Digest

## Senate

### Chamber Action

*Routine Proceedings, pages S1791–S1808*

**Measures Introduced:** Eleven bills and three resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 1088–1098, and S. Res. 132–134. **Page S1802**

**Measures Reported:** Reported on Tuesday, March 18, during the adjournment:

S. 875, to curtail the political weaponization of Federal banking agencies by eliminating reputational risk as a component of the supervision of depository institutions, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

S. 919, to provide for the regulation of payment stablecoins, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. **Page S1802**

#### Measures Passed:

**National Osceola Turkey Day:** Senate agreed to S. Res. 134, designating March 15, 2025, as “National Osceola Turkey Day”. **Page S1807**

#### Appointments:

**Congressional Award Board:** The Chair, on behalf of the Democratic Leader, pursuant to Public Law 96–114, as amended, appointed the following individual to the Congressional Award Board: Senator Luján vice former Senator Manchin. **Page S1807**

**Message from the President:** Senate received the following message from the President of the United States:

A message from the President of the United States Transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the designation as emergency requirements 16 appropriations (including the transfer and repurposing of funds) so designated by the Congress in the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025 (the “Act”) pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of the of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as outlined in the enclosed list of accounts, and does not include the remaining 11 appropriations; which was referred to the Committee on the Budget. (PM–16) **Page S1800**

**Faulkender Nomination—Cloture:** Senate began consideration of the nomination of Michael

Faulkender, of Maryland, to be Deputy Secretary of the Treasury. **Page S1796**

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 Aaron Reitz, of Texas, to be an Assistant Attorney General. **Page S1796**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S1796**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S1796**

**Kratsios Nomination—Agreement:** A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that notwithstanding Rule XXII, the motions to invoke cloture filed during the session of the Senate on Friday, March 14, 2025, ripen at 12 noon, on Tuesday, March 25, 2025; that at 12 noon, Senate vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Michael Kratsios, of South Carolina, to be Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy; and that at 2:15 p.m., if cloture is invoked, Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination of Michael Kratsios. **Page S1807**

**Nominations Confirmed:** Senate confirmed the following nominations:

By 62 yeas to 30 nays (Vote No. EX. 136), John Phelan, of Florida, to be Secretary of the Navy.

**Pages S1791–95, S1808**

By 60 yeas to 31 nays (Vote No. EX. 137), Christopher Landau, of Maryland, to be Deputy Secretary of State. **Pages S1795–96, S1808**

**Nominations Received:** Senate received the following nominations:

Herschel Walker, of Georgia, to be Ambassador to the Commonwealth of The Bahamas.

Alex Adams, of Idaho, to be Assistant Secretary for Family Support, Department of Health and Human Services.

Stacey Feinberg, of California, to be Ambassador to the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg.

Melissa Argyros, of California, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Latvia.

Kenneth Howery, of Texas, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Denmark.

Gregory Autrey, of Florida, to be Chief Financial Officer, National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

Richard Buchan III, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Morocco.

Derek Barrs, of Florida, to be Administrator of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration.

David Perdue, of Georgia, to be Ambassador to the People's Republic of China.

Bill Bazzi, of Michigan, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Tunisia.

Callista Gingrich, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Swiss Confederation, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador to the Principality of Liechtenstein.

Bryan Bedford, of Indiana, to be Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration for the term of five years.

Kimberly Guilfoyle, of Florida, to be Ambassador to Greece.

Thomas Bell, of Virginia, to be Inspector General, Department of Health and Human Services.

Lynda Blanchard, of Alabama, to be U.S. Representative to the United Nations Agencies for Food and Agriculture, with the rank of Ambassador.

Michelle Bowman, of Kansas, to be Vice Chairman for Supervision of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System for a term of four years.

Leo Brent Bozell III, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of South Africa.

Howard Brodie, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Finland.

John Busterud, of California, to be Assistant Administrator, Office of Solid Waste, Environmental Protection Agency.

Crystal Carey, of New Jersey, to be General Counsel of the National Labor Relations Board for term of four years.

Brian Christine, of Alabama, to be an Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services.

Michael DeSombre, of Illinois, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (East Asian and Pacific Affairs).

Michael Dodd, of Indiana, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

Lanny Erdos, of Ohio, to be Director of the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement.

Karen Evans, of West Virginia, to be Under Secretary for Management, Department of Homeland Security.

Arthur Fisher, of North Carolina, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Austria.

Amer Ghalib, of Michigan, to be Ambassador to the State of Kuwait.

Melinda Hildebrand, of Texas, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Costa Rica.

Julie Hocker, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor.

Michel Issa, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Lebanese Republic.

Michael Kavoukjian, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Norway.

Peter Lamelas, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Argentine Republic.

Benjamin Leon, Jr., of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Spain, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador to the Principality of Andorra.

Jennifer Locetta, of Florida, to be Alternate Representative of the United States of America for Special Political Affairs in the United Nations, with the rank of Ambassador.

Andrea Lucas, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for a term expiring July 1, 2030.

Nicholas Merrick, of Texas, to be Ambassador to the Czech Republic.

Daniel Newlin, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Colombia.

Jared Novelly, of Missouri, to be Ambassador to New Zealand, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador to the Independent State of Samoa.

Roman Pipko, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Estonia.

Joseph Popolo, of Texas, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

Michael Powers, of Virginia, to be Deputy Under Secretary of Defense.

Marco Rajkovich, Jr., of Virginia, to be a Member of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission for a term of six years expiring August 30, 2030.

Luigi Rinaldi, of New York, to be Ambassador to the Oriental Republic of Uruguay.

Thomas Rose, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Poland.

Michael Rutherford, of Florida, to be an Assistant Secretary of Transportation.

Brent Sadler, of Virginia, to be Administrator of the Maritime Administration.

Jonathan Snare, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission for a term expiring April 27, 2029.

Katherine Sutton, of Illinois, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

Bryan Switzer, of Virginia, to be a Deputy United States Trade Representative (Asia, Textiles, Investment, Services, and Intellectual Property), with the rank of Ambassador.

Adam Telle, of Mississippi, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Army.

Derek Theurer, of Virginia, to be a Deputy Under Secretary of the Treasury.

Christine Toretta, of Pennsylvania, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Sweden.

Usha-Maria Turner, of Oklahoma, to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

Edward Walsh, of New Jersey, to be Ambassador to Ireland.

William White, of New York, to be Ambassador of the United States of America to the Kingdom of Belgium.

James Woodruff II, of Florida, to be a Member of the Merit Systems Protection Board for the term of seven years expiring March 1, 2032.

1 Army nomination in the rank of general.

**Pages S1807–08**

**Nomination Withdrawn:** Senate received notification of withdrawal of the following nomination:

Leo Brent Bozell III, of Virginia, to be Chief Executive Officer of the United States Agency for Global Media, which was sent to the Senate on March 10, 2025

**Page S1808**

**Executive Communications:** **Pages S1800–02**

**Additional Cosponsors:** **Pages S1802–04**

**Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:** **Pages S1804–06**

**Record Votes:** Two record votes were taken today. (Total—137) **Pages S1795–96**

**Adjournment:** Senate convened at 3 p.m. and adjourned at 7:14 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, March 25, 2025. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S1807.)

## Committee Meetings

*(Committees not listed did not meet)*

No committee meetings were held.

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# House of Representatives

## Chamber Action

**Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced:** 31 public bills, H.R. 2282–2312; and 10 resolutions, H.J. Res. 79–81; H. Con. Res. 20; and H. Res. 240–241, 243–246, were introduced. **Pages H1217–18**

**Additional Cosponsors:** **Pages H1219–21**

**Reports Filed:** Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 1621, to require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to submit to Congress a report on the entrepreneurial challenges facing entrepreneurs with a disability, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 119–31);

H.R. 1634, to provide for a memorandum of understanding between the Small Business Administration and the National Council on Disability to increase employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 119–32);

H.R. 1804, to amend the Small Business Act to require a report on 7(a) agents, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 119–33);

H.R. 787, to require plain language and the inclusion of key words in covered notices that are clear, concise, and accessible to small business con-

cerns, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 119–34);

H.R. 789, to require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to issue rules for cancelled covered solicitations, to amend the Small Business Act to provide assistance to small business concerns relating to certain cancelled solicitations, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 119–35);

H.R. 1642, to amend the Small Business Act to include requirements relating to graduates of career and technical education programs for small business development centers and women's business centers, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 119–36);

H.R. 1816, to establish requirements relating to certification of small business concerns owned and controlled by women for certain purposes, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 119–37); and

H. Res. 242, providing for consideration of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 24) providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Energy relating to "Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Walk-In Coolers and Walk-In Freezers"; providing for consideration of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 75) providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted



by the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy relating to “Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Commercial Refrigerators, Freezers, and Refrigerator Freezers”; and providing for consideration of the bill (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 (H. Rept. 119–38).

**Pages H1216–17**

**Speaker:** Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Hamadeh to act as Speaker pro tempore for today.

**Page H1193**

**Recess:** The House recessed at 12:23 p.m. and reconvened at 2 p.m.

**Page H1195**

**Recess:** The House recessed at 3:55 p.m. and reconvened at 6:30 p.m.

**Page H1212**

**Suspensions:** The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

**Cost-Share Accountability Act of 2025:** H.R. 359, to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to require reporting relating to certain cost-share requirements, by a  $\frac{2}{3}$  yeas-and-nays vote of 405 yeas with none voting “nay”, Roll No. 72;

**Pages H1196–97, H1213**

**Mathematical and Statistical Modeling Education Act:** H.R. 730, amended, to coordinate Federal research and development efforts focused on modernizing mathematics in STEM education through mathematical and statistical modeling, including data-driven and computational thinking, problem, project, and performance-based learning and assessment, interdisciplinary exploration, and career connections;

**Pages H1197–H1201**

**United States Research Protection Act:** H.R. 1318, to amend the Research and Development, Competition, and Innovation Act to clarify the definition of foreign country for purposes of malign foreign talent recruitment restriction;

**Pages H1201–02**

**Commercial Remote Sensing Amendment Act of 2025:** H.R. 1325, to provide for transparent licensing of commercial remote sensing systems;

**Pages H1202–04**

**DOE and USDA Interagency Research Act:** H.R. 1326, to provide for Department of Energy and Department of Agriculture joint research and development activities, by a  $\frac{2}{3}$  yeas-and-nays vote of 372 yeas to 35 nays, Roll No. 73;

**Pages H1204–05, H1214**

**DOE and NSF Interagency Research Act:** H.R. 1350, to provide for Department of Energy and Na-

tional Science Foundation research and development coordination; and

**Pages H1205–07**

**DOE and NASA Interagency Research Coordination Act:** H.R. 1368, to provide for Department of Energy and National Aeronautics and Space Administration research and development coordination.

**Pages H1207–09**

**Moment of Silence:** The House observed a moment of silence in remembrance of the Honorable Raúl M. Grijalva.

**Pages H1213–14**

**Providing for the expenses of certain committees of the House of Representatives in the One Hundred Nineteenth Congress:** The House agreed to take from the Speaker’s table and agree to H. Res. 198, as amended by Representative Steil, providing for the expenses of certain committees of the House of Representatives in the One Hundred Nineteenth Congress.

**Pages H1215–16**

**Expressing the profound sorrow of the House of Representatives on the death of the Honorable Raúl M. Grijalva:** The House agreed to H. Res. 240, expressing the profound sorrow of the House of Representatives on the death of the Honorable Raúl M. Grijalva.

**Page H1216**

**Suspension—Proceedings Postponed:** The House debated the following measure under suspension of the rules. Further proceedings were postponed.

**IMPACT Act:** H.R. 1534, to strengthen and enhance the competitiveness of American industry through the research and development of advanced technologies to improve the efficiency of cement, concrete, and asphalt production.

**Pages H1209–12**

**Presidential Message:** Received a message from the President transmitting a notification of the designation as emergency requirements 16 appropriations (including the transfer and repurposing of funds) so designated by Congress—referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed (H. Doc. 119–31).

**Pages H1214–15**

**Quorum Calls—Votes:** Two yeas-and-nays votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H1213 and H1214.

**Adjournment:** The House met at 12 p.m. and adjourned at 7:14 p.m.

## *Committee Meetings*

### **DETERRENT ACT; PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL OF THE RULE RELATING TO ENERGY CONSERVATION PROGRAM: ENERGY CONSERVATION STANDARDS FOR WALK-IN COOLERS AND WALK-IN FREEZERS; PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL OF THE RULE RELATING TO ENERGY CONSERVATION PROGRAM: ENERGY CONSERVATION STANDARDS FOR COMMERCIAL REFRIGERATORS, FREEZERS, AND REFRIGERATOR-FREEZERS**

*Committee on Rules:* Full Committee held a hearing on H.R. 1048, the “DETERRENT Act”; H.J. Res. 24, providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Energy relating to “Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Walk-In Coolers and Walk-In Freezers”; and H.J. Res. 75, providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy relating to “Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Commercial Refrigerators, Freezers, and Refrigerator-Freezers”. The Committee granted, by a record vote of 7–3, a rule providing for consideration of H.J. Res. 24, providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Energy relating to “Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Walk-In Coolers and Walk-In Freezers”, H.J. Res. 75, providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy relating to “Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Commercial Refrigerators, Freezers, and Refrigerator-Freezers”, and H.R. 1048, the “DETERRENT Act”. The rule provides for consideration of H.J. Res. 24, providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Energy relating to “Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Walk-In Coolers and Walk-In Freezers”, under a closed rule. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the joint resolution. The rule provides that the joint resolution shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the joint resolution. The rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member

of the Committee on Energy and Commerce or their respective designees. The rule provides one motion to recommit. The rule further provides for consideration of H.J. Res. 75, providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy relating to “Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Commercial Refrigerators, Freezers, and Refrigerator-Freezers”, under a closed rule. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the joint resolution. The rule provides that the joint resolution shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the joint resolution. The rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce or respective designees. The rule provides one motion to recommit. The rule further provides for consideration of H.R. 1048, the “DETERRENT Act”, under a structured rule. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and Workforce or their respective designees. The rule provides that, in lieu of the amendment in the nature of the substitute recommended by the Committee on Education and Workforce now printed in the bill, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 119–1 shall be considered as adopted and the bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended. The rule makes in order only those amendments printed in the Rules Committee report. Each amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question. All points of order against the amendments printed in the report are waived. Finally, the rule provides one motion to recommit. Testimony was heard from Chairman Walberg, and Representatives Scott of Virginia, Latta, and Pallone.

## CLOSING THE DATA GAP: IMPROVING INTEROPERABILITY BETWEEN VA AND COMMUNITY PROVIDERS

*Committee on Veterans' Affairs:* Subcommittee on Technology Modernization held a hearing entitled "Closing the Data Gap: Improving Interoperability Between VA and Community Providers". Testimony was heard from Jonathan Nebeker, M.D., Chief Medical Informatics Officer and Executive Director of Clinical Informatics, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs; and public witnesses.

## Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

## NEW PUBLIC LAWS

(For last listing of Public Laws, see DAILY DIGEST, p. D99)

H.J. Res. 35, providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to "Waste Emissions Charge for Petroleum and Natural Gas Systems: Procedures for Facilitating Compliance, Including Netting and Exemptions". Signed on March 14, 2025. (Public Law 119–2)

S.J. Res. 11, providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management relating to "Protection of Marine Archaeological Resources". Signed on March 14, 2025. (Public Law 119–3)

H.R. 1968, making further continuing appropriations and other extensions for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025. Signed on March 15, 2025. (Public Law 119–4)

## COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR TUESDAY, MARCH 25, 2025

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

### Senate

*Committee on Armed Services:* to receive a closed briefing on the Department of Defense strategy on countering unmanned aerial systems, 9:30 a.m., SVC–217.

Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, to hold closed hearings to examine harnessing artificial intelligence cyber capabilities; to be immediately followed by an open hearing at 3:30 p.m. in SR–232A, 2:30 p.m., SVC–217.

Subcommittee on Seapower, to hold hearings to examine the state of conventional surface shipbuilding, 2:30 p.m., SR–222.

*Committee on Finance:* business meeting to consider the nomination of Mehmet Oz, of Pennsylvania, to be Ad-

ministrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, 9:30 a.m., SD–215.

Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Frank Bisignano, of New Jersey, to be Commissioner of Social Security Administration for the term expiring January 19, 2031, 10:10 a.m., SD–215.

*Committee on Foreign Relations:* to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Reed Rubinstein, of Maryland, to be Legal Adviser, Mike Huckabee, of Arkansas, to be Ambassador to the State of Israel, and Kevin Cabrera, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Panama, all of the Department of State, 10 a.m., SD–419.

*Committee on the Judiciary:* Subcommittee on the Constitution, to hold hearings to examine the censorship industrial complex, 2 p.m., SD–226.

*Select Committee on Intelligence:* to hold hearings to examine worldwide threats; to be immediately followed by a closed hearing in SH–219, 10 a.m., SH–216.

### House

*Committee on Agriculture,* Full Committee, hearing entitled "The CFTC at 50: Examining the Past and Future of Commodity Markets", 10 a.m., 1300 Longworth.

*Committee on Appropriations,* Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, hearing entitled "Member Day", 10 a.m., 2008 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Legislative Branch, hearing entitled "Capitol Complex Public Safety and Security", 2 p.m., 2359 Rayburn.

*Committee on Armed Services,* Subcommittee on Readiness; and Subcommittee on Seapower and Projection Forces, joint hearing entitled "Posture and Readiness of the Mobility Enterprise", 3:30 p.m., 2118 Rayburn.

*Committee on Education and Workforce,* Subcommittee on Workforce Protections, hearing entitled "The Future of Wage Laws: Assessing the FLSA's Effectiveness, Challenges, and Opportunities", 10:15 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

*Committee on Energy and Commerce,* Subcommittee on Energy, hearing entitled "Keeping the Lights On: Examining the State of Regional Grid Reliability", 10:15 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

*Committee on Ethics,* Full Committee, organizational meeting, 2:30 p.m., 1015 Longworth.

*Committee on Financial Services,* Full Committee, hearing entitled "Beyond Silicon Valley: Expanding Access to Capital Across America", 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

*Committee on Foreign Affairs,* Subcommittee on Middle East and North Africa, hearing entitled "Streamlined and Rightsized: Consolidating State Department Administrative Services", 10 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Africa, hearing entitled "Metals, Minerals, and Mining: How the CCP Fuels Conflict and Exploitation in Africa", 10 a.m., 2200 Rayburn.

*Committee on Homeland Security,* Subcommittee on Counterterrorism and Intelligence, markup on H.R. 1327, the "Syria Terrorism Threat Assessment Act"; H.R. 1508, the "DHS Special Events Program and Support Act"; H.R. 1736, the "Generative AI Terrorism Risk Assessment Act"; H.R. 2116, the "Law Enforcement Support and Counter Transnational Repression Act"; H.R. 2139, the "Strengthening State and Local Efforts to

Counter Transnational Repression Act”; H.R. 2158, the “Countering Transnational Repression Act of 2025”; H.R. 2212, the “DHS Intelligence Rotational Assignment Program and Law Enforcement Support Act”; legislation on the National Strategy for School Security Act of 2025; legislation on the Countering the Chinese Communist Party’s United Front Work Department of 2025; legislation on the Strengthening Oversight of DHS Intelligence Act; and legislation on the DHS Basic Training Accreditation Improvement Act of 2025, 2 p.m., 310 Cannon.

*Committee on the Judiciary*, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 38, the “Constitutional Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act”; H.R. 60, the “Knife Owners’ Protection Act of 2025”; H.R. 2184, the “Firearm Due Process Protection Act”; H.R. 2255, the “Federal Law Enforcement Officer Service Weapon Purchase Act”; H.R. 2243, the “LEOSA Reform Act of 2025”; H.R. 2267, the “NICS Data Reporting Act”; and H.R. 2240, the “Improving Law Enforcement Officer Safety and Wellness Through Data Act of 2025”, 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

*Committee on Natural Resources*, Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Fisheries, hearing on H.R. 276, the “Gulf of America Act”; H.R. 845, the “Pet and Livestock Protection Act”; H.R. 1897, the “ESA Amendments Act”; and H.R. 1917, the “Great Lakes Mass Marking Program Act”, 10:15 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

*Committee on Oversight and Government Reform*, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 1295, the “Reorganizing Government Act of 2025”; H.R. 1210, the “Protecting Taxpayers’ Wallet Act”; legislation on the Preserving Presidential Management Authority Act”; H.R. 2174, the “Paycheck Protection Act”; H.R. 2193, the “FEHB Protection Act of 2025”; legislation on the Federal Accountability Committee for Transparency Act; H.R. 2056, the “District of Columbia Federal Immigration Compliance Act”; H. Res. 187, of inquiry requesting the President to transmit certain information to the House of Representatives referring to the termination, removal, placement on administrative leave, moved to another department of Federal employees and Inspectors General of agencies; and H. Res. 186, of inquiry requesting the President to transmit certain documents to the House of Representatives relating to the conflicts of interest of Elon Musk and related information, 10 a.m., HVC–210.

*Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure*, Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management, hearing entitled “Reforming FEMA: Bringing Common Sense Back to Federal Emergency Management”, 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

*Committee on Veterans’ Affairs*, Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity, hearing entitled “Mission Incomplete: Strengthening the TAP Program to Ensure a Smoother Transition to Civilian Life for Tomorrow’ Veterans”, 10:15 a.m., 360 Cannon.

Subcommittee on Health, markup on H.R. 217, the “CHIP IN for Veterans Act”; H.R. 1969, the “No Wrong Door for Veterans Act”; H.R. 1971, the “Veterans Supporting Prosthetics Opportunities and Recreational Therapy Act”; H.R. 1823, the “VA Budget Accountability Act”; H.R. 1107, the “Protecting Veteran

Access to Telemedicine Services Act”; H.R. 1336, the “Veterans National Traumatic Brain Injury Act”; H.R. 658, to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish qualifications for the appointment of a person as a marriage and family therapist, qualified to provide clinical supervision, in the Veterans Health Administration; H.R. 1644, the “Coplay Fairness for Veterans Act”; and H.R. 1860, the “Women Veterans Cancer Care Coordination Act”, 2:15 p.m., 360 Cannon.

Subcommittee on Health, hearing entitled “Breaking Down Barriers: Getting Veterans ACCESS to Lifesaving Care”, 2:15 p.m., 360 Cannon.

*Committee on Ways and Means*, Subcommittee on Trade, hearing entitled “American Trade Negotiation Priorities”, 2 p.m., 1100 Longworth.

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## CONGRESSIONAL PROGRAM AHEAD

Week of March 25 through March 28, 2025

### Senate Chamber

On *Tuesday*, Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of Michael Kratsios, of South Carolina, to be Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, with a vote on the motion to invoke cloture thereon at 12:00 noon. At 2:15 p.m., if cloture is invoked, Senate will vote on confirmation of the nomination of Michael Kratsios, followed by a vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Jayanta Bhattacharya, of California, to be Director of the National Institutes of Health.

During the balance of the week, Senate may consider any cleared legislative and executive business.

### Senate Committees

*(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)*

*Committee on Armed Services*: March 25, to receive a closed briefing on the Department of Defense strategy on countering unmanned aerial systems, 9:30 a.m., SVC–217.

March 25, Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, to hold closed hearings to examine harnessing artificial intelligence cyber capabilities; to be immediately followed by an open hearing at 3:30 p.m. in SR–232A, 2:30 p.m., SVC–217.

March 25, Subcommittee on Seapower, to hold hearings to examine the state of conventional surface shipbuilding, 2:30 p.m., SR–222.

March 26, Subcommittee on Strategic Forces, to hold open hearings to examine the United States Strategic Command and United States Space Command in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2026 and Future Years Defense Program; to be immediately followed by a closed session in SVC–217, 9:30 a.m., SD–106.

March 26, Subcommittee on Personnel, to hold an oversight hearing to examine the status of the Military Service Academies, 2:30 p.m., SR–222.

March 27, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Troy Meink, of Virginia, to be Secretary of the Air Force, Michael Duffy, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary for Acquisition and Sustainment, Emil Michael, of Florida, to be Under Secretary for Research and Engineering, and Keith Bass, of Texas, to be an Assistant Secretary, all of the Department of Defense, 9:30 a.m., SD-G50.

*Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:* March 27, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Jonathan Gould, of Virginia, to be Comptroller of the Currency for a term of five years, Luke Pettit, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, Paul Atkins, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Securities and Exchange Commission for the remainder of the term expiring June 5, 2026, and Marcus Molinaro, of New York, to be Federal Transit Administrator, 10 a.m., SD-538.

*Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:* March 27, Subcommittee on Aviation, Space, and Innovation, to hold hearings to examine the National Transportation Safety Board preliminary report, focusing on the DCA midair collision, 10 a.m., SD-106.

March 27, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Arielle Roth, of the District of Columbia, to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information, 2:15 p.m., SR-253.

*Committee on Environment and Public Works:* March 26, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Brian Nesvik, of Wyoming, to be Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and Jessica Kramer, of Wisconsin, and Sean Donahue, of Florida, both to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, 10 a.m., SD-406.

*Committee on Finance:* March 25, business meeting to consider the nomination of Mehmet Oz, of Pennsylvania, to be Administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, 9:30 a.m., SD-215.

March 25, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Frank Bisignano, of New Jersey, to be Commissioner of Social Security Administration for the term expiring January 19, 2031, 10:10 a.m., SD-215.

*Committee on Foreign Relations:* March 25, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Reed Rubinstein, of Maryland, to be Legal Adviser, Mike Huckabee, of Arkansas, to be Ambassador to the State of Israel, and Kevin Cabrera, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Panama, all of the Department of State, 10 a.m., SD-419.

March 26, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine Indo-Pacific alliances and burden sharing in today's geopolitical environment, 10 a.m., SD-419.

March 26, Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere, Transnational Crime, Civilian Security, Democracy, Human Rights, and Global Women's Issues, to hold hearings to examine People's Republic of China influence and the status of Taiwan's diplomatic allies in the Western Hemisphere, 2:30 p.m., SD-419.

March 27, Full Committee, business meeting to consider S. 860, to modify the information about countries

exporting methamphetamine that is included in the annual International Narcotics Control Strategy Report, to require a report to Congress on the seizure and production of certain illicit drugs, to impose sanctions with respect to the production and trafficking into the United States, of synthetic opioids, S. 868, to support democracy and the rule of law in Georgia, S. Res. 86, expressing the sense of the Senate regarding United Nations General Assembly Resolution 2758 (XXVI) and the harmful conflation of China's "One China Principle" and the United States' "One China Policy", S. Res. 98, condemning Beijing's destruction of Hong Kong's democracy and rule of law, S. Res. 106, supporting the goals of International Women's Day, S. 799, to establish and implement a multi-year Legal Gold and Mining Partnership Strategy to reduce the negative environmental and social impacts of illicit gold mining in the Western Hemisphere, S. 821, to provide for increased reporting regarding Department of State Taiwan guidelines, S. 555, to direct the Secretary of State to establish a national registry of Korean American divided families, and S. 842, to counter efforts by Hezbollah to conduct terrorist activities in Latin America, S. Res. 52, recognizing religious freedom as a fundamental right, expressing support for international religious freedom as a cornerstone of United States foreign policy, and expressing concern over increased threats to and attacks on religious freedom around the world, and an original resolution recognizing the 204th anniversary of the independence of Greece and celebrating democracy in Greece and the United States, and the nominations of Peter Hoekstra, of Michigan, to be Ambassador to Canada, George Glass, of Oregon, to be Ambassador to Japan, and Ronald Johnson, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the United Mexican States, all of the Department of State, 11 a.m., S-116, Capitol.

*Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:* March 27, to hold hearings to examine ensuring safe learning environments for all students, focusing on protests on campus, 10 a.m., SD-430.

*Committee on the Judiciary:* March 25, Subcommittee on the Constitution, to hold hearings to examine the censorship industrial complex, 2 p.m., SD-226.

March 26, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine pending nominations, 10:15 a.m., SD-226.

March 27, Full Committee, business meeting to consider pending calendar business, 10:15 a.m., SH-216.

*Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship:* March 26, business meeting to consider S. 1047, to prohibit individuals convicted of defrauding the Government from receiving any assistance from the Small Business Administration, S. 1093, to amend the Small Business Act to enhance the Office of Rural Affairs, and the nominations of William Briggs, of Texas, to be Deputy Administrator, and Casey Mulligan, of Illinois, to be Chief Counsel for Advocacy, both of the Small Business Administration, 2:30 p.m., SR-428A.

*Select Committee on Intelligence:* March 25, to hold hearings to examine worldwide threats; to be immediately followed by a closed hearing in SH-219, 10 a.m., SH-216.

March 26, Full Committee, to receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH-219.

### House Committees

*Committee on Appropriations*, March 26, Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies, hearing entitled “National Transportation Safety Board”, 9:30 a.m., 2358–A Rayburn.

*Committee on Armed Services*, March 26, Subcommittee on Intelligence and Special Operations, hearing entitled “U.S. Special Operations Forces and Command—Challenges and Resource Priorities for Fiscal Year 2026”, 3:30 p.m., 2118 Rayburn.

*Committee on the Budget*, March 26, Full Committee, hearing entitled “The Fiscal State of the Nation”, 10 a.m., 210 Cannon.

*Committee on Energy and Commerce*, March 26, Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade, hearing entitled “The World Wild Web: Examining Harms Online”, 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

*Committee on Financial Services*, March 26, Subcommittee on Financial Institutions, hearing entitled “A New Era for the CFPB: Balancing Power and Reprioritizing Consumer Protections”, 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

March 26, Subcommittee on National Security, Illicit Finance, and International Financial Institutions, hearing entitled “Following the Money with FinCEN”, 2 p.m., 2128 Rayburn.

*Committee on Oversight and Government Reform*, March 26, Subcommittee on Delivering on Government Efficiency, hearing entitled “Anti-American Airwaves: Accountability for the Heads of NPR and PBS”, 10 a.m., HVC-210.

*Committee on Science, Space, and Technology*, March 26, Subcommittee on Environment, hearing entitled “To the

Depths, and Beyond: Examining Blue Economy Technologies”, 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

*Committee on Small Business*, March 26, Full Committee, hearing entitled “The Golden Age: Unleashing Main Street Through Deregulation”, 10 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.

*Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure*, March 26, Subcommittee on Highways and Transit, hearing entitled “America Builds: How Trucking Supports American Communities”, 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

*Committee on Veterans' Affairs*, March 26, Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs, hearing on H.R. 647, the “Ensuring Veterans' Final Resting Place Act of 2025”; H.R. 1039, the “Clear Communication for Veterans Claims Act”; H.R. 1228, the “Prioritizing Veterans' Survivors Act”; H.R. 1286, the “Simplifying Forms for Veterans Claims Act”; H.R. 1344, the “Dennis and Lois Krisfalussy Act; legislation on the Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2025; legislation on the Review Every Veterans Claim Act of 2025; legislation on the Veteran Appeals Transparency Act of 2025; legislation on the Improving VA Training for Military Sexual Trauma Claims Act; legislation on the Veterans Claims Education Act; legislation on the Survivors Benefits Delivery Improvement Act of 2025; and legislation on the Board of Veterans Appeals' Attorney Retention and Backlog Reduction Act, 10:15 a.m., 360 Cannon.

*Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence*, March 26, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Annual Worldwide Threats Hearing”, 10 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

March 26, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Annual Worldwide Threats Hearing”, 2 p.m., HVC-304. This hearing is closed.



*Next Meeting of the SENATE*

10 a.m., Tuesday, March 25

## Senate Chamber

**Program for Tuesday:** Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of Michael Kratsios, of South Carolina, to be Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, with a vote on the motion to invoke cloture thereon at 12:00 noon. At 2:15 p.m., if cloture is invoked, Senate will vote on confirmation of the nomination of Michael Kratsios, followed by a vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Jayanta Bhattacharya, of California, to be Director of the National Institutes of Health.

*(Following the vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Michael Kratsios, of South Carolina, to be Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, the Senate will recess until 2:15 p.m. for their respective party conferences.)*

*Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES*

10 a.m., Tuesday, March 25

## House Chamber

**Program for Tuesday:** Begin consideration of H.R. 1048—DETERRENT Act (Subject to a Rule).

## Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

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# Congressional Record

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