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House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
March 27, 2025.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ADDISON P. McDOWELL to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

MIKE JOHNSON,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

Rabbi Pinchus Ciment, Lubavitch of Arkansas, Little Rock, Arkansas, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, I begin my prayer with an act of charitable kindness.

Creator and master of His universe.

After the biblical story of the great flood in which You spared Noah and his family, You gave guidance and instructions through them to all of humanity. You taught how to lead a moral, ethical, and productive life in the form of seven guiding principles, also known as the Seven Noahide Laws.

These laws are found in the Bible in the Book of Genesis and its sacred commentaries and include:

To worship You, not to blaspheme Your name, not to commit murder, not to engage in illicit relationships, not to commit theft, not to be cruel to any living creature, and for every society to be governed by just laws that are based on the recognition and acknowledgment of You, O God, as the sovereign ruler of all humankind and all nations.

Almighty God, bless the Members of this august body, the United States House of Representatives, who convene to fulfill Your very guidance to estab-

lish such just laws. Bless them with health, clarity, wisdom, compassion, and good fellowship.

I beseech You, in the merit of the great leader and spiritual giant, the late Lubavitcher Rebbe, Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson, of saintly and blessed memory, who came to these shores in 1941 and described this country as a nation of kindness, and who passionately shared the richness and importance of the said Seven Noahide Laws for all to embrace, to please grant that the vision of our Nation for a world imbued with peace and tranquility be the crowning achievements of this mighty and awesome Chamber in our days.

And let us say, 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 Texas (Ms. GARCIA) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. GARCIA of Texas 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.

WELCOMING GUEST CHAPLAIN RABBI PINCHUS CIMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome today's guest

chaplain, my friend, Rabbi Pinchus Ciment.

Rabbi Ciment is the director of Chabad Lubavitch of Arkansas in Little Rock and is currently the longest serving rabbi in our State.

He was born in Boston, Massachusetts, and moved to Little Rock with his wife in 1992.

Rabbi Ciment has lectured on matters in Judaism at several universities in Arkansas and has been a frequent author in the "Ask the Clergy" section of our statewide newspaper, the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette. He studied at the Rabbinical Seminary in Morristown, New Jersey, and the Central Lubavitch Yeshiva in Brooklyn, New York, receiving his rabbinical ordination in 1990.

Rabbi Ciment is a devoted husband to Estie and a proud father of 10 children.

I extend my heartfelt thanks to Rabbi Ciment for delivering a beautiful opening prayer.

Mr. Speaker, I wish him, his family, and Chabad Lubavitch of Arkansas continued success in serving the central Arkansas community.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

CONGRATULATING PENN STATE WRESTLING

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Penn State wrestling, the 2025 NCAA Division 1 national champions.

Continuing their dominance of NCAA wrestling, the Nittany Lions brought

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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their 13th national title to Happy Valley.

Under the leadership of Coach Cael Sanderson, his team has won 12 of the last 15 NCAA championships.

Penn State's two individual champions are a testament to the strength of their program as well as their personal strength, talent, and determination.

Carter Starocci made history by becoming the first wrestler to win five individual NCAA titles, while Mitchell Mesenbrink claimed his first national title with an outstanding performance.

Beyond individual triumphs, the Nittany Lions made history as only the second team ever to have 10 All-Americans in one tournament.

This success would not be possible without the dedication of the coaching staff, the families, and the unwavering support of the Penn State community.

As a graduate of Penn State, I am proud to congratulate Penn State wrestling on winning the 2025 national championship and on their continuing success.

We Are.

CONGRATULATING LARRY HUGGINS ON A LIFE OF SERVICE AND ACHIEVEMENT

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

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI. Mr. Speaker, I welcome the opportunity to celebrate Larry Huggins' incredible contributions to Illinois and Chicago.

Larry is a trailblazer. At a time when Black people were discouraged from construction jobs, Larry founded a construction company that is still thriving and has helped build some of Chicago's most famous landmarks.

Huggins is an eminent civic leader, as well. He served as acting chairman of Metra and founded the famous Christmas in the Wards to distribute toys and other gifts to Chicago's needy.

He also cofounded the Chicago Football Classic, which is a yearly football game between two HBCUs at Soldier Field. The game is accompanied by scholarships, workshops, and outreach for students.

From business success to civic leadership, I am pleased to congratulate Larry Huggins on a life of exemplary service and achievement.

CELEBRATING SYDNEY TRAN AS SPELLING BEE CHAMPION

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

Mrs. KIM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate Sydney Tran, a seventh grade student at El Rancho Charter School in Orange, for becoming Orange County's new spelling bee champion.

Sydney earned her well-deserved victory and secured a spot at the Scripps National Spelling Bee by spelling the

word "obsecration" in the 14th round of competition.

In addition to her spelling skills, Sydney is also on the school robotics team and participates in community service projects, embodying the spirit of a well-rounded and engaged student. Her success serves as an inspiration to her peers and brings pride to our entire community.

Sydney will soon head to Washington, D.C., to represent Orange County at the national spelling bee in May.

Mr. Speaker, we wish Sydney good luck. We are cheering her on.

HONORING LAS MAMAS DE BACK OF THE YARDS

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

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, for Women's History Month, I rise to honor the parent leaders from The Resurrection Project known as Las Mamas de Back of the Yards, or the Back of the Yards Moms, a powerhouse of immigrant women who are the heart and soul of their community on Chicago's South Side.

Mothers like Consuelo, Lorena, Alma, Maria, Ofelia, Martha, Zuleyman, Victoria, Gabriela, and Sylvia show us what real leadership looks like.

They educate neighbors on their rights, organize rapid responses when raids threaten families, distribute food when the fridge is empty, and keep our youth safe and supported.

From city hall to Washington, and right inside our schools, these women ensure that their voices and their community voices are heard.

They are respected, admired, and deeply rooted in the Back of the Yards, and, yes, they keep people like me on our toes, always causing good trouble.

In honoring them, we honor the power of immigrant women everywhere, their courage and commitment, and the fight for a better future for all of us.

Mr. Speaker, I thank them, I stand with them, and I celebrate them.

ALL POLICY IS LOCAL

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

Mr. SHREVE. Mr. Speaker, during this past district work period, I had the opportunity of hosting discussions with business leaders and constituents across Indiana's Sixth District. With our community leaders, we had conversations that focused on the need to extend the progrowth policies of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act.

Over 17 visits across my district, I spoke with our seniors on Medicare Advantage. I spoke with Hoosier farmers on National Ag Day at our Purdue Extension facility in Johnson County. I

heard from our Indiana Realtors—and no one knows our communities like our Realtors—about the importance of homeownership and having sufficient housing inventory for job growth and economic creation.

I appreciate these listen-and-learn opportunities with our local small businesses and constituents. All policy is so very local.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to work with businesses across Indiana's Sixth District to bring business sense to Washington. The American people expect results, and we must deliver.

FIGHTING TO GUARANTEE EQUAL RIGHTS FOR ALL WOMEN UNDER THE CONSTITUTION

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

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Mr. Speaker, yes, that is me in 1977. I was a young law student representing Texas at the historic International Women's Year conference in Houston.

Ann Richards was right behind me. She was getting ready to make a speech on the ERA. She would go on to be Governor, and I went on to serve in the city, county, State, and now here in Federal Government.

That day, we were doing what I am doing right now: fighting for the equal rights amendment, fighting to guarantee equal rights for all women under the Constitution.

I still have the ERA pin I wore that day. I have kept it for nearly 50 years because the fight isn't over.

This week, I stood with powerful women in Congress to introduce a resolution that removes our final barrier: the arbitrary deadline set decades ago. If it passes, the ERA becomes the 28th Amendment.

We must pass this resolution. We must remove all barriers to women because our rights don't have deadlines. Our rights are human rights.

REPEALING GREEN SUBSIDIES

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, we must use budget reconciliation to fully repeal the so-called Inflation Reduction Act's, IRA, green subsidies.

They are a trillion-dollar disaster, driving up energy costs, undermining grid reliability, and forcing out dependable power sources like coal and natural gas as well as the hydroelectric dam destruction we see happening.

Keeping even one of them threatens real spending reductions and makes it nearly impossible to rein in the national deficit of around \$2 trillion brought on by the Biden administration and Democratic majorities in the House and Senate.

The stakes are very clear. Europe's energy crisis shows what happens when

a country relies too much on unreliable renewables. Meanwhile, China profits off of our bad policies, selling us solar panels and electric vehicles while expanding its own coal production and power plants.

We cannot let the left's green welfare agenda weaken our energy security while boosting our biggest adversary any longer.

Full repeal means saving taxpayers \$1 trillion in wasteful spending, easing inflation and lowering costs for families and small businesses, and restoring energy security by stabilizing our grid. Reconciliation is the way forward.

□ 0915

TAKING A KNEE VERSUS BENDING A KNEE

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

Ms. BALINT. Mr. Speaker, I want to clarify something for some of my colleagues and for leaders across this country because there seems to be some confusion. There is a big difference between taking a knee and bending a knee.

Taking a knee shows that you can hold many truths at once, you can love our country and believe that there is still more work to do. It shows that you are willing to do that work and to live up to our country's ideals.

However, bending a knee is something quite different. Bending a knee is capitulation. It is what you do when you have given up, when you have lost your fight, when you have lost your way, when you are not willing to show courage, to show up, or to speak up.

Taking a knee, you have got skin in the game. Bending a knee, you have given in, you have lost your self-respect.

We were not elected to be obedient, to submit, to cower. We were not sent here to worship one man. We have no kings in America. We were sent here to work on behalf of the people. If you are not risking anything, you are not being brave. Show some grit and stand up for your people.

CONGRATULATING ANAHEIM HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS' WATER POLO TEAM

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

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate the Anaheim High School girls' water polo team that just won the CIF Division 6 championship.

This victory represents hard work, determination, and perseverance on behalf of the players and their coaches, and they did that the whole season.

As an Anaheim High School alumnus myself, I congratulate our student athletes, parents, coaches, and teachers. Again, they have made us proud.

I ask my colleagues today to join me in celebrating this great victory for the

Anaheim High School girls' water polo team.

Remember, once a Colonist, always a Colonist.

PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL 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'

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 242, I call up 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', and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 242, the joint resolution is considered read.

The text of the joint resolution is as follows:

H.J. RES. 24

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That Congress disapproves the rule submitted by the Department of Energy relating to "Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Walk-In Coolers and Walk-In Freezers" (89 Fed. Reg. 104616 (December 23, 2024)), and such rule shall have no force or effect.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The joint resolution shall be debatable for 1 hour, equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce or their respective designees.

The gentleman from Texas (Mr. WEBER) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) each will control 30 minutes.

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

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material on H.J. Res. 24.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, on December 23, 2024, as American households and businesses were in the process of preparing for the holidays, the Biden-Harris Department of Energy finalized burdensome and unnecessary energy efficiency standards for walk-in coolers and walk-in freezers.

These products are staples—they are necessary—in businesses and restaurants across the country, and they play an essential role in providing consumers with safe and fresh food as well as drinks.

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, the Biden-Harris administration's final rule jeopardizes those very same small and independent retailers' ability to serve the communities that rely on them.

This final rule will force stores like small grocers and convenience stores to incur significant major up-front costs for new equipment. I know because I operated an air-conditioning business for 35 years. They will incur significant, major up-front costs on equipment while reckoning with associated operational disruptions and supply chain challenges. The Biden-Harris DOE itself estimated that the cost of these standards, which were last updated just a handful of years ago, to be almost \$1 billion, with a b.

However, the real cost, Mr. Speaker, is likely much higher, as DOE ignored other costs businesses will be forced to absorb. An example of added costs is any structural changes needed to accommodate a new walk-in cooler or freezer in order to comply with their final rule.

Unfortunately, this final rule will disproportionately affect rural communities and small businesses. In many areas across the country, Mr. Speaker, including in my district in Texas, there are communities with limited food and drink retail options. It is not uncommon for a convenience store to bridge that gap in providing food to American families.

These same small businesses, which are often owned and operated by a single family or an individual, cannot afford the new equipment mandated by these unreasonable standards. In fact, 90 percent of food and drink retailers are categorized as small businesses and operate with a 1 to 3 percent margin. That is how slim their margin is.

The result will be significant costs being passed down to consumers and, in the worst case scenario, the shuttering of businesses, those mom-and-pop businesses that we all like. They may be shuttered, prevented from providing essential services to the very communities that they grew up in.

Thankfully, Mr. Speaker, the House is considering H.J. Res. 24, introduced by the gentlewoman from Oklahoma (Mrs. BICE) to repeal this disastrous final rule.

Over the last 4 years, small businesses have endured supply chain challenges, an inflationary environment, and regulatory uncertainty, just to name a few. Congress has the opportunity today to chart a new path for the small and independent retailers and grocers that feed American families by repealing this final rule.

I thank the gentlewoman from Oklahoma for her leadership on this issue, and I urge my colleagues to join me in

supporting H.J. Res. 24. Once again, I am going to urge all my colleagues' support.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to H.J. Res. 24, the fourth Republican resolution this Congress to dismantle energy conservation standards for appliances. This harmful resolution guts a Department of Energy efficiency rule for walk-in coolers and freezers, which will increase energy costs for businesses and consumers. Let me stress that again. If this rule is repealed, businesses and consumers will have increased energy costs. Since it is a Congressional Review Act resolution, it prevents the Department of Energy from ever issuing substantially similar standards in the future.

Now, let me say, Mr. Speaker, at a time when Americans are struggling to make ends meet and facing the reality that Republicans may soon strip them and their families of healthcare, it is shocking that House Republicans are spending another day here on the floor focusing on repealing commonsense energy efficiency standards that save businesses and consumers money.

This whole Congress has been a revolving door of resolution after resolution attacking conservation standards for different appliances. In fact, I should point out, we were on the floor just yesterday afternoon debating an effort to repeal another energy efficiency standard for commercial refrigerators and freezers.

Instead of investigating—which is what they should be doing—the shocking and unprecedented breach of security and leaked military strikes from top Trump national security officials, which threatens our national security and our defense, we are here once again wasting valuable floor time debating energy efficiency standards.

Maybe we should be taking action to protect Social Security from the Trump administration's funding cuts that could stop seniors from getting the benefits they earned through a lifetime of work. My constituents are already telling me they can't even call the Social Security office anymore. There is nobody there. They have cut the staff. They have cut the phone service. They can't even access the Social Security Administration anymore under the Trump administration.

Maybe, Mr. Speaker, we should be reversing the Trump administration's actions to close the Department of Education and rip away funding from students, teachers, and schools.

House Republicans are not likely to take on any of these actions that I suggested because they refuse to take on President Trump, even when he is breaking the law. It is clear that my Republican colleagues do not have their priorities in order. In fact, it seems to me their only priority is securing giant tax breaks for their bil-

lionaire buddies at the expense of American families and businesses. H.J. Res. 24 fits right into the Republican agenda of raising costs on hardworking Americans.

Now, I would be remiss if I didn't point out the irony of this resolution. President Trump and Republicans ran on a promise to cut energy costs in half in his first year. Yet, here we are once again wasting precious time on the floor with a resolution that would raise energy costs for American businesses by wasting more energy.

The energy efficiency standards under threat today for walk-in refrigerators and freezers will save American businesses up to \$6.5 billion on utility bills over the next 30 years. These businesses include restaurants, convenience stores, and supermarkets across the country, and Republicans' anti-efficiency agenda will rob them of these cost savings.

This is especially concerning at a time when we are hearing more and more stories about the damaging impacts of Trump's extreme tariffs, the rising cost of groceries, and the chaos and uncertainty that Trump is bringing every day to our economy.

People are concerned about a Trump recession. That is what they are worried about today. That is what I hear when I go home. However, Republicans don't care about everyday Americans. They only care about doing the bidding of their billionaire corporate buddies at the expense of consumers and working families.

Energy efficiency standards for appliances are designed to reduce energy use and climate pollution while also saving consumers and businesses money. Reducing an appliance's energy use also helps decrease stress on the electric grid.

The resolution today is proof that my Republican colleagues' concern about grid stress—we had a hearing yesterday on that—and the increased load growth from data centers and American manufacturing are hollow and merely lip service. If Republicans truly cared about reducing stress on the electric grid, which is what they said yesterday at the hearing, they would stop dismantling energy efficiency standards designed to ease strain on future electric grid capacity.

The true intent of this anti-efficiency resolution is not to help American businesses, but to line the pockets of their billionaire cronies and oil and gas friends. You guessed it, less efficient appliances means more profits for Big Oil and Gas.

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

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

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am not quite sure how to respond to that. I don't know if some of our colleagues have been drinking this early or not.

That notwithstanding, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Oklahoma (Mrs. BICE).

Mrs. BICE. Mr. Speaker, I rise, obviously, in strong support of H.J. Res. 24, legislation that I authored which uses the Congressional Review Act to overturn regulations by the Biden administration.

I was extremely excited this morning to be notified that I have a Statement of Administration Policy from President Trump on this legislation, which I include in the RECORD.

STATEMENT OF ADMINISTRATION POLICY

H.J. RES. 24—JOINT RESOLUTION, PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL 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”—REF. BICE, R-OK, AND 10 COSPONSORS

The Administration strongly supports passage of H.J. Res. 24, a joint resolution to disapprove the rule submitted by the Department of Energy relating to “Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Walk-In Coolers and Walk-In Freezers.” The December 23, 2024 rule adopts amended energy conservation standards for walk-in coolers and walk-in freezers impacting commercial vendors who store food, beverages, flowers, and other goods that require chilling at low temperatures.

The rule, issued in the final days of the previous Administration, imposes complex energy conservation standards for walk-in coolers and freezers, leading to unnecessary costs on small businesses and everyday Americans.

If H.J. Res. 24 were presented to the President in its current form, his senior advisors would recommend that he sign it into law.

Mrs. BICE. In December of 2024, the Department of Energy enacted new energy efficiency standards for walk-in coolers and freezers, equipment vital to pharmacies, convenience stores, food processing facilities, food banks, restaurants, and many other establishments nationwide.

These regulations will impose significant financial burdens on small businesses, which will have to absorb major upgrade costs to meet these new aggressive standards. At a time when our focus should be on lowering the cost of living for our constituents, it is clear most of these expenses will be borne by consumers in the form of increased prices.

□ 0930

Mr. Speaker, furthermore, they threaten significant operational disruption for many enterprises that rely on this equipment. We have heard from many businesses in rural areas which will have to go through extensive structural and electrical upgrades to accommodate the new equipment. These same businesses have reported that getting the refrigerators and freezers repaired is a process which is already taking too long and is expensive and will become even more so.

For businesses looking to enter underserved markets, this will be another barrier in doing so. For businesses operating on a narrow profit margin, this could be what sends them under.

Recognizing these detrimental impacts, I fought against the adoption of this rule and expressed my disapproval last year during the public comment period. Like many of the rules handed down by the Biden administration, this effort will have a harsh economic impact while failing to achieve its own stated goal.

DOE estimates that the rule would carry a minimum price tag of nearly \$1 billion with minimal energy usage reduction. My colleague mentioned that it would be a savings of \$6 billion over 30 years. What he didn't mention is the cost of replacement equipment with these new energy efficiency standards could be tens of thousands of dollars, adding up to billions and billions of dollars that are going to be borne by these businesses.

I am grateful President Trump has taken the decisive action to halt these rules by having the Department of Energy postpone the effective date of these standards, providing breathing room for businesses. However, more work needs to be done; and Congress has a role to play.

My resolution seeks to ensure that these overreaching regulations are permanently overturned. By doing so, we will protect small businesses from unnecessary compliance costs and preserve the diversity of choice available to consumers.

This action aligns with our broader commitment to roll back burdensome regulations that stifle economic growth and infringe upon individual freedoms. In fact, according to the National Association of Manufacturers, in 2022, the total cost of regulations is estimated at over \$3 trillion.

We cannot continue to allow burdensome regulations on every aspect of our lives and our businesses. I urge my colleagues to support H.J. Res. 24, legislation that will reduce burdens on businesses and serve the best interests of the American people.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. MULLIN), a member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

Mr. MULLIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to strongly oppose H.J. Res. 24. It is baffling to me that amidst skyrocketing electricity costs, the highest they have been since the 1990s, we are talking about overturning commonsense energy efficiency standards.

Economists predict these standards would save American taxpayers billions of dollars. Mr. Speaker, you don't need to be an economist to know that a better fridge or freezer will mean lower costs on your utility bill. For families going to their local grocery, these standards would lower prices and reduce financial strain. For small businesses, it means less overhead and more profitability.

These benefits are why the Department of Energy has set energy efficiency standards for decades, across Republican and Democratic administrations, with broad support and little controversy.

America should be leading the world in creating and adopting innovative technologies, especially ones that reduce costs and help the environment. Unfortunately, this was just another empty campaign promise by candidate Trump that electricity costs would be reduced.

Let me just emphasize that Democrats believe in an economy that works for all people. Under the last administration, we passed legislation that created nearly half a million new jobs in just 2 years. The Federal Government set standards that will save money.

Mr. Speaker, I conclude by saying that Americans will save \$1 trillion on their energy bills over the next 30 years under the previous policies. That is \$1 trillion. We will continue to fight for commonsense policies for everyday people, and that is why I oppose H.J. Res. 24.

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from North Dakota (Mrs. FEDORCHAK).

Mrs. FEDORCHAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.J. Res. 24, legislation led by my friend Representative STEPHANIE BICE. This reverses yet another burdensome Biden administration mandate that will add senseless costs for families and small businesses for no real benefit.

The Biden Department of Energy's rule on walk-in refrigerator equipment is a textbook example of government overreach. This rule imposes sweeping, unrealistic energy standards that demand massive energy reductions, but this isn't just about energy policy. It is about the reality facing restaurant owners, grocery stores, and convenience stores in North Dakota and across the country.

These businesses have battled through 4 years of inflation, supply chain disruptions, and workforce challenges. Washington bureaucrats are now telling them to replace perfectly good refrigeration equipment at a nationwide cost of nearly \$1 billion just to meet an arbitrary, one-size-fits-all efficiency target.

To comply with these standards, manufacturers will have to increase prices on already expensive equipment. These costs will land squarely on the businesses and, ultimately, the American people. Mr. Speaker, 90 percent of the food and drink retailers impacted by this rule are small businesses. These are businesses that are critical to the U.S. economy, employing millions of Americans and contributing more than \$200 billion annually.

This rule is not economically justified. It is Washington at its worst. It is no wonder that before President Trump took office, 75 percent of the country thought that we were headed in the wrong direction. It is rules just like this that they know about.

This is a bad rule. It is bad for business, and it is bad for customers. Let's stop this misguided regulation before it does more real damage to the small businesses that drive our economy.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to put common sense over bureaucratic overreach and support H.J. Res. 24.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. CASTOR), the ranking member of our Subcommittee on Energy.

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this Republican bill that requires businessowners to spend more money and use more energy.

Mr. Speaker, here we are at the end of March. It is the 83rd day since the Congress convened under the Republican majority, and Republicans haven't brought one bill to the floor of the House to help lower costs or tackle the cost of living for our neighbors back home.

Instead, Republicans have been singularly focused on crafting a massive tax giveaway for billionaires like Elon Musk that is paid for by ripping away health coverage from the people we love the most: kids, our parents, our neighbors who rely on skilled nursing, and people with disabilities who especially rely on Medicaid. It is wrong, and it makes life harder for people back home. It makes their lives more expensive.

People want answers, but Republicans have refused to hold townhalls. Many of them will not even answer the phone. At my townhall last week in St. Petersburg, people wanted to know why the administration and Republicans want to make it more difficult to receive Social Security rather than strengthen Social Security.

Instead of a wasteful, time-consuming, silly bill like this, why don't we work together and bring to the floor a bill that will strengthen Social Security? That would be a help to our neighbors back home.

I think what it comes down to is Republicans in Congress are out of touch with hardworking people. They are out of touch with their struggles. They want lower costs. They don't want bills like this that say you will pay more and our Big Oil friends are going to make more on their bottom line.

People are tired of being ripped off by the special interests and politicians who all have too much power here in Washington, D.C. This bill is another example of that. Republicans want to make it harder for businessowners to save money through energy efficient appliances.

Energy efficiency saves people money. It is pretty straightforward. It cuts costs. It cuts pollution. It encourages innovation. Specifically, electric bills for walk-in refrigerators and freezers are a huge line item for restaurants and grocery stores. Taking those savings away will increase costs for businesses, and these are costs that will be passed on to consumers.

Mr. Speaker, I want you to think about that the next time you are in the

frozen food aisle of your grocery store. This is not right.

Overall, when the Department of Energy goes in and works with manufacturers and consumer advocates, they come up, they look at the latest technology, and then move forward on adopting a standard that will be in effect years from now. They look particularly at the cost savings overall, and the savings they estimate here are huge. It is \$6.5 billion in utility bill savings over the next 30 years.

This also hits home in my community because many of the businesses and many of my neighbors are rebuilding from Hurricanes Helene and Milton. They were flooded out. They lost their appliances. Many businesses went on the fritz. It would be particularly helpful to know that they are going to save money over time as they make these major investments.

This is exactly what Congress intended when we passed the Energy Policy and Conservation Act. It was passed in 1975. We directed the Department of Energy to set and regularly update these standards.

Energy efficiency standards also incentivize innovation, and American manufacturers have traditionally led the way in innovation due to updated standards. By weakening these rules, we open our markets up to countries like China that manufacture low-efficiency products at the expense of American companies and American families.

The Department of Energy followed the law. They collaborated with manufacturers to ensure that the standards work. After all of this hard work, Republicans now want to swoop in and repeal these standards on coolers and freezers. They are, in essence, walking out on the cost savings at a time our neighbors really expect us to work together to lower the cost of living.

There is a larger issue here, and it is the fact that Republicans are ignoring the affordability squeeze. When Democrats were in charge, we did everything we could to help lower the cost of living. We passed a cap on insulin at \$35 per month. We required Medicare to negotiate lower drug prices. We gave help on health insurance bills. We provided tax rebates and savings for appliances on electric bills.

This has led to a major manufacturing boom across the country of over 750 clean-energy projects and over 400,000 new jobs created all across America, many in Republican districts.

Since the Trump administration came in and started these illegal shutdowns and threatened new taxes through tariffs, the economy has stalled. Has anyone looked at their 401(k) lately? People are very uncertain.

Let's get back to business, standing up for hardworking Americans, standing up for businesses. Let's make sure we guard their pocketbooks and tackle the affordability squeeze together, rather than serve the special interests

that all have too much power. Republican billionaires and Big Oil companies are the real winners when resolutions like this are passed and savings are ripped away from American consumers.

Mr. Speaker, let's stand up for the people for a change and not the powerful special interests. Let's stand up for their pocketbooks and vote "no" on this resolution.

□ 0945

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is interesting for me to hear my colleagues across the aisle as an owner of an air-conditioning company that dealt with not just air-conditioning but convenience stores that had walk-in coolers, furnaces, and air-conditioners. I get that they speak from inexperience. I will give them that. What they don't realize is that when something like this is mandated, first of all, those businesses usually operate on a very, very thin margin. It could be 1.5 to 2, maybe sometimes almost 3 percent profit, which I know from experience.

When something like this has to be done, even a small walk-in cooler—let's just pick some figures. Let's say it costs \$5,000 to \$6,000, but the plumbing, electrical, carpentry, permits, and everything costs \$10,000 to \$12,000.

Now, they have a choice. They are either going to pass that on to their consumers in higher food prices, or they are going to continue to pay an extra \$10 or \$20 a month in electricity.

That is what is going to happen that they don't realize, that what they are wanting to do is mandate that businesses have to increase their expenses at the expense of the consumers because they are the ones that are going to pay for that.

I have watched this for a long time. I realize that they speak from inexperience. I will leave it at that, Mr. Speaker, for the time being, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time for closing.

Mr. Speaker, again, I rise in opposition to this resolution. Republicans make it sound like no one supports these standards, like they came out of nowhere and are an incredible government overreach. Of course, that is not true.

Manufacturers support these efficiency standards. They provide clarity to industry. Manufacturers support the Department of Energy's rule because it provides clear guidance. If this rule is revoked, it creates regulatory uncertainty for manufacturers.

The Department of Energy worked with manufacturers and advocates to ensure that these standards were feasible and justifiable. Unlike my colleagues across the aisle, the Department of Energy went through a prolonged process that engaged extensively with experts and worked to address their concerns.

In fact, in recently submitted comments regarding the delay and the ef-

fective date for the standards, the Air-Conditioning, Heating, and Refrigeration Institute, a trade group that represents many of the manufacturers of these walk-in coolers, asserted strong support for proceeding with the standards as published in the Federal Register in December of last year.

Lennox, a manufacturer of these walk-in systems, also submitted comments asserting support for proceeding with the standards as finalized. Lennox's comments also state: "The final rule provides regulatory predictability regarding . . . energy conservation standards through 2031, providing a stable planning horizon."

These comments are an important reminder that regulatory uncertainty from killing a standard, as the resolution before us today would do, costs businesses money. My colleagues across the aisle are more concerned with slashing any and every regulation they can find than with engaging in thoughtful and well-reasoned policy.

This is politics at its worst, so I oppose this resolution.

I also want to point out, Mr. Speaker, that my colleagues across the aisle keep talking about the costs of these standards to businesses, but I think it is important to get the facts straight. The new standards for walk-in coolers don't go into effect until 2027 for some products and 2028 for others. This means that if a business needs to replace these units anytime in the next couple of years, the products on the market now will be available to them. They don't have to get rid of the refrigerators they want. It is when they buy a new one.

Whenever a business does need to replace the units, the products on the market will save them money. Specifically, these standards will save, as I mentioned, \$6.5 billion in utility bills over 30 years. DOE estimates the payback period for these products is 3 years for refrigerator systems and 1.6 years for non-display doors. After those 3 years or, in the other case, 1.6 years, you are actually saving money every year.

This means that after the first couple of years of ownership, these products start saving businesses a lot of money. This is real money.

The Republicans talked about upfront costs. There may be some upfront costs, but over the period of time after those first couple of years, businesses are saving money.

If Republicans are actually concerned about the small businesses in their communities, and if they are really concerned about costs being passed down to consumers, they would be standing up to the Trump administration and pushing back on tariffs.

I am mentioning the tariffs today because the President, again, is starting to impose new tariffs. The last one was on automobiles. Large appliances such as refrigerators and washing machines rely, in part, on steel, making them extremely vulnerable to price increases

from Trump's tariffs on steel, which are already in place.

In the aftermath of steel and aluminum tariffs during Trump's first term, talking about the first term now, not the new one, major appliances showed price increases of between 5 and 10 percent.

If my colleagues are concerned about the prices, they should be speaking out against what Trump is doing with these tariffs, not to mention the fact that the tariffs impose additional costs on consumers. Again, the uncertainty—the back and forth, put the tariffs on, take the tariffs off—is the reason that the stock market has been so volatile. People don't know with certainty what is going on with this administration.

We are facing policies from the Trump administration that will increase everyday costs for households and businesses. Instead of trying to fight these increases, Republicans are more concerned with the upfront costs of walk-in coolers in 2028. I don't know what to say except that it is ridiculous.

Mr. Speaker, I urge opposition to this resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am going to make it short and sweet. I urge everybody to vote for H.J. Res. 24. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. OBERNOLTE). All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 242, the previous question is ordered on the joint resolution.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the joint resolution.

The joint resolution was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on passage of the joint resolution.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 9 of Rule XX, this 15-minute vote on passage will be followed by a 5-minute vote on passage of H.J. Res. 75.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 203, nays 182, not voting 45, as follows:

[Roll No. 77]

YEAS—203

Aderholt	Biggs (AZ)	Carter (GA)
Allen	Biggs (SC)	Carter (TX)
Babin	Boebert	Ciscomani
Bacon	Bost	Cline
Baird	Brecheen	Cloud
Balderson	Bresnahan	Clyde
Barrett	Buchanan	Cole
Baumgartner	Burchett	Collins
Bean (FL)	Burlison	Comer
Begich	Calvert	Crane
Bentz	Cammack	Crank
Bice	Carey	Crawford

Cuellar	Huizenga	Nunn (IA)	Ocasio-Cortez	Schrier
Davidson	Hunt	Obernolte	Olszewski	Scott (VA)
Davis (NC)	Hurd (CO)	Ogles	Pallone	Scott, David
De La Cruz	Jack	Onder	Panetta	Sewell
DesJarlais	James	Owens	Pappas	Sherman
Diaz-Balart	Johnson (SD)	Palmer	Pocan	Simon
Donalds	Jordan	Perez	Pou	Smith (WA)
Downing	Joyce (OH)	Perry	Quigley	Sorensen
Dunn (FL)	Joyce (PA)	Pfluger	Ramirez	Soto
Edwards	Kean	Reschenthaler	Randall	Stanton
Ellzey	Kelly (MS)	Rogers (AL)	Raskin	Stevens
Emmer	Kelly (PA)	Rogers (KY)	Riley (NY)	Strickland
Estes	Kennedy (UT)	Rose	Rivas	Subramanyam
Evans (CO)	Kiley (CA)	Rouzer	Ross	Suozzi
Ezell	Kim	Roy	Ruiz	Swalwell
Fallon	Kustoff	Rulli	Ryan	Sykes
Fedorchak	LaHood	Rutherford	Salinas	Takano
Feenstra	LaLota	Scalise	Sánchez	Thanedar
Finstad	LaMalfa	Schmidt	Scanlon	Whitesides
Fischbach	Langworthy	Schweikert	Schneider	Thompson (CA)
Fitzgerald	Latta	Scott, Austin	Scholten	Thompson (MS)
Fitzpatrick	Lawler	Self	Tlaib	Wilson (FL)
Fleischmann	Lee (FL)	Sessions		
Flood	Letlow	Shreve		
Foxx	Loudermilk	Simpson		
Franklin, Scott	Lucas	Smith (MO)		
Fry	Luna	Smith (NE)		
Fulcher	Luttrell	Smith (NJ)		
Garbarino	Mace	Smucker		
Gill (TX)	Mackenzie	Spartz		
Gimenez	Malliotakis	Stauber		
Golden (ME)	Maloy	Steil		
Goldman (TX)	Mann	Strong		
Gonzales, Tony	Massie	Stutzman		
Gonzalez, V.	Mast	Taylor		
Gooden	McClain	Tenney		
Gosar	McClintock	Tiffany		
Graves	McCormick	Timmons		
Gray	McDowell	Turner (OH)		
Green (TN)	McGuire	Valadao		
Greene (GA)	Messmer	Van Drew		
Griffith	Meuser	Van Duyne		
Grothman	Miller (IL)	Van Orden		
Guest	Miller (WV)	Wagner		
Guthrie	Miller-Meeks	Walberg		
Hageman	Mills	Weber (TX)		
Hamadeh (AZ)	Moolenaar	Webster (FL)		
Harrigan	Moore (AL)	Westerman		
Harris (MD)	Moore (NC)	Wied		
Harris (NC)	Moore (UT)	Williams (TX)		
Harshbarger	Moore (WV)	Wilson (SC)		
Hern (OK)	Moran	Wittman		
Higgins (LA)	Murphy	Womack		
Hinson	Nehls	Yakym		
Houchin	Newhouse	Zinke		
Hudson	Norman			

NAYS—182

Adams	Dean (PA)	Keating
Aguilar	DeGette	Kelly (IL)
Amo	DeLauro	Kennedy (NY)
Auchincloss	DelBene	Khanna
Balint	Deluzio	Krishnamoorthi
Beatty	DeSaulnier	Landsman
Bell	Dexter	Larsen (WA)
Bera	Dingell	Larson (CT)
Beyer	Doggett	Latimer
Bishop	Elfreth	Lee (NV)
Bonamici	Escobar	Lee (PA)
Boyle (PA)	Espaillet	Levin
Brown	Evans (PA)	Liccardo
Budzinski	Fields	Lieu
Bynum	Figures	Lofgren
Carabajal	Fletcher	Lynch
Carson	Foster	Magaziner
Carter (LA)	Foushee	Mannion
Castor (FL)	Frankel, Lois	Matsui
Castro (TX)	Friedman	McBride
Casten	Frost	McClain Delaney
Castor (FL)	Garcia (IL)	McClellan
Castro (TX)	Garcia (TX)	McCollum
Cherifilus	Frankel, Lois	McDonald Rivet
McCormick	Gillen	McGarvey
Chu	Goldman (NY)	McGovern
Cisneros	Goodlander	McIver
Clark (MA)	Gottheimer	Meeks
Clarke (NY)	Green, Al (TX)	Menendez
Clarke (NY)	Harder (CA)	Menendez
Cleaver	Hayes	Meng
Cohen	Himes	Mfume
Conaway	Horsford	Min
Connolly	Houlihan	Moore (WI)
Correa	Hoyle (OR)	Morelle
Costa	Huffman	Moskowitz
Courtney	Ivey	Moulton
Craig	Jackson (IL)	Mrvan
Crockett	Jacobs	Mullin
Crow	Jeffries	Nadler
Davids (KS)	Johnson (TX)	Neguse
Davis (IL)	Kamlager-Dove	Norcross

NOT VOTING—45

Alford	Haridopolos	Neal
Amodei (NV)	Hill (AR)	Omar
Ansari	Hoyer	Pelosi
Arrington	Issa	Peters
Barr	Jackson (TX)	Pettersen
Barragán	Jayapal	Pingree
Berman	Johnson (GA)	Pressley
Bilirakis	Kaptur	Salazar
Brownley	Kiggans (VA)	Schakowsky
Clyburn	Knott	Sherrill
Crenshaw	Leger Fernandez	Stansbury
Fong	McBath	Stefanik
Garamendi	McCaull	Steube
Garcia (CA)	Miller (OH)	Thompson (PA)
Gomez	Morrison	Titus

□ 1016

Messrs. CLEAVER, VEASEY, DELUZIO and Ms. CLARKE of New York changed their vote from "yea" to "nay."

So the joint resolution was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 77.

Mr. MILLER of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 77.

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote because I was in a legislative meeting which ran over. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 77.

Stated against:

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from the floor and the roll call vote on passage 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."

Had I been present, I would have voted: NAY on Roll Call vote no. 77, final passage of H.J. Res. 24.

Mr. GOMEZ. Mr. Speaker, I was not recorded on roll call no. 77. Had I been present, I would have voted "NAY" on roll call vote no. 77.

Ms. MORRISON. Mr. Speaker, I did not vote on Roll Call No. 77. Had I been present, I would have voted "NAY" on Roll Call No. 77.

Ms. BROWNLEY. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote today. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 77.

PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL 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 SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on passage of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 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”, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the joint resolution.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 214, nays 193, not voting 23, as follows:

[Roll No. 78]

YEAS—214

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

NOT VOTING—23

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1023

So the joint resolution was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated against:

Mr. MIN. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 78.

DEFENDING EDUCATION TRANSPARENCY AND ENDING ROGUE REGIMES ENGAGING IN NEFARIOUS TRANSACTIONS ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. YAKYM). Pursuant to House Resolution 242 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 1048.

Will the gentleman from California (Mr. OBERNOLTE) kindly take the chair.

□ 1026

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further 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, with Mr. OBERNOLTE (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose on Tuesday, March 25, 2025, a request for a recorded vote on amendment No. 6 printed in House Report 119-38 offered by the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. TLAIB) had been postponed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, proceedings will now resume on those amendments printed in House Report 119-38 on which further proceedings were postponed, in the following order:

Amendment No. 3 by Mr. SCOTT of Virginia.

Amendment No. 4 by Mr. SELF of Texas.

Amendment No. 5 by Ms. TLAIB of Michigan.

Amendment No. 6 by Ms. TLAIB of Michigan.

The Chair will reduce to 2 minutes the minimum time for any electronic vote in this series.

AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MR. SCOTT OF VIRGINIA

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on amendment No. 3, printed in House Report 119-38, offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT),

Hinson	McCollum	Schrier	The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.	Levin	Norcross	Soto
Horsford	McDonald Rivet	Scott (VA)		Liccardo	Norman	Spartz
Houchin	McGarvey	Scott, Austin		Lieu	Norton	Stanton
Houahan	McGovern	Scott, David		Lofgren	Nunn (IA)	Stauber
Hoyer	McIver	Sessions		Loudermilk	Obernolte	Steil
Hoyle (OR)	Meeks	Sewell		Lucas	Ocasio-Cortez	Steube
Hudson	Menendez	Sherman		Luna	Ogles	Stevens
Huffman	Meng	Shreve		Luttrell	Olszewski	Strickland
Huizenga	Messmer	Simon		Lynch	Onder	Strong
Hurd (CO)	Meuser	Simpson		Mace	Owens	Stutzman
Issa	Mfume	Smith (MO)		Mackenzie	Pallone	Subramanyam
Ivey	Miller (OH)	Smith (NE)		Magaziner	Palmer	Suozzi
Jackson (IL)	Miller (WV)	Smith (NJ)		Malliotakis	Panetta	Swalwell
Jacobs	Miller-Meeks	Smith (WA)		Maloy	Pappas	Sykes
James	Min	Smucker		McBride	Perez	Takano
Jayapal	Moolenaar	Sorensen		McClain	Perry	Taylor
Jeffries	Moore (UT)	Soto		McClain Delaney	Peters	Tenney
Johnson (GA)	Moore (WI)	Spartz		McClellan	Pfluger	Thanedar
Johnson (SD)	Morelle	Stanton		McClintock	Pocan	Thompson (CA)
Johnson (TX)	Morrison	Steil		McCollum	Pou	Thompson (MS)
Joyce (OH)	Moskowitz	Stevens		McClintoch	Quigley	Thompson (PA)
Kamlinger-Dove	Moulton	Strickland		McClintocher	Randall	Tiffany
Kaptur	Mrvan	Strong		McClintock	Raskin	Timmons
Kean	Mullin	Stutzman		McCollum	Riley (NY)	Titus
Keating	Murphy	Subramanyam		McCormick	Rivas	Tokuda
Kelly (IL)	Nadler	Aderholt		McDonald Rivet	Rogers (AL)	Tonko
Kelly (PA)	Neguse	Aguilar		McDowell	Rogers (KY)	Torres (CA)
Kennedy (NY)	Newhouse	Swalwell		McGarvey	Rose	Torres (NY)
Kennedy (UT)	Norcross	Sykes		McGovern	Ross	Trahan
Khanna	Norton	Takano		McGuire	Rouzer	Tran
Kigggans (VA)	Nunn (IA)	Taylor		McIver	Roy	Turner (OH)
Kiley (CA)	Obernolte	Arrington		Meeks	Ruiz	Underwood
Kim	Ocasio-Cortez	Auchincloss		McClintock	Rutherford	Van Drew
King-Hinds	Olszewski	Thanedar		McCollum	Rutherdale	Van Duyne
Knott	Omar	Thompson (CA)		McClintocher	Ruuli	Van Orden
Krishnamoorthi	Onder	Babin		McClintock	Salazar	Vargas
LaHood	Owens	Davidson		McCollum	Sánchez	Vasquez
LaLota	Pallone	Davidson		McClintocher	Scalise	Veasey
LaMalfa	Palmer	DeLauro		McClintock	Scanlon	Velázquez
Landsman	Panetta	DeLizioso		McClintocher	Schakowsky	Vindman
Larsen (WA)	Pappas	De La Cruz		McClintock	Wagner	Waldberg
Larson (CT)	Perez	DeSaunier		McCollum	Wasserman	Wasserman
Latimer	Peters	DeSarlais		McClintocher	Self	Westerman
Latta	Pfluger	DeGette		McCollum	Sessions	Westerman
Lawler	Pocan	DeJarlais		McClintocher	Sewell	Whitesides
Lee (FL)	Pou	DeJarlais		McCollum	Houlahan	Wied
Lee (NV)	Pressley	DeJarlais		McClintocher	Moskowitz	Williams (GA)
Lee (PA)	Quigley	DeJarlais		McCollum	Sherman	Williams (TX)
Letlow	Randall	DeJarlais		McClintocher	Simon	Williams (TX)
Levin	Raskin	DeJarlais		McCollum	Simpson	Williams (TX)
Liccardo	Riley (NY)	DeJarlais		McCollum	Smith (MO)	Wilson (FL)
Lieu	Valadao	DeJarlais		McCollum	Smith (NE)	Wilson (SC)
Lofgren	Rogers (AL)	DeJarlais		McCollum	Smith (NJ)	Wittman
Loudermilk	Rogers (KY)	DeJarlais		McCollum	Smith (WA)	Womack
Lucas	Ross	DeJarlais		McCollum	Snucker	Yakym
Lynch	Rouzer	DeJarlais		McCollum	Sorensen	Zinke
Mace	Ruiz	DeJarlais		McCollum		
Magaziner	Rulli	DeJarlais		McCollum		
Malliotakis	Rutherford	DeJarlais		McCollum		
Maloy	Ryan	DeJarlais		McCollum		
Mannion	Salazar	DeJarlais		McCollum		
Matsui	Salinas	DeJarlais		McCollum		
McBride	Sánchez	DeJarlais		McCollum		
McClain	Scanlon	DeJarlais		McCollum		
McClain Delaney	Schakowsky	DeJarlais		McCollum		
McClellan	Schneider	DeJarlais		McCollum		
McClintock	Scholten	DeJarlais		McCollum		
NOT VOTING—23			NOT VOTING—23			
Amodei (NV)	Jackson (TX)	Pingree		Amodei (NV)	Leger Fernandez	Plaskett
Ansari	Leger Fernandez	Plaskett		Ansari	McBath	Radwagen
Barragán	McBath	Radewagen		Barragán	McCaul	Ramirez
Bergman	McCaul	Ramirez		Bergman	Moylan	Sherrill
Fong	Moylan	Sherrill		Fong	Neal	Shreve
Garamendi	Neal	Stansbury		Garamendi	Pelosi	Stansbury
Garcia (CA)	Pelosi	Stefanik		Garcia (CA)	Pettersen	Stefanik
Gonzalez, V.	Pettersen	Womack		Jackson (TX)	Pingree	
ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR			ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR			
The Acting CHAIR (during the vote).			The Acting CHAIR (during the vote).			
There is 1 minute remaining.			There is 1 minute remaining.			
□ 1034			□ 1040			
So the amendment was rejected.			So the amendment was rejected.			
The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.			The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.			
AMENDMENT NO. 5 OFFERED BY MS. TLAIB			AMENDMENT NO. 6 OFFERED BY MS. TLAIB			
The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on amendment No. 5, printed in House Report 119-38, offered by the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. TLAIB), on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.			The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on amendment No. 6, printed in House Report 119-38, offered by the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. TLAIB), on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.			
The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.			The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.			
The Clerk redesignated the amendment.			The Clerk redesignated the amendment.			
RECORDED VOTE			RECORDED VOTE			
The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.			The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.			
A recorded vote was ordered.			A recorded vote was ordered.			
The Acting CHAIR. This is a 2-minute vote.			The Acting CHAIR. This is a 2-minute vote.			
The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 3, noes 410, not voting 23, as follows:			The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 3, noes 410, not voting 23, as follows:			
[Roll No. 81]			[Roll No. 81]			
AYES—3			AYES—3			
NOES—410			NOES—410			
Omar			Omar			
Pressley			Pressley			
Tlaib			Tlaib			
The following members voted AYES:			The following members voted AYES:			
Adams			Adams			
Crane			Crane			
Green, Al (TX)			Green, Al (TX)			
Aderholt			Aderholt			
Crank			Crank			
Greene (GA)			Greene (GA)			
Aguilar			Aguilar			
Crawford			Crawford			
Griffith			Griffith			
Alford			Alford			
Crenshaw			Crenshaw			
Grothman			Grothman			
Allen			Allen			
Crockett			Crockett			
Guest			Guest			
Guthrie			Guthrie			
Amo			Amo			
Crow			Crow			
Hageman			Hageman			
David (KS)			David (KS)			
Hamaeadeh (AZ)			Hamaeadeh (AZ)			
Babylon			Babylon			
Davidson			Davidson			
Harder (CA)			Harder (CA)			
Haridopolos			Haridopolos			
Menendez			Menendez			
Harrigan			Harrigan			
Harris (MD)			Harris (MD)			
Harris (LA)			Harris (LA)			
Harris (MD)			Harris (MD)			
Hurd (CO)			Hurd (CO)			
Housler			Housler			
Houahan			Houahan			
Hoyner			Hoyner			
Hoyle (OR)			Hoyle (OR)			
Hudson			Hudson			
Moran			Moran			
Meng			Meng			
Rutherford			Rutherford			
Rivets			Rivets			
Sullivan			Sullivan			
Talbot			Talbot			
Vernon			Vernon			
Ward			Ward			
Womack			Womack			
Yakym			Yakym			
Zinke			Zinke			

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This is a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 4, noes 404, answered “present” 1, not voting 27, as follows:

[Roll No. 82]

AYES—4

Green, Al (TX) Pressley
Omar Tlaib

NOES—404

Adams Crow

Aderholt	Cuellar	Harrigan
Aguilar	Davidson (KS)	Harris (MD)
Alford	Davidson	Harris (NC)
Allen	Davis (IL)	Harshbarger
Amo	Davis (NC)	Hayes
Arrington	De La Cruz	Hern (OK)
Auchincloss	Dean (PA)	Hernández
Babin	DeGette	Higgins (LA)
Bacon	DeLauro	Hill (AR)
Baird	DelBene	Himes
Balderson	Deluzio	Hinson
Balint	DeSaulnier	Horsford
Barr	DesJarlais	Houchin
Barrett	Dexter	Houlahan
Baumgartner	Diaz-Balart	Hoyer
Bean (FL)	Dingell	Hoyle (OR)
Beatty	Doggett	Hudson
Begich	Donalds	Huffman
Bell	Downing	Huijzenaga
Bentz	Dunn (FL)	Hunt
Bera	Edwards	Hurd (CO)
Beyer	Elfreth	Issa
Bice	Ellzey	Ivey
Biggs (SC)	Emmer	Jack
Bilirakis	Escarob	Jacobs
Bishop	Espaillat	James
Boebert	Estes	Jayapal
Bonamici	Evans (CO)	Jeffries
Bost	Evans (PA)	Johnson (GA)
Boyle (PA)	Ezell	Johnson (SD)
Brecheen	Fallon	Johnson (TX)
Bresnahan	Fedorchak	Jordan
Brown	Feeenstra	Joyce (OH)
Brownley	Fields	Joyce (PA)
Buchanan	Figures	Kamlager-Dörring
Budzinski	Finstad	Kaptur
Burchett	Fischbach	Kean
Burlison	Fitzgerald	Keating
Bynum	Fitzpatrick	Kelly (IL)
Calvert	Fleischmann	Kelly (MS)
Cammack	Fletcher	Kelly (PA)
Carbaljal	Flood	Kennedy (NY)
Carey	Foster	Kennedy (UT)
Carson	Foushee	Khanna
Carter (GA)	Foxx	Kiggans (VA)
Carter (LA)	Frankel, Lois	Kiley (CA)
Carter (TX)	Franklin, Scott	Kim
Casar	Friedman	King-Hinds
Case	Frost	Knott
Casten	Fry	Krishnamoorti
Castor (FL)	Fulcher	Kustoff
Castro (TX)	Garbarino	LaHood
Cherfilus- McCormick	Garcia (IL)	LaLota
Chu	Garcia (TX)	LaMalfa
Ciscomani	Gill (TX)	Landsman
Cisneros	Gillen	Langworthy
Clark (MA)	Gimenez	Larsen (WA)
Clarke (NY)	Golden (ME)	Larson (CT)
Cleaver	Goldman (NY)	Latimer
Cline	Goldman (TX)	Latta
Cloud	Gomez	Lawler
Clyburn	Gonzales, Tony	Lee (FL)
Clyde	Gonzalez, V.	Lee (NV)
Cohen	Gooden	Lee (PA)
Cole	Goodlander	Letlow
Collins	Gosar	Levin
Comer	Gottheimer	Lieu
Conaway	Graves	Lofgren
Connolly	Gray	Loudermilk
Correa	Green (TN)	Lucas
Costa	Greene (GA)	Luna
Courtney	Griffith	Luttrell
Craig	Grothman	Lynch
Crane	Guest	Mace
Crank	Guthrie	Mackenzie
Crawford	Hageman	Magaziner
Crockett	Hamadeh (AZ)	Malliotakis
	Harder (CA)	Maloy

Mann	Pallone	Steube
Mannion	Palmer	Stevens
Massie	Panetta	Strickland
Mast	Pappas	Strong
Matsui	Perez	Stutzman
McBride	Perry	Subramanyam
McClain	Peters	Suozzi
McClain Delaney	Pocan	Swalwell
McClellan	Pou	Sykes
McClintock	Quigley	Takano
McCormick	Randall	Taylor
McDonald Rivet	Raskin	Tenney
McDowell	Reschenthaler	Thanedar
McGarvey	Riley (NY)	Thompson (CA)
McGovern	Rivas	Thompson (MS)
McGuire	Rogers (AL)	Thompson (PA)
McIver	Rogers (KY)	Tiffany
Meeks	Rose	Timmons
Menendez	Ross	Titus
Meng	Rouzer	Tokuda
Messmer	Roy	Tonko
Meuser	Ruiz	Torres (CA)
Mfume	Rulli	Torres (NY)
Miller (IL)	Rutherford	Trahan
Miller (OH)	Ryan	Tran
Miller (WV)	Salazar	Turner (OH)
Miller-Meeks	Salinas	Underwood
Mills	Sánchez	Valadao
Min	Scalise	Van Drew
Moolenaar	Scanlon	Van Duyne
Moore (AL)	Schakowsky	Van Orden
Moore (NC)	Schmidt	Vargas
Moore (UT)	Schneider	Schrier
Moore (WI)	Scholten	Velazquez
Moore (WV)	Schweikert	Windman
Moran	Scott (VA)	Wagner
Morelle	Scott, Austin	Walberg
Morrison	Scott, David	Wasserman
Moskowitz	Self	Schultz
Moulton	Sessions	Waters
Mrvan	Sewell	Watson Coleman
Mullin	Sherman	Weber (TX)
Murphy	Shreve	Webster (FL)
Nadler	Simon	Westerman
Neguse	Simpson	Whitesides
Nehls	Smith (MO)	Wied
Newhouse	Smith (NE)	Williams (GA)
Norcross	Smith (NJ)	Williams (TX)
Norman	Smith (WA)	Wilson (FL)
Norton	Smucker	Wilson (SC)
Nunn (IA)	Sorensen	Wittman
Obernolte	Soto	Womack
Ocasio-Cortez	Spartz	Yakym
Ogles	Stanton	Zinke
Olszewski	Stauber	
Onder	Steil	
Owens		

ANSWERED "PRESENT"—1

McCollum

NOT VOTING—27

Amodei (NV)	Jackson (IL)	Pettersen
Ansari	Jackson (TX)	Pfluger
Barragán	Leger Fernandez	Pingree
Bergman	Liccardo	Plaskett
Biggs (AZ)	McBath	Radewagen
Crenshaw	McCaul	Ramirez
Fong	Moylan	Sherrill
Garamendi	Neal	Stansbury
Garcia (CA)	Pelosi	Stefanik

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote)

There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1044

contracts between institutions of higher education and certain foreign entities and countries of concern, and for other purposes, and, pursuant to House Resolution 242, he reported the bill, as amended by that resolution, back to the House with sundry further amendments adopted in the Committee of the Whole.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the rule, the previous question is ordered.

Is a separate vote demanded on any further amendment reported from the Committee of the Whole? If not, the Chair will put them en gros.

The question is on the amendments.

The amendments were agreed to

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on passage of the bill.

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

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.
The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a

5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 241, nays 169, not voting 20, as follows:

[Roll No. 83]

YEAS—241

Aderholt	Diaz-Balart	Harris (MD)
Alford	Donalds	Harris (NC)
Allen	Downing	Harshbarger
Arrington	Dunn (FL)	Hern (OK)
Babin	Edwards	Higgins (LA)
Baird	Elfret	Hill (AR)
Balderson	Ellzey	Hinson
Barr	Emmer	Horsford
Barrett	Estes	Houchin
Baumgartner	Evans (CO)	Hudson
Bean (FL)	Ezell	Huizenga
Begich	Fallon	Hunt
Bell	Fedorchak	Hurd (CO)
Bentz	Feeenstra	Issa
Bice	Finstad	Jack
Biggs (AZ)	Fischbach	James
Biggs (SC)	Fitzgerald	Johnson (SD)
Bilirakis	Fitzpatrick	Jordan
Boebert	Fleischmann	Joyce (OH)
Bost	Flood	Joyce (PA)
Brecheen	Foxx	Kean
Bresnahan	Franklin, Scott	Kelly (MS)
Buchanan	Fry	Kelly (PA)
Burchett	Fulcher	Kennedy (UT)
Burlison	Garbarino	Kiggans (VA)
Calvert	Gill (TX)	Kiley (CA)
Cammack	Gillen	Kim
Carey	Gimenez	Knott
Carter (GA)	Golden (ME)	Kustoff
Carter (TX)	Goldman (TX)	LaHood
Ciscomani	Gonzales, Tony	LaLota
Cline	Gooden	LaMaifa
Cloud	Goodlander	Landsman
Clyde	Gosar	Langworthy
Cole	Gottheimer	Latimer
Collins	Graves	Latta
Comer	Gray	Lawler
Costa	Green (TN)	Lee (FL)
Craig	Greene (GA)	Lee (NV)
Crane	Griffith	Letlow
Crank	Grothman	Loudermilk
Crawford	Guest	Lucas
Crenshaw	Guthrie	Luna
Cuellar	Hageman	Luttrell
Davidson	Hamadeh (AZ)	Mace
Davis (NC)	Harder (CA)	Mackenzie
De La Cruz	Haridopolos	Malliotakis
DesJarlais	Harrigan	Maloy

Mann	Pappas	Strong
Massie	Perez	Stutzman
Mast	Perry	Suozzi
McClain	Pfluger	Taylor
McClintock	Reschenthaler	Tenney
McCormick	Rogers (AL)	Thompson (PA)
McDowell	Rogers (KY)	Tiffany
McGuire	Rose	Timmons
Messmer	Rouzer	Torres (NY)
Meuser	Roy	Tran
Miller (IL)	Rulli	Turner (OH)
Miller (OH)	Rutherford	Valadao
Miller (WV)	Ryan	Van Drew
Miller-Meeks	Salazar	Van Duyne
Mills	Scalise	Van Orden
Moolenaar	Schmidt	Vasquez
Moore (AL)	Scholten	Vindman
Moore (NC)	Schweikert	Wagner
Moore (UT)	Scott, Austin	Walberg
Moore (WV)	Self	Wasserman
Moran	Sessions	Schultz
Moskowitz	Sherman	Weber (TX)
Murphy	Shreve	Webster (FL)
Nehls	Simpson	Westerman
Newhouse	Smith (MO)	Whitesides
Norman	Smith (NE)	Wied
Nunn (IA)	Smith (NJ)	Williams (TX)
Obernolte	Smucker	Wilson (SC)
Ogles	Spartz	Wittman
Onder	Stanton	Womack
Owens	Stauber	Yakym
Pallone	Steil	Zinke
Palmer	Steube	

NAYS—169

Adams	Foushee	Mrvan
Aguilar	Frankel, Lois	Mullin
Amo	Friedman	Nadler
Auchincloss	Frost	Neguse
Bacon	Garcia (IL)	Norcross
Balint	Garcia (TX)	Ocasio-Cortez
Beatty	Goldman (NY)	Olszewski
Bera	Gomez	Omar
Beyer	Gonzalez, V.	Panetta
Bishop	Green, Al (TX)	Peters
Bonamici	Hayes	Pocan
Boyle (PA)	Himes	Pou
Brown	Houlahan	Pressley
Brownley	Hoyer	Quigley
Budzinski	Hoyle (OR)	Ramirez
Bynum	Huffman	Randall
Carbajal	Ivey	Raskin
Carson	Jacobs	Riley (NY)
Carter (LA)	Jayapal	Rivas
Casar	Jeffries	Ross
Case	Johnson (GA)	Ruiz
Casten	Johnson (TX)	Salinas
Castor (FL)	Kamlager-Dove	Sánchez
Castro (TX)	Kaptur	Scanlon
Cherifius-	Keating	Schakowsky
McCormick	Kelly (IL)	Schneider
Chu	Kennedy (NY)	Schrader
Cisneros	Khanna	Scott (VA)
Clark (MA)	Krishnamoorthi	Scott, David
Clarke (NY)	Larsen (WA)	Sewell
Cleaver	Larson (CT)	Simon
Clyburn	Lee (PA)	Sorensen
Cohen	Levin	Soto
Conaway	Liccardo	Stevens
Connolly	Lieu	Strickland
Correa	Lofgren	Subramanyam
Courtney	Lynch	Swalwell
Crockett	Magaziner	Sykes
Crow	Mannion	Takano
Davids (KS)	Matsui	Thanedar
Davis (IL)	McBride	Thompson (CA)
Dean (PA)	McClain Delaney	Thompson (MS)
DeGette	McClellan	Titus
DeLauro	McCollum	Tlaib
DelBene	McDonald Rivet	Tokuda
Deluzio	McGarvey	Tonko
DeSaulnier	McGovern	Torres (CA)
Dexter	McIver	Trahan
Dingell	Meeks	Underwood
Doggett	Menendez	Vargas
Escobar	Meng	Veasey
Espalliat	Mfume	Velázquez
Evans (PA)	Min	Waterson
Fields	Moore (WI)	Watson Coleman
Figures	Morelle	Williams (GA)
Fletcher	Morrison	Wilson (FL)
Foster	Moulton	

NOT VOTING—20

Amodei (NV)	Garamendi	McBath
Ansari	Garcia (CA)	McCaull
Barragán	Jackson (IL)	Neal
Bergman	Jackson (TX)	Pelosi
Fong	Leger Fernandez	

Pettersen Sherrill Stansbury
 Pingree Smith (WA) Stefanik
 ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE
 The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. OBERNOLTE) (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1052

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated against:

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 83.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. ANSARI. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to attend today's votes. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 77, NAY on Roll Call No. 78, AYE on Roll Call No. 79, NO on Roll Call No. 80, NO on Roll Call No. 81, NO on Roll Call No. 82, and NAY on Roll Call No. 83.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted NO on Roll Call No. 82 and NAY on Roll Call No. 83.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I recently gave birth and am unable to travel to DC to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 77, NAY on Roll Call No. 78, AYE on Roll Call No. 79, NO on Roll Call No. 80, NO on Roll Call No. 81, NO on Roll Call No. 82, and NAY on Roll Call No. 83.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. FONG. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote today. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 77, YEA on Roll Call No. 78, and YEA on Roll Call No. 83.

ADJOURNMENT FROM THURSDAY, MARCH 27, 2025, TO MONDAY, MARCH 31, 2025

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at noon on Monday next for morning-hour debate and 2 p.m. for legislative business.

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

There was no objection.

IN MEMORY OF THE HONORABLE NITA M. LOWEY

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

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today, alongside my colleagues in the New York delegation and many of our other cherished colleagues, to mourn the loss of a giant of the House and a trailblazer for women in public service, Chairwoman Nita Lowey.

For more than three decades, she represented her constituents in Westchester and Rockland Counties with unwavering dedication, fierce advocacy, and an unbreakable spirit.

As the first woman to serve as chair of the Appropriations Committee, Nita shattered glass ceilings with dignity and determination.

As the former dean of the New York delegation, Nita fought tirelessly to secure resources for the Empire State, leading the charge after September 11, Superstorm Sandy, and the COVID-19 pandemic.

Nita's commitment to global security and education also left an indelible mark beyond our borders. As the top Democrat on the Subcommittee on State and Foreign Operations, she championed critical global health and education initiatives.

Mr. Speaker, Nita was more than a colleague. She was a mentor and a friend to many of us. She was a voice of compassion and reason. She believed in the power of government to do good, and her legacy will endure through the lives she touched and the barriers she broke. May her memory be a blessing.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. LAWLER), my colleague.

Mr. LAWLER. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor the remarkable career and lasting legacy of Congresswoman Nita Lowey. As the first woman to chair the House Appropriations Committee, she shattered barriers and paved the way for so many others during her 32 years in the House of Representatives.

Nita was a tireless advocate for the Hudson Valley, and she was committed to getting things done on behalf of her community. Along with Congressman LATIMER, we now represent portions of the district she once served. I know I speak for George in saying that we are proud to follow in her footsteps.

Her commitment to bipartisanship is something I have tried to carry forward in her honor. Nita knew that real solutions come from working across the aisle, and her ability to build consensus led to critical investments in education, healthcare, and infrastructure that benefited New Yorkers and Americans across our country.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Nita Lowey for her extraordinary leadership and her unwavering belief in a better future for all Americans. May her memory be a blessing, especially for her husband, Stephen; her children; and her beloved grandchildren.

Nita will be sorely missed.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman LAWLER for those kind words.

Mr. Speaker, I now ask that all Members and staff throughout the Capitol rise for a moment of silence in remembrance of Chairwoman Nita Lowey. May her memory be a blessing.

□ 1100

MOMENT OF SILENCE IN REMEMBRANCE OF THE HONORABLE MIA LOVE

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

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, today we remember and honor a trailblazer, a leader, and a dear friend, Mia Love.

Mia made history as Utah's first Black mayor and the first Black Republican woman elected to Congress, but her impact went far further than those titles. She was a fierce advocate, a tireless servant, and a bright light in the lives of so many.

Mia brought passion, energy, and an unwavering commitment to the people of Utah's Fourth District, a district that I am now proud to serve. She led with grace and conviction, never backing down from a challenge, and always striving to make a difference for those she served. It is for me a profound honor to follow in her footsteps.

Her legacy is one of faith, courage, and love, and the highlight of her life was her husband, Jason, and her family. These descriptions are all fitting for a woman whose name said it all.

While we grieve her loss, we also celebrate a life well lived, a mission well served, and a friend deeply missed. Our Utah communities mourn for the Love family. We pray that they find peace in the Heavenly Father's love and comfort and solace in what Mia has meant to all of us.

Now, please rise for a moment of silence.

PUT CONSUMERS BACK IN THE DRIVER'S SEAT

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

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, last year, the EPA finalized a rule which set aggressive emission standards for vehicles, amounting to a de facto EV mandate.

While I am not against EVs or certainly against reducing emissions, we must not push misguided regulations that limit consumer choice, burden the American auto industry, and increase reliance on China.

President Trump recently issued an executive order to eliminate the EV mandate, demonstrating his commitment to repealing excessive regulations. However, we must take further steps to prevent future administrations from issuing similar mandates.

That is why I have partnered with Representative FULCHER to introduce the Choice in Automobile Retail Sales, or CARS, Act, which will prevent similar EV mandates and safeguard Americans' freedom to choose the vehicle that is best for them. We must put consumers back in the driver's seat and ensure the future of the auto industry is forged through innovation and not mandates.

CELEBRATING ANNISE PARKER

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

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the incredible legacy

of Annise Parker, a trailblazer, a fearless advocate, and a champion for LGBTQ rights in Texas and across the Nation.

As the first openly LGBTQ mayor of a major American city, Houston, Annise shattered barriers and showed millions of people that LGBTQ Americans belong in government and in every part of public life.

Her work wasn't just about representation. It was about action. She fought for equality, fairness, and for a Texas where everyone, no matter who they love, has the opportunity to thrive.

Through her leadership at the LGBTQ+ Victory Fund, she helped elect and empower leaders at every level of government. It is because of Annise's leadership that the next generation of LGBTQ Americans have more seats at the table, more voices in the conversation, and more hope for the future.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Annise for her service, her courage, and her unwavering commitment to justice. Texas and our Nation are better because of her.

GIA DEBORAH GENTILE LEAVES BEHIND A LEGACY OF KINDNESS

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

Mr. LAWLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Gia Deborah Gentile, a remarkable young woman from Hawthorne, New York, who tragically passed away on March 9 at just 14 years old after a brave and tireless battle with neuroblastoma.

Though her life was far too short, Gia's legacy is one of kindness, compassion, and selfless service. Whether it was through her role on the student council, her leadership on the Westlake High School varsity cheer team, or her dedication to the Service Club, Gia led by example, always putting others before herself and inspiring those around her.

Even while facing the most difficult of challenges, Gia's heart of gold never wavered. She continued to serve and support others, embodying a spirit of positivity, empathy, and generosity that touched everyone she encountered.

As her parents, Carmine and Dana, and her siblings, Jordana and Timo, continue to grieve this unimaginable loss, we keep them in our thoughts and prayers. Gia's memory will forever shine brightly in the hearts of all who were blessed to know her.

May Gia rest in peace and may we all strive to live each day in the spirit of kindness that she exemplified.

MILLIONS DEPEND ON SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Ms. MORRISON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to voice a concern from my constituents, Jeff and Bev.

Last week, Trump's billionaire Commerce Secretary was speaking with another billionaire about how only fraudsters would complain about missing a Social Security check. Trump's billionaire Commerce Secretary said that if Social Security didn't send out checks for a month, his mother-in-law simply would not call to complain.

At the very same time, I held a town-hall with my constituents where Jeff and Bev, from Bloomington, asked this question: If or when Trump ends Social Security, Bev and I will be unable to pay our mortgage. We will become homeless at age 70. What can we do? What should we do?

There are tens of millions of Americans across the country like Jeff and Bev who depend on that check coming every month. On their behalf, I ask my Republican colleagues who have majority rule of this Chamber, what are they going to do to stand up for American families and stop the billionaires who are dismantling Social Security?

HONORING LIFE AND LEGACY OF TIFFANY COOPER

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Tiffany Cooper, a beloved wife, mother, and teacher, who recently passed away after a courageous battle with cancer.

Mrs. Cooper was a remarkable, loving, kind, and faithful woman. She embodied patience and grace and was known for lifting the spirits of those around her with her warm heart and gentle spirit.

After graduating from the University of Georgia and earning her master's and specialist degrees, Mrs. Cooper became an educator who poured her heart into her students.

As a devoted Christian, Mrs. Cooper's love for the Lord was the center of all she did. She dedicated her time and energy to serving others, including leading the Christians on Campus group at Long County High School.

At the center of her life was her family, often saying that her greatest accomplishment was her two children, Sophie and Jake. She gave them a foundation built on family values, knowing that those values would guide them through life's challenges.

Her life will continue to inspire all who were blessed to know her.

SENIORS NEED SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, more than 17 million seniors

live on less than \$30,000 a year. Yet, Republicans look to weaken or sever lifelines like Medicaid, Medicare, and Social Security.

President Trump announced a plan to fire 12 percent of Social Security employees, close 26 offices, and slash phone services. Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick recently said his family wouldn't complain about missing a Social Security check and that the only people who would are fraudsters.

Well, Mr. Lutnick's family might be able to afford to lose a payment or two, but most Americans cannot. This is their money. Americans pay for these programs. These are earned benefits. People are afraid, and rightfully so. They are calling, texting, emailing, and stopping me on the street.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my constituents, seniors, Americans with disabilities, and working families, I have a message for President Trump and his incompetent billionaire buddies: Hell no, our seniors are not the fraudsters. You are.

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

SALUTING VIETNAM VETERANS

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

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, did you know that more than 3 million Americans, some only 18, 19, or 20 years old, served in Vietnam? Each one had a duty to serve, but our duty, Mr. Speaker, is to remember.

On March 29, National Vietnam War Veterans Day, we remember the brave Americans who served, including the 26,900 Vietnam veterans who call the Fourth Congressional District of Florida home. We remember the 58,000 patriots who never returned home safely to the warm embrace of their families. Today, their names are hauntingly etched into the two faces of black granite in our Nation's Capital known simply as The Wall.

A replica of this very wall, almost 300 feet long, will be on display in my district from April 17 to April 21, 2025, at the Northeast Florida Fairgrounds in Nassau County, Florida. This will be a unique and moving opportunity for individuals to come see the names of their loved ones and patriots who otherwise may not be able to make it to Washington, D.C.

Mr. Speaker, we remember the 150,000 who were wounded in battle and bear the visible scars of post-traumatic stress and Agent Orange exposure. We remember those who faced brutal captivity as prisoners of war, and the 1,200 servicemembers still missing in action from Vietnam.

Mr. Speaker, we may never be able to repay our debt to those who have given the last measure of devotion for the spirit of America, but we can continue to do our duty to remember.

Mr. Speaker, on National Vietnam War Veterans Day and every day, we, the people of the United States, with a grateful heart salute those who endured great dangers at the hands of the enemy and lost in service to our Nation.

flected the hard work and the dedication that defined his life. Above all, Don was a devoted husband to Kristen and a loving father to his six children: Hunter, Hudson, Harper, Hope, Harlow, and Hattie.

A proud graduate of the University of Missouri, he built a distinguished 27-year career in financial service. He served his community with the Springfield Sertoma Club for over 20 years, raising funds for children's charities, and found joy in working the land on his farm.

A man of deep faith, unwavering integrity, and a sense of humor that could brighten any room, Don had a unique ability to connect with people from all walks of life.

My prayers are with the Angell family, and may Don's legacy continue to inspire us all.

HONORING UNIVERSITY OF AKRON MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

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

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the University of Akron men's basketball team as Ohio's 13th Congressional District Champion of the Week.

The Zips recently won their third Mid-American Conference Championship in 4 years when they took down the Miami RedHawks with a final score of 76-74.

Entering halftime and down 34-46, the Zips played hard the second half of the championship game, tied it up with seconds to go, and ultimately came out on top for the second year in a row.

After losing five seniors at the end of the last season, there was some uncertainty at the start of this season about how successful the Akron Zips would be. The team quickly put all doubts to rest, going into the MAC tournament as the number one seed with a record of 27-6 which included a 14-game winning streak. They even made it to the NCAA tournament.

I again congratulate the Akron Zips men's basketball team for this outstanding victory. The team is a shining example of why this community is known as the birthplace of champions. I look forward to cheering them on next season.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF COLORADO SPRINGS FIRE MARSHAL BRETT LACEY

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

Mr. CRANK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of Colorado Springs Fire Marshal Brett Lacey.

Marshal Lacey joined Colorado Springs Fire Department in 1992, and he has faithfully served our community

□ 1115

HONORING THE LIFE OF DONALD "DON" ANGELL

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

Mr. BURLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor the life of Donald "Don" Angell, a remarkable Missourian who was taken from us far too soon in a tragic accident on his beloved family farm, a place that re-

for 32 years. Marshal Lacey was instrumental in helping protect our community through his leadership in prioritizing structure and vegetation management, as he established a nationally renowned wildfire mitigation program.

Marshal Lacey was onsite and led the efforts to combat the Waldo Canyon fire and saved my own home and thousands of others in the Black Forest fire that devastated our community, in addition to helping recover victims of Hurricane Katrina.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating and thanking Fire Marshal Brett Lacey for his service to our country and to the Pikes Peak region.

CONGRATULATING BALDWIN HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS' BASKETBALL TEAM

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

Ms. GILLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great pride to congratulate the Baldwin High School girls' basketball team on winning the New York State AA State Championship.

On behalf of New York's Fourth Congressional District, I take this opportunity to commend and celebrate these young athletes for their dedication, for their teamwork, for their perseverance, and, quite frankly, their dominance on the basketball court.

This year's championship marks Baldwin's third State title in school history, a testament to the strong foundation built by the players, the coaches, and the administrators, both past and present.

We congratulate the Lady Bruins on their remarkable victory. I know they will continue to make Nassau County proud.

RECOGNIZING PALM BAY PIRATES GIRLS' BASKETBALL TEAM

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

Mr. HARIDOPOLOS. Mr. Speaker, it is March Madness. With America currently fixated on basketball, I recognize today the Palm Bay girls' basketball team on their recent statewide victory. The team made history by capturing the State's Class 4A State championship here in Florida. The Pirates overcame a tough American Heritage squad where they rallied from a 14-point deficit to win the State title.

Leading the way was Senior Guard Jaida Civil, a University of Tennessee commit and McDonald's All American, who grabbed 9 rebounds and scored 20 points.

The entire team made critical contributions, showing their depth and the unity of this team. The championship caps off a season where the Pirates won by an average of 57 points.

I congratulate the entire Palm Bay Pirates team. They have made our entire community proud.

HONORING CONSTITUENT OF THE WEEK RICK SHERMAN

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

Mr. VINDMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate this week's Constituent of the Week, Rick Sherman, on being named Businessperson of the Year by the Orange County Chamber of Commerce.

For over a century, the W.A. Sherman Company has been a cornerstone of Orange County. It has provided essential electrical, heating, and plumbing services to the community. Passed down through generations, the Sherman family's dedication to service has made a lasting impact on local families and businesses.

Rick's leadership and unwavering commitment to this community are truly deserving of this recognition. As his Representative in Congress, I am grateful for the work he does each day to strengthen our local community and serve the people of Orange County.

I congratulate him again on this well-earned award. It is a privilege to highlight his story on the floor of the United States House of Representatives, and I am thankful for all he does.

RECOGNIZING EAGLE SCOUT COLTER LUMLEY

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

Mr. DOWNING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Colter Lumley who on January 22 earned the rank of Eagle Scout. I had the honor to watch Colter from a young boy get involved in his community and do things that mattered, not just for his community but for the State of Montana.

Colter hails from Emigrant, Montana, and can now count himself among the 11 other boys who have achieved the honor since Troop 551 began in 1984. Those who know him best attest to Colter's humility and work ethic, saying that all he does is rise in the morning and put forth more effort and hard work before noon than most his age do in a full day.

His Eagle Scout project was to replace a retaining wall at the fire department in Gardiner, Montana. He arranged the preconstruction meetings, organized the delivery of the supplies, and was even able to get a price reduction to save money. He then rallied his football team and his troop to replace the wall, completing the job in 20 hours and placing over 600 cinder blocks.

Colter has made his country and his State proud. We thank Colter for setting an example for his peers and his community, and we congratulate him on this great achievement.

RESPONDING TO SIGNAL CHAT LEAK

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise in disbelief at the troubling stories in "The Atlantic" magazine of classified attack plans carelessly leaked by the U.S. Department of Defense in a reckless and dangerous fashion.

Congress must conduct a fully independent investigation with public and private congressional hearings. The highest national security and intelligence leaders of our Nation put American's servicemembers' lives at high risk.

All responsible must be held fully accountable, including through removal or resignation from their positions. Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth, CIA Director Radcliffe, Director of National Intelligence Gabbard, Secretary of State Rubio, National Security Advisor Waltz, Chief of Staff Wiles, and Vice President VANCE were among those involved in the plans Hegseth shared against DOD policy on a Signal group chat on unsecured, nongovernment devices vulnerable to espionage.

Hegseth failed to notice that the group chat included a news editor and reporter with no security clearance. Only Lady Luck graced our Nation as their haphazard approach to war didn't result in the death of American servicemembers who could have ended up at the bottom of the Red Sea or over foreign soil. Their reckless leak risked American lives and our security.

Mr. Speaker, as our Marine Corps uncle would say: Shape up.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF DEKALB COUNTY COMMISSIONER MIKE WATSON

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

Mr. STUTZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding life and public service record of DeKalb County Commissioner Mike Watson.

Mike dedicated his life to serving northeast Indiana in roles ranging from president of the Auburn Economic Development Commission, president of the DeKalb Central Foundation, and serving as an Auburn Common Councilman.

In December, before his passing, Mike received the distinguished County Commissioner of the Year award from the Indiana County Commissioners Association.

Mike was the architect of many projects that bettered our region such as having the Auburn Waterloo Trail become part of the Poka-Bache Connector trail between Angola and Bluffton, Indiana, and the creation of the Auburn Main Street which collaborates with the Auburn community to

be an economic driver through promoting and advancing the town's vibrant historic downtown that is welcoming for all folks.

Mike will be remembered as an incredibly hard worker, an intense advocate for his Auburn community, and an unapologetic family man. He always put his heart and soul into his work, and our community will miss him and his mentorship sorely.

DIGGING DEEP FOR COURAGE

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

Ms. BYNUM. Mr. Speaker, I am a woman of faith. I know I am joined in this Chamber by fellow believers of all kinds. Today, I am reminded of Ezekiel 34:3, a story about the selfishness and greed of shepherds who used their sheep for their own gain, while neglecting their primary duty which was to care for the flock.

All of us were sent here to lead, to care for, and to protect our people. I ask my colleagues: How do they justify making an agreement with farmers and not paying them money? How do they justify snatching the benefits from veterans who put their lives on the line for our country? How do they justify the erasure of the underpaid and unpaid laborers who helped build this country? How do they take from our seniors on Social Security? They don't and they can't.

Believers know that, especially in times that require courage, God always has their back. Don't just sit back and watch. Dig deep for some courage and stand up for those who are in need the most.

□ 1130

PROTECTING EDUCATION FOR AMERICAN FAMILIES

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful that President Donald Trump, Secretary of Education Linda McMahon, and Congress are working together to return education to the proper original jurisdiction of the States.

I support President Donald Trump's plan to eliminate the Department of Education, ensuring that education decisions are made by local elected school boards, putting students and teachers first. Additionally, South Carolina has the visionary leadership of the State Superintendent Ellen Weaver in the tradition of Dr. Barbara Nielsen.

Additionally, House Republicans are protecting institutions of higher education by voting for the DETERRENT Act introduced by Congressman MICHAEL BAUMGARTNER. Foreign adver-

saries are targeting students by stealing research, limiting free speech, and pushing propaganda. As a cosponsor, I am grateful the act will reduce the foreign gift reporting threshold, close reporting loopholes, require disclosure of foreign gifts and contracts at research institutions, and hold private institutions accountable for their financial partnerships.

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

GUTTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, when I recently asked someone who supports gutting the Department of Education how that decision would make American education better or what the Department even does, they couldn't give me an answer.

Let me tell you how gutting this Department will hurt every parent, teacher, and, most of all, students in our country.

In Virginia alone, 5,000 teachers would be at risk of removal; our education system would face a \$2.4 billion shortfall; and we would lose \$2,000 in spending for each student. Our most vulnerable students with special needs would be unable to access the resources they need to succeed, and low-income students would go hungry.

Education has always been a great equalizer and an engine for socioeconomic mobility. Without the Department of Education, we will be left with a system that leaves Americans—rural, urban, and suburban—underserved, uneducated, and unprepared.

If we want to lead in the world of innovation and discovery, if we want opportunity for everyone, we need to invest in the next generation, our kids.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO ELSE RIKE

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

Mrs. FEDORCHAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an extraordinary North Dakota woman, Else Rike. She celebrated her 101st birthday today. Instead of taking the day off, she was no doubt right where she has been for more than 70 years, at her desk in Grand Forks, North Dakota, preparing tax returns by hand with a calculator and typewriter.

Else's work ethic is unmatched and recently landed her a page 1 feature story in The Wall Street Journal. While tax preparers today rely on soft-

ware, Else relies on decades of experience and a deep knowledge of the tax code.

This beautiful woman, shown right here, is proof that hard work and sharp thinking never go out of style.

On behalf of all North Dakotans, I thank Else for living our values and for showing us what true dedication looks like.

Most importantly, happy 101st birthday, Else.

RECOGNIZING WEST SALEM HIGH'S INCLUSIVE SPORTS PROGRAMS

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

Ms. SALINAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize West Salem High School for its commitment to inclusivity in sports.

The Titans recently earned two national awards for their inclusive basketball program. In addition to being named a Unified Champion School by the Special Olympics, West was also added to ESPN's Honor Roll, a distinction awarded to only one school in every State per year.

Their unique program includes combined gym classes where students with disabilities are paired with other students who can help guide them through activities, as well as special equipment and necessary modifications, like shorter hoops for athletes using wheelchairs.

I am so proud of the students and faculty at West for their dedication to ensuring that every one of their peers can participate and make friends through sports, regardless of their abilities.

Again, congratulations on these incredible and well-deserved achievements. Keep up the good work, and go Titans.

ADDRESSING CONSTITUENTS' MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES

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

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, more than 700,000 New Jerseyans sent me here to be their voice in Congress and to address the challenges they face each and every day.

Many of those constituents have sent me messages advocating for what is most important to them. Thousands have written asking me to protect Medicare, Social Security, and Medicaid. Hundreds more wrote about the rising costs of childcare and housing. Many have asked me to stop the scourge of gun violence in our communities.

Not a single person, not one, wrote about loosening regulations on their commercial walk-in coolers and refrigerators.

Why, then, are those the bills that Republicans brought to the floor this

week? Maybe it is because Republicans don't have solutions to the challenges that most Americans are facing. Maybe it is because the Republican budget slashes billions of dollars from Medicaid and food assistance to the most vulnerable amongst us. Maybe that is why they prefer to talk about refrigerators.

House Democrats, on the other hand, continue to present an alternative to the American people and fight for the progress that they deserve. Democrats are ready to lower the costs of childcare by expanding the number of childcare facilities across the country. We are pushing for record new investments in affordable housing and incentives for first-time home buyers.

That is what the American people are asking for, and that is what House Democrats are fighting for.

CUTS TO MEDICAID

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

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because healthcare through Medicaid, covering more than 10 percent of residents and more than 30 percent of all kids in New Hampshire, is on the line.

Their access to lifesaving preventative care, long-term care, and mental health and addiction treatment will be put at risk by the cruel and fiscally reckless budget being proposed by Republicans in the House.

In addition, New Hampshire's Medicaid expansion, established on a bipartisan basis, would end with any decrease in Federal funds, leaving 68,000 Granite Staters uninsured and devastating our hospitals and community health centers.

I have heard from literally thousands of Granite Staters on this issue, including a woman who contacted my office and shared her fears that cuts to Medicaid would leave her family homeless. She is a caretaker to two family members and worries they won't be able to survive on one income if they lose their health coverage.

I will continue to do everything I can to stop a budget that places the burden of cuts on New Hampshire families like hers to finance massive tax breaks to the superrich. I urge my colleagues to stand up against this betrayal of working families and instead focus on how we can work together to make life safer, healthier, and more affordable for all Americans.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Lasky, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a joint resolution of the House of the following title:

H.J. Res. 25. Joint Resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule sub-

mitted by the Internal Revenue Service relating to "Gross Proceeds Reporting by Brokers That Regularly Provide Services Effectuating Digital Asset Sales".

SUPPORTING FCC UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND

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

Mrs. McCLEIN DELANEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the FCC's Universal Service Fund, a successful program that brings high-speed internet and phone service to millions of underserved Americans.

This is personal to me. This program is essential for connecting rural and low-income communities, schools, and libraries, effectively bridging the digital divide and expanding access to education, healthcare, and job opportunities that would otherwise be out of reach.

For the bulk of my career, I worked at a children's nonprofit and then at the Department of Commerce's NTIA, advocating to provide affordable high-speed internet to all Americans, particularly children who need it for the homework gap. USF helps to ensure that these communities are not left behind. It empowers students, strengthens local communities, and improves access to essential services for families.

In 2023, carriers in Maryland received over \$6 million to connect households in our rural and farm communities. Also, in the last 2 years, 1,600 schools and 198 libraries received over \$73 million for connectivity, benefiting over 1 million students. Nearly 37 healthcare providers in our State received funding to strengthen connectivity to help patients and also facilitate the reach of telemedicine.

Today, I urge the Supreme Court and my colleagues in Congress to safeguard this incredibly essential program for those who need it most in terms of connectivity and opportunity.

ABANDON BIDEN ADMINISTRATION RULE

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

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, today, I call upon the Trump administration to abandon the drastic Biden-Harris 14(c) rule. The 14(c) rule is with regard to allowing certain people with handicaps to work for under minimum wage.

I have toured many work centers or shelter workshops in my district in which people who have different abilities are allowed to work—maybe they have spina bifida, maybe Down's Syndrome. I know a guy who is an outright quadriplegic. They are allowed to work for under minimum wage.

They usually get some other sort of Federal subsidy, SSI or something, but

by being allowed to work in these places, they are able to supplement their income. They have the dignity of work. They have the socialization of somebody outside of their families.

I strongly encourage the Trump administration to abandon the drastic Biden-Harris 14(c) rule, and I encourage all of my colleagues in the U.S. Congress to tour some of their own shelter workshops, where you can see how valuable they are in the life of people who are given a little bit less than some of us in some ways to live their lives.

SOCIAL SECURITY CUTS

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

Mr. LATIMER. Mr. Speaker, Elon Musk's so-called department of government elimination is closing the Social Security hearing office in White Plains in May, just like that.

Westchester County Executive Ken Jenkins offered the Federal Government county space that would be more cost-effective. The offer was turned down because this isn't about saving the government money. This is about thoughtlessly cutting critical services in the name of ideology.

This weekend, Commerce Secretary Lutnick said his 94-year-old mother-in-law wouldn't miss her Social Security check if it didn't show up. Mr. Lutnick is a billionaire who can easily provide for her, while most seniors rely on their monthly payments.

This weekend, more than 250 people in my district voiced their concerns at a rally to save Social Security. I will take their words over a billionaire's mother-in-law.

More than 10,000 of my fellow boomers become eligible every day for Social Security. This is not the time to be closing offices, cutting staff, and ending phone service.

There are ways to make Social Security more efficient. This ain't one of them. Scaring seniors and threatening to end their economic lifelines isn't about efficiency. It is a mockery of efficiency.

Remember, we told you so.

□ 1145

CONGRATULATING THE BINGHAMTON PATRIOTS BOYS' BASKETBALL TEAM

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

Mr. RILEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, the Binghamton Patriots boys' basketball team are New York State champions.

Just like the city they represent, this team was all about grit and determination. Down in the fourth quarter of the championship game, the Patriots didn't fold. They fought and took the

game into overtime. Down in overtime, the Patriots didn't fold. They fought and took the game into double overtime.

That is when they finished the job, because no matter how long the odds, do not ever count out Binghamton.

I congratulate Coach Paddick and his coaching staff, Binghamton teachers, staff, and administrators, and, of course, the students and players.

I thank them for bringing some joy to our community at a time when we really need it.

I will always be a proud Union-Endicott Tiger, but today we are all Binghamton Patriots because there is nothing more unifying than bringing home a State championship.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to read the Patriot's roster into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD as follows:

Kamal Abdul-Aziz, Derek Abu Jr., Jah-Ion Cook, Cashawn Fleming Jr., Zubayr Griffin, Elijah Johnson, Isaiah Joseph Selby, Vaughn Labor, Zahir Marshall, Michael Constantine, Ilyas Morgan, Elliot Nelson, Corien Noble, Benjamin Ondrussek, Connor Ondrussek, Duncan Paddick, Yusri Razzaq, Jayden Remplet, Shawn Remplet, Vince Saraceno, Devonte Santiago, Milo Wilson.

JOHNSON & JOHNSON
GROUNDBREAKING

(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, North Carolina's First Congressional District is one of the most economically distressed in the Nation. However, I have good news to share.

Recently, I was honored to join industry, State, and community leaders for the groundbreaking of a new, over \$2 billion, state-of-the-art Johnson & Johnson biologics manufacturing facility in Wilson, North Carolina.

It will bring more than 500 specialized jobs paying about \$109,000 a year into eastern North Carolina.

The first 10 years of operation are estimated to have an economic impact of \$3 billion statewide.

Johnson & Johnson is also committed to investing in local education, STEM, workforce, and research.

The new facility will support Johnson & Johnson's plans to advance transformational medicines for cancer, immune-mediated, and neurological diseases.

The investment will have a huge and life-changing impact for our region.

AND STILL I RISE: CENSURED BUT NOT SILENCED

(Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, Mr. GREEN of Texas was recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.)

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, proudly I stand here today proudly to say: And still I rise.

And still I rise, a proud, liberated Democrat, unbought, unbossed, and

still unafraid. And still I rise, Mr. Speaker, not only as a proud, liberated Democrat, but also, Mr. Speaker, censured, not silenced, censured but not silenced. I still carry my cane, which has been called many things, but for me it provides comfort.

It provides comfort because I am a believer in the 23rd Psalm, that part about "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil . . . Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me."

This is my comfort.

Mr. Speaker, there are people who don't believe that I should have the free speech that the Constitution affords me, and I am not always in the company of people who can protect me. So my cane has become my staff and my rod that comforts me, Mr. Speaker.

I wish it were different, but it is not. We seem to live in a society now where if you are willing to speak truth to power there are consequences beyond simply having those who differ with you give their retorts. There are some who want to do more than give retorts. So we have to find ways to comfort ourselves when we no longer have those who are assigned the responsibility of providing us comfort. Protection is another way of saying comfort.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today because I want to expose what has been called to our attention in many different ways over the last many hours.

Mr. Speaker, we are at this moment in our country engaging in a big lie coverup. It is a part of a chat-gate, a big lie coverup.

Chat-gate, Mr. Speaker, is a security breach not defined as such because the person who would define it as such, if he should do so, would inculpate himself. So the Secretary of Defense, who has the responsibility of defining whether certain information is classified or not, chooses not to define that which is intuitively obvious as classified, he chooses not to define it as classified. He does not want to inculpate himself. So he has the ability to exculpate himself by simply saying something that clearly is classified saying that it is not.

Mr. Speaker, while he can say so, I think the American public will have the final word and will be the final judge.

I am honored to tell you who the players are in this coverup. One person is, quite frankly, a person who merits a lot of accolades. He is a person who ought to be acknowledged for the courage that he has demonstrated. He is a person who brought this to the attention of the public. He is a person who had no desire to be a part of this coverup, but he is only there in that he was the person who, in a sense, acts as a whistleblower. I am talking about Mr. Goldberg with The Atlantic magazine.

Mr. Goldberg is the person who had messages sent to him that he did not seek and that he did not ask for. According to the reports that I have read and you have probably seen and heard

televised, he was there minding his own business when he received messages, messages that were intended for a select group of people, many of whom I will name in just a moment.

In receiving these messages, he was made privy to information that should not have been exposed to the public. In the opinion of many experts, they should not have been exposed to the public.

I will read some of the information that was captured by Mr. Goldberg.

Mr. Goldberg captured this, and this comes from The Atlantic magazine. They published this information. It has been made public. My belief is that the persons who engaged in this coverup had no desire to have this published, but once it was, there was a decision made by the person who had the power to do so to say: Well, it is simply not classified information, so no big deal.

Here is the big deal. Mr. Goldberg indicates that at 11:44 a.m. eastern time—he gives the name of the person, it is the Secretary of Defense, posted in the chat in all caps: "TEAM UPDATE." Then, Mr. Goldberg indicates that the text beneath this began: "TIME NOW (1144et): Weather is FAVORABLE. Just CONFIRMED"—with, it says w—"w/CENTCOM we are a GO for mission launch." We are a go for mission launch.

Let's go on. These are excerpts. I shall not read it all.

The next comment reads: "1215et: F-18s LAUNCH (1st strike package)".

Thereafter: "1410: More F-18s LAUNCH (2nd strike package)".

Thereafter: "1536: F-18 2nd Strike Starts—also, first sea-based Tomahawks launched."

Now, all of this was intended for a select group of people. It was not intended that this be published, but since it has been published, the Secretary of Defense has indicated that this was not classified information. Now, if the Secretary of Defense who was a participant in this chat, what I call the "chat-gate," if the Secretary of Defense sincerely believes that this is not classified information—and there is more of it, I have only read you some excerpts—if he sincerely believes this, then he is not the person who should be charged with the responsibility of making a decision as to whether this type of information is classified.

That is because there is no way a person who has intelligence at heart and an understanding of it within the mind to conclude that this is not classified information.

Too many experts differ with him. We had persons who are on the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence in the House to indicate that this was clearly classified information. In fact, they indicated that things that are less serious in nature have been classified. But the Secretary of Defense has the ability to exculpate himself, so his exculpatory statement is that this is not classified information.

I believe that if any other person beneath the Secretary of State had allowed such information, the same information, to be exposed to the public, then I don't think the Secretary of State would have come to the same conclusion.

The Secretary of State has sacrificed his honor and his dignity by indicating that this is not classified information. But he didn't do it without the aid and comfort of some others.

Let's just talk about the other people who were on this call—pardon me—this chat with the Secretary of State:

We had the Vice President of the United States of America as a part of the chat. Now, I don't believe that the Secretary of Defense and the Vice President of the United States would get on a chat and have this type of information that I have called to your attention much more available, they would not get on a chat and have this be exposed to the public. There was no desire that it be exposed to the public. They said it is sensitive information. It is sensitive because it is classified information that has not been declared such because it would inculpate the Defense Secretary.

So you have the Vice President of the United States on the chat, then you have the CIA Director. Now it is the Vice President of the United States, Secretary of Defense, and the CIA Director, and this is not classified information that they are discussing. They are just having a little talk that could be exposed to the public, but they chose not to but for it having been sent to Mr. Goldberg.

Mr. Goldberg, by the way, deserves a Congressional Medal of Honor. He is the hero in this story. He is the person who has had the courage and also the wisdom and insight to understand that before you release this, you need to do some checking. So he did his due diligence before releasing information.

Mr. Goldberg, the person who released it, has been called many names by people who would not have him release the information. Mr. Goldberg has been scorned. He is a person who called to our attention something that was done improperly, and yet he is being made the villain. He is not the villain. He is the hero in this process, and he ought to be acknowledged as such.

I am going to have a flag flown over the Capitol of the United States of America in honor of Mr. Goldberg for what he has done. I will not allow his reputation to be tarnished without a fight to protect it. I am going to do what I can to protect his reputation.

So we have the Director of National Intelligence on the call, on the chat. The Director of National Intelligence and the Secretary of State were on the chat.

Again, the Defense Secretary, the Vice President, the CIA Director, the Director of National Intelligence, and also Special Envoy Witkoff were on there. Witkoff was on there, and by the

way, he was in Russia at the time he was on. We all know that you should not be on an unsecured line if you are going to be in Russia talking. Those of us who have been to Russia are very much aware. Of course, the Secretary of State was on.

□ 1200

These are the players. All of them were on a chat and all of them are engaged in the coverup of this big lie. It is a coverup because they all have at one time or another implied or stated explicitly that this was not classified, that this was not classified. They had the cover of the Secretary of Defense to give them this opportunity to contend that it wasn't classified because he had to protect himself. To protect himself, he declassified what should have been classified. He avoided being inculpated by declassifying this information that should have been classified.

Now, this is egregious. It is always said that the coverup is more egregious than the action that precipitates the coverup. It is true. The coverup is more egregious than the action that precipitates the coverup. There is something that occurred here that is more egregious than the action that precipitated the coverup, than the coverup itself, and that thing is the ability of all of these actors to do this and commit any Federal crime with impunity. As a matter of fact, we could say it is with immunity.

These actors, these participants, they all have the blessings of the President of the United States of America. The President of the United States of America is now under the impression that he has absolute immunity, knowing that he is not likely to be prosecuted for anything other than impeachment while he is holding the office of the Presidency. Knowing this, believing he has absolute immunity and having already demonstrated that he will accord exoneration by way of pardon to people who would assault the citadel of democracy, the Capitol of the United States of America, assault it, and he, the President of the United States, used his awesome pardon power, the awesome power accorded him in good faith under the Constitution of the United States of America, he uses it to release, and to a certain extent to exonerate, a limited extent, persons who actually assaulted the Capitol.

Now these participants in this event, they know that they have got the President backing them up. They know that even if they commit a Federal crime all the President has to do is pardon them. It is really that simple. You have got a President now who sits on high, understanding that all beneath him, all of his minions, all of his plutocrats and others who are beneath him, he has the ability to protect them from breaches of the Federal law.

This is more egregious than the action that precipitated the coverup and

the coverup itself, to know that we now have an administration where all of the parties involved can rely on one person to protect them regardless as to what they do if it is a Federal offense.

Yes, there was a coverup.

Yes, that coverup is something that they understood they could get away with even if they were caught red-handed. They knew they could get away with it because they knew that the President was there to back them.

By the way, the President is also there to do what he normally does, and that is throw his acolytes, his underlings, his persons who are beneath him, if you will, throw them under the bus, and he did. He threw them under the bus. He doesn't know anything about this. He just happens to have heard about it. The President gets briefings on all important issues, but for him to sit and say, oh, I know nothing about it, which is what he always does, and then he pushes someone else under the bus, but he knows that he can push them under the bus and then extricate them because he has the magic wand, the power to pardon. He will use it, as has been demonstrated by his causing many persons who assaulted the Capitol, persons who came here with gallows, persons who came using flags and trying to stab and all sorts of sprays, persons who came into the Capitol and defecated, he caused all of these persons to be released, if not all, I would say to you nearly all. I don't have the exact numbers, but he went on a rampage and just started pardoning people who engaged in this assault on the citadel of democracy.

We have ourselves now a circumstance where people who are trusted with the Nation's most sacred secrets—sacred, they are so important that they are really sacred, sacred secrets—these persons have demonstrated that they will forfeit their dignity, their self-respect, and their honor. They will forfeit these things to protect themselves and to protect the President, themselves and the President.

What we have when this occurs with all of these people doing this, we have now a group of people who have sacrificed their honor. When you sacrifice your honor in this fashion, the people who serve under you lose respect for you. They lose respect for you. There are men and women, persons in our military, who no longer respect the persons who serve in these high and lofty positions. They don't respect them because they are persons with a reasonable amount of intellect, superior intellect, and understand that this whole scenario, this fiasco, this level of buffoonery, they understand that this is not based on truth to say this was not certified, this was not classified information. It wasn't certified as such, but it was classified. The only reason it was not certified as such is because the Secretary of Defense would inculpate himself if he should do so. He would put himself in harm's way.

He chose to keep himself out of harm's way. His cohorts agreed with him. They all now are going to contend that there is nothing to see here, just a chat between persons who happened to want to discuss sensitive information, and the reporter who reports it, he is the culprit in all of this.

The people who serve in our military, they know better, and they know now that the people at the top are not honorable people. That has an impact on morale. Don't you think for one second that someone in the military will not at some point in time use the same argument that you are using. They are going to mention how this very incident occurred and how people just walked away from it unscathed. That is what they will do. People are not going to allow this to just be a one-off. If something happens and they should be charged and they believe this scenario can aid and comfort them with their defense, they will use it.

We now have at the highest levels of our government people who have given up their dignity, their self-respect, and they no longer have the honor and respect of a good many people that serve under them.

Mr. Speaker, this is a very sad time in the history of our country, very sad. Here is a final reason why it is sad. I was silenced in a sense when I was shouted down by my colleagues. They shouted me down when I was trying to explain to the President—I never called him a name. I merely said to him: "You do not have a mandate, you do not have a mandate" to cut Medicaid. My colleagues were shouting loudly to prevent my voice from being heard, at least that is the way I received it. So I repeated what I said. Their voices grew louder. I repeated it again, and I was removed. I am not mad at the Speaker. I am not angry with them. I am not angry with anyone. I was censured for what I did. I was censured, not silenced. My voice will not be silenced. I was censured, but not silenced.

Here is the point: What I did this Congress decided—not all, not all, let me not include everyone, but all of my colleagues across the aisle and 10 colleagues from this side of the aisle, they decided that I should be censured. I hold no animus toward any of them.

I want to make a point. The President of the United States and his men and women are now going to perpetrate this coverup and walk away unscathed except for loss of dignity, self-respect, and honor.

Mr. Speaker, I would rather be censured than lose my dignity, sacrifice it, my self-respect. I admitted that I did what I did intentionally. They won't admit that they were in this chat and that it should have been in a much more secured location. They won't admit it. They don't have the self-respect and the dignity to just tell the truth about what happened. I admitted that I did it intentionally. I said that when you do things and you do them with intent and if it is a form of pro-

test in my case then you have got to be prepared to suffer the consequences. I have been prepared to suffer the consequences. It doesn't mean that I agree. You don't have to agree with the consequences you suffer, but you have to be prepared. They chose not to be prepared, chose not to suffer any consequences by covering up with a big lie.

I respect Mr. CASTRO. I saw him. When he questioned those persons who were before him yesterday and when he questioned them about this he called each name—I have such great respect for Congressman CASTRO. He had the courage to tell them to their faces that they were lying. It takes courage to do what he did. Courage is what is missing. You have got to have courage if you want to make big change. You have got to be willing to stand and say it as he did. This is not to say that others did not deliver great commentary. I singled him out because of the way he did what he did and in the presence of the people. He didn't wait until he was out behind their backs to say what he said. He said it in front of their faces. In my neck of the woods when you tell a person something to his face or her face or their face, that says something about you as a person. This is why I wanted to tell the President to his face that you don't have the mandate to cut Medicaid and Medicare, by the way, as well, and Social Security. He doesn't.

All of this, all of this, this censure of a person for speaking out against a President who, by the way, on that same evening called Democrats lunatics—there was no censure of the President, no reprimand, nothing said from the House, just the President being himself. Others on the other hand can be censured for calling things to the President's attention. I am also the only person to have ever been removed, evicted from a joint session of Congress, the only one.

□ 1215

I am only saying this because I don't want anyone to believe that this censure and this eviction is the end of the story. It is just not.

I am grateful to all of those who have been kind to me and for the well wishes that I have received and all of the persons who have indicated that they would have me speak at various events.

I am grateful to you, but I want you to know that the story does not end with the censure, just as the story with these persons who engaged in this coverup will not end with them simply saying that this was not classified information. It will not.

The story is still unfolding and still being told. In the end, posterity will judge all of us. Posterity will see and know the truth. Time tells. History judges. The truth is known. The truth will be known.

At some point, someone is going to reveal even more information about what happened on that chat. It will happen maybe not now, maybe not this year, but at some point in time, the

story is going to be told. All of them will have to face a shaming that they have tried to avoid by contending that classified information was not such.

You cannot get away with this kind of thing. "The arc of the moral universe . . . bends toward justice." What you have done is unjust, and it will be told. The story will be told truthfully.

I close with this: We who are given the honor of serving have been accorded the trust of the public. It is said that we hold public trust. When we hold public trust and we make mistakes, believe it or not, you can say that you made a mistake, or you can say: I didn't make a mistake. I did this intentionally, and I am going to suffer consequences. I am prepared. I may not agree with them, but I am prepared.

We hold public trust. Those persons who participated in this coverup are not persons worthy of holding public trust.

Mr. Secretary of Defense, you, sir, should not hold public trust. You are not the person to determine whether something is classified or not. You have demonstrated, wittingly or unwittingly, that you are not capable of doing it. You just don't have what it takes within to speak the truth when you have committed a transgression. You shouldn't hold public trust.

Sir, you should do the honorable thing. You should resign. If you don't resign, the people of this country, notwithstanding all of the President's power, the people of this country, we the people, will have the last word.

You are going to see protests. You are going to see more protests because we the people refuse to allow coverups to go unnoticed. You are going to see more protests, but I say to everybody: Make it a peaceful protest. Do not protest in any way other than with peace in your mind and your head and your heart.

Peaceful protests. Peaceful protests can make a difference.

It made a difference for the farmers when they came here with Tractorcade and protested their farmlands being foreclosed on.

It made a difference when the military veterans came to Washington, D.C., to protest the bonuses that they were promised.

It made a difference when Dr. King came here and stood on the Mall and read his "I have a Dream." Actually, he didn't read it. He actually stated it, his "I have a Dream" speech, when he gave that "I have a Dream" message.

It makes a difference. Peaceful protest makes a difference. It is as American as the pilgrims landing at Plymouth Rock.

Peaceful protests will continue. I will be a part of it. If I should get in the way, as John Lewis says it, I will be prepared to suffer the consequences, but I refuse to give up my right to protest. We the people will have the last word.

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

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

WORK HIGHLIGHTS OF WESTERN CAUCUS

(Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, Mr. LAMALFA of California was recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to speak here as we conclude the week.

Mr. Speaker, I wanted to take the time today to highlight some of the work that we are doing in the Western Caucus, made up of over 90 Members of the U.S. House of Representatives.

I have been privileged to become the chair of that group this year. Chairing the caucus, I get to bring up a lot of key issues on the floor and kind of illustrate to the people who are watching and wish to pay attention how important the issues are that we are taking up and continue to advance while working with the Trump administration.

One of the cornerstones, indeed, is energy. We call ourselves the Western Caucus, but the issues are a little beyond the Western States. Indeed, they are rural issues. They are issues that affect all of our States and the opportunity to strengthen our entire economy with what we have available in the Western States and in rural areas. Indeed, our oil and our energy come from many, many parts of the country. The original oil patch was actually in western Pennsylvania.

The Western Caucus is less about maybe what the real estate is, but more about the concepts of advancing rural issues and the ability to extract resources and to utilize resources in an ecologically sound way. We are all about that, too.

The U.S. gets a bad reputation sometimes that people who are in these industries are misconstrued by environmental groups and such as being against the environment and against doing things properly. The bottom line on that topic is that unleashing American energy and our mineral resources, strengthening agriculture, and tackling the real challenges facing our country, like the devastating wildfires in the West, are key issues that the Western Caucus faces.

One of the things that can help with some of these issues will be modernizing the Endangered Species Act that has been around for over 50 years, and I see the futility as it is interpreted these days in layer after layer of court decisions and lawsuits that basically just hamper the ability for us to do the things we need to do to have stronger energy availability and have the other resources that are key to a strong economy for our country and not import all of these products.

Indeed, with the goals set out, at least by some, to have further elec-

tricity usage for appliances, which we have talked about this week on this floor, there is requirements. There is people being mandated to change what their appliances are powered by.

When you have a gas-powered stove, gas water heater, and on and on with mandates, whether it is my home State of California or has come through the previous Biden administration, this has taken away consumer choices and taken away the best choice for a lot of people for how to power these devices.

That extends also to automobiles, trucks. If you have it, a truck brought it. That is an important aspect to remember, as well, is that just by merely sweeping away the ability to have gasoline and diesel, as California is doing and that they are trying to do and that the Federal Government had been doing until the end of the Biden administration, that is going to cost a lot. It is going to make it a lot less convenient and a lot more difficult to get raw materials and products from where they are created to where they are needed.

The Endangered Species Act is part of the issue that needs to be modernized, as well as getting over the lawsuits and litigation that is used as a weapon, whether it is by Federal agencies or by so-called NGOs or environmental groups.

We have been working in this Chamber, as I mentioned, this week to help deliver solutions to lower energy costs, cut red tape, and reverse the Biden administration's relentless overreach, from blocking costly energy efficiency mandates on consumer products to stopping unnecessary restrictions on American manufacturing and energy production.

We want these things to be manufactured here by American workers, using American technology, American efficiency, and the cleanliness that comes with it. We are much more efficient and much cleaner than what happens in Chinese manufacturing. Our natural gas that we use in this country is actually cleaner than Russian natural gas. We should be exporting more of that to Europe and helping them out instead of them becoming dependent on the long reputation we have had with Russia there.

When we are talking about these overreaches by government by these regulations, it really drives up prices, burdens businesses, and makes us more dependent on foreign products, foreign energy, et cetera.

Let's restore American energy dominance, support these industries that put food on the table, clothing on our backs, and shelter above us. We should support them to make our country stronger and more independent. We will push back against the policies that are failing and harming rural America.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to hearing from my colleagues, some of whom will be joining me during this time here, and what they are working on as part of our Western Caucus partnership here.

I see a couple of my colleagues have arrived here. I would like to recognize, if the gentlewoman is ready, my executive vice chair. The gentlewoman from Utah (Ms. MALOY) is with us here—I am pleased to have her as a partner and friend on the Western Caucus—to inform us on the issues that are particular to Utah, but also the Western States, as well.

I am really, really pleased that she has stepped up to be in this role here, and I appreciate her quite a bit.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Utah (Ms. MALOY).

Ms. MALOY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful for the opportunity to be here today, and I commend my colleagues in the Western Caucus for their unwavering dedication to preserving the values and livelihoods of rural America, the Western States, and our Western values that we both represent.

I will highlight today three pieces of legislation that I have introduced. One of them addresses abuses of the Antiquities Act, one of them addresses the inefficiencies and unfairness of our permitting system, and the other one addresses the need to get geothermal energy up and going more quickly and more efficiently.

Mr. Speaker, I will start with the Antiquities Act. For decades, the executive branch, Presidents of the United States, mostly Democrats, have used the Antiquities Act of 1906 to designate vast areas as national monuments, and that is in an authority that we delegated to them in the Antiquities Act of 1906.

The abuse of that narrow delegated authority has resulted in restricted access to lands, hindered economic opportunities, and it has left local voices unheard and frustrated.

In my district, the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument was created by Bill Clinton in 1996, over the objections of Utah's Governor, Utah's Federal delegation, and local, county, and State-elected officials. Those frustrations and scars and wounds have not healed in the years that have passed since then.

Mr. Speaker, my Ending Presidential Overreach on Public Lands Act ensures that the decisions of this magnitude affecting public lands are made collaboratively, respecting the role of Congress with our jurisdiction over public land, and taking input from local voices. It should be Congress that makes those widespread, large-scale land management decisions.

Mr. Speaker, the next one I will talk about is the FREE Act, which encourages agencies to look at the permits they issue and determine which ones can be done by permit by rule, which means they have a predetermined list of requirements for a permit and firm timelines on making those decisions. An applicant can bring an agency everything on that list, and the agency can either say: Yes, this is adequate for

a permit, and issue the permit, or say: No, it is not adequate for a permit, and give the applicant what they need to do to remedy that so that we can have quicker permitting, especially on infrastructure projects.

Right now, it takes years and millions of dollars to permit infrastructure projects, especially in States like Utah, where most of the land is managed by the Federal Government and everything we do has to go through multiple layers of Federal processes.

Lastly, the GEO Act addresses the time that it takes to permit geothermal energy projects. Geothermal energy is abundant in Utah. We are leading out in a lot of ways on developing new geothermal resources. Yet, the time it takes to get the permit to build a geothermal plant is prohibiting us from developing some of the resources and getting clean, reliable baseload power online that this country needs now and will need even more in the future.

□ 1230

These three bills are not all of my bills, but I wanted to highlight those three today because they are about safeguarding public lands, fostering economic growth, and empowering our communities. They are about letting ranchers, families, small businesses, and entrepreneurs benefit from thoughtful and responsive government as opposed to government that drowns out their voices and ignores their needs.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support these measures, which offer pragmatic solutions to real challenges in Utah, throughout the West, and throughout the whole country.

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I thank Ms. MALOY for her remarks. I appreciate it.

Mr. Speaker, I want to ask the gentlewoman a little bit about the Antiquities Act because I have shared a lot of that frustration, as well.

The Biden administration, on the way out the door, declared several monument areas—a couple in California, one on the ocean area. It really seems it has been down to just being an executive action with very little input by Congress, and I know that is what she is working on in her legislation.

I can think of a couple of recent examples. Over 600 million acres are turned into an ocean monument area. When you do the math on that, that ends up being about a million square miles of a 1,000-mile square. That is a giant chunk of ocean that is no longer really usable for normal things like fishing and things like that.

In my home State, up in my district, they declared almost a quarter-million-acre area—they really had little consultation with the folks there. It had like a mining operation, and the timber management needed to happen, so it has been quite abusive.

I ask the gentlewoman what she thinks the long-term effects have been

on energy in the West, energy exploration, and the types of things we need to be doing.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Utah (Ms. MALOY) for the purpose of a colloquy.

Ms. MALOY. It has had a negative impact on energy production—as soon as I get in front of a microphone, I have a tickle in my throat—by restricting the areas that are open for use, withdrawing them from mineral exploration, oil and gas exploration, and energy production.

The original intent of the Presidential proclamation authority in the Antiquities Act was for the President to be able to move quickly and declare a national monument in an area with antiquities, or an area of scientific interest, to hold it until Congress could make a decision.

Since 1976, when the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, FLPMA, passed, it has been the policy of the Federal Government that we don't dispose of land anymore, so that threat has been removed. The need for a President to move quickly no longer exists, and the act is just being used to create land policy that couldn't get through Congress.

The process matters when it comes to land management. We need to take back the authority we gave Presidents because they are not using it in the way Congress intended it to be used. It is being abused, and we need to end that abuse by exercising our legislative powers.

Mr. LAMALFA. I agree. It seems that it has really flipped into this one direction on the invoking of a new monument or wilderness area, what have you. I know your State of Utah has been hit pretty hard by several.

It is not that we are against these measures to protect particular areas, but what we are talking about is gigantic swaths of land instead of something a little more focused.

The original intent was a focus on the particular historic or geographic areas, maybe like an old-growth forest area or something like that, areas where there might be Native American ruins that we want to particularly focus on. Instead, we get these gigantic acreages.

I know the Trump administration is going to be looking at some of these here as he did previously.

I also like what you were speaking about on your geothermal process there because it should be an all-of-the-above way of looking at things, on types of energy we have available, and geothermal is clean power. It is one that is available 24/7. You don't have to wait for the wind to blow, the Sun to come up, or the clouds to go away.

We need a lot more baseload power. Look at what is going on with the tech centers, the amount of AI that is going to be coming onboard and the amount of energy that it is going to be consuming.

These data centers are going to use a mass amount of new electricity if they

are allowed to, and they have talked about wanting to do it all as renewable.

If geothermal can be a source in those areas, that is one thing, but we are going to have to get real on where our power is going to come from because we have to have reliable baseload power.

Geothermal has had a very difficult permitting process. Any idea what kind of timeline? How many years does it take to get one through if you can get them through?

Ms. MALOY. I don't know what the current timeline is, but I know it has taken years when it should take months.

We know what a geothermal power plant looks like. We know how to do it in a way that is environmentally sensitive. We are just taking time and money to get to that end point that we already know we are headed to.

Mr. LAMALFA. Indeed, as another example, there was a copper mine—it is not the same as a geothermal power plant, but one particular one in the West took 29 years to permit. When you are talking about any kind of thing that is moving forward on self-sufficiency in minerals or energy dominance that the U.S. needs to have, it takes a decade or more, in many cases, to get this done.

A desalination plant in southern California, along the coast—I think out of Huntington Beach; the Poseidon project it was called. They fought for two decades to try to get a desalination plant.

We can't build water storage in California, it seems, or other areas, so everybody says, "Desal, we can use the Pacific Ocean," until you try to permit it. They fought for 20 years to work through the permit process and jumped through every hoop, like what requirement will make them happy to take care of the brine, the landscape itself. After all that time, they were still denied by the California Coastal Commission and others to be able to do that.

Permitting does need to be reformed, not thrown away, because we want to have a process where people can have a say and a look at what is happening.

By the same token, when we talk about the Antiquities Act, people need to have a say, as well, not just 2,500 miles away in Washington, D.C., where a stroke of the pen does it, as Ms. MALOY mentioned here. Local input from their legislature, their Governor, and their delegation to D.C. basically was ignored on national monuments that were done in Utah. We didn't hear a whole lot up in northern California on the one done recently, either. It was kind of one-sided.

I appreciate you bringing those to the forefront here today, and you are welcome to make any more comments you wish, but we will move on a little bit to Western water for right now, too.

It is a key issue for agriculture and hydroelectric, with safety from flood, and even recreation, as well as a lot of

the folks who are wanting more water for fish needs, fish passage and such. They sure enjoy the benefits of having stored water in the Western dams or any dams.

I will point out as an example here Shasta Dam in northern California. It is the Central Valley Project, as it is known. It is a Federal project built in the thirties that came online strongly in the early forties.

This is an amazing project. Indeed, it is the cornerstone of California water as well as some of the Colorado River water sources we have, but this is 4.5 million acre-feet in one dam and one lake up in Shasta County, California.

The way it is operated is extremely important, and when we don't have as good of decisions being made, at least in my opinion, on how that water is stored, how it is kept, and how it is allocated, then people suffer on that unnecessarily.

Right now, this lake sits at about 600,000 acre-feet still to fill it up. The thing that gets me is that we are seeing farmers and others in the water districts in central California in San Joaquin Valley, where so much of our important food supply for the whole country comes from, stuck at 35 or 40 percent of what used to be the normal allocation.

Part of that is that they can't point to the water supply. I think it is a bit of a misnomer. There is plenty of water around. I will illustrate that here in a moment, but this lake, when it is 4.5 million acre-feet full, along with our other lakes, why isn't that allocation to agriculture and others closer to 100 percent?

It hasn't reached 100 percent in a long time, and a lot of that is based on what we talked about a moment ago here, the Endangered Species Act and its weaponization in the last 50-plus years.

It is not a matter of us not caring about species and trying to recover them and conserve them. It is that it is used as a weapon to stop further water storage or the other issues we were talking about, other energy projects, even forestry practices that would be helpful to not have continued wildfire at the massive scale we are seeing, especially in the Western States.

What I want to see happening for Lake Shasta, for example, is that they can use more scientific forecasting of what the systems of weather are going to be looking like in a given year, in a given season. We are about to end the rainy season as the Bureau of Reclamation and Army Corps of Engineers—Army Corps is in charge of flood controls, so they control the top portion of this dam, Lake Oroville down near where I live, and many others around the whole country. Their charge is for flood control.

They will require that a certain gap from the top of the dam down 40, 50 feet or so. A particular amount of storage has to be available until the end of the rainy season, which is pretty much

April 1. At that point, you are allowed to fill the lake. The lake can fill on up.

Over 600,000 acre-feet down, they are assessing the snowpack, more or less, as I speak, but with still another weather pattern coming in here quite soon that would probably enhance that snowpack number, as well.

What gets me is that we have allowed Bureau of Reclamation and Army Corps 2 million acre-feet to leave this lake, to leave this system, since early January, and that has flowed down, in this case, to Sacramento River and on out to the delta.

If you want to see something about delta numbers, this poster here isn't quite updated, but it illustrates how the water flows down from the north and such and flows through the Bay Delta out to the ocean. These numbers are a little bit older. I have to update my poster here, but it shows a gap. In this case here with this timeline, 29 flowed into the delta. Down below, it shows 22 million acre-feet flowed out. That is a heck of a lot of water to lose that we didn't capture more of.

We have an excellent opportunity to do better at that and keep more water for hydroelectric power, agriculture, recreation, and people's use in the urban areas. There is a bit of a misnomer that people in agriculture use way more water than what is actually the case.

Of stored water in the State, 50 percent goes for environmental purposes, 40 percent and descending goes for agriculture, and about 10 percent for urban and people's use. That is of captured water. There is about another 50 percent of the total rainfall and snowpack that falls on the State that flows out to the ocean or other areas that ends up being—basically, you could call it environmental water as well because people don't get to use it. It is doing what it does in the rivers and streams and such.

We keep hearing that these farmers are wasting water, and people in the cities have to conserve more. Conservation is good. Farmers using better practices is good, as well. If you are telling people in the urban areas—and wait till this really happens to them. This is when we will get their attention, when they get rationed down to 42 gallons per day per person and you see these kinds of numbers.

When you see that much water going out to the delta because we have people refusing to build the storage and run the pumps, for example, at the south end of the delta, that could be filling up what is known as San Luis Reservoir, which hasn't been topped off yet. It was topped off 2 years ago, but last year and this year, under similar snowpack and rain circumstances, they haven't allowed the pumps to run hard enough to fill it.

I am hoping—a lot of stuff seems to be based on hope—that we can have enough melt into Shasta Lake or Lake Oroville and the other large ones that they will fill up and there will be enough water for everybody.

How do you count on having that amount of water, that amount of rainfall, in March and April? I have lived there my whole life. You don't always get heavy rains in March and April that would help top off these reservoirs.

□ 1245

It is, indeed, important to California, but it is an important Western issue, and what gets produced in those areas is important to everybody. I recognize that it is not just a California issue, but an entire Western issue. That is why the Western Caucus will be focusing partly on that.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH), another colleague of mine who will bring his perspective on what is happening in the great northern area of Alaska and the amazing amounts of resources they have there that this country enjoys and consumes, and it does so responsibly as well. I thank him for joining us.

Mr. BEGICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the many opportunities of Alaska.

As America's most Western State, most Eastern State, and most Northern State, Alaska is nearly 20 percent of the United States' landmass. We have more than half of the United States coastline, and it is estimated that we have more undiscovered estimated natural gas and oil resources than any other State in the country.

We have nearly every critical mineral on the critical minerals list in Alaska. We have base metals, precious metals, and of course we have rare earths in abundance. We have incredible timber resources, and we produce about 60 percent of America's seafood. Alaska is a crucial State, and I am proud to be a member of our House's Western Caucus.

I am the only Member from the State of Alaska. We have about 730,000 people who live in a State that is 2½ times the size of Texas. We are vast. We are independent, and we want to make sure that we have the ability to develop the resources that we have been blessed with.

Under President Trump's leadership, we have seen executive orders that specifically allow for development of our critical minerals, those rare earths that I spoke of, and of our natural resources, including tremendous energy resources in ANWR, NPR-A, and elsewhere. That is what Alaskans want. Alaskans want the ability to be independent, to develop their resources responsibly, and to stand on their own two feet.

I am thrilled to be a part of this body, a body that is focused on making sure that Alaska's resource potential is fully unlocked, that our mineral potential is fully unlocked, and that we restore domestic supply chains again.

As we restore those supply chains, we know that those supply chains begin with resources and begin with energy

to process those resources. Alaska is the cornerstone of this strategy, and we are excited to be a part of that conversation. I look forward to the opportunities that we will be bringing forward in the 119th Congress to advance Alaska's interests, our Nation's interests, and restore domestic manufacturing in this Nation again.

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate Mr. BEGICH's remarks. Indeed, with all the rich resources we have in Alaska, it would be amazing if we could get the permitting process so they can produce these rare earths and critical minerals in our country instead of relying on them from adversaries that are not going to be reliable long term. I appreciate him bringing that to our attention, and the work that he and others are battling to do up there.

Mr. Speaker, I now yield to the gentleman from Montana (Mr. DOWNING), one of our new Members here as well who represents half of Montana. He doesn't get to have the whole State anymore, I think, with two Members there. I appreciate his joining us here.

Mr. Speaker, indeed, these large States are home to so many rich resources that are important to our country, and we are glad to have Western Caucus membership that is recognizing that and working with us here.

Mr. DOWNING. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California for yielding.

Montana has many mottos, official and unofficial: The Last Best Place, Big Sky Country, the Treasure State. This last one recognizes the rich natural resources we have in the great State of Montana right underneath our feet.

Up recently, Biden's anti-American policies have allowed foreign actors to dominate mineral markets, and this has stifled domestic energy production to the detriment of Western States like Montana.

I had the opportunity to return home last week, and I heard about these issues firsthand from miners across the Second District. In fact, I probably spent more time below ground than I did above it. Actually, I really enjoyed that.

I am going to talk first about Stillwater County. In Stillwater County, the miners of the Sibanye-Stillwater Mine are hard at work producing the only platinum and palladium that is mined in America. Years of feckless trade policy on the part of the Biden administration has allowed malign foreign actors like Russia to flood commodities markets, crippling smaller producers like Sibanye-Stillwater.

Russia, which represents more than a third of the market, has been subsidizing and dumping these critical minerals, causing artificially low commodity prices.

This resulted in the layoff of approximately 700 hardworking miners just last year as the negative effect from dumping has not only affected the commodity price, but it has made it so that

the commodity price is below the actual cost to extract it. The ripple effects are still being felt throughout my district.

This is why Montana's congressional delegation is stepping up. I stand shoulder to shoulder with Congressman ZINKE and Senators DAINES and SHEEHY. We introduced the Stop Russian Market Manipulation Act. This bans imports of critical minerals from Russia.

We are creating a competitive market for U.S. mineral producers not driven down by dumping from foreign actors and extending a vital lifeline to operations like Stillwater. This not only allows these mines to support their work forces, but this also drives the local economy, my State economy, and is also a factor in the security of the United States of America.

Our bill encourages domestic production, decreases reliance on foreign minerals, shores up supply chains, and significantly bolsters national security, all while dealing a critical blow to Putin's war machine. These factors combine to make a real difference in the lives of hardworking Montanans who rely on these jobs to make ends meet.

Signal Peak Mine, in Musselshell County, has faced a similar reality after years of regulatory foot-dragging and America-last energy policy threatened Montana's only underground coal mining operation.

I spoke with miners who expressed concern about Signal Peak's future amidst permitting uncertainty and resource unavailability. My Crow Revenue Act eliminates this uncertainty by facilitating a critical land transfer that unlocks access to minable Federal coal while providing the Crow Tribe with a piece of the revenue. With bicameral support, I am confident we will get this bill across the finish line for our Tribal communities and our State economy. More importantly, this is another step in ensuring American energy dominance.

In closing, let me make one thing abundantly clear: There is a new sheriff in town. None of these efforts would stand a chance of becoming law without this administration. President Trump has taken swift executive action to declare a national energy emergency, reopened exploration on Federal lands and waters, appointed an all-star Cabinet with the likes of Secretary Wright and Secretary Burgum to streamline permitting and unleash American energy.

This is why I am hopeful for projects like Black Butte Copper near White Sulphur Springs that are committed to unlocking the Treasure State's resources and driving rural economic development, all in a responsible manner. I can't wait to see what these next 4 years bring for my State and others like it. Let us not squander this opportunity and work together to make American mining great again.

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. DOWNING for his perspective on

that. We are finding that these Western States, the Western Caucus focus area, I guess, is very rich in so much of what we need here. I appreciate his work with those folks in the mines to illustrate how important they are to the whole country and our energy grid, et cetera.

I thank him for his time with us, and the technical issues with the podium emphasized the point.

I am pleased to have excited, new freshman Members who really want to take charge and get going here. It is good stuff.

Mr. Speaker, I yield now to the gentlewoman from North Dakota (Mrs. FEDORCHAK), a new Member who has shown a lot of enthusiasm in jumping in with us here in the Western Caucus and helping to make it happen.

She represents another at-large district, which means the entire State. Even though there are maybe not a lot of people in these areas, what they do is extremely important.

Mrs. FEDORCHAK. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to be here. This little podium seems to have a mind of its own, so I will leave it down so it doesn't scare us all again.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues in the Western Caucus for leading the charge to strengthen rural America's future.

As a fourth-generation North Dakotan, I have seen how the hard work of our energy and agriculture producers fuels our economy, strengthens our communities, and secures our very way of life.

That is why on Monday, I introduced a resolution to overturn the Biden administration's reinstatement of the Once-in-Always-in rule. This is a shortsighted, bureaucratic mandate that punishes energy producers, manufacturers, and small businesses for investing in emissions reduction.

This rule permanently classifies certain industrial facilities as major sources of hazardous air pollutants, even if they take meaningful steps to reduce emissions below the Federal thresholds. That makes no sense. Facilities that make major investments to reduce emissions should be rewarded, not locked into outdated, costly regulations that discourage further improvements.

By refusing to let businesses reclassify after making progress, this rule removes any real incentive to invest in cleaner technologies. Instead of supporting innovation, it sends a clear message: Don't even bother.

Democrats like to use the mantra of hope and change. This regulatory approach says there is no hope, so don't change. That is not environmental stewardship. That is Washington overreach.

The United States has reduced emissions more than any other nation since 2005, all while leading the world in energy production. We should be building on that success, not undermining it with policies like this outdated, overly

burdensome Biden regulation that stifle investment and progress.

North Dakota is proof that responsible energy production and environmental stewardship go hand in hand. It is not one or the other. Our State has never violated Federal air quality standards. I will say that again. Our State has never violated Federal air quality standards, while being one of the largest energy producers in the whole country. This is a testament to the more than \$2 billion our energy producers have invested in emissions control technologies. They did that because they took their responsibility seriously. They want to be good stewards of our resources and of our air and water.

American businesses are dedicated to protecting the health, safety, and vibrancy of their communities. What they need is regulatory certainty, not a rule that locks them into compliance with outdated standards even after they have done the right thing. This is about more than just one burdensome regulation. It is about standing up for the industries that power our economy and rejecting Washington's one-size-fits-all approach.

American energy solutions are climate solutions. American energy producers are providing the solutions that are going to solve energy needs and environmental needs for the world over. Let's encourage investment in technology, not support regulations that make it impossible to do business.

I am proud to lead this effort in the House, and I urge my colleagues to support this resolution. Let's restore regulatory certainty, the number one cry from the industry that I meet with. We need regulatory certainty. Let's send a clear message that we stand with American energy producers, farmers, manufacturers, and we stand with innovation.

□ 1300

Mr. Speaker, our Nation has been blessed abundantly with natural resources. Misguided regulations and policies are strangling the very people in our Nation who are building and producing everything that we need. They are strangling the people who create jobs, who produce the products, the food, who pay taxes, who employ people. People make our communities strong. We need to stop doing that. We need to correct course in our approach for government and regulations.

Our Republican House Conference, the President, and the Senate Republicans are committed to doing this for America and to making our Nation, our States, our energy producers, our farmers, our manufacturers, and our communities great again.

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative FEDORCHAK. Those were great points she emphasized for us. It is a common theme here, and I thank her for that.

Mr. Speaker, there is red tape and endless delays in doing the work that

needs to be done to produce what comes from the Western States, Western Caucus, and our whole country. I have to remember and to emphasize these products come from all over. When we talk about mined materials, farmed materials, and wood, it is all important. The same laws that affect us in the Western States affect us everywhere.

Why do we spend so many years on permits to do things that we know how to do well? Indeed, the United States does this with a better set of environmental regulations and are way more conscientious than what will be produced in China or some of the other Pacific Rim areas. We have the technology to do it the best, as Mrs. FEDORCHAK was talking about.

I don't talk about CO₂ a whole lot because I think CO₂ is an essential building block. It is not a pollutant, as has been whipped for so many years amongst regulatory agencies and NGOs and such. If we look at how the United States has been doing, we are one of only a couple of countries that has been able to level off and even reduce CO₂ production.

We are going to get to the point where it will be so critically harmful to our industry that we need to reassess how burdensome these regulations are, especially as CO₂ is not a poisonous pollutant, *per se*. I mean, plants need it, and all things in moderation we might say. It is important that we have some reality on how these regulations affect us.

We have talked about water storage. We have talked about energy production. When we talk about our water storage, we know how important hydroelectric energy is in that it is a CO₂-free source. Ms. MALOY talked about geothermal. That is a clean source of energy to produce electricity.

What we haven't touched on much but is a potential issue the Western Caucus will be working on is nuclear energy, another CO₂-free source of electricity. If we want to deal with CO₂, here it is.

These forms of electricity generation continue to be pushed out or pushed off in the regulatory climate we have here. We have the opportunity to mine uranium—a lot of it in the Western States—and build the plants that are going to serve our urban centers.

I was talking earlier about how AI and data centers are going to use so much more electricity, as well, if the electrification of cars and trucks keeps getting pushed. Where is that electricity going to come from?

It is amazing how we mandate this in a lah-de-dah atmosphere of, well, we are just going to have more EVs. The folks regulating that and pushing that are not accountable for where that electricity is going to come from. They think more and more acres of prime farmland covered with solar panels is going to do it or offshore windmills will produce a certain amount of electricity. They find that they have prob-

lems with that. There might be negative effects on the wildlife and the ocean life there.

We need to have the ability to take a look back at these layers and layers of court decisions since these laws were made with good intentions back in the early 1970s. We talk about the Endangered Species Act, NEPA regulations, Clean Water Act, or the Clean Air Act. All had good intentions, but they have been weaponized by NGOs, environmental organizations, and even those certain belief systems of government. My home State of California is weaponized to stop some very good projects from happening.

When we talk about the Endangered Species Act reform, there are species that are basically used to stop water storage, stop highways from being built, stop power plants from being built, and even things like levees being repaired in areas that have the potential to be flooded.

One project in my district took 20-plus years to finally get approved and through for a project on a levee that already existed. They required that it be set back from the river more. Then a bunch of habitat created out of the farmers' orchards that were adjacent to that on the outside of the old levee but now inside the new levee. That took over 20-plus years.

It is because a species was listed as an endangered species by the Fish and Wildlife 20 or 25 years ago, maybe longer. Fifteen years ago they recommended to delist it. Mr. Speaker, it seems you can hardly delist anything under the way these rules have been misinterpreted.

One issue ravaging much of the West and right now has really taken hold in my district has been the wolf population that has been introduced. I know the Biden administration had done some of that at the end with over 40 wolves being dumped into Colorado last minute on their way out the door.

Wolves in California have really taken hold in the northeast part of the State. They are ravaging Modoc County, Siskiyou County, Lassen County, Eastern Shasta, and other areas to a little bit lesser extent. The deer population is being decimated.

When they run out of deer, guess where they look next? They look at livestock. Here is an example. I don't mean to be morbid, but people need to see what this really looks like. Here is a wolf toting off a deer right here. There is a deer head right there. This isn't native to that area. These are Canadian gray wolves. These are great big, powerful, scary wolves that really aren't indigenous to the farther Western States.

It is still listed. We are making efforts to delist this wolf from that list, but it is running into problems and difficulties because of the environmental movement saying, no, we need to have mating pairs in every county in order to satisfy their desires on that.

These wolves are plentiful in areas like Minnesota and neighboring States

and the central part of Canada. It is not an endangered species. There are plenty of numbers there. Mr. Speaker, if you want to look at a gray wolf, travel to that part of the country because we don't need to have them everywhere in order to somehow deem them as recovered.

I like the giraffe analogy. If we want to look at a giraffe, go to places in Africa. If we want to look at it in North America, go to the zoo. We don't have them here. We can't deem them an endangered species in North America because we don't have them here. Someone would have to start a new program to encourage and build a giraffe habitat to bring a species that really doesn't belong in that area.

It doesn't make a lot of sense, and it is really devastating. Over 200 calves have been taken in the northern California area and part of Oregon, as well. Here, we see a calf that has been devastated. It has been just completely annihilated and fed upon by a pack of wolves there. Again, I am not doing this to be morbid.

Mr. Speaker, I hope it does shock you. I hope it does shock you because this is really happening to the livelihoods of the people who are producing food that Americans want and that others want. They can't do so because of a wolf population that has been introduced by government at the behest of basically urban people who think, oh, that would be a nice ideal to have these wolves in that area. They don't have to live with the results.

These wolves have become so brazen in how they act in the area. It has taken a sheep. Any livestock is on the menu for them because when they start running out of the local wildlife, they are going to take what they need.

The ability for people to push back on that, to haze them, or to move them away is very, very limited by how U.S. Fish and Wildlife has made the rules. They have very, very few options to keep them not only out of their herds but away from their doorstep, including this doorstep right here.

Yes, this is the family dog right here. This is what is happening to families that are working in and living in those rural areas for four, five, six, or longer, generations. They provide food and put it on the table for Americans, and this is what they have to live with today. They can't let their pets out in some of these areas anymore. They can't let their kids go down to the bus stop without being guarded and to do normal things like go to school.

People are afraid to go outside their homes at night in certain areas because they hear the wolves howling, and the wolves don't feel any fear of mankind. They don't feel any deterrent due to the very limited and meager measures that people can take to deter them. They are not allowed to shoot them. They are not allowed to shoot over them. They are not allowed to be very aggressive with vehicles and such.

Indeed, one anecdote I received on visiting some folks in the district is

that they have drones they try to fly over and move the wolves away from the herds and away from their area. Funny, the wolf just looks up at it and lays down and watches it. They fly pieces of a flag or a ribbon on their fence and hope that ribbon flapping in the wind will scare the wolf away. It is called fladry.

The wolves are pretty smart. They are going to go around that. When they are running in packs like that, they are very effective at moving the livestock, moving them, herding them to other areas. There are stories about them coming in and wiping out an entire flock of sheep on one farm just for the heck of it. A single wolf in one case killed 30 sheep, killed the dog, and basically scared the horse, ran the horse over a cliff area, killing it. That is more or less for sport.

This is what is happening to people. This is what is happening in the northeast part of my State and all over the West. The elk and deer population is being devastated in these areas. We don't talk about that much because it is an ideal under the Endangered Species Act that we have to move these animals wherever someone deems they need to go, indeed, when we have populations that will sustain and prevent extinction just from what is in the upper Midwest and Canada.

What is it going to come down to? Do people have to be victimized to get a nice, idyllic scene like this with people hiking the trails? The Pacific Crest Trail runs through that portion of my district. Have warnings been sent out by the people promoting this wolf population to those who are looking to utilize these trails, such as the Pacific Crest Trail, or to climb the different mountains around northern California?

Are there adequate warnings going out to the urban areas when people expect they are going to be able to do this as they come travel and recreate a little later on this spring and summer and fall? Are they doing that?

We have this idyllic scene of a family hiking out there. Do they know possibly there might be wolves lurking in here if they are hungry and they have run out of deer to attack? The farmers and ranchers have sold their livestock herds or pulled them out or just lost them to wolf attacks. They are going to get hungry and start coming after anything they can find. Are people going to be on that list?

Am I being dramatic? No, this is the reality. This can happen. Will this scene be allowed anymore in those areas? Well, it is a wolf habitat now. We don't have any people recreating on their lands, on their national lands, on their parklands, the forestlands that are deemed to be multiuse. That use is being narrowed more and more to not doing timber operations and preventing wildfire and having wildlife flourish but to satisfy a very narrow group.

This is part of the work that we need to get done. The Western Caucus is going to be focusing on endangered spe-

cies reform, our energy, and agriculture. We need to make the farm bill a reality here soon because the farm bill has had extensions so far. We need to pass a full farm bill this year that is good for 5 years. Agriculture is a very important cornerstone of Western Caucus priorities, as well as a national priority.

We have our work cut out for us, but we have a great team on our Western Caucus staff. Nearly 100 Members of the House are in this, as well as our colleagues over in the Senate, led by my good friend, Senator LUMMIS from Wyoming. It is a very positive thing, and I am looking forward to the work here. I am honored to be able to chair that.

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

□ 1315

PROTECTING MEDICAID FOR CALIFORNIANS

(Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, Mr. KILEY of California was recognized for 30 minutes.)

Mr. KILEY of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to inform folks throughout California and the entire country of one of the biggest scandals in our State's history, which is that Governor Newsom is literally bankrupting Medicaid in our State. He is driving it insolvent through a policy that exists nowhere else in the country, in no other State, a policy of offering free, comprehensive, universal Medicaid, or Medi-Cal as we call it, to the entire population of illegal immigrants in our State who meet the income threshold. No other State has done this, and in California, it has been an absolute disaster.

Initially, it was estimated that this unprecedented expansion would cost just a few billion dollars. It turns out that it is going to cost \$9.5 billion just for this year.

Because of that enormous cost overrun, because of the resulting shortfall of some \$6 billion, Governor Newsom has just taken out an emergency loan from the general fund in order to cover payments. On top of that, he has asked the legislature to appropriate even more money, billions more.

Think about what this means over, let's say, the next 10 years. If the cost has grown from a few billion dollars to \$9.5 billion just in this first year, what can we expect year over year going forward? We are likely talking about hundreds of billions of dollars of money from California taxpayers that will be spent this next decade implementing a policy that exists nowhere else in the country to provide comprehensive care, comprehensive government-provided healthcare, to those who are in our State illegally.

Here is the worst thing. Not only is this fiscally unsustainable, but those are funds that could be going to shorting up Medicaid, Medi-Cal, and improving the system, improving access to

care, and improving the quality of care for our own legal residents.

If you are a California citizen on Medicaid right now, the kind of coverage that you get, the kind of actual delivery of service that you get, likely is not that good. Doctors throughout the State simply will not take Medicaid patients because the reimbursement rate is so low.

This policy of Governor Newsom and the supermajority in California is a conscious decision to put the entire solvency of our system at risk, to diminish access to care for our own residents, and to, in fact, make it harder to get appointments because now there is a whole new population that is looking to get into the system and doing so in a way that has no precedent anywhere else in the country.

In fact, in many cases, it actually costs the State more money to provide Medicaid to a person who is in the State illegally because, number one, there is no Federal funding for such enrollees, so the State bears almost the entire cost. Even the overall cost, forgetting about who is paying for it, can be higher. When you look at, for example, the rebates for prescription drugs that are available at the Federal level because the Federal Government negotiates in bulk, that is not available for this population that is covered by State funds, so we are actually paying more than we would for our own citizens.

Mr. Speaker, this outrageous policy simply cannot continue. I am calling on Governor Newsom and the State legislature to reverse it immediately. That should be the obvious next step when the system has gone insolvent to the extent that the Governor is forced to take out an emergency loan.

Here in Congress, I have introduced legislation that will preserve Medicaid benefits in California and across the country for only those who are legal residents of our country. I think we also have an opportunity to rein in what Governor Newsom is doing through the reconciliation process, and I look forward to doing that in order to protect Medicaid for Californians.

UPDATE ON CALIFORNIA'S FAILING HIGH-SPEED RAIL PROJECT

Mr. KILEY of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like to provide an update on the latest unbelievable revelations concerning high-speed rail, the high-speed rail disaster in California.

Yesterday, California's legislative analyst testified before the State legislature that the project faces a \$7 billion budget gap and that the funds must be secured by next June. The legislative analyst's spokesperson said: "There is no specific plan to meet that roughly \$7 billion gap. We also think there is some risk that that gap could grow."

Indeed, the hearing at which the legislative analyst testified was very brief because the California High-Speed Rail Authority submitted an incomplete update to those who had organized the

hearing. The high-speed rail authority can't manage to complete anything on time, even its own reports to the legislature, let alone a high-speed train from Los Angeles to San Francisco or even that very first segment from Bakersfield to Merced, which is now projected to miss the 2033 deadline.

Listen to the bipartisan pushback that this is getting. Assembly Member Steven Bennett, a Democrat from Ventura, said: "We have no plan. We have a good likelihood it is going to get worse, and we have a short time to solve the problem."

"The definition of insanity," said Democrat Assembly Member Cottie Petrie-Norris, "is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting a different outcome."

The truly amazing thing is the legislative analyst testified that this update that the rail authority provided, even this incomplete update, assumes there will still be Federal dollars. They are saying there is a \$7 billion budget shortfall for just the next few months, and that has an unrealistic assumption that goes with it that there is going to be further Federal funding.

I can say this right now: There will not be further Federal funding. How do I know that? Because I was at a press conference with Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy just a few weeks ago in Los Angeles, where it was made very clear that this project is a failure. In fact, there is now an investigation that has been launched by the Department of Transportation to claw back billions of dollars that have been granted.

I have also asked for an investigation by FBI Director Kash Patel to figure out how it is exactly that they have already spent \$17 billion, that the overall cost has grown to in excess of \$130 billion, yet no track has been laid after 16 years of some kind of work supposedly being done.

Finally, I have introduced legislation to make the high-speed rail project ineligible for further Federal funding at any point going forward, which, again, the rail authority is entirely reliant on the assumption of Federal funding just to get to a point where there is only a \$7 billion budget gap for just the first next few months.

The fact of the matter is that this project has failed. It is not going to happen. There is absolutely no justification for spending another dollar of taxpayer money, especially when our roads continue to crumble and be rated among the worst in the world.

I will be advancing my legislation here, and I am calling on Governor Newsom and the legislature to do the right thing and bring an end to this failed and embarrassing project once and for all.

CONDEMNING CLASSIFICATION OF ISRAEL AS AN ADVERSARY

Mr. KILEY of California. Mr. Speaker, today on the House floor, there was an amendment offered that suffered the most overwhelming defeat that I have ever seen in the United States Con-

gress, and for good reason. It is perhaps the most abhorrent legislative proposal I have ever seen in the United States Congress.

The Representative from Michigan, Representative TLAIB, introduced a measure that would classify Israel as an adversary of the United States alongside the likes of China, Iran, and North Korea.

Fortunately, this proposal was swiftly and nearly unanimously rejected by the House of Representatives. Look at the vote total. A grand total of three people, including the author, voted "yes." Every single other Member, Democrat or Republican, over 400 Members, voted "no."

This sent a very important message regarding what was being suggested with this proposal, that one of our most important allies in the entire world, Israel, at this time when it faces so many challenges, is somehow a country of concern, an adversary of the United States comparable to Iran or North Korea, and to single out this one country, Israel, of all the countries in the world.

We have seen across America, and in particular on college campuses, deeply disturbing, abhorrent anti-Semitism, which has absolutely no place and that we never thought we would ever see anything like it in this country. I think when you have proposals in Congress that encourage that, that are very much thematically aligned with the pro-Hamas, anti-Semitic encampments that took over universities in the country, it is very important that that is condemned strongly and unequivocally. I am very proud that that is exactly what the House of Representatives did today.

□ 1330

ZERO JOB GROWTH IN CALIFORNIA

Mr. KILEY of California. Mr. Speaker, the California Center for Jobs and the Economy has just released an absolutely stunning report that shows how deeply Governor Gavin Newsom has driven our State's economy into the ground. Among the findings was that for the month of January, job growth in our State was nonexistent.

The number of net jobs that were added to the California economy was exactly zero for the month of January. By comparison, Texas added 27,900; Florida added 16,500; and even New York added 20,100. California added zero. Indeed, California is one of only five States in the country that has not recovered the jobs that it lost during the COVID shutdowns.

As things now stand, our unemployment rate is the second highest in the country. It is the second highest out of all 50 States. Indeed, there are 1 million Californians who are unemployed, and that has been true for 13 straight months. What is more, even those jobs that have been created in the COVID recovery are entirely government or government-dependent jobs.

So to quote the spokesperson, or the head, of the California Business Roundtable, Rob Lapsley: “To put it more directly, other than in trade, California has not grown jobs during the past 4 years of recovery; it has bought them with public funds.”

We would have zero job growth and zero recovery if it weren’t for government jobs.

What is more, beyond that, even when you look at folks who are employed, Mr. Speaker, the average number of hours per week is shrinking in California as well.

This is truly stunning, Mr. Speaker, when you consider everything that our State has to offer, not only being a place that has a greater diversity of natural wonders and attractions and beauty than just about any place on Earth, but it also has so many dynamic and thriving industries, so many incredible companies and employers. It has such a rich history of innovation and of driving the Nation forward.

Somewhat this Governor and the existing legislature have managed to turn it into the State that does the absolute worst when it comes to jobs of any State in the country.

So why is that the case?

It is no mystery, Mr. Speaker. You can just look at misguided policy after misguided policy which has served to discourage companies from starting, discourage companies from adding jobs, discourage companies from staying here, and indeed, has made more people leave this State than any other for several consecutive years.

I am working on legislation in Congress inasmuch as we can use the levers we have here at the Federal level to try to bring some sanity back to the economic policy environment in California because there are areas where Federal and State policy intersect.

For example, we are getting rid of all of these EV mandates or electric train mandates or electric truck mandates or electric lawnmower mandates. I will soon be introducing a Congressional Review Act resolution to end Gavin Newsom’s plan to ban gas-powered cars in California.

Beyond that, there are a number of State policies that everyone knows are causing immense harm and yet remain on the books. So if our State’s leadership has the chance to look at this report and get a little dose of reality and has any inclination to actually try to turn things around and help folks in our State, here are a few suggestions:

Repeal AB 5, which has effectively banned independent contracting in our State and has put countless freelancers out of work.

Overtake the Private Attorneys General Act, PAGA, which is the bane of many small businesses’ existence and accounts for the nonexistence of many that have been forced to close because of the harassing lawsuits that it leads to.

Reexamine every mandate that we place on employers, especially those

that don’t exist in any other State, and evaluate the impact they have on the incentive to hire.

Take a cue from President Trump who has said we are going to repeal 10 regulations for every new regulation that we offer.

If there is any place where the regulatory thicket can rival or even surpass that of the Federal Government, it is the bureaucracy that we have in California.

Speaking of the bureaucracy, find ways to rein in these massive, unelected policymaking bodies we have in California such as CARB, the California Air Resources Board.

These are just a few suggestions, but our State has absolutely enormous potential that currently is being dramatically underutilized. It is truly a sad thing as we see it in every community in this State. You see your favorite restaurant or another cherished small business that suddenly closes its doors for good, and you see so many of our fellow citizens who are lacking the sort of opportunities that a well-governed State would allow them.

So I would hope that if anything could be a wake-up call, then this latest stunning report with this very round number of zero new jobs will serve as that wake-up call that can catalyze and motivate some real reform in California.

SPACEX RESCUE

Mr. KILEY of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate and thank SpaceX and its Crew Dragon capsule for successfully returning the two astronauts, Barry Wilmore and Suni Williams, who had been stranded in the International Space Station for 286 days.

Most Americans are now familiar with the story and with the issues that arose with the Boeing Starliner that made them unable to return on that vessel and the delays that ensued after that such that these astronauts had to overstay their planned trip by many, many, many weeks.

It was just on March 18, a little over 1 week ago, that they finally were brought home thanks to SpaceX and splashdown in the Gulf of America.

This was a great moment for our country, certainly a great moment for the astronauts and their families, and I think it serves as a reminder of how important America’s lead is when it comes to the commercial space industry.

We saw just this last year repeated efforts by the Biden administration to hold back that progress and to specifically target SpaceX.

Now, it needs to be noted that SpaceX accounts for over 90 percent of the total payload brought into orbit in the entire world, and so targeting SpaceX is truly weakening our own country given how important our global dominance in space is. So this latest demonstration of the capacity of this particular company and American ingenuity in general to accomplish amaz-

ing feats should hopefully serve as a reminder that we have now turned a page, that we are now encouraging innovation, and that we must never return to the misguided policies and, frankly, discriminatory treatment that prevailed during the administration of President Biden.

So I thank SpaceX again and welcome home, a long delayed welcome home, and welcome back to Earth to our astronauts.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE ANNOUNCEMENT

Mr. KILEY of California. Mr. Speaker, I have the honor of chairing the subcommittee that has jurisdiction over all of K-12 education, and I wanted to let folks know about a very important hearing that we are having next Tuesday at 10:15 a.m. eastern time on artificial intelligence and its uses in education.

Now, some folks might hear the topic of that hearing and think about things like: Is AI making it easier for students to cheat, or is this going to absorb young people even further into digital worlds?

Those are certainly concerns. However, the focus of our hearing is going to be on the upside. It will be on the tremendous potential, the boundless opportunities that AI—even as it exists right now, let alone what its capabilities are going to be in a matter of weeks, months, and years, the unbelievable opportunities to close achievement gaps and advance student achievement.

I firmly believe, if it isn’t already true now then it will be true in a very short time, that every child in America now has the ability to get a richer and more immersive education than any child did just a few years ago.

I was part of an organization when I was a teacher that was aimed at closing achievement gaps in America. The different opportunities that are afforded to young students depending on the ZIP Code that they live in is an ongoing failure of our public education system. There are many policy changes that we need to make to address that, such as providing for greater choices for students and their families.

However, the use of artificial intelligence is another incredibly powerful tool for closing these achievement gaps. That is because now, no matter where you were born, the ZIP Code that you live in, or the neighborhood school that is closest to you, Mr. Speaker, you, as a young person growing up in America, can access the entirety of human knowledge. It can be conveyed and given to you in a way that meets your own starting knowledge level, your own ability level, and your own strengths and weaknesses in the modality that fits you.

We are seeing incredible things that are being done already at different schools across the country as well as with platforms like the Khan Academy where you can have a direct dialogue with a chatbot or, for example, a reanimated version of Albert Einstein that

teaches you physics, or you can have a dialogue with a historical figure as you are learning history, or with a literary character as you are reading a classic novel.

In addition, beyond giving the student this novel, immersive experience that is uniquely tailored to them, it also liberates teachers to focus on those sorts of things that only a caring human instructor can do. So we are still in the very early stages, and the capabilities of AI systems are growing by the day.

I think this is going to be a very important moment for us to look at what is being done now and what we can do going forward to expand these incredible learning opportunities to every child in America.

So you can tune into our hearing next Tuesday at 10:15 a.m. eastern time.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF GRASS VALLEY

Mr. KILEY of California. Mr. Speaker, I wish to mark and to celebrate the centennial anniversary of the Rotary Club of Grass Valley based in California's Third Congressional District.

The Rotary Club of Grass Valley was established in 1925 by 25 local business and professional leaders who were inspired by the Rotary movement's ideals of service and ethical business practices.

Club members represented a cross section of the community and included businessmen and professionals associated with and directly involved with the major regional economic activities of mining and timber harvesting.

The outbreak of World War II had a profound impact on the activities of the Rotary Club as many of its members were called to serve in the U.S. Armed Forces. Those who remained in Grass Valley continued to support the war effort through various initiatives, such as organizing blood drives, collecting scrap metal, and helping military families.

The history of the Rotary Club of Grass Valley is a testament to the power of community spirit and collective action.

Today, the Rotary Club hosts several community events meant to support the numerous programs and activities that provide the resources needed to promote the quality of life of Grass Valley residents, the surrounding region, and communities across the globe.

For more than 10 decades now, the club has demonstrated an ongoing commitment to service, fellowship, and leadership. Their contributions are an indelible part of the Grass Valley community and have made a lasting impact on our region.

Therefore, on behalf of California's Third Congressional District and the United States House of Representatives, I am pleased to recognize the Rotary Club of Grass Valley for their outstanding contributions throughout their 100-year history, and I commend

them for their ongoing and tireless devotion to community service.

Here is to another great 100 years.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. KILEY of California. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 43 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Monday next, March 31, 2025, at noon for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

EC-639. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTG 24-052 Certification of Proposed Issuance of an Export License Pursuant to Sec 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-640. A letter from the Senior Bureau Official, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTG 24-097 Certification of Proposed Issuance of an Export License Pursuant to Sec 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

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. SMITH of Missouri: Committee on Ways and Means. H.R. 1155. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow taxpayers to elect to receive certain replacement refunds electronically; with an amendment (Rept. 119-41). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. SMITH of Missouri: Committee on Ways and Means. H.R. 998. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to require additional information on math and clerical error notices; with an amendment (Rept. 119-42). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. SMITH of Missouri: Committee on Ways and Means. H.R. 1491. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make the postponement of certain deadlines by reason of disasters applicable to the limitation on credit or refund, and to take postponements into account for purposes of sending collection notices; with an amendment (Rept. 119-43). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. SMITH of Missouri: Committee on Ways and Means. H.R. 517. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the rules for postponing certain deadlines by reason of disaster; with an amendment (Rept. 119-44). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. SMITH of Missouri: Committee on Ways and Means. H.R. 1152. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the application of the mailbox rule to

documents and payments electronically submitted to the Internal Revenue Service; with an amendment (Rept. 119-45). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. SMITH of Missouri: Committee on Ways and Means. H.R. 997. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to conform to the intent of the Internal Revenue Service Restructuring and Reform Act of 1998, as set forth in the joint explanatory statement of the committee of conference accompanying Conference Report 105-599, that the National Taxpayer Advocate be able to hire and consult counsel as appropriate; with an amendment (Rept. 119-46). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HILL of Arkansas: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 1450. A bill to require the Office of Foreign Assets Control to develop a program under which private sector firms may receive a license to conduct nominal financial transactions in furtherance of the firms' investigations, and for other purposes (Rept. 119-47, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HILL of Arkansas: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 1716. A bill to deter Chinese aggression towards Taiwan by requiring the Secretary of the Treasury to publish a report on financial institutions and accounts connected to senior officials of the People's Republic of China, to restrict financial services for certain immediate family of such officials, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 119-48, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committee on Foreign Affairs discharged from further consideration. H.R. 1450 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committee on Foreign Affairs discharged from further consideration. H.R. 1716 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. CLYDE (for himself, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. PERRY, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. DONALDS, Mr. CRANE, Mr. SELF, Mr. ARRINGTON, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. HARRIS of Maryland, Ms. BOEBERT, Mr. CLINE, Mrs. LUNA, Mr. BRECHEEN, Mr. HUDSON, Ms. GREENE of Georgia, Mrs. BIGGS of South Carolina, Mr. GILL of Texas, Mr. BABIN, Mr. HUNT, Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. OGLES, Mr. EZELL, Mr. BERGMAN, Mr. DUNN of Florida, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. MASSIE, Mr. BIGGS of Arizona, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. NEHLS, Mr. FRY, Mr. ROSE, Mrs. CAMMACK, Mr. WIED, Mr. HARRIGAN, Mr. EDWARDS, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mrs. BICE, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. McDOWELL, Mr. BURCHETT, and Mr. RESCHENTHALER):

H.R. 2395. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to remove short-barreled

rifles, short-barreled shotguns, and certain other weapons from the definition of firearms for purposes of the National Firearms Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, 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. VASQUEZ (for himself, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. RILEY of New York, and Mr. McGOVERN):

H.R. 2396. A bill to unfreeze funding for contracts of the Department of Agriculture, to prohibit Farm Service Agency and Natural Resources Conservation Service office closures, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. SMITH of Nebraska (for himself and Mr. MORAN):

H.R. 2397. A bill to amend part A of title IV of the Social Security Act to target funds to families in need; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SMITH of Nebraska (for himself, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mrs. FISCHBACH, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. FEENSTRA, Ms. STANSBURY, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. CAREY, Ms. BUDZINSKI, Ms. HOULAHAN, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, Mr. FINSTAD, and Ms. MCCOLLUM):

H.R. 2398. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for an exclusion for assistance provided to participants in certain veterinary student loan repayment or forgiveness programs; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. HOUCHIN (for herself and Ms. KELLY of Illinois):

H.R. 2399. A bill to require the Federal Communications Commission to establish a vetting process for prospective applicants for high-cost universal service program funding; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. LAMALFA:

H.R. 2400. A bill to take certain Federal land in the State of California into trust for the benefit of the Pit River Tribe; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

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

H.R. 2401. A bill to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, the Secretary of the Interior, and the Secretary of Agriculture to maintain the Urban Waters Federal Partnership Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committees on Natural Resources, and Appropriations, 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. AGUILAR (for himself, Mr. CARSON, Ms. CHU, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. McGARVEY, Ms. JACOBS, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. MULLIN, Ms. NORTON, Mr. PANETTA, Ms. PINGREE, Ms. TLAIB, and Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN):

H.R. 2402. A bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to establish statewide community eligibility for certain special assistance payments, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

By Mr. ALLEN (for himself and Ms. KAPTUR):

H.R. 2403. A bill to require that any person that maintains an internet website or that sells or distributes a mobile application that stores and maintains information collected from such website or application in the People's Republic of China to disclose that such information is stored and maintained in the People's Republic of China and whether the

Chinese Communist Party or a Chinese State-owned entity has access to such information; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. BALDERSON (for himself and Ms. KELLY of Illinois):

H.R. 2404. A bill to provide for a study on the effects of remote monitoring on individuals who are prescribed opioids; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. BARR (for himself, Mr. COMER, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. McGARVEY, Mr. COHEN, and Mr. BERNA):

H.R. 2405. A bill to direct the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior to carry out activities to provide for white oak restoration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, 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 Ms. BONAMICI (for herself, Ms. SALAZAR, and Mr. HUFFMAN):

H.R. 2406. A bill to amend the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 to address sexual harassment and sexual assault involving National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration personnel, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. BRECHEEN (for himself, Mr. KENNEDY of Utah, and Mr. GROTHMAN):

H.R. 2407. A bill to help individuals receiving assistance under the supplemental nutrition assistance program in obtaining self-sufficiency, to provide information on total spending on means-tested welfare programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BUCHANAN (for himself and Mr. SOTO):

H.R. 2408. A bill to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to include algal blooms in the definition of a major disaster, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. BURLISON (for himself, Mr. GOLDEN of Maine, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, and Mr. COMER):

H.R. 2409. A bill to require a guidance clarity statement on certain agency guidance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. CAREY (for himself, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. SEWELL, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. BEYER, Mr. KUSTOFF, Ms. CHU, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. PANETTA, Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. MOORE of Utah, Mr. EVANS of Pennsylvania, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. MORAN, Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. LAHOOD, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Mr. MILLER of Ohio, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. AMODEI of Nevada, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. CISCOMANI, Mr. HORSFORD, and Ms. DELBENE):

H.R. 2410. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide an investment credit for converting non-residential buildings to affordable housing; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. CARSON (for himself, Ms. JAYAPAL, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. BALINT, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. BEYER, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr.

CASTRO of Texas, Mr. CASAR, Ms. CHU, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. COURTNEY, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Ms. DEGETTE, Ms. DELAUR, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. EVANS of Pennsylvania, Mrs. FOUSH, Mr. FROST, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. LYNCH, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MFUME, Mr. McGOVERN, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. NORTON, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Ms. OMAR, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. POCAN, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Mr. RASKIN, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Ms. SIMON, Ms. STANSBURY, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. TOKUDA, Mr. TONKO, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. WATERS, and Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN):

H.R. 2411. A bill to restore funding for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. CASE (for himself and Mr. McGOVERN):

H.R. 2412. A bill to establish an Office for Indigenous Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, 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. CASTEN:

H.R. 2413. A bill to provide for accurate energy appraisals in connection with residential mortgage loans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. CASTOR of Florida (for herself and Mr. HUDSON):

H.R. 2414. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize a military and civilian partnership for trauma readiness grant program; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. COHEN:

H.R. 2415. A bill to waive certain prohibitions with respect to nationals of Cuba coming to the United States to play organized professional baseball; 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. CONNOLLY (for himself, Mrs. KIM, Mr. COHEN, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. MIN, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, and Mr. SHERMAN):

H.R. 2416. A bill to amend the Taiwan Allies International Protection and Enhancement Initiative (TAIPEI) Act of 2019 to provide that the United States, as a member of any international organizations, should oppose any attempts by the People's Republic of China to resolve Taiwan's status by distorting the decisions, language, policies, or procedures of the organization, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. CONNOLLY (for himself, Mr. FALLON, Mrs. MCCLAIN DELANEY, and Ms. MACE):

H.R. 2417. A bill to improve the visibility, accountability, and oversight of agency software asset management practices, and for

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

By Mr. DAVIDSON (for himself and Mr. DONALDS):

H.R. 2418. A bill to amend the Federal Reserve Act to bring the non-monetary policy related functions of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System into the appropriations process, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. DAVIDSON:

H.R. 2419. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow all individuals to contribute to health savings accounts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania (for herself, Ms. MENG, Mr. COHEN, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI, Ms. NORTON, Mr. CARSON, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, and Ms. DEGETTE):

H.R. 2420. A bill to designate certain National Forest System land and certain public land under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture in the States of Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington, and Wyoming as wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, wildland recovery areas, and biological connecting corridors, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. DELBENE (for herself and Ms. SEWELL):

H.R. 2421. A bill to require a certain determination by the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration regarding the imposition on personnel of the Internal Revenue Service a function of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. DONALDS (for himself, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, and Mr. MOSKOWITZ):

H.R. 2422. A bill to transfer the headquarters of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to Brevard County, Florida, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. ESTES (for himself, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. ARRINGTON, Mr. SMUCKER, Mr. HERN of Oklahoma, Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. KUSTOFF, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. STEUBE, Ms. TENNEY, Mrs. FISCHBACH, Mr. MOORE of Utah, Ms. VAN DUYNE, Mr. FEENSTRA, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Mr. CAREY, Mr. YAKYM, Mr. MILLER of Ohio, Mr. BEAN of Florida, and Mr. MORAN):

H.R. 2423. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the application of the base erosion and anti-abuse tax with respect to certain entities connected to jurisdictions which have implemented an extraterritorial tax; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. LAMALFA (for himself, Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. CARBAJAL, and Mr. MILLER of Ohio):

H.R. 2424. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the excise tax on heavy trucks and trailers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. FALLON (for himself, Mrs. HAYES, Ms. VAN DUYNE, Mr. GOODEN, and Mr. NEHLS):

H.R. 2425. A bill to protect babies and young children in childcare settings by strengthening transparency and safety requirements; to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

By Mr. FALLON (for himself, Mr. BISHOP, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. MAGAZINER, Mr. GOODEN, and Mr. NEHLS):

H.R. 2426. A bill to require a study on the quality of care difference between mental health and addiction therapy care provided by health care providers of the Department of Veterans Affairs compared to non-Department providers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. FRIEDMAN (for herself and Mr. SHERMAN):

H.R. 2427. A bill to prohibit price gouging as an unfair and deceptive act or practice during a major disaster or emergency, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. FRIEDMAN (for herself, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. LIEU, Mr. MULLIN, and Mr. SHERMAN):

H.R. 2428. A bill to require the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study regarding a Federal buyout program available to homeowners with properties in high-risk catastrophic wildfire disaster areas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GARBARINO (for himself, Ms. GILLEN, Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia, Mr. SUOZZI, and Mr. LALOTA):

H.R. 2429. A bill to direct the Secretary of Transportation to develop and implement a comprehensive Campus Modernization Plan for the United States Merchant Marine Academy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. GILL of Texas:

H.R. 2430. A bill to direct the United States Postal Service to designate a single, unique ZIP Code for Northlake, Texas; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. GOTTHEIMER:

H.R. 2431. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to limit mass layoffs of employees of the Federal Aviation Administration within 1 year of a major aviation accident, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. GRAVES (for himself and Mr. MANN):

H.R. 2432. A bill to establish the Southwestern Power Administration Fund, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Appropriations, 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. GREEN of Tennessee (for himself, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. SCHRIER, Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania, Mr. McCORMICK, Mr. HARRIS of Maryland, Mr. BURCHETT, Mr. BABIN, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, and Mr. KENNEDY of Utah):

H.R. 2433. A bill to ensure that prior authorization medical decisions under Medicare are determined by physicians; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GROTHMAN (for himself and Mr. BEYER):

H.R. 2434. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that bonds used to finance professional stadiums are not treated as tax-exempt bonds; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. HAYES (for herself, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. COURTNEY, Ms. DELAUR, and Mr. HIMES):

H.R. 2435. A bill to amend the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 to assist farmers relying on the non-insured crop disaster assistance program by lowering the cost of purchasing coverage, reducing paperwork burdens, and increasing payouts under that program, and to incentivize farmers to transition gradually to a comprehensive insurance policy under the whole farm risk management insurance plan by offering progressive premium discounts on a commitment to purchase a whole farm plan of insurance; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. HERN of Oklahoma:

H.R. 2436. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to treat distributions from health savings accounts for funeral expenses of the account beneficiary as qualified distributions; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. HOUCHEIN:

H.R. 2437. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to require hospitals to provide information on available hospice programs to certain individuals upon discharge under the Medicare program; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. HOUCHEIN (for herself and Ms. JOHNSON of Texas):

H.R. 2438. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to create a refundable tax credit for foster families, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Education and Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. HOULAHAN (for herself, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. NORTON, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. POCAN, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. CARSON, Mr. CASE, Ms. OMAR, Mr. PETERS, Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. TOKUDA, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. McGOVERN, Ms. STRICKLAND, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. NADLER, Ms. JACOBS, Mr. CROW, Ms. TITUS, Mrs. FLETCHER, Ms. BROWN, Mr. QUIGLEY, Ms. PINGREE, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. BELL, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. ANSARI, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. MENG, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. MOULTON, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. AUCHINCLOSS, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. COSTA, Mr. VEASEY, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. COHEN, Ms. DEGETTE, and Ms. VELAZQUEZ):

H.R. 2439. A bill to authorize contributions to the United Nations Population Fund, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. HUDSON (for himself and Ms. SEWELL):

H.R. 2440. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for school infrastructure finance and innovation tax credit bonds; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. HUIZENGA (for himself, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. STEIL, and Mr. AUCHINCLOSS):

H.R. 2441. A bill to provide for the electronic delivery of certain regulatory documents required under the securities laws; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. ISSA (for himself, Mr. HUDSON, and Mr. LAMALFA):

H.R. 2442. A bill to prohibit State excise taxes on firearms and ammunition manufacturers and dealers; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. JACKSON of Texas (for himself, Mr. DUNN of Florida, Mr. BURCHETT,

Mr. COLLINS, Mr. NEHLS, Mr. CLOUD, Mr. SELF, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. BIGGS of Arizona, Ms. GREENE of Georgia, Mr. ARRINGTON, Mr. GOSAR, and Mr. ROY:

H.R. 2443. A bill to eliminate taxpayer funding for the partisan broadcasting outlets known as National Public Radio and the Public Broadcasting Service, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. JAMES (for himself, Mrs. HOUCHIN, Mrs. DINGELL, and Ms. KELLY of Illinois):

H.R. 2444. A bill to establish a critical supply chain resiliency and crisis response program in the Department of Commerce, and to secure American leadership in deploying emerging technologies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. KENNEDY of Utah:

H.R. 2445. A bill to prohibit implementation of the rule entitled “Medicaid Program; Streamlining the Medicaid, Children’s Health Insurance Program, and Basic Health Program Application, Eligibility Determination, Enrollment, and Renewal Processes”, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. LAWLER (for himself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. HAMADEH of Arizona, Mrs. BICE, Mr. BACON, Mr. GARBARINO, Mr. KEAN, Mr. LALOTA, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. OWENS, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, and Mr. WEBER of Texas):

H.R. 2446. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to prohibit institutions of higher education that authorize antisemitic events on campus from participating in the student loan and grant programs under title IV of such Act; to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

By Mr. LIEU (for himself, Ms. TOKUDA, and Mrs. TORRES of California):

H.R. 2447. A bill to increase cybersecurity education and job growth, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, Education and Workforce, 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. MAGAZINER:

H.R. 2448. A bill to direct the Secretary of Interior to submit to Congress a report on the National Park Service’s interpretation and application of the Standards for Rehabilitation for use of the Federal Historic Preservation Tax Incentives program; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. MATSUI (for herself, Mr. ALLEN, and Mr. WALBERG):

H.R. 2449. A bill to direct the Federal Communications Commission to establish a task force to be known as the “6G Task Force”, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. McDONALD RIVET (for herself, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. JAMES):

H.R. 2450. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act, the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, and the Internal Revenue Code of 1984 to increase oversight of pharmacy benefit management services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Education and Workforce, and Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MCGOVERN:

H.R. 2451. A bill to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study of the Deerfield River for potential addition to the national wild and scenic rivers system, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mrs. MILLER of Illinois (for herself, Ms. TENNEY, Ms. HAGEMAN, Mrs. BIGGS of South Carolina, Mr. TIFPANY, Mr. BURCHETT, Mr. OWENS, Mr. MCCORMICK, Mr. SELF, Mr. ONDER, and Ms. BOEBERT):

H.R. 2452. A bill to provide that for purposes of determining compliance with title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, locker room facilities in active use in connection with an education program or activity may be in use only by individuals of the same sex as determined solely on each individual’s reproductive biology and genetics at birth; to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

By Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS (for herself and Mrs. HARSHBARGER):

H.R. 2453. A bill to continue Executive Order 14224 in effect indefinitely; to the Committee on Education and Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MILLIS (for himself, Mrs. LUNA, Mr. BRECHEEN, and Mr. HARRIS of Maryland):

H.R. 2454. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to preclude the naturalization of any person who has unlawfully entered the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MIN (for himself, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI, and Ms. NORTON):

H.R. 2455. A bill to require Executive agencies to limit the use of special Government employees to 130 days, to require the maintenance of a public database of certain special Government employees, to require the release of financial disclosures filed by certain special Government employees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. MORAN:

H.R. 2456. A bill to terminate the Department of Education, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

By Mr. OWENS (for himself, Mr. COSTA, Ms. MALOY, Ms. PETTERSEN, and Mr. MOORE of Utah):

H.R. 2457. A bill to require the Secretary of Energy to provide technology grants to strengthen domestic mining education, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. PALLONE (for himself and Mr. GUTHRIE):

H.R. 2458. A bill to amend the Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Act of 2019 to prohibit the Federal Communications Commission from granting a license or United States market access for a geostationary orbit satellite system or a non-geostationary orbit satellite system, or an authorization to use an individually licensed earth station or a blanket-licensed earth station, if the license, grant of market access, or authorization would be held or controlled by an entity that produces or provides any covered communications equipment or service or an affiliate of such an entity, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. PANETTA (for himself, Mr. BEYER, Ms. DELBENE, Ms. SEWELL, and Mr. SCHNEIDER):

H.R. 2459. A bill to amend the Trade Act of 1974 to eliminate the authority to impose certain import surcharges to address balance of payments deficits, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. PERRY (for himself, Mr. BRECHEEN, and Mr. MCCLINTOCK):

H.R. 2460. A bill to repeal the renewable fuel program of the Environmental Protection Agency; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. PETTERSEN (for herself, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, and Ms. TLAIB):

H.R. 2461. A bill to ensure that federally backed financing for the construction, rehabilitation, or purchase of manufactured home communities is available only for communities whose owner has implemented minimum consumer protections in the lease agreements with residents of all manufactured home communities owned by such owner, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. ROSE (for himself, Mr. SOTO, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. BOST, Mr. MESSMER, Mr. BARR, Mr. HERN of Oklahoma, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Mr. PERRY, Mrs. BICE, Mr. MEUSER, Mr. GOODEN, Mr. ALFORD, Mr. GRAVES, and Mr. RULLI):

H.R. 2462. A bill to authorize livestock producers and their employees to take black vultures in order to prevent death, injury, or destruction to livestock, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. SÁNCHEZ (for herself and Mr. FITZPATRICK):

H.R. 2463. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a credit for the labor costs of installing mechanical insulation property; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SCHNEIDER (for himself, Ms. DELBENE, Ms. SEWELL, Mr. PANETTA, and Mr. BEYER):

H.R. 2464. A bill to repeal section 338 of the Tariff Act of 1930; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SMUCKER (for himself and Mr. MACKENZIE):

H.R. 2465. A bill to amend the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act to clarify the procedures regarding the eligibility of online providers of training services; to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

By Mr. SORENSEN (for himself and Mr. LAHOOD):

H.R. 2466. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 5225 Harrison Avenue in Rockford, Illinois, as the “Jay P. Larson Post Office Building”; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Ms. STANSBURY (for herself, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. NEAL, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. COHEN, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. CASTEN, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. PINGREE, Ms. DELAURO, Ms. CRAIG, Mr. CLEAVER, Ms. DEGETTE, Ms. HOYLE of Oregon, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI, Mr. LIEU, Ms. CHU, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. MULLIN, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. NORTON, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. POCAN, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Ms. WATERS, Mr. FOSTER, Ms. STEVENS, Ms. OMAR, Mr. NEGUSE, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. TONKO, Mr. CARBAJAL, Ms. MENG, Mr. BEYER, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. JAYPAL, and Mrs. RAMIREZ):

H.R. 2467. A bill to designate as wilderness certain Federal portions of the red rock canyons of the Colorado Plateau and the Great Basin Deserts in the State of Utah for the benefit of present and future generations of

people in the United States; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. STEIL (for himself and Mr. MOORE of Alabama):

H.R. 2468. A bill to prohibit the issuance of licenses or other waivers from sanctions imposed pursuant to certain authorities relating to the conduct of Iran, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. STRICKLAND (for herself and Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin):

H.R. 2469. A bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to evaluate the benefits of abortion doula care and coverage; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. SUBRAMANYAM (for himself, Mr. BEYER, Mr. CARSON, Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. ELFRETH, Mr. EVANS of Pennsylvania, Mr. GARCIA of California, Mr. HOYER, Mr. IVEY, Mr. LYNCH, Mrs. McCLEAIN DELANEY, Ms. NORTON, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. TITUS, Ms. TLAIB, and Mr. VINDMAN):

H.R. 2470. A bill to require Federal agencies to conduct a benefit-cost analysis on relocations involving the movement of employment positions to different areas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. SWALWELL (for himself and Mr. CRENSHAW):

H.R. 2471. A bill to update the National Action Plan for Adverse Drug Event Prevention to consider advances in pharmacogenomic research and testing, to improve electronic health records for pharmacogenomic information, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. SYKES (for herself, Mr. PALONE, and Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI):

H.R. 2472. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to ensure the safety of infant and toddler food, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. SYKES (for herself and Ms. MCCLELLAN):

H.R. 2473. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish a new tax credit and grant program to stimulate investment and healthy nutrition options in food deserts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, 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. TAYLOR:

H.R. 2474. A bill to require the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study on the capability of the Appalachian Regional Commission to include low-orbit satellites in broadband projects, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. TLAIB (for herself, Ms. ANSARI, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. GARCIA of California, Mr. McGOVERN, Ms. NORTON, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mrs. RAMIREZ, and Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN):

H.R. 2475. A bill to establish a pilot program to provide financial and non-financial housing assistance to certain homeless individuals, to provide for a study of the effects of the pilot program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. TOKUDA (for herself, Mr. TONKO, Mr. CASE, Ms. JAYAPAL, and Ms. BALINT):

H.R. 2476. A bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to treat expendi-

tures as coordinated with a candidate, an authorized committee of a candidate, or a committee of a national, State, or local political party if the making of the expenditures is materially consistent with instructions, directions, guidance, and suggestions from such candidate or committee, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Ms. VAN DUYNE (for herself, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, and Mrs. TRAHAN):

H.R. 2477. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide coverage of portable ultrasound transportation and set up services under the Medicare program; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. WAGNER (for herself, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. GARBARINO, Mrs. KIM, Ms. PEREZ, and Mr. LAWLER):

H.R. 2478. A bill to amend the Investment Company Act of 1940 to postpone the date of payment or satisfaction upon redemption of certain securities in the case of the financial exploitation of specified adults, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN (for herself and Ms. TLAIB):

H.R. 2479. A bill to amend the United States Housing Act of 1937 to provide housing assistance for youth and young adults who are unstably housed; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey (for himself, Ms. FOXX, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. SELF, Mr. FULCHER, Mr. GUEST, Mr. CLYDE, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. ONDER, and Mr. ROSE):

H.J. Res. 82. A joint resolution disapproving the action of the District of Columbia Council in approving the Insurance Regulation Amendment Act of 2024; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Ms. WATERS (for herself, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. FOSTER, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas, Mr. CASTEN, Ms. PRESSLEY, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. TORRES of New York, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Ms. PETTERSEN, Mr. FIELDS, Ms. BYNUM, and Mr. LICCARDO):

H. Res. 259. A resolution of inquiry requesting the President to provide certain documents in the President's possession to the House of Representatives relating to the access provided to the staff and advisers of, including any individual working for or in conjunction with, the Department of Government Efficiency to the systems, applications, and accounts, and any information contained therein, of the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mrs. CAMMACK (for herself, Ms. CRAIG, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. BISHOP, Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, Ms. PINGREE, Ms. BROWN, Ms. TOKUDA, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. MESSMER, Mr. NUNN of Iowa, Ms. DE LA CRUZ, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mr. SORENSEN, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. RILEY of New York, and Mr. MOORE of Alabama):

H. Res. 260. A resolution designating March 27, 2025, as "National Women in Agriculture Day"; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. CORREA (for himself, Ms. SALINAS, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. GARCIA of California, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. CROCKETT, Mr. FROST, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. LYNCH, Ms. ANSARI, Mr. HERNÁNDEZ, Ms. STANSBURY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mr. SOTO, Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ, Mrs. TORRES of California, Ms. RIVAS, Mr. CISNEROS, and Mr. GOMEZ):

H. Res. 261. A resolution recognizing the heritage, culture, and contributions of Latinas in the United States; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. CRENSHAW (for himself, Mr. MAST, Mr. GREEN of Tennessee, Mr. ARRINGTON, Mr. HILL of Arkansas, Mr. COMER, Mr. COLE, Mr. McCaul, Mr. JORDAN, Mr. BABIN, Mr. STEIL, Mr. GUEST, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas, Mr. BOST, Mr. GRAVES, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. BIGGS of Arizona, Mr. CISCOMANI, and Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas):

H. Res. 262. A resolution establishing the Select Committee to Defeat the Mexican Drug Cartels; to the Committee on Rules.

By Mrs. DINGELL (for herself, Ms. TLAIB, and Mr. CARSON):

H. Res. 263. A resolution recognizing the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, commanding a month of fasting and spiritual renewal, and extending best wishes to Muslims in the United States and across the globe for a joyous and meaningful observance of Eid al-Fitr; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. GARCIA of California (for himself, Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. NORTON, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. MFUME, Ms. BROWN, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. STANSBURY, Mr. FROST, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Mr. CASAR, Ms. CROCKETT, Ms. RANDALL, Mr. SUBRAMANYAM, Ms. ANSARI, Mr. BELL, Ms. SIMON, Mr. MIN, and Ms. PRESSLEY):

H. Res. 264. A resolution of inquiry requesting the President transmit certain documents in his possession to the House of Representatives relating to the security clearances held by Elon Musk, members of the United States Department of Government Efficiency Service, and any other individual considered to be a member of the DOGE team; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Ms. JOHNSON of Texas (for herself, Ms. TOKUDA, Ms. NORTON, Mr. PETERS, and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia):

H. Res. 265. A resolution condemning the Trump administration for the use of an unauthorized method of communicating highly sensitive or potentially classified information regarding a United States military operation via the messaging platform "Signal"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committees on Foreign Affairs, Armed Services, and Intelligence (Permanent Select), for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. NORTON:

H. Res. 266. A resolution expressing support for the designation of March 27, 2025, as "Tuskegee Airmen Commemoration Day", and calling on each State, the District of Columbia, and each territory to recognize the Tuskegee Airmen for their heroism, valor, and exemplary service to the Nation; to the

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mrs. RAMIREZ (for herself, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. GARCIA of Illinois, and Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania):

H. Res. 267. A resolution recognizing the 10th Anniversary of Educators Rising; to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

By Mr. SMITH of Washington:

H. Res. 268. A resolution of inquiry requesting the President and directing the Secretary of Defense to transmit information to the House of Representatives relating to certain military activities against the Houthis and information referring or relating to certain laws and certain policies, guidance, instructions, standards, practices, and procedures of the Department of Defense applicable to the control, communication, transmission, or delivery of classified or sensitive information; to the Committee on Armed Services.

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. CLYDE:

H.R. 2395.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the U.S. Constitution states: Congress has the power "to make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all other powers vested by this Constitution in the government of the United States or in any department or officer thereof.

By Mr. VASQUEZ:

H.R. 2396.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 18 of the United States Constitution, to provide for the general welfare and make all laws necessary and proper to carry out the powers of the Congress.

By Mr. SMITH of Nebraska:

H.R. 2397.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 of the US Constitution

By Mr. SMITH of Nebraska:

H.R. 2398.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 of the US Constitution

By Mrs. HOUCHIN:

H.R. 2399.

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

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. LAMALFA:

H.R. 2400.

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

Article 4, Section 3, Clause 2.2

By Mr. STANTON:

H.R. 2401.

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

Article I

By Mr. AGUILAR:

H.R. 2402.

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

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. ALLEN:

H.R. 2403.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the Constitution

By Mr. BALDERSON:

H.R. 2404.

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

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. BARR:

H.R. 2405.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Ms. BONAMICI:

H.R. 2406.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. BRECHEEN:

H.R. 2407.

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

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. BUCHANAN:

H.R. 2408.

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

Article I, Section VIII of the United States Constitution

By Mr. CAREY:

H.R. 2410.

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

Article I Section 8

By Mr. CARSON:

H.R. 2411.

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

Clause 18 of section 8 of Article I of the Constitution

By Mr. CASE:

H.R. 2412.

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

Title I, Section 8 of the US Constitution

By Mr. CASTEN:

H.R. 2413.

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

Clause 18 of Section 8 of Article 1 of the Constitution

By Ms. CASTOR of Florida:

H.R. 2414.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution provides Congress with the authority to "provide for the common Defense and general Welfare" of Americans.

By Mr. COHEN:

H.R. 2415.

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

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. CONNOLLY:

H.R. 2416.

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

Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. CONNOLLY:

H.R. 2417.

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

Article I, section 8

By Mr. DAVIDSON:

H.R. 2418.

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

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. DAVIDSON:

H.R. 2419.

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

Constitutional citation: Article 1, Section 8: Congress shall have the power . . . to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof

By Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 2420.

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

Article 1, Section 8

By Ms. DELBENE:

H.R. 2421.

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

Article 1 section 8

By Mr. DONALDS:

H.R. 2422.

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

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. ESTES:

H.R. 2423.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1: The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

By Mr. LAMALFA:

H.R. 2424.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

By Mr. FALLON:

H.R. 2425.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1

By Ms. FRIEDMAN:

H.R. 2427.

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

Article 1, Section 8

By Ms. FRIEDMAN:

H.R. 2428.

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

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. GARBARINO:

H.R. 2429.

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

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. GILL of Texas:

H.R. 2430.

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

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. GOTTHEIMER:

H.R. 2431.

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

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. GRAVES:

H.R. 2432.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. GREEN of Tennessee:

H.R. 2433.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
 Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution.
 By Mr. GROTHMAN:
 H.R. 2434.
 Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
 Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I of the U.S. Constitution
 By Mrs. HAYES:
 H.R. 2435.
 Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
 Article I, Section 8, Clause 18, "To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.
 By Mr. HERN of Oklahoma:
 H.R. 2436.
 Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
 Article 1 Section 8
 By Mrs. HOUCHIN:
 H.R. 2437.
 Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
 Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.
 By Mrs. HOUCHIN:
 H.R. 2438.
 Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
 Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.
 By Ms. HOULAHAN:
 H.R. 2439.
 Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
 Article 1, Section 8, of the U.S. Constitution
 By Mr. HUDSON:
 H.R. 2440.
 Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
 Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution
 By Mr. HUIZENGA:
 H.R. 2441.
 Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
 Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution; The Congress shall have the 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.
 By Mr. ISSA:
 H.R. 2442.
 Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
 Article I, Section 8, Clause 18
 By Mr. JACKSON of Texas:
 H.R. 2443.
 Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
 Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution
 By Mr. JAMES:
 H.R. 2444.
 Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
 Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3
 By Mr. KENNEDY of Utah:
 H.R. 2445.
 Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
 Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution
 By Mr. LAWLER:
 H.R. 2446.
 Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
 Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the U.S. Constitution
 By Mr. LIEU:
 H.R. 2447.
 Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

U.S. Const., Art. 1, Sec. 8
 By Mr. MAGAZINER:
 H.R. 2448.
 Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
 Article I, Section 8
 By Ms. MATSUI:
 H.R. 2449.
 Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
 section 8 of article I of the Constitution
 By Ms. McDONALD RIVET:
 H.R. 2450.
 Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
 U.S. Constitution, Article 1, Sec. 8
 By Mr. McGOVERN:
 H.R. 2451.
 Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
 Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.
 By Mrs. MILLER of Illinois:
 H.R. 2452.
 Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
 Article I
 By Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS:
 H.R. 2453.
 Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
 Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.
 By Mr. MILLS:
 H.R. 2454.
 Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
 Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution
 By Mr. MIN:
 H.R. 2455.
 Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
 Article I, Section 8, Clause 18.
 By Mr. MORAN:
 H.R. 2456.
 Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
 Article I, Section 8
 By Mr. OWENS:
 H.R. 2457.
 Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
 Spending clause 1, of section 8, of article I of the Constitution.
 By Mr. PALLONE:
 H.R. 2458.
 Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
 Article 1, Section 8, clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution. That provision gives Congress the power "to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes."
 By Mr. PANETTA:
 H.R. 2459.
 Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
 Article 1 Section 8
 By Mr. PERRY:
 H.R. 2460.
 Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
 Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.
 By Ms. PETTERSEN:
 H.R. 2461.
 Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
 Article I; Section 8
 By Mr. ROSE:
 H.R. 2462.
 Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
 Article I, Section 8.
 By Ms. SÁNCHEZ:
 H.R. 2463.
 Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
 Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 (Taxing and spending clause)
 By Mr. SCHNEIDER:
 H.R. 2464.
 Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
 Article 1, Section 8
 By Mr. SMUCKER:
 H.R. 2465.
 Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
 Clause 3 of section 8 article 1 of the Constitution
 By Mr. SORENSEN:
 H.R. 2466.
 Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
 clause 7 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution
 By Ms. STANSBURY:
 H.R. 2467.
 Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
 Article I, Section 8.
 By Mr. STEIL:
 H.R. 2468.
 Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
 Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.
 By Ms. STRICKLAND:
 H.R. 2469.
 Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
 Article 1, Section 8
 By Mr. SUBRAMANYAM:
 H.R. 2470.
 Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
 Article 1, Section 8
 By Mr. SWALWELL:
 H.R. 2471.
 Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
 Article 1, Section 8, of the United States Constitution, specifically Clause 18 (relating to the power to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the powers vested in congress).
 By Mrs. SYKES:
 H.R. 2472.
 Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
 Clause 3 of section 8 of article 1 of the Constitution
 By Mrs. SYKES:
 H.R. 2473.
 Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
 Clause 1 of section 8 of article 1 of the Constitution
 By Mr. TAYLOR:
 H.R. 2474.
 Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
 Article I Section 8 of the United States Constitution.
 By Ms. TLAIB:
 H.R. 2475.
 Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
 Article 1, Section 1 of the Constitution.
 By Ms. TOKUDA:
 H.R. 2476.
 Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
 Article I, Section 4, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution
 By Ms. VAN DUYNE:
 H.R. 2477.
 Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
 Article 1, Section 8
 By Mrs. WAGNER:
 H.R. 2478.
 Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN:

H.R. 2479.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18: [The Congress shall have Power . . .] To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey:

H.J. Res. 82.

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

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to Article 1, Section 8, Clause 17 of the U.S. Constitution in that it addresses legislation governing the affairs of the District of Columbia, and Congress has the power to “exercise exclusive Legislation in all Cases whatsoever, over such District (not exceeding ten Miles square) as may . . .”

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

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

H.R. 22: Mr. CRANK.

H.R. 45: Mr. McDOWELL.

H.R. 128: Mr. McDOWELL.

H.R. 284: Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H.R. 286: Mr. CLINE.

H.R. 290: Mr. SORENSEN.

H.R. 369: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.

H.R. 404: Mr. STUTZMAN and Mr. HAMADEH of Arizona.

H.R. 406: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.

H.R. 433: Mr. RILEY of New York and Ms. WATERS.

H.R. 438: Mr. THANEDAR.

H.R. 439: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.

H.R. 452: Mrs. SPARTZ, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, and Mr. BAUMGARTNER.

H.R. 539: Mr. WIED and Ms. STANSBURY.

H.R. 597: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.

H.R. 631: Mr. HAMADEH of Arizona.

H.R. 744: Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H.R. 749: Mr. MESSMER, Mr. DOWNING, and Mr. BURCHETT.

H.R. 764: Mr. TONKO.

H.R. 833: Mr. MCGUIRE, Mr. GUTHRIE, and Mrs. BICE.

H.R. 842: Mr. WOMACK, Mr. FIELDS, Mr. LICCARDO, Mr. GOLDMAN of Texas, Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, and Mr. GRIFFITH.

H.R. 899: Mr. FULCHER and Mr. MOORE of Alabama.

H.R. 909: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mrs. SYKES, and Ms. SHERRILL.

H.R. 951: Mr. FULCHER.

H.R. 956: Mr. SIMPSON.

H.R. 1008: Mr. NADLER.

H.R. 1009: Mr. NADLER.

H.R. 1041: Mr. COMER.

H.R. 1065: Mr. SOTO, Ms. SCHRIER, Mr. HORSFORD, Mr. TURNER of Ohio, Mr. SORENSEN, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, and Ms. BALINT.

H.R. 1078: Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. SOTO, Mr. FITZGERALD, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, and Mr. WEBSTER of Florida.

H.R. 1084: Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ and Ms. PETTERSEN.

H.R. 1151: Mr. LANDSMAN.

H.R. 1197: Ms. CRAIG and Mr. NORCROSS.

H.R. 1207: Mr. GRAVES.

H.R. 1229: Mr. MRVAN.

H.R. 1252: Mr. GOLDMAN of Texas.

H.R. 1254: Mrs. SYKES and Ms. GILLEN.

H.R. 1285: Mr. BALDERSON.

H.R. 1332: Mr. HUFFMAN.

H.R. 1347: Mr. BALDERSON.

H.R. 1363: Ms. ROSS.

H.R. 1364: Ms. LEE of Nevada.

H.R. 1367: Mr. GOLDMAN of Texas and Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas.

H.R. 1383: Mr. FIELDS and Mr. BAUMGARTNER.

H.R. 1400: Mr. FIELDS.

H.R. 1410: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.

H.R. 1417: Mr. BAUMGARTNER.

H.R. 1422: Mr. LUTTRELL, Mr. COHEN, Mr. McGARVEY, and Mr. FONG.

H.R. 1423: Mrs. RAMIREZ.

H.R. 1483: Mr. DOWNING.

H.R. 1505: Mr. LANDSMAN.

H.R. 1548: Mr. GOLDEN of Maine.

H.R. 1564: Mr. SORENSEN.

H.R. 1601: Mr. LANDSMAN.

H.R. 1616: Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ, Ms. MCBRIDE, and Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia.

H.R. 1638: Mr. LANDSMAN.

H.R. 1656: Mr. NUNN of Iowa.

H.R. 1666: Ms. RANDALL.

H.R. 1672: Mr. DUNN of Florida.

H.R. 1674: Mr. LANDSMAN.

H.R. 1687: Ms. LEE of Nevada.

H.R. 1707: Mr. CLINE, Mr. PFLUGER, and Mr. LAHOOD.

H.R. 1708: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.

H.R. 1712: Ms. TLAIB and Ms. PETTERSEN.

H.R. 1715: Ms. VELÁZQUEZ.

H.R. 1735: Ms. GILLEN.

H.R. 1810: Ms. McCLELLAN and Mr. LANDSMAN.

H.R. 1822: Mr. BERGMAN.

H.R. 1941: Mr. LANGWORTHY and Mrs. MCIVER.

H.R. 2032: Mr. ONDER.

H.R. 2033: Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia.

H.R. 2036: Mr. VALADAO, Mr. NEGUSE, Mr.

ALLEN, and Mr. HORSFORD.

H.R. 2042: Ms. TENNEY and Mr. CASE.

H.R. 2049: Ms. ESCOBAR and Ms. KELLY of Illinois.

H.R. 2059: Mr. NADLER.

H.R. 2086: Ms. ELFRETH, Mr. CISNEROS, Ms. MENG, and Mr. NEGUSE.

H.R. 2089: Ms. TENNEY.

H.R. 2102: Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ and Mr. VINDMAN.

H.R. 2110: Mr. PETERS.

H.R. 2125: Mr. MAST.

H.R. 2129: Ms. PINGREE.

H.R. 2149: Mrs. FLETCHER, Ms. ROSS, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. LAWLER, and Ms. CRAIG.

H.R. 2160: Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia.

H.R. 2165: Mr. BENTZ and Mr. GRIFFITH.

H.R. 2180: Mr. NEGUSE and Mr. McGOVERN.

H.R. 2181: Mr. NEGUSE, Mr. McGOVERN, and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.

H.R. 2189: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina and Mr. CLINE.

H.R. 2190: Ms. PETTERSEN.

H.R. 2192: Ms. CRAIG.

H.R. 2195: Mr. MIN, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, and Ms. WILSON of Florida.

H.R. 2226: Mr. GUEST.

H.R. 2240: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.

H.R. 2254: Mr. CISNEROS.

H.R. 2257: Mr. SOTO.

H.R. 2282: Mr. MESSMER.

H.R. 2311: Mr. KHANNA.

H.R. 2346: Mr. COSTA, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. MAGAZINER, Mr. MOSKOWITZ, Ms. MENG, and Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida.

H.R. 2364: Mr. ROUZER.

H.R. 2366: Ms. JAYAPAL.

H.R. 2385: Ms. MATSUI.

H.R. 2387: Mr. MESSMER.

H.R. 2392: Mr. TIMMONS.

H. Con. Res. 20: Mr. STUTZMAN.

H. Res. 64: Mr. BERA, Mrs. KIM, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. VEASEY, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. BARR, Mr. ZINKE, and Mr. MIN.

H. Res. 70: Mr. GRAVES, Mr. CASTEN, Mrs. FOUSHÉE, and Mr. KEAN.

H. Res. 188: Mrs. FOUSHÉE.

H. Res. 218: Mr. LANDSMAN.

H. Res. 224: Mr. SELF.

H. Res. 228: Mr. LANDSMAN.

H. Res. 238: Mr. VINDMAN, Ms. MORRISON, and Ms. KELLY of Illinois.

H. Res. 254: Mr. BENTZ.



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Senate

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

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

O God, our rock, fortress, and deliverer, we trust You to strengthen us today. Empower our Senators with humility to listen, wisdom to understand, courage to attempt, and power to obey. May they devote themselves to the honorable, the noble, and the good. Keep them from deviating from the path of strict integrity as You guide their hearts and minds in the knowledge of Your love.

Lord, purify their ambitions so that they may set their hearts only on the things which please You. May they find, even in problems, opportunities to discover Your mighty power.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

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

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MULLIN). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

DISAPPROVING THE RULE SUBMITTED BY THE BUREAU OF CONSUMER FINANCIAL PROTECTION RELATING TO "OVERDRAFT LENDING: VERY LARGE FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS"—Resumed

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of S.J. Res. 18, which the clerk will report.

The assistant bill clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (S.J. Res. 18) disapproving the rule submitted by the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection relating to "Overdraft Lending: Very Large Financial Institutions".

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

FBI

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I am going to ask my colleagues, as a reminder, that there are some tricks of the trade to get to your political enemies or for other reasons like covering up embarrassing situations or just to cover up wrongdoing.

I am going to use and compliment this administration. As one of its first acts after taking office, the Trump administration and Attorney General Bondi shut down the FBI's Foreign Influence Task Force. Despite criticism, this is a positive step, given what the task force had been twisted into by the Biden administration.

This task force was created in 2017 by then-Director Wray for very good reasons. We were told it was designed to counteract maligned foreign influence operations. However, this task force became infected with politics. In other words, this task force came to be used as a political weapon.

So let me explain how this became weaponized.

As an example, in 2020, during my and Senator JOHNSON's Biden family investigation, that FBI task force was

used in unnecessarily briefing us two Senators, but that only happened after pressure from our Democratic colleagues for it to happen. So pure and simple, this was a setup.

The FBI wrongly did the bidding of the Democrats. The results of the setup was this: The contents of that briefing were later leaked to the media, even though the FBI promised Senator JOHNSON and this Senator confidentiality. Those leaks were used to falsely link our Biden family investigation to somehow advancing Russian disinformation. The FBI's conduct undermined and frustrated our congressional investigation.

My and Senator JOHNSON's investigation made public Obama-Biden administration records. That included Treasury information of financial transactions between and among Biden family members. We also made public authentic bank records showing deep financial connection between and among the Biden family and China. Authentic records like these, as we all know now, have nothing to do with Russian disinformation.

So I compliment President Trump and Attorney General Bondi for getting rid of this Foreign Influence Task Force and its obstructive conduct. That is how it ended up.

If the task force did any good, I only know what it did bad, and that was setting Senator JOHNSON and I up because there was some embarrassing information that they obviously did not want out.

I yield the floor.
I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER
The majority leader is recognized.

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



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BROADBAND EQUITY ACCESS AND DEPLOYMENT PROGRAM

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, broadband deployment has long been a priority of mine. It is something that is important to my home State of South Dakota where many rural communities still lack access to reliable internet connection. And it is something I have worked extensively here on in the Senate.

More than 3 years ago, Congress created the \$42.5 billion BEAD Program to bring broadband services to unserviced parts of the country like those in my State.

It was the single largest Federal investment in broadband expansion ever made, but to date, it has not connected a single household to the internet. That is right, not \$1 of this \$42 billion program has gone to connect even one household to the internet.

Now, you might ask why. Well, because the Biden administration chose to add a host of conditions to the funding that made it unworkable for many providers like those serving rural areas in my home State of South Dakota.

They added union labor and climate requirements. And despite the law itself banning rate regulation, the Biden administration tried to add that too. The Biden administration took a program that promised to advance an important bipartisan priority and overburdened it with rules and mandates.

The administration added so many requirements that the program couldn't fulfill its core function, which is connecting households to the internet. So we are in a situation today where you have a \$42 billion program that hasn't connected a single household to the internet after, I might add, 3-plus years since its enactment.

Think about that, \$42 billion 3 years ago authorized, not a single dollar spent, not a single household connected. Why? Because the Biden administration weighted it down with so much of their liberal wish list agenda that the providers in this country are unable to even use it.

Well, now we have a new administration in the White House, and Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick is committed to finally getting this program off the ground and beginning to connect unserved Americans to the internet. This morning, I am sending a letter to Secretary Lutnick with several of my colleagues in the Commerce Committee urging his Department to remove the Biden administration's extraneous requirements that are preventing this program from doing what it was designed to do.

We are asking Secretary Lutnick to look at the restrictive labor requirements in the program that disadvantage rural communities and States with few union workers, right-to-work States like mine in South Dakota.

We are urging the Commerce Department to remove provisions that favor government-owned networks over private investments and guidelines that

prioritize certain technologies over others, which contradict, again, Congress's direction for the program to be technology-neutral.

And we are urging the elimination of climate change mandates and rate regulation that create unnecessary barriers that slow deployment and increase costs.

These regulations undermine the very purpose of the BEAD Program, and by reviewing and ultimately eliminating these unnecessary requirements, we can ensure that this funding is finally deployed to expand broadband access to unserved areas quickly and efficiently.

I appreciate that President Trump and Secretary Lutnick are both focused on ensuring that this program lives up to its goal, and I look forward to continuing to work with them to eliminate the redtape that has undermined its effectiveness and meant that not a single dollar spent or single household connected in 3-plus years since its enactment. That, frankly, is staggering.

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration, or NTIA, which is responsible for administering the BEAD Program, will need to be a partner in that effort.

This afternoon, the Commerce Committee is holding a hearing with Arielle Roth, a staffer for the Commerce Committee and President Trump's nominee to lead the NTIA.

Ms. Roth is very familiar with the burdens that have weighed down the BEAD Program, and I am looking forward to working with them to remove these barriers to broadband deployment after she is confirmed.

Many parts of our country have waited a long time for broadband deployment, and the unnecessary and extraneous rules the Biden administration imposed on the BEAD Program have only prolonged that wait.

It is time—it is high time—to remove these barriers and start getting households connected to the internet.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The minority leader is recognized.

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, so first on tariffs, yesterday, President Trump announced a new round of tariffs of 25 percent on all auto imports into the United States, but we have no details, no timeline, no plan, only more chaos. Donald Trump's trade war has accomplished only one thing to date: chaos.

In the 66 days since Donald Trump has become President, he has had 66 different positions on this issue.

One day he says yes to tariffs; the next day he says no; then the day after he says yes again. Can't make up his mind which country should have them, which country shouldn't, how much, what products.

Donald Trump's tariffs—make no mistake about it, I say to the American people. Make no mistake about it. Donald Trump's tariffs are a national sales tax on American families. Tariffs without a plan will only raise prices without anything to show for it. It is like he is playing Russian roulette with the economy. Whatever seems to pop in his mind one day, he talks about; and the next day it is something else.

Chaos. His trade war is sending stock markets crashing, hurting people's retirement, increasing the risk of a recession. A lot of the banks have increased their risk assessments of a recession because of Trump's actions. Consumer confidence is cratering. Yesterday, we learned people's outlook for the economy has hit a 12-year low, even lower than it was during the height of inflation—a 12-year low.

And how can anyone feel confident about the economy when Elon Musk is taking a chain saw to Social Security? How can anyone feel confident about the economy when Donald Trump is imposing tariffs on people?

The average credit card debt, meanwhile, surpasses \$10,000 for the first time since 2009. With such chaos in the economy, with such chaos in what is going on with tariffs, it is no wonder that the American consumer doesn't have confidence in Donald Trump and the way he is handling the economy. And as a result, the American consumer is being more cautious about spending, keeping a little more money in their pocket just in case something happens. And now it looks like a lot of bad things will.

So the economic alarm bells are ringing. Donald Trump is pouring fuel into the fire by launching America into a trade war with no plan whatsoever. And making things even worse, he is cutting both Social Security and the Agency that helps give Medicaid and Medicare to people.

This morning, the Wall Street Journal reported that Donald Trump and Secretary Kennedy are planning to cut 10,000 jobs—10,000 jobs—at HHS. Let's be very clear what these layoffs represent: an assault on Medicare, an assault on Medicaid, an assault on families and consumers from one corner of the country to the next. When you fire people who provide Medicare and Medicaid, that is the same as a benefit cut. When you fire people who prevent the spread of diseases like measles, America will get sicker, schools will get sicker, people, families, will suffer.

Mass layoffs to Medicare workers will not make things more efficient. Mass layoffs to Medicaid workers will not make things more efficient. It is more sabotage, just like the attacks on Social Security. Donald Trump and

Secretary Kennedy should reverse this attack on Medicare and Medicaid immediately.

And where are Republican colleagues? They say they want to protect Medicare. Some of them are worried about cutting Medicaid. We heard them say it. Well, when you cut 10,000 employees from HHS, you are cutting Medicare and Medicaid in terms of the benefits people will receive—similar to what they are doing on Social Security. They don't say outright they are going to eliminate it, but they try to strangle it. They try to strangle it, and the American people suffer.

So that happened on Social Security yesterday. Yesterday, after a huge wave of public outrage, the Social Security Administration temporarily delayed its plan to cut phone services for seniors and people with disabilities. But this is only a 2-week delay. This is not stopping it; it is just delaying it because of the outrage, hoping it will subside. But it won't. Americans from one end of the country to the other want to keep their Social Security. The outrage will not stop because they know that Donald Trump, Elon Musk, and DOGE want to cut or even eliminate, as Musk said, Social Security. What Donald Trump and DOGE are doing to Social Security is strangulation. They are taking a telephone wire and wrapping it around the neck of Social Security.

But, sadly, it is only the tip of the iceberg of the attack on Social Security. Up to 60 percent of all regional offices are shutting down. Dozens of field offices will be closed. Wait times will explode. Disability claims will face months of delay, and people will be in danger of losing the benefits they so desperately need.

But the administration doesn't care. Listen to this. This is just incredible. It is hard to fathom who is running the show in the Trump administration. Howard Lutnick, the Commerce Secretary, thinks that if seniors lose their benefits for a month, they won't mind. He said his mother-in-law wouldn't.

Spoken like a true billionaire. Once again, I remind Mr. Lutnick not everyone has a billionaire son-in-law, and so many people depend on that monthly check for vital things like food and medicine and rent.

And what have Senate Republicans done while Donald Trump and DOGE take a chain saw to Social Security? Absolutely nothing. They are quiet as a church mouse. Instead, Senate Republicans are moving forward with the President's nominee to lead Social Security, who is a self-proclaimed DOGE person.

Let me tell my Republican colleagues once again: A vote to confirm Frank Bisignano is a vote to cut Social Security. Senate Republicans should think very carefully about their vote, because once the damage is done to Social Security, there is no going back.

Now, on the budget, I want to reiterate something I have said about Re-

publican plans to cut taxes for billionaires while slashing Medicaid for millions of people. It sounds as if Senate Republicans will soon go to the parliamentarian to push their so-called current policy baseline gimmick to hide the true cost of their billionaire tax giveaways. This is budgetary hocus-pocus. Even CHIP ROY called it fairy dust.

Republicans can try to use whatever baseline, whatever fake math they want, but the American people and the markets can see right through it. Don't be fooled by this hocus-pocus, this current baseline hocus-pocus. It will increase the deficit by \$37 trillion over 30 years, and the American people will pay the price in higher interest rates, and American standing in the world will go down.

THE ATLANTIC REPORT

Mr. President, finally, on Mr. Hegseth and what happened this week. Yesterday, I said Pete Hegseth should be fired from his position as Secretary of Defense. In the short time that Secretary Hegseth has been on the job, he has already shown—no surprise to us; we said this at the hearing—that he lacks the judgment and character to lead America's national defense. What we learned yesterday regarding the information he shared on Signal is shocking. He sent very specific details about military plans over unsecured text messages.

Yesterday's revelations were alarming, but they were not enough. We need answers—more answers—because more damage may have been done than the public and all of us know. That is why my colleagues and I are calling on the Trump administration to release the full, unredacted text conversation from this Signal chat, including everything communicated after the journalist prudently removed himself.

We need to know if anyone, if any senior national security official, was using his or her personal devices. Ms. Gabbard's silence on this issue when asked repeatedly in committee was very, very troubling.

And we need to know if there have been other sensitive conversations like this on unsecured channels. Senate Democrats across committees of jurisdiction are taking action. It is encouraging that both Ranking Member REED and Chairman WICKER are calling for a DOD IG investigation.

Now for the past day, the Trump administration has tied itself into knots about semantics. They are spending all their energy on what counts as classified or not, what counts as a war plan, an attack plan, and on and on and on. But that is utter nonsense. The plain fact is that if the Russians or Iranians or the Houthis had somehow known about these texts, if someone more nefarious than Mr. Goldberg had been added to the text chain, our troops would have been in danger. The mission would have been compromised.

And once he got caught, did Secretary Hegseth take responsibility for

his shocking lack of judgment—which is what he should have done? Any upstanding Secretary of Defense would have done that. Did he exhibit the kind of leadership Americans expect from the man who may deploy our troops into battle, from the man who may send our family members, our friends, our neighbors into harm's way? Did he accept that responsibility? Nope, he didn't. Instead of accepting responsibility, Secretary Hegseth attacked the journalist—amazing, amazing; it is like an Alice in Wonderland world—and called him deceitful. He pointed fingers. He blamed the liberal media, moaned about hoaxes.

Mr. Hegseth, this is not a hoax. It is very real and very serious. You should not be in your job.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SHEEHY). Without objection, it is so ordered.

ENERGY

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, let me start with a simple truth, something we both know. It is good to produce more American energy—energy that is available, affordable, and reliable. It is good for our workers, good for our country, good for our safety, and good for our Nation's security.

We in America are an energy superpower, and under President Trump and Republicans, we are finally beginning to act like it. Last week, President Trump announced a dramatic change. America is going to produce more critical minerals, in addition to more energy, unlike what we had been doing for years in the last administration by locking away our critical minerals. They need to be developed. Interior Secretary Doug Burgum is spearheading this change. It is part of the bold agenda of "mine, baby, mine." It is exactly what America needs to do to get back on track.

There is a growing demand for critical minerals, and America must boost our mining workforce in order to meet it. That is why, this week, I have introduced bipartisan legislation to support our mining schools. The students we recruit, the students we train, the students we empower, the talent that we unlock will fuel America's energy dominance for generations to come. We need to fuel our success by fueling theirs.

A vital piece of the Trump energy dominance strategy is unleashing clean coal. President Trump wants America to produce more coal. I agree. This is good for Wyoming, and it is good for America. Wyoming is America's energy breadbasket. We have world-class coal, and Wyoming's Powder River Basin produces the cleanest burning coal in

the world. Now, the climate alarmists are going to say that coal is the energy of the past. They are misinformed. Clean coal is the energy of the future. Tomorrow's technologies are going to need more affordable, reliable, available energy, not less.

America is making bold innovations in new technology. Only an “all of the above” energy approach is going to sustain it. Coal is one of the most affordable, reliable, and abundant sources of energy on the entire planet. In America today, it is much cleaner than ever before. With it, we can power our data centers. We can win the energy race. We can win the artificial intelligence race. Clearly, this is a focus against communist China, and Wyoming energy producers and Wyoming energy workers are going to lead the charge to victory. American energy dominance is the source of our Nation's strength. It keeps America and our allies safe and secure now and into the future.

We learned from Europe an important lesson: Dependency is deadly. Europe banned fracking because climate zealots in Russia told them to. Europe shut down nuclear powerplants because the extremists told them to. Unreliable and unaffordable energy sources couldn't keep up with the demand for energy. As a result, you know what happened. Europe, last year, spent \$23 billion on Russian oil and gas, and \$23 billion is actually more money than Europe sent in aid to Ukraine. If this doesn't prove that energy dependence is self-defeating, nothing else will.

Under the Trump administration, things are now different. America finally has an “all of the above” energy strategy. On day one, President Trump declared a national energy emergency. President Trump slammed the brakes on Joe Biden's electric vehicle mandate. I have legislation that pulls the plug on the Democrats' electric vehicle subsidies. President Trump withdrew from the disastrous Paris climate deal. President Trump lifted the self-destructive Biden ban on liquefied natural gas exports. President Trump created the National Energy Dominance Council.

The President and Republicans are serious about building the infrastructure we need to power our Nation. President Trump supports new natural gas pipelines and more powerplants. This is a 180-degree turn from the previous administration. For 4 years, the previous administration went on a regulatory rampage. Heavy-handed Washington bureaucrats attacked American energy producers and American energy workers, including those in my home State of Wyoming, and the costs were catastrophic.

Let me ask a few rhetorical questions:

Does anyone believe that America was better off when energy prices rose 31 percent? Of course not.

Does anyone believe that we were better off begging dictators to power our Nation? Of course not.

Were Americans more prosperous? No, we were not.

The truth is, American energy is not the enemy of the economy. American energy is the engine of the economy. American energy is a God-given blessing, and we finally have an administration that treats it that way.

So I applaud Secretary Burgum, Secretary Wright, and Administrator Zeldin. They are America's energy all-stars. Their bold actions are restoring American energy dominance.

Republicans in Congress are working aggressively on legislation that will fully unleash American energy, and here is why: When we produce more affordable, reliable American energy, our Nation is better off. When we empower energy producers and energy workers, America is better off. America has the energy; we have the workers; and we have the capacity to produce energy responsibly. Today, America has a Senate majority that is committed to making America energy dominant.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic whip.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be permitted to speak for 10 minutes and that Senator MERKLEY be permitted to speak for up to 15 minutes prior to the scheduled vote.

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

SOCIAL SECURITY

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, the State of the Union Address was quite a performance by President Trump.

Maybe one of the highlights of humor was when he focused on the Social Security Administration. Remember what he told us? There were 4.7 million “Social Security members”—that is the term he used—4.7 million Social Security members who were between 100 and 109 years old. He went on to say that 1.3 million Social Security members were between the ages of 150 and 159 and that 130,000 were over the age of 160. These were the President's words. He goes on to talk about 1,039 between the ages of 220 and 229—even one who is a 360-year-old person. The place was rocking with laughter to think that a Federal Agency as important as Social Security could be defrauded by people claiming to be this age and still receiving checks—what a great joke, what a misrepresentation of the truth. What the President said was not true. It was misleading. It was overblown. It was inaccurate. In fact, it was just plain wrong.

He delivered this address to a joint session of Congress to the American people—the one time each year when we are focused on the President's words—and he made these deliberate misrepresentations of the Social Security Administration.

He claimed that the unelected billionaire, Elon Musk, and his DOGE boys had identified “shocking levels of incompetence and probable fraud within Social Security.” Mr. Musk then

claimed at a later point that tens of millions of dead people over the age of 100 were still receiving Social Security benefits.

Outrageous. Outrageous and untrue.

In his speech, President Trump claimed there was a 360-year-old somehow receiving Social Security benefits as a member. I am not sure what that means. Obviously, it raised eyebrows. How could somebody born in the 1600s be receiving Social Security benefits? It turned out it wasn't true. What the President said was misleading and untrue, not truthful.

The Social Security Administration has databases that include the information of millions of Americans. Some of those records lack a recorded date of death, but of course, that certainly doesn't mean that the people are still alive, and it certainly doesn't mean, further, that they are receiving any Social Security benefits.

The Washington Post obtained internal records which showed the Social Security Administration looked into this very issue last month. What did they find? Only 1,300 Americans over the age of 100 were still receiving benefits. That is far short of the “shocking levels” the President said “of incompetence and probable fraud.”

The truth is, you would be hard-pressed to find another Agency that is more closely scrutinized than Social Security. It routinely audits benefit payments to make sure they are accurate. The Office of Inspector General conducted a report in 2024 which found that less than 1 percent of Social Security payments were improper—less than 1 percent—but President Trump's statement made it seem like Social Security is riddled with fraud and incompetence. Payments to a 360-year-old individual? Outrageous. Untrue.

You wonder why he said these things to the American people in his State of the Union Address. I believe President Trump and Mr. Musk are intentionally misrepresenting the challenges Social Security faces as the rationale to implement their harmful policies. The Trump administration's disdain for Social Security is clear.

Elon Musk, the President's unelected buddy, describes Social Security as the “biggest Ponzi scheme of all time,” said Mr. Musk, and shared a post on Twitter that called those who benefit from Federal programs—get ready—the “parasite class.” The “parasite class” are Social Security recipients.

Secretary of Commerce Howard Lutnick called Americans who were calling in to report missing Social Security benefits “fraudsters.” This same billionaire, Mr. Lutnick, bragged that his mother-in-law wouldn't care if she didn't receive a monthly check from Social Security. Well, perhaps, if your son-in-law is a billionaire, you don't care, but most people don't live that kind of life.

These comments are not only wrong and misleading, they are sickening—sickening. These people work their

whole lives paying into Social Security with the promise that it will take care of them when they decide to retire, and now the question is being raised as to whether they were parasites throughout their lives.

First, this disdain for Social Security and the Americans who rely on it can be found in the policies that are being pushed by the administration. The President announced that 7,000 workers at Social Security will be terminated—7,000. That is 12 percent of the total Social Security workforce at a time when the Social Security Administration is facing a 50-year staffing low.

Second, the President announced that Social Security will limit 1-800 phone services. It already takes a half an hour to reach a representative at Social Security. Now there are reports it is taking several hours to get a call picked up if you have a question. Nearly 9,000 people become eligible for Social Security benefits every single day. They should not have to wait hours to speak with someone if they have a legitimate question.

Third, President Trump announced the closure of Social Security offices across America, including some in my State of Illinois. I ran into an individual in the coffee shop in Springfield a few weeks ago. He is retired now.

He said: Senator, it was smarter for me to get in the car and drive 40 minutes each way to Litchfield, IL, to the Social Security office rather than to wait in line for hours at the Springfield office.

Each one of the actions taken by the Trump administration has made it more difficult for seniors and people with disabilities to access their benefits. Americans are worried, some are even terrified, questioning whether or not they will continue to have access to earned benefits and essential services. How do I know? Many have written to me.

Carolyn from Chicago recently told me she tried to call Social Security to make an appointment. She was told the wait time on the phone was 120 minutes. She waited the 2 hours but still didn't get to speak to someone. She hung up and tried again later and was told again it was another 120-minute wait. Imagine waiting on hold for 2 hours for your phone call not to be picked up. Carolyn told me the level of service from Social Security right now is unacceptable. She is kind, and she is right. Americans depend on Social Security and its workers to pick up the phone, answer their questions, and help them secure their benefits.

Social Security is a bedrock of American society. It is a promise. Almost all of us contribute to it throughout our lives and expect it will be there when we need it, but as usual, President Trump is making the problem even worse.

Since 2010, Social Security's customer service budget has been reduced by 20 percent when counting for inflation. Staff has fallen by 11 percent

while 13 million additional beneficiaries have started to receive benefits. For too long, we have asked the Social Security Administration to do more with less, and now President Trump is taking that to an extreme, so I am calling on him to abandon these plans.

If you actually want to make Social Security more efficient, it needs more well-trained people, more resources, more funding. We do not need the recent college graduates in the so-called Department of Government Efficiency to take Social Security for a joyride while their grandparents are in the back, holding on for dear life. We certainly don't need the sage advice of billionaires who cannot begin to understand what it means to live month to month while waiting for a Social Security check as so many Americans do.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

NATIONAL DEBT

MR. MERKLEY. Mr. President and colleagues, back in 1974, the Senate and the House were very agitated over the increases in the national annual deficit that was adding considerably to the national debt. They said we needed to do something about this. The levels that they were concerned about at that time seem so small, to date. The debt-to-GDP ratio was 23 percent. Now we are over 100 percent. The annual deficit was about \$6 billion. Now we are at about \$2 trillion of annual deficit. The total debt was only a third of a trillion rather than, now, \$37 trillion.

But those increases were seen as such a threat to the future of our Nation that Democrats and Republicans together, House Members and the Senate together, said: We have to get this under control. So they created a bill—the 1974 Budget and Impoundment Control Act—to say: We can't let this go forward.

Here is what it did. First of all, it created a fast-track for a special bill called a reconciliation bill that would reduce the deficit and not add more to the debt.

Second of all, it says that we have to have integrity in numbers. When Republicans are in charge, they tend to increase the deficits and then want to use smoke screens in order to say: We are not really doing that. When the Democrats are in charge, the same thing. They both wanted to undertake strategies that increase the deficit but pretend they were being fiscally responsible.

So they said: We must have integrity on the numbers, so we are going to create a new organization. The Congressional Budget Office will be an independent assessor of the cost of any change in law related to programs or related to tax revenue. Honesty and integrity will be the foundation for the debate that takes place in this Chamber. Honesty and integrity will be the foundation for the debate that takes place in the House Chamber down the

hall. Honesty and integrity in numbers will be the foundation for the American people who are following the decision making that is made by their representatives in the House and Senate.

So two pillars: a fast-track for reducing deficits—a reconciliation bill; and integrity in numbers by using the Congressional Budget Office—creating it and using their numbers to have honesty in the debate on policy and revenue plans.

Well, that first pillar was destroyed in 1996 by a nuclear option done by the Republican majority, who said: Do you know what, we are going to reinterpret the law. So instead of just using this fast-track to reduce the deficit, we are going to also use it for tax policy that will increase the deficit.

Today, the second pillar of integrity in the numbers is under attack by the Republican majority. They have lost their minds when it comes to fiscal responsibility. They destroyed first, a couple of decades ago, the fast-track dedicated only to deficit reduction, and now they want to destroy the integrity in the accounting for what a tax policy costs or what a program policy costs—all for a simple purpose, and that is, they have a plan. That plan is to put forward a proposal that would cost an additional amount to the debt of \$37 trillion over the next 30 years. But they want to tell this Chamber that that \$37 trillion addition to the debt is actually a zero-dollar addition. They want to tell the American people that that \$37 trillion addition to the national debt that is in their plan is actually a zero-dollar addition.

I can tell you that a \$37 trillion deception—that is not a minor fraud; that is a major fraud. In the process, they are destroying the integrity not just for this budget cycle but for every budget cycle to come.

The gimmick they are putting forward to accomplish this diabolical plot is called current policy baseline. Why do they want to pursue this Republican plan? Because they want to give tax breaks to the wealthiest Americans and do so not only for a 10-year period but for permanent tax breaks into the future. It is not just magic math. I mean, that is almost too nice of a name to give to it. It is devastating fraud.

Last week, the Congressional Budget Office released a report requested by a Republican Congressman, DAVID SCHWEIKERT. He had asked them: How much will this fraud cost, this Republican plan cost? The CBO laid it out—\$37 trillion of additional debt over the next 30 years.

It so happens that right now, our current national debt is just shy of \$37 trillion. They want to say the debt that has been run up in the last 250 years—next year, we will be celebrating our 250th year as a nation. The debt that has been run up over this first 250 years—we are going to add that additional amount with one bill, with one vote, in this budget cycle. This is fraud on an unparalleled scale.

VOTE ON S.J. RES. 18

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The joint resolution having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the joint resolution pass?

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 52, nays 48, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 153 Leg.]

YEAS—52

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

NAYS—48

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

The joint resolution (S.J. Res. 18) was passed as follows:

S.J. RES. 18

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That Congress disapproves the final rule submitted by the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection relating to “Overdraft Lending: Very Large Financial Institutions” (89 Fed. Reg. 106768 (December 30, 2024)), and such rule shall have no force or effect.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HAGERTY). Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Paul Lawrence, of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

SCHWEIKERT then said:

Anyone that says current policy baseline [is the right way to go] is engaging in intellectual and economic fraud . . . it's intellectually lazy. My basic mission in life is just to try to create some honest math.

Honest math is what Democrats and Republicans together said they were pursuing in 1974—House and Senate together—honest math. Honest math is on the verge of destruction.

CHIP ROY of Texas said this plan—referring to the plan—“This is fairy dust, and they’re full of crap. And I’m gonna call them out on it.”

Anyone who cares about growing deficits and growing debt should call them out on it—\$37 trillion in this Republican plan of additional debt and then adopting a gimmick to tell the American people and this Chamber it costs zero.

In the free market, businesses need transparency—transparency so investors can decide if things are going in the right direction, so the board of directors of a company can change direction. They know that they have to have integrity in their numbers. They know that it is important for their board of directors. They also know that it is important for those who buy their stock, the investors. Without honest numbers, they can’t make good decisions about where they are going.

The same is true for us in government. If we are not willing to use honest numbers, we can’t make good decisions about how we go forward. It is that important. Integrity and honesty in our numbers are that important.

That is the debate we need to have, an honest examination. Are you for or against a plan that will add \$37 trillion to the debt on top of what additions might otherwise happen under current law? That is the question we will be facing.

This idea of integrity in the numbers existed before the 1974 Budget Control Act, but it was so important to have outside numbers that people could rely on—Independent numbers, bipartisan numbers or nonpartisan numbers—that they created a whole Agency, the Congressional Budget Office, to produce those numbers. It is that essential, so you don’t have some think tank giving you pretend numbers from the right or some other think tank giving you pretend numbers from the left. It is that important.

You know, this plan, this Republican plan, is like a landlord saying: Don’t worry. Your rent is free over the next 30 years because we are not making any changes to your tenant contract.

What a farce because you know you have to keep paying that rent every single month.

So there is \$37 trillion of additional debt being hidden through a gimmick.

I pointed out this enormous addition to the debt, but what is the purpose? It is to give tax giveaways to the richest Americans. Sixty percent of the additional debt goes to the richest 10 percent in America. Half of that addi-

tional debt, \$37 trillion, half of it goes to the richest 5 percent of Americans. So they are not just running up \$37 trillion in additional debt; they are running up \$37 trillion in additional debt to give the vast majority to the already richest Americans. This is a straightforward, simple provision in which families lose and billionaires win.

They are going to attack the spending on Medicaid. That is health insurance that a good third of America, approximately, relies on, that veterans rely on, programs that those with disabilities rely on. They are going to attack that program for tax giveaways to the richest Americans. They are going to steal from Social Security and make it dysfunctional—already, the lines are starting to pile up, and the phones aren’t answered—in order to give tax breaks to the richest Americans. They are going to betray working families with a tax on healthcare, housing, and education. Why? To give massive tax breaks to the richest Americans.

The situation is clear: Families lose, and billionaires win.

Democrats are paying attention. My colleagues the Republicans need to pay attention. They said when they were running that they are for fiscal responsibility, that they are for decreasing the deficit, but, in fact, their plan increases the deficits massively—an additional \$4 trillion over the next 2 years and an additional \$37 trillion in debt over the next 30 years—to give tax breaks to the wealthiest Americans while slashing programs that help ordinary working families to thrive.

This is a vast betrayal of Trump’s campaign plan. He campaigned on being a champion for families. But that was a campaign. Now he is in office, and the real plan? Families lose; billionaires win.

We must reject this gimmick that destroys the integrity of the budgeting process. One pillar—a filibuster-free pathway for deficit reduction—was destroyed by my Republican colleagues in 1996. The second pillar—integrity in numbers using an outside, independent CBO to give us honest numbers to work with here and for the American people—is going to be destroyed under current policy baseline being proposed right now.

Be awake, pay attention, and say hell no to this massive fraud on the American people.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

WAIVING QUORUM CALL

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to waive the mandatory quorum call with respect to the Lawrence nomination.

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

The clerk will read the title of the joint resolution for the third time.

The joint resolution was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOUTURE 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. 43, Paul Lawrence, of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

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 Britt, David McCormick.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Paul Lawrence, of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 53, nays 47, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 154 Ex.]

YEAS—53

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

NAYS—47

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The yeas are 53, the nays are 47.

The motion is agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANIES

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, 4 years ago, I kicked off an investigation of Big Pharma's tax practices, the dodges and tricks these hugely profitable, multinational companies use to winnow down their tax bills. This was not very long after Trump's first tax breaks for corporations went into effect. My Democratic colleagues on the Finance Committee and I wanted to

know exactly how sweet a deal Trump gave the biggest drug companies and what changes needed to be made to ensure these corporations paid a fair share.

So far, in the course of my investigation, I have released information on the tax practices of five major drug companies: AbbVie, Abbott Laboratories, Amgen, Bristol Myers Squibb, and Merck. The questions that I asked these companies were not very complicated. Essentially, what I asked came down to questions like: How big were your sales? Where did you make them? Where did you report your profits? Where did you stick your intellectual property? Did you actually pay taxes?

Last year, I expanded my investigation with an inquiry to the company Pfizer. Pfizer initially resisted, but my staff and I were not going to let up. Finally, the company provided some answers to our questions.

We are going to get into those issues now, and I ask unanimous consent to enter into the RECORD a memorandum outlining records of my investigation relating to Pfizer's tax-avoidance schemes, which will also be available immediately on the Finance Committee's website.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have the report printed into the RECORD now.

There being no objections, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

MEMORANDUM

Fr: Ron Wyden, Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Finance
Re: Pfizer used “round-tripping” scheme to book \$0 in U.S. income on 2019 tax returns

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

An investigation by the Democratic staff of the Senate Finance Committee (“the Committee”) uncovered that after passage of the 2017 Republican tax law, Pfizer carried out potentially the largest tax-avoidance structure in the history of big pharma. Even though Pfizer sold \$20 billion in drugs to U.S. customers in 2019, it reported \$0 in taxable U.S. profits on its 2019 tax returns by claiming to the IRS that 100 percent of its income was earned offshore. This offshore tax dodge allowed Pfizer to avoid paying billions of dollars in federal income taxes on U.S. drug sales. Pfizer even signed nondisclosure agreements with the governments of Singapore and Puerto Rico on special tax deals arranged with those jurisdictions, to keep the details of how Pfizer avoids billions in taxes hidden from the U.S. Congress.

Pfizer's 2019 cross-border tax avoidance structure is larger than those previously discovered by Senator Wyden's staff investigation, including AbbVie, Amgen and Merck. Pfizer joins a growing list of massively-profitable pharmaceutical corporations that show little-to-zero U.S. profits on tax returns, even though the U.S. is big pharma's largest customer market.¹ Senator Wyden's ongoing investigation fully exposes how big pharma abuses “round-tripping” schemes to skirt income taxes on U.S. drug sales as it charges U.S. customers higher drug prices than any other country in the world.

BACKGROUND

The Democratic staff of the Committee is conducting an investigation into the tax

practices of large pharmaceutical corporations. This investigation examines how U.S. drug companies use subsidiaries in jurisdictions treated as foreign for tax purposes to avoid paying the 21 percent corporate income tax rate on profits from drug sales to U.S. patients.

As part of this investigation, the Democratic staff of the Committee obtained tax return information from Pfizer, Inc. (“Pfizer”) regarding how much of the company's income was booked in foreign subsidiaries for tax purposes, generally referred to as “controlled foreign corporations” (CFCs) in tax parlance.² Knowing how much of a company's income is reported by CFCs provides a window into how much of a company's income is reported offshore on tax returns. The data provided by Pfizer exposes the extraordinary extent to which Pfizer shifted taxable income out of the U.S., despite making most of its profits by looting the pocketbooks of U.S. customers.

The 2017 Republican tax law created a new incentive to maximize how much income a U.S. company shifts offshore. After slashing the corporate tax rate by nearly 40 percent, from 35 percent to 21 percent, Republicans went even further to help boost offshore tax avoidance by large corporations. The Republican controlled Congress and first Trump administration created the global intangible low-taxed income (GILTI) system, which cut the tax rate on foreign income down to just 10.5 percent. Thanks to this policy, every dollar that big pharma can shift out of the U.S. gets its tax rate cut in half. In addition to cutting the rate in half, the GILTI system includes other designs—such as the use of “global blending”—to help large multinationals further minimize their U.S. taxes. These design flaws were detailed by the Committee in 2018 and again in 2021.³

PFIZER REPORTED \$0 IN U.S. INCOME ON ITS 2019 TAX RETURN

The Democratic Committee staff investigation obtained tax return information from Pfizer revealing that Pfizer booked 100 percent of its income in offshore subsidiaries on its 2019 federal tax filings.⁴ That year Pfizer recorded over \$21 billion in global income, yet not a single dollar was reported as income earned in the United States for tax purposes.⁵

Pfizer's tax returns expose a massive discrepancy between where Pfizer has its customer base and where the profits from those sales are taxed. Pfizer in 2019 sold more than \$20 billion worth of prescription drugs in the United States, accounting for a majority of the company's global sales revenue.⁶ The United States is Pfizer's largest customer market, yet Pfizer was able to book every single dollar of the profits from those U.S. sales in foreign subsidiaries. This was not a one off for Pfizer. Pfizer also reported no taxable income in the U.S. in 2018 or 2020.⁷ That means that for the three years immediately following the passage of the 2017 Republican tax law, Pfizer did not treat a single dollar of profit as earned in the U.S. for tax purposes.

That Pfizer was able to send all of the profits from U.S. drug sales to subsidiaries in foreign tax jurisdictions exposes the need to end the abuse of “round-tripping” strategies by big pharma and other large multinational corporations.

Pfizer's round-tripping scheme is designed to exploit the flawed GILTI system created by the 2017 Republican tax law. By booking 100 percent of its taxable income in foreign subsidiaries, none of Pfizer's income was subject to the U.S. corporate tax rate of 21 percent, but instead the much lower GILTI rate on foreign profits of 10.5 percent created by the Republican tax law. Pfizer could lower its tax rate even further through the use of

generous tax incentive agreements with the governments of low-or-zero tax jurisdictions, including Puerto Rico and Singapore, and utilization of flaws in GILTI's design, such as global blending. Pfizer also appears to book large amounts of profits in subsidiaries in Ireland, joining a trend of large multinational U.S. corporations that are exploiting subsidiaries in Ireland to capitalize on heavily favorable tax treatment.⁸

The result of these arrangements is that Pfizer has paid tax rates that are unacceptably low. In 2019 Pfizer paid a tax rate of just 5.4 percent, followed by rates of 5.3 percent, 7.6 percent and 9.6 percent between 2020–2022.⁹ In fact, Pfizer pays a lower tax rate than millions of working American families.¹⁰

PFIZER HIDES SWEETHEART TAX DEALS WITH NDAS

Disturbingly, it appears that Pfizer has signed non-disclosure agreements (NDAs) regarding the terms of its sweetheart tax deals to exempt it from income taxes in Singapore and Puerto Rico.¹¹ In response to this inquiry, Pfizer stated that it could not provide Senator WYDEN with information about its tax agreement with the government of Singapore because the "agreements with the government of Singapore contain non-disclosure agreements that prevent Pfizer from disclosing specific information about such agreement."¹² Pfizer also stated that the "confidential nature" of its tax incentives with Puerto Rico and Singapore must be "protected".¹³

Senator WYDEN does not believe that sweetheart deals between giant pharmaceutical corporations and foreign governments to send tax revenue offshore instead of to the U.S. should be concealed. The U.S. Congress must not be kept in the dark regarding the extent to which U.S. territories are being used to execute multi-billion-dollar corporate tax shelters. As the U.S. Congress debates major changes to the international tax system, the terms of these tax incentive agreements are essential information.

PFIZER USES "ROUND-TRIPPING" STRATEGY THAT IS WIDESPREAD IN PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY

Pfizer is using an egregious tax gimmick known as "round-tripping." In a round-tripping strategy, a U.S. company makes sales to U.S. customers, but manages to have the income from those sales treated as foreign for tax purposes. Instead of being subject to the 21 percent corporate tax rate, the income only is subject to the lower 10.5 percent GILTI tax rate, and any resulting tax liability can also be offset by taxes paid to foreign jurisdictions. A round-tripping strategy can be achieved in a multitude of ways, including the use of offshore manufacturing, shifting intellectual property rights to tax havens, aggressive transfer pricing, complex partnership arrangements, and others. Regardless of the specific design, the end result is the same—less income in the U.S. where customers are, more income sent offshore to tax havens.

Pfizer is hardly alone when it comes to exploiting the use of round-tripping to avoid paying taxes by sending profits from U.S. drug sales to overseas subsidiaries. Senator WYDEN's investigation has already uncovered several examples of round-tripping by big pharma.

For example, a 2022 report published by Senator WYDEN exposed how pharma giant AbbVie booked 99 percent of its taxable income offshore to avoid paying billions of dollars in taxes on U.S. prescription drug sales.¹⁴ Despite being headquartered in the U.S. and generating 75 percent of its sales from U.S. patients, only 1 percent of AbbVie's taxable income was subject to the

U.S. corporate income tax rate of 21 percent.¹⁵ As a result of this round-tripping structure using subsidiaries in Bermuda, Puerto Rico and elsewhere, virtually all of AbbVie's profits were taxed at the substantially lower GILTI rate of 10.5 percent.

Senator Wyden's investigation also uncovered how Merck used a round-tripping structure to ensure that all of the profits from U.S. sales of blockbuster cancer drug Keytruda would be taxed at the GILTI rate of 10.5 percent.¹⁶ Between 2019 and 2022 Merck sold an astounding \$37.1 billion worth of Keytruda in the United States, yet none of the profits generated by those sales were treated as earned in the U.S.¹⁷

Senator Wyden's investigation also obtained information from Merck indicating that this is because the intellectual property rights for Keytruda are exclusively located in the Netherlands and the drug is manufactured in Ireland. In a response to the Committee, Merck stated that with respect to Keytruda, "... because its patents have always been owned outside the United States, Merck's operating profit attributable to Keytruda IP rights is taxed in jurisdictions outside the United States."¹⁸ Merck also added that as Keytruda sales increased by 55 percent from 2019 to 2021, Keytruda "became an even larger portion of Merck's overall profits and [Keytruda's] expansion increased the portion of Merck's overall income subject to tax outside the United States."¹⁹

The 2017 Republican tax law makes it very easy to successfully avoid taxes in round-tripping, and shutting off this spigot of abuse is not complex. Policies to help shut down aggressive round-tripping strategies were included in the Wyden-Brown-Warner international tax reform framework released in 2021, and international tax reform policies included in the Build Back Better Act passed by the House in 2021. Republicans are well aware the prevalence of the use of round-tripping by big pharma to avoid billions in U.S. taxes and have expressed an interest in legislative action to curb the abuse of round-tripping—at the time of the writing of this report, it is unknown if big pharma lobbying will prevent such key reforms from being included in any Republican tax plan.²⁰ Early versions of Republican international tax plans prior to 2017 also included language that would have limited big pharma's ability to use round-tripping, but this language was abandoned during the back-room, lobbyist-influenced process of drafting the 2017 Republican tax law.²¹

PFIZER'S TAX AVOIDANCE STRUCTURE MAY BE THE LARGEST IN THE PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY

Pfizer's 2019 cross-border tax avoidance structure may be the largest in the pharmaceutical industry, and certainly the largest discovered during Senator Wyden's investigation. The previous largest round-tripping scheme exposed by the Committee's investigation was that used by AbbVie in 2020, in which AbbVie booked 99 percent of its \$9.5 billion in income in CFCs offshore. Pfizer's 2019 structure dwarfs that: 100 percent of profits show up offshore (the U.S. share was actually a loss, so *more than 100 percent* of profits went offshore), and offshore profits are more than double what AbbVie earned in the same year.

ENDNOTES

1. Interim Report: Big Pharma Tax Avoidance, Senate Finance Committee Chair Ron Wyden, July 2022, available online at <https://www.finance.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/Pharma%20Tax%20Report.pdf>; American Patients, American Companies, Offshore Entities, Senate Finance Committee Democratic Staff Memorandum, May 11, 2023, available online at https://www.finance.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/pharma_public_release_final_51123.pdf.

2. A Controlled Foreign Corporation (CFC) is a foreign corporation that is majority owned by U.S. shareholders that own at least 10 percent of the foreign corporation.

3. Trump's Tax law and International Tax: More Complexity, Loopholes and Incentives to Ship Jobs Overseas, Senate Committee on Finance, July 18, 2018, available online at <https://www.finance.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/Wyden%20Report%20-%20Trumps%20Tax%20Law%20and%20International%20Tax%20071818.pdf>. Overhauling International Taxation, Senate Finance Committee Chair Senator Ron Wyden, Senator Sherrod Brown, Senator Mark Warner, April 2021, available online at <https://www.finance.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/040121%20Overhauling%20International%20Taxation.pdf>.

4. Letter from Pfizer, Inc. to Senator Ron Wyden, Chairman, Senate Committee on Finance, Oct. 21, 2024 (At pg. 3, According to 2019 federal income tax return information provided by Pfizer, Pfizer's "U.S. taxable income excluding income from controlled foreign corporations" was a loss of \$1.29 billion.). The committee notes that this means that 100% of Pfizer's taxable income was reported by Pfizer's controlled foreign corporations in jurisdictions treated as foreign for tax purposes.

5. Id. at pg. 3. According to 2019 federal income tax return information provided by Pfizer, Pfizer reported \$16.94 billion in GILTI Income (line 17 of Form 1120, Schedule C), \$1.12 billion Subpart F Income (line 16a, b, and c on Form 1120, Schedule C), \$2.65 billion Section 78 Gross Up (line 18 of Form 1120, Schedule C) and \$0.57 billion in foreign income exempt from tax (form 8892, Part II, line 4).

6. Pfizer, Inc., 2019 form 10-K, available online at https://s28.q4cdn.com/781576035/files/doc_financials/2019/AR/Pfizer-2019-Financial-Report.pdf.

7. Letter from Pfizer, Inc. to Senator Ron Wyden, Chairman, Senate Committee on Finance, Oct. 21, 2024 (At pg. 3, Pfizer reported losses of \$7.97 billion, \$1.29 billion and \$0.62 billion in the U.S. on its 2018, 2019, and 2020 federal income tax returns, respectively). The Committee notes that this means that 100% of Pfizer's taxable income was reported by Pfizer's controlled foreign corporations in jurisdictions treated as foreign for tax purposes those years.

8. This Country Won the Global Tax Game, and is Swimming in Money, Ireland is setting a sovereign wealth fund filled with tax revenue from U.S. tech and pharma companies, The Wall Street Journal, Oct. 10, 2023, available online at <https://www.wsj.com/economy/global/this-country-won-the-global-tax-game-and-is-swimming-in-money-57c3c70>.

9. Pfizer, Inc., 2022 form 10-K, available online at <https://www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/78003/00000780032300024/pfe-20221231.htm> (at pg. 35 discussion on effective tax rates); Pfizer, Inc., 2020 form 10-K, available online at <https://www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/78003/00000780032100038/pfe-20201231.htm> (at pg. 38 discussion on effective tax rates).

10. IRS 2023 marginal tax rates for individuals, 22% for incomes between \$44,726 to \$95,375 (\$89,451 to \$190,750 for married couples filing jointly) available online at <https://www.irs.gov/filing/federalincome-tax-rates-and-brackets>.

11. Pfizer, Inc., 2022 form 10-K, available online at <https://www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/78003/00000780032300024/pfe-20221231.htm> (At. pg. 69: "We benefit from Puerto Rican tax incentives pursuant to a grant that expires during 2053. Under such grant, we are partially exempt from income, property and

municipal taxes. In Singapore, we benefit from incentive tax rates effective through 2048 on income from manufacturing and other operations.”).

12. Letter from Pfizer, Inc. to Senator Ron Wyden, Chairman, Senate Committee on Finance, Oct. 21, 2024 (At. pg. 6, “Pfizer understands the Committee’s request for information on the specific tax relationship between Pfizer and the governments of Puerto Rico and Singapore in Questions 7 and 8 of your letter, however, the requests implicate confidential arrangements between Pfizer and each jurisdiction, and the applicable agreements contain commercially sensitive information. In particular, the agreements with the government of Singapore contain certain nondisclosure agreements that prevent Pfizer from disclosing specific information about such agreement.”)

13. Letter from Pfizer, Inc. to Ron Wyden, Chairman, Senate Committee on Finance, Jun. 17, 2024 (“Pfizer understands the Committee’s request for information on the tax relationship between the Company and the governments of Puerto Rico and Singapore; however, the requests implicate confidential arrangements between Pfizer and each jurisdiction. Just as we are concerned about maintaining positive engagement with the Committee, we are also concerned about maintaining positive relationships with the U.S. states and territories in which we operate, including Puerto Rico. To those ends, it is important that the confidential nature of Pfizer’s tax incentive arrangements with the governments of Puerto Rico and Singapore are protected.”)

14. Senate Finance Committee Investigation Reveals Extent to Which Pharma Giant AbbVie Exploits Offshore Subsidiaries to Avoid Paying Taxes on U.S. Drug Sales, U.S. Senate Committee on Finance, July 2022, available online at <https://www.finance.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/Pharma%20Tax%20Report.pdf>.

15. Id.

16. American Companies, Offshore Profits, Senate Finance Committee Democratic Staff Memorandum, May 11, 2023, available online at https://www.finance.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/pharma_public_release_final_51123.pdf.

17. Merck sales of Keytruda in the U.S. according to 10-K filings with the SEC: \$6.3 billion in 2019, \$8.4 billion in 2020, \$9.8 billion in 2021 and \$12.7 billion in 2022.

18. Letter from Robert Filippone, Vice President, U.S. Policy and Government Relations, Merck to Ron Wyden, Chairman, Senate Committee on Finance, Apr. 15, 2022 at pg. 3: “With respect to Keytruda, however, because it was discovered outside the United States and its patents have always been owned outside the United States, Merck’s operating profit attributable to Keytruda-related intellectual property rights is taxed in jurisdictions outside the United States.”

19. Id at pg. 4: “As illustrated on page 53 of Merck’s 2021 Form 10-K, Keytruda sales increased 55% from 2019 to 2021. This increase was substantially greater than Merck’s overall revenue growth of 24% over the same period. Consequently, Keytruda became an even larger portion of Merck’s overall income subject to tax outside of the United States.”

20. Tax Writers eyeing international tax break used by Pharma, Politico Pro, available online at <https://subscriber.politicopro.com/article/2024/11/tax-writers-eyeing-international-tax-break-used-by-pharma-00189546>.

21. H.R. 1, introduced by then-Ways and Means Committee chairman Camp in 2014, included the pre-cursor to GILTI and the corollary policy of foreign-derived intangible income (FDII). In this 2014 version, CFC income would have only benefitted from the

lower rate if that income was “foreign-derived,” i.e., it was “sold for use, consumption, or disposition outside the United States, or services provided with respect to persons or property located outside the United States.” Under this definition, big pharma’s sales to U.S. customers would not be able to access the lower rate that they are now able to access under GILTI as passed by Republicans in 2017. See sec. 4211 of H.R. 1, the Tax Reform Act of 2014, introduced Dec. 12, 2014. Available online at <https://www.congress.gov/bill/113th-congress/house-bill/1/text>.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I am going to take a few minutes to walk through these findings and discuss why they are so important. I am very pleased to be joined by several of my colleagues who are also outraged about this tax-dodging.

Here is the upshot. My investigation has found that Pfizer carried out what could be the largest tax-dodging scheme in the history of Big Pharma.

The United States is the largest market for Pfizer’s products. In 2019, the company sold \$20 billion worth of drugs to American patients. If you are following along on this discussion, you might be hoping to hear that Pfizer paid a reasonable rate of tax on those profits. I have got bad news for you and the American people.

In that same year, Pfizer reported zero—not one red cent—in taxable U.S. profits. Through various tricks and games, Pfizer was able to shift 100 percent of its U.S. profits to foreign tax havens. This means that Pfizer dodged billions of dollars in Federal income tax on its U.S. drug sales. There is every reason to believe it continues to do so.

Thanks to the tax law Trump and Republicans passed in 2017, Pfizer doesn’t need to keep the money stashed overseas. Pfizer can take this cash and pocket it with tax-dodging schemes and turn it into stock buybacks, dividends, executive compensation—the list goes on.

There is an additional matter that is so disturbing. The company appears to be keeping some of its tax schemes hidden from view with what has been described to me as a confidential arrangement with the Governments of Puerto Rico and Singapore. It is enough to leave you slack-jawed.

So this is a Senate investigation that will have a direct impact on tax legislation, and Pfizer is hiding relevant tax information behind nondisclosure agreements.

So colleagues, this is the sixth Big Pharma company where my investigation has found a staggering level of tax dodging. And these rip-offs don’t happen by osmosis; they happen because Republicans have allowed them to happen. With the tax law they passed back in 2017, Republicans delivered to Big Pharma a tax break of more than 40 percent. From 2014 to 2016, the industry paid 19.6 percent, on average. In 2019 and 2020, it paid 11.6 percent.

Now, reasonable people watching at home might be thinking about how Re-

publicans always claim to be worried about deficits and debt. Surely those Republicans would dial back what they did in 2017 and ask these huge, profitable corporations to pay a little bit more to ease our fiscal challenges. If you think that is the case—wrong.

So I want to bring my colleagues into this discussion momentarily, and I will close by looking at the big picture as Congress moves forward with this debate on taxes, health, child hunger, and more.

Republicans are in control of the Congress and the White House, and they have locked Democrats out of the discussion. Somewhere here on Capitol Hill, there is a group of Republicans meeting right now, behind closed doors, quietly planning the outline of their gigantic bill. Nobody in that room is talking about how to protect people who work for a living or how to get more fairness in the economy. The discussion they are having comes down to how big the handouts are going to be for billionaires and multinational corporations, how many tens of millions of Americans they are going to kick off Medicaid to pay for it, how many millions of kids are going to go hungry, how many hundreds of thousands of workers are going to lose their jobs.

Republicans are doubling down on a broken system. And if you want to see that system in action, read our report, because you couldn’t find a better example than Big Pharma’s tax dodging. These are huge corporations that rake in enormous profits in U.S. sales because they charge astronomical prices in America, and then their stables of lawyers and accountants get to work on a whole bunch of fancy financial wizardry, taking advantage of loopholes and rip-offs planted by Republican lawmakers.

Suddenly, the record profits get shipped overseas. Often, the factories get shipped overseas, the jobs get shipped overseas, and the companies aren’t paying anything close to a fair share of taxes. Typical Americans who pay taxes out of every paycheck get ripped off.

Republicans are not going to fix this broken, unfair system. In fact, they are gearing up to give tax-dodging corporations like these and their billionaire shareholders even bigger handouts. It is a scam. It is a rip-off on a national scale. The American people see it for what it is.

Senate Democrats are going to keep calling it out, because this must not stand.

So I am very appreciative that my colleagues are joining me here on the floor. We have a very important member of the Senate Finance Committee to start, Senator WHITEHOUSE, and I want to send this over to him.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I thank Chairman WYDEN. This is a really important investigation, and it bears very exactly on the Republican

tax scam that is being cooked up right now here in this Congress, because one of the keys to the Republican tax scam that is being cooked up right here in this Congress is giving big corporations the ability to move their profits—and even their jobs—offshore, away from America, and get a tax break for doing that. And the total value of this tax break—the award to big corporations from Republicans for moving American jobs and profits offshore—is running at about \$140 billion that other taxpayers are going to have to make up.

Big Pharma is the big winner in this offshore tax scam. If you look at Big Pharma's numbers, most sales are to U.S. patients. They sell their pharmaceutical products to Americans. But when you look at their financial reporting, 75 percent of their profits are declared as coming from outside of the United States. So you have some funky math going on here because we know that Americans are charged more for Big Pharma's drugs than people are overseas.

They overcharge Americans, Americans pay the highest prices, and most of the sales are going to Americans who are paying the highest prices. So how is it that, when most of their sales are going to Americans, who are paying the highest prices, that is not where the profits are reported? The profits are reported from overseas, where they have fewer patients paying lower prices. How does that work? That works S-C-A-M, scam. And that is what the Republicans in Congress are trying to push forward into the future.

Thanks to the terrific work of our chairman, we have some specific examples. The Republican tax scam went into effect in 2017. So they had to move pretty quickly. So we are looking at now 2019. How quickly did pharma enjoy the benefit of this tax scam at Americans' expense?

Well, AbbVie is one company. In 2019, it declared three-quarters of its sales to American customers and essentially all of its profits offshore. As pharma does, they charged Americans the highest prices, and they sold 75 percent, nearly, of their drugs to those highly priced American customers, and yet they claimed that all of their money came from the small fraction of their sales that they made at lower prices offshore. Again, S-C-A-M.

Who gets hurt? Well, who gets hurt is American workers because, very often, the jobs go offshore along with the profits. So an American worker loses his job so that an American company can move that job offshore and pay some foreign person for the work that should be here and gets rewarded by Republicans in Congress for a tax break for doing that.

Who else gets hurt? Small businesses get hurt because, if you are running a small business, you can't set up this elaborate tax scam. You don't have the accountants. You don't have the lawyers. You may not even have the nasty motive to try to cheat your own gov-

ernment this way. So small businesses take it in the neck against the big businesses that can dodge their taxes through this complicated scam.

And even some big American domestic companies, like Rhode Island-based CVS, which are all-American companies, which don't fake their profits to be coming from Bermuda or the Cayman Islands or Singapore or wherever else, they suffer too because they are in competition with the big multinationals that are playing shell-and-pea games with their profits to hide it from the IRS.

So here is the racket: One, you overcharge Americans. Two, you use the money that you earn from overcharging Americans to come to Congress and buy massive amounts of influence and get the Republican Party to do exactly what you want. And what you want is stage 3, the tax scam that lets you pretend you are making money offshore when you are really not, and then you save money by not having to pay taxes. And then you keep overcharging Americans, you keep buying Congress, and you keep the tax scam going. It is rinse and repeat, and the big losers are Americans.

Where it comes home is where the chairman did his outstanding work for Pfizer. And \$20 billion is what Pfizer sold in drugs in America; \$20 billion is what Pfizer sold in drugs overseas. They charged more to Americans because pharma charges more to Americans. We know that. And yet Pfizer told the IRS that all—all—of its profits came from offshore—all of it—and, as a result, they got a huge, huge tax dodge.

So whether it is AbbVie or whether it is Pfizer or whether it is the industry as a whole, we need to shut down this tax racket. It is not serving anyone. It costs American jobs, it is unfair to small businesses, and it cheats the regular taxpayers who pay their taxes honestly and can't pretend that the revenue they made off American customers is somehow magically appearing out of the Cayman Islands or some other foreign hideaway.

I thank Chairman WYDEN for his amazing work.

Mr. WYDEN. Well said, Senator WHITEHOUSE.

And I want to get my colleagues into this. Next in order of appearance is Senator VAN HOLLEN.

Once again, I want everybody to understand that the four of us are going to continue to go after this colossal tax avoidance until it gets fixed, because the American people are getting ripped off.

Senator VAN HOLLEN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I want to thank Senator WYDEN for bringing us together to shine a spotlight on one of the biggest tax heists in American history: the huge 2017 Trump tax giveaway to the very rich and the biggest corporations that came at the expense of everybody else in America

because everybody else in America has to pick up the tab for that giveaway to big corporations and the very rich. And that tax heist played out right here on the Senate floor.

So why are we gathered here today to talk about something that happened here 8 years ago? The answer is because it is about to happen all over again. In fact, this time, it may be on steroids. And the American people need to know what will go down right here on the Senate floor in a matter of months if we don't stop it.

So let's take a look at what Donald Trump and Republicans in Congress promised 8 years ago when they passed their big tax giveaway for the rich and then look at what actually happened. They promised that tax cuts to the very rich would trickle down and somehow benefit everybody else in the country. It didn't happen. They promised that it would generate so much new economic activity that it would pay for itself, but that didn't happen. It added \$1.5 trillion to our national debt, and if you extend that out another 10 years, that will be another \$5.5 trillion on the debt.

They promised that if they gave these benefits to big corporations, like Pfizer and others in the pharmaceutical industry, they would use their tax savings to provide raises of \$4,000, on average, to all of their workers. It didn't happen.

I will tell you who did get big bonuses. It was the CEOs and the executives.

And they promised that they would use their savings—that the corporations would use another part of their savings—to reinvest in plants and equipment and, therefore, help the whole economy. It didn't happen. What those big corporations did was use a lot of their tax savings for stock buybacks to jack up the price of their own stock.

This plan that they passed—the Trump tax plan passed 8 years ago—did something else. It provided that mechanism to help some of the biggest corporations in America duck their tax obligations to the American people by shipping their profits overseas and engaging in all sorts of scams, and today we have even more evidence of that fact.

I want to again thank Senator WYDEN and his team on the Senate Finance Committee staff for the report he is presenting today because it is one of several reports he has done to expose how Big Pharma exploits the tax provisions of the 2017 Trump tax giveaway to magically make their profits from selling drugs here in the United States disappear. Somehow, all of those profits made here disappear when it comes time to pay taxes, and that is how they miraculously reduce the amount of taxes they have to pay.

And this report that Senator WYDEN and his team put together shows that this round-tripping scheme is how they do it—"round-tripping" meaning you make your revenues here in the United

States, at least 50 percent of the revenues in the case of Pfizer sales, but somehow, when it comes time to pay your taxes, you have taken those profits and filtered them through all sorts of overseas schemes and entities to reduce that tax liability dramatically.

What the report shows is that while 50 percent of Pfizer's revenues are generated here in the United States, when it comes to booking its income for tax purposes, they show zero profit on their U.S. operations and, by playing that game, dramatically reduce their overall tax liability.

This was facilitated by the 2017 Trump tax cuts, and it has allowed Pfizer to reduce its tax obligations by billions of dollars, cut its taxes by a whopping 40 percent—a whopping 40 percent—since that Trump tax scam was passed.

And while big corporations win, everyone else loses. You know, American families, they can't use this round-tripping scheme. You can't somehow erase the taxes you owe on the earnings you make by running your earnings through various offshore schemes.

Small businesses in America can't erase their American-based tax profits by using these round-tripping schemes, but the Donald Trump tax scam allows big corporations like Pfizer to do exactly that. By doing that, they have reduced their overall effective tax in the pharmaceutical industry to about 11 percent, far less than the rates paid by most middle-class families in America.

When Big Pharma and big corporations shortchange America on the taxes they pay, they shortchange every citizen of this country. It means they are contributing less to modernize our infrastructure, less for public schools, less for our common defense. They become free riders on everybody else.

So that is why we are here on the floor to blow the whistle. I will just close with this: I have said this before, but I am going to say it again because we are heading toward our big debate here on this issue.

And that is, when on Inauguration Day, just down the hall here, President Trump was sworn in, he talked about a new golden age for America. Come to find out that when he is talking about a golden age, he is talking about a golden age for the people who were sitting right behind him on that platform when he was sworn in: Elon Musk and the billionaires. There are more billionaires in the Trump Cabinet than at any time in American history by far.

And so on the campaign trail, Donald Trump says he wants to go after the elites. On the campaign trail, he says: I am going to look out for the forgotten Americans. Well, I will tell you what: He has forgotten Americans unless they happen to be a big corporation or the head of a big corporation.

This is the big betrayal in action, and we are going to witness this big betrayal in action even more in the coming months here on the Senate floor if we don't stop it.

I want to thank Senator WYDEN and his team for exposing exactly what will happen if we don't stop it.

I yield the floor.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I thank my colleague. Once again, you can hear his expertise in the Ways and Means Committee and the body on these issues, and I thank him for his leadership.

A new member of the Finance Committee, Senator WELCH, is here and he will have some remarks and then I will wrap up.

Senator WELCH.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. WELCH. Thank you, Senator WYDEN.

Mr. President, when I talk to Vermonters, as I am sure when you talk to Tennesseans, everyday, hard-working people at the end of the month are struggling to pay their bills. It is expensive.

And people are working really hard, but the cost of things is going up. Taxes are eating into their paychecks, and they don't understand how it is they can work so hard—many families, it is two people working—and they still can't pay their bills.

There is a suspicion among a lot of folks I talk to that there is something wrong, and it is kind of a rigged situation. What we are talking about today proves that the suspicion that Vermonters have about things being rigged, they are right.

The second point I want to make at the outset is this issue, this specific example, provides such clarity that some of the worst things that cause the most suffering and the most economic insecurity are totally legal—totally wrong, by the way, but legal.

What did we find out with the Wyden report? We found that a major U.S. pharmaceutical company was able to make sales of \$20 billion of its product in 2019 and report zero income—zero in profits here in this country.

What that ultimately means is that what Pfizer paid for taxes—despite this extraordinary profit, they paid less than the mailroom clerk pays in Social Security. They paid less than the pharmacist at the drugstore who dispenses the prescriptions. They paid less than the delivery drivers who may have brought these prescriptions to a person's home. They paid less than the employees of Pfizer, whether it was a lab technician or a clerk or anyone at that company.

So Vermonters asked me: Wait a minute. How is this \$20 billion in sales, extraordinarily profitable company—yet under the legal use of the Tax Code, they are able to report zero? Well, this is where, as much as I condemn Pfizer for manipulating and taking advantage of these legal loopholes, I say the U.S. Senate and the U.S. Congress bears enormous responsibility for allowing this legal loophole to be used.

Pfizer and every profitable company should pay their fair share of taxes.

That is all we are talking about. So when Vermonters, at the end of the month, are trying to look at how they are going to pay their bills if their checkbook balance won't cover it, and they think the system is rigged, they are right.

One of the ways for us to unrig it is to attack this legal use of the Tax Code that was passed by this Congress.

Now, this is worse than just the Tax Code because other provisions have made Pfizer so profitable courtesy of the taxpayer. One of their major drugs, Eliquis, \$791 million of taxpayer money was used in the research and development of it. Pfizer has that, been immensely profitable, and by the way, it is a good drug. It helps with strokes, but it is a wicked price.

So here in the United States, if you are buying that drug, that costs \$7,100. In Canada, it is 900 bucks. In Japan, it is \$940; the United Kingdom, \$760; in France, \$650.

So Vermonters ask me: Wait a minute. Our taxpayer dollars went into helping Pfizer develop that drug, \$791 million, and we have to pay six, seven, eight times here in the United States than Pfizer sells it in other countries that are our peers? They think that is wrong, and so do I.

Then you think about the protection that this Congress gives to intellectual property, and rightly so, where that pricing power that goes along with getting a patent is so abused in this country that it inflicts enormous economic hardship on individuals who have to buy it directly, on taxpayers who fund it through Medicare and Medicaid, and on our employers who really care about their employees and they want to provide employer-sponsored healthcare, but those premiums keep going up and up and up because of the pharma prices, and it means the raises are flat. That is not right.

Then you have the fact that for pharma, we have created, as we should, publicly financed healthcare—Medicare, Medicaid—and employer-sponsored. So you have a situation for the pharmaceutical industry, and we are talking specifically now about Pfizer, where they get a guaranteed market: Medicare, Medicaid, employer-sponsored. They get a patent and then abuse the pricing power that goes along with it and stick it to Americans, despite the fact that American taxpayers funded so much of the basic research that went into developing this product they put out on the market. Then they end up with a tax code, courtesy of the U.S. Congress, that allows them to do what no corner drugstore could ever do; basically say that the sales they made weren't really made at the corner in Burlington, VT, they were made at the corner in Singapore.

Oh, and by the way, Pfizer worked out a deal with Singapore to get preferential tax treatment. And when they were asked, What was that agreement, they had a nondisclosure agreement

with Singapore to conceal from legitimate investigation about their tax liability, what that deal was.

So this is really shocking. But if any of us wonder why everyday folks who are showing up to do their job in all of their places of employment in your State and mine and then at the end of the month, despite all their hard work, are having trouble paying their utility bill and they just wonder, Is this system rigged, they are right. Exhibit A is what has been exposed in this report by the Senate Finance Committee and Senator WYDEN.

Mr. WYDEN. Senator WELCH, thank you for your leadership. It is great to have you on this committee.

Mr. President, to wrap up, our investigation has found that Pfizer has carried out what could be the largest tax-dodging scheme in the history of Big Pharma. This Big Pharma rip-off is exactly what Republican Senators should be rooting out in their upcoming tax bill.

Instead, it looks like Senate Republicans may lock this outrage in permanently. All Americans who believe in tax fairness should join us in fighting any extension of this tax boondoggle.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. RES. 146

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, there can be no doubt, Elon Musk is a patriot. He has revolutionized entire industries, whether it is PayPal, Tesla, SpaceX, Neuralink. Across his businesses, there are so many things that he could be working on, but when President Trump asked him to join the administration, he answered that call. He said yes, and he committed himself to serving the American people and helping get this fiscal house in order.

In many ways, he is tackling one of the biggest threats to our Nation's sovereignty, and that is our debt—\$36 trillion in debt. He understands that our fiscal path is unsustainable. And today we are spending more money to service our debt than to fund our entire military.

As this debt grows, it will become more and more difficult to fund basic government functions. That is why he is leading the Department of Government Efficiency, trying to rein in reckless spending and to get this country back on the track to fiscal health.

Now, so far DOGE has had a lot of success. In just 2 months, they have identified \$130 billion in potential savings by eliminating waste, fraud, and abuse across the Federal Government. They hope that that number—and they fully expect that number—to reach \$2 trillion by the time we get to Independence Day next year, which, by the way, will be our 250th birthday.

Every American should be applauding this effort. Our children and grandchildren's future depends on a free America.

But because he has been helping President Trump, he has become a tar-

get for the radical left, which has launched a domestic terrorism campaign against his company Tesla. In Las Vegas, suspects set Tesla vehicles on fire with Molotov cocktails; in Oregon, a man shot up a Tesla dealership; and across the country, Tesla owners have had their cars destroyed with arson and vandalism.

Now, some of these Democrat-aligned groups are organizing a “Global Day of Action” on Saturday to target Tesla. The reason for this campaign is simple.

In November, the American people rejected the left's radical agenda. They said: Enough of this. Well, our friends across the aisle have lost the debate, but instead of making a better pitch to voters, they are trying to stop Republicans with violence and intimidation.

The Democrats spent the last 4 years denouncing domestic terrorism and supporting EVs, yet now they are eerily silent. And when they do comment, they celebrate Tesla's setbacks. Tim Walz, Democrats' failed VP candidate, claimed he gets a daily boost from checking on Tesla's stock price, which has declined amid the terrorism campaign.

Democrat ally and late-night host Jimmy Kimmel seemed to endorse the violence, sarcastically telling his audience:

Don't ever vandalize Tesla vehicles.

Last week, Democrat Congresswoman JASMINE CROCKETT said all she wants for her birthday is to “see Elon taken down.” This rhetoric is inexcusable. And as the world's greatest legislative body, we should jointly condemn political violence. That is why I am asking for unanimous consent to pass the resolution that condemns the horrific acts of violence, arson, and domestic terrorism committed against Tesla dealerships and facilities. There is no reason why Democrats should oppose this resolution.

Mr. President, as if in legislative session, and notwithstanding rule XXII, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 146, which is at the desk; further, I ask that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, reserving the right to object. Listen, come on, this resolution is not about violence or domestic terrorism. It just isn't.

This is a resolution that says one thing and one thing only: Elon Musk is in charge. He matters more than anybody else. Musk is subject to a different set of rules than everybody else. The Trump administration serves him, not us. The Republican Party serves him, not us.

Elon Musk, right now, is effectively stealing from the American people. He is combing through our government,

awarding himself contracts and canceling contracts for his competitors. He is shutting down Agencies that stand in the way of his business, its growth.

He is giving himself access to secret information about government enforcement actions against his competitors. He is also, at the same time, currently the largest funder of Republican politics in the Nation.

He spent a quarter of a billion dollars backing President Trump's campaign. He recently told the President that he would contribute another \$100 million to the President's political arm.

And guess what? At that same time, the President stood on the White House lawn to give a taxpayer-funded commercial for Elon Musk's cars. That is corruption at a scale that we have not seen before in this country: the integration of the Trump White House and the Republican Party and the business interests of the richest man in the world. It is wrong.

Now, this resolution claims to say something about domestic terrorism, but the only terrorism, the only violence it mentions is violence carried out against—you guessed it—Elon Musk.

On an annual basis, there are 11,000 reported incidents of domestic terrorism—11,000. Only a handful of them impact Tesla dealerships, but they are the only acts of violence mentioned in this resolution. And 52 percent of the reported attacks were based on racial or ethnic targeting by radicalized attackers, but they aren't mentioned in this resolution.

Only Elon Musk is mentioned in this resolution because a different set of rules applies to him, because he is in charge and he deserves protection that no one else gets. He deserves a White House TV commercial for his cars. He deserves to give himself contracts and steal from his competitors. He deserves to have his own resolution.

And people are asking why? Why does the richest man in the country get this special treatment? To most people, it feels pretty fishy. It definitely feels wrong.

Now, I hate violence of any kind, whether it is perpetrated against right, left, or center. I have spent my life on this floor fighting violence, but I also hate inconsistency.

So I am going to make my colleague a pretty reasonable offer here. At the same time that President Trump is saying that he is going to vigorously pursue people that attack Tesla dealerships, he is giving pardons to the people who beat the hell out of Capitol Police officers. So I don't think that we should consent to a resolution that says we care about violence but only when it is committed against the business interests of the richest man in the world.

And I have a way to solve that problem. Senator MURRAY has a really simple resolution, a resolution that expresses our disapproval of the pardons

that were issued for the very specific set of individuals who on January 6 brutally attacked Capitol Police officers. Now, I understand that many of my Republican colleagues think the people who trespassed here shouldn't have been prosecuted. Let's set aside that disagreement.

This resolution just says that the specific set of people who viciously attacked police officers—the ones that hit the police officers over the head with metal poles—that those people shouldn't have been given a “Get Out of Jail Free” card. And so why don't we just be consistent? Why don't we say that violence matters when it is committed against Elon Musk's dealerships, and it matters when it is committed against the people that protect us?

And so my offer is to just pass both resolutions, right now, right now. We could just agree by unanimous consent to your resolution, and we could agree as a body that you shouldn't pardon the people who brutally beat the people who show up every day to protect us. They matter too. Elon Musk isn't the only person that matters. Capitol Police officers matter too.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. RES. 42

Mr. President, so I would ask the Senator to modify her request to add the following: that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 42, a resolution condemning the pardons for individuals who were found guilty of assaulting Capitol Police officers, that the resolution be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

If we agree to move forward on this unanimous consent, I think we can move forward on the Senator's request as well.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MORENO). Is there objection to the modification?

Mrs. BLACKBURN. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Is there an objection to the original request?

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, there is.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, to speak on my objection, I think it is important to note that the resolution I presented does not mention Elon Musk. The “Resolved” title in this—and by the way, it is really short is that the Senate condemns the horrific acts of violence, arson, and domestic terrorism committed against electric vehicles, car dealerships, and charging stations across the United States.

Now, for years, my Democratic colleagues have come to the floor and supported EVs. Just last year, my colleague from Connecticut claimed, and I quote him, “if we want to cut emissions and save the planet, we need more electric cars on the road.”

And as domestic terrorists target the largest EV company in the world, they refuse to condemn the violent actions. And in the past, he has also condemned vandalism and political violence.

Now, as BLM rioters rampaged through American cities in the summer of 2020, he posted on X that “Looting and property damage is bad.”

He deleted that post, but I will give him credit, his sentiment was right. And after an assassin's bullet almost took the life of then-Candidate Trump, he said:

There is no room in America for political violence.

He was right on that quote. And as we see a wave of political violence in our country today, Democrats should have no problem condemning it.

Now, to the resolution from my colleague in Washington, I find it interesting that they want to talk about lawlessness. For years, they pushed policies that weaken law enforcement and promote crime.

As BLM rioters rampaged through Seattle in 2020, my colleague called on the Department of Homeland Security to remove Federal agents from the city who were trying to quell the unrest.

The U.S. Senate should be able to stand up to violence and support law and order. And today, they are stopping us from doing that.

And when it comes to pardons, I think we should talk about pardons. In his final weeks in office, President Biden abused his pardon power to protect family members, free violent criminals, and make our country less safe.

For years, President Biden claimed he would not pardon his son Hunter; yet, in December, Biden gave him an unconditional pardon for any Federal crimes he may have committed over the course of a decade.

Such an abuse of Presidential pardon power has never happened in our Nation's history. Just months before, Hunter had been convicted of Federal gun crimes and tax offenses totaling \$1.4 million. At the same time, evidence continued to mount that Hunter sold access to his father in foreign countries, including China and Russia. This was a multimillion-dollar influence peddling scheme and a Biden family affair.

That is why just minutes before leaving office, the former President also pardoned his siblings and their spouses. They joined more than 8,000 people who received pardons and commutations from Joe Biden, including many violent criminals and murderers.

With one foot out the door, before leaving office, he commuted the death sentences of 37 of the 40 men on Federal death row, including—get this—Thomas Sanders, who kidnapped and then shot a 12-year-old girl, and he cut her throat. That is who Joe Biden decided to commute a sentence on. Anthony Battle, who murdered an Atlanta prison guard with a hammer in 1994 while serving a life sentence for

raping and murdering his wife. And Kaboni Savage, who was convicted of committing and ordering the deaths of not 1 person or 2, 12 people—12 people, including 4 little children.

If we should be condemning any pardons, we should start with violent criminals. To be clear, Senate Republicans strongly oppose any violence, especially toward our Nation's brave law enforcement. Our resolution states that all acts of violence are entirely unacceptable in the United States. I would encourage my colleagues to join me in passing this resolution. Instead, they have decided to play games with a sham counter resolution.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I have been unequivocal in saying: In this country, we use our voices and our votes—not violence—to advocate for change. I have said it many times. I will say it many times more. And I say it today.

But you are sorely mistaken if you think I am going to sit here feet away from our Capitol Police officers and let the Senate say we stand by the richest men on the planet before saying we stand by the men and women who keep us safe every single day.

Where is the solidarity for our officers here? And where, by the way, is the plaque that Congress passed into law honoring their sacrifice on January 6?

Do I have to march down to Speaker JOHNSON's office, put it up on my own? You can hang it on my door. You just bring up the plaque; I will go get the nails and do it myself because I am not going to let anyone ever erase this history, and I am not going to let them paper it over with outrage on behalf of the richest man in the world.

I have no problem condemning violence. I will do that any day of the week. I condemn attacks on our car owners and salespeople. I condemn destroying other people's personal property. This is not a new position for me. But you will have to excuse me if I don't take some Republicans seriously when they make this big show about law and order at the same time they are letting this President stab law enforcement in the back. I am not going to let Republicans get by selling a charade not weeks after they voted to freeze funding levels for law enforcement in a bill—

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Your time is expired.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask for 3 additional minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. MURRAY. I am not going to let some Republicans get by selling a charade not weeks after they voted to freeze funding levels for law enforcement in a bill where House Republicans slashed DC's budget for police officers; not months after Trump tried to halt COPs grants and many Republicans

didn't breathe a word about it; not when Trump is still in the middle of firing just about as many Federal law enforcement workers as he can get away with; and certainly not when some of my Republican colleagues are still ignoring how our lawless President continues to champion the very people who attacked our Capitol Police.

Just this week, mere days ago, President Trump speculated about compensating people who committed crimes on January 6, about rewarding their violence with taxpayer dollars. Where is that outrage? Where is the condemnation? What are some of you waiting for?

Don't you try for a single second to say: Oh, he is not talking about the violent ones. You all know better. We know better. Remember when you tried to say that about pardons? Remember how that worked out? Trump pardoned people who violently attacked police. They are back on the streets—except for the ones who already committed new crimes.

I don't know how my colleagues keep forgetting what happened on January 6. I don't know how on Earth it is not burned into their memories. But President Trump is talking about people who attacked this building, our offices, our staff, our democracy. He is talking about people who smashed windows in that we walk by every day, people who brought bats and weapons to the halls where we meet our constituents, people who beat the Capitol Police who keep us safe every day, the Capitol Police who are standing guard even now, who sit right outside this Chamber.

These are violent criminals, and President Trump is talking about them like heroes. He wants us to write them a check. Over my dead body, Mr. President. And I am going to say it again and again.

Unlike some of my Republican colleagues, I will say the same for the people who burn Teslas and for the people who smash windows here at the Capitol.

I am tired of watching this. I know our constituents are. We need to demand that Speaker JOHNSON hang that plaque that he—

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time is expired.

Mrs. MURRAY. It is not too much to ask, and I hope this body recognizes that violence is violence, and we should condemn the attacks on January 6.

I yield the floor.

VOTE ON LAWRENCE NOMINATION

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

Mr. CRAMER. 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. KENNEDY) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) and the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) are necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 51, nays 45, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 155 Ex.]

YEAS—51

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

NAYS—45

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

NOT VOTING—4

Kennedy	Sanders
Rounds	Schumer

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MULLIN). Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The majority leader.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 40.

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 Matthew Whitaker, of Iowa, to be United States Permanent Representative on the

Council of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, with the rank and status of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary.

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. 40, Matthew Whitaker, of Iowa, to be United States Permanent Representative on the Council of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, with the rank and status of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary.

John Thune, Katie Boyd Britt, Bernie Moreno, Mike Rounds, Tom Cotton, Markwayne Mullin, John Barrasso, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Rick Scott of Florida, John Hoeven, Roger Marshall, Thom Tillis, Jim Justice, Tim Sheehy, James Lankford, Joni Ernst, John R. Curtis.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, right now, we have a couple of billionaires running our country straight into the ground and who seem to have skipped American history because President Trump and Elon Musk don't seem to care much about our Constitution, including the part that says quite clearly:

The Congress shall have Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States.

It continues:

No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law.

Well, their lack of interest in that section of the Constitution doesn't make it any less real at all. You don't have to take my word for it; it is right down the street at the National Archives. You can go read it yourself. I would invite our billionaire "co-Presidents" to go take a look. Stand in line with the schoolkids who are on trips. Read up on the separation of powers. You can even explain to the students there why you are gutting the Department of Education while you are at it.

Just in case Trump and Musk struggle as much with reading comprehension as history, let me translate for you what the Constitution says. Congress—that is us, everyone elected here—has the power of the purse. Presidents don't write laws; they execute them. That has been true for every spending bill this body has ever passed, including the House Republicans' year-long CR.

The basic fact that Congress has the power of the purse is something Republicans and Democrats agree on, and it

won't change no matter what Trump or Russ Vought or Elon Musk claims. Their legal theories are plain outlandish, and so are their facts. If you listen to them, they argue that Presidents have been impounding funds routinely. That is wrong. The opposite is true. Presidents have traditionally followed the law and followed the legal directives in spending bills.

When Nixon tried to block just a fraction of the amount of funding Trump is now blocking, Congress passed the Impoundment Control Act on a truly overwhelming bipartisan basis. In fact, it cleared this Senate unanimously.

So while the Constitution may be the first word on Congress's power of the purse, this foundational principle has been affirmed time and again by the courts and by Congress. The law affirms what we have long known—Presidents cannot pick and choose which parts of the spending laws to follow—and it lays out a clear procedure for the President to propose to Congress either delaying or rescinding funding.

The Impoundment Control Act is still the law of the land. The Constitution is still the foundation of this democracy. Congress still has the power of the purse, and for some of the House Republicans who seem to have forgotten, that power is a critical part of how all of us—how we fight for our constituents.

As lawmakers, we allocate funding to solve problems, to make lives better, to make our country safer with things like new bridges to safely get to work or with affordable healthcare or childcare, with clean drinking water, with a strong national defense, with personnel who keep planes flying safely overhead and keep toxins out of our food supply, and so much more.

When Congress passes legislation to make all of those priorities real and the President signs it into law, it needs to be followed. That is how it works in this democracy.

You don't like the law, come to win the votes in Congress and change it. But I am here today on the floor because we all know too well this President is not doing that. He and the richest man in the world are defying our laws. They are hurting our constituents, and they are seeking to enrich themselves in that process.

For over 2 months now, President Trump has been illegally choking off huge chunks of funding. We are talking about hundreds of billions of dollars—holding up investments in everything from new roads and bridges to cheaper energy, to stronger national security.

Back in my home State of Washington, the reports keep rolling in about how President Trump is causing havoc by illegally blocking funds.

Last week, I heard from a lumber company that is struggling to cover a loan, given its Federal grant for solar power has now been frozen for months.

Earlier this week, my office heard about a terminated Spokane project fo-

cused on environmental restoration, stormwater management, and millions of dollars being canceled for Tribal public health efforts in my State alone.

I have no doubt the fallout will continue next week because Trump keeps freezing more funding, ripping up more contracts, and ignoring our laws. It has to end.

All of us—every one of us—wants a better working, more efficient government that delivers for people. But what Trump and Musk are doing has nothing to do with efficiency or with helping people. They are breaking the law and ripping the rug out from underneath families and American businesses, all while working overtime to pass more tax breaks for billionaires like themselves. This lawlessness has to end.

I am hopeful, in this Chamber, we get back to regular order and pass actual bipartisan bills, full-year bills. We cannot let what happened with House Republicans' awful CR happen ever again. We have got to ensure that our constituents—our constituents, each and every one of us—have their voices heard by getting a full-year spending bill reflecting current needs and getting it across the finish line. And those bills need to be bipartisan. That is the bare minimum, and it is not too much to ask.

I have worked with Republicans for years—for years—on bipartisan spending bills. During my time as Appropriations chair, I worked with Senator COLLINS from the other side of the aisle and our colleagues on the committee on both sides of the aisle to hammer out strong, bipartisan bills 2 years in a row—bills that passed out of our committee in overwhelming bipartisan votes, many of them unanimously. So I know well it is absolutely possible to work together, and it is worthwhile.

Is it easy? Of course not. But you look at the bills we wrote together, and you look at the disaster of a bill that House Republicans wrote on their own, and the difference is night and day.

I am not just talking about the difference in huge, painful cuts from the House Republican bill. I am also talking about the huge incompetence House Republicans displayed.

They wrote a bill that slashed DC's own budget by \$1 billion for no reason. The Senate has now passed a bill to fix the inexcusable cut to DC's own funds—their own funds. But if the House does not act quickly now to pass the Senate bill and fix that mistake, House Republicans will force DC to fire teachers, to fire police officers, and more, by the way, without saving taxpayers a dime.

That is just one—one—of the many glaring issues with the House Republicans' partisan CR, which I spoke about at length when I cast my vote against it. And I stand proudly by that vote today.

Republicans should not write a bill without me and expect me just to vote for it. That is not how this ever works. We should not accept a false choice of

accepting House Republicans' poison pills or facing a shutdown; otherwise, that poison is only going to get more bitter each time.

The choice we have to talk about instead is this: Will we work together in a bipartisan way to fund the government and invest in the places that we represent or will House Republicans cut us out, go on their own, and cause a shutdown?

We have to start looking ahead to fiscal year 2026 and working on those bipartisan funding bills. I am focused on making sure that what happened earlier this month absolutely does not happen again because let me be absolutely clear: If Republicans draft another funding bill in September with zero Democratic input and that bill fails to pass the Senate because Democrats do not vote for it, that is on Republicans. That is Republicans forcing a shutdown. Period.

I represent nearly 8 million people in the State of Washington. I am not offering up my vote in exchange for nothing—and, actually, in the case of House Republicans' CR, worse than nothing, given how it will now be used against Democrats.

So I am absolutely not going to stop making this point. Democrats should not offer up our votes in exchange for exactly nothing. I will be making that argument loud and clear for everyone to hear.

We need to be focused on negotiating bipartisan bills that give our communities strong investments instead of devastating cuts. We need to ensure that our constituents have a voice in this process.

Colleagues, understand this: Passing full-year, bipartisan spending bills, that is my top priority—those spending bills that carry the full authority of Congress on how we spend taxpayer dollars, that carry forward the priorities our constituents tell us about. That is my top priority. That is the most important guardrail we can place on an administration that looks to punish people they disagree with and strip funding from priorities like Army Corps dam repairs or public transportation projects or from public schools and universities.

As we write those bills, we need transparency. We need to understand the reality on the ground of what this administration and DOGE are actually doing. Who is calling the shots over there? What programs are functional at this point? Where do we have enough staff to even carry out the mission of specific Agencies or to faithfully follow congressional intent?

We need a hearing with Elon Musk and whoever else is running DOGE. We need hearings with Department heads. Whatever form it takes, we need answers on what has been going on; we need an end to the lawlessness that is happening; and we need transparency that is sorely lacking.

I don't know when that became controversial. Isn't DOGE supposed to be

all about accountability? Isn't it supposed to be all about transparency?

So let's get to it. Let's show the American people exactly what Trump is doing. What is the problem with that?

After all, it is not like it is meant to be a secret. Project 2025 was a public playbook, and it is clear they are following it to the letter.

Before he returned as OMB Director, Russ Vought made clear he wanted to ignore our laws and "Impound, Baby, Impound!" That is a direct quote from the general counsel, by the way. He said it, "Impound, Baby, Impound!"

I even asked him about it directly: Will you follow our laws or just toss them out in the dumpster? And he wouldn't give us a straight yes. He wouldn't, why? Because he already laid out his plans in black and white. His plan: Break the law, block funds that Congress passed, dare the courts to stop him. And, shocker, the guy who made it clear he is willing to go break laws and block funding is breaking laws, and he is blocking funding.

President Trump and Musk have made their intentions just as clear, not just ignoring our laws but ignoring court orders to uphold our laws and attacking our judges and our judicial system every time they don't get their way.

Just this week, we saw new, blatantly illegal acts from the Trump administration. First, OMB removed a website that provides transparency by displaying how it directs Agencies to apportion—or spend—Federal funding. That website is not optional. It is in the statute. And OMB was complying with a requirement that was passed by us, by Congress.

This is a cut-and-dry case. OMB must publish the Agency's legally binding budget decisions. We passed that language on a bipartisan basis because our constituents deserve transparency, and they deserve accountability for how their money is being spent.

But the only thing transparent about this administration is how transparently illegal their actions are because the same day they illegally shut down and shut the American people out of seeing what they are doing, they also blocked funding that House Republicans continued in their own CR and that the President Trump himself actually just signed into law.

Trump wants to illegally cherry-pick what gets funding that we passed and what gets left in the dust. Well, for one thing, that is straight up against the law—open-and-shut case; for another, it fundamentally erodes our democracy, the trust that people and businesses and local and State governments across the country place in the Federal Government, and, of course, our ability to negotiate bipartisan deals here in Congress. And let's not lose sight of the fact that it is bad for our country, and it is bad for our constituents.

There is a reason we passed the emergency funds. But President Trump is

choking off critical investments to combat the flow of fentanyl. He is slashing support for U.S. national security initiatives. He is weakening the competitiveness of U.S. business. He is setting back next-generation weather forecasting and more.

That still is not all because the very next day, we learned he wants to illegally freeze tens of millions of dollars in title X funding. That is a program with a long bipartisan history that helps women get cancer screenings, get birth control, pregnancy tests, prevent and treat STIs.

Last time, President Trump tried to do that through rulemaking, but now that he is throwing the law out the window entirely, he thinks he can do it with the stroke of a pen.

I have to underscore, these are just the most recent examples. Everything I just talked about happened just this week. This is the latest in a long trail of devastation they have left behind in this ongoing parade of lawbreaking because, as I mentioned, President Trump is still—is still—blocking hundreds of billions of dollars in investments we secured for our constituents.

President Trump and Musk illegally shuttered USAID. They are illegally gutting the Department of Education. They are trying to dramatically slash medical research funding with restrictions that are in direct defiance of bipartisan language that I actually worked to negotiate with my Republican colleagues.

I could go on all day describing the damage caused by these moves and the many other funds that are now illegally being blocked, but I think the pattern is clear. They said they were going to cut funding, regardless of the consequences, regardless of the laws, regardless of the Constitution, and that is exactly what they are doing.

We here in Congress can't bury our heads in the sand while Trump, Musk, and Vought try to snatch away our power—our power, Democrats and Republicans—of the purse.

I will continue to use every tool I have as a Senator. I will use my voice. I will use my vote and more to stop this lawlessness, to stop the cuts that hurt my constituents, and to write and pass bills that actually help people.

So I really hope our Republican colleagues will work with us to craft bipartisan funding bills and to conduct basic oversight to provide accountability because it absolutely matters that we not just pass strong bipartisan funding laws but that the laws we pass are actually followed, that our constituents—every one of our constituents—actually have a say in how their tax dollars are spent, and that Congress maintains the power of the purse. And I will keep continuing to press all of my colleagues to stand with me on this.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BUDD). The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

ALASKA

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, like all of us, last week, I was back home in my great State—the great State of Alaska. And, actually, I try to be home every weekend, even when we are in session. But this trip back home was particularly important because I was in Juneau, AK, our State's capital, to deliver my annual address to our legislature.

We have a really great tradition in Alaska where the Senators get invited to come back and give a big address to the entire State senate, to the entire State house. Senator MURKOWSKI did it a couple of days before I did, and then I was able to do it. Then you kind of do like a little prime minister time, where the legislators get to ask you Q&A's and do a big press conference.

So it is a really important event for me. I know it is for Senator MURKOWSKI. It is certainly one of the most important speeches I give all year, and I wanted to touch on some of the themes because the themes of the speech were actually about the long history and two visions that we have in DC about the great State of Alaska—my State. And boy, oh boy, these visions are competing all the time still, and it really, really matters to the people I represent.

When one vision is kind of ascendant—and I will talk about that—my constituents really get harmed. That is the national Democrat vision for Alaska, which is the shutdown of Alaska. When the Republican vision is ascendant—and now we have President Trump, who is really, really focused on actually helping Alaska, unleashing Alaska's economy—then we do well.

This has been going on for decades, and I feel very passionate about it because it really impacts the day-in and day-out lives of the people I am so privileged to represent.

So let me just mention these competing visions in a little bit more detail. You have one vision, like I said, where there is this historical belief that Alaska would do better continuing as almost a territory run by an absent Federal landlord who protects us, occasionally gives scraps from the national wealth of America's table to our constituents back home, but they are not focused on truly unleashing the private sector opportunities and jobs and economy for Alaskans.

Of course, this gets debated all the time and litigated all the time. We are one of the few States that have several very specific, large, complex Federal pieces of legislation that often get litigated and, of late, have gone all the way up to the U.S. Supreme Court. I want to talk about one of those because it really lays out the entire kind of debate, back-and-forth.

In 1980, the Congress—over the objection of most Alaskans, by the way—passed a law called the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act—that is a mouthful; it is called ANILCA back home—which has had a huge impact on my State.

ANILCA federalized over 100 million acres of land in Alaska. Can you imagine that? That is as big as California. The Fed said: Guess what, Alaska, we are taking it over.

Since that time—1980; that was Jimmy Carter; we didn't like that—Federal Agencies have interpreted ANILCA, and they have often interpreted ANILCA to say—the Federal Agencies—our role is to shut down Alaska, to not provide access to the lands, access to the resources. That is the way the Federal Government—especially when Democrats are in power—has interpreted ANILCA.

But we just had actually not one but two U.S. Supreme Court cases interpreting ANILCA. The case is called *Sturgeon v. the Department of the Interior*—*Sturgeon I* and *Sturgeon II*—where the U.S. Supreme Court, 9 to 0, said: Now, wait a minute, Federal Agencies. Wait a minute, Democrats and Congress. Alaska is different. Alaska is the exception. Federal Agencies, you can't just go and shut down Alaska the way you think you can with other Federal lands.

Justice Kagan actually wrote the opinion in *Sturgeon II* and captured the principle that is at stake in so many of the specific litigation cases my State deals with.

The lower 48 what we call ecocolonialists—the radical, far-left environmental groups—sue on everything in Alaska. You want to try to build a sidewalk in Alaska? You will have 13 environmental groups sue to stop. You can build a sidewalk in Connecticut. You can build a sidewalk in New Jersey. You try to build anything in Alaska, and here they come litigating.

Well the Supreme Court said: Whoa, whoa, whoa. Federal Agencies, all these environmental groups, under ANILCA—that involved a great Alaskan. I know him well. John Sturgeon. He wanted to go moose hunting, and the Fed said: You can't go in a certain area. He was on a hovercraft to go moose hunting in a certain area of Alaska. He knew his rights. He was cited. He said: You know what, I don't believe the National Park Service has the right to cite me. I am going to appeal this citation all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Here is what Justice Kagan said—not some kind of conservative, mind you, but a good Justice: “If Sturgeon lived in any other State, his suit would not have had a prayer of success. . . . Except that Sturgeon lives in Alaska. And as we have said before”—“we,” the Supreme Court of the United States—“Alaska is often the exception, not the rule” to these giant Federal lands issues.

We like those *Sturgeon I* and *Sturgeon II* cases, but I will tell you this: When you hear that Alaska is often the exception, it plays the other way too.

No offense to my friends on the other side of the aisle, but when national Democrats are in power, they often get there through the support of far-left, radical environmental groups. Those groups say, “Hey, we helped you get elected”—President Biden, President Obama, President Carter, and Senators on the other side of the aisle—“so here is what we want.” The environmental groups say, “We want to shut down Alaska.”

So guess what happens. Guess what happens. My colleagues here—the minority leader is certainly one of them—in the White House, they put a huge amount of effort into shutting down my State, killing jobs.

Throughout the decades here in DC, the national Democrats and their special interest, far-left environmental allies have not only encouraged this mindset of shutting down Alaska, they have used it for political gain and contorted it to keep my State locked up as some kind of beautiful American snow globe.

Well, we are not a snow globe. We are one of the most important States in the country, from national defense, to resources, to strategic location. Just talk to the military, talk to the Pentagon.

So this mindset has been on display for leaders of the Democratic Party for decades. It was on display, as I mentioned, when President Carter signed ANILCA in 1980. Our delegation secured some important terms and concessions, which is what Justice Kagan was talking about, when they locked up more than 100 million acres of our State. Try that anywhere else. Most States aren't even 100 million acres big.

Jimmy Carter, when he signed this legislation, said: “Public lands are Alaska's future.” I don't think anyone else has ever said that about any other States. “Public lands are Alaska's future.”

We didn't like Jimmy Carter up in Alaska for what he did to our State.

The mindset was also fully on display when we had President Obama—his last couple weeks in office, he locked up what is called the Outer Continental Shelf, the entire Outer Continental Shelf of Alaska. He said: I am going to take that off the table.

By the way, Congress said: No, you actually have to develop that. It is called the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act.

He didn't care. He said: I am taking it from Alaska. It is all coming off.

Then he said that Alaska needs to “move decisively away from fossil fuels” and that the way “to build a strong . . . economy”—this is the President of the United States—is to rely on things like “philanthropy.” Philanthropy. Charity.

Could you imagine in any other State a President saying “By the way, don't

worry about a strong economy. Don't worry about good private sector jobs for your citizens. You should rely on philanthropy”—kind of patting us on the head. Charity. Come on. Really? They do it for our State. Charity.

But, of course, this arrogant Federal landlord view of Alaska was on its most full display and reached its zenith under President Biden in what I refer to as the “Last Frontier Lock-Up.”

Do you know what this was? I mean, it is really kind of hard to believe. That is the map of it. Every part of the State, every region of the State, all the resources—by the way, particularly targeting Alaska Native people, the indigenous people of my State, great, patriotic people. Holy cow, Joe Biden, Deb Haaland—they made sure Alaskan Natives got nothing.

The whole State—here is what it was. I am going to show this for a minute. It is kind of amazing. The Last Frontier lockup was 70 Executive orders and Executive actions during the Biden administration—7–0; by the way, there would have been more, but we stopped a few of them—exclusively and uniquely focused on shutting down Alaska. Think about that. That has probably never happened in American history, that a White House comes into power and says: I am going to focus on this State, and I am going to use all our Executive authority, many of which are illegal, and I am going to use it to crush one State in the Union.

Has that ever happened? I don't think so. That is what happened with this administration. Seventy.

By the way, I was in an Oval Office meeting with President Biden when they were at 46. I handed him the lock-up. I said: Mr. President, with all due respect, I know I am in the Oval Office, I am not sure you even know what is going on with your administration. You guys have declared a war on working families in my State. Sir, with all due respect, it is not right that you are using the power of the Federal Government that you are in charge of to crush my State. Why are you doing that, Mr. President? Why are you doing that? And why are you particularly hurting the Native people? I thought you care about communities of color, indigenous people. You certainly don't in my State.

I even told him: If a Republican administration came in and issued—at the time, 46; this would be 2 years ago—46 Executive orders targeting little Delaware and you were still a Senator here, you would be on the Senate floor raising hell every day because it is wrong. You know it. My colleagues on the other side of the aisle know it. This should have never happened in any State in the country.

Do you know what else about this that was a little frustrating? Do you think there was one national media story on this from the New York Times, the Washington Post, or, heck, even the Anchorage Daily News? Not one story. Not one story.

The Federal Government using all its power to crush one State—often illegally, and I will get into that—and nobody wrote one story. Why? Because most of the media loved it. Hey, we love all these environmental groups. They want to shut down Alaska, so we are not going to say a word about it.

You wonder why people doubt the media. That is a big story. Four years. The power of the Federal Government to crush one State, and we never had anyone write about it—not just that, but they wouldn't listen. They wouldn't listen.

So a big part of these orders in Alaska were focused on this region we call the North Slope of Alaska. We have State land up here. We have ANWR. A lot people know about ANWR for oil and gas. We have a thing called the National Petroleum Reserve of Alaska here, set aside by Congress to do what? The national Petroleum Reserve of Alaska? To develop petroleum for our country's strength and power.

This is the North Slope Borough. It is led by Inupiat indigenous people. They are tremendous people. They are patriotic. They serve in the military. They are whale hunters. They are amazing people, some of my favorite people in the whole world.

Their Tribe, their Alaska Native corporation of the borough—by the way, this is about as big as Montana; huge—they came to DC eight times, all the leaders of the North Slope. It takes a long time to get there, by the way. It is about 4 or 5,000 miles from DC.

When they heard that Joe Biden and Deb Haaland were going to do all kinds of regulations to remove their lands from any kind of productive economic use, eight times they flew all the way to DC to meet with Secretary Haaland—eight times. Do you know how many times Secretary Haaland met with my great constituents? Zero. Zero.

We held press conferences. We wrote letters: Madam Secretary, you are indigenous. These people are indigenous. You have a trust responsibility with them. How about meeting them once before you crush their economy?

Never met with them.

So talk about an arrogant, faraway landlord.

By the way, there is good news here. Some of the leaders of the North Slope Borough just last week came down and requested a meeting with the new Secretary of the Interior, Doug Burgum. He met with them for an hour and a half the first time they were in town under the Trump Administration. Eight times under Biden—nope. Sorry. We are too busy. First time for Secretary Burgum—all these great leaders—an hour and a half. That is respect.

It is not just Democrat administrations. Unfortunately, my colleagues—many of them, too many of them—weren't alone in this unprecedented lockup of our State.

Let me just give you one example. We got ANWR open, fair and square, in

2017, in the tax bill. It is in the law: Open it up. Hold lease sales. Passed it. We have been trying to get that done for 40 years.

It was bipartisan, by the way. Back home in Alaska, Democrats and Republicans, we all want this done—the Native people that live there. So that was done.

The Trump administration is going to have a lease sale. They have mandated it at the end. But in the interim, my colleagues, led by the senior Senator from New Mexico—I am going to get to that in a minute. My colleagues, in a letter—boy, there is a whole bunch of them. Do you know what they did?

My colleagues here, Democrat Senators, a bunch of them, they wrote all the insurance companies and all the big banks in America, and they said: Don't invest in Alaska. Don't invest in Alaska.

A bunch of my colleagues, after we got a law passed that we have been trying to get done for decades: Don't do it, banks and insurance companies.

A bunch, about a third of the Democrats here—that is pressure: Don't do it. We don't want you to do it.

Why? Do you know what they said? It was remarkable. Because if you develop Alaska, America won't achieve "its climate goals"—"its climate goals."

So that was Democrat Senators. By the way, no one asked me about this. They came in to crush my State about climate goals.

Now, let's just talk a little bit about hypocrisy here. That was led by the senior Senator of New Mexico.

Now, during the Biden administration, remember, they wanted to shut down Alaska. They were doing everything they could to shut down my State. We didn't increase production at all. Our oil production has been going like this.

But there is one State in America where it is "drill, baby, drill." The production of oil is through the roof. Guess what State that is. Oh my goodness, it is New Mexico—on Federal lands—when Secretary Haaland was the Secretary. Whoa, are you kidding me?

The gray here is Alaska. The red is New Mexico. During the Biden administration, the 4 years they tried to crush my State, the senior Senator from New Mexico led the efforts to crush my State. Secretary Haaland, another New Mexican, crushed my State. And guess what. In New Mexico, on Federal lands, it was "drill, baby, drill." They went from a million barrels a day to 2 million barrels a day.

Where is the New York Times on that one? Where is the Washington Post on that one?

Could you imagine the counterfactual? A Republican administration comes into office, and they target a Democrat State to crush them, and then that same Republican administration, with the Secretary of the Interior and one of their senior Senators, says:

But in our State, we are going to unleash it. And we will shut down the other States because of climate concerns, but we will be the climate bomb of America—which is what New Mexico has become.

OK. Where is that story? Where is that story?

Again, you wonder why people don't trust our media. This is an unbelievable story.

So is this, by the way. My colleagues all, can you imagine if every Senator here decided, hey, I am going to get a bunch of Senators, and we are going to write a letter to make sure we crush the economy in New York or Connecticut? Like this place wouldn't even work. But if it is Alaska, you get to do that.

Well, I don't like it. But here is the other reason I feel so passionate about this, and this is what my colleagues—and look, they are writing a letter. We know why the senior Senator from New Mexico writes this letter—because all the radical far-left groups who support these guys tell them to do this.

But here is what makes me really upset, because they don't realize what their letters do. It is not just about producing energy that our country needs or jobs. For me and the people I represent, it is about something even more.

What am I talking about? I have brought this chart out a lot. This is an American Medical Association study from 1980 to 2014.

What does it show? It shows life expectancy in America. It is a little bit hard to read here, but the increases or decreases in life expectancy. So if you are looking at, kind of, orange and red, unfortunately, parts of the United States have a little bit of orange and red. That is actually a decrease in life expectancy. We experienced that for 25 years, 1980 to 2014. In some parts of our country, according to the American Medical Association, the people in those parts, they lived less longer lives. It is really bad. I mean, it is horrible.

Now, if you look at the map—I won't go into all of it—a lot of this is where the opioid epidemic really surged and destroyed so many lives. But other parts of America, if you look here—the blue, the purple—had an explosion in life expectancy.

Wow, that is pretty important. As a matter of fact, I have debated a lot of my Democratic colleagues: Give me an indicator of policy success more important than that the people you are representing are living longer. Give me one. There isn't one. It is really important.

So guess which State in that period, 1980 to 2014, had a huge increase in the life expectancy. My State. And guess which regions of Alaska had that. The North Slope—I was just showing you that—the Northwest Arctic Borough, the Aleutian Islands chain, all the way out here, had giant increases in 25 years, up to 13 years of life expectancy increases.

Hmm, why did that happen? Well, it happened for two reasons. One, unfortunately, these are a lot of the areas where our Alaska Native communities live, and they started at really low levels of life expectancy—really low, 50-55-years-old average lifespan. It is horrible.

So it was a low level. But what else happened? These areas all started to experience major resource development, fisheries.

There is a huge law called the Magnuson-Stevens Act, which Americanized our fisheries. So the Aleutian Islands chain had incredible opportunities for resource development with fisheries.

The North Slope, as I was talking about, the discovery of Prudhoe Bay had big oil and gas developments.

This area had a huge mine called the Red Dog mine, one of the biggest silver-zinc-lead mines in the world—or lead-zinc mines in the world.

So resource development happened, and guess what. The Native people of Alaska started to get clinics, running water and flush toilets—which a lot of them don't have—hospitals, gyms, good jobs.

Again, what policy indicator of success is more important than that the people you are representing are living 13 years longer than they did 20 years earlier?

I don't think there is one. But all my colleagues came and said: No—the Federal Government, Joe Biden, the senior Senator from New Mexico. We are going to shut all of this down.

They are not listening to me or LISA MURKOWSKI. We are going to shut it down because some radical far-left groups, who don't give a damn about my constituents, are telling us to do it.

Shame on you guys. Shame on you guys. I hope I never see another letter like this again—all the banks, all the insurance companies, led by MARTIN HEINRICH—ridiculous. I wouldn't do that to New Mexico. Even though I was tempted, I didn't.

So let me end with a couple of more points, with some good news.

So like I said, you have 70 Executive orders and Executive actions. As I said, a lot of these were just blatantly illegal. Well, we just found out that I wasn't just saying that. One of the biggest Executive orders that Joe Biden put in place right away was like: Hey, I know you Republicans have ANWR open. Donald Trump signed it. But guess what. I am going to cancel all the leases.

Wait a minute. You can't cancel all the leases. Congress said you have to put forward the leases.

They don't care. Deb Haaland said: Hey, I don't care what Congress did. You can't develop ANWR.

You can't do that. The Congress of the United States just passed it. The President of the United States, Donald Trump, signed it into law. You can't just cancel the leases. That is illegal.

Nope, they did it. Joe Biden did it. Deb Haaland did it.

Two days ago, the Federal district court in Alaska, on litigation, when we sued and said: You can't do that—a court, to be perfectly honest, where she usually favors the far-left environmental groups. She wrote a big opinion saying: Guess what. What Joe Biden did, what Deb Haaland did was totally illegal.

Where is the New York Times and Washington Post story on that one? I don't know. They haven't written it.

So the Biden action on ANWR was what? Illegal.

Now, we have all kinds of people talking about a constitutional crisis right now. But my constitutional crisis was the last 4 years, because it wasn't just this. It wasn't just the ANWR provision. The Biden administration took this area of Alaska, the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska, completely off the table. It is as big as Indiana right here, the NPR-A. They just said: We are taking it off the table.

But the Congress said that the Department of the Interior "shall conduct an expeditious program of competitive leasing for oil and gas in the" NPR-A. That is what we said. So that is certainly illegal.

I will give you another one. This is a huge critical mineral deposit area in Alaska called the Ambler Mining District. It has more critical minerals, probably, than any place in America.

The Trump administration said: We are going to build a road to it. Congress, in 1980, said the Secretary of the Interior "shall permit" a road to the Ambler Mining District. "Shall"—that is what we said.

Guess what the Biden administration did. They canceled the road—completely illegal.

So it is not just actions to hurt my constituents. It is complete lawlessness in the process of doing that.

So I am sounding a little cranky here because I am cranky about the attacks on my State. You have got an administration saying: We are going to shut down Alaska.

And then you have a lot of my colleagues saying: And we are going to help.

They never asked me. They never asked like: Hey, Dan, if we do all this, will we be hurting the life expectancy of the people you represent?

Answer: Yes. They don't care.

But I will tell you, we now have a new vision, and it is because Republicans are in charge in the Senate, in the House, and, very importantly, in the White House.

And I want to thank President Trump and his team; Secretary Burgum; Secretary Wright, the Secretary of Energy; the Chief of Staff, Susie Wiles; all of them.

On day one—day one—in the Trump administration, they said: We are not going to shut down Alaska. We are not going to hurt Alaska. We think Alaska is critical, not just for Alaskans but for America. We are going to unleash Alaska's extraordinary resource potential.

That is the Executive order President Trump signed on his first day in office. And this is the vision that Alaskans want. This is the vision that will strengthen my State's economy, create more jobs, and not have this arrogant Federal landlord focused on shutting us down.

It is a vision arising from our frontier heritage in Alaska, a spirit of strength, invention, energy, resilience, and shaking off the shackles of the past, and building a new world. It is a spirit of opportunity. It is a spirit of the last frontier.

And we get it from the Alaskan Native people who have thrived on these lands for thousands of years, in some of the harshest conditions in the world. We get it from the gold miners who traveled north to find their fortune. We get it from the pioneers who came from thousands of miles away to build new communities in Alaska.

We get it from our incredible veteran population. We have more vets per capita than any other State in the country, who have defended freedom for America all over the world.

We get it from our construction workers and building trades, who have built Alaskan manmade marvels like the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System, which, by the way, is another example of what I am talking about. It passed the Senate by a tie vote. The giant Trans-Alaska Pipeline system that has produced over 40 billion barrels for our State passed right here on the Senate floor with a tie vote from the Republican Vice President of the United States. We get this from our law enforcement officers who have brought law and order to a rough and rugged land. We get it from our fishermen on dangerous seas, and we get the spirit, the spirit that President Trump wants to unleash in our State, for the benefit of Alaskans, for the benefit of America. We get this from Alaskans who want to create private sector jobs, who want to create wealth for our State and our country, and want to reject what the national Democrats do every single time they get into power, which is crush my State; crush jobs; undermine working families; in particular, go after the interests of the Alaska Native people.

So the final thing on this Executive order, which we are seeing—and this is where some of my Democratic colleagues in the Senate have actually been helpful to me, so I appreciate that—so we have a huge opportunity for a giant LNG project in Alaska that will be a counter to the Chinese Belt and Road Initiative by getting clean-burning Alaska natural gas to our allies in Asia, to Alaskans, to our military, to Americans. This is a huge project that the President of the United States in his State of the Union, in his Executive order, and in his recent meeting with the Prime Minister of Japan has said is one of his administration's top priorities.

It will unleash jobs by the thousands. It will revitalize our steel industry.

And at full capacity, given how much natural gas we have on the North Slope, the estimates are that this will reduce our trade deficit by \$10 billion a year.

So we are very focused on this. It is a new day in Alaska with regard to our economy and energy. And the new day is because Republicans are back in the White House. Republicans are back in control of the Senate, and Republicans are still in charge of the House. That is how we need to unleash our economy.

One day, I am going to be able to convince some of my Democratic colleagues: Let us do this. We don't come attacking your States. We don't write letters to all banks and all the insurance companies saying: Let's shut down Arizona.

We should all be trying to lift each other up. Someday, my Democratic colleagues will do that. But until now, with Republicans in charge, we got huge opportunities in my great State, and I am very, very thankful for that.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.

MEDICAID

Mr. KELLY. Mr. President, with all of the chaos in Washington right now, it can feel like it is tough to keep up. In the middle of bombshell revelations, new Executive orders that threaten the safety of Americans, and the administration's plans to give rich people trillions of dollars of tax cuts, what is often lost is how this all impacts the people we represent. The best way to find out, though, is to get out of Washington, DC, and talk to the families and the seniors and the kids who are going to be directly impacted.

Let me tell you: These folks are paying attention, and they aren't happy about it. I know some of my Republican colleagues in Congress are trying to tune out the thousands of phone calls and the emails and have been avoiding townhalls.

But last week, I held a couple of townhalls in Arizona. We focused on Medicaid and brought together healthcare providers and families who rely on it to talk about what Republicans are planning to do and what that would mean for them.

Republicans are working on a plan that could absolutely gut healthcare in our country by slashing Medicaid. There is a number of ways they could do this, but we know it is the plan. The way Republicans talk about it is about dollars saved and pay-fors for those tax cuts for the wealthiest.

When it is framed as a line item instead of what it actually is, which is healthcare that tens of millions of Americans rely on to survive, it is easy to lose track of who will bear the consequences of these decisions: hard-working families, kids, and seniors in Arizona and across the entire country.

My State has one of the largest Medicaid populations. The Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System—or AHCCCS, as Arizona's Medicaid pro-

gram is called—has been expanded under Republican Governors to be the backbone of healthcare for more than 2 million people.

We are talking about kids. We are talking about seniors. We are talking about pregnant women and people with disabilities. And I heard from them last week. I promised them that I would bring their stories back to DC and share them. Now, I don't think I have enough time here to talk about all of them today, but I am going to share a few.

This is story No. 1. In Scottsdale, along with Senator RUBEN GALLEGOS, I heard from a woman named Quianna Brown. Quianna is the mother of a 10-year-old girl that she and her husband adopted from foster care, and she has special needs, and she has a rare form of diabetes. Her daughter was diagnosed and treated, thanks to Medicaid.

Now, along with her husband, who served in the U.S. Navy for 23 years, Quianna works every day to provide for her family, and she is afraid that her daughter is going to lose her healthcare. She finished her remarks at this townhall by comparing Medicaid to a house that Republicans are planning to burn down. She said—and this is a quote, Mr. President. She said:

Would you mind telling your colleagues in Washington that when they're burning down this house, there are people still inside? My kid is inside.

When she said this to me in front of this room of over 100 people, sharing her most personal story, the room went silent. Everyone turned and listened because it was a mother pleading for us to help protect her child in the most straightforward terms. And I told her I would bring this back and share it with all of you.

So, again, let me repeat:

When they're burning down this house, there are people still inside. My kid is inside.

These words from Quianna Brown, a mother and a hard-working Arizonan, should resonate loud and clear on this floor.

Samia from Sierra Vista—this is story No. 2—is the mother of two children, a 15-year-old daughter and a 12-year-old son. Her son only has one kidney and severe scoliosis. Both of them, both of the kids, are autistic and were diagnosed with a rare tumor disorder which cripples their bodies' capacity to stop the growth of tumors. The result is that their chance of getting cancer is 85 to 95 percent. She knows that the best chance her kids have of beating cancer and surviving is to find it early. And Medicaid has allowed her to get the frequent screenings that her children need.

She shared that both her children meet the burden of placing them in a long-term care facility, but thanks to Arizona's Medicaid paid caregiver program, she can care for them at home. That is a success.

Medicaid is a literal lifeline for her kids. I think about her knowing exactly what she needs to do for her kids

to keep them healthy and the worry that she faces if she thinks about what would happen to them without it.

Story No. 3 is about Tiffany Leslie Pasillas from Marana. Also she cares for her 6-year-old daughter Aiyana at home. Aiyana is immunocompromised. She is nonverbal. She can't walk, and she requires care 24-7. Tiffany shared that without Medicaid, she would be forced to limit care and evaluate whether she could continue to care for her at home—or would she have to place her daughter in a specialized facility for her severe needs?

In Tucson, AZ, I heard from Chad Durns, who is living with multiple sclerosis and is unable to work. He relies on Medicaid to afford his MRIs and his infusion treatments.

When he spoke at the townhall, he talked about the potential costs of his healthcare if he lost his Medicaid coverage. Through tears, he said:

The level of cost of those things would be devastating for a guy like me.

"A guy like me." What are folks on the other side of the aisle talking about doing? They are talking about hurting Chad and guys like him. For what? To give more tax giveaways to rich people, to billionaires.

Here is story No. 5. And this is about Amalia, who is the daughter of Crissy McGann. Amalia is a 5-year-old kid who uses Medicaid to receive care for a rare genetic disorder. She said that she is terrified—so the mom is terrified—that the services her daughter depends on and allow her to thrive would be cut or reduced and called the proposed cuts disastrous for the disability community.

Disastrous, devastating, burning down a house with kids inside—that is what Arizonans had to say about these plans to gut Medicaid.

And these stories exist in every single State, in every single district, red or blue, all of them. But here is the thing: Only some of us seem to care to listen.

Now, I invite all of my colleagues, especially my Republican colleagues negotiating this plan, to listen to the people they represent. Listen to their concerns. They are real concerns that are affecting real people, people that cannot afford to pay for expensive healthcare.

So that instead of pay-fors or line items, maybe you will think about Quianna and her kid or Chad who has MS or the countless other folks whose lives will be flipped upside down if they lost Medicaid.

We are representatives of the people. We are here to make people's lives better, not to ruin them. So to my colleagues, I urge you: Stop trying to burn down the house. Your constituents are inside.

I yield the floor.

Mr. WYDEN. The Senator from Mississippi.

UKRAINE

Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, I rise this afternoon to offer some remarks

on the situation in Europe and the prospects for peace in Ukraine.

We should start with recent positive developments. President Trump and President Zelenskyy have demonstrated remarkable resolve and remarkable wherewithal. Just this week, we heard news from the peace talks in Saudi Arabia. Ukraine publicly expressed openness to prisoner exchanges, a welcome development. Notably, Russia did not express such willingness. We should applaud Ukraine's overtures. An agreement is in reach that reflects the common cause of the United States and Ukraine.

Separately, much ink has been spilled on the economic investment deal. Less has been said about why the United States is interested in an investment deal with Ukraine. President Trump recognizes that America is better off when Ukraine is free, strong, and industrious. The economic investment deal shows that our President wants peace and that he wants an honorable peace, one that ensures the prosperity and protection of Ukraine and the United States.

This peace will require that Russia put down its weapons in an enduring and verifiable way. It is clear that Vladimir Putin does not share President Trump's desire for peace. As Putin's representatives prepare to sit down with American diplomats, President Putin has ordered salvo after salvo of missiles and drones to strike Ukrainian apartments, killing non-combatant women and children. These are not the gestures of a statesman who wants to negotiate peace. We are dealing with a tyrant who speaks the language of war and terror. We have to deal with him, but that is who he is.

In recent decades, several successive U.S. Presidents have extended the hand of peace to Mr. Putin. Each one of them had different tactics, but none of them achieved the outcome they desire. In this series of failed diplomacy, the common denominator was not the American Presidents, regardless of party. The common denominator was and is Russia's dictator, Vladimir Putin, a war criminal. So we need to remind the American people exactly what kind of strongman we are dealing with here, the kind of strongman we are trying to negotiate with, the kind of strongman we are forced to negotiate with.

Vladimir Putin, regrettably, is not interested in peace. He is interested in a phony deal. He has shown this with his words, his acts of violence, and the peace agreements he has shredded.

Dictators frequently tell us who they really are. In 2007, Putin stood before the Munich Security Conference, and he rejected a world in which nations cooperate. In his other writings, he has publicly mourned the collapse of the Soviet empire, and he dreams of its resurrection.

In 2021, President Putin wrote an essay laying the groundwork for his invasion of Ukraine. This was a year be-

fore the recent invasion. In it, he rejected the very right of the Ukrainian people to exist as a distinct and self-governing nation. In writing, the essay is full of lies. It would have made Adolf Hitler proud. But it shows one thing is true: Mr. Putin is a Russian imperialist to the core. Here is a man who believes the greatest historical tragedy of the last 40 years was the collapse of the Soviet power and influence over Eastern Europe.

Putin publicly proclaims his delusions of grandeur but has not stopped at words and speeches. He has used any means necessary to continue his decades-long political warfare against NATO, and he has ruthlessly worked to achieve the empire he craves.

In the year after his Munich speech, Vladimir Putin and his army invaded their neighbor, the Republic of Georgia. In the year after his essay about Ukraine, he invaded Ukraine. Mr. Putin no longer technically works for the KGB but still thinks like a KGB agent—the kind who uses chemical weapons to poison people in Russia and all over the world, exacting revenge on his critics without regard for international borders.

He jails reporters and activists. Why does he do this? Because dictators actually live in fear of their own people. Putin has imprisoned scores of Americans in Russian gulags. He has killed and kidnapped American citizens across the globe. His commandos have targeted our soldiers in Afghanistan. He has no respect for our country or for human life in his country or any other country.

And he has the weaponry to back up his threats. Mr. Putin sits atop the world's largest and most diverse nuclear arsenal. And I might add that this arsenal is postured specifically at us to destroy the United States.

In another perverse action—I have to say this—Mr. Putin has tried to co-opt Christianity, if you can believe that. He has twisted a religion of repentance into a propaganda machine. Patriarch Kirill of Moscow professes to lead the Russian Orthodox Church. In reality, Kirill is a puppet of Vladimir Putin. His father baptized Vladimir Putin. And now Kirill follows his father's footsteps by sanctifying the dictator's crimes.

Kirill has blessed the 2022 invasion of Ukraine, absurdly claiming that the Russians are fighting against evil. As patriarch, he blessed the invasion. As Russia bombs Ukrainian women and children, Kirill invokes God's name to justify Putin's butchery. Kirill is the very definition of the Prophet Isaiah's portrait of corruption. Isaiah condemned men like him, those who "call evil good and good evil."

Shame on this phony patriarch.

President Putin has publicly shared his imperialistic dreams. He violently pursued those goals even in God's name. Along the way, he has torn to shreds every cease-fire deal he has ever signed. Before World War I, the Kai-

ser's regime in Germany called a treaty "a mere scrap of paper." Well, Vladimir Putin feels the same. He has no regard for the Budapest Memorandum. He has no regard for the INF Treaty. He has no regard for the Minsk agreement. In each case, Putin has lied, stolen, and misdirected to further his empire-building ambitions. And that is what he is trying to do with negotiations today.

President Trump is interested in peace. President Zelenskyy is interested in peace. Putin values peace as little as any piece of shredded paper he would deceitfully sign.

Many people do not realize that Ukrainians have been valiantly and steadily weakening Putin's forces. Half a million Russian soldiers—half a million souls—have either been killed or injured so severely that they cannot return to the battlefield. That is half a million Russian moms without sons, wives without husbands. That total is steep, and the blame rests upon one person, the man who ordered the invasion: Vladimir Putin and his imperialistic vision.

Russia is barely managing to sustain this war. And I think the American people do not know this, but Russia is barely hanging on. They are struggling from heavy battlefield costs and economic sanctions. We should not support a peace deal that could let Russia up off the mat and reconstitute its army.

Both the previous and the current Secretaries General of NATO expect that Russia will not be ready to threaten NATO conventionally for 5 to 7 years. The wrong deal with Russia could allow them to be off to the races sooner. And Russia wants just that, as we have seen this week. Putin is trying to work the peace process deceptively to skew it in his favor.

This week, his office has pushed out messages from the peace talks in Riyadh. Putin's officials maintain that the United States is prepared to lift a number of sanctions, sanctions the West imposed after Russia's invasion of Ukraine. I certainly hope that is not true.

These Kremlin officials claim that we will soon readmit Russia to SWIFT. SWIFT, of course, is the global financial system that Russia depends on for global trade. Putin relies on trade to finance his war machine. Russians also think we are prepared to grant sanctions relief for any company that ships goods on vessels flying the Russian flag or they could claim any ties to food production, shipping, and securities. Such a deal would be full of loopholes. Such a deal would be designed to let Russia, which is on the ropes, off the mat.

Mr. Putin's men asked for all of this. Yet they offer little in return. They won't even talk about prisoner exchanges. That is breathtaking, especially when Ukraine has publicly expressed openness to a cease-fire. They are the ones that have publicly said

they will agree to a cease-fire. Mr. Putin and his negotiators have never proclaimed that. The Ukrainians, who have been ruthlessly attacked, have extended the hand of peace. Russia still has not even though it demands so much. Putin says he is willing to work toward peace, but his demands show that he is lying. His demands make it clear he intends to use the sanctions relief to rearm.

It would be a mistake to grant sanctions relief to Russia without reciprocal support for Ukraine. Doing so would devastate the prospect of a lasting peace. Let me repeat. Mr. Putin has never agreed to a cease-fire, to a treaty that resulted in a lasting peace. As we negotiate in Saudi Arabia, the United States must remember that Russia is barely managing to sustain this war.

The economic and battlefield price is very costly for Mr. Putin. Undoing these sanctions would instantly lower Putin's cost. It would evaporate the leverage his financial penalties have given to the United States and the free world.

As I close, let me reiterate, many have tried to negotiate with Vladimir Putin on his terms. I think President Trump is beginning to understand that peace comes through American and Ukrainian strength; that dictators respond to power because it is the only thing they respect. We need to see this Russian dictator and war criminal for what he is: a murderous dictator who hopes he can back us into a corner during the peace process and thus pursue another invasion.

If Vladimir Putin lives up to a cease-fire or peace treaty with Ukraine, it will be the first time ever. Vladimir Putin has a long track record, and it is filled with lies, violence, and treachery. That is whom we are dealing with. We have to deal with him, but that is whom we are dealing with. Getting a deal with him will be a challenge. We must bear history in mind if we are to reach a settlement that benefits the free countries of the world.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HUSTED). The Senator from Washington.

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, before I go to my remarks, I wanted to thank the Senator from Mississippi for that fabulous statement. I really do appreciate his leadership.

I am pretty sure your father served in World War II, as did my father. I think that we continue to echo the lessons that we learned from that conflict.

I thank you for that tremendous statement in support of Ukraine.

TARIFFS

Mr. President, I come to speak about the Trump tariffs and today's announcement about auto tariffs, but before I get to that point, I just want to say I have been visited by many farmers this week, many businesses who feel like they are impacted.

I think we are on day 67 of the Trump administration, in which we thought

the focus was going to be on lowering inflation and lowering costs—day one. And now, we are seeing that not only is that not happening, that these proposals are actually increasing costs.

Now, I hope this administration will go focus on cost issues like more affordable housing. I am a big advocate for building housing, and it is probably one of the biggest inflationary costs that we haven't addressed, so we could be working on housing. We could be working on cutting prices on pharmaceuticals, and I hope our colleagues will do something to help us.

My colleague Senator GRASSLEY, on PBMs, and I have legislation that are trying to crack down on the middlemen who are pocketing huge profits—it is literally costing us pharmacies. I mean, we are having pharmacy deserts in the State because these people claw back so much of the money, the pharmacist can't even exist. So this is not good, and I hope that our colleagues will join us.

But today, on April 2, the President is saying he will levy a 25 percent tax on imported sedans, SUV crossovers, minivans, cargo vans, and light trucks, and that it will hit some auto parts, too—is going to cost the American people. Now, this is not something that I believe that we can afford, these tariff costs that are somewhere between \$5,000 and \$15,000 to the American consumer. That is thousands of dollars that basically, all of a sudden, is getting added to the cost of an automobile.

We saw during COVID that the lack of supply chains, the lack of product, cost even a used car \$2,000 more, and we saw how much that did to families that were at a point where they really just needed to buy a car to get to work, to travel, to do the things that helped grow the economic opportunities for their family. And that was horrific just during COVID.

So now, we see the same kind of thing, a supply chain of product that we already know is cross-border with the United States and Canada, and we also know is already a big issue, that we are going to see the price of cars go up, and the fact that the American public can't afford grocery costs, healthcare costs, or housing costs—we certainly don't need to add in auto costs.

Americans are already facing these skyrocketing prices and the President's economic policies, particularly here, with tariffs, I think are going to drive up more costs. What American consumers want—and businesses—is more predictability. They want rules-based trade. They do not want trade chaos.

If rules are not working, you build consensus and you work together to make sure that those alliances are formed and that we get fairer trade. We build more in our trade infrastructure, as I have tried to do through various bills that we have passed through the Finance Committee and through the

Senate, to make sure that we are and have the capacity to fight unfair trade practices in other countries.

Because 95 percent of consumers live outside the United States, the big economic opportunities are going to be outside the United States. So yes, you should have more lawyers at USTR to go fight trade violations and correct the violations of those countries. I actually got that passed and got that into law to have more capacity.

But it only makes sense, the United States of America is not just going to sell product to the United States of America. We are going to sell it to 95 percent of consumers who live outside the United States. And innovation is going to matter more than these tariffs. The United States being able to innovate faster and continue to be successful with our strategy is going to matter more. And guess what matters even more than just the innovation? Guess what matters more? The supply chains. The supply chains because, if you have the supply chains in the United States of America, chances are that ecosystem that is so unique to your country and the innovation that goes with it is going to make you successful.

Well, now, we have supply chains that exist within the Midwest region and across the border with Canada that we are throwing caution into the wind and, now, we are going to say we are going to make it all 25 percent more expensive. I am pretty sure it is a good deal for Elon Musk and Tesla. Don't know that it is such a good deal for everybody else.

Consumer confidence is now at its lowest point in 12 years, and there is talk of a recession, or stagflation—persistent inflation—and we have countries that are allies in helping to fight China, countries like Canada and Japan and Europe, who are already making plans to retaliate against us. So the trade wars are going to make it more expensive for U.S. manufacturers, it is going to disrupt supply chains, and it is going to make it more expensive on consumers. Almost half of U.S. imports are inputs and supplies for the U.S. manufacturing supply chain, so driving up those input costs, driving up the manufacturing costs. And driving up those costs is a challenge. It makes the supply line costly to operate.

And the trade wars limit our ability then to get our exports into those markets. Now, maybe automobiles are a little bit different than apples or lentils or some of the other products that we sell. But I can tell you this, if you lose the shelf space and they give it to other countries, you don't readily get that back when the trade war is over. And the trade war doesn't just last a few days or even a year. Some of the Trump administration tariffs are still in place and still affecting much of my State when it comes to getting access to important markets. The thing that has changed, though, is the rate of innovation, the rate of information, the

rate of a country to go and make up for us not being there to compete.

I am hearing it from my potato growers who are saying that now India is basically producing French fries and selling them into various parts of the world. So if we think that we can take a year, 2 years, 3 years, and think that this is not going to have an impact on our manufacturing base—whether it is agriculture or heavy-duty manufacturing like cars or aerospace—we are wrong. We are wrong.

Now is the time to open up alliances in more markets, counter the Chinese in places like South America and Africa, and work to our advantages on alliances so that we have more markets to sell into at cheaper rates and continue the innovation that has been the hallmark of this Nation.

Next week, President Trump plans to impose what he calls reciprocal tariffs. He has talked about even more tariffs in the future on timber, dairy, pharmaceuticals, copper, and semiconductors. So where does it end?

I can tell you, on solar, it didn't end. It didn't end. And we are many years later in, manufacturing facilities that were in my State now are no longer there. So the point is, the United States builds alliances to enter these markets. We build alliances to counter unfair trade practices. We build alliances to stop the Chinese from doing the things that they do.

And right now, I would have a technology NATO. I would say, take the five biggest democracies and sophisticated technology countries and say, "No one in the world should buy from countries who don't meet our standards." Why? Because no one really should be buying from a country that has a government backdoor.

No, we shouldn't be spending taxpayer dollars pulling out Huawei when, in reality, we should have been on a campaign to say it never should have been there to begin with because no one in the information age should be buying technology with a government backdoor that has them and their ability to manipulate information at a critical time when data and information is so important.

So next week will be even more important to Americans and all of us. It is time for us collectively to work together on tariff issues, to say that this is the domain of the U.S. Senate. This is what our Founding Fathers had in article I, the first debates about tariffs. The Framers of the Constitution gave Congress this power to set duties and to regulate foreign commerce. Article I, section 8 could not be clearer. It is time for Congress to reassert that authority. We need checks and balances now more than ever. We need to invest in innovation. We need to invest in skilling and training a workforce. We need to invest in modernizing infrastructure and equipment at our factories, and we need to open foreign markets for exports of U.S. autos and aircraft.

American business does not need an endless trade war that creates chaos and raises prices on our consumers at a time when inflation has been too high. We need the President to address these inflationary costs instead of perpetrating tariffs.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. CORNYN. 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.

REMEMBERING KEVIN CRONIN

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, some people come to Congress to check a box, collect a credential, and then head to where the big bucks are: lobbying firms. For others, working as a Capitol Hill staffer is part of a lifetime of public service.

Kevin Cronin was one of the latter types. He believed in public service, and I consider myself lucky that Kevin chose to work for me. It was during my years in the House of Representatives. Kevin was my lead staffer on the House Budget Committee. He was hard-working, clever, and smart as a whip.

Sadly, Kevin passed away earlier this month in Cleveland, OH, the place where he grew up and where he first learned about politics and public service.

Kevin was the middle son in a family of proud Irish American Democrats. Both of his parents were involved in the civil rights movement during the 1960s and 70s. His mom also was quite active in the women's movement.

John Glenn, the astronaut hero turned U.S. Senator, was a family friend. So was "Battling Bella" Abzug. Kevin's father worked for Carl Stokes, the first Black mayor of Cleveland. His mother worked on campaigns for Jane Campbell, Cleveland's first woman mayor, and Mary Boyle, the first woman commissioner for Cuyahoga County.

Kevin received his own introduction to shoe-leather politics when he was in middle school. He and his two brothers would knock on doors seeking to turn out the vote in elections.

Kevin was also an avid tennis player in the National Junior Tennis League, a program founded by Arthur Ashe that used tennis to teach city kids important life skills.

He graduated from Columbia University with a double major in political science and fine arts and earned a law degree from the University of Wisconsin. After that, he came to Wash-

ington. He served as a congressional aide for a decade and worked for some giants, including John Conyers, chair of the House Budget Committee, and the late Senator Dianne Feinstein of California.

He was a whiz with budget details and parliamentary rules. He understood how to turn good ideas into good laws. Somehow, he always found time to encourage and teach younger staffers, including a Capitol Hill newbie named Pat Souders, who is now my chief of staff.

But Kevin's real passion was grassroots organizing, so he moved back to Cleveland and poured himself into civic campaigns and causes. He worked as a pro bono attorney for a group called Bike Cleveland that pushed successfully for new bike lanes to connect Cleveland and its suburbs. He also offered legal guidance to environmental groups working to expand the use of renewable energy sources, including harnessing the great wind power potential of Lake Erie.

He helped to preserve Cleveland's history, especially the city's links to the abolitionist and civil rights movements. He worked to raise awareness for the Cozad-Bates House, a stop on the Underground Railroad. He also was working to raise support to save Jesse Owens' childhood home and turn it into a museum.

His main job for 15 years was working as an ad litem attorney in the Cleveland City Courts, representing children who had been removed from their family homes and, very often, had suffered neglect and trauma. It was difficult, heart-rending work, but he did it because he believed the children needed someone on their side.

Kevin was diagnosed with severe aplastic anemia 15 years ago. It is a condition, similar to leukemia, in which one's body cannot produce enough white blood cells to protect against infection. He was able to lead a full life for years, thanks in part to an NIH clinical trial for a drug that kept his illness in check. But a few months ago, the drug stopped working. Kevin was 61 years old.

I want to offer my condolences to his brothers Kiely and Rob and their families, to Kevin's friends, and to the countless people whose lives he touched and enriched, from Capitol Hill to Cleveland and far beyond. He was a good man, and he will be missed.

NATIONAL AHEC WEEK

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize this week as National AHEC—Area Health Education Centers—Week.

The AHEC program, originally authorized in 1971, began by working in conjunction with other Health Resources and Services Administration programs to develop health professionals to staff brick-and-mortar community health centers across the country. Today, AHECs offer hands-on and

innovative health career curriculums for pre-college level students and are committed to continuing education, clinical training of health professionals, and responding to community health needs. The Nation's 300 AHECs operate in nearly every State and in multiple U.S. territories.

AHEC clinical training placements put students in a variety of real-world settings, such as urban and rural community health clinics and health departments that provide care to traditionally hard-to-reach populations. Students, in particular those working through their AHECs, are more likely to remain in the communities where they trained, making it critically important to establish training opportunities in rural and underserved areas.

The need to strengthen the healthcare workforce continues. According to new data from the Association of American Medical Colleges, the U.S. could see a shortage of up to 124,000 physicians by 2034, and the American Hospital Association says more than 200,000 new registered nurses are needed each year to meet increasing healthcare needs and to replace retiring nurses. AHECs have continued to work towards addressing workforce shortage areas, especially in rural and underserved communities. Just in the past 5 years, the AHEC program has trained 2 million healthcare professionals.

I have had the opportunity to work closely with the New Hampshire AHEC and have witnessed the amazing work they do. The mission of the New Hampshire AHEC is to support workforce development activities for current and future healthcare workers in the Granite State. In 2024, the New Hampshire AHEC offered continuing education to over 4,500 healthcare workers, improving treatment options for patients suffering from diseases such as diabetes and substance use disorder. In addition to working with providers, they also offer trainings on chronic disease, chronic pain and diabetes self-management to patients in the community. More than 3,000 individuals have participated in these programs since 2010.

The New Hampshire AHEC team were pioneers in identifying the need for a workforce that bridges healthcare and community. Over the past 27 years, New Hampshire AHEC has focused on building the healthcare workforce by offering both day and residential programs for high school students, while also providing didactics and community-based experiences for health professions students across the State. I cannot stress enough how important the New Hampshire AHEC is for our communities and how important it is that the program continues to be supported by Congress. AHECs not only address current healthcare gaps and challenges, but they recruit, train, and bolster our future health workforce. On behalf of my constituents at the New Hampshire AHEC program and the national AHEC program more broadly, I

call on my colleagues to join me in recognizing March 24 to March 28 as National AHEC Week.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I was absent on Monday, March 24, 2025, for rollcall vote No. 137. Had I been present, I would have voted yea on confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 41, Christopher Landau, of Maryland, to be Deputy Secretary of State.

TRIBUTE TO CRAIG BEAM

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, today, I want to recognize a U.S. marshal who has served his country and the great State of Kansas for 34 years.

Craig Beam grew up on his family's farm in Esbon, KS, and graduated from White Rock High School in Burr Oak. He continued his academic career at Great Bend Community College, where he earned an associate's degree in criminal justice. Craig later continued his education at Washburn University, where he played football and received a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice.

After completing his degree, Craig got his first law enforcement job with the Paola Police Department and later joined the Springfield Police Department in Missouri. After serving in local law enforcement for several years, Craig joined the U.S. Marshals Service in 1992 and served as a marshal until his retirement.

Throughout his tenure with the U.S. Marshals Service, Craig demonstrated his leadership, serving as the director of the Federal Fugitive Task Force for the District of Kansas, which averages 200 arrests per month, and as the Acting U.S. Marshal for the District of Kansas.

In 1993, Craig received the U.S. Marshal's Service Director's Distinguished Service Award for his heroic actions during the August 5, 1993, terrorist attack on the Frank Carlson Federal Building in Topeka. He bravely protected judges, cleared hallways, and escorted civilians to safety during the attack.

The U.S. Marshal Service's motto is "Justice, Integrity, Service," all of which Craig has modeled for the last 34 years. As he retires with the title of Chief Deputy U.S. Marshal, I know Craig will continue to uphold the values of the marshals in retirement.

Thank you, Craig, for your years of service, sacrifice, and leadership. I wish you the best in the next chapter of life and hope you enjoy this well-deserved retirement.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING KANSAS FIRST RESPONDERS

• Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, today I want to recognize the first responders

who responded to a tragic multi-vehicle wreck on Interstate-70 on March 14 and remember the victims of this accident.

Kansas is well-known for its windy plains and expansive prairies, but these features of our State can, on occasion, create dangerous weather conditions. Leading up to March 14, high sustained winds coupled with dry conditions on the plains had created the right conditions for a dust storm. In the afternoon of March 14, a dust storm ripped unobstructed across western Kansas, leading to a sudden and deadly dust storm on I-70.

The storm led to low visibility and hazardous driving conditions on I-70 between the two rural communities of Colby and Goodland, near the Colorado border. What began as a few collisions on I-70 quickly spiraled into a hazardous pile-up involving more than 70 vehicles, including several semi-trucks.

Despite the hazardous conditions, first responders from the neighboring communities rushed to the site of the accident still battling the low visibility and dangerous conditions brought on by the dust storm.

In rural communities, the police and fire forces are small and are often supported by volunteers. These men and women dropped what they were doing and put themselves at great risk to help the folks involved in the massive crash.

With limited resources and hazardous conditions, the first responders reacted quickly and with great skill to extract folks from their vehicles and transport them to the closest hospitals.

Goodland Fire Chief Brian James summed up the emergency response like this: "I don't think people realize the dedication these men and women give to make this community safe and secure. We had to think outside the box to get patients transported to hospitals in Goodland and Colby by using our fire department support vehicle with EMTs in the back to using patrol vehicles from Goodland Police Department, Sherman County Sheriff's Office and Kansas Highway Patrol. I'm sorry for the lives lost in this incident, but I'm grateful for the ones we could save."

Emergency crews poured in from neighboring counties doing everything they could to help. This included firefighters, EMTs, police, highway patrol officers, sheriffs and dispatchers from the Goodland Fire Department, Brewster Fire Department, Northwest Kansas Ambulance Service, Colby Fire Department, Goodland Police Department, Sherman County Sheriff's Office, Kansas Highway Patrol, Kansas Game Warden W300, Thomas County EMS, Wallace County EMS, Cheyenne County EMS, and Sherman County Dispatch.

These men and women put themselves at great risk to respond to this accident; and I have no doubt that their efforts saved many lives. I want to thank all the first responders for their service to the Kansans and travelers who they assisted on I-70.

I also want to thank the hospitals who received and treated the victims from the crash. Rural hospitals have small staffs and limited resources, but the medical centers in northwest Kansas did an outstanding job treating and transporting those who were injured.

Citizens Medical Center in Colby treated 30 patients and transported 5 who needed additional care. Goodland Regional Medical Center treated 26 patients and transported 3 who needed additional care. Thank you to the nurses, doctors, and hospital staff who worked through the night and into the weekend treating patients and sending them safely on their way.

I also want to express my gratitude to the Kansas Highway Patrol whose work continued through the evening, and into the weekend, clearing the interstate so it could be re-opened.

This tragic accident led to the deaths of eight people. My heart goes out to the families who lost a loved one in this tragedy on I-70. Losing a loved one is painful, especially in sudden tragic circumstances. It is times like this that communities pull together, and we remember how blessed we are to have neighbors and strangers who are willing to risk their lives to help others.

I hope everyone uses this tragic accident as a reminder to hold your loved ones a little closer and thank the men and women who put their own lives at risk for the sake of others.

Stay safe and may God bless.●

RECOGNIZING THE PORT OF LEWISTON

• Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Port of Lewiston, Idaho's only seaport and an economic cornerstone of north Idaho and the broader Pacific Northwest.

In 1975, the Port of Lewiston opened, marked by the launch of the first barge to sail westward down the Columbia-Snake River System. Nez Perce County voters approved its creation in 1958, but it took the completion of the Lower Granite Dam in 1975 to make Idaho's seaport fully operational. As the furthest inland seaport in the western United States, the Port plays a vital role in connecting Idaho's businesses to global markets. Over the past five decades, the Port of Lewiston has been instrumental to boosting regional trade, promoting economic development, and generating new jobs in surrounding communities.

The establishment of the Port of Lewiston provided farmers and businesses with a cost-effective alternative to rail and truck transport. Today, approximately 24 million bushels of wheat are transported out of the Port of Lewiston's Lewis Clark Terminal each year. The Columbia-Snake River System continues to serve 11 western States and is the largest pathway for wheat exports in the country.

The influence of the Port of Lewiston extends far beyond trade, serving as a

driver for business and real estate development and public infrastructure investments. The Port has been a catalyst for modernization in the region, notably through the expansion of fiber broadband access in Lewiston and the development of a broadband network from Moscow to Star. These investments ensure Idaho businesses remain competitive in the ever-evolving global economy.

While manufacturing jobs have declined in many areas nationwide, north central Idaho has defied this trend. Thanks in large part to the port, manufacturing jobs in the Lewiston area have surged by 70 percent, adding over 3,000 positions since 1975. This remarkable growth has made north central Idaho's workforce incredibly resilient and distinctive.

Recently, the Port of Lewiston partnered with American Cruise Lines to create Idaho's first cruise ship dock, further diversifying its economic impact and attracting tourism to the region. The port, along with its investments in Idaho, have attracted new manufacturing, transportation, and tourism employers, inspiring greater opportunities for the people of north central Idaho.

As we look to the next 50 years, the Port of Lewiston will undoubtedly remain a key driver in shaping Idaho's economic future and that of the greater Pacific Northwest. Congratulations to the port, its outstanding leadership, and the entire north central Idaho community on this significant milestone.●

TRIBUTE TO ALLIE BENNETT

• Mr. SCHMITT. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Allie Bennett of Palmyra, MO, for her passionate leadership in providing housing for middle-income families in northeast Missouri.

The housing landscape has changed; as more of the workforce is retiring, they are remaining in their homes, resulting in fewer options for the growing workforce to live. To address this shortage of affordable housing, Allie Bennett and the Housing Enhancement Northeast (HEN) Group decided to fill the void through an initial goal of building 12 homes each year throughout the Northeast Missouri Regional Planning Commission. The mission of this initiative is to contribute to the region's economic stability by ensuring that all levels of workers can live comfortably within their community. Thanks to her hard work and contribution to the community, HEN Group has completed its first three homes and has started on the fourth.

Allie is a dedicated leader and community servant helping to make an impact within her community by providing affordable housing. As manager of economic development and member services for Northeast Missouri Electric Power Cooperative, Allie is able to see areas of need in her community and help fill them. She also serves as direc-

tor on the board of directors for the Community Foundation of West Central Illinois & Northeast Missouri.

Allie Bennett is truly a Champion of Missouri. I am grateful for her commitment to northeast Missouri and her passion to help improve the lives of so many Missourians. I wish her the best as her team continues to build better futures for hard-working Missourians.●

TRIBUTE TO KIM FAST

• Mr. SCHMITT. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Kim Fast of Wright City, MO, for her heroic act of bravery and saving a life.

On the morning of October 12, 2024, Kim was helping her friend Wright City mayor Michelle Heiliger with work in her garage. Suddenly, they noticed thick black smoke coming from a neighbor's home. Recognizing immediately that their neighbor was likely in danger, Kim rushed toward the burning house without hesitation. Upon reaching the garage, Kim discovered that the neighbor's wheelchair had caught fire, leaving him trapped inside the intensifying blaze. Without regard for her own safety, Kim selflessly attempted to rescue him. The smoke was thick, the flames were spreading fast, and she was alone—but that didn't stop her. When she realized she needed help, she shouted for Mayor Heiliger, who immediately ran barefoot to her side, and together, they dragged the man out of the burning garage moments before flames fully engulfed it. Because of Kim's bravery, that neighbor is alive today. Her instinct to act made all the difference. While she would humbly say she was just in the right place at the right time, the truth is, not everyone would have run into a burning building. But Kim did.

Kim Fast is truly a Champion of Missouri. She embodies selfless service. Her remarkable bravery, compassion, and dedication exemplify the highest standards of community spirit. I commend her and wish her all the best in her future endeavors.●

TRIBUTE TO MICHELLE HEILIGER

• Mr. SCHMITT. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Mayor Michelle Heiliger of Wright City, MO, for her heroic actions to save the life of an elderly neighbor.

While working in her garage one morning, Michelle Heiliger realized something was wrong when she saw black smoke engulfing her neighbor's garage. A fire had set her neighbor's wheelchair on ablaze, making it difficult for him to escape. Michelle and her friend ran into the burning garage and dragged their neighbor out before calling 911. Mayor Heiliger didn't stop there. Recognizing the severity of the situation, Michelle went above and beyond by helping her neighbor's family secure a hotel room while they were displaced and waiting assistance from their insurance agency. Not only is

Michelle Heiliger a hero, but she is also an active community member and public servant. On top of being mayor, she is also currently the director of the Wright City Fire Protection Board and the director of human resources with Sellenriek Construction, Sellenrick Energy, UtiliSource, and Selcon Construction. Her dedication to Wright City is a testament to her exceptional character.

Mayor Heiliger is truly a Champion of Missouri. Her heroic actions and willingness to help saved someone's life are inspirational. I commend Mayor Heiliger for her service to her community and fellow Missourians, and I wish her immense success in all her endeavors.●

TRIBUTE TO MIKE SCHEIB

• Mr. SCHMITT. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Mike Scheib of Lancaster, MO, for his lifesaving decision-making and his leadership in addressing the need for an increase of middle-class housing for the growing workforce in northeast Missouri.

As the CEO and general manager of Tri-County Electric Cooperative, Mike Scheib has fostered a strong partnership with the Housing Enhancement Northeast (HEN) Group to better serve his community. Together, they have worked tirelessly to tackle the shortage of affordable housing for working-class Missourians. As of today, three homes have been completed, with a fourth set to break ground in the near future. Both organizations remain committed to their initial goal of building 12 new homes a year.

Mike is also a local hero in Lancaster, MO. During a company dinner, one of his fellow linemen started choking on a piece of steak. As other relief efforts failed and the lineman began to lose consciousness, Mike stood up and performed the Heimlich maneuver three times until it finally worked. He was later presented with the Lifesaving Award, which is awarded to individuals who go above and beyond in a life-or-death situation.

Mike Scheib is truly a Champion of Missouri. I am grateful for his heroic quick thinking and his commitment to improving the community of northeast Missouri. I wish him the best as his team continues its work of building better, more affordable housing for northeast Missouri.●

TRIBUTE TO BUCK SMITH

• Mr. SCHMITT. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Buck Smith of Saint Louis, MO, for being an advocate of Missourians with disabilities for more than 30 years.

In 1994, Buck Smith and a group of friends hosted their first game of what would become St. Louis Challenger Baseball. While the effort began at a small scale, Challenger Baseball would eventually grow to include 60 teams and 600 players across Missouri and Il-

linois. The concept was simple: create an opportunity for those with developmental disabilities to enjoy America's pastime. Challenger Baseball pairs participants with "buddies," who help the players hit, run the bases, and, most importantly, make friends. For the past three decades, the league has provided the invaluable combination of sport and companionship to the Greater Saint Louis region.

In addition to his work with Challenger Baseball, Buck also served as senior vice president at Fleischman-Hillard, where he worked for more than 28 years. He is a former adjunct faculty member at Maryville University and remains an expert in branding and communications.

Buck Smith is truly a Champion of Missouri. I am grateful for the work he has done to enrich the lives of disabled Missourians. I wish him the best in his continued efforts to bring together communities through baseball and friendship.●

TRIBUTE TO DAVID T. SNIDER

• Mr. SCHMITT. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Mr. David T. Snider of Ozark, MO, for his lifetime of service, resolute commitment to honoring our Nation's veterans, and devoted dedication to his community.

Mr. Snider's commitment to public service spans decades and professions. A proud veteran, he served our country with distinction in both the U.S. Marine Corps and the U.S. Army, including deployment as a sergeant with the 588th Engineer Battalion during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. Following his military service, Mr. Snider continued protecting others as a law enforcement officer for 28 years serving in the Springfield Police Department and the Calcasieu Parish Sheriff's Office in Louisiana.

Even in retirement, Mr. Snider remains a tireless servant-leader. As a former alderman myself, I particularly wish to recognize his time as alderman for the City of Ozark. Mr. Snider also works as a schoolbus driver and trainer for Ozark public schools, helping safeguard the next generation on their educational journey. He now serves as flight director for Honor Flight of the Ozarks, a role through which he helps ensure that our veterans have an opportunity to visit monuments here in Washington, DC. His commitment to honoring those who have served is an inspiration.

David Snider is truly a Champion of Missouri and the very spirit of selfless service. I commend him for his stewardship among his community, his fellow veterans, and our country, and I extend my deepest appreciation and best wishes to him.●

TRIBUTE TO DEREK WEBER

• Mr. SCHMITT. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Derek Weber of Memphis, MO, for his dedication and leader-

ship in providing affordable housing options to the working families of northeast Missouri.

As the director of the Northeast Missouri Regional Planning Commission, Derek has led the charge to combat the shortage of affordable housing. His mission is to ensure working-class Missourians have affordable housing options available. Through his leadership, Derek has inspired several local companies to partner with them on this mission and oversees the coordination between all these companies. His goal for this organization is to build 12 homes every year, through Housing Enhancement Northeast (HEN). Currently, three homes have been completed, with a fourth under contract to begin construction soon.

Beyond his work in housing, Derek is a committed leader in other areas of the community as well. He serves as the vice president of Scotland County R-1 School District, where he continues to contribute to the growth of his local educational system. He has consistently gone above and beyond for this local community.

Derek Weber is truly a Champion of Missouri. I am grateful for his leadership in northeast Missouri and his dedication to improving the lives of Missourians. I wish him success as he continues to lead the charge for affordable housing in northeast Missouri.●

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Mr. Hanley, one of his secretaries.

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

REPORT OF THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY THAT WAS ORIGINALLY DECLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 13694 OF APRIL 1, 2015, WITH RESPECT TO SIGNIFICANT MALICIOUS CYBER-ENABLED ACTIVITIES—PM 18

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 Foreign Relations:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the Federal Register and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the Federal Register for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13694 of April 1, 2015, and

with respect to which additional steps were taken in Executive Order 13757 of December 28, 2016, Executive Order 13984 of January 19, 2021, Executive Order 14110 of October 30, 2023 (revoked by Executive Order 14148 of January 20, 2025), and Executive Order 14144 of January 16, 2025, is to continue in effect beyond April 1, 2025.

Significant malicious cyber-enabled activities originating from, or directed by persons located, in whole or in substantial part, outside the United States continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States. Therefore, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13694 with respect to significant malicious cyber-enabled activities.

DONALD J. TRUMP.
THE WHITE HOUSE, March 27, 2025.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. RISCH for the Committee on Foreign Relations.

*George Glass, of Oregon, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Japan.

Nominee: George Glass.

Post: Japan.

(The following is a list of members of my immediate family. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

Self: \$3,300, 10/8/24, Zinke for Congress; \$3,300, 9/24/24, Never Surrender; \$10,000, 9/24/24, Trump 47; \$6,700, 9/24/24, Republican National Comm; \$3,300, 5/2/24, Trent Staggs for Utah; \$1,700, 5/2/24, Trent Staggs for Utah; \$5,000, 3/28/24, Save America; \$123,900, 3/28/24, Republican National Comm; \$121,100, 3/28/24, Republican National Comm; \$250,000, 3/28/24, Trump 47 Comm; \$3,300, 3/27/24, Brian Jack for Congress; \$3,300, 3/27/24, Brian Jack for Congress; \$14,900, 3/27/24, Brian Jack for Congress; \$20,650, 2/1/24, Republican National Comm; \$20,650, 2/1/24, Republican National Comm; \$5,000, 3/27/24, Peach State PAC; \$11,600, 4/19/23, Trump Save America; \$11,600, 4/19/23, Trump Save America; \$3,300, 4/19/23, Never Surrender Inc.; \$3,300, 4/19/23, Never Surrender Inc.; \$5,000, 4/19/23, Save America; \$41,300, 3/2/23, Republican National Comm; \$10,000, 11/21/22, Republican National Comm; \$5,000, 10/3/22, Champion American Values; \$1,000, 9/20/22, Republican National Comm; \$7,000, 9/13/22, More Jobs Less Govt.; \$2,900, 9/1/22, Lexalt for Senate; \$2,900, 8/23/22, Zinke for Congress; \$5,800, 8/12/22, Lexalt Victory; \$2,900, 8/12/22, Nevada Republican Comm; \$36,500, 5/17/22, Republican National Comm; \$36,500, 9/29/21, Republican National Comm.

Spouse: \$500, 11/15/24, Catholic Vote Candidate Fund; \$11,600, 4/19/23, Trump Save America; \$3,300, 4/19/23, Never Surrender; \$5,000, 4/19/23, Save America.

*Peter Hoekstra, of Michigan, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Canada.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to

respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

Nominee: Peter Hoekstra.

Post: U.S. Ambassador to Canada.

(The following is a list of members of my immediate family. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

Self: \$3,300.00, 10/28/24, WinRed/Trump; \$250.00, 10/04/24, Cruz for Senate; \$250.00, 09/30/24, Cruz for Senate; \$206.00, 08/13/24, Allegan County GOP; \$113.00, 06/22/24, Iron County GOP; \$200.00, 06/20/24, Bivings for Congress; \$10,000.00, 03/31/24, MIGOP; \$250.00, 10/17/23, Rigas for State Rep; \$1.00, 07/20/23, WinRed/Bergum; \$1.00, 07/20/23, WinRed/Bergum; \$1.00, 07/15/23, WinRed/Bergum; \$1.00, 07/14/23, WinRed/Bergum; \$200.00, 07/15/23, Roebuck for Clerk; \$200.00, 07/15/23, Get Smit Done; \$10.00, 03/14/23, WinRed/Johnson; \$10.00, 03/14/23, Johnson for President; \$833.33, 10/29/22, Gibbs for Congress; \$833.34, 10/29/22, Molenaar for Congress; \$833.34, 10/29/22, Huizinga for Congress; \$250.00, 05/17/22, Max for Congress; \$50.00, 10/04/22, Smit for State Rep; \$250, 07/30/22, LL Tarver for Better ED.

Diane Hoekstra: \$10,000.00, 03/31/24, MIGOP; \$1.00, 07/20/23, WinRed/Bergum; \$10.00, 03/14/23, WinRed/Johnson; \$10.00, 03/14/23, Johnson for President.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. MARSHALL (for himself, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. RISCH, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. JUSTICE, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. SHEEHY, Mr. RICKETTS, and Mr. ROUNDS):

S. 1162. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to remove short-barreled rifles, short-barreled shotguns, and certain other weapons from the definition of firearms for purposes of the National Firearms Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CRAPO (for himself, Ms. SMITH, Mr. BOOZMAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. MORAN, Mr. OSOFOFF, Mr. RISCH, and Mr. MARSHALL):

S. 1163. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for an exclusion for assistance provided to participants in certain veterinary student loan repayment or forgiveness programs; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. HASSAN (for herself, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. COONS, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. CURTIS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. PETERS, and Mrs. CAPITO):

S. 1164. A bill to allow additional individuals to enroll in standalone dental plans offered through Federal Exchanges; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. HASSAN (for herself and Mr. CASSIDY):

S. 1165. A bill to require the United States Trade Representative to regularly monitor industrial subsidies provided by the Government of the People's Republic of China and submit a report on the risks posed by those subsidies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. GALLEGUO (for himself, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. MERKLEY,

Mr. SANDERS, Mr. BOOKER, and Mr. PADILLA):

S. 1166. A bill to require the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to establish an excess urban heat mitigation grant program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. CRAMER (for himself and Mr. KELLY):

S. 1167. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to improve transportation asset management plans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Ms. HASSAN):

S. 1168. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide coverage of portable ultrasound transportation and set up services under the Medicare program; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. RISCH (for himself, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. DAINES, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. JUSTICE, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. GRAHAM, Mrs. FISCHER, and Mr. LANKFORD):

S. 1169. A bill to prohibit State excise taxes on firearms and ammunition manufacturers and dealers; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. ERNST (for herself and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

S. 1170. 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 Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself, Mr. KAINA, Mr. WARNER, and Ms. ALSO BROOKS):

S. 1171. A bill to require Federal agencies to conduct a benefit-cost analysis on relocations involving the movement of employment positions to different areas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. WELCH, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. HEINRICH, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. KING, Ms. SMITH, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SANDERS, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 1172. A bill to unfreeze funding for contract of the Department of Agriculture, to prohibit Farm Service Agency and Natural Resources Conservation Service office closures, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. CASSIDY (for himself, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. CRAMER, and Mr. HEINRICH):

S. 1173. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to clarify and preserve the breadth of the protections under the Medicare Secondary Payer Act; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LEE:

S. 1174. A bill to nullify certain regulations and notices of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. DAINES (for himself and Ms. CORTEZ MASTO):

S. 1175. A bill to amend section 6903 of title 31, United States Code, to provide for additional population tiers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. WARNER (for himself, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. MORAN):

S. 1176. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish a new tax credit and grant program to stimulate investment and healthy nutrition options in food deserts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. BUDD):

S. 1177. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to equalize the charitable mileage rate with the business travel rate; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BENNET:

S. 1178. A bill to provide for accurate energy appraisals in connection with residential mortgage loans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. HEINRICH:

S. 1179. A bill to name the community-based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Las Cruces, New Mexico, the “Las Cruces Bataan Memorial Clinic”; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

By Mr. LEE (for himself and Mr. TUBERVILLE):

S. 1180. A bill to abolish the Transportation Security Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. SCHATZ (for himself and Mr. CURTIS):

S. 1181. A bill to amend the Energy Policy Act of 1992 with respect to the Department of Energy Tribal loan guarantee program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina (for himself, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. MORENO, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mrs. BRITT, and Mr. DAINES):

S. 1182. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to prohibit institutions of higher education that authorize antisemitic events on campus from participating in the student loan and grant programs under title IV of such Act; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. CANTWELL (for herself, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. KING, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. PETERS, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mrs. MURRAY, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 1183. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to support upgrades at existing hydroelectric dams in order to increase clean energy production, improve the resiliency and reliability of the United States electric grid, enhance the health of the Nation’s rivers and associated wildlife habitats, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. HASSAN (for herself and Mr. LANKFORD):

S. 1184. A bill to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to negotiate with the Government of Canada regarding an agreement for integrated cross border aerial law enforcement operations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. WYDEN:

S. 1185. A bill to amend section 321 of the Tariff Act of 1930 to enhance transparency with respect to shipments seeking an administrative exemption from duties for low-value entries, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. REED, Ms. SMITH, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. KING, Mr. WELCH, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Ms. SLOTKIN, and Mr. GALLEGO):

S. 1186. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to apply prescription drug inflation rebates to drugs furnished in the commercial market and to change the

base year for rebate calculations; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. WELCH):

S. 1187. A bill to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study of the Deerfield River for potential addition to the national wild and scenic rivers system, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. CRUZ:

S. 1188. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for permanent full expensing for property used to capture gas that would otherwise be flared or vented and to use such gas in value-added products; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida:

S. 1189. A bill to provide block grants to assign armed law enforcement officers to elementary and secondary schools; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself and Mrs. CAPITO):

S. 1190. A bill to establish a Secretary of the Coast Guard, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. CURTIS (for himself and Mr. KELLY):

S. 1191. A bill to amend the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 to require the Council on Environmental Quality to publish an annual report on environmental reviews and causes of action based on alleged non-compliance with that Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. LANKFORD (for himself and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 1192. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that bonds used to finance professional stadiums are not treated as tax-exempt bonds; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. DURBIN:

S. 1193. A bill to designate as wilderness certain Federal portions of the red rock canyons of the Colorado Plateau and the Great Basin Deserts in the State of Utah for the benefit of present and future generations of people in the United States; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. FETTERMAN):

S. 1194. A bill to ensure that federally backed financing for the construction, rehabilitation, or purchase of manufactured home communities is available only for communities whose owner has implemented minimum consumer protections in the lease agreements with residents of all manufactured home communities owned by such owner, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. ROSEN:

S. 1195. A bill to promote conservation, improve public land management, and provide for sensible development in Pershing County, Nevada, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. LUJÁN (for himself, Ms. WARREN, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. KELLY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 1196. A bill to require Executive agencies to limit the use of special Government employees to 130 days, to require the maintenance of a public database of certain special Government employees, to require the release of financial disclosures filed by certain special Government employees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. LEE:

S. 1197. A bill to help individuals receiving assistance under the supplemental nutrition

assistance program in obtaining self-sufficiency, to provide information on total spending on means-tested welfare programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. SANDERS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Ms. WARREN):

S. 1198. A bill to designate certain National Forest System land and certain public land under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture in the States of Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington, and Wyoming as wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, wildland recovery areas, and biological connecting corridors, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. ERNST:

S. 1199. A bill to extend the statute of limitations for fraud under certain pandemic programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. SANDERS:

S.J. Res. 40. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval of the proposed export of certain defense articles to Israel; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. SANDERS:

S.J. Res. 41. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval of the proposed export of certain defense articles to Israel; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. SANDERS:

S.J. Res. 42. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval of the proposed export of certain defense articles to Israel; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. COONS, Mr. WARNOCK, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. SMITH, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. KING, Mr. KELLY, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. KIM, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. WELCH, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. SANDERS, Mrs. MURRAY, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. WARREN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. GALLEGO, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. REED, Mr. Kaine, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. PETERS, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. WARNER, and Mr. BOOKER):

S.J. Res. 43. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relating to contributions and expenditures intended to affect elections; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. MOODY (for herself and Ms. ERNST):

S.J. Res. 44. A joint resolution 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 Commercial Refrigerators, Freezers, and Refrigerator-Freezers”; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. REED, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BENNET, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. ROSEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. COONS, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. Kaine,

Ms. HIRONO, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. GALLEGUO, Ms. CANTWELL, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. KELLY, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. WELCH, and Ms. HASSAN):

S. Res. 144. A resolution recognizing the heritage, culture, and contributions of Latinas in the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. TILLIS (for himself, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. PETERS, Mr. DAINES, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. GALLEGUO, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. COONS, and Mr. MARKEY):

S. Res. 145. A resolution protecting the Iranian political refugees, including female former political prisoners, in Ashraf-3 in Albania; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN:

S. Res. 146. A resolution condemning the recent acts of violence, arson, and domestic terrorism committed throughout the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself, Mr. SULLIVAN, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Ms. HASSAN, and Mr. TILLIS):

S. Res. 147. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that Congress should take all appropriate measures to ensure that the United States Postal Service remains an independent establishment of the Federal Government and is not subject to privatization; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. BARRASSO (for himself, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. THUNE, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. ALSO BROOKS, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BANKS, Mr. BENNET, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. BUDD, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. CURTIS, Mr. DAINES, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. ERNST, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. GALLEGUO, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HAGERTY, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. HUSTED, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. JUSTICE, Mr. Kaine, Mr. KELLY, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KIM, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. LEE, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. McCONNELL, Mr. MCCORMICK, Mr. MERKLEY, Mrs. MOODY, Mr. MORAN, Mr. MORENO, Mr. MULLIN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. OSSOFF, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PETERS, Mr. REED, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. RISCH, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SCHMITT, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SHEEHY, Ms. SLOTKIN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WARNER, Mr. WARNOCK, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WELCH, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. YOUNG):

S. Res. 148. A resolution honoring the life of the Honorable Alan K. Simpson, former Senator for the State of Wyoming; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 100

At the request of Mr. TUBERVILLE, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. JUSTICE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 100, a bill to repeal the Corporate Transparency Act.

S. 222

At the request of Mr. MARSHALL, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 222, a bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to allow schools that participate in the school lunch program to serve whole milk, and for other purposes.

S. 315

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mrs. MOODY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 315, a bill to require the Secretary of Transportation to issue a rule requiring access to AM broadcast stations in passenger motor vehicles, and for other purposes.

S. 456

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 456, a bill to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to expedite geothermal exploration and development in previously studied or developed areas.

S. 470

At the request of Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) 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. 491

At the request of Mr. Kaine, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 491, a bill to establish the position of Director of Foreign Assistance in the Department of State, and for other purposes.

S. 542

At the request of Mr. MORENO, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 542, a bill to declare English as the official language of the United States, to establish a uniform English language rule for naturalization, and to avoid misconstructions of the English language texts of the laws of the United States, pursuant to Congress' powers to provide for the general welfare of the United States and to establish a uniform rule of naturalization under article I, section 8, of the Constitution.

S. 685

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mrs. BRITT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 685, a bill to ensure State and local law enforcement officers are permitted to cooperate with Federal officials to protect our communities from violent criminals and suspected terrorists who are illegally present in the United States.

S. 918

At the request of Mr. VAN HOLLEN, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 918, a bill to allow Federal employees who are involuntarily separated from Government service while serving a probationary or trial period to resume that period upon reinstatement, and for other purposes.

S. 942

At the request of Ms. ROSEN, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 942, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for interest-free deferment on student loans for borrowers serving in a medical or dental internship or residency program.

S. 951

At the request of Ms. SMITH, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 951, a bill to revise sections 552, 1461, and 1462 of title 18, United States Code, and section 305 of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1305), and for other purposes.

S. 1032

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the names of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) and the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) were added as cosponsors of S. 1032, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for concurrent receipt of veterans' disability compensation and retired pay for disability retirees with combat-related disabilities, and for other purposes.

S. 1047

At the request of Ms. ERNST, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1047, a bill to prohibit individuals convicted of defrauding the Government from receiving any assistance from the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes.

S. 1092

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1092, a bill to require certain products to be labeled with 'Do Not Flush' labeling, and for other purposes.

S. 1137

At the request of Mr. COTTON, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. JUSTICE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1137, a bill to provide that the Federal Communications Commission may not prevent a State or Federal correctional facility from utilizing jamming equipment, and for other purposes.

S. 1146

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. SCHIFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1146, a bill to permit the televising of Supreme Court proceedings.

S. 1156

At the request of Mr. FETTERMAN, the name of the Senator from New Mexico

(Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1156, a bill to amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to ensure that striking workers and their households do not become ineligible for benefits under the supplemental nutrition assistance program, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 24

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. MORENO) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 24, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to “National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants: Rubber Tire Manufacturing”.

S. RES. 68

At the request of Mr. Kaine, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 68, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the United States shall not deploy United States military assets or personnel to Gaza for purposes of “taking over” Gaza.

S. RES. 86

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 86, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding United Nations General Assembly Resolution 2758 (XXVI) and the harmful conflation of China’s “One China Principle” and the United States’ “One China Policy”.

S. RES. 133

At the request of Mr. SCHIFF, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of 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.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. DURBIN:

S. 1193. A bill to designate as wilderness certain Federal portions of the red rock canyons of the Colorado Plateau and the Great Basin Deserts in the State of Utah for the benefit of present and future generations of people in the United States; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

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. 1193

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “America’s Red Rock Wilderness Act”.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. Definitions.

Sec. 3. Findings.

Sec. 4. Purposes.

TITLE I—DESIGNATION OF WILDERNESS AREAS

Sec. 101. Great Basin Wilderness Areas.

Sec. 102. Grand Staircase-Escalante Wilderness Areas.

Sec. 103. Moab-La Sal Canyons Wilderness Areas.

Sec. 104. Henry Mountains Wilderness Areas.

Sec. 105. Glen Canyon Wilderness Areas.

Sec. 106. San Juan Wilderness Areas.

Sec. 107. Canyonlands Basin Wilderness Areas.

Sec. 108. San Rafael Swell Wilderness Areas.

Sec. 109. Book Cliffs-Greater Dinosaur Wilderness Areas.

TITLE II—ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

Sec. 201. General provisions.

Sec. 202. Administration.

Sec. 203. State school trust land within wilderness areas.

Sec. 204. Water.

Sec. 205. Roads.

Sec. 206. Livestock.

Sec. 207. Fish and wildlife.

Sec. 208. Protection of Tribal rights.

Sec. 209. Management of newly acquired land.

Sec. 210. Withdrawal.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Bureau of Land Management.

(2) STATE.—The term “State” means the State of Utah.

SEC. 3. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) the land designated as wilderness by this Act is one of the largest remaining expanses of unprotected, wild public land in the continental United States;

(2) the designation of wilderness by this Act would—

(A) increase landscape connectivity in the Colorado Plateau; and

(B) help to mitigate the impacts of climate change by—

(i) providing critical refugia;

(ii) reducing surface disturbances that exacerbate the impacts of climate change;

(iii) reducing greenhouse gas emissions related to the extraction and use of fossil fuels; and

(iv) contributing to the goal of protecting 30 percent of global land and waters by 2030;

(3) the land designated as wilderness by this Act is—

(A) a living cultural landscape;

(B) a place of refuge for wild nature; and

(C) an important part of Indigenous and non-Indigenous community values;

(4) Indian Tribes have been present on the land designated as wilderness by this Act since time immemorial, using the plant, animal, landform, and spiritual values for sustenance and cultural, medicinal, and ceremonial activities, purposes for which Indigenous people continue to use the land; and

(5) the designation of wilderness by this Act—

(A) is vital to the continuation and revitalization of Indigenous cultures; and

(B) serves to protect places of Indigenous use and sanctuary.

SEC. 4. PURPOSES.

The purposes of this Act are—

(1) to designate as wilderness certain Federal portions of the red rock canyons of the Colorado Plateau and the Great Basin Deserts in the State of Utah for the benefit

of present and future generations of people in the United States;

(2) to protect the cultural, ecological, and scenic values of land designated as wilderness by this Act for the benefit, use, and enjoyment of present and future generations of people in the United States; and

(3) to protect the ability of Indigenous and non-Indigenous people to use the land designated as wilderness by this Act for traditional activities, including hunting, fishing, hiking, horsepacking, camping, and spirituality as people have used the land for generations.

TITLE I—DESIGNATION OF WILDERNESS AREAS

SEC. 101. GREAT BASIN WILDERNESS AREAS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) the Great Basin region of western Utah is comprised of starkly beautiful mountain ranges that rise as islands from the desert floor;

(2) the Wah Wah Mountains in the Great Basin region are arid and austere, with massive cliff faces and leathery slopes speckled with piñon and juniper;

(3) the Pilot Range and Stansbury Mountains in the Great Basin region are high enough to draw moisture from passing clouds and support ecosystems found nowhere else on earth;

(4) from bristlecone pine, the world’s oldest living organism, to newly flowered mountain meadows, mountains of the Great Basin region are islands of nature that—

(A) support remarkable biological diversity; and

(B) provide opportunities to experience the colossal silence of the Great Basin; and

(5) the Great Basin region of western Utah should be protected and managed to ensure the preservation of the natural conditions of the region.

(b) DESIGNATION.—In accordance with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), the following areas in the State are designated as wilderness areas and as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System:

(1) Bald Eagle Mountain (approximately 9,000 acres).

(2) Barn Hills (approximately 21,000 acres).

(3) Big Hollow (approximately 4,000 acres).

(4) Black Hills (approximately 8,750 acres).

(5) Broken Ridge (approximately 9,250 acres).

(6) Bullgrass Knoll (approximately 15,750 acres).

(7) Burbank Hills (approximately 17,000 acres).

(8) Burbank Pass (approximately 30,000 acres).

(9) Chalk Knolls (approximately 16,500 acres).

(10) Cobb Peak (approximately 8,500 acres).

(11) Conger Mountain (approximately 21,750 acres).

(12) Crater Bench (approximately 35,000 acres).

(13) Crater Island East (approximately 53,000 acres).

(14) Crater Island West (approximately 30,000 acres).

(15) Cricket Mountain (approximately 16,500 acres).

(16) Crook Creek (approximately 20,000 acres).

(17) Deep Creek Mountains (approximately 127,000 acres).

(18) Disappointment Hills (approximately 24,000 acres).

(19) Drum Mountains (approximately 14,500 acres).

(20) Dugway Mountains (approximately 24,500 acres).

(21) Fish Springs Range (approximately 65,000 acres).

(22) Granite Mountain (approximately 19,250 acres).

(23) Granite Peak (approximately 19,500 acres).

(24) Grassy Mountains North (approximately 8,500 acres).

(25) Grassy Mountains South (approximately 16,500 acres).

(26) Hamlin (approximately 13,750 acres).

(27) Headlight Mountain (approximately 6,000 acres).

(28) Howell Peak (approximately 28,750 acres).

(29) Indian Peaks (approximately 15,750 acres).

(30) Jackson Wash (approximately 18,500 acres).

(31) Juniper (approximately 17,500 acres).

(32) Keg Mountains East (approximately 19,500 acres).

(33) Keg Mountains West (approximately 19,250 acres).

(34) Kern Mountains (approximately 15,000 acres).

(35) King Top (approximately 111,500 acres).

(36) Ledger Canyon (approximately 9,000 acres).

(37) Lion Peak (approximately 27,500 acres).

(38) Little Drum Mountains North (approximately 14,000 acres).

(39) Little Drum Mountains South (approximately 10,000 acres).

(40) Mahogany Peak (approximately 750 acres).

(41) Middle Burbank Hills (approximately 6,750 acres).

(42) Middle Mountains (approximately 39,750 acres).

(43) Mount Escalante (approximately 17,500 acres).

(44) Mountain Home Range North (approximately 21,500 acres).

(45) Mountain Home Range South (approximately 32,750 acres).

(46) Needle Mountains (approximately 12,000 acres).

(47) Newfoundland Mountains (approximately 24,500 acres).

(48) North Peaks (approximately 9,500 acres).

(49) North Stansbury Mountains (approximately 20,500 acres).

(50) Notch Peak (approximately 72,000 acres).

(51) Notch View (approximately 8,000 acres).

(52) Ochre Mountain (approximately 13,500 acres).

(53) Oquirrh Mountains (approximately 9,000 acres).

(54) Orr Ridge (approximately 11,000 acres).

(55) Painted Rock (approximately 26,500 acres).

(56) Paradise Mountain (approximately 40,000 acres).

(57) Pilot Mountains Central (approximately 8,000 acres).

(58) Pilot Peak (approximately 30,250 acres).

(59) Red Canyon (approximately 15,500 acres).

(60) Red Tops (approximately 28,000 acres).

(61) San Francisco Mountains (approximately 39,750 acres).

(62) Silver Island Mountains (approximately 37,500 acres).

(63) Snake Valley (approximately 66,250 acres).

(64) Spring Creek Canyon (approximately 5,250 acres).

(65) Stansbury Island (approximately 10,000 acres).

(66) Steamboat Mountain (approximately 40,250 acres).

(67) Swasey Peak (approximately 91,000 acres).

(68) The Toad (approximately 11,250 acres).

(69) Thomas Range (approximately 40,500 acres).

(70) Tule Valley (approximately 102,000 acres).

(71) Tule Valley South (approximately 19,000 acres).

(72) Tunnel Springs (approximately 23,000 acres).

(73) Wah Wah Mountains Central (approximately 60,750 acres).

(74) Wah Wah Mountains North (approximately 93,500 acres).

(75) Wah Wah Mountains South (approximately 17,750 acres).

(76) White Rock Range (approximately 5,000 acres).

(77) Wild Horse Pass (approximately 35,750 acres).

SEC. 102. GRAND STAIRCASE-ESCALANTE WILDERNESS AREAS.

(a) GRAND STAIRCASE AREA.—

(1) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(A) the area known as the Grand Staircase rises more than 6,000 feet in a series of great cliffs and plateaus from the depths of the Grand Canyon to the forested rim of Bryce Canyon;

(B) the Grand Staircase—

(i) spans 6 major life zones, from the lower Sonoran Desert to the alpine forest; and

(ii) encompasses geologic formations that display 3,000,000,000 years of Earth's history;

(C) land managed by the Secretary forms a vital natural corridor connecting the deserts and forests of the surrounding landscape, which includes Grand Canyon National Park and Bryce Canyon National Park;

(D) each of the areas described in paragraph (2) (other than East of Bryce, Moquith Mountain, Bunting Point, Canaan Mountain, Orderville Canyon, Parunuweap Canyon, Vermillion Cliffs, and the majority of Upper Kanab Creek) is located within the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, as established in 1996; and

(E) the Grand Staircase in Utah should be protected and managed as a wilderness area.

(2) DESIGNATION.—In accordance with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), the following areas in the State are designated as wilderness areas and as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System:

(A) Andalex Not (approximately 18,000 acres).

(B) Box Canyon (approximately 3,000 acres).

(C) Burning Hills (approximately 81,500 acres).

(D) Canaan Peak Slopes (approximately 2,500 acres).

(E) Carcass Canyon (approximately 84,750 acres).

(F) Fiftymile Bench (approximately 12,750 acres).

(G) Fiftymile Mountain (approximately 207,000 acres).

(H) Heaps Canyon (approximately 4,000 acres).

(I) Horse Spring Canyon (approximately 32,000 acres).

(J) Kodachrome Headlands (approximately 9,750 acres).

(K) Little Valley Canyon (approximately 4,000 acres).

(L) Mud Spring Canyon (approximately 65,750 acres).

(M) Nipple Bench (approximately 31,750 acres).

(N) Paradise Canyon-Wahweap (approximately 266,500 acres).

(O) Rock Cove (approximately 17,000 acres).

(P) The Blues (approximately 22,000 acres).

(Q) The Cockscomb (approximately 11,750 acres).

(R) Warm Creek (approximately 24,000 acres).

(S) Wide Hollow (approximately 7,750 acres).

(c) ESCALANTE CANYONS.—

(1) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(A) glens and coves carved in massive sandstone cliffs, spring-watered hanging gardens, and the silence of ancient ruins are examples of the unique features that entice hikers, campers, and sightseers from around the world to the Escalante Canyons;

(B) the Escalante Canyons link the spruce fir forests of the 11,000-foot Aquarius Plateau with the winding slickrock canyons that flow into Glen Canyon;

(C) the Escalante Canyons, one of Utah's most popular natural areas, contains critical habitat for deer, elk, and wild bighorn sheep that also enhances the scenic integrity of the area;

(D) each of the areas described in paragraph (2) is located within the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, as established in 1996; and

(E) the Escalante Canyons should be protected and managed as a wilderness area.

(2) DESIGNATION.—In accordance with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), the following areas in the State are designated as wilderness areas and as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System:

(A) Colt Mesa (approximately 28,250 acres).

isolated wilderness regions in the United States;

(B) the Kaiparowits Plateau, a windswept land of harsh beauty, contains distant vistas and a remarkable variety of plant and animal species;

(C) ancient forests, an abundance of big game animals, and 22 species of raptors thrive undisturbed on the grassland mesa tops of the Kaiparowits Plateau;

(D) each of the areas described in paragraph (2) (other than Heaps Canyon, Little Valley, and Wide Hollow) is located within the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, as established in 1996; and

(E) the Kaiparowits Plateau should be protected and managed as a wilderness area.

(2) DESIGNATION.—In accordance with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), the following areas in the State are designated as wilderness areas and as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System:

(A) Andalex Not (approximately 18,000 acres).

(B) Box Canyon (approximately 3,000 acres).

(C) Burning Hills (approximately 81,500 acres).

(D) Canaan Peak Slopes (approximately 2,500 acres).

(E) Carcass Canyon (approximately 84,750 acres).

(F) Fiftymile Bench (approximately 12,750 acres).

(G) Fiftymile Mountain (approximately 207,000 acres).

(H) Heaps Canyon (approximately 4,000 acres).

(I) Horse Spring Canyon (approximately 32,000 acres).

(J) Kodachrome Headlands (approximately 9,750 acres).

(K) Little Valley Canyon (approximately 4,000 acres).

(L) Mud Spring Canyon (approximately 65,750 acres).

(M) Nipple Bench (approximately 31,750 acres).

(N) Paradise Canyon-Wahweap (approximately 266,500 acres).

(O) Rock Cove (approximately 17,000 acres).

(P) The Blues (approximately 22,000 acres).

(Q) The Cockscomb (approximately 11,750 acres).

(R) Warm Creek (approximately 24,000 acres).

(S) Wide Hollow (approximately 7,750 acres).

(c) ESCALANTE CANYONS.—

(1) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(A) glens and coves carved in massive sandstone cliffs, spring-watered hanging gardens, and the silence of ancient ruins are examples of the unique features that entice hikers, campers, and sightseers from around the world to the Escalante Canyons;

(B) the Escalante Canyons link the spruce fir forests of the 11,000-foot Aquarius Plateau with the winding slickrock canyons that flow into Glen Canyon;

(C) the Escalante Canyons, one of Utah's most popular natural areas, contains critical habitat for deer, elk, and wild bighorn sheep that also enhances the scenic integrity of the area;

(D) each of the areas described in paragraph (2) is located within the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, as established in 1996; and

(E) the Escalante Canyons should be protected and managed as a wilderness area.

(2) DESIGNATION.—In accordance with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), the following areas in the State are designated as wilderness areas and as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System:

(A) Colt Mesa (approximately 28,250 acres).

(B) Death Hollow (approximately 49,750 acres).

(C) Forty Mile Gulch (approximately 7,500 acres).

(D) Lampstand (approximately 11,500 acres).

(E) Muley Twist Flank (approximately 3,750 acres).

(F) North Escalante Canyons (approximately 182,000 acres).

(G) Pioneer Mesa (approximately 11,000 acres).

(H) Scorpion (approximately 61,250 acres).

(I) Sooner Bench (approximately 500 acres).

(J) Steep Creek (approximately 35,750 acres).

(K) Studhorse Peaks (approximately 24,000 acres).

SEC. 103. MOAB-LA SAL CANYONS WILDERNESS AREAS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) the canyons surrounding the La Sal Mountains and the town of Moab offer a variety of extraordinary landscapes;

(2) outstanding examples of natural formations and landscapes in the Moab-La Sal Canyons area include the huge sandstone fins of Behind the Rocks, the mysterious Fisher Towers, and the whitewater rapids of Westwater Canyon; and

(3) the Moab-La Sal Canyons should be protected and managed as a wilderness area.

(b) DESIGNATION.—In accordance with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), the following areas in the State are designated as wilderness areas and as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System:

(1) Arches National Park Adjacents (approximately 8,600 acres).

(2) Beaver Creek (approximately 45,000 acres).

(3) Behind the Rocks (approximately 19,500 acres).

(4) Big Triangle (approximately 21,500 acres).

(5) Coyote Wash (approximately 27,000 acres).

(6) Dome Plateau (approximately 36,750 acres).

(7) Fisher Towers (approximately 19,000 acres).

(8) Goldbar Canyon (approximately 9,500 acres).

(9) Granite Creek (approximately 5,000 acres).

(10) Hunter Canyon (approximately 5,500 acres).

(11) Mary Jane Canyon (approximately 28,500 acres).

(12) Mill Creek (approximately 17,250 acres).

(13) Morning Glory (approximately 11,000 acres).

(14) Porcupine Rim (approximately 10,500 acres).

(15) Renegade Point (approximately 6,250 acres).

(16) Westwater Canyon (approximately 39,000 acres).

(17) Yellow Bird (approximately 4,500 acres).

SEC. 104. HENRY MOUNTAINS WILDERNESS AREAS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) the Henry Mountain Range, the last mountain range to be discovered and named by early explorers in the contiguous United States, still retains a wild and undiscovered quality;

(2) fluted badlands that surround the flanks of 11,000-foot Mounts Ellen and Pennell contain areas of critical habitat for mule deer and for the largest herd of free-roaming buffalo in the United States;

(3) despite their relative accessibility, the Henry Mountain Range remains one of the wildest, least-known ranges in the United States; and

(4) the Henry Mountain Range should be protected and managed to ensure the preservation of the range as a wilderness area.

(b) DESIGNATION.—In accordance with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), the following areas in the State are designated as wilderness areas and as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System:

(1) Bull Mountain (approximately 16,000 acres).

(2) Bullfrog Creek (approximately 42,000 acres).

(3) Dogwater Creek (approximately 45,000 acres).

(4) Fremont Gorge (approximately 22,000 acres).

(5) Long Canyon (approximately 16,500 acres).

(6) Mount Ellen-Blue Hills (approximately 14,750 acres).

(7) Mount Hillers (approximately 20,250 acres).

(8) Mount Pennell (approximately 155,500 acres).

(9) Notom Bench (approximately 6,250 acres).

(10) Ragged Mountain (approximately 29,250 acres).

SEC. 105. GLEN CANYON WILDERNESS AREAS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) the side canyons of Glen Canyon, including the Dirty Devil River and the Red, White and Blue Canyons, contain some of the most remote and outstanding landscapes in southern Utah;

(2) the Dirty Devil River, once the fortress hideout of outlaw Butch Cassidy's Wild Bunch, has sculpted a maze of slickrock canyons through an imposing landscape of monoliths and inaccessible mesas;

(3) the Red and Blue Canyons contain colorful Chinle/Moenkopi badlands found nowhere else in the region;

(4) Dark Canyon, Fort Knocker, Tuwa Canyon, Upper Red Canyon, White Canyon, and a portion of Red Rock Plateau are located within the Bears Ears National Monument, as established in 2016; and

(5) the canyons of Glen Canyon in the State should be protected and managed as wilderness areas.

(b) DESIGNATION.—In accordance with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), the following areas in the State are designated as wilderness areas and as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System:

(1) Cane Spring Desert (approximately 18,250 acres).

(2) Copper Point (approximately 4,500 acres).

(3) Dark Canyon (approximately 139,000 acres).

(4) Dirty Devil (approximately 245,000 acres).

(5) Fiddler Butte (approximately 93,000 acres).

(6) Flat Tops (approximately 29,750 acres).

(7) Fort Knocker (approximately 12,500 acres).

(8) Little Rockies (approximately 64,000 acres).

(9) Pleasant Creek Bench (approximately 1,000 acres).

(10) Red Rock Plateau (approximately 185,500 acres).

(11) The Needle (approximately 10,750 acres).

(12) Tuwa Canyon (approximately 9,750 acres).

(13) Upper Red Canyon (approximately 25,000 acres).

(14) White Canyon (approximately 78,000 acres).

SEC. 106. SAN JUAN WILDERNESS AREAS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) more than 1,000 years ago, Indigenous culture flourished in the slickrock canyons

and on the piñon-covered mesas of southeastern Utah;

(2) evidence of the presence of Indigenous people pervades the Cedar Mesa area of the San Juan area where cliff dwellings, rock art, and ceremonial kivas are found in sandstone overhangs and isolated benchlands;

(3) the Cedar Mesa area is in need of protection from the vandalism and theft of its unique cultural resources;

(4) the Cedar Mesa wilderness areas should be created to protect both the archaeological heritage and the extraordinary wilderness, scenic, and ecological values of the United States;

(5) each of the areas described in subsection (b) (other than Cross Canyon, Monument Canyon, Tin Cup Mesa, and most of Nokai Dome and San Juan River) are located within the Bears Ears National Monument, as established in 2016; and

(6) the San Juan area should be protected and managed as a wilderness area to ensure the preservation of the unique and valuable resources of that area.

(b) DESIGNATION.—In accordance with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), the following areas in the State are designated as wilderness areas and as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System:

(1) Allen Canyon (approximately 6,500 acres).

(2) Arch Canyon (approximately 30,500 acres).

(3) Comb Ridge (approximately 16,000 acres).

(4) Cross Canyon (approximately 2,500 acres).

(5) Fish and Owl Creek Canyons (approximately 74,000 acres).

(6) Grand Gulch (approximately 161,250 acres).

(7) Hammond Canyon (approximately 4,750 acres).

(8) Lime Creek (approximately 5,500 acres).

(9) Monument Canyon (approximately 18,000 acres).

(10) Nokai Dome (approximately 94,250 acres).

(11) Road Canyon (approximately 64,000 acres).

(12) San Juan River (approximately 14,750 acres).

(13) The Tabernacle (approximately 7,250 acres).

(14) Tin Cup Mesa (approximately 26,000 acres).

(15) Valley of the Gods (approximately 14,500 acres).

SEC. 107. CANYONLANDS BASIN WILDERNESS AREAS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) Canyonlands National Park safeguards only a small portion of the extraordinary red-hued, cliff-walled canyonland region of the Colorado Plateau;

(2) areas near Canyonlands National Park contain canyons with rushing perennial streams, natural arches, bridges, and towers;

(3) the gorges of the Green and Colorado Rivers lie on adjacent land managed by the Secretary;

(4) popular overlooks in Canyonlands National Park and Dead Horse Point State Park have views directly into adjacent areas, including Lockhart Basin and Indian Creek;

(5) each of the areas described in subsection (b) (other than Dead Horse Cliffs, Horsethief Point, Labyrinth Canyon Wilderness Expansion, San Rafael River, Sweetwater Reef, and a portion of Gooseneck) are located within the Bears Ears National Monument, as established in 2016; and

(6) designation of those areas as wilderness would ensure the protection of this erosional masterpiece of nature and of the rich pockets of wildlife found within its expanded boundaries.

(b) DESIGNATION.—In accordance with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), the following areas in the State are designated as wilderness areas and as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System:

- (1) Bridger Jack Mesa (approximately 33,500 acres).
- (2) Butler Wash (approximately 27,000 acres).
- (3) Dead Horse Cliffs (approximately 5,250 acres).
- (4) Demon's Playground (approximately 3,500 acres).
- (5) Gooseneck (approximately 9,500 acres).
- (6) Hatch Point/Lockhart Basin/Harts Point (approximately 150,500 acres).
- (7) Horsethief Point (approximately 15,500 acres).
- (8) Indian Creek (approximately 28,500 acres).
- (9) Labyrinth Canyon Wilderness Expansion (approximately 158,750 acres).
- (10) San Rafael River (approximately 97,250 acres).
- (11) Shay Mountain (approximately 15,500 acres).
- (12) Sweetwater Reef (approximately 69,250 acres).

SEC. 108. SAN RAFAEL SWELL WILDERNESS AREAS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—
 (1) the San Rafael Swell towers above the desert like a castle, ringed by 1,000-foot ramparts of Navajo Sandstone;
 (2) the highlands of the San Rafael Swell have been fractured by uplift and rendered hollow by erosion over countless millennia, leaving a tremendous basin punctuated by mesas, buttes, and canyons and traversed by sediment-laden desert streams;
 (3) the mountains within these areas are among Utah's most valuable habitat for desert bighorn sheep; and
 (4) the San Rafael Swell area should be protected and managed to ensure its preservation as a wilderness area.

(b) DESIGNATION.—In accordance with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), the following areas in the State are designated as wilderness areas and as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System:

- (1) Capitol Reef National Park Adjacents (approximately 9,000 acres).
- (2) Cedar Mountain (approximately 15,250 acres).
- (3) Devils Canyon Wilderness Expansion (approximately 14,500 acres).
- (4) Eagle Canyon (approximately 39,000 acres).
- (5) Factory Butte (approximately 22,250 acres).
- (6) Hondu Country Wilderness Expansion (approximately 3,000 acres).
- (7) Jones Bench (approximately 3,500 acres).
- (8) Limestone Cliffs (approximately 25,500 acres).
- (9) Lost Spring Wash (approximately 36,500 acres).
- (10) Mexican Mountain Wilderness Expansion (approximately 29,750 acres).
- (11) Molen Reef (approximately 32,500 acres).
- (12) Muddy Creek Wilderness Expansion (approximately 85,000 acres).
- (13) Mussentuchit Badlands (approximately 25,000 acres).
- (14) Price River-Humbug (approximately 122,250 acres).
- (15) Red Desert (approximately 30,750 acres).
- (16) Rock Canyon (approximately 17,750 acres).
- (17) San Rafael Knob (approximately 16,750 acres).
- (18) San Rafael Reef Wilderness Expansion (approximately 60,750 acres).

(19) Sids Mountain Wilderness Expansion (approximately 39,250 acres).

(20) Upper Muddy Creek (approximately 18,500 acres).

(21) Wild Horse Mesa Wilderness Expansion (approximately 56,000 acres).

SEC. 109. BOOK CLIFFS-GREATER DINOSAUR WILDERNESS AREAS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) the Book Cliffs—Greater Dinosaur Wilderness Areas offer—

(A) unique big game hunting opportunities in verdant high-plateau forests; and

(B) the opportunity for float trips of several days duration down the Green River in Desolation Canyon;

(2) the long rampart of the Book Cliffs bounds the area on the south, while the uplands, plateaus, rivers, and canyons of the Greater Dinosaur area provide connectivity with Dinosaur National Monument and the northernmost extent of the Colorado Plateau;

(3) bears, bighorn sheep, cougars, elk, and mule deer flourish in the backcountry of the Book Cliffs; and

(4) the Book Cliffs—Greater Dinosaur Wilderness Areas should be protected and managed to ensure the protection of the areas as wilderness.

(b) DESIGNATION.—In accordance with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), the following areas in the State are designated as wilderness areas and as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System:

- (1) Bad Land Cliffs (approximately 11,500 acres).
- (2) Beach Draw (approximately 1,000 acres).
- (3) Bourdette Draw (approximately 15,750 acres).
- (4) Bull Canyon (approximately 3,000 acres).
- (5) Dead Horse Pass (approximately 8,500 acres).
- (6) Desbrough Canyon (approximately 14,000 acres).
- (7) Desolation Canyon Wilderness Expansion (approximately 293,500 acres).
- (8) Diamond Breaks (approximately 8,600 acres).
- (9) Diamond Canyon (approximately 168,000 acres).
- (10) Diamond Mountain (approximately 30,500 acres).
- (11) Goslin Mountain (approximately 3,750 acres).
- (12) Hideout Canyon (approximately 12,750 acres).
- (13) Lower Flaming Gorge (approximately 21,000 acres).
- (14) Mexico Point (approximately 14,750 acres).
- (15) Moonshine Draw (approximately 10,750 acres).
- (16) Mountain Home (approximately 8,000 acres).
- (17) O-Wi-Yu-Kuts (approximately 14,500 acres).
- (18) Red Creek Badlands (approximately 4,500 acres).
- (19) Split Mountain Benches (approximately 2,750 acres).
- (20) Stone Bridge Draw (approximately 3,500 acres).
- (21) Stuntz Draw (approximately 2,000 acres).
- (22) Survey Point (approximately 8,750 acres).
- (23) Turtle Canyon Wilderness Expansion (approximately 7,500 acres).
- (24) Vivas Cake Hill (approximately 250 acres).
- (25) Wild Mountain (approximately 750 acres).

TITLE II—ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

SEC. 201. GENERAL PROVISIONS.

(a) NAMES OF WILDERNESS AREAS.—Each wilderness area named in title I shall—

(1) consist of the quantity of land referenced with respect to that named area, as generally depicted on the map entitled “America’s Red Rock Wilderness Act, 118th Congress”; and

(2) be known by the name given to it in title I.

(b) MAP AND DESCRIPTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall file a map and a legal description of each wilderness area designated by this Act with—

(A) the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives; and

(B) the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate.

(2) FORCE OF LAW.—A map and legal description filed under paragraph (1) shall have the same force and effect as if included in this Act, except that the Secretary may correct clerical and typographical errors in the map and legal description.

(3) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—Each map and legal description filed under paragraph (1) shall be filed and made available for public inspection in the Office of the Director of the Bureau of Land Management.

SEC. 202. ADMINISTRATION.

Subject to valid rights in existence on the date of enactment of this Act, each wilderness area designated under this Act shall be administered by the Secretary in accordance with—

- (1) the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.); and
- (2) the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.).

SEC. 203. STATE SCHOOL TRUST LAND WITHIN WILDERNESS AREAS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (b), if State-owned land is included in an area designated by this Act as a wilderness area, the Secretary shall offer to exchange land owned by the United States in the State of approximately equal value in accordance with section 603(c) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1782(c)) and section 5(a) of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1134(a)).

(b) MINERAL INTERESTS.—The Secretary shall not transfer any mineral interests under subsection (a) unless the State transfers to the Secretary any mineral interests in land designated by this Act as a wilderness area.

SEC. 204. WATER.

(a) RESERVATION.—

(1) WATER FOR WILDERNESS AREAS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—With respect to each wilderness area designated by this Act, Congress reserves a quantity of water determined by the Secretary to be sufficient for the wilderness area.

(B) PRIORITY DATE.—The priority date of a right reserved under subparagraph (A) shall be the date of enactment of this Act.

(2) PROTECTION OF RIGHTS.—The Secretary and other officers and employees of the United States shall take any steps necessary to protect the rights reserved by paragraph (1)(A), including the filing of a claim for the quantification of the rights in any present or future appropriate stream adjudication in the courts of the State—

(A) in which the United States is or may be joined; and

(B) that is conducted in accordance with section 208 of the Department of Justice Appropriation Act, 1953 (66 Stat. 560, chapter 651).

(b) PRIOR RIGHTS NOT AFFECTED.—Nothing in this Act relinquishes or reduces any water rights reserved or appropriated by the United States in the State on or before the date of enactment of this Act.

(c) ADMINISTRATION.—

(1) SPECIFICATION OF RIGHTS.—The Federal water rights reserved by this Act are specific to the wilderness areas designated by this Act.

(2) NO PRECEDENT ESTABLISHED.—Nothing in this Act related to reserved Federal water rights—

(A) shall establish a precedent with regard to any future designation of water rights; or

(B) shall affect the interpretation of any other Act or any designation made under any other Act.

SEC. 205. ROADS.

(a) SETBACKS.—

(1) MEASUREMENT IN GENERAL.—A setback under this section shall be measured from the center line of the road.

(2) WILDERNESS ON 1 SIDE OF ROADS.—Except as provided in subsection (b), a setback for a road with wilderness on only 1 side shall be set at—

(A) 300 feet from a paved Federal or State highway;

(B) 100 feet from any other paved road or high standard dirt or gravel road; and

(C) 30 feet from any other road.

(3) WILDERNESS ON BOTH SIDES OF ROADS.—Except as provided in subsection (b), a setback for a road with wilderness on both sides (including cherry-stems or roads separating 2 wilderness units) shall be set at—

(A) 200 feet from a paved Federal or State highway;

(B) 40 feet from any other paved road or high standard dirt or gravel road; and

(C) 10 feet from any other roads.

(b) SETBACK EXCEPTIONS.—

(1) WELL-DEFINED TOPOGRAPHICAL BARRIERS.—If, between the road and the boundary of a setback area described in paragraph (2) or (3) of subsection (a), there is a well-defined cliff edge, stream bank, or other topographical barrier, the Secretary shall use the barrier as the wilderness boundary.

(2) FENCES.—If, between the road and the boundary of a setback area specified in paragraph (2) or (3) of subsection (a), there is a fence running parallel to a road, the Secretary shall use the fence as the wilderness boundary if, in the opinion of the Secretary, doing so would result in a more manageable boundary.

(3) DEVIATIONS FROM SETBACK AREAS.—

(A) EXCLUSION OF DISTURBANCES FROM WILDERNESS BOUNDARIES.—In cases where there is an existing livestock development, dispersed camping area, borrow pit, or similar disturbance within 100 feet of a road that forms part of a wilderness boundary, the Secretary may delineate the boundary so as to exclude the disturbance from the wilderness area.

(B) LIMITATION ON EXCLUSION OF DISTURBANCES.—The Secretary shall make a boundary adjustment under subparagraph (A) only if the Secretary determines that doing so is consistent with wilderness management goals.

(C) DEVIATIONS RESTRICTED TO MINIMUM NECESSARY.—Any deviation under this paragraph from the setbacks required under in paragraph (2) or (3) of subsection (a) shall be the minimum necessary to exclude the disturbance.

(c) DELINEATION WITHIN SETBACK AREA.—The Secretary may delineate a wilderness boundary at a location within a setback under paragraph (2) or (3) of subsection (a) if, as determined by the Secretary, the delineation would enhance wilderness management goals.

SEC. 206. LIVESTOCK.

Within the wilderness areas designated under title I, the grazing of livestock authorized on the date of enactment of this Act shall be permitted to continue subject to such reasonable regulations and procedures

as the Secretary considers necessary, as long as the regulations and procedures are consistent with—

(1) the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.); and

(2) section 101(f) of the Arizona Desert Wilderness Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-628; 104 Stat. 4469).

SEC. 207. FISH AND WILDLIFE.

Nothing in this Act affects the jurisdiction of the State with respect to wildlife and fish on the public land located in the State.

SEC. 208. PROTECTION OF TRIBAL RIGHTS.

Nothing in this Act affects or modifies—

(1) any right of any federally recognized Indian Tribe; or

(2) any obligation of the United States to any federally recognized Indian Tribe.

SEC. 209. MANAGEMENT OF NEWLY ACQUIRED LAND.

Any land within the boundaries of a wilderness area designated under this Act that is acquired by the Federal Government shall—

(1) become part of the wilderness area in which the land is located; and

(2) be managed in accordance with this Act and other laws applicable to wilderness areas.

SEC. 210. WITHDRAWAL.

Subject to valid rights existing on the date of enactment of this Act, the Federal land referred to in title I is withdrawn from all forms of—

(1) entry, appropriation, or disposal under public law;

(2) location, entry, and patent under mining law; and

(3) disposition under all laws pertaining to mineral and geothermal leasing or mineral materials.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 144—RECOGNIZING THE HERITAGE, CULTURE, AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF LATINAS IN THE UNITED STATES

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. REED, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BENNET, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. ROSEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. COONS, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. KAINA, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. GALLEGOS, Ms. CANTWELL, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. KELLY, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. WELCH, and Ms. HASSAN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 144

Whereas the United States celebrates National Women's History Month every March to recognize and honor the achievements of women throughout the history of the United States;

Whereas there are approximately 31,000,000 Latinas living in the United States;

Whereas approximately 1 in 6 women in the United States is a Latina;

Whereas Latinas have helped shape the history of the United States since its inception;

Whereas Latinas contribute to the society of the United States through working in many industries, including business, education, science and technology, medicine, engineering, mathematics, literature and the

arts, the military, agriculture, hospitality, and public service;

Whereas Latinas come from diverse cultures across North America, Central America, South America, and the Caribbean, and Afro-Latinas face disparities in recognition;

Whereas Latinas are dedicated public servants, holding posts at the highest levels of the Federal Government, including the Supreme Court of the United States, cabinet-level positions, the Senate, and the House of Representatives;

Whereas there are approximately 45,710 Latinas serving in the Armed Forces and the first Latina to become a general in the Marine Corps reached that rank in 2006;

Whereas Latinas are breaking the glass ceiling in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, with the first Latina to travel into space doing so during a 9-day Space Shuttle Discovery mission in 1993;

Whereas Latinas contributed \$1,300,000,000 to the United States gross domestic product in 2021;

Whereas Latina activists have led the fight for civil rights, including labor rights, LGBTQ rights, women's rights, and racial equality;

Whereas Latinas, like Hollywood icon Raquel Welch, have created award-winning art;

Whereas Latinas are recipients of Emmy, Grammy, Oscar, and Tony awards, including Rita Moreno, who earned all 4 awards between 1961 and 1977;

Whereas Latina singers and songwriters, such as Selena, Celia Cruz, Shakira, Gloria Estefan, and Linda Ronstadt, have made lasting and significant contributions to music throughout the world;

Whereas Latinas serve in the medical profession and the first female and first Hispanic Surgeon General was appointed in 1990;

Whereas Latinas serve as journalists reporting vital news and information to the public;

Whereas Latinas are world-class athletes, representing the United States in the Olympics and other international competitions;

Whereas Latinas working full time, year-round are paid just 58 cents for every dollar paid to White, non-Hispanic men, and over a 40-year career, a Latina with a professional degree could lose more than \$2,900,000 in wages;

Whereas, in the face of societal obstacles, including unequal pay, disparities in education, health care needs, and civil rights struggles, Latinas continue to break through and thrive;

Whereas the United States should continue to invest in the future of Latinas to address the barriers they face; and

Whereas, by 2060, the population of Latinas in the United States is projected to be 48,834,000: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) celebrates and honors the successes of Latinas and the contributions they have made and continue to make to the United States; and

(2) recognizes the changes that are still to be made to ensure that Latinas can realize their full potential as equal members of society.

SENATE RESOLUTION 145—PROTECTING THE IRANIAN POLITICAL REFUGEES, INCLUDING FEMALE FORMER POLITICAL PRISONERS, IN ASHRAF-3 IN ALBANIA

Mr. TILLIS (for himself, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. PETERS, Mr. DAINES, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. GALLEGOS, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr.

BOOKER, Mr. COONS, and Mr. MARKEY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 145

Whereas, since October 2023, the Iranian regime has increasingly acted as the epicenter of terrorism in the region, from supporting proxies that vehemently oppose peace in the Middle East, to threatening commercial shipping and free trade in the Red Sea and from targeting American forces in the region, to providing missile and drones to rogue actors, all of which pose serious risks to regional peace and security and endanger the vital interests of the United States;

Whereas the downfall of dictator Bashar al-Assad—a key ally of the Iranian regime—exposes, but does not diminish, Iran's role as the primary malign actor in the region as it continues to adapt its destabilizing tactics through proxies and illicit influence, and the regime's efforts to sow chaos, undermine regional stability, and threaten United States and allied interests persist and may evolve in unexpected and dangerous way that will demand unwavering vigilance and decisive action to counter their aggression which thwarts movement toward peace and stability in the region;

Whereas Iran remains the world's leading state sponsor of terrorism today;

Whereas the Iranian people have rejected the regime ruling Iran through several rounds of major demonstrations, engulfing all 31 provinces of Iran calling for change;

Whereas the Iranian regime has resorted to killing, torture, sexual violence, and imprisonment of protesters, and several thousand protesters since 2017 have been killed, and many more have been imprisoned;

Whereas, in the first 4 months of Masoud Pezeshkian's presidency, the judiciary of the Iranian regime has executed over 500 prisoners, including political prisoners and at least 17 women, sometimes publicly, and has increased the use of hand amputation as punishment;

Whereas the Iranian regime has been intent on eliminating the Iranian political refugees who survived Tehran's repression and were first based in Camp Ashraf, Iraq, in the mid-1980s;

Whereas, starting in 2012, the United States Government and the United Nations initiated the relocation of nearly 3,000 Iranian dissidents from Camp Ashraf, Iraq, where they were repeatedly attacked by the Iranian regime's proxies, and facilitated their gradual relocation in 2013, 2014, and 2015 to Albania;

Whereas the relocation of these Iranian political refugees to Albania from Iraq was completed in September 2016, and the refugees, a third of them women, are now residing in Ashraf-3 near Tirana in Albania;

Whereas, on April 19, 2016, before the relocation of the majority of the residents to Albania, in a letter to a European Parliament Vice-President, the Prime Minister of Albania wrote, "Albania is fully engaged and committed to ensure for the Iranian refugees all rights stipulated in the Geneva Convention 1951, in the European Human Rights Convention and in the whole international legislation";

Whereas over 900 women and men of Ashraf-3 are former political prisoners who endured torture while in prisons and many of them are witnesses of the 1988 massacre of political prisoners and other political killings in Iran, among them eyewitnesses of crimes committed by Ebrahim Raisi;

Whereas these witnesses must be fully protected for potential testimonies before international courts investigating the 1988 mas-

sacre and other grave human rights violations in Iran;

Whereas, in November 2021, the Swedish Judiciary moved the whole court in Stockholm to Albania for 2 weeks to facilitate hearing testimonies of 7 former Iranian political prisoners now residing in Ashraf-3, whose testimony was characterized as critical for a trial related to the 1988 massacre;

Whereas, in December 2023, a Swedish court confirmed the earlier ruling by the lower court of a life sentence for Hamid Noury, implicated in the 1988 massacre where he was an official in Gohardasht Prison;

Whereas the Iranian regime has stepped up terrorist attacks against its opponents and has used blackmail, terror threats, hostage-taking, sham judicial proceedings, and other means of intimidation against western nations to compel them to silence Iranian opponents living abroad;

Whereas, on several occasions, including in the last week of December 2023, the Iranian regime carried out large-scale cyberattacks against Albania to pressure the Government of Albania to undermine or end its hosting of Iranian political refugees;

Whereas experience has shown that any lack of decisiveness or concessions to Tehran only emboldens the Iranian regime for its destructive actions;

Whereas the Iranian regime has, over the past few months, stepped up threats against Ashraf-3, and given what the regime has done since October 7, 2023, far more vigilance on the part of the United States is required to ensure the complete protection and rights of Ashraf-3 residents in Albania;

Whereas, on December 12, 2023, the Iranian regime started sham trials in absentia for 104 veteran members of the Iranian Resistance, who, since years ago, have been primarily based in Europe, including in Albania, to create a phony legal precedent against them and secure their extradition to Iran by misusing INTERPOL Red Notices, impose limitations, or set the stage for terror attacks against them;

Whereas the Iranian regime is doing its utmost through any means to prevent Ashraf-3 residents from speaking up against the regime;

Whereas the leadership role of women in Ashraf-3 has doubly heightened the Iranian regime's misogynistic hysteria against the political refugees in Ashraf-3;

Whereas over 4,000 parliamentarians around the world and 130 former world leaders have expressed their support for Mrs. Maryam Rajavi's Ten-Point Plan for the Future of Iran, which calls for the universal right to vote, free elections, a market economy, separation of religion and state, and advocates for gender, religious, and ethnic equality, a foreign policy based on peaceful coexistence, peace in the Middle East, and a nonnuclear republic Iran; and

Whereas, in sharp contrast to Iran's institutionalized misogyny, this Ten-Point platform has adequately addressed women's equality, including "complete gender equality in the realms of political, social, cultural and economic rights. An equal participation of women in political leadership, abolishment of any form of discrimination. The right to choose one's own clothing freely, the right to freely marry and divorce, and to obtain education and employment. Prohibition of all forms of exploitation against women under any pretext." Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the Iranian political refugees in Ashraf-3, in rejection of the Iranian regime's demands, must be afforded their fundamental rights of freedom of expression and assembly and legal political activities in Albania;

(2) the United States Government condemns the Iranian regime's threats and nefarious actions against the Government of Albania, including cyberattacks and threats against the Iranian dissidents in Ashraf-3 in Albania;

(3) the United States Government should take prompt and appropriate steps in accordance with international law, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the European Convention on Human Rights, and the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, to help the Government of Albania ensure and uphold all fundamental rights of Ashraf-3 residents within the framework of the above conventions, including the right to life, liberty, security, protection of property, and freedom of expression and assembly;

(4) the United States Government strongly opposes Iran's misuse of the INTERPOL Red Notices to impose restrictions or limitations or set in motion the extradition of Iranian dissidents to Iran; and

(5) the United States Government must continue close and regular cooperation with the Government of Albania and the residents of Ashraf-3 to ensure the complete protection and fundamental rights of Ashraf-3 residents.

SENATE RESOLUTION 146—CONDEMNING THE RECENT ACTS OF VIOLENCE, ARSON, AND DOMESTIC TERRORISM COMMITTED THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES

Mrs. BLACKBURN submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 146

Whereas, over the last several weeks, law enforcement agencies throughout the United States have reported numerous violent attacks on electric vehicles, car dealerships, and charging stations;

Whereas, the Department of Justice has charged 3 individuals for violent destruction of Tesla properties, including 1 individual who—armed with an assault rifle—threw 8 Molotov cocktails at a Tesla dealership; and

Whereas all acts of violence are entirely unacceptable in the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate condemns the horrific acts of violence, arson, and domestic terrorism committed against electric vehicles, car dealerships, and charging stations throughout the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 147—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT CONGRESS SHOULD TAKE ALL APPROPRIATE MEASURES TO ENSURE THAT THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE REMAINS AN INDEPENDENT ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND IS NOT SUBJECT TO PRIVATIZATION

Mr. PETERS (for himself, Mr. SULLIVAN, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Ms. HASSAN, and Mr. TILLIS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs:

S. RES. 147

Whereas the United States Postal Service is a constitutionally mandated service per

article I, section 8, clause 7 of the Constitution of the United States;

Whereas the United States Postal Service is a self-sustaining, independent establishment that does not receive taxpayer funding and relies solely on revenue derived from the sale of postal services and products;

Whereas the United States Postal Service and its more than 630,000 employees are at the center of the \$1,900,000,000 mailing industry, which employs more than 7,900,000 Americans;

Whereas the United States Postal Service serves the needs of customers at more than 168,000,000 business and residential addresses every day, maintains an affordable and universal network, and connects the rural, suburban, and urban communities of the United States;

Whereas the United States Postal Service is consistently the highest rated agency of the Federal Government in nonpartisan opinion polls;

Whereas the United States Postal Service employs nearly 73,000 military veterans and is one of the largest employers of veterans in the United States;

Whereas postal employees are dedicated public servants who do more than process and deliver the mail, including serving as the eyes and ears of their communities and often responding first in situations involving health, safety, and crime in their communities;

Whereas privatization of the United States Postal Service would result in higher prices and reduced services for its customers, especially in rural communities; and

Whereas privatization of the United States Postal Service would jeopardize the booming e-commerce sector and cripple a major part of the critical infrastructure of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that Congress should take all appropriate measures to ensure that the United States Postal Service remains an independent establishment of the Federal Government and not subject to privatization.

SENATE RESOLUTION 148—HONORING THE LIFE OF THE HONORABLE ALAN K. SIMPSON, FORMER SENATOR FOR THE STATE OF WYOMING

Mr. BARRASSO (for himself, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. THUNE, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. ALSO BROOKS, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BANKS, Mr. BENNET, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. BUDD, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. CURTIS, Mr. DAINES, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. ERNST, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. GALLEGOS, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HAGERTY, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. HUSTED, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. JUSTICE, Mr. KAINES, Mr. KELLY, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. LEE, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. McCONNELL, Mr. MCCORMICK, Mr. MERKLEY, Mrs. MOODY, Mr. MORAN, Mr. MORENO, Mr. MULLIN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. OSBOFF, Mr.

PADILLA, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PETERS, Mr. REED, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. RISCH, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SCHMITT, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SHEEHY, Ms. SLOTKIN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WARNER, Mr. WARNOCK, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WELCH, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. YOUNG) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 148

Whereas Alan Kooi Simpson (referred to in this preamble as “Senator Simpson”) was born in Denver, Colorado, on September 2, 1931, and was raised in Cody, Wyoming;

Whereas Senator Simpson came from a family with a long tradition of public service in Wyoming, which included—

(1) his father, Milward Simpson, who was a U.S. Senator, the Governor of Wyoming, and a member of the Wyoming State Legislature; and

(2) his mother, Lorna Kooi Simpson, who served her community as president of the Red Cross in Cody, Wyoming, and on the local planning commission;

Whereas Senator Simpson graduated from Cody High School in Cody, Wyoming, in 1949, earned a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Wyoming in 1954, and earned a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Wyoming College of Law in 1958;

Whereas, after graduating from college, Senator Simpson served as a Second Lieutenant in the Army from 1954 to 1956, where he was stationed in Germany with the 10th Infantry regiment of the 5th Infantry Division and the 12th Armored Infantry Battalion of the 2nd Armored Division;

Whereas, on June 21, 1954, Senator Simpson married Ann Schroll, whom he met while studying at the University of Wyoming, and together, they—

(1) built a remarkable partnership of love, devotion, and respect;

(2) raised their 3 children, Bill, Colin, and Susan; and

(3) enjoyed spending time, as proud grandparents, with Mackenzie, Nicholas, Eric, Beth, Fiona, and Aidan;

Whereas, after being admitted to the Wyoming bar and the United States District Court for the District of Wyoming in 1958, Senator Simpson—

(1) served as a Wyoming Assistant Attorney General;

(2) practiced law with his father, Milward Simpson, and later with Charles G. Kepler, in the law firm of Simpson, Kepler and Simpson in Cody, Wyoming; and

(3) served as the City Attorney for Cody, Wyoming;

Whereas, starting in 1965, Senator Simpson began a distinguished career of elected public service on behalf of the people of Wyoming, including serving—

(1) in the Wyoming House of Representatives from 1965 to 1978, where he served as majority whip, majority floor leader, and the speaker pro tempore; and

(2) in the U.S. Senate from 1979 to 1997, where he served as Senate Majority Whip from 1985 to 1987, and Senate Minority Whip from 1987 to 1995;

Whereas, from 1981 to 1985, and from 1995 to 1997, Senator Simpson served as Chairman of the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate;

Whereas, during his time in the U.S. Senate, Senator Simpson was focused on—

(1) securing United States borders and addressing illegal immigration;

(2) championing the brave veterans who answered the call and made sacrifices for their country;

(3) entitlement reform; and

(4) addressing the soaring national debt; Whereas Senator Simpson was appointed by President Obama to be co-chair of the National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform in 2010, and Senator Simpson and Erskine Bowles were presented the Paul H. Douglas Award for Ethics in Government for their work on that Commission;

Whereas, in July 2022, Senator Simpson received the Presidential Medal of Freedom;

Whereas Senator Simpson was passionate about—

(1) the Buffalo Bill Center of the West in Cody, Wyoming;

(2) the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation, including the Mineta-Simpson Institute at Heart Mountain; and

(3) the University of Wyoming, including the establishment of—

(A) the Alan K. Simpson Center for Clinical and Experiential Learning at the University of Wyoming College of Law; and

(B) the Alan K. Simpson Institute for Western Politics and Leadership at the American Heritage Center;

Whereas Senator Simpson served with integrity, humor, and leadership, and he never wavered in his commitment to his family, the United States, or the State of Wyoming; and

Whereas Senator Simpson was known by many for his courage, quick wit, and legendary storytelling: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) the Senate—

(A) has heard with profound sorrow and deep regret the announcement of the death of the Honorable Alan K. Simpson, former Senator for the State of Wyoming; and

(B) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate—

(i) communicate this resolution to the House of Representatives; and

(ii) transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to the family of the Honorable Alan K. Simpson; and

(2) when the Senate adjourns on the date of the adoption of this resolution, the Senate stands adjourned as a further mark of respect to the memory of the Honorable Alan K. Simpson.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I have seven requests for committees to meet during today’s session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today’s session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet in open session during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 27, 2025, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to meet in open session during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 27, 2025, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 27, 2025, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 27, 2025, at 2:15 p.m., to conduct a hearing on a nomination.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 27, 2025, at 11 a.m., to conduct a business meeting.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

The Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 27, 2025, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 27, 2025, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a business meeting.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Brian Lyons, communications director for the Budget Committee, be given full access to the floor for the balance of his service.

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

HONORING THE LIFE OF THE HONORABLE ALAN K. SIMPSON, FORMER SENATOR FOR THE STATE OF WYOMING

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I further ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 148, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 148) honoring the life of the Honorable Alan K. Simpson, former Senator for the State of Wyoming.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. CORNYN. 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. 148) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, MARCH 31, 2025

Mr. CORNYN. Finally, Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 3 p.m. on Monday, March 31, that following the prayer and the pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time

for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, morning business be closed, and the Senate proceed to executive session and resume consideration of Calendar No. 40, Matthew Whitaker; further, that at 5:30 p.m., the Senate vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the Whitaker nomination; and, finally, if cloture is invoked on the Whitaker nomination, all time be considered expired and the Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination at a time to be determined by the majority leader, in consultation with the Democratic leader.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, MARCH 31, 2025, AT 3 P.M.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the provisions of S. Res. 148.

There being no objection, under the previous order and pursuant to the provisions of S. Res. 148, as a further mark of respect for the late Alan K. Simpson, former Senator from Wyoming, the Senate, at 4:39 p.m., adjourned until Monday, March 31, 2025, at 3 p.m.

CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate March 27, 2025:

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

PAUL LAWRENCE, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

DEFUNDING PLANNED PARENTHOOD—CHILD ABUSE, INCORPORATED

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2025

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, today I joined Kristan Hawkins, Marjorie Dannenfelser from Susan B. Anthony Pro-Life America and many distinguished pro-life leaders to call for the defunding of Planned Parenthood—Child Abuse, Incorporated—an organization that has slaughtered over ten million babies in their clinics and kills more than a thousand defenseless unborn babies each and every day.

For far too long, politicians and much of the media have ignored, trivialized, enabled, and whitewashed the business of Planned Parenthood—decapitating and dismembering helpless babies with sharp knives or poisoning babies with pills that literally starve them to death and often result in their bodies being flushed down a toilet.

Child decapitation, dismemberment and starvation are not health care. It is violence—and at a minimum, taxpayers should not be forced to pay for this hideous form of child abuse.

Federal taxpayers provide Planned Parenthood with nearly \$600 million dollars every year. That must end.

Reconciliation legislation offers an important opportunity to stop funding abortion purveyors like Planned Parenthood. This is an opportunity we cannot afford to miss.

Let's not forget that undercover videos have exposed in numbing candor several high-level Planned Parenthood leaders gleefully talking about procuring children's internal organs, all while altering gruesome dismemberment procedures to preserve intact livers, hearts, and lungs from freshly killed babies.

In February, the New York Times published an in-depth article detailing horrible clinic conditions, including sewage that seeped into a recovery room for two days, and the shocking treatment women have received, leading to patient complaints and a malpractice suit.

Our Nation should invest in real health care options for women and their families. Federally Qualified Health Centers, for example, provide comprehensive services, including prenatal care, STI testing and treatment. A 2022 report found “14 community-based health clinics and pregnancy centers for every one Planned Parenthood facility in the United States, including more locations in rural and underserved communities.”

And with love and compassion, the pro-life movement will continue to tangibly assist women and girls—especially through the extraordinary work of pregnancy care centers. There are more than 2,700 pregnancy care centers throughout the United States—each and every one of them an oasis of love, compassion, empathy, respect, and quality care

for both mothers and their precious children. According to a January 2025 poll, 83 percent of Americans support these centers, including 80 percent of the individuals who identify as ‘pro-choice.’

Mr Speaker, I'd like to include in the RECORD one of the many outstanding statements from the press conference, offered by Toni McFadden:

“Good afternoon! My name is Toni McFadden, and I'm here to share my personal story—one that reveals exactly why Planned Parenthood must be fully defunded.

I was a senior in high school when I walked through the doors of Planned Parenthood's death facility. They had given me a false hope that if I aborted my baby, my parents would never have to find out, my already unstable relationship would have a fighting chance, and my life would go back to normal.

After receiving an ultrasound and asking the nurse multiple times if I could see the screen that was strategically faced against the wall, she reluctantly showed me but quickly stated that my 7-week-old baby and I quote, “was nothing, just the size of a pea.”

It would have been too honest of her to tell me that my baby already had a beating heart or that, at the moment of conception, their DNA was unique to them and would never ever be created again.

Instead of the truth I was given the poisonous chemical Abortion pills. The first set was taken with the abortionist and the second set was given to me to take in the comfort of my home. I was told it would only be like a heavy period.

I had complications like many women who think this is a simple thing to do. My pills didn't work correctly and when I called the abortion facility they simply said: “This is why we gave you 2 sets of the pills. Just take the second set and you will be fine.” I wasn't fine. It would be the last I would hear from them. I was so uneducated and had the goal of no one finding out. I ended up experiencing severe hemorrhaging that began while I was in school about a month later.

I remember when I got home, keeping this secret from my parents. I went to the bathroom to my bed for hours just bleeding.

If I could go back, knowing what I know now—

I would give my baby life without hesitation.

Planned Parenthood didn't care about me. They didn't care about my baby.

And they don't care about women, especially minority women.

They exploit women for their own financial gain.

This is why they must be defunded.

Abortion doesn't solve our problems—it adds to them.

Abortion doesn't bring healing—it leaves deep wounds and lifelong regret.

No woman should have to walk through what I walked through—

Believing lies, and left to suffer alone.

Abortion only reaps one thing: death.

So today, I stand not just for myself—

But for every woman who's been deceived.

For every child who was never given a chance.

We must stop funding the lies.

We must stop funding the pain.

We must stop funding death.

From the first heartbeat to the final breath, every life holds value. Every soul deserves a chance. Life is a gift worth defending.”

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. VINCE FONG

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2025

Mr. FONG. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote on Tuesday, March 25, 2025. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 74.

CONGRATULATING MR. BRONICE ODELL BRADLEY

HON. VICTORIA SPARTZ

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2025

Mrs. SPARTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Bronice Odell Bradley of Carmel, Indiana who will turn 100 years old on April 9, 2025.

At 18 years old, Mr. Bradley enlisted in the U.S. Army and was assigned to Company A 394th Infantry, which was a tank division under General George Patton. He endured subzero weather at the Battle of the Bulge. While operating a machine gun on his tank, he was struck by shrapnel and later hospitalized for 13 months. Private First Class Bradley was honorably discharged from the U.S. Army on December 7, 1945.

After retiring from the military, Mr. Bradley and his wife bought a small distribution business, which they operated for 44 years.

My fellow Hoosiers and I wish Mr. Bradley a happy birthday and send him our deepest appreciation for his service to our country during his long and productive life.

OPPOSITION TO H.J. RES. 24 AND H.J. RES. 75

HON. NANETTE DIAZ BARRAGÁN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2025

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Mr. Speaker, I oppose H.J. Res. 24 and H.J. Res. 75 because these resolutions roll back common-sense energy efficiency standards for commercial refrigerators, freezers, and walk-in coolers—standards that were rigorously developed by the Department of Energy (DOE) to save businesses money while cutting energy waste. These updated regulations are technologically feasible, economically justified, and essential for reducing long-term costs for small businesses like restaurants, grocery stores, and convenience

● 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.

stores. The DOE estimates that businesses using these appliances would save over \$11 billion in energy costs over the next 30 years—savings that would go back into local economies. I urged the Biden administration to finalize these rules last Congress, and I remain committed to protecting energy efficiency initiatives that reduce costs and pollution.

APPRECIATING MAJOR GENERAL VAN McCARTY

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2025

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to Major General Van McCarty, the 29th Adjutant General of South Carolina, for his service to the state over the past six years as State Adjutant General.

Born in Saluda, South Carolina, MG McCarty attended The Citadel and went on to commission in the United States Army Reserves as a Field Artillery officer.

A veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom in Iraq and Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan, MG McCarty has over 36 years of service and commanded units at every level. Among his 36 years of service, 24 were spent in the Law Enforcement Division with the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources.

Being a recipient of the Bronze Star Medal and the Meritorious Service Medal, MG McCarty has had an extensive military education and has been recognized for his dedication and service to the country.

Since 2019, MG McCarty has been a strong and stable force and has earned the respect of the Palmetto State. I value his dedication and commitment.

As we wish the best to MG McCarty upon his retirement, I am grateful to welcome Brigadier General Robin B. Stilwell, who will serve as the 30th Adjutant General for South Carolina.

A Greenville, South Carolina native, BG Stilwell also attended The Citadel and was commissioned as an Infantry Officer.

During his career, BG Stilwell deployed multiple times overseas, including tours in Afghanistan, Kuwait and Kosovo. He served as Deputy Chief of Staff-Forward for United States Army Central Command in Kuwait, and also commanded at every level to include serving as the commanding officer of the 678th Air Defense Artillery Brigade in Eastover, SC, and in the 218th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade in Charleston, SC.

South Carolina welcomes BG Robin Stilwell in his new position as Adjutant General, and I look forward to working with him throughout his tenure.

HONORING OPERATION TANGO MIKE

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Operation Tango Mike, a

nonprofit community effort that has provided unwavering support to our deployed military personnel and their families for over two decades. On the occasion of its 22nd anniversary, I am proud to recognize Operation Tango Mike for its dedicated service to those who serve our Nation.

Operation Tango Mike was founded in 2003, when Lake County residents Ginny Craven and Ron Quick sent a care package to Kyle Molencupp, who was then serving in Afghanistan. What began as a simple gesture of support has grown into a community-driven organization that has shipped more than 27,000 care packages to deployed personnel worldwide. Operation Tango Mike has supported service members through numerous military operations, including Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation New Dawn, Operation Onward Liberty, Operation Odyssey Lightning, Operation Inherent Resolve, and Operation Freedom's Sentinel.

In addition to its vital care package program, Operation Tango Mike coordinates the annual collection and distribution of Christmas gifts and school supplies for military families, providing comfort and relief during challenging times. The organization has also hosted welcome home celebrations and ceremonies for returning troops, ensuring they receive a heartfelt reception from their community. Moreover, Operation Tango Mike has assisted in honoring three of Lake County's fallen heroes in the Global War on Terror, preserving their memory with dignity and respect.

Mr. Speaker, on March 20, 2025, Operation Tango Mike marked 22 years of selfless service with its monthly packing party, a tradition that symbolizes the enduring gratitude and commitment of its volunteers and community. It is fitting and proper that we honor Operation Tango Mike for its dedication and contributions to our armed forces. Their unwavering support is a testament to the strength and generosity of the American spirit.

RECOGNIZING CHERYL CALIRE FOR HER STEADFAST SERVICE AND DEDICATION TO THE SAINT GIANNA MOLLA PREGNANCY OUTREACH CENTER

HON. NICHOLAS A. LANGWORTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2025

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the steadfast service and profound impact of Cheryl Calire, Director of Life Ministries for the Diocese of Buffalo. For 15 years, Cheryl provided guidance, leadership and service to the community as a strong voice and advocate for women, mothers and children—including the unborn. Since her announced retirement last year, she has continued to oversee the Saint Gianna Molla Pregnancy Outreach Centers and Mother Teresa Home in Western New York.

The Saint Gianna Molla Pregnancy Outreach Centers have a tangible impact on our community, providing important material, emotional, and spiritual support during and after pregnancy. This life-affirming work has saved lives, eased the transition into motherhood, and directly impacted over 1,500 families each year. Cheryl's continued leadership has im-

proved the lives and wellbeing of countless children, mothers and fathers across Western New York, and I am so grateful for her good work.

Life is a blessing, and as Cheryl Calire transitions into retirement, my family and I are so grateful to have witnessed her passion and dedication. We are all charged with leaving our community better than we found it, and Cheryl certainly has achieved that mission.

I ask this body to join me in recognizing Cheryl Calire for her commitment to life-affirming advocacy and service. On behalf of the United States Congress, and the constituents of the 23rd Congressional District, I thank Cheryl, and hope she enjoys her well-deserved retirement.

CHRISTENING OF THE USNS BILLY FRANK JR.

HON. RICK LARSEN

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2025

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the christening of the USNS *Billy Frank Jr.*

Billy Frank Jr. was a proud member of the Nisqually Tribe and a dedicated leader on tribal treaty rights and environmental stewardship. He served as chair of the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission for over 30 years, paved the way for the Boldt decision and was honored with numerous prestigious awards. In 2015, he was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the Nation's highest civilian honor.

I am grateful to have worked with Billy on habitat restoration for salmon and steelhead. Washington state's tribes and environment are stronger because of Billy's decades of advocacy and leadership.

Billy was also a veteran of the Marine Corps and served during the Korean War. It is fitting that a Navy ship will now bear his name. The USNS *Billy Frank Jr.* will offer salvage, rescue, ocean-going towing and other support capabilities for U.S. Navy fleet operations, while also supporting missions such as oil spill response, humanitarian assistance, wide-area search and surveillance.

On this momentous occasion I send my congratulations to the Frank family and the Nisqually Tribe. I look forward to once again honoring Billy later this year when his statue will be unveiled to represent the state of Washington in the U.S. Capitol's National Statuary Hall.

RECOGNIZING THE INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS BANQUET FOR THE OCOCOQUAN-WOODBRIDGE-LORTON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2025

Mr. CONNOLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Annual Installation of Officers Banquet for the Occoquan-Woodbridge-Lorton Volunteer Fire Department and to honor the 2024 Awardees.

The 2025 officers and members of the board of directors are taking leadership roles in one of Northern Virginia's longest standing volunteer fire departments. The O.W.L. Volunteer Fire Department was born out of the need for organized fire response capabilities in the growing suburbs of Northern Virginia. In 1938, the Department officially formed to become the only fire department between Fredericksburg and Alexandria. In the subsequent decades O.W.L. has expanded to staff three stations and provide emergency medical services.

The members of O.W.L. are dedicated community volunteers, and the 2025 officers and directors will be diligent stewards of this tradition of service. The 148 active O.W.L. members answer thousands of calls and serve 95,000 people each year. Their job is demanding, and the hours are long, but they gladly serve for little more than the satisfaction of volunteerism and civic engagement. We would all do well to follow their example.

The 2025 Officers: President Todd Hewitt, Executive Vice President Susan Wessoleck, Membership Secretary Stacey Godin, Treasurer Debra Haight, Sergeant at Arms Mark Bauer, Elections Officer Sabrina Brandon Ricks, Chief Wayne Haight, Assistant Chief Kurt Bolland, Assistant Chief Ernest DeSantis, Assistant Chief Ryan Williams, Assistant Chief of Rescue Sandra Williams, Fire Captain Steve Godin, EMS Captain Mike Yankaskas, Fire Lieutenant Peter Langone, Fire Lieutenant Jared Lawrence, EMS Lieutenant Aundrea Bonilla, EMS Lieutenant Leo Greenwald.

Board of Directors: Frank Bruno, Mike Clark, Steve Godin, Dee Gottman, Dave Lukes, Stephanie Powers, Anna Smith, Cynthia Thackwray

2024 Awardees: Betty Limerick Lifetime Service Award: Stacey Godin

Roger T. Furr Chief's Award: Malak Hassan
Richard A. McAvoy Award for EMS Service Award: Leo Greenwald

John M. McGovern, Jr. Unsung Hero Award: Ernest DeSantis

Robert F. Arrington Administrative Member of the Year Award: Melaina Lewis

Fred M. Lynn Fire Crew Member of the Year Award: Daniel Collins

Bonita F. Joseph EMS Crew Member of the Year Award: Steven Ostrosky

New EMS Crew Member of The Year Award: Mitchell Connolly

James W. Ludwig Owlet Award: Austin Williams

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me to congratulate these remarkable volunteers for their continued work. The Occoquan-Woodbridge-Lorton Volunteer Fire Department is to be commended for the vital service it provides to the Prince William and Fairfax community.

RECOGNIZING LIEUTENANT KURT DELONG

HON. VICTORIA SPARTZ

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2025

Mrs. SPARTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lieutenant Kurt Delong of Westfield, Indiana who for his 25 years of service as a reserve officer to the Hamilton County Indiana

Sheriff's Department, where he has served with distinction. Lieutenant Delong had a very strong religious upbringing, while stating numerous times to his colleagues that he is a "Missionary disguised as a police officer."

During his time with the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office, Lieutenant Delong has obtained numerous awards, including being named "Reserve Deputy of the Year," "Sergeant of the Year," and "Lieutenant of the Year." Additionally, he was named a Pistol Expert, and "Life Saving Award" recipient.

Lieutenant Delong also served as a trainer for Hamilton County Sheriff's Office new Reserve Deputies, and he was a Board Member for the Community Foundation's "Christmas Express Volunteer and Shop for Kids" drive. Lieutenant Delong, in his 25 years of service, provided a strong foundation for safety, training, and growth for the citizens of Hamilton County.

Outside of his law enforcement duties, Lieutenant Delong operates a small landscaping business. Lieutenant Delong is an avid fan of both high school and college wrestling, and he loves boating and travelling.

While Lieutenant Delong will be retiring as a reserve officer on March 28, 2025, he will continue to serve the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office in a civilian capacity. My fellow Hoosiers and I appreciate Kurt's dedication and contribution to our community.

RECOGNIZING MARCH AS DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2025

Mr. CONNOLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing March as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month.

For nearly 40 years, Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month has been observed across the United States to recognize and highlight the achievements, challenges, and inclusion of people with developmental disabilities.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, developmental disabilities are defined as impairments in physical, learning, language, or behavior areas such as ADHD, autism spectrum disorder, cerebral palsy, vision impairment, and hearing loss, among many others. Developmental disabilities occur across all racial, ethnic, gender, educational, and socioeconomic groups. Today in the United States, around 1 in 6 children aged 3 through 17 have one or more developmental disabilities.

Developmental disabilities present differently in every person, and the difficulties an individual faces can vary significantly. There is no one-size-fits-all approach for supporting those with developmental disabilities, and we must recommit ourselves to gaining a better understanding of all developmental disabilities.

We have made significant progress as a nation in advancing the rights, inclusion, and participation of people with developmental disabilities, but challenges and barriers persist. We must continue to promote policies that improve resource accessibility, strengthen support networks, and increase public awareness.

I commend activists, families, caregivers, and organizations, like the Arc of Northern Virginia, for their efforts to ensure people with developmental disabilities have the care, resources, and opportunities necessary to lead productive and fulfilling lives. The tireless and selfless work they do makes it possible for those with developmental disabilities to reach their full potential. The mission is not just to make sure that individuals with developmental disabilities survive, it is to make sure that they are able to thrive.

Mr. Speaker, as we recognize March as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, I urge my colleagues to join me in reaffirming our commitment to promoting accessibility, dignity, and equity for all Americans with developmental disabilities.

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF LANDIS VALLEY VILLAGE & FARM MUSEUM

HON. LLOYD SMUCKER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2025

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to congratulate and recognize Landis Valley Village & Farm Museum for their 100th anniversary.

In 1925, brothers Henry and George Landis combined their collection of Pennsylvania German objects and antiques to found what would eventually become the Landis Valley Village and Farm Museum. The museum was formally incorporated in 1941. In 1953, the brothers donated the museum and property, the Landis' family farm, to the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission.

As the largest Pennsylvania German museum in the country, Landis Valley holds over 100,000 historic artifacts, such as furniture, fraktur art, pottery and quilts, which date back to the early days of Pennsylvania German settlement. Over the years the museum has transformed into a living history exhibition, adding onto its collection many relocated and constructed historical buildings, historical breeds of animals and plants, and interactive presentations of traditional, Pennsylvania German life.

In what was originally a collection between two brothers, the passing century has transformed Landis Valley Village & Farm Museum into an educational community center for the surrounding area. As they celebrate one hundred years in serving the public, I am thankful that Pennsylvania's 11th Congressional District has such a wonderful organization keeping our community's heritage alive.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF ROBERT JENNINGS

HON. HILLARY J. SCHOLTEN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2025

Ms. SCHOLTEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my constituent, Robert Jennings, on his retirement from SpartanNash in Byron Center, Michigan. Mr. Jennings was an outstanding associate of SpartanNash, with

his retirement marking 25 years of incredible professionalism and service to his coworkers and community. His commitment to excellence in his role is to be commended, and it is my honor and privilege to recognize Mr. Jennings here today.

Through considerable effort, innovation, and persistence, Mr. Jennings has helped foster an efficient and effective warehouse environment for associates at SpartanNash. He worked with cross-functional departments to coordinate distribution center operations while supervising the daily warehouse department in shipping, selection, loading, and storage. Mr. Jennings was also crucial in assisting with the training of SpartanNash teams during changes in procedure, and worked with warehouse leads to coordinate the day-to-day scheduling of associates. Our West Michigan Community is fortunate to have lived and worked alongside Mr. Jennings, who has made outstanding contributions during his time at SpartanNash.

Mr. Speaker, I once again ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Robert Jennings on his retirement from SpartanNash. We commend him for his decades of service. I wish Mr. Jennings, a much-deserved, restful retirement surrounded by family, friends, and neighbors.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN OF VIRGINIA

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2025

Mr. CONNOLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the American Association of University Women (AAUW) of Virginia which is celebrating its centennial on March 28, 2025.

In 1925, a group of women met in Williamsburg, Virginia to form a Virginia state Division of the American Association of University Women. The women, mainly educators, resolved to work for an increase in funds for the state supported schools and a program for pre-school children.

In the 1930's, AAUW—Virginia worked to improve school curricula, promoted teacher training, fought for equal salaries for men and women teachers and for removing the discriminatory ruling against married women teaching in the public schools.

In the 1940's, members worked around travel restrictions from World War II. The number of local branches grew in Virginia, as the National organization worked to help women Axis and occupied nations escape to safety. AAUW of Virginia was active in promoting jury duty for women, a right granted in 1950.

In the 1950's when some schools were closed following federal court orders, AAUW branches in Virginia established tutoring groups as temporary substitutes, laying the groundwork for the organization's firm and courageous stand for the preservation of a statewide system of free public schools.

In the 1960's, AAUW of Virginia worked for compulsory school attendance and consistently opposed tuition grants to pupils in private, sectarian schools. The organization had long supported measures to protect and improve the legal status of women, and efforts increased during this decade.

In 1971 AAUW of Virginia voted to support ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment to the U.S Constitution. In protest the organization moved its state convention outside Virginia to Washington, D.C., in 1981 and to Maryland, a ratified state, in 1982.

The fight for gender equality continued throughout the 1980's, as AAUW of Virginia again opposed the use of public funds for the male-only Virginia Military Institute and signed on as an amicus curia when the case went before the Supreme Court. In 1996, the Court ruled in favor of admitting women students.

In 2020, Virginia became the 38th state to ratify the ERA. The organization's support never waned.

In the new century, some of AAUW of Virginia's issues were the same, such as opposition to public education funds for private schools, and equality for all. Under the auspices of the AAUW National, the Virginia branches have worked for equal pay, including support for the Lilly Ledbetter Act, and fought to protect Title IX, as well as access to reproductive care.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating AAUW of Virginia for 100 years as the Nation's leading organization for equity in higher education and women's economic empowerment. Cheers to another century of advocacy and civic engagement.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL AREA HEALTH EDUCATION CENTERS WEEK

HON. SUSIE LEE

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2025

Ms. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the week of March 24th to March 28th of 2025 as National Area Health Education Centers Week, or AHEC week.

Southern Nevadans are facing a dire shortage of health care providers, which means longer wait times, fewer choices, and less access to quality care. To solve this crisis, underserved communities like ours need to expand the resources we offer so that medical providers can learn and grow their careers in southern Nevada.

AHECs are a part of that solution. These centers connect students to local populations, which helps facilitate future engagement and boosts care in our communities. That has been and will continue to be key as we fight to ensure every Nevadan has access to the health care they need.

The AHEC program has already trained millions of health care professionals. Across our state, from Elko to Reno to Las Vegas, the AHEC program is strengthening the future of our health care workforce which will help the collective health of all Nevadans.

That's why I'm proud to support this program and why, year after year, I've fought to secure essential federal investments in the national AHEC program.

On behalf of my constituents at the Nevada AHEC program, their national counterparts, and the thousands of Americans who benefit from the care fostered by AHECs, I am proud to recognize this National Area Health Education Centers Week.

I thank them all for their dedication to keeping our communities healthy.

HONORING THE EASTERN PROVINCE OF KAPPA ALPHA PSI FRATERNITY INCORPORATED ON THEIR 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. GLENN IVEY

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2025

Mr. IVEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize the Eastern Province of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Incorporated on the historic milestone of 100 years of achievement and service. Since 1925, when Brother Earl B. Dickerson, the 5th Grand Polemarch of Kappa Alpha Psi, appointed John Miller Marquees as the first Eastern Province Polemarch, the province has exhibited the fundamental purpose of the organization achievement in every field of human endeavor.

As a proud member of the Hyattsville-Landover Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi, I have seen first-hand the commitment to excellence, brotherhood, and the betterment of mankind exhibited by the Eastern Province. With 5 total regions, including all of Washington, D.C., Virginia, Bermuda, and Maryland, the Eastern Province includes over 100 undergraduate and alumni chapters, whose God-fearing and serious minded men have positively contributed to society and the fraternity for the past 100 years.

The Eastern Province of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Incorporated serves as an embodiment of the organization's core values and principles. Under the 30th administration of the province, I am certain that they will continue in the mission and ideals set forth by our illustrious founders. I congratulate them again on 100 years.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MR. JIMMY LEE HOOKS, JR.

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2025

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life and service of one of my late constituents, Mr. Jimmie Lee Hooks, Jr. He was a decorated war veteran; devoted husband, father and grandfather; and American hero who exemplified duty, courage, and selfless sacrifice in service to the United States of America. Sadly, Mr. Hooks passed from labor to reward on November 5, 2024, at the age of 77 in Columbus, Georgia.

Born and raised in Plains, Georgia, Jimmie Lee Hooks, Jr. was no stranger to hardship. After losing his mother at an early age, he developed a deep sense of resilience, family values, and an unwavering work ethic. He graduated from Sumter County High School in Americus, Georgia, in 1967. Shortly thereafter, he answered the call to serve his country by enlisting in the United States Army. After enlisting, he married his high school sweetheart and beloved, lifelong partner of 54 years, Mildred Louise Hooks (Hubbard).

Private First Class Hooks' courage and valor were tested on the front lines of the Vietnam War, where he served as a Rifleman with Company A, 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry, 23rd Infantry Division's 11th Infantry Brigade near

Chu Lai. He participated in over twenty-five aerial missions over hostile territory, earning numerous military commendations for his bravery and dedication, including two Bronze Star Medals, the Army Commendation Medal, the Combat Infantry Badge, the Purple Heart, and the esteemed Air Medal.

Among his many accolades, one honor stood out above the rest—the Bronze Star Medal with “V” for Valor. On April 24, 1971, while conducting a combat patrol near Tra Bong, his unit came under heavy enemy fire from North Vietnamese forces. In the face of imminent danger, Private First Class Hooks fearlessly rushed forward, exposing himself to intense hostile fire to provide accurate suppressive cover for his fellow soldiers. His actions were instrumental in preventing additional American casualties and securing victory in the engagement. His unwavering heroism embodied the highest traditions of military service and earned him the profound respect of his comrades and his countrymen.

Following 15 years of honorable military service, Jimmie Lee Hooks, Jr. returned to Georgia and started a family. Together, Mr. Hooks and his wife, Mildred, raised 7 children, 15 grandchildren, and 5 great-grandchildren. He also had a beloved host of nieces, nephews, extended family and friends who loved him dearly.

Though he returned home safely after the Vietnam War, Mr. Hooks continued to carry with him the invisible wounds and scars that can affect veterans following combat. A devout Christian, he answered a calling to help other veterans who struggled with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and service-related conditions by being deeply involved with Mind of Christ Ministries. He also held memberships in the Blind Veterans Association of Columbus and Disabled American Veterans, which demonstrates the strong ties he maintained within the local veteran community.

Despite the adversity he faced on the battlefield and throughout his life, Mr. Hooks remained a steadfast soldier at heart, instilling within his family the values of integrity, resilience, service and character. His dedication to his country and community extended beyond his years in uniform, leaving an indelible impact on all who knew him. Truly, Mr. Hooks embodied the highest ideals of military service on and off the battlefield.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. once said, “The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.” Mr. Jimmie Lee Hooks, Jr. stood tall in the face of adversity, risking his own life to protect his fellow servicemembers and defend the freedoms we cherish.

Mr. Speaker, as Americans commemorate National Vietnam War Veterans Day this Saturday on March 29th, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join my wife, Vivian, and me; along with the over 765,000 people of Georgia’s 2nd District, in honoring Mr. Jimmie Lee Hooks, Jr. for his bravery and his tremendous service and sacrifice on behalf of the American people; and in extending our deepest sympathy to his family, friends, and all those who mourn his loss.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF
GERALD “GERRY” W. HYLAND

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2025

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Gerald “Gerry” W. Hyland. Gerry’s character and legacy were a testament to a life dedicated to service, leadership, and deep care for others throughout Northern Virginia and abroad. He was a natural leader who genuinely listened to those around him, always considering the needs of others before his own.

As a decorated Air Force Colonel, he exemplified discipline, integrity, and a strong sense of duty to both his country and community. His service extended beyond his military career, as he spent 28 years as the Mount Vernon District Supervisor, tirelessly advocating for his constituents and ensuring their voices were heard in the decision-making process. Gerry was a leader who truly listened, and his actions reflected his profound commitment to improving the lives of those around him.

His legacy is not just defined by his political achievements but by his deep connection to the community. Gerry’s instrumental role in closing the I-95 landfill, preserving Inova Mount Vernon Hospital, and revitalizing Lorton are among the many ways he made a lasting impact. His annual Town Hall meetings and Lobsterfests were a symbol of his dedication to keeping the community engaged and united. In his work with the Virginia Railway Express, the Virginia Association of Counties, and the National Association of Counties, Gerry continued to shape policies that benefited both the local and broader regions.

Outside of his public service, Gerry’s love for family and his 35-acre farm in Parksley, Virginia, where he nurtured the land, raised animals, and enjoyed the simple pleasures of life, paints a picture of a man who valued balance, nature, and the importance of building strong, lasting relationships. His enduring love for his wife Carmen and his family—his daughter Gigi, siblings, and many nieces and nephews—showcase a man whose compassion extended far beyond his professional life.

Gerry Hyland’s legacy is one of a leader who dedicated his life to serving others, a community pillar whose legacy will be felt for generations to come. He leaves behind a profound mark on Fairfax County, a legacy of commitment, service, and the kind of leadership that will continue to inspire future generations.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in acknowledging the life of Gerry Hyland—a man of deep compassion, humility, and unwavering devotion to his family, friends, and community.

REMEMBERING MR. ROY FAGAN
HODGES

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2025

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I stand today to remember Roy Fagan Hodges,

who passed away peacefully on Friday, March 21, 2025, at Tippah County Hospital in Ripley, Mississippi.

Roy Fagan Hodges was born on November 9, 1924, in Dumas, Mississippi, to Lee and Inez Cappleman Hodges. He attended school in Wheeler and Baldwyn.

During World War II, Roy served in the United States Army Air Force as a tail gunner on a B-24 Liberator with the Eighth Air Force. From 1944 to 1945, he flew 33 combat missions over Nazi-occupied Europe. His deep faith in God sustained him through the war, and upon returning home, he married Eugenia Faye “Jean” Storey Hodges in 1946. Together, they raised two daughters and a son, sharing 65 years of marriage.

Roy was a devoted member of Dumas Baptist Church, where he faithfully served as a deacon. Beyond his church involvement, he made significant contributions to Tippah County communities in various capacities. He served as Fire Chief of the Dumas Fire Department and as an Alderman. Roy was instrumental in establishing, upgrading, and improving the fire departments and rural water systems county wide. He was also a proud member of the Southeast Tippah Lions Club and the American Legion.

After 34 years of service with the Mississippi Forestry Commission, Roy retired in 1986. Even in retirement, his dedication to Tippah County continued as he served as Election Commissioner and Fire Coordinator. He also enjoyed raising cattle and gardening.

Roy is survived by his daughters Phyllis Hill (Wayne) of Tiplersville and Pat Rowland (Charlie) of Booneville; his son Danny Roy Hodges (Janet) of Baldwyn; and eight grandchildren: Suzanne Shoup (Bryan) of Ripley, Barry Rowland (Michelle) of Amory, Christy Cagle (John) of Booneville, Brandy Shackelford (Kevin) of Ripley, Allison Wood (Thomas) of Mantachie, Amy Smith (Shane) of Byhalia, Sam Hodges of Nashville, Tennessee, and Seth Hodges of Dumas. He also leaves behind twelve great-grandchildren: Trevor Shoup, Thomas Shoup (Olivia), Blake Rowland, Brayden Rowland, Ross Shackelford, Reed Shackelford, Ella Reese Shackelford, Clayton Wood (Anna Reed), Brooke Wood, Carly Wood, Leah Smith, and Taylor Smith; two great-great-grandchildren, Easton Wood and Olivia Wood; and his brother, Ben Hodges of Texas, a fellow World War II veteran who is 102 years old. He is also survived by several nieces and nephews.

Additionally, Roy is survived by his wife of 10 years, Rachel Hodges of Ripley, and her children, Glen Michael (Lori), Franke Michael, and Penny Michael. He is also lovingly remembered by her nine grandchildren, Laken Green (Jake), Jonah Rinehart (Marleigh), Sarah Ann Michael, Mattie Bailey (Hunter), Cooper Rinehart, and Olivia Michael, as well as her five great-grandchildren.

CELEBRATING THE 2025 COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD HONOREES AT THE WOMEN OF EXCELLENCE CELEBRATION AND AWARDS LUNCHEON IN RECOGNITION OF WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

HON. JARED MOSKOWITZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2025

Mr. MOSKOWITZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise along with my colleague, Rep. SHEILA CHERFILUS-McCORMICK, to celebrate and honor the incredible achievements of women who are shaping our communities, empowering future generations and leading with grace, courage, and determination. It is a privilege to recognize inspiring women receiving the 2025 Community Service Award in recognition of Women's History Month at the Women of Excellence Celebration and Awards Luncheon.

This celebration is not just about acknowledging individual accomplishments, but it is also about highlighting the collective strength and transformative influence women have in every sector of society. From family leaders to trailblazers in business, education, public service, and beyond, women continue to break barriers and inspire change with remarkable resilience and dedication.

We extend a special thank you to the host of the event, LaTonya Coley-McKenly, the Executive Director of the Deerfield Beach Housing Authority. Her vision, leadership, and commitment to community development made this celebration possible.

Mr. Speaker, please join us in celebrating the honorees being recognized at this year's Women of Excellence Celebration and Awards Luncheon in recognition of Women's History Month: Gloria J. Battle, Lisa C. Davis, Rose Anne Brown, Kiana Morris, Gwendolen Clarke-Reed, and Shaheewa F. Gelin.

COMMEMORATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF BLACKS IN GOVERNMENT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2025

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Blacks In Government (BIG), which is celebrating its 50th anniversary this month. The theme of BIG's anniversary celebration is "50 Years of Transformative Government Leadership. Navigating Change, Leading the Charge."

BIG was founded in 1975 in the District of Columbia by a small group of Black employees at the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare to address discrimination against Black federal employees. Over time, BIG has expanded its mission to assist and advocate for Black employees in all levels of government. BIG promotes equality and equity in government employment and creates pathways for students interested in careers in government through its scholarship programs.

I ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing BIG for its contributions over the last 50 years.

RECOGNIZING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FAIRFAX LIBRARY FOUNDATION

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2025

Mr. CONNOLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Fairfax Library Foundation, an organization that has played an essential role in enhancing the programs and services of the Fairfax County Public Library (FCPL), the largest public library system in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Since its creation in 1994, the Foundation has operated as a 501(c)(3) charitable and educational organization with a singular and steadfast mission: to support FCPL in its endeavor to enrich the lives of over 1 million residents across Fairfax County.

Over the past three decades, the Fairfax Library Foundation has been instrumental in ensuring that the Fairfax County Public Library continues to provide unparalleled access to information, technology, and educational opportunities. Through its unwavering commitment to the community, the Foundation has helped fund innovative programs that enhance civic engagement, promote literacy, and ensure equitable access to essential services for all residents—regardless of their background or economic status.

With a deep commitment to supporting lifelong learning, the Foundation has been a catalyst for the library's extensive work in providing resources such as educational workshops, digital literacy programs, and tutoring services. By facilitating access to these resources, the Foundation has had a profound and lasting impact on individuals of all ages, contributing to the intellectual and personal growth of the community.

As we reflect on the Foundation's accomplishments, it is crucial to recognize the extraordinary leadership of its board members, staff, volunteers, and generous supporters. Their tireless efforts have not only enhanced the library's ability to meet the needs of the community but have also helped to make FCPL a beacon of knowledge, culture, and civic engagement. Their dedication has fostered a library system that remains a critical resource for residents, providing a safe and welcoming environment for learning, collaboration, and enrichment.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my deepest gratitude to the Fairfax Library Foundation's leadership—both past and present—for their vision, commitment, and hard work. Through their efforts, they have ensured that the Fairfax County Public Library will continue to thrive and evolve in the years to come, empowering future generations of learners, thinkers, and community members. The impact of their work over the past 30 years has been immeasurable, and I am confident that the Fairfax Library Foundation will continue to inspire and serve the residents of Fairfax County for many more decades to come. I am thrilled to congratulate the foundation on its 30th anniversary as they celebrate the "Celebration of Library Joy."

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in acknowledging the Fairfax Library Foundation's remarkable achievements and in expressing our gratitude for its continued service to the Fairfax County community.

INDIGENOUS DIPLOMACY AND ENGAGEMENT ACT

HON. ED CASE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2025

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge support for my Indigenous Diplomacy and Engagement Act to ensure that our foreign affairs fully encompass and incorporate the independent interconnectedness of our world's indigenous peoples.

The estimated 476 million indigenous peoples spread across all parts of our world are bound together by a common heritage, common wisdom and common challenges that transcend often artificial lines of national sovereignty. To recognize their international status and leverage their collective knowledge, in 2007 the international community adopted the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

This common history, knowledge and approach, in such key areas as preservation of unique cultures, sustainable use of our natural resources, and advancement of health care, offers all of us not only a wealth of expertise on their own challenges but on those we all face. To better coordinate focus on indigenous peoples worldwide and engage internationally on issues important to indigenous peoples, my Indigenous Diplomacy and Engagement Act would create an Office for Indigenous Affairs at the Department of State responsible for coordinating all efforts of the federal government regarding diplomacy and engagements with international indigenous peoples. The office would be headed by a Coordinator for Indigenous Affairs, appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate. The coordinator will be tasked with establishing a comprehensive international strategy for promoting diplomacy and engagement with indigenous peoples.

The strategy will be developed in coordination with various federal departments and agencies as well as an Advisory Commission on Indigenous Peoples established by the bill. The Commission will consist of members appointed by the Secretary of State, President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House, as well as representatives from the National Congress of American Indians, Alaska Federation of Natives and Office of Hawaiian Affairs, the representative entities for the largest groups of our country's own indigenous peoples. This will help more directly link our Nation's indigenous peoples with efforts to build relationship with those in other countries.

This bill would also require our Foreign Service Officers to be trained on the history and culture of indigenous communities that reside near their posts of assignment. Our Foreign Service Officers will often be the primary American officials for interaction with these communities, and should be well versed in specific indigenous peoples' issues.

We must not step away from the international stage; rather we should lead efforts for meaningful engagement where and however we can. This includes strengthening our relationships and partnerships with international indigenous peoples to more fully include their special perspective and connectedness in an inextricably interlinked world.

I strongly urge my colleagues to join with me in passing and enacting the Indigenous Diplomacy and Engagement Act.

HONORING THE LATE ROBERT GEORGE CLARK, JR.

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a trailblazer, the Honorable Robert George Clark, Jr. He dedicated his life to demonstrating what can be achieved through hard work, perseverance, and a strong desire for change.

Robert George Clark, Jr. was elected to the Mississippi House of Representatives in 1967, becoming the first African American to serve in the Mississippi State Legislature since the Reconstruction era. He remained in office until 2003, leaving behind a legacy of leadership and progress.

Clark was born on October 3, 1928, to the late Mr. Robert and Mrs. Julia Anne Clark of Ebenezer, Mississippi, as the youngest of three children. He attended Holmes County Training School in Durant, Mississippi, and later earned his B.A. from Jackson State University in 1952. In 1959, he obtained a Master's Degree in Administration and Educational Services from Michigan State University. In 1979, while serving in the Mississippi State Legislature, Clark further honed his expertise as a teaching fellow at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

After earning his B.A. degree, Clark worked as a teacher in Holmes County. His first experience in politics came in 1966 when he ran for and won an elected board position with the Holmes County Community Action Program (CAP). The following year, he ran for state legislator on Holmes County's Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party (MFDP) ticket. His victory made history, as he became the first Black person elected to the Mississippi House of Representatives since Reconstruction.

Clark's election signaled the emergence of Black electoral politics in Mississippi. As late as 1964, only ten Black people were registered to vote in Holmes County, despite African Americans comprising roughly 75 percent of the population. By 1967, however, the Black community had built one of the strongest and most sophisticated political organizations in the state.

Ten years after his historic election, Clark became the first Black committee chairman in the Mississippi House of Representatives when he was appointed to lead the Education Committee. Under his leadership, the legislature passed landmark education reforms, including the 1982 Education Reform Act and the 1984 Vocational Education Reform Act. The 1982 act significantly improved Mississippi's educational system by modernizing classrooms and other facilities, replacing outdated textbooks, and securing new school buses.

In January 1992, Clark was elected Speaker Pro Tempore, a position he held until 2000. By the time he retired from the Mississippi House of Representatives in December 2003, he was the longest-serving member in continuous House service. I stand on the shoulders of

men like him, drawing inspiration from his tireless efforts to make Mississippi a better place for all its citizens.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the late Robert George Clark, Jr. for his unwavering dedication to civil rights and racial equality.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. VINCE FONG

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2025

Mr. FONG. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote on Monday, March 24, 2025. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 73, and YEA on Roll Call No. 72.

DEFENDING EDUCATION TRANSPARENCY AND ENDING ROGUE REGIMES ENGAGING IN NEFARIOUS TRANSACTIONS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. NANETTE DIAZ BARRAGÁN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 25, 2025

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Mr. Chair, I oppose H.R. 1048, the DETERRENT Act, because it imposes unnecessary, overly broad reporting mandates on universities under the pretense of national security. While protecting research from foreign influence is important, this bill goes too far, sweeping in respected organizations like the United Nations and the World Health Organization. It creates a complex and punitive reporting system that burdens universities with vague requirements and excessive penalties, while assigning enforcement to the Department of Education, which is understaffed and lacks national security expertise. The Trump Administration is also trying to dismantle the Department of Education.

The bill also mandates a public database of faculty contracts and donations, raising privacy concerns and exposing researchers to potential harassment. This approach does not strengthen security—it creates red tape that harms academic collaboration. That is why I oppose it, along with major higher education groups and research institutions.

HONORING COLE MCGOWAN

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Cole McGowan for his dedicated service and exemplary leadership as a firefighter with the Yocha Dehe Fire Department. Mr. McGowan has been named the Yocha Dehe Firefighter of the Year, a recognition awarded by his peers for his commitment, work ethic, and embodiment of the department's core values.

Born in Newport Beach, California, Mr. McGowan currently resides in Rescue, California with his wife Brenna. Together, they are

the proud parents of three children: Jack, Kate, and Jane. In addition to his outstanding service as a firefighter, Mr. McGowan is a veteran of the United States Marine Corps, where he served from 1993 to 1997, reaching the rank of Sergeant E-5. His military service reflects his lifelong commitment to serving and protecting others.

From his first day with the Yocha Dehe Fire Department, Mr. McGowan has demonstrated unwavering dedication to protecting our community. As a member of the only internationally accredited Native American fire department, he plays a vital role in providing essential fire protection, rescue support, and paramedic services to Yocha Dehe. Additionally, Mr. McGowan has devoted time to improving the station and their training sites, as well as teaching at the Youth Fire Academy, inspiring our community's next generation of firefighters to answer the call to serve.

Mr. McGowan's dedication to our community extends beyond his professional responsibilities. In the past, he has volunteered his time to support youth development programs at the El Dorado County Juvenile Hall and Lords Gym in El Dorado County. Through these efforts, he helps to mentor and empower the youth in our community.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Cole McGowan exemplifies the ideals of public service and community dedication. His commitment to excellence, both in his professional duties and community involvement, makes him a deserving recipient of the 2025 Firefighter of the Year Award at Yocha Dehe Fire Department. It is fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

RECOGNIZING DEPUTY JEFF LARKIN

HON. VICTORIA SPARTZ

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2025

Mrs. SPARTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Hamilton County Sheriff Deputy Jeff Larkin, who is retiring after 16 years of service with the Hamilton County, Indiana Sheriff's Department.

Prior to his time with the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office, Deputy Larkin served as a police officer with the Memphis, Tennessee Police Department. In 1982, he served as lead negotiator for a hostage situation at St. Jude Children's Hospital. After his heroic actions during this event, Deputy Larkin formed a new negotiation unit with the Memphis Police Department. Deputy Larkin's actions during the hostage situation also had a profound impact on the 1985 Tennessee vs. Garner court case, which stated "Under the Fourth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, a police officer may use deadly force to prevent the escape of a fleeing suspect only if the officer has a good-faith belief that the suspect poses a significant threat of death or serious physical injury to the officer or others."

During his time with the Sheriff's Department, Deputy Larkin received a number of awards, including being named "Reserve Deputy of the Year." Deputy Larkin has also been honored for his work with senior citizens in the community providing them with information on Senior Crime Prevention and Elder Fraud & Abuse.

Outside of work, Deputy Larkin has been a steadfast Boy Scout Leader for Troop 132, for over 35 years. An avid sports lover, Deputy Larkin is also a referee for many local high school sports leagues. Deputy Larkin is a graduate of Ole Miss University. He has given back to his alma mater by teaching a criminal justice course as a guest lecturer. Deputy Larkin also serves on a criminal justice committee at the school.

Deputy Larkin's professional contributions have had a lasting impact wherever he has worked. Deputy Larkin plans to continue working with the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office in a civilian capacity after his retirement. My fellow Hoosiers and I appreciate his commitment and dedication to our community.

COMMEMORATING THE 2025 BURKE VOLUNTEER FIRE AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT'S INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS BANQUET

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2025

Mr. CONNOLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Burke Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department on the occasion of its 77th Annual Installation of Officers Banquet, and to thank its volunteers for playing an essential role in keeping our community safe.

The Burke Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department was founded in January 1948, and for more than seven decades it has provided lifesaving fire suppression, fire prevention, and emergency medical and rescue services to the residents of Burke and the surrounding communities. It also provides houses, and maintains firefighting and emergency medical equipment, provides opportunities for professional growth and development for the membership, and maintains and fosters a strong viable organization.

As one of the county's most active volunteer fire and rescue departments, the Burke Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department works in co-

operation with the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department to serve the community. I am honored to recognize the dedicated men and women of the Burke Volunteer Fire Department who have volunteered for extra duty as Officers or as members of the Board of Directors and to include in the RECORD their names:

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President—Ian Dickinson
Vice President—John Powers
Secretary—Maria Suarez-Ortiz
Treasurer—Larry Bocknek
Board Member—Kathleen Beer
Board Member—James Stahlman
Board Member—Kenneth Senn

OFFICERS

Chief—Keith O'Connor
Deputy Chief—John Hudak
Deputy Chief—Tina Godfrey
Assistant Chief—Larry Bocknek
Captain II—Melissa Ashby
Captain II—Kevin Grottle
Lieutenant—Caitlin Edwards
Sergeant—Noah Bilger
Sergeant—Gavin Kuzemchak
Officer—Garrett Canterbury
Officer—Justin Day

In addition to the men and women who have generously assumed the responsibilities of serving as an Officer or a member of the Board of Directors, the Burke Volunteer Fire Department is also presenting awards to the following individuals in recognition of their exemplary service during the last year:

Rookie of the Year: Catherine Petrovich
EMS Provider of the Year: Garrett Canterbury
Officer of the Year: Noah Bilger
Career Member of the Year (The Steven J. Meyer Award): Captain Christopher Yorty
Team of the Year: VISIT Team: Christopher Hague, Jennafer Miller, and Damion Jedlicka
Admin Member of the Year: Richard Lawson
President's Award: Damion Jedlicka

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the department for 77 years of service and in thanking all of the brave volunteers who do not hesitate to drop everything when the community calls in need

of help. To all of these men and women who put themselves in harm's way to protect our residents I say: "Stay safe."

CELEBRATING ROBERT "BOB" GUINA'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. HILLARY J. SCHOLTEN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2025

Ms. SCHOLTEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of my constituent, Robert "Bob" Guina, who turned 100 years old on January 14th of this year. Mr. Guina has dedicated his life to our country, his family, and Michiganders.

After graduating from high school in 1943, Mr. Guina quickly joined the United States Army Air Corps and became a lieutenant pilot after 18 months of service. He briefly moved to Detroit in 1945 before returning as a pilot in the Korean War, flying in 52 missions. Mr. Guina recalls several heroic moments during his service, where he was tasked with identifying and taking out targets with his aircraft. At one point, in the dead of winter, he had completely emptied his fuel reserves during a mission. They prayed for more time as they raced back to the base and the engines failed, but the crew still managed to land safely. Now, over 70 years later, we thank him for his bravery and life-long commitment to our country.

After he was discharged from the military, Mr. Guina returned to Michigan and worked for Ford Motor Company. He has since retired and enjoys spending time with his more than 50 grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

I am proud to honor Mr. Guina and his unwavering service to our Nation and West Michigan. His life serves as a shining example of true courage, resilience, and patriotism. Once again, I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Robert Guina a wonderful birthday as we celebrate his contributions to our Nation and his family. I wish Mr. Guina another happy, healthy, and fulfilling year ahead.

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S1879–S1915

Measures Introduced: Thirty-eight bills and ten resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 1162–1199, S.J. Res. 40–44, and S. Res. 144–148.

Pages S1905–07

Measures Passed:

Overdraft Lending: By 52 yeas to 48 nays (Vote No. 153), Senate passed S.J. Res. 18, disapproving the rule submitted by the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection relating to “Overdraft Lending: Very Large Financial Institutions”. **Pages S1879–84**

Honoring the Life of Former Senator Alan K. Simpson: Senate agreed to S. Res. 148, honoring the life of the Honorable Alan K. Simpson, former Senator for the State of Wyoming. **Page S1915**

Message from the President: Senate received the following message from the President of the United States:

Transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of the continuation of the national emergency that was originally declared in Executive Order 13694 of April 1, 2015, with respect to significant malicious cyber-enabled activities; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations. (PM–18)

Pages S1904–05

Whitaker Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Matthew Whitaker, of Iowa, to be United States Permanent Representative on the Council of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, with the rank and status of Ambassador. **Pages S1892–S1901**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, and pursuant to the unanimous-consent agreement of Thursday, March 27, 2025, a vote on cloture will occur at 5:30 p.m., on Monday, March 31, 2025. **Page S1892**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S1892**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S1892**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that at approximately 3 p.m., on Monday, March 31, 2025, Senate resume consideration of the nomination; that at 5:30 p.m., Senate vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination; and that if cloture is invoked, all time be considered expired and Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination at a time to be determined by the Majority Leader in consultation with the Democratic Leader.

Page S1915

Nomination Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nomination:

By 51 yeas to 45 nays (Vote No. EX. 155), Paul Lawrence, of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs. **Pages S1884–92**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 53 yeas to 47 nays (Vote No. EX. 154), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S1885**

Executive Reports of Committees: **Page S1905**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S1907–08**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S1908–19**

Additional Statements: **Pages S1902–04**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Pages S1914–15**

Privileges of the Floor: **Page S1915**

Record Votes: Three record votes were taken today. (Total—155) **Pages S1884–85, S1892**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned, as a further mark of respect to the memory of the late Alan K. Simpson, former Senator for the State of Wyoming, in accordance with S. Res. 148, at 4:39 p.m., until 3 p.m. on Monday, March 31, 2025. (For Senate’s program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today’s Record on page S1915.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Armed Services: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Troy Meink, of Virginia, to be Secretary of the Air Force, who was introduced by Senator Rounds, Michael Duffey, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment, who was introduced by Representative Fitzgerald, 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, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Jonathan Gould, of Virginia, to be Comptroller of the Currency for a term of five years, who was introduced by Senator Crapo, Luke Pettit, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, and Paul Atkins, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Securities and Exchange Commission for the remainder of the term expiring June 5, 2026, who were both introduced by Senator Hagerty, and Marcus Molinaro, of New York, to be Federal Transit Administrator, who was introduced by Senator Britt, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

DCA MIDAIR COLLISION

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Subcommittee on Aviation, Space, and Innovation concluded a hearing to examine the National Transportation Safety Board preliminary report, focusing on the DCA midair collision, after receiving testimony from Jennifer Homendy, Chairwoman, National Transportation Safety Board; Chris Rocheleau, Acting Administrator, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation; and Brigadier General Matthew W. Braman, Director, Army Aviation, United States Army, Department of Defense.

NOMINATION

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nomination of Arielle Roth, of the District of Columbia, to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information, after the nominee, who was introduced by former Senator Roy Blunt, testified and answered questions in her own behalf.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

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. 821, to provide for increased reporting regarding Department of State Taiwan guidelines, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 555, to direct the Secretary of State to establish a national registry of Korean American divided families, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 842, to counter efforts by Hezbollah to conduct terrorist activities in Latin America, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

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

The nominations of Peter Hoekstra, of Michigan, to be Ambassador to Canada, and George Glass, of Oregon, to be Ambassador to Japan, both of the Department of State.

PROTESTS AND CAMPUS SAFETY

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Committee concluded a hearing to examine ensuring safe learning environments for all students, focusing on protests on campus, after receiving testimony from Carly F. Gammill, StandWithUs Center for Combatting Antisemitism, Los Angeles, California; Rabbi Levi Shemtov, American Friends of Lubavitch (Chabad), and David Saperstein, Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, both of Washington, D.C.; Charles Asher Small, Institute for the Study of Global Antisemitism and Policy, New York, New York; and Kenneth S. Stern, Bard Center for the Study of Hate, Brooklyn, New York.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

S. 1047, to prohibit individuals convicted of defrauding the Government from receiving any assistance from the Small Business Administration; and

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.

Committee recessed subject to the call of the Chair.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 85 public bills, H.R. 2395–2479; and 11 resolutions, H.J. Res. 82; and H. Res. 259–268 were introduced.

Pages H1333–38

Additional Cosponsors:

Page H1340

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 1155, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow taxpayers to elect to receive certain replacement refunds electronically, with an amendment (H. Rept. 119–41);

H.R. 998, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to require additional information on math and clerical error notices, with an amendment (H. Rept. 119–42);

H.R. 1491, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make the postponement of certain deadlines by reason of disasters applicable to the limitation on credit or refund, and to take postponements into account for purposes of sending collection notices, with an amendment (H. Rept. 119–43);

H.R. 517, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the rules for postponing certain deadlines by reason of disaster, with an amendment (H. Rept. 119–44);

H.R. 1152, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the application of the mailbox rule to documents and payments electronically submitted to the Internal Revenue Service, with an amendment (H. Rept. 119–45);

H.R. 997, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to conform to the intent of the Internal Revenue Service Restructuring and Reform Act of 1998, as set forth in the joint explanatory statement of the committee of conference accompanying Conference Report 105–599, that the National Taxpayer Advocate be able to hire and consult counsel as appropriate, with an amendment (H. Rept. 119–46);

H.R. 1450, to require the Office of Foreign Assets Control to develop a program under which private

sector firms may receive a license to conduct nominal financial transactions in furtherance of the firms' investigations, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 119–47, Part 1); and

H.R. 1716, to deter Chinese aggression towards Taiwan by requiring the Secretary of the Treasury to publish a report on financial institutions and accounts connected to senior officials of the People's Republic of China, to restrict financial services for certain immediate family of such officials, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 119–48, Part 1).

Page H1333

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative McDowell to act as Speaker pro tempore for today.

Page H1305

Guest Chaplain: The prayer was offered by the Guest Chaplain, Rabbi Pinchus Ciment, Lubavitch of Arkansas, Little Rock, Arkansas.

Page H1305

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”: The House passed 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”, by a yea-and-nay vote of 203 yeas to 182 nays, Roll No. 77.

Pages H1307–11

H. Res. 242, the rule providing for consideration of the joint resolutions (H.J. Res. 24) and (H.J. Res. 75) and the bill (H.R. 1048) was agreed to Tuesday, March 25th.

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 House passed 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”, by a yea-and-nay vote of 214 yeas to 193 nays, Roll No. 78. Consideration began yesterday, March 26th.

Page H1312

H. Res. 242, the rule providing for consideration of the joint resolutions (H.J. Res. 24) and (H.J. Res. 75) and the bill (H.R. 1048) was agreed to Tuesday, March 25th.

Defending Education Transparency and Ending Rogue Regimes Engaging in Nefarious Transactions Act: The House passed 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, by a yea-and-nay vote of 241 yeas to 169 nays, Roll No. 83. Consideration began Tuesday, March 25th.

Pages H1312–16

Pursuant to the Rule, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 119–1 shall be considered as adopted in the House and in the Committee of the Whole, in lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Education and Workforce now printed in the bill.

Page H1312

Rejected:

Scott (VA) amendment (No. 3 printed in H. Rept. 119–38) that was debated on March 25th that sought to amend Section 117 to streamline foreign gift and contract reporting, aligns reporting with other federal research security compliance requirements, establishes common-sense sanctions for non-compliance and requires the Secretary of Education to conduct negotiated rulemaking to receive stakeholder feedback (by a recorded vote of 199 yeas to 214 noes, Roll No. 79);

Pages H1312–13

Self amendment (No. 4 printed in H. Rept. 119–38) that was debated on March 25th that sought to amend the threshold value at which gifts must be reported from \$50,000 to \$1 (by a recorded vote of 92 yeas to 321 noes, Roll No. 80);

Pages H1313–14

Tlaib amendment (No. 5 printed in H. Rept. 119–38) that was debated on March 25th that sought to amend the definition of “Foreign Country

of Concern” to include any country that is defending a case before the International Court of Justice relating to an alleged violation of the Geneva Conventions of 1949 or their Additional Protocols or the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide; and to include any country the government of which includes officials that have outstanding arrest warrants issued by the International Criminal Court (by a recorded vote of 3 ayes to 410 noes, Roll No. 81); and

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Tlaib amendment (No. 6 printed in H. Rept. 119–38) that was debated on March 25th that sought to amend the definition of “Investment of Concern” to include any entity that the Secretary of State determines consistently, knowingly, and directly facilitates and enables state violence and repression, war and occupation, or severe violations of international law and human rights (by a recorded vote of 4 ayes to 404 noes with one answering “present”, Roll No. 82).

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H. Res. 242, the rule providing for consideration of the joint resolutions (H.J. Res. 24) and (H.J. Res. 75) and the bill (H.R. 1048) was agreed to Tuesday, March 25th.

Meeting Hour: Agreed by unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at noon on Monday, March 31, 2025 for morning-hour debate.

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Senate Message: Message received from the Senate appears on page H1321.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Three yea-and-nay votes and four recorded votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H1311, H1312, H1313, H1313–14, H1314, H1315, and H1315–16.

Adjournment: The House met at 9 a.m. and adjourned at 1:43 p.m.

Committee Meetings

BUREAU OF INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS AND LAW ENFORCEMENT SHOULD FIGHT CRIME, NOT FIGHT CONSERVATIVES

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Western Hemisphere Subcommittee held a hearing entitled “INL Should Fight Crime, Not Fight Conservatives”. Testimony was heard from Chelsa Kenney, Director, International Affairs and Trade, Government Accountability Office; and public witnesses.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

**COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR MONDAY,
MARCH 31, 2025**

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

House

Committee on Rules, Full Committee, hearing on H.R. 1526, the “No Rogue Rulings Act of 2025”; H.R. 22,

the “Safeguard American Voter Eligibility Act”; S.J. Res. 18, disapproving the rule submitted by the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection relating to “Overdraft Lending: Very Large Financial Institutions”; S.J. Res. 28, disapproving the rule submitted by the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection relating to “Defining Larger Participants of a Market for General-Use Digital Consumer Payment Applications”, 4 p.m., H-313 Capitol.

Next Meeting of the SENATE
3 p.m., Monday, March 31

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
12 noon, Monday, March 31

Senate Chamber

Program for Monday: Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of Matthew Whitaker, of Iowa, to be United States Permanent Representative on the Council of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, with the rank and status of Ambassador, and vote on the motion to invoke cloture thereon at 5:30 p.m.

House Chamber

Program for Monday: To be announced.

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