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No. 57

## House of Representatives

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

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC.  
March 31, 2025.

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

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

### MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

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

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

### SECURING OUR ELECTIONS

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

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, under President Biden's administration, millions of illegal immigrants poured into our country, threatening the security of our communities and threatening our elections.

While President Trump is hard at work securing our border, it is now time for Congress to secure our elections from noncitizen voters. This week, the House will vote on the SAVE

Act, legislation that strengthens our election laws by requiring proof of citizenship to vote in Federal elections.

The SAVE Act also requires States to create a program to remove noncitizens from existing voter rolls. Ensuring safe and secure elections should not be a controversial issue. Elections are truly the bedrock of our democratic system, and I look forward to strengthening this system to ensure only the voices of the American people are counted in our elections.

### CONGRATULATING PENN STATE MEN'S HOCKEY TEAM

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Penn State men's hockey team for their overtime victory against the University of Connecticut to advance for the first time to the NCAA Frozen Four.

After a slow start to the season, including a 0-9 start in Big Ten play, the Nittany Lions persevered to be one of four Big Ten teams in the tournament. With their win Sunday evening, they are the last Big Ten team standing.

I congratulate Guy Gadowsky, head coach of the Nittany Lions men's hockey team, as well as all of the talented athletes who have worked so hard to accomplish this victory and the Penn State fans and students who packed the Pegula Ice Arena for every game.

Now I look forward to watching the Nittany Lions continue their success against Boston University on April 10 as they look to advance to their first-ever national championship game.

### INCREASING INNOVATIVE THERAPIES FOR PEDIATRIC PATIENTS

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, more than 15,000 children are diagnosed with pediatric cancer each year in the United States. Despite this, most cancer research is focused on adult cancer patients, leaving our kids behind.

I am proud to be a cosponsor of the Give Kids a Chance Act of 2025, legisla-

tion directing drug companies researching combination therapies for adults to also research them for children. This is a simple piece of legislation that supports the advancement of innovative treatments while giving hope to thousands of pediatric cancer patients and their families.

As a physician legislator, I understand the importance of developing innovative therapies to save the lives of patients around the world, and I thank Congressman McCaul for his tireless leadership on this issue. Increasing innovative cures will increase positive outcomes for all patients, including kids, finally making America once again healthy.

### CONGRATULATING DELEO GAMES ON 80 YEARS OF SUCCESS

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor DeLeo Games of Altoona, Pennsylvania, for 80 years of success as a distributor of amusement-type mechanical games and entertainment options in the Commonwealth and for five neighboring States.

Since its founding in 1945 by Joe DeLeo, Sr., and his wife, Josephine, four generations of the DeLeo family have embraced the family business that today has an inventory that includes arcade games, pinball machines, digital jukeboxes, pool tables, dart boards, skill games, and ATMs.

In addition to supplying the region with entertainment options, DeLeo Games has also been active in the community, sponsoring charities like the UPMC Breast Care Center and drug prevention programs in Blair County.

I congratulate the entire DeLeo family, including Joe DeLeo, Jr., Tom and Colleen DeLeo, and their daughter Katie, on this milestone anniversary and offer best wishes for their continued success.

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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## WIPING OUT HISTORY

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

Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of our south Texas war hero, Sergeant Alfredo “Freddy” Gonzalez, a hero who will never be forgotten.

Sergeant Gonzalez was killed in action February 4, 1968. History is clear, he was a marine sergeant in charge of a third platoon company near Hue City, Vietnam. His company came under heavy fire for days. Sergeant Gonzalez maneuvered his men and returned fire and personally carried wounded warriors out of harm’s way. He didn’t ask what ethnicity these men were or religion or what region of the country they came from. They were all Americans fighting one of the most atrocious and unpopular wars in our history.

Freddy was awarded the Medal of Honor not because he asked for a special privilege or recognition or job. Freddy was dead. He was recognized by his men for his bravery, for going beyond his call of duty to save other American lives while losing his own.

This administration’s appalling efforts to erase history under the guise of eliminating DEI has seen no boundaries, prompting indiscriminate removals of Latinos, women, and other minorities from our Nation’s archives.

They removed the Tuskegee Airmen, who proudly defended our country in Europe during World War II, removed our Navajo Code Talkers who helped us defeat Japan, and they removed our most recent and Honorable General Colin Powell, for God’s sake.

For God’s sake, have they no shame? Have they no decency? This is not about eliminating DEI. This is straight-up, old-fashioned racism against some of the most deserving Americans in our history.

I ask my friends on the other side of the aisle who have worn our uniform and some who have fought for our freedom to stand with me, to stand on the right side of history with the American people and oppose these un-American, unpatriotic policies coming from this administration, from folks who never had the gall to serve themselves.

Let’s grow a spine in this House and preserve the American values that actually made us great.

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JOANNA SHEAF CELEBRATES  
100TH BIRTHDAY

(Mr. TAYLOR of Ohio was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. TAYLOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on the birthday of my wonderful wife, Charity, to recognize Ms. Joanna Sheaf, who celebrated her 100th birthday on March 19, 2025.

Born during the Great Depression, Joanna grew up in southern Ohio and lived with her grandmother as her father traveled, looking for work. Joanna

raised seven sons and one daughter as a hardworking and devoted single mother, working two jobs to support them and provide for their needs. With a creative mind and a skill for writing, Joanna authored multiple poems that were published in the Columbus Dispatch and the Citizen Journal.

Throughout her life, Joanna has exemplified resilience, grace, and an unwavering dedication to her family, friends, and community. Her legacy of kindness, dedication to her family, and wisdom have touched the lives of many, leaving an enduring impact on all who have had the privilege of knowing her.

Her example of love, service, and vitality is truly inspiring, and her community is lucky to call her their own.

I congratulate Joanna on this extraordinary milestone and wish her a happy 100th birthday.

CONGRATULATING MAKENNAH CRAFT ON FOURTH  
OHIO STATE WRESTLING TITLE

Mr. TAYLOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the undefeated wrestling record of Ms. Makennah Craft of Jackson High School. Makennah claimed her fourth and final State title on March 8 in the 2025 State Wrestling Tournament, securing her win by more than 15 points over her opponent. Makennah has distinguished herself as only the fifth female wrestler to ever accomplish this feat in Ohio high school wrestling history.

Jumping into the sport at just 4 years old, Makennah’s passion for wrestling grew over the years. She learned to persevere and overcome any roadblocks or plateaus she hit during training. Makennah has said that wrestling made her a tougher person, realizing that the harder she pushed herself, the more she grew.

Having worked with Makennah since middle school, Coach Brandon Oliver views her as a shining role model for their school’s wrestling program. He commends her on maintaining a 4.0 grade point average on top of completing multiple workouts every day.

Southern Ohio looks forward to seeing how Makennah’s winning mindset will continue to serve her as she completes her senior year of high school and goes on to tackle new challenges.

I congratulate Makennah on her fourth State title. I wish her the best in her very bright future.

CONGRATULATING PORTSMOUTH HIGH SCHOOL  
GIRLS’ BASKETBALL TEAM ON OHIO DIVISION V  
STATE TITLE

Mr. TAYLOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Portsmouth High School girls’ basketball team on winning their school’s first-ever Ohio Division V basketball State championship.

Having dreamt of securing this title since they were in the fifth grade, the nine athletes on Portsmouth’s team navigated their season with consistency, discipline, and a clear vision. In the championship game, junior Sienna Allen led all players with 17 points, contributing to Portsmouth’s victory

by a score of 53–38 over Creston Norwayne.

With this win, the Trojans became the first Scioto County program to ever secure the girls’ basketball State championship trophy. Head coach Amy Hughes led the team throughout the season, investing in each player as they honed their teamwork and athletic skills.

These players’ hard work and commitment to excellence is a shining example to students across Ohio that achieving your dreams is possible if you put in the hard work and never stop improving.

I am pleased to recognize each hard-working player, supportive parent, and committed coach who helped make this victory possible. I congratulate Portsmouth High School as they celebrate this historic achievement. As always, Go Trojans.

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COST OF LIVING STILL HIGH

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

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, candidate Trump and President-elect Trump consistently and repeatedly promised the American people that when he was elected, on day one that he would lower the cost of living for Americans. He very effectively campaigned on that issue, and I think that that was a major driving force in terms of why he prevailed on November 5. In fact, he said that in a number of interviews after the election.

However, then-President Trump was sworn in on January 20, and to this day, despite over 100 executive orders, countless rescissions that have come out of the White House, not one has been directed in terms of lowering the cost of living for Americans in this country.

In fact, last week, the Consumer Price Index was released. It showed that prices jumped again at 2.8 percent, well above the Federal Reserve’s target of 2 percent, which is why interest rates are going to continue to stay unnecessarily high.

On Wednesday, a couple days from now, so-called Liberation Day, he is now going to announce another wave of tariffs that every economist of every stripe will tell you is going to, in fact, raise the price of goods for Americans.

Don’t take my word for it, listen to the National Association of Home Builders, a staunch Republican organization that has warned this administration that putting tariffs on everything from steel to copper and nickel is going to drive up the price of home construction.

In fact, screws and nails, made from steel, are already showing huge increases. They have already been hit with a 25 percent tariff from one of our biggest importers of steel, our friend and ally for many years, Canada. I now suddenly sort of wonder where this White House is coming from.

Steel and lumber used in home construction were one of the biggest factors of increased prices on last Friday's Consumer Price Index. That is, again, why the homebuilders are warning us at this time of a housing crisis. We are seeing an administration that is doing everything in terms of driving those prices up still further.

□ 1215

There is a belief in the White House that somehow Americans are going to be inoculated from tariffed goods from other countries because we are going to have this burst of output that is going to happen, even though we don't mine for things like copper and nickel, and even though the steel industry in the U.S. will tell you they do not have the capacity to replace incoming foreign steel. Yet, they somehow believe that commodity price is not going to leak into what American importers are actually going to be paying, which is going to get passed along to the American consumer.

He has invoked a law, a 1976 law, the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, which was put into place by Congress in this Chamber to provide the President with the ability to raise tariffs against a foreign adversary or threat. That is the law that he used against Canada, and the reason he said was that fentanyl is coming into Canada.

Last week, the Director of National Intelligence testified before the House Intelligence Committee. They released their annual threat assessment listing all the countries that are threats to the U.S. Do you know what country was not on that list? Canada. Because, in fact, if you look at the data from DEA and people who work at the border, less than 1 percent of fentanyl comes from Canada. Yet, he used that law, without Congress' approval, to strike at that nation.

We have already heard from the new Prime Minister that they are going to raise countertariffs against the U.S. This is a vicious cycle where there is not going to be a good ending unless this Congress, led by Mr. Trump's party, grabs the steering wheel and listens to the people who are out there on the front lines of our economy and says: Stop. Enough.

The Dow tanked on Friday, dropping 700 points. Futures opened today down 400 points. The warning lights are everywhere. Liberation day is just going to worsen the situation that we are seeing, not only for people who are in the stock market, which, you know, they are big boys and girls. They can handle themselves. It is really the people on Main Street who are going to feel the brunt of a tariff policy that goes completely in the opposite direction of the promises that he made on the campaign trail.

It is time for Congress as a coequal branch of government—and, Speaker JOHNSON, if you are listening, please, you have the ability to bring to the

floor a countermeasure to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act and stop the madness in terms of where this administration is taking our economy.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TAYLOR). Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair.

lic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

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#### TRUMP WINS 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. Madam Speaker, with the historic victory by President Donald Trump receiving a mandate for reelection, he has been winning on behalf of American families, and he is just getting started.

Illegal alien border crossings have been reduced by 98 percent, the lowest level ever recorded, and construction of the border wall has resumed.

A plan for international trade has been unveiled. Nearly \$4 trillion in investments has been secured, creating thousands of jobs. American energy potential has been unlocked, bringing down costs.

Only U.S. citizens are able to vote in Federal elections, with ballots counted on election day.

Government efficiency has been maximized, achieving savings for taxpayers.

Illegal aliens, murderers, child molesters, and drug dealers are being deported.

Anti-Semitism on college campuses is being challenged. Education is returning to the States.

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

Our sympathy to Tom and Virginia Ann Mullikin on the passing of their very talented daughter, Mary Elizabeth Mullikin.

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#### THANKING TOWNHALL PARTICIPANTS

(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. Madam Speaker, the extensive media coverage of townhalls across the country has undeniably caused a surge of interest from all counties across my congressional district.

Recognizing the challenges of traveling to each county quickly, I took decisive action by organizing a telephone townhall, which nearly 13,000 constituents attended.

Residents voiced concerns about the pressing issues highlighted in the news and concerns related to Social Security, Medicaid, and Medicare. Veterans raised issues regarding availability of benefits, while farmers stressed the necessity for immediate assistance.

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#### RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 18 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

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#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. FEDORCHAK) at 2 p.m.

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#### PRAYER

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

Call us back to You, O Lord. Receive us once again from the wide and scattered places that our own choices have led us. Take us up into Your merciful embrace and remind us that You have never forsaken us and never will.

Then give us new and undivided hearts. Grant us a new spirit, a spirit renewed by Your forgiveness and recreated by the power of Your own Holy Spirit.

Remove from us our hearts of stone, our stubbornness and obstinacy, our inclination to dig in our heels and hold on to the reins rather than yield to Your leading.

Give us instead hearts of integrity and tenderness, that we would obey Your commands and live lives in steadfast service to the people whose welfare You have entrusted to us.

Unto Your grace plan, we command this day. Into Your keeping, we offer our best efforts, and in Your merciful name, we pray.

Amen.

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#### 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.

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#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. BEAN of Florida led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Repub-

With a spread of 22 counties composing North Carolina's First Congressional District, my team and I must remain accessible and responsive to our constituents.

I take this responsibility to heart and am fully committed to advocating for the families of eastern North Carolina. I look forward to hosting more townhalls and sincerely thank all who participated.

#### CONGRATULATING PAPA SEANS PIZZA

(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. Madam Speaker, yes, we are fired up for March Madness in northeast Florida, and, no, I am not just talking about the No. 1 seed Florida Gators basketball team. I am talking about Papa Seans Pizza in Baldwin.

Papa Seans just sliced up the competition in a bracket-style tournament held by radio station WQIK. Papa Seans beat out fellow contestants to gain its "One Shining Moment" as the best pizza in the Jacksonville area.

It is no surprise that Papa Seans knows how to whip up votes. Founder Sean Lynch is the mayor of Baldwin.

I recently had some of Papa Seans' pizza while visiting Baldwin. Let me tell you, no recount is needed, Madam Speaker. Papa Seans serves up a superior slice.

It is an honor and testament to the hard work of the mayor and his team, who have created not just a great place for food but a gathering spot where neighbors become friends.

I congratulate Papa Seans. If you are ever near Baldwin, trust me, Madam Speaker, stop in for a slice.

#### HONORING TOP DOG JUNNY

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

Mr. HARIDOPOLOS. Madam Speaker, we honor the life of our district's finest. Junny, the beloved police bloodhound and trusted partner of Brevard County Sheriff Wayne Ivey, sadly passed away this week after a battle with cancer.

Gifted to the sheriff's office at just 10 weeks old, Junny was brought onto the force to help find missing and abducted children and played a role in Sheriff Ivey's advocacy programs to report abuse.

In 2022, Junny was named Florida's Top Dog for enforcement, winning a statewide March Madness-style competition held by the Florida Sheriffs Association.

Often seen with Sheriff Ivey while on patrol, Junny became more than just a loyal working dog. He was a symbol of service and loyalty.

To Brevard County, he was America's top police dog. He will be deeply missed.

#### CELEBRATING WOWO'S CENTENNIAL

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

Mr. STUTZMAN. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to celebrate a remarkable milestone, the 100th anniversary of WOWO Radio in Fort Wayne, Indiana, a cherished cornerstone of communications and a beacon of conservative values.

Since its first broadcast on March 31, 1925, WOWO Radio has been a steadfast source of news, entertainment, and community connection.

From being the first station to air a basketball game to becoming the conservative powerhouse we know today, WOWO has touched countless lives. In the process, WOWO Radio has been able to educate, inform, and encourage local communities.

I have had the privilege of being part of WOWO's story, featured weekly on Kayla Blakeslee's show and engaged in conversations that keep our community informed, as well as filling in for the great Pat Miller on the "Pat Miller Program."

I am proud to have introduced a resolution honoring WOWO's storied history alongside my counterparts, Senator BANKS and Senator YOUNG.

WOWO's mission has always been clear: serving its listeners with truth and integrity and fostering a vibrant, informed northeast Indiana.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to recognize WOWO, the Voice of a Thousand Main Streets, for 100 extraordinary years. I congratulate WOWO Radio on a century of excellence.

#### COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

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

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, March 27, 2025.

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, I have the honor to transmit a sealed envelope received from the White House on March 27, 2025, at 3:16 p.m., said to contain a message from the President on the Continuation of the National Emergency With Respect to Significant Malicious Cyber-Enabled Activities.

With best wishes, I am,  
Sincerely,

KEVIN F. McCUMBER,  
*Clerk of the House.*

CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO SIGNIFICANT MALICIOUS CYBER-ENABLED ACTIVITIES—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 119-33)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

#### 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.

#### COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

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

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, March 28, 2025.

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, I have the honor to transmit a sealed envelope received from the White House on March 28, 2025, at 1:20 p.m., said to contain a message from the President on the Continuation of the National Emergency With Respect to South Sudan.

With best wishes, I am,  
Sincerely,

KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,  
Clerk of the House.

**CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO SOUTH SUDAN—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 119-34)**

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

*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 13664 of April 3, 2014, with respect to South Sudan is to continue in effect beyond April 3, 2025.

The situation in and in relation to South Sudan, which has been marked by activities that threaten the peace, security, or stability of South Sudan and the surrounding region, including widespread violence and atrocities, human rights abuses, recruitment and use of child soldiers, attacks on peacekeepers, and obstruction of humanitarian operations, continues to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States.

Therefore, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13664 with respect to South Sudan.

DONALD J. TRUMP.  
THE WHITE HOUSE, March 28, 2025.

□ 1415

**COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE**

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

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, March 31, 2025.

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on March 31, 2025, at 12:58 p.m.:

That the Senate passed S.J. Res. 18.

That the Senate agreed to Relative to the death of the Honorable Alan Kooi Simpson, a

Senator from the State of Wyoming S. Res. 148.

With best wishes, I am,  
Sincerely,

KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,  
Clerk.

**HONORING DEPUTY SHERIFF HECTOR CUEVAS, JR.**

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

Mr. OBERNOLTE. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor Deputy Sheriff Hector Cuevas, Jr., of the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department. Deputy Cuevas tragically lost his life in the line of duty on March 17 at just 36 years old.

Hector was a selfless and caring public servant, deeply committed to his community both in and out of uniform. In addition to his 6 years of dedicated service with the San Bernardino Sheriff's Department, he previously served in the Upland community as a law enforcement officer.

He was active in youth sports, mentoring young athletes through the Rialto football community and the San Bernardino Spartans Football Association.

Hector embodied humility, generosity, and service, leaving a lasting impact on everyone who knew him.

He is survived by his wife, two children, parents, and siblings. We mourn his loss, and we honor his memory. I ask my colleagues to join me in offering our deepest condolences to his family and in celebrating his legacy.

**RECESS**

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

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 16 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1620

**AFTER RECESS**

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. STUTZMAN) at 4 o'clock and 20 minutes p.m.

**ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE**

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

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

**REPEAL REQUIREMENT FOR CONGRESSIONAL RESEARCH SERVICE TO PREPARE ANNOTATED CONSTITUTION AND SUPPLEMENTS IN HARDBOUND VERSION**

Mrs. BICE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1234) to direct the Librarian of Congress to promote the more cost-effective, efficient, and expanded availability of the Annotated Constitution and pocket-part supplements by replacing the hardbound versions with digital versions.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.  
The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1234

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**SECTION 1. REPEAL REQUIREMENT FOR CONGRESSIONAL RESEARCH SERVICE TO PREPARE ANNOTATED CONSTITUTION AND SUPPLEMENTS IN HARDBOUND VERSION.**

(a) REPEAL.—The first section of Public Law 91-589 (2 U.S.C. 168) is amended—

(1) by striking “the Librarian of Congress” and inserting “(a) subject to subsection (b), the Librarian of Congress”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(b)(1) Upon the completion of the October 2031 term of the Supreme Court and upon the completion of each tenth October term of the Supreme Court thereafter, the Librarian of Congress shall have prepared a digital decennial revised edition of the Constitution Annotated, which shall contain annotations of all decisions theretofore rendered by the Supreme Court construing provisions of the Constitution, in place of the hardbound decennial revised edition of the Constitution Annotated described in subsection (a)(3).

“(2) Upon the completion of the October 2025 term of the Supreme Court and upon the completion of each subsequent October term of the Supreme Court beginning in an odd-numbered year (the final digit of which is not a 1), the Librarian shall have prepared a digital cumulative pocket-part supplement to the most recent decennial revised edition of the Constitution Annotated, which shall contain cumulative annotations of all such decisions rendered by the Supreme Court which were not included in the most recent revised edition of the Constitution Annotated, in place of the hardbound editions of the cumulative pocket-part supplement described in subsection (a)(4).”

(b) ENSURING AVAILABILITY OF DIGITAL VERSIONS.—Section 2 of Public Law 91-589 (2 U.S.C. 168a) is amended—

(1) by striking “All hardbound” and inserting “(a) All hardbound”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(b)(1) The digital decennial revised editions of the Constitution Annotated prepared under subsection (b)(1) of the first section of this Joint Resolution and the digital cumulative pocket-part supplements prepared under subsection (b)(2) of the first section of this Joint Resolution shall be available at a public website of the Library of Congress.

“(2) The Librarian of Congress shall ensure the continuing availability of the documents referred to in paragraph (1) to Congress and the public.”

(c) REPEAL OF ADDITIONAL PRINTING REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) MANDATORY PRINTING OF ADDITIONAL COPIES.—Section 3 of Public Law 91-589 (2 U.S.C. 168b) is amended—

(A) by striking “There shall be printed” and inserting “(a) There shall be printed”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(b) Subsection (a) does not apply after completion of the October 2025 term of the Supreme Court, and the Librarian of Congress shall provide the decennial revised editions of the Constitution Annotated and the cumulative pocket part supplements prepared under this Joint Resolution exclusively in a digital format available at a public website of the Library of Congress.”.

(2) PRINTING OF ADDITIONAL COPIES PURSUANT TO CONCURRENT RESOLUTION.—Section 4 of Public Law 91-589 (2 U.S.C. 168c) is repealed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Oklahoma (Mrs. BICE) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. MORELLE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Oklahoma.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. BICE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include any extraneous material on this bill.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, this is the Constitution Annotated, or CONAN, as it is better known today, weighing 8 pounds, 14 ounces.

Its origins date back to 1797 when Congress passed legislation requiring every Member of Congress to be provided with a copy of the Constitution. These copies were eventually expanded to include Supreme Court case citations so that Members could see which clauses of the Constitution the Court used in deciding cases.

However, as the number of citations grew by hundreds, the copies became less useful to Members because most had no idea what the cases were about and what questions were before the Court.

So, in 1921, Congress began requiring reprints of the Constitution to include explanatory language that would make sense of the case citations throughout. This format is still used today.

Initially, CONAN was printed every 10 years or so, but by 1970, Members began to complain that it was outdated almost as soon as it was printed. They addressed this by requiring that paperbound supplements to CONAN be printed every 2 years. Since 1972, that is what we have done: print a hardbound version of CONAN every 10 years and a paperbound supplement every 2 years.

CONAN obviously has a rich history, dating back over two centuries. Nothing about H.R. 1234 erases or changes this history.

The Constitution provides the framework for our government, and understanding that framework and how the Supreme Court has applied it to its decisions over the years is as essential today as it was 200 years ago.

What has changed, however, is the way people get their information. Today, most of us rely on digital sources for the most up-to-date information, whether it is news, airfares, the weather, or Supreme Court case citations.

According to the GPO, the number of print copies of CONAN requested in 2012 by the House, Senate, and the Joint Committee on Printing was just over 1,000. Ten years later, in 2022, the number of requested copies dropped to just 659.

It is no coincidence that this drop in requests coincides with the 2019 launch of a digital version of CONAN. Over the past 5 years, the CONAN website has become an invaluable resource to individual citizens, schools, libraries, and, of course, Congress.

It has received more than 28 million visits since it was created and features hundreds of pages of constitutional analysis and content. The site is publicly accessible, easy to search, provides links to Supreme Court decisions, and, perhaps most importantly, is updated in real time by the CRS.

All of this raises the question of why are we wasting taxpayer dollars printing this giant, hardcover version of CONAN, along with the paperbound supplements, when a superior, digital version already exists?

According to the CBO, replacing this version of CONAN with a digital version would reduce the Library of Congress' operating costs by \$4 million over the next 4 years.

Eliminating the print requirement will also eliminate inefficient use of CRS staff time. Requiring CRS staff to spend countless hours formatting and paginating the print version of CONAN does not support the work of Congress, nor does it benefit our constituents.

Mr. Speaker, replacing the CONAN print requirement with a digital requirement is a no-brainer. The digital version provides Members and other users with the most up-to-date information and constitutional analysis available at a significant cost savings to taxpayers.

History shows that Congress has consistently taken steps to ensure that CONAN meets the evolving needs of Members and other users. Passing H.R. 1234 is a logical next step in maintaining CONAN's relevancy and usefulness, both to Congress and to the American people.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 1234. I urge quick action in the Senate, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1234. This bill, as has been indicated, modernizes Congress and improves efficiency by eliminating the requirement that the Congressional Research Service print hardbound versions of its Annotated Constitution.

This measure, which I am proud to co-lead, passed by voice vote last Con-

gress, and I am hopeful it will again today. I will take a moment to thank my dear friend, the gentlewoman from Oklahoma (Mrs. BICE), who chairs the Committee of House Administration's Subcommittee on Modernization and Innovation. I thank her for all of her hard work. It is always a delight to work with her.

I am sorry, Mr. Speaker, I didn't bring a physical copy of the Annotated Constitution. I am not sure I could lift it, and I think Mrs. BICE is stronger than I am.

This mandate to print the Annotated Constitution does come with significant and unnecessary personnel cost for the Congressional Research Service. As Mrs. BICE indicated, eliminating it would save us an estimated \$4 million over the next 4 years.

At the Committee on House Administration where I have the privilege of serving as the ranking member, we spent a significant amount of time talking about the Supreme Court's decision in *Loper Bright v. Raimondo*.

That case ended four decades of precedent known as the Chevron deference, which required courts to defer to reasonable agency interpretations of ambiguous statutes.

While we may not all agree on the merits of this decision, there is bipartisan consensus that unless we want the courts deciding every single open policy question, then we, Congress, have to draft laws that are far more technical in specificity than we do now. That cannot be done without major assistance from subject matter experts such as those at the Congressional Research Service.

To that end, it is my hope that the millions we save from passing this bill will be promptly reinvested in CRS to enhance its capacity, an absolutely essential step as Congress continues to work to maintain our Article I authorities and prerogatives.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this practical, forward-thinking legislation. Again, I thank my colleague, Mrs. BICE, for her leadership, her partnership, and her friendship.

□ 1630

Mr. Speaker, I consider this a model of bipartisanship. What a great way to start off the week.

I again say, in the interests of modernization, saving important taxpayer dollars, and making sure that we are more responsive to the American people, I urge all of my colleagues to vote in favor of this legislation. I thank Mrs. BICE again for her bipartisanship, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

I thank the ranking member, Mr. MORELLE, for his support and bipartisanship in coauthoring this legislation with me.

This is an easy win for taxpayers, saving taxpayers \$4 million using a digital versus the current printed version.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Oklahoma (Mrs. BICE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1234.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### FILING RELIEF FOR NATURAL DISASTERS ACT

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 517) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the rules for postponing certain deadlines by reason of disaster, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 517

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

*This Act may be cited as the “Filing Relief for Natural Disasters Act”.*

#### SEC. 2. MODIFICATION OF RULES FOR POSTPONING CERTAIN DEADLINES BY REASON OF DISASTER.

(a) AUTHORITY TO POSTPONE FEDERAL TAX DEADLINES BY REASON OF STATE-DECLARED DISASTERS.—Section 7508A of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by redesignating subsections (c), (d), and (e) as subsections (d), (e), and (f), respectively, and by inserting after subsection (b) the following new subsection:

“(c) SPECIAL RULE FOR STATE-DECLARED DISASTERS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary (after consultation with the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency) may, upon the written request of the Governor of a State (or the Mayor, in the case of the District of Columbia), apply the rules of subsections (a) and (b) to a qualified State declared disaster in the same manner as a disaster, fire, or action otherwise described in subsection (a).

“(2) QUALIFIED STATE DECLARED DISASTER.—For purposes of this section, the term ‘qualified State declared disaster’ means, with respect to any State, any natural catastrophe (including any hurricane, tornado, storm, high water, winddriven water, tidal wave, tsunami, earthquake, volcanic eruption, landslide, mudslide, snowstorm, or drought), or, regardless of cause, any fire, flood, or explosion, in any part of the State, which in the determination of the Governor of such State (or the Mayor, in the case of the District of Columbia) causes damage of sufficient severity and magnitude to warrant the application of the rules of this section.

“(3) STATE.—For purposes of this section, the term ‘State’ includes the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.”.

(b) MANDATORY EXTENSIONS EXTENDED TO 120 DAYS.—Section 7508A(e) of such Code, as redesignated by subsection (a), is amended—

(1) by striking “60 days” in paragraph (1)(B) thereof and inserting “120 days”;

(2) by striking “60-day” in paragraph (6) thereof and inserting “120-day”; and

(3) by striking “60-DAY” in the heading and inserting “120-DAY”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to declarations made after the date of the enactment of this Act.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Filing Relief for Natural Disasters Act, introduced by Ways and Means Committee members Representatives KUSTOFF and CHU.

For too many Americans, help from the Federal Government after a natural disaster can take too much time to arrive. This bipartisan bill authorizes the Treasury Department, in consultation with FEMA, to postpone tax filing deadlines for Americans living in State-declared disaster areas just as they do for federally declared disasters.

If a State moves faster in declaring an emergency, the Treasury Department can more quickly respond when it comes to an individual’s tax obligations. This legislation will help disaster victims receive desperately needed tax relief sooner rather than later.

Additionally, this legislation doubles the current mandatory tax filing extension following a federally declared disaster declaration from 60 to 120 days.

For most people recovering from a disaster, taxes fall lower on their to-do list than more immediate needs like finding shelter, food, and caring for loved ones. By extending this deadline, we are providing families the breathing room and additional time to get their lives back together.

President Trump was elected on the promise of finally making the government work better for working people. All Americans, but especially Americans recovering from a natural disaster, deserve easier tax filing. With tax day in just a few days, we must look for commonsense, bipartisan ways to make filing and paying taxes less of a hassle.

I thank both sponsors of this legislation for leading on this issue on behalf of the people they represent and all Americans.

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

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

I rise in strong support of H.R. 517, the Filing Relief for Natural Disasters Act. I thank Representative DAVID KUSTOFF for his partnership on this bipartisan bill, which was reported out of

the Ways and Means Committee unanimously last month.

Each year, States like California declare State-level emergencies for disasters like wildfires, hurricanes, floods, or earthquakes. Under current law, disaster victims can only receive Federal filing relief if and when the President of the United States declares a Federal disaster.

While President Biden immediately declared a Federal disaster for the Los Angeles fires that devastated my district in January, that was unusually fast. Often, those declarations can take days or even weeks, which was the case in 2020 after wildfires, including the Bobcat fire in the San Gabriel Mountains, ravaged my State. That means if disaster strikes during filing season, taxpayers run the risk of missing Federal filing deadlines through no fault of their own.

Additionally, there may be serious natural disasters that affect taxpayers’ ability to file but don’t ever get declared as a Federal disaster. That is because such a declaration is subject to a very specific process under the Stafford Act. If a disaster does not exceed a State’s capacity to respond without the help of FEMA, the President can’t declare a Federal disaster, even if taxpayers impacted need filing relief.

Our bill solves this problem by giving Treasury and the IRS authority to postpone Federal filing deadlines in response to a request by a Governor who has declared a State-level disaster, and it would double the minimum duration of these filing extensions from 60 to 120 days.

I also urge my colleagues to work with me to support the victims of January’s Los Angeles fires, including the Eaton fire in my district, by passing a supplemental disaster appropriations package with no strings attached.

The Eaton fire took 17 of my constituents’ lives, burned 9,500 structures, and left 20,000 people in my district homeless. While FEMA has been there since the start, we will need more help from Congress.

Wildfires, like all natural disasters, know no political parties, and never in our country’s history has Congress placed policy conditions on aid for disaster victims.

I look forward to passing this legislation and then continuing our work to support survivors with a supplemental disaster aid package.

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

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. KUSTOFF), the sponsor of this legislation.

Mr. KUSTOFF. Mr. Speaker, I thank Ways and Means Committee Chairman JASON SMITH for his leadership and also his support on this legislation, and I thank our colleague, JUDY CHU, for joining me in introducing what I think is an important piece of legislation.

This bill, the Filing Relief for Natural Disasters Act, H.R. 517, is a bipartisan bill and a commonsense bill. It

will provide relief to Americans who have been impacted by natural disasters and emergencies.

Just about every Member of this body at some point has seen their State, their district, or their constituents impacted by a natural disaster or an emergency.

Mr. Speaker, just last month, Obion County, which is in my district in Tennessee, was devastated by severe flooding following a levee failure. The disaster displaced hundreds of my constituents and left the town of Rives in Obion County basically underwater.

After the initial flooding, I visited Rives with our Governor of Tennessee, Bill Lee, to survey the damage and to meet with local officials and residents. For the Rives community, recovering and rebuilding is not going to be easy and is not going to happen overnight.

I am sure that my colleagues who have toured disaster areas in their own districts know exactly what I mean.

For communities that have been impacted by disasters, it is critical that they have timely access to the support they need to begin the recovery process and get their lives back on track.

This also, Mr. Speaker, includes regulatory relief. Filing season can be long, and it can be burdensome for many taxpayers and for small businesses. This is obviously no secret.

Under current law, the U.S. Department of the Treasury can postpone tax filing deadlines for taxpayers who have been affected by federally declared disasters, but right now, Treasury does not have the authority to provide relief for State-level declarations.

State-level declarations are normally issued immediately or almost immediately after a disaster. Federal declarations, on the other hand, can take weeks or even months before being issued. You have disparate treatment between Federal- and State-level declarations under the current law, and that can delay relief and create significant confusion for impacted taxpayers.

This bill makes two straightforward reforms to the Internal Revenue Code that will address this flaw in the tax code and ensure that disaster victims are able to receive more timely relief.

Number one, it will authorize the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with FEMA, to extend filing relief to taxpayers as soon as the Governor of the State declares a disaster or a state of emergency.

Number two, Mr. Speaker, it will expand the current mandatory filing extension following a Federal declaration from 60 days to 120 days.

Disaster victims should be focused on rebuilding, recovering, and caring for their loved ones. What they should not have to be focused on is complying with bureaucratic red tape at the IRS.

For these reasons, Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support the Filing Relief for Natural Disasters Act, a bipartisan, pro-taxpayer piece of legislation that was passed out of the Ways and Means Committee unanimously by a vote of 42-0.

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

Mr. Speaker, this bipartisan bill is a commonsense proposal to ease one of the many burdens that face survivors after a natural disaster so that they can focus on recovering and rebuilding.

I once again thank Representative KUSTOFF for his partnership, and I urge my colleagues to vote “yes.”

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

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

Everyone knows the Washington bureaucracy doesn’t always move quickly, even when Americans are crying out for help after a natural disaster.

This bill allows for the postponing of tax filing deadlines for Americans living in a State-declared disaster area that has yet to receive a Federal disaster declaration.

This bipartisan effort will help those Americans still reeling from a devastating event. After all, they should be focused on restoring their lives and livelihoods first and foremost.

If Washington is slower than a State government to respond, that is not a good enough reason to deny Americans the help they need. This legislation will lighten the load carried by families affected by a natural disaster.

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

#### □ 1645

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 517, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

#### INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE MATH AND TAXPAYER HELP ACT

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 998) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to require additional information on math and clerical error notices, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

#### H.R. 998

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

*This Act may be cited as the “Internal Revenue Service Math and Taxpayer Help Act”.*

#### SEC. 2. IMPROVEMENT OF NOTICES OF MATH OR CLERICAL ERROR.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 6213(b)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

(1) by striking “ERRORS.—If the taxpayer” and inserting “ERRORS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—If the taxpayer”,

(2) by striking “Each notice” in the second sentence and inserting “Subject to subparagraph (B), each notice”, and

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

“(B) SPECIFICITY OF MATH OR CLERICAL ERROR NOTICE.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The notice provided under subparagraph (A) shall—

“(I) be sent to the taxpayer’s last known address,

“(II) describe the mathematical or clerical error in comprehensive, plain language, including—

“(aa) the type of error,

“(bb) the section of this title to which the error relates,

“(cc) a description of the nature of the error, and

“(dd) the specific line of the return on which the error was made,

“(III) an itemized computation of any direct or incidental adjustments to be made to the return in correction of the error, including any adjustment to the amount of—

“(aa) adjusted gross income,

“(bb) taxable income,

“(cc) itemized or standard deductions,

“(dd) nonrefundable credits,

“(ee) credits under section 24, 25A, 32, 35, or 36B, credits claimed with respect to undistributed long-term capital gains on Form 2439, credits for Federal taxes paid on fuels claimed on Form 4136, and any other refundable credits,

“(ff) income tax,

“(gg) other taxes,

“(hh) total tax,

“(ii) Federal income tax withheld or excess tax withheld under section 3101 or 3201(a),

“(jj) estimated tax payments, including amount applied from prior year’s return,

“(kk) refund or amount owed,

“(ll) net operating loss carryforwards, or

“(mm) credit carryforwards,

“(IV) include the telephone number for the automated phone transcript service, and

“(V) display the date by which the taxpayer may request to abate any assessment specified in such notice pursuant to paragraph (2)(A), in bold, font size 14, and immediately next to the taxpayer’s address on page 1 of the notice.

“(ii) NO LISTS OF POTENTIAL ERRORS.—A notice which provides multiple potential or alternative errors which may be applicable to the return shall not be sufficiently specific for purposes of clause (i)(II); however, if multiple specific errors apply to the return all such errors should be listed.”.

(b) NOTICE OF ABATEMENT.—Paragraph (2) of section 6213(b) is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(C) NOTICE.—Upon determination of an abatement pursuant to subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall send notice to the taxpayer of such abatement which—

“(i) is sent to the taxpayer’s last known address,

“(ii) describes the abatement in comprehensive, plain language, and

“(iii) provides an itemized computation of any adjustments to be made to the items described in the notice of mathematical or clerical error, including any changes to any item described in paragraph (1)(B)(i)(III).”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to notices sent after the date which is 12 months after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(d) PROCEDURES.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Treasury (or such Secretary’s delegate) shall provide for procedures by which a taxpayer may request an abatement referred to in section 6213(b)(1)(B)(i)(V) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 in writing, electronically, by telephone, or in person.

(e) PILOT PROGRAM.—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Treasury (or such Secretary's delegate), in consultation with the National Taxpayer Advocate, shall—

(1) implement a pilot program to send a trial number of notices, in an amount which is a statistically significant portion of all such notices, of mathematical or clerical error pursuant to section 6213(b) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 by certified or registered mail with e-signature confirmation of receipt, and

(2) report to Congress, aggregated by the type of error under section 6213(g) of such Code to which the notices relate, on—

(A) the number of mathematical or clerical errors noticed under the program and the dollar amounts involved,

(B) the number of abatements of tax and the dollar amounts of such abatements, and

(C) the effect of such pilot program on taxpayer response and adjustments or abatements to tax, with conclusions drawn about the effectiveness of certified or registered mail, with and without return receipt, and any other recommendations for improving taxpayer response rates.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, by voting for unified Republican control of government, the American people chose accountability and a return to common sense. There is no better example of bad government than the IRS.

Every year, taxpayers receive notices from the IRS proposing to adjust their tax liabilities. Unfortunately, the IRS is not required to explain the reasons for the adjustments, nor does it need to explain that taxpayers have a legal right to dispute their adjustments within 60 days. The result is that taxpayers may end up paying more in taxes because they don't know that they can dispute the IRS' assessment of their tax liability.

This bipartisan legislation, the Internal Revenue Service Math and Taxpayer Help Act, sponsored by Representatives FEENSTRA and SCHNEIDER, will level the playing field for taxpayers and hold the IRS accountable. It will require the IRS to provide individuals with a clear explanation of the error, showing the mathematical change, and inform taxpayers that they have 60 days to correct the issue.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Representatives FEENSTRA and SCHNEIDER for their bipartisan work to bring more transparency to the IRS and protect Amer-

ican taxpayers from being left in fear of IRS action against them, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 998, the Internal Revenue Service Math and Taxpayer Help Act. This bill will help taxpayers better understand why they have received a math error notice from the Internal Revenue Service.

Currently, math error notices can be vague and confusing. The law does not specify how the IRS must describe the math error or require the IRS to inform taxpayers that they have 60 days to request that the math error assessment be reversed.

This bill will fix these issues by requiring the Internal Revenue Service to provide a clear and straightforward explanation of any alleged math or clerical error in the notice. It also requires the IRS to update procedures on how to request abatement and, upon the determination of an abatement, to issue a notice of abatement to the taxpayer.

Furthermore, this bill requires implementation of a pilot program to explore the use of alternative mail delivery methods for issuance of math error notices.

I am proud to stand with my colleagues on the Committee on Ways and Means in support of this commonsense reform that will help taxpayers and improve IRS administration, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. FEENSTRA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of my bill, the IRS MATH Act. I thank my friend from Illinois (Mr. SCHNEIDER) for working with me on this commonsense legislation.

Mr. Speaker, if the IRS finds a mistake on a tax return, such as when a taxpayer accidentally adds a zero to their reported income, the agency should clearly indicate that error to the taxpayer and explain why the refund is different than expected.

However, current notices do not explain or contain helpful information, leaving millions of taxpayers confused about how and when to rectify the issue with the IRS.

The IRS MATH Act ensures that the IRS clearly spells out errors on tax forms and helps taxpayers not only understand the mistake but also allows a challenge if they see fit.

Filing taxes is already burdensome and time consuming. We can improve customer service by promoting open and transparent communication between the IRS and the taxpayer when a tax error is identified.

Mr. Speaker, I will continue to work to simplify our tax filing system and push for full reauthorization of the Tax

Cuts and Jobs Act so that our families, farmers, and small businesses can keep more of their hard-earned money.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I thank Chairman SMITH for allowing this bill to come to the floor.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 998 is a commonsense, bipartisan bill. I encourage my colleagues to support it, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, Americans fear the IRS for very good reason. Under current law, when the IRS claims that you made a math error on your return, they are not required to explain the error or notify taxpayers of their right to appeal within 60 days. What is worse, if taxpayers don't comply, they could be forced to pay more in taxes.

This bill before us, H.R. 998, the Internal Revenue Service Math and Taxpayer Help Act, will level the playing field for taxpayers by requiring the IRS to explain themselves and notify taxpayers that they have 60 days to challenge this adjustment.

This legislation is an important step to simplifying tax administration and making the IRS more accountable to taxpayers.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Representatives FEENSTRA and SCHNEIDER for their bipartisan work on this bill. I urge my colleagues to support it, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 998, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### NATIONAL TAXPAYER ADVOCATE ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2025

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (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, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill. The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 997

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

*This Act may be cited as the “National Taxpayer Advocate Enhancement Act of 2025”.*

#### SEC. 2. AUTHORITY OF TAXPAYER ADVOCATE TO APPOINT COUNSEL.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 7803(c)(2)(D)(i) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended

by striking “and” at the end of subclause (I), by redesignating subclause (II) as subclause (III), and by inserting after subclause (I) the following new subclause:

“(II) appoint counsel in the Office of the Taxpayer Advocate to report directly to the National Taxpayer Advocate, or delegate thereof; and.”

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 7803(c)(2)(D)(i)(III) of such Code, as redesignated by subsection (a), is amended by striking “any employee of any local office of a taxpayer advocate described in subclause (I)” and inserting “any employee of the Office of the Taxpayer Advocate”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect as if included in the enactment of section 1102 of the Internal Revenue Service Restructuring and Reform Act of 1998.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 997, the National Taxpayer Advocate Enhancement Act, introduced by my Committee on Ways and Means colleagues, Representatives FEENSTRA and DAVIS.

The National Taxpayer Advocate exists to promote and defend the rights of American taxpayers. In order to achieve these goals, not only should the advocate be independent from the IRS, but the staff assisting the advocate should be as well.

Yet, right now, the attorneys hired to assist the National Taxpayer Advocate report to IRS legal counsel, are accountable to IRS legal counsel, and answer to IRS legal counsel, not the National Taxpayer Advocate.

It is a situation that begs for conflicts of interest to occur. It risks undermining the ability of the National Taxpayer Advocate to trust that the legal advice that she receives is without any undue influence from the IRS. It certainly undermines the ability of the American taxpayer to have faith that the National Taxpayer Advocate’s service is adhering to its mission.

The National Taxpayer Advocate Enhancement Act gives the NTA the authority to hire her own lawyers, who will report directly to her, rather than be accountable to the IRS, the very agency whose behavior the advocate exists to scrutinize and defend against.

The American people have a well-founded fear of the IRS given its dismal track record of violating the rights

of taxpayers. The very least we can do is ensure that an entity that exists to fight on behalf of taxpayers actually has a clearly defined and reinforced independence from the IRS.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Representatives FEENSTRA and DAVIS for their bipartisan leadership on this issue and advocating for the rights of the American taxpayers, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 997, the National Taxpayer Advocate Enhancement Act. I am pleased to lead this bill with my colleague, Representative FEENSTRA from Iowa.

The National Taxpayer Advocate is the independent advocate working to assist taxpayers. I am deeply grateful to her and her team for their outstanding work to identify tax policy improvements, to help taxpayers at large, and for their work to help individual taxpayers when they need assistance with a specific problem.

The bill makes a small but important statutory clarification that the National Taxpayer Advocate may appoint and supervise her own legal counsel, rather than only using attorneys that report to the IRS chief counsel.

Being able to appoint independent counsel is an essential step to preserving the independence of the National Taxpayer Advocate Office, as required under section 7803(c) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Given her independent role, the National Taxpayer Advocate often takes positions contrary to the positions of the IRS and the Office of Chief Counsel. As a result, the National Taxpayer Advocate needs her own independent counsel to advise and adopt legal positions so that she can effectively advocate for taxpayers and to advise Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that the committee is marking up the National Taxpayer Advocate Enhancement Act today to protect the independence of the National Taxpayer Advocate, and I hope that this bipartisan effort will extend to dealing with the threat of data privacy that the Treasury and Internal Revenue Service currently are experiencing.

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

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

Mr. FEENSTRA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of my bill, the National Taxpayer Advocate Enhancement Act. I thank my colleague, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS), for working with me on this initiative.

Since 2015, the IRS has prohibited the National Taxpayer Advocate from hir-

ing her own legal counsel, which undermines her ability to provide insight, ensure fair treatment of taxpayers, and responsibly work with the IRS case-workers.

American taxpayers expect and deserve the best customer service and case outcomes when filing their Federal taxes.

□ 1700

However, this outdated restriction on the National Taxpayer Advocate prevents her from hiring the team she needs to do her job.

My bill clarifies it is within the purview of the National Taxpayer Advocate to hire attorneys that report specifically to her. These attorneys help conduct oversight, ensure taxpayers are being treated fairly, and inform Congress of taxpayer challenges at the IRS.

This measure ensures we keep politics out of the IRS and solely focus on outcomes for the taxpayer.

With this improvement, American families will benefit from fewer headaches when dealing with the IRS and a more accountable government.

This bill itself is a recommendation from the National Taxpayer Advocate Purple Book and has been a recommended policy change for quite a few years.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman SMITH, again, for working with me to make the IRS run smoother and to ensure taxpayers are being treated fairly.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 997 is a commonsense, bipartisan piece of legislation and is the product of a recommendation made by the Taxpayer Advocate. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I urge its passage, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I imagine the American people would be surprised and no doubt disappointed to learn that the very organization whose mission it is to advocate on behalf of taxpayers relies on legal advice provided by attorneys who are employed by, and answer to, the IRS. It is a bizarre arrangement to be sure.

The National Taxpayer Advocate Enhancement Act will ensure that the attorneys serving the NTA are hired by her and accountable to her. This will also allow the Advocate’s office to promote attorneys from within that organization, helping to retain their talent, experience, and expertise.

Mr. Speaker, the Ways and Means Committee approved this legislation with unanimous consent, and I encourage my colleagues on both sides of the aisle in the House to do the same.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 997, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

#### RECOVERY OF STOLEN CHECKS ACT

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1155) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow taxpayers to elect to receive certain replacement refunds electronically, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1155

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

*This Act may be cited as the “Recovery of Stolen Checks Act”.*

#### SEC. 2. ELECTRONIC RECEIPT OF CERTAIN REPLACEMENT REFUNDS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 6402 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(o) ELECTRONIC RECEIPT OF CERTAIN REPLACEMENT REFUNDS.—Not later than the date which is 6 months after the date of the enactment of this subsection, the Secretary shall prescribe regulations to establish procedures to allow for taxpayers, which are otherwise eligible to receive an amount by paper check in replacement of a lost or stolen paper check which was previously sent by the Secretary as a refund of an overpayment of tax, to elect to receive such amount by direct deposit in lieu of receiving such replacement paper check.”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SMITH) and the gentlewoman from Alabama (Ms. SEWELL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1155, the Recovery of Stolen Checks Act.

With the April 15 tax filing deadline right around the corner, we are reminded of the need to make the IRS

more responsive to the American people. Unfortunately, the manner in which the IRS currently responds to stolen tax refund checks is truly insane.

Right now, if someone has their refund check stolen out of the mail, the IRS will replace that stolen check by sending another one through the mail. It should surprise no one to learn that quite often that replacement check is also stolen out of the mail.

There is no law keeping the IRS from sending a replacement check through a direct deposit to a bank. However, the IRS currently does not have procedures in place for a taxpayer to make such a request. This bill fixes that flaw.

I wish to commend my Ways and Means Committee colleagues, Representatives MALLIOTAKIS, KUSTOFF, and SEWELL, for their bipartisan leadership on this issue.

In Representative MALLIOTAKIS’ district alone, they have seen \$3.8 million in IRS tax refund checks stolen. Taxpayers that are victims of this crime need to be made whole. They do not need to jump through more hoops or deal with the hassle of seeing their replacement refund checks stolen as well.

This legislation received unanimous approval in the Ways and Means Committee, and I encourage my colleagues to give it an equally strong bipartisan vote here in the House.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I am very proud today to join my colleague, Representative MALLIOTAKIS, in cosponsoring and speaking in favor of the Recovery of Stolen Checks Act.

This bill requires the Treasury to make procedures that allow taxpayers to opt in to receiving a replacement refund by direct deposit after their paper checks have been lost or stolen in the mail.

Right now, the Treasury Department is only allowed to continue sending a paper check to the same address, even though the check was stolen or lost at that very address. It is Congress’ responsibility to give Treasury the ability to modernize, become more efficient, and most importantly, deliver much-needed payments to people that are relying on them as quickly as possible. This is a commonsense, straightforward, and urgent reform.

Every year, millions of Americans eagerly await their tax refund, money that they have rightfully earned. Unfortunately, criminals have exploited weaknesses in our system, stealing and cashing checks that do not belong to them. This fraud not only robs individuals of their refunds but also costs taxpayers millions of dollars annually.

The Recovery of Stolen Checks Act strengthens the government’s ability to track and recover stolen refund checks. It empowers the U.S. Treasury and financial industries and institu-

tions to act swiftly when fraud is detected, enabling that victim to get their payment much faster and that criminal to be held accountable.

With this bill, stolen checks can be flagged and traced more efficiently, victims will experience a quicker resolution and recovery process, banks and financial institutions will have clearer guidelines to prevent fraudulent transactions, and taxpayer dollars will be better protected, reducing the losses due to fraud.

Every dollar, Mr. Speaker, lost to fraud is a dollar taken from taxpayers. H.R. 1155 ensures that their hard-earned money is safeguarded and that criminals cannot exploit the system without consequences.

By closing loopholes and enhancing the recovery efforts, this legislation protects the integrity of our tax system and restores trust in financial security.

Mr. Speaker, I have had dozens of conversations with constituents who have spent months trying to receive a check from Treasury. In one instance, a constituent was sent two checks by the Treasury Department, neither delivered to her nor cashed by her before reaching out to my office for assistance. She just wanted the payment that she was owed.

Instead, the Treasury Department told her that they would only continue mailing a paper check to the same address where it had failed to get to her multiple times.

This policy is burdensome and it simply does not work. The caseworker on my staff continued to encounter cases just like this one, some taking over a year to resolve. This is way too long for the American public, and we need to do something about it. That is why this particular bill’s resolution is common sense. I ask my colleagues to support it.

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

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. MALLIOTAKIS), the sponsor of this legislation.

Ms. MALLIOTAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman and the Ways and Means Committee staff for working with me on this legislation to combat mail theft and fraud.

A few months ago, I raised the issue of stolen checks to the Ways and Means Committee after my office had been slammed with constituent cases from taxpayers who have seen their hard-earned money stolen from them via check fraud.

I alongside my colleagues, Congresswoman TERRI Sewell and Congressman DAVID KUSTOFF, introduced H.R. 1155, the Recovery of Stolen Checks Act, a bipartisan bill that would allow taxpayers whose tax refunds were stolen in the mail to receive a replacement payment via direct deposit. This legislation passed out of the Ways and Means Committee last month on a bipartisan basis, and it was unanimous.

In my district alone, we have seen 376 constituents who have had stolen IRS checks. The amount is staggering: \$5.4 million, and that is in my district alone.

Out of these 376 cases, 50 times checks were stolen twice, 7 times they were stolen 3 times, and in some cases, checks were even stolen 4 times in a row from the same constituent.

It has been reported that for IRS checks alone, approximately 40,000 were stolen nationally in 2024 and that is up from 100 checks in 2022.

The value stolen has been approximately \$1 billion, and this has become a real business for criminal organizations and enterprises and the fraudsters who are preying upon American citizens.

It is very unfortunate that we are seeing this hardship and stress placed on the intended recipients who have had to endure seeing their checks being stolen and then they have to wait months to sometimes see their replacement check also stolen.

This is not just happening with IRS tax refunds. It is also happening with Social Security and other benefits that our constituents rely on.

Approximately 10 percent of American taxpayers receive their tax refunds via paper checks, equating to about 10 million paper checks issued annually. While the majority of taxpayers opt for direct deposit, a significant number still receive refunds through traditional mail.

The IRS plays a critical role in ensuring taxpayers receive their hard-earned refund securely and efficiently. However, outdated IT infrastructure and delivery systems have left many vulnerable to fraud and stolen tax reimbursement checks.

Modernizing these systems is no longer optional. It is necessary to protect taxpayers, to enhance efficiency, and to reduce fraud. Obviously, there is still more work to be done. We still need the DOJ and our law enforcement partners to continue their investigations to find and prosecute these fraudsters. We are hearing of arrests and prosecutions on a regular basis, but we urge them to continue their good work.

This is an essential first step in addressing the increasing frequency of mail theft. I am encouraged by President Trump's executive order last week titled, "Modernizing Payments to and From America's Bank Account," which intends to phase out most paper checks by September of this year and modernize other government payment systems.

I thank President Trump and Secretary Bessent for their quick and decisive actions here to address this matter. It was within weeks of me speaking with the Secretary that they issued this executive order.

My legislation here today will ensure that in those cases where there are exceptions or accommodations, a direct deposit option will be available for the

intended recipient if those physical checks are stolen—that was something the IRS had given us such a hard time about—so taxpayers can receive their payments via direct deposit when they need replacement.

I was also pleased to learn that the Bureau of Fiscal Service recently launched a pilot program to leverage existing technology and services offered by the U.S. Postal Service to track the transmittal of checks. I look forward to reviewing the results of this pilot program and working with the administration to modernize delivery systems across the Federal Government and ensure stronger safeguards against mail fraud in the future.

Mr. Speaker, again, I thank the chairman and my colleagues for their work on this bill. I look forward to seeing this bill pass unanimously on the floor today as well. Let's protect American taxpayers and make sure they are no longer victims of this type of check fraud.

□ 1715

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

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

Mr. KUSTOFF. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman JASON SMITH for his leadership on this issue and this important piece of legislation, as well as the leadership of Representatives MALLIOTAKIS and SEWELL.

Mr. Speaker, over the last several years, the number of government checks stolen from the mail has increased dramatically.

If I could, I will share just a few statistics:

Between 2019 and 2022, there was an 87 percent increase in theft from mailboxes, according to the U.S. Postal Inspection Service.

According to the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, FinCEN, reports of check fraud doubled from 2021 to 2022.

FinCEN's most recent report on check fraud found that between February and August of 2023, the bureau received over 15,000 individual reports about mail-theft-related check fraud.

Now, this has been a problem in my district in west Tennessee, and we have heard it has been a problem throughout the country. It is well past time that we get mail theft in the United States under control. That does start with giving Federal law enforcement officers the tools and the resources that they need to detect, investigate, and prosecute those behind these thefts.

We also have to ensure that victims of mail theft are taken care of and that they can access timely relief. That is why this bill, H.R. 1155, the Recovery of Stolen Checks Act, is so important.

Right now, it can take months and months for the IRS to issue a replacement for a stolen refund check. That is a long time. Due to the frequency of

mail theft that is happening right now across this great Nation, many taxpayers are having their replacement checks stolen, as well. This is truly not acceptable. These outdated IRS regulations are partially to blame.

The IRS' current process really makes no sense. It exacerbates check fraud. It creates more bureaucratic hurdles for U.S. taxpayers and ultimately makes it more difficult for Americans to access their hard-earned dollars. For many American families, a delay in getting their tax refund has the potential to cause serious financial strain.

This bill, the Recovery of Stolen Checks Act, will give victims of mail theft the option to receive their replacement payment through direct deposit instead of having to risk mailing another check.

This is a simple fix, Mr. Speaker, and it will help expedite relief to affected taxpayers, keep government checks out of the hands of criminals, and ultimately make our government more efficient.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of our colleagues to support this bipartisan, commonsense piece of legislation which passed out of the Ways and Means Committee unanimously by a vote of 41–0.

Ms. SEWELL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time for the purpose of closing.

Mr. Speaker, I am excited about the strong bipartisan support that H.R. 1155, the Recovery of Stolen Checks Act, has received. The bill will take a critical step toward combating financial fraud and protecting hardworking Americans from falling victim to check theft.

Each year, countless Americans are targeted by criminals who steal and fraudulently cash their checks, causing financial hardship and eroding the trust in our banking system. It happens not just in tax refunds, as my colleagues have indicated. Increasingly, Social Security and SNAP benefits are also being stolen by these criminals.

This bill strengthens law enforcement's ability to investigate and prosecute these crimes, ensuring that victims can recover the money and that the criminals are held accountable.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation for at least these three reasons: First, that the bill protects consumers from financial harm. Check fraud is not just an inconvenience, it is financially devastating to many families. When a check is stolen and cashed by criminals, victims are often left in a difficult situation.

Secondly, this bill will also strengthen law enforcement's ability to combat check fraud. Criminals have become more sophisticated in their methods, and law enforcement needs stronger tools to fight back.

Lastly, a financial system that cannot protect its users from fraud is a system in jeopardy. If consumers and businesses lose faith in their ability to

securely conduct transactions, our economy suffers as a whole. H.R. 1155 ensures confidence in our banking system by ensuring that stolen checks can be recovered and that perpetrators face real consequences.

Mr. Speaker, check fraud is a growing problem, but today, we, in a bipartisan way, in the Ways and Means Committee are finally taking common-sense, decisive action. This bill passed unanimously out of our committee, and I look forward to it passing unanimously out of this House. It is, once again, an opportunity for Republicans and Democrats to put partisanship aside and work together for the American people.

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

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

This legislation will not only help taxpayers who have been victims of fraud, but it will also help combat fraud by eliminating opportunities for criminals to strike a second time.

Check fraud is a major challenge in this country, and it has grown exponentially over the past several years. In fact, in 2022, the Treasury Department's Financial Crimes Enforcement Network reported over 680,000 instances of check fraud, doubling the previous year's total. In such an environment, it is unacceptable that at this moment the IRS does not have processes and procedures in place for taxpayers to request a replacement check through direct deposit.

This bill is a simple solution to a serious and costly problem. I encourage all of my colleagues to support its passage, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MOORE of North Carolina). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1155, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### DISASTER RELATED EXTENSION OF DEADLINES ACT

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (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, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1491

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

*This Act may be cited as the "Disaster Related Extension of Deadlines Act".*

#### SEC. 2. POSTPONEMENT OF CERTAIN DEADLINES BY REASON OF DISASTERS MADE APPLICABLE TO LIMITATION ON CREDIT OR REFUND.

##### (a) EXTENSION OF TIME FOR FILING RETURN.—

*(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 7508A of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:*

*"(f) APPLICATION TO LIMITATION ON CREDIT OR REFUND.—For purposes of section 6511(b)(2)(A), any period disregarded under this section with respect to the time prescribed for filing any return of tax shall be treated as an extension of time for filing such return."*

*(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this subsection shall apply to claims filed after the date of the enactment of this Act.*

##### (b) COLLECTION NOTICES.—

*(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 6303(b) of such Code is amended—*

*(A) by striking "Except" and inserting the following:*

*"(1) IN GENERAL.—Except", and*

*(B) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:*

*"(2) POSTPONEMENT BY REASON OF DISASTER, SIGNIFICANT FIRE, OR TERRORISTIC OR MILITARY ACTIONS.—For purposes of paragraph (1), the last date prescribed for payment of any tax shall be determined after taking into account any period disregarded under section 7508A."*

*(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this subsection shall apply to notices issued after the date of the enactment of this Act.*

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1491, the Disaster Related Extension of Deadlines Act, introduced by my Ways and Means colleagues Representatives Murphy and Panetta. Both of their home States, North Carolina and California respectively, are no strangers to the toll of natural disasters. This legislation corrects a discrepancy that can deny Americans affected by natural disaster their rightful tax refund.

Often, the IRS postpones the filing and payment deadline for taxpayers impacted by a natural disaster. Understandably, some taxpayers living in a disaster area choose to file their taxes and wait to pay the tax bill at a later date, freeing up resources to instead help replace the items that they have lost. For the average taxpayer who requests a filing extension, the deadline to claim a tax refund or credit for that tax year is also extended; not so for the

victims of natural disasters. They do not receive the same amount of additional time to claim a tax credit or refund as taxpayers who request filing extensions.

This situation is fundamentally unfair. It potentially denies Americans affected by a natural disaster their rightful tax refund that they would have otherwise received had they not been struck by a natural disaster and simply requested a filing extension.

This bill provides a straightforward solution that would fix this issue. Victims of natural disasters would have additional time to claim a refund in the same way that those who request a filing extension receive additional time.

I urge my colleagues to stand with taxpayers and provide this measure of tax relief to victims of natural disasters.

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

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

I rise in support of H.R. 1491, the Disaster Related Extension of Deadlines Act, authored and introduced by my friend, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MURPHY).

I thank the chairman of the Ways and Means Committee for doing an excellent job in summarizing not just the issue but the solution with this bipartisan legislation, for it is this type of legislation that would ensure that tax deadlines remain aligned in disaster zones and that those who have survived natural disasters are not penalized by confusing collection notices or a shortened tax lookback period.

Now, currently, taxpayers have a 3-year lookback period after a filing deadline to claim a refund or missed credits. However, when the IRS extends filing deadlines for those affected by natural disasters, the deadline for the lookback period is not extended. This leads taxpayers, as you can imagine, Mr. Speaker, in disaster areas to lose out on money that they are owed because their lookback period is shorter than expected.

This bill would fix that, by aligning the lookback period with the postponed tax deadline for disaster zones. Additionally, this bill solves the problem of misaligned deadlines and confusing collection notices after a natural disaster.

Since current law requires the IRS to send a notice and demand for payment of tax within 60 days of processing a tax filing, individuals in disaster zones who file early but wait to pay often get confusing notices and demands for payment. These notices are sent long before payment is due and also cause panic and confusion during the difficult task of disaster recovery.

This bill, again, would fix that issue by requiring the IRS to take into account tax deadlines postponed because of disasters when issuing collection notices. It can take years to financially recover from a natural disaster, as many of us in this House have experienced with our constituents. Ensuring

those who are recovering can claim what they are owed and do not have to worry about confusing collection notices is the absolute least that we can do.

This bill is an easy win, and it is the type of policy that makes government work and improves people's lives that we should be focused more on in Congress. This bill is an example of how government should help people. We are providing a plan based on a law that would help the government better serve people, especially in a time of need.

This is why we should come together and support the bipartisan Disaster Related Extension of Deadlines Act. I urge my colleagues to support this bill that would help our government be better in helping those constituents in times of need all across this country.

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

□ 1730

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MURPHY), my favorite Member from North Carolina's Third Congressional District.

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my legislation, H.R. 1491, the Disaster Related Extension of Deadlines Act.

I am blessed to live in eastern North Carolina, which is all too familiar with the devastation caused by natural disasters. For coastal Carolina, it is not a question of if but rather a question of when a hurricane will hit my district. We stick out far in the ocean and have a big bull's-eye target on us.

We are still recovering from Hurricane Florence, which occurred in 2018. Despite being 7 years ago, there are still homes and businesses shuttered from the damage of that powerful hurricane.

It has now been 6 months since the Nation observed the decimation that Hurricane Helene wreaked upon western North Carolina. It has been one of the most devastating disasters in our Nation's history.

This historic storm led to catastrophic loss of life and property to our neighbors in the west. In just 18 hours, over 30 inches of rain came down in some areas, which surged downhill into rivers and valleys, causing close to \$80 billion in damage and resulting in over 100 deaths. Entire towns and communities were completely destroyed and washed away.

It will take years, if not a decade, for western North Carolina to fully recover from the damage inflicted by Hurricane Helene. Since that time, while we have come a long way, western North Carolina is still reeling from the effects of Hurricane Helene and will continue to feel the effects of that storm for years to come.

It is important that Congress provide as much relief as soon as possible to these victims.

H.R. 1491, the Disaster Related Extension of Deadlines Act, has two important provisions that would not only help those impacted by Hurricane Helene but all disaster victims nationwide.

The first provision amends the lookback period to ensure victims of disasters have additional time to claim funds or credits that they previously missed out upon.

Additionally, H.R. 1491 contains another provision that would prevent disaster victims from receiving collection notices indicating that they owe the IRS funds despite a postponement of tax filing.

When someone suffers from a natural disaster, the last thing on their minds is their tax liability. They are trying to put a roof over their head and find food for their family and clothing for their children.

I cannot begin to describe the sheer physical and emotional damage that these people suffer.

In the case of Hurricane Helene, we saw thousands of homes and businesses literally washed out and wiped out overnight. Victims are still and will continue to process the trauma from that occurrence.

North Carolinians are resilient. It has been heartening to see the entire North Carolina delegation come together and provide support for those in the western part of the State.

Furthermore, the contributions of first responders, nonprofits, and concerned private citizens from all across the State have greatly improved response efforts. It may take years, but our neighbors in the west know they have the full backing of everyone in North Carolina as they continue to recover.

This is not a Republican issue nor a Democratic issue. It is an American issue. All of us are at risk of suffering from natural disasters. In these difficult times, we must come together as Americans to pass commonsense legislation like H.R. 1491 to ensure that victims of natural disasters are not burdened by our tax code.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague, Congressman JIMMY PANETTA, for his partnership on this critical issue, and I thank Chairman SMITH for his support and efforts to help provide relief to disaster victims.

I encourage all of my colleagues to vote in favor of this bill so we can offer relief to all disaster victims, especially those in western North Carolina.

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

Mr. Speaker, I want to say briefly in closing that, as you have heard, this legislation has tremendous bipartisan support and will remove burdensome processes at the IRS to make government work better for our constituents after a disaster.

I appreciate Mr. MURPHY talking about his district in North Carolina and the devastation that his constituents have experienced. In the 19th Con-

gressional District, I am at the edge of the continent as well, on the west side of the continent, all the way across the country from Mr. MURPHY's district, but we, too, are at the tip of the spear when it comes to floods, fires, storms, and other natural disasters. That is why I think, as you heard from Mr. MURPHY, and I agree, that this is not a partisan issue.

Never should disaster assistance be a partisan issue. This has full bipartisan support because full financial recovery after a natural disaster can take years. Aligning tax deadlines from the IRS is the absolute least that we can do for our constituents who are rebuilding their lives.

Mr. Speaker, once again, I thank my colleagues, Representative MURPHY and Chairman SMITH, for their work on this bill, and I encourage my colleagues to support H.R. 1491, the Disaster Related Extension of Deadlines Act.

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

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

This bill passed out of the Ways and Means Committee with a united vote from Republicans and Democrats. It is not hard to see why. Disasters know no party affiliation and affect communities all across the country.

In the last few weeks, communities I represent in southeastern and south central Missouri were struck by 19 deadly tornadoes and storms. I had the chance to visit and talk with the people impacted. I saw destroyed homes, tossed cars, and crop damage. I also saw how neighbors, churches, and charities spring into action to provide a warm meal, temporary shelter, and hope to the families who lost so much.

This legislation treats Americans affected by natural disasters fairly and ensures that the Federal Government is going to do its part to be responsive to their needs.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1491, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

#### ELECTRONIC FILING AND PAYMENT FAIRNESS ACT

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (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, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1152

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

*This Act may be cited as the “Electronic Filing and Payment Fairness Act”.*

**SEC. 2. APPLICATION OF MAILBOX RULE TO DOCUMENTS AND PAYMENTS ELECTRONICALLY SUBMITTED TO THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE.**

*(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 7502(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—*

*(1) in the heading, by inserting “AND PAYMENT” after “FILING”;*

*(2) in paragraph (2)—*

*(A) in the heading, by striking “; ELECTRONIC FILING”, and*

*(B) by striking “and electronic filing”, and*

*(3) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:*

*“(3) ELECTRONIC FILING AND PAYMENT.—*

*“(A) IN GENERAL.—If any return, claim, statement, or other document required to be filed, or any payment required to be made, within a prescribed period or on or before a prescribed date under authority of any provision of the internal revenue laws is sent electronically by any person to the agency, officer, or office with which such return, claim, statement, or other document is required to be filed, or to which such payment is required to be made, the date on which such return, claim, statement, or other document, or payment, is sent electronically by such person shall be deemed to be the date of delivery or the date of payment, as the case may be, regardless of the date on which the applicable agency, officer, or office receives or reviews such return, claim, statement, document, or payment.*

*“(B) REGULATIONS.—Not later than December 31, 2025, the Secretary shall issue such regulations or other guidance as the Secretary determines necessary to carry out the purposes of this paragraph.”.*

*(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to any document or payment sent after December 31, 2025.*

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

**GENERAL LEAVE**

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, the April 15 deadline to file one's taxes is rapidly approaching. Right now, if a taxpayer mails a payment or tax return to the IRS that is postmarked by midnight on the due date, the payment or tax return will be considered timely even if it is received

a week later. Under current law, taxpayers who file electronically do not receive the same treatment. If a taxpayer submits the same payment or return electronically on the due date, it may be considered late if the IRS receives it and processes it the next day.

In fiscal year 2023, more than 213 million returns and other forms, 79 percent of all filings, were filed electronically. Not only are electronic payments faster and easier to process, but they also eliminate the risk of theft that we have seen recently with checks, like in Representative MALLIOTAKIS' district, for example.

If Congress doesn't correct this, taxpayers could potentially be on the hook for late penalties through no fault of their own.

H.R. 1152, the Electronic Filing and Payment Fairness Act, is bipartisan legislation that will harmonize IRS deadline rules to ensure that electronic payments or documents submitted by taxpayers will be treated the same as postmarked mail.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Representatives LAHOOD, FEENSTRA, FITZPATRICK, DELBENE, PANETTA, and SCHNEIDER for their leadership on this bill. This is a simple, commonsense fix to tax administration that will save taxpayers time and money.

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1152, the Electronic Filing and Payment Fairness Act.

Taxpayers should have one clear deadline to file documents and make required payments. Under current law, payments or certain documents that are mailed to the IRS are considered timely filed as long as they are postmarked by midnight on the due date. This is called the mailbox rule. However, if a taxpayer submits certain payments or documents to the IRS electronically on a given due date but they are not processed until the next day, they would be considered late.

This bill amends the Internal Revenue Code to allow the mailbox rule to extend to electronic tax payments and documents.

The IRS should not treat taxpayers who choose to file electronically differently than those who file by mail. This bill would ensure the same standard for all Americans regardless of how they file.

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

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LAHOOD), the sponsor of this legislation.

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of my bill, the Electronic Filing and Payment Fairness Act.

This commonsense bill, which has been included in the “National Tax-

payer Advocate 2025 Purple Book” of legislative recommendations, would amend the tax code to apply the “mailbox rule” to electronic submissions of payments and documents to the Internal Revenue Service.

As the chairman articulated, under current law, if a taxpayer physically mails a payment or tax return to the IRS that is postmarked on the due date, that payment or tax return is considered timely even if it is received a week later. If a taxpayer submits the same payment or return to the IRS electronically on the due date, however, it is considered late if the IRS receives or processes it the following day.

This disparity punishes taxpayers electing to correspond with the IRS electronically, which should be the preferred method of communication in this day and age.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman SMITH for his leadership and for making tax administration and improved efficiencies a priority within the Ways and Means Committee.

Mr. Speaker, I also thank my bipartisan co-leads on this bill, Representatives DELBENE, FEENSTRA, SCHNEIDER, FITZPATRICK, and PANETTA.

This is a great step in our effort to modernize the IRS and make it more user-friendly, especially for the roughly 90 percent of taxpayers already filing electronically.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time so I am prepared to close.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1152 is a narrowly targeted bill that can provide meaningful help and assurance to taxpayers.

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

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, the bill before us is simple. Those taxpayers who will be filing their taxes electronically on April 15, just a couple of weeks from now, should be treated the same as taxpayers who use postmarked mail.

Unfortunately, under current law, that is not always the case. If a taxpayer submits a payment or return electronically by midnight on the due date, it could still be considered late if the IRS does not process it until the next day.

H.R. 1152, the Electronic Filing and Payment Fairness Act, will harmonize IRS deadline rules so taxpayers receive equal treatment whether they file electronically or through the mail.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this commonsense legislation to help level the playing field for American taxpayers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1152, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the

rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1745

#### RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on Education and Workforce:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,  
Washington, DC, March 31, 2025.

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

DEAR SPEAKER JOHNSON: I write to respectfully tender my resignation as a member of the Committee on Education and Workforce. It has been an honor to serve in this capacity.

Sincerely,

ERIN HOUCHIN,  
Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted.

There was no objection.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 46 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1830

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. YAKYM) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

Motions to suspend the rules and pass:

H.R. 517; and

H.R. 997.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, the remaining electronic vote will be conducted as a 5-minute vote.

#### FILING RELIEF FOR NATURAL DISASTERS ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 517) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the rules for postponing certain deadlines

by reason of disaster, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 388, nays 0, not voting 42, as follows:

[Roll No. 84]		
YEAS—388		
Adams	Davids (KS)	Hinson
Aderholt	Davidson	Horsford
Aguilar	Davis (IL)	Houchin
Alford	Davis (NC)	Houlahan
Allen	De La Cruz	Hoyer
Amo	Dean (PA)	Hoyle (OR)
Amodei (NV)	DeGette	Hudson
Ansari	DeLauro	Huffman
Arrington	DeBene	Huizenga
Auchincloss	Deluzio	Hurd (CO)
Babin	DeSaulnier	Issa
Bacon	DesJarlais	Ivey
Baird	Dexter	Jack
Balderson	Diaz-Balart	Jackson (IL)
Balint	Doggett	Jackson (TX)
Barr	Donalds	Jacobs
Barragán	Downing	James
Baumgartner	Dunn (FL)	Jayapal
Bean (FL)	Edwards	Jeffries
Beatty	Elfreth	Johnson (GA)
Begich	Ellzey	Johnson (SD)
Bentz	Emmer	Johnson (TX)
Bera	Escobar	Jordan
Bergman	Espaillat	Joyce (OH)
Beyer	Estes	Joyce (PA)
Bice	Evans (CO)	Kamlager-Dove
Biggs (AZ)	Evans (PA)	Kaptur
Biggs (SC)	Ezell	Kean
Bilirakis	Fallon	Keating
Bishop	Fedorchak	Kelly (IL)
Boebert	Feeenstra	Kelly (MS)
Bonamici	Fields	Kelly (PA)
Boyle (PA)	Figures	Kennedy (NY)
Brecheen	Finstad	Kennedy (UT)
Bresnahan	Fischbach	Khanna
Brown	Fitzpatrick	Kiggans (VA)
Brownley	Fleischmann	Kiley (CA)
Buchanan	Fletcher	Knott
Budzinski	Flood	Krishnamoorthi
Burchett	Foster	Kustoff
Burlison	Foushee	LaHood
Bynum	Foxx	LaLota
Calvert	Frankel, Lois	Landsman
Cammack	Franklin, Scott	Langworthy
Carey	Friedman	Larson (WA)
Carson	Frost	Larson (CT)
Carter (GA)	Fry	Latimer
Carter (LA)	Fulcher	Latta
Carter (TX)	Garbarino	Lawler
Casar	Garcia (IL)	Lee (FL)
Case	Garcia (TX)	Lee (NV)
Casten	Gill (TX)	Lee (PA)
Castor (FL)	Gillen	Leger Fernandez
Castro (TX)	Gimenez	Letlow
Cherifilus-	Golden (ME)	Levin
McCormick	Goldman (NY)	Liccardo
Chu	Goldman (TX)	Lofgren
Ciscomani	Gomez	Lucas
Cisneros	Gonzales, Tony	Luna
Clark (MA)	Gonzalez, V.	Luttrell
Clarke (NY)	Gooden	Mackenzie
Cleaver	Goodlander	Magaziner
Cline	Gosar	Malliotakis
Cloud	Gottheimer	Maloy
Clyburn	Gray	Mann
Clyde	Green (TN)	Mannion
Cohen	Green, Al (TX)	Massie
Cole	Griffith	Mast
Collins	Grothman	Matsui
Comer	Guest	McBath
Conaway	Guthrie	McBride
Correa	Hageman	McCaull
Costa	Hamadeh (AZ)	McClain
Courtney	Harder (CA)	McClain Delaney
Craig	Haridopolos	McClellan
Crane	Harrigan	McCollum
Crank	Harris (MD)	McCormick
Crawford	Harris (NC)	McDonald Rivet
Crenshaw	Harshbarger	McDowell
Crockett	Hern (OK)	McGarvey
Crow	Higgins (LA)	McGovern
Cuellar	Hill (AR)	McGuire

McIver	Ramirez	Stevens
Meeks	Randall	Strickland
Menendez	Raskin	Stutzman
Messmer	Reschenthaler	Subramanyam
Meuser	Riley (NY)	Swalwell
Miller (IL)	Rivas	Sykes
Miller (OH)	Rogers (AL)	Taylor
Miller (WV)	Rogers (KY)	Tenney
Mills	Rose	Thanedar
Min	Ross	Thompson (CA)
Moolenaar	Rouzer	Thompson (PA)
Moore (AL)	Roy	Timmons
Moore (NC)	Rulli	Titus
Moore (UT)	Rutherford	Tlaib
Moore (WI)	Moore (WV)	Tokuda
Moore (WV)	Moran	Tonko
Morelle	Scalise	Torres (CA)
Morrison	Scanlon	Torres (NY)
Moulton	Schakowsky	Tran
Mrvan	Schmidt	Turner (OH)
Mullin	Schneider	Underwood
Murphy	Scholten	Valadao
Nadler	Schrader	Van Drew
Neguse	Schweikert	Van Duyne
Norman	Scott (VA)	Van Orden
Palmer	Scott, Austin	Vargas
Panetta	Scott, David	Vasquez
Pallone	Perez	Veasey
Palmer	Perry	Vindman
Panetta	Peters	Wagner
Pappas	Pettersen	Walberg
Pelosi	Pingree	Wasserman
Perez	Pocan	Schultz
Perry	Pou	Waterson
Peters	Pressley	Watson Coleman
Petersen	Quigley	Weber (TX)
Pingree	Quigley	Wilson (FL)
Pocan	Ribeiro	Wilson (SC)
Pou	Robinson	Wittman
Pressley	Rodgers	Womack
Quigley	Rodgers	Yakym
Ribeiro	Rodgers	Zinke

#### NOT VOTING—42

Barrett	Hunt	Nunn (IA)
Bell	Kim	Onder
Bost	LaMalfa	Pfluger
Carbajal	Lieu	Ruiz
Connolly	Loudermilk	Salinas
Dingell	Lynch	Sherrill
Fitzgerald	Mace	Stefanik
Fong	McClintock	Strong
Garamendi	Meng	Suozzi
Garcia (CA)	Mfume	Takano
Garcia (IL)	Miller-Meeks	Thompson (MS)
Garcia (TX)	Neal	Tiffany
Gill	Hayes	Velázquez
Gillen	Himes	Newhouse
Gilligan	Himes	Webster (FL)

□ 1853

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### NATIONAL TAXPAYER ADVOCATE ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2025

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 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, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 385, nays 0, not voting 45, as follows:

[Roll No. 85]

YEAS—385

Adams	Craig	Grothman	Mackenzie	Owens	Soto	997, Roll Call No. 85. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on both roll call no. 84 and roll call no. 85.
Aderholt	Crane	Guest	Magaziner	Pallone	Spartz	
Aguilar	Crank	Guthrie	Malliotakis	Palmer	Stansbury	
Alford	Crawford	Hageman	Maloy	Panetta	Stanton	
Allen	Crockett	Hamadeh (AZ)	Mann	Pappas	Stauber	
Amo	Crow	Harder (CA)	Mannion	Pelosi	Steil	
Amodei (NV)	Cuellar	Haridopolos	Massie	Perez	Steube	
Ansari	Davids (KS)	Harrigan	Mast	Perry	Stevens	
Arrington	Davidson	Harris (MD)	Matsui	Peters	Strickland	
Auchincloss	Davis (IL)	Harris (NC)	McBath	Pettersen	Stutzman	
Babin	Davis (NC)	Harshbarger	McBride	Pingree	Subramanyam	
Bacon	De La Cruz	Hern (OK)	McCaull	Pocan	Suozzi	
Baird	Dean (PA)	Higgins (LA)	McClain	Pou	Swalwell	
Balderson	DeGette	Hill (AR)	McClain Delaney	Pressley	Sykes	
Balint	DeLauro	Hinson	McClellan	Quigley	Taylor	
Barr	DelBene	Horsford	McCollum	Randall	Tenney	
Barragán	Deluzio	Houchin	McCormick	Raskin	Thanedar	
Baumgartner	DeSaulnier	Houlihan	McDonald Rivet	Reschenthaler	Thompson (CA)	
Bean (FL)	DesJarlais	Hoyer	McDowell	Riley (NY)	Thompson (PA)	
Beatty	Dexter	Hoyle (OR)	McGarvey	Rivas	Timmons	
Begich	Diaz-Balart	Hudson	McGovern	Rogers (AL)	Titus	
Bentz	Doggett	Harris (NC)	McGuire	Rogers (KY)	Tlaib	
Bera	Donalds	Moore (WI)	McIver	Rose	Tokuda	
Bergman	Downing	Moore (WV)	Menendez	Rouzer	Tonko	
Beyer	Dunn (FL)	Moore (OK)	Messmer	Roy	Torres (CA)	
Bice	Elfreth	Moore (LA)	Meuser	Rulli	Torres (NY)	
Biggs (AZ)	Ellzey	Moore (MD)	Miller (IL)	Rutherford	Trahan	
Biggs (SC)	Emmer	Moore (NC)	Miller (OH)	Ryan	Tran	
Bilirakis	Escobar	Moore (UT)	Miller (WV)	Salazar	Underwood	
Bishop	Espaillet	Moore (WI)	Mills	Sánchez	Valadão	
Boebert	Estes	Moore (OK)	Min	Scalise	Van Drew	
Bonamici	Evans (CO)	Moore (WV)	Moore (AL)	Scanlon	Van Duyn	
Boyle (PA)	Evans (PA)	Moore (MD)	Moore (NC)	Schakowsky	Vargas	
Brecheen	Ezell	Moore (NC)	Moore (UT)	Schmidt	Vasquez	
Bresnahan	Fallon	Moore (WI)	Moore (WI)	Schneider	Veasey	
Brown	Fedorchak	Moore (OK)	Morelle	Schoito	Vindman	
Brownley	Feenstra	Moore (LA)	Morrison	Scott, Austin	Schultz	
Buchanan	Fields	Moore (MD)	Moskowitz	Scott, David	Waters	
Budzinski	Figures	Moore (NC)	Moulton	Self	Watson Coleman	
Burchett	Finstad	Moore (UT)	Mrvan	Sessions	Weber (TX)	
Burlison	Fischbach	Moore (WI)	Mullin	Sewell	Westerman	
Bynum	Fitzpatrick	Moore (OK)	Murphy	Sherman	Whitesides	
Calvert	Fleischmann	Moore (LA)	Nadler	Shreve	Wied	
Cammack	Fletcher	Moore (MD)	Neguse	Simon	Williams (GA)	
Carey	Flood	Moore (NC)	Norcross	Simpson	Williams (TX)	
Carson	Foster	Moore (UT)	Norman	Smith (MO)	Wilson (FL)	
Carter (GA)	Foushee	Moore (WI)	Obernolte	Smith (NE)	Wilson (SC)	
Carter (LA)	Foxx	Moore (OK)	Ocasio-Cortez	Smith (NJ)	Wittman	
Carter (TX)	Frankel, Lois	Moore (LA)	Jack	Smith (WA)	Womack	
Casar	Franklin, Scott	Moore (MD)	Jackson (IL)	Ogles	Smucker	
Case	Friedman	Moore (NC)	Jackson (TX)	Olszewski	Yakym	
Casten	Frost	Moore (UT)	Omar	Omar	Zinke	
Castor (FL)	Fry	Moore (WI)				
Castro (TX)	Fulcher	Moore (OK)				
Cherifulus-	Garbarino	Moore (LA)				
McCormick	García (IL)	Moore (MD)				
Chu	García (TX)	Moore (NC)				
Ciscarini	Gill (TX)	Moore (UT)				
Cisneros	Gillen	Moore (WI)				
Clark (MA)	Gimenez	Moore (OK)				
Clarke (NY)	Golden (ME)	Moore (LA)				
Cleaver	Goldman (NY)	Moore (MD)				
Cline	Goldman (TX)	Moore (NC)				
Cloud	Lawler	Moore (UT)				
Clyburn	Lee (FL)	Moore (WI)				
Clyde	Lee (NV)	Moore (OK)				
Cohen	Lee (PA)	Moore (LA)				
Cole	Gooden	Moore (MD)				
Collins	Goodlander	Moore (NC)				
Comer	Gosar	Moore (UT)				
Conaway	Gottheimer	Moore (WI)				
Correa	Gray	Moore (OK)				
Costa	Green (TN)	Moore (LA)				
Courtney	Green, Al (TX)	Moore (NC)				
	Griffith	Moore (UT)				

#### NOT VOTING—45

Barrett	Himes	Nunn (IA)
Bell	Hunt	Onder
Bost	Kim	Pfluger
Carbajal	LaMalfa	Ramirez
Connolly	Lieu	Ruiz
Crenshaw	Loudermilk	Salinas
Dingell	Lynch	Sherrill
Edwards	Mace	Stefanik
Fitzgerald	McClintock	Strong
Fong	Meng	Takano
Garamendi	Mfume	Thompson (MS)
Garcia (CA)	Miller-Meeks	Tiffany
Graves	Neal	Turner (OH)
Greene (GA)	Nehls	Velázquez
Hayes	Newhouse	Webster (FL)

#### □ 1901

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 85, H.R. 997.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I missed a series of votes today. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 84 and YEA on Roll Call No. 85.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. FITZGERALD. Mr. Speaker, due to unforeseen travel delays, I was unable to cast a vote on H.R. 517, Roll Call No. 84, and H.R.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote on roll call no. 84 and no. 85 due to unavoidable circumstances. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 84 and YEA on Roll Call No. 85.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mrs. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, I am unavailable to vote because of travel delays. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 84 and YEA on Roll Call No. 85.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. BELL. Mr. Speaker, I was absent during the time of votes due to travel and weather delays. Had I been present, I would have voted: YEA on Roll Call No. 84, H.R. 517, Filing Relief for Natural Disasters Act; and YEA on Roll Call No. 85, H.R. 997, National Taxpayer Advocate Enhancement Act of 2025.

### NATIONAL VIETNAM WAR VETERANS DAY

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize National Vietnam War Veterans Day, a time to honor the brave men and women who served. This past Saturday, we marked the National Vietnam War Veterans Day.

Mr. Speaker, 52 years ago, on March 29, 1973, the last U.S. combat troops departed Vietnam, marking the end of direct U.S. involvement. Yet, for too many of those who returned home, there were no parades, no celebrations, only silence where gratitude should have been. Despite this, they carried the burden of their service with dignity.

Many were drafted, but all answered the call with honor and distinction. They not only served with valor but also took it upon themselves to ensure their sacrifice would never be forgotten.

The Vietnam Veterans War Memorial in Washington, D.C., was built entirely through private donations, a testament to their dedication to one another and to the 2.7 million servicemembers who served in Vietnam.

Mr. Speaker, we all know someone who served in Vietnam. They are our friends, our family, our neighbors. It is long overdue that we salute them, but it is never too late to show our gratitude. May God bless our Vietnam war veterans today and always, and welcome home.

### LOWERING COSTS FOR STRUGGLING AMERICANS

(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, every day I hear from my constituents that they

are struggling to afford groceries, rent, healthcare, and other necessities. That is why lowering costs has always been priority one for me. However, it doesn't seem to be a priority for this administration and some of my colleagues, and they know who they are.

Despite President Trump's pledging to end inflation on day one, costs have continued to increase, and his tariffs policy is making things worse. It is crashing the stock market in the process. His policy is essentially adding a massive tax to everyday items for families.

I find it unconscionable and, frankly, unacceptable that anyone would make things more expensive right now, and I won't stand by, and I won't let it happen. That is why I am fighting back. I am fighting back with the Protecting Families From Inflation Act. It is my very first bill. It makes progress on my top priority, lowering costs for my constituents.

I am calling right now for the House to show they are serious about lowering costs and taking up and passing this legislation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BRESNAHAN). The Chair reminds Members to observe proper decorum while in the House.

Ms. BYNUM. Mr. Speaker, what decorum did I break? I apologize.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair is referring to the gentlewoman's attire.

Ms. BYNUM. My apologies. I am really proud of my daughter.

#### REMEMBERING HARRY DEANTONIO

(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 Harry deAntonio, who sadly passed away this March.

A Florida native and graduate of the University of Central Florida, Harry began his career in broadcast journalism, reporting on local policy at several TV news stations across the South. Harry was always fascinated by politics and shared his enthusiasm with everyone around him, even strangers.

After moving to Atlanta, Georgia, Harry found his passion within the commercial real estate space and dedicated the rest of his life to serving his clients' needs. Harry cofounded ICON Commercial and proudly served as its president for 29 years. Best known for working with Atlanta-based companies such as Home Depot and UPS, Harry's 33 years in the commercial real estate industry directly helped Georgia businesses thrive.

Harry is survived by his children, Michael, Nicholas, Isabel, Max, and Jaxon. He will always be remembered as the best father who dedicated his entire life to the well-being of his children.

My thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends of the deAntonios during this time. May Harry's memory be a blessing.

#### WOMEN WILL NOT BE ERASED

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

Mrs. FOUSHEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Women's History Month on this last day of March.

Every year during this month, we celebrate the countless contributions that women have made throughout America's history. This includes women of color, immigrant women, women with disabilities, lesbian and trans women, and others, who have led the charge in pushing America forward and advancing the ideals of equity and justice for all.

However, since Trump has taken office, women in my district and across the country are being targeted by harmful orders and policies and are feeling the direct impacts of this administration's extreme actions.

Republicans also recently passed a budget which includes billions in cuts for community projects in districts across the country, many of which were intended for domestic violence shelters, youth community centers, and childcare centers.

The same bill also directed that the Energy and Commerce Committee make at least \$880 billion in cuts. This would require deep cuts to Medicaid specifically, which helps provide coverage for over 40 percent of births in the United States.

This administration can try to erase the word "women" from government, but it will not erase us.

#### VOTER SUPPRESSION, PLAIN AND SIMPLE

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

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, the SAVE Act is not about protecting elections; it is about silencing voters. It is voter suppression, plain and simple. The so-called SAVE Act is also attacking, of course, voting rights and our access to the ballot box.

This bill would create unnecessary new barriers that would disenfranchise millions of Americans. This bill would also increase the purges of registered voters, literally kicking people off the list.

Very clearly, Federal law already prohibits noncitizens from voting in Federal and State elections. Over 21 million Americans lack easy access to the documents this law would require for voter registration.

The SAVE Act would target marginalized communities like those in my district, and of course impacting people of color, naturalized citizens,

and low-income folks. Mr. Speaker, 69 million American women would also be unable to register to vote simply because they changed their last name after they got married.

We need to pass legislation to stop billionaires from buying our elections, not making it harder for the American people to vote. I am going to vote "no" on this bill. I did it last term, and I am going to do it again. Shame on those who continue to support this kind of legislation.

□ 1915

#### HONORING JANICE JORDAN

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

Mr. MRVAN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I rise to celebrate Women's History Month and its 2025 theme "Moving Forward Together! Women Educating and Inspiring Generations."

I would like to honor Ms. Janice Jordan, a lifelong educator who shaped the lives of countless students as a teacher and administrator at the School City of East Chicago for 33 years.

Since 2023, Ms. Jordan has taught preschoolers at St. Mark Early Learning Academy, a Head Start facility in Gary, Indiana.

Outside of the classroom, Ms. Jordan is an active member of the Mount Moriah Missionary Baptist Church, a sister of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, and a volunteer with the Gary Literacy Coalition, demonstrating her unwavering commitment to community service and education.

Her philosophy in life is "Set the atmosphere, engage the community, and get to work!"

As we celebrate Women's History Month, let us follow Ms. Jordan's philosophy and recognize the service of so many extraordinary women who have dedicated their lives to education, mentorship, and leadership.

#### BRINGING MEANINGFUL CHANGE TO HOW GOVERNMENT MANAGES SOFTWARE ASSETS

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

Ms. McCRAIN DELANEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to support the Strengthening Agency Management and Oversight of Software Assets, or SAMOSA, Act.

I was proud to colead and introduce this bill alongside Oversight Committee Ranking Member CONNOLY.

This bipartisan legislation is a crucial step towards approving the efficiency and accountability of Federal software purchasing.

The SAMOSA Act will require agencies to conduct comprehensive assessments of their software licensing practices and create a clear inventory and

independent audits to identify and eliminate redundancies.

By adopting enterprise licensing agreements, agencies will have greater negotiating power and ensure that our government is getting the best value for our taxpayer dollars.

This bill takes a common sense, data-driven approach to reduce unnecessary costs, to streamline software purchasing, and improve transparency across the government.

Further, not only will this save money, it will also strengthen our cybersecurity efforts and modernize our IT infrastructure in a smart way.

I am confident that the SAMOSA Act can bring real change.

#### HELP OUR COUNTRY BECOME A SAFER, HEALTHIER PLACE FOR ALL

(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, I rise today to introduce the Law Enforcement Training for Mental Health Crisis Response Act of 2025. This bill is a bipartisan effort alongside with Congresswoman STEPHANIE BICE of Oklahoma. Our goal is to ensure our officers have the tools they need to effectively and safely respond to mental health emergencies.

Every day, law enforcement officers across our Nation are called to situations where individuals are experiencing mental health crises. These moments can be unpredictable, even volatile, for all those involved.

The reality is that 1 in 10 police calls involve a person struggling with mental illness. Too often these encounters end in unnecessary harm.

Our bill will provide much-needed Federal support to train officers in crisis response techniques. It will advance their skills to deescalate situations, and our goal is to deescalate people with the care they need instead of the back of a squad car or a jail cell.

By investing in training, we protect our communities and ensure those in crisis are met with highly trained law enforcement officers.

I am proud to work along with Congresswoman BICE and our colleagues to help our country become a safer, more healthy place for all.

#### CELEBRATING REVEREND LAMONT GRANBY

(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, this past Sunday I had the great pleasure of attending the ceremony celebrating Reverend Lamont S. Granby's 15th pastoral anniversary. As the esteemed reverend of Bronxville's First Baptist Church, he serves as the first African-American pastor in the church's 160 years.

During the service, we heard a reading from Jeremiah 3:15: "Then I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will lead you with knowledge and understanding."

Reverend Granby is one of those shepherds. He has led his flock at the First Baptist Church with patience and understanding for these 15 years. He is well known throughout the Bronx and Westchester communities and has been a role model for the young people in our community with a steady, guiding presence. He is the dynamic leader of the 47th Precinct Clergy Coalition bringing together faith leaders from across the North Bronx.

At a time when there are many wolves in sheep's clothing claiming to be leaders, it is an honor to celebrate a true community leader, Reverend Lamont Granby. Here is to many more years serving the community of Westchester and the Bronx.

#### HISTORY WILL REMEMBER

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

Ms. STANSBURY. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to address the Members of this Chamber and the American people, especially in the wake of remarks by the President and actions by the GOP here in the House this week which undermine the Constitution and the fundamental rule of law.

It is with that in mind that I say tonight that there is no situation in which Donald Trump will serve a third term in these United States of America. It is unlawful, unconscionable, and, yes, unconstitutional.

To my colleagues across the aisle who are supporting legislation this week that would weaken and undermine the judicial system and the voting rights of Americans, I say to you that history is watching and will remember this moment.

Did you stand with the American people and our democracy or did you stand with the lawless administration who is unleashing chaos on our communities and our democracy and our Nation? I encourage my colleagues to find your backbone. Right your minds and right your hearts because history will remember.

#### WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

(Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, Ms. DE LA CRUZ of Texas was recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.)

##### GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. DE LA CRUZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. DE LA CRUZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today alongside my friends and colleagues in celebration of Women's History Month.

This month, I have reflected on the contributions of the American female leaders who have made our Nation what it is today: a land of opportunity for all.

I am proud to be the first Hispanic Republican woman to represent the great State of Texas for a full term. It is because of strong women who have paved the way and never took no for an answer that I can serve in this institution and fight for my community of south Texas.

In February, lawmakers from both sides of the aisle came together to support an initiative that will create a legacy for American women, the bipartisan Smithsonian American Women's History Act.

This important legislation, which I helped introduce alongside bipartisan Women's Caucus Republican Vice Co-chair NICOLE MALLIOTAKIS, will designate land on the National Mall for the Smithsonian American Women's History Museum.

By creating a museum in our Nation's Capital, we are honoring and preserving the incredible contributions of American women whose stories of strength, resilience, and innovation have shaped the fabric of our Nation's history.

Trailblazing women deserve a dedicated space of recognition and reverence: women like Susan B. Anthony, a pioneer and leader in women's suffrage; Harriet Tubman, the first American woman to run an underground railroad to help slaves reach freedom; Sojourner Truth, a trailblazer in the antislavery movement and advocate for women's rights; and Amelia Earhart, the first woman to bravely fly solo across the Atlantic. We cannot forget our beautiful Selena Quintanilla, a south Texas icon, Grammy-winning singer, and the queen of Tejano music, who shattered glass ceilings and elevated the Tejano genre to the mainstream media. Today marks exactly 30 years since her tragic death, and we honor her passion for music and the lasting impression she has left on our Hispanic culture.

Each of their stories have opened the door to opportunities that once seemed unattainable and have inspired millions. We cannot let their stories be forgotten.

By passing this critical legislation, we are giving the museum its rightful place on the National Mall and allowing generations of Americans and visitors from across the world to immerse themselves in the often untold stories of the women who paved the way for many, like me, to achieve the American dream.

I encourage all of my colleagues from both sides of the aisle to support this important bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. SYKES).

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, today I rise during the first Bipartisan Women's Caucus of the year to stand in solidarity with my colleagues in this historic caucus as we continue the work to break ground on a Women's History Museum on Washington's National Mall.

I would like to thank my colleague and cochair, Representative MONICA DE LA CRUZ for organizing this Special Order hour. I would also like to thank the vice chairs of the Bipartisan Women's Caucus, JANELLE BYNUM and Representative NICOLE MALLIOTAKIS; specifically Representative MALLIOTAKIS for her leadership in transforming the National Women's History Museum from a dream into a real possibility.

Women across the country have shaped and molded this society with their contributions being an integral part of the fabric of who we are, and their efforts, our efforts, and work should be recognized.

The fact that we are here today to celebrate the possibility of a Women's History Museum is incredible. First, it is incredible because why has it taken it so long, and, second, because it is time to recognize the contributions of women in this country.

Of course, the women from Ohio who are the heart of it all will certainly be very much previewed and modelled in this museum, women like Dorothy Dandridge, Nikki Giovanni, Annie Oakley, Florence Allen, Gloria Steinem, Toni Morrison, and, of course, Ohio's 13th Judy Resnick.

The process of including people from a range of backgrounds, including women, is why this history museum dedicated to women that celebrates our achievements and condemns marginalization is not only special but very much needed.

At the founding of this country, women didn't have the same rights as men, but women worked and labored for our place in this society. We couldn't vote. We couldn't buy land, and we couldn't even open bank accounts until about 50 years ago. Societal norms dictated that women were to be devalued and minimized, and it made it easy to overlook and dismiss us.

In spite of this, women have played many important roles in our country, even though they were overlooked, undermined, and in some cases rewritten, even if we were written at all.

When we as women expect to be overlooked and dismissed, it makes it easier for us just to not try at all, not to strive and dream for more, to stay in a lane that society has set for us.

□ 1930

Mr. Speaker, we have so many representations of women who have decided "no." Like our Vice President says, we just eat "no" for breakfast.

Representation matters. The fact that young girls and boys will soon be

able to see the contributions of women and value those contributions will let them know that they can and should dream big.

On this final day of Women's History Month, I would be remiss if I did not address the elephant in the room. No, it is not my Republican colleagues. It is the attack on diversity, equity, and inclusion. Including a National Women's History Museum on The National Mall in Washington would ensure that we are including everyone—women, those with disabilities, and women of color—into our national fabric and that we are not forgetting that their contributions are important to this country. They should not be forgotten because we are a part of this country and our history.

The Women's History Museum will archive the vast achievements of women and establish Americans' commitment to a diverse, equitable, and inclusive telling of our Nation's history so that young girls and boys from across the country and around the world continue to strive for greatness, knowing that their dreams are always possible in the United States of America.

Ms. DE LA CRUZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. MALLIOTAKIS).

Ms. MALLIOTAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend and colleague, MONICA DE LA CRUZ, for joining me in this effort. I also thank my colleagues on the other side of the aisle who have cosponsored our legislation, H.R. 1329.

Today, we conclude Women's History Month. It has been a monthlong celebration of the remarkable achievements and contributions of American women throughout our Nation's history.

Whether it is the suffragists who fought for the right to vote, the riveters who stepped in while men fought during World War II, the 10,000 women known as Code Girls who broke German and Japanese codes for the U.S. Army and Navy during World War II, the "Hidden Figures" of NASA who helped launch John Glenn into space, or the Black Angels from my district, Staten Island, New York, who treated sick tuberculosis patients when no one wanted to and helped find the cure for this disease, American women have been instrumental in shaping our Nation's progress and success.

We think about how much has happened in five decades. Fifty years ago, women were still battling for so many rights, not just equal pay. They could not get a credit card without a male cosigner. They had no protections against pregnancy discrimination or sexual harassment. They could not serve on juries, and they did not have the ability to join military academies. Women before us have made so much progress. We celebrate and thank them. Now we pave the way forward.

Last week, 37 female Republican Members of the U.S. House of Representatives and the Senate joined

President Donald Trump at the White House to launch the GOP Women's Caucus.

I would remind my colleagues from the Republican side that it was the Republican Party who helped champion women's rights and protections. It was Republican Susan B. Anthony who led the suffrage movement. It was a Republican Senator who sponsored the 19th Amendment to give women the right to vote. It was a Republican Congress that approved it, and it was a majority of Republican States that ratified it.

It was Republican Jeannette Rankin who 4 years prior made history in 1916 as the first woman elected to the U.S. House of Representatives.

In 1972, it was President Richard Nixon who signed Title IX into law, eliminating sex discrimination in education and athletics, opening doors for female athletes to receive scholarships.

In 1981, Sandra Day O'Connor, also a Republican, made history as the first woman confirmed to the U.S. Supreme Court, paving the way for greater female representation in our legal system.

Most recently, President Trump authorized the Smithsonian American Women's History Museum in 2020. In his first few days of his second term, he signed an executive order to protect women in sports.

Today, we are fighting to get that museum that was authorized in 2020 its rightful place on The National Mall. I thank my colleagues from both sides of the aisle, nearly 100 Members of this institution, who have cosponsored H.R. 1329. We can transfer this land and get this museum built to honor the women who are currently known and unknown, who have contributed so much, and who have built our Nation. This is one of our new caucus' priorities, and we must get it done in this term.

Last week, something exciting happened at the White House. President Trump threw his 100 percent support behind building the Smithsonian American Women's History Museum on The National Mall. We must seize this opportunity, working together across this political spectrum, and get the job done.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to working with all of my colleagues. I thank all the women and the men who have been so supportive of this project, and I look forward to seeing all of them at the groundbreaking.

Ms. DE LA CRUZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. CHU).

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, as this year's Women's History Month comes to a close, there is no better way to honor the prolific and powerful contributions of women in this country than to finally authorize the creation of the Smithsonian American Women's History Museum on The National Mall.

As one of the original cosponsors of this bipartisan bill, I feel strongly that this museum must become a reality.

The National Mall here in Washington, D.C., tells the profound story of our country, but that story is woefully incomplete without a dedicated space to commemorate how women have shaped our Nation every single day since before the founding. From Abigail Adams' request to "remember the ladies," to the suffrage rights movement, to NANCY PELOSI's historic speakership, women have been trailblazers and have made history.

That is why I am proud to work with colleagues on both sides of the aisle to pass our bill, the Smithsonian American Women's History Museum Act, to make sure that the Women's History Museum gets its rightful spot on The National Mall. We are also working to make sure that the National Museum of the American Latino, which also enjoys bipartisan support, gets its spot, too.

So much progress has already been made to find the right location, raise funds, and garner broad bipartisan support for this museum. The momentum is here, and the time is now to finally make the story of our Nation more complete by ensuring that the Smithsonian American Women's History Museum secures its place in our Nation's Capital.

Ms. DE LA CRUZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. CAMMACK).

Mrs. CAMMACK. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend and colleague, Representative DE LA CRUZ, for yielding time.

Mr. Speaker, it is such an honor to be here today as we recognize the incredible contributions of women throughout American history.

Many of us grew up reading about the courageous women who shaped our Nation, women like Abigail Adams, Harriet Tubman, and Clara Barton. Their stories weren't just words in a textbook. They were testaments to the power of perseverance, patriotism, and principle.

History is not just simply about the past. It is about what we pass on to the next generation. That is why the Smithsonian American Women's History Museum is such an important project. It ensures that these stories are not only preserved and honored but shared with all Americans. Our daughters and granddaughters should be able to walk into this museum and see firsthand how women have helped shape this Nation, not as passive observers but as leaders, innovators, and change-makers.

This museum tells the stories of the women who built businesses, defended our freedoms, and served their communities, all through the lens of hard work, personal responsibility, and faith in the American Dream.

This commitment to empowering women isn't just about history. It is about the present and the future. That is why I am so proud to be here this evening to celebrate the recent launch of the Republican Women's Caucus, a

group that I am so proud to chair, which is dedicated to amplifying the voices of strong, principled women serving today in Congress. Conservative women are making history every day, championing policies that promote freedom, opportunity, and the values that have made this Nation great.

Women's History Month is a time to reflect on our progress and reaffirm our commitment to ensuring that every American, regardless of their background, has the chance to achieve their full potential. That is the legacy that we honor, and it is the one future that we are building together.

May we always celebrate the remarkable women who have made our country stronger, and I am so grateful for the leadership of my fellow colleagues.

Ms. DE LA CRUZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. ADAMS).

Ms. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, I thank Ms. DE LA CRUZ for yielding time.

Mr. Speaker, on the final day of Women's History Month, I rise tonight to highlight the value of the Women's History Museum. Karen Staser founded the museum in 1995 with the aim of addressing the significant amount of women's history that was missing from our Nation's Capital and museums, including the Smithsonian Institution.

During the museum's startup years, the museum's first project was to oversee the restoration of the iconic women's suffrage statute which resides in our Capitol rotunda to this day.

As an artist of 40 years and as someone who has actually started a small museum gallery in my home State, I am very concerned about museums. This museum also organized a traveling exhibition on women's suffrage, launched a popular newsletter called "A Different Point of View," created a bipartisan Honorary Congressional Advisory Council, and testified before Congress.

Since its founding, the museum has played an integral role in uplifting and celebrating the many women in history who have had an impact on our society, women like my mentor, artist, and teacher, the late Eva Hamlin Miller. Too often, these names are erased from our history books, our K-12 education, and even our museums.

The Women's History Museum is a space where women can go to feel inspired and motivated to dream big. It is a place where women's legacies can live on, be celebrated, and not forgotten.

One such woman I want to mention, Alma Thomas, comes to mind. She was an African-American artist who is now recognized as a major American painter of the 20th century. She attended Howard University and went on to be an educator at Shaw Junior High School here in D.C.

She had a deep understanding of the importance of the arts in children's self-expression and created enrichment programs for her students. Her most

influential work included her abstract paintings which she developed later in her life. She was the first African-American woman to be featured in a solo exhibit at the Whitney Museum of American Art and also the first to have her art displayed in the White House's permanent collection.

We need more representation of African-American artists like Alma Thomas and Eva Hamlin Miller in the Women's History Museum. To exclude their work is to miss significant parts of our country's history and contradict the very founding principle of the museum.

I close again by honoring all of the women of our past who had an influential hand in shaping the present. Wholeheartedly, I support the work of the Women's History Museum. As always, I look forward to working with my colleagues to continue to uplift the work and the contributions of women, not just for Women's History Month but every month and every day of every year.

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

Ms. MALOY. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to stand here and celebrate the contributions of women this Women's History Month, both the women who are here today and those whose spirits live on through the impact they have created for past generations.

Our contributions as women are not a sidenote in the story of our world. They are central to it. We helped shape the world, and we are here to make sure that the women who came before us get credit for what they have done. Their influence is undeniable.

When we think of remarkable women, let us be reminded of women like Martha Hughes Cannon, a physician, suffragist, and pioneer who went on to become the first female State Senator in the United States.

We are a Nation of pioneers. Martha beautifully embodies that pioneering spirit. She immigrated to the United States, crossed the Great Plains, and helped settle Utah when it was a frontier State. She challenged societal expectations, standing alone in the fields of science and politics, to advocate for her convictions.

Her unwavering commitment to change helped establish women's right to vote and hold office in Utah, putting the State decades ahead of the national curve, and then helped reestablish the right to vote when the Nation caught up.

□ 1945

Her statue now fittingly stands in Emancipation Hall and represents Utah.

Let's also be reminded of women like Sally Ride who in 1983 became the first woman in space, defying conventional expectations set for women while creating opportunities for women to enter STEM fields.

Let us also be reminded of women like Clara Barton who founded the

American Red Cross in 1881, modeling service and diplomacy in the presence of conflict. Her contributions were not without risk.

Let us be reminded of all the women who have yet to have their stories told, their achievements celebrated, and their voices heard. Their influence, whether truly recognized or not, will be felt, not only by their neighbors, but by future generations. Their contributions are important to the legacy of this Nation.

The importance of showcasing women's achievements, sharing our stories and teaching our history, cannot be overstated. Women's History Museum offers young girls the opportunity to see themselves in history as active agents of change. When we teach the history of women, we are teaching the history of humanity, and those stories are not simply for women, but for everyone. They are for everyone who shares the pioneering spirit that drives Americans to keep challenging limitations and working for freedom and opportunity.

When we recognize women, let us remember the challenges they have faced, the struggles we have endured, and the significance of our choice to persevere.

Progress is rarely easily won. Success is rarely freely given, but as history has illustrated time and time again, women have found ways to push forward and to pioneer better ways.

As we honor the women who come before us by remembering, I hope we will be grateful and humble to have inherited the progress of past generations. As Americans and visitors to our country visit the Nation's Capital and explore the museums, it seems fitting that they would have the opportunity to learn about the pioneering spirit of America and the stories of pioneering American women.

Ms. DE LA CRUZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

#### FIGHTING VOTER SUPPRESSION

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

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. McCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include any extraneous material on the subject this Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. McCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise today to co-anchor the CBC Special Order hour along with my distinguished colleague, the legend, JAMES CLYBURN.

For the next 60 minutes, members of the CBC have an opportunity to speak directly to the American people on vot-

ing rights, specifically fighting voter suppression, an issue of great importance to the Congressional Black Caucus, Congress, the constituents we represent, and all Americans.

Mr. Speaker, the U.S. Constitution created a government by, of, and for We the People. As a child, I often reflected on exactly what that meant. What that means is that it is a government that reflects the perspective of and, therefore, meets the needs of the people who participate. However, for most of our country's history in the beginning, only White, landowning men could vote.

That was changed in 1870 when the 15th Amendment opened the door for Black men to vote by prohibiting the Federal Government and States from denying or abridging a citizen's right to vote on the account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.

During Reconstruction, formerly enslaved and free Black men voted and got elected to office. When Reconstruction ended, though, the former Confederate States passed new constitutions, including such things as literacy tests, poll taxes, and felony disenfranchisement. In the words of E. Carter Glass in the Virginia constitutional convention of 1902, he said these were intended to "eliminate the darky" as a factor in politics.

They made no bones about what they were doing.

Glass told his fellow convention delegates: "This plan of popular suffrage will eliminate the darky as a political factor in this State in less than 5 years, so that in no single county in the Commonwealth will there be the least concern felt for the complete supremacy of the White race in the affairs government."

Next to this achievement in vital consequence will be the inability of unworthy men of our own race to cheat their way into prominence."

This was the first great backlash in American history to making progress toward making the ideals of upon which our country was founded true for everyone.

Enter my own family history. My great-grandfather in Alabama around the same time had to take a literacy test in order to be able to register to vote. In this literacy test he was asked questions like: How many bubbles are in a bar of soap? And many other nonsensical questions that the person giving the literacy test could change the answer to based on who was answering the questions.

However, my great-grandfather was a community leader and teacher. He got all the questions right, and the registrar turned to his assistant and said a word I will never say other than in a direct quote: "I need more questions because this nigger got them all right."

My great-grandfather got the next set of questions right. Then he was told: You must find three White men to vouch for your character to be able to

register to vote. After much effort, he did it, and he voted in every election since.

Now, the second great backlash occurred after the efforts of men like Dr. King; our former colleague, John Lewis; and members of the Congressional Black Caucus like Mr. CLYBURN. Because of the Voting Rights Act, many of the things that my family suffered went away, like the poll tax.

Mr. Speaker, when I took my oath of office on this floor 2 years ago, I took my oath of office on my father's Bible. It was an old, tattered Bible from the 1940s. I didn't understand why he wouldn't get a new one. Often as we got to the anniversary of my father's passing I would look through his Bible. On January 5, 2021, he was on my mind as Georgia elected the first Black Senator. I opened the Bible, and an envelope fell out I had never noticed, and inside was his poll tax receipt from when he first registered to vote. Then I understood: He kept it in his Bible to remind him of the sacred right of the right to vote. He kept this Bible even when we tried to give him new ones. This was the one he used to write his sermons every Sunday.

Now, the 24th Amendment banned poll taxes like my father and my grandfather had to pay, but my mother was not able to vote until after the voting rights of 1965 passed. Now, Mr. Speaker, I tell this story because I daresay every member of the Congressional Black Caucus has a story or two or several in their family. In fact, some members of the CBC themselves have these stories, as you will probably hear.

All of this effort culminated in the Voting Rights Act that had an immediate impact on expanding the ability and the participation of Black Americans to vote until the Supreme Court gutted it in *Shelby v. Holder* because it said that Congress had not created enough of a record to show that voter suppression still existed on the basis of race.

However, just like those delegates in the 1902 Virginia convention, who, when asked: Well, when we give these literacy tests, how will we know if we don't explicitly say that it is on the basis of race?

Those delegates had an answer. They knew it would be up to the person implementing the literacy test, just like with my great-grandfather, to determine whether the questions were right or wrong and if they answered enough.

Now, Congress has failed to restore the provisions that were gutted in the Voting Rights Act, and as a result, we have seen a wave of laws across the country, particularly in the South, throwing up barriers in the way of voting. This is the latest voter suppression in the backlash to progress.

Moreover, now our President issued an executive order I believe last week, and on the floor of this body this week, we will have Jim Crow 2.0, the poll tax of 2025, the SAVE Act, the requirement

that every American citizen prove their citizenship.

Mr. Speaker, why is that a poll tax you might ask?

It is because the only documents allowed to prove your citizenship, other than a military ID, costs money. I will give you some examples. The Real ID costs about \$42. These are all numbers that I have gotten based on research in either my State or federally.

A passport costs \$130. A birth certificate from a State agency is \$12 in Virginia. A consular report of birth abroad is \$100. A certificate of citizenship is \$1,385.

Whether it was \$2.12 that my father paid in 1947 or \$1,385 that someone has to pay for a certificate of citizenship, it is a poll tax. It is illegal under our Constitution, and it is an effort at voter suppression.

Mr. Speaker, for women, we just heard as we celebrate the final day of Women's History Month, if your name is not the same today as on your birth certificate, then you need a document to show the chain of custody of your name. That is more money, that is more obstacles, that is more hoops to jump through, and that is more voter suppression. The Congressional Black Caucus will not stand silently by and watch it happen.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. CLYBURN).

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding to me, and I thank her so much for leading this Special Order hour.

Mr. Speaker, I join with my colleague from Virginia to express my disagreement with the misplaced priorities of the Republican majority. The American people have made clear that they want their elected leaders to be focused on improving the economy and lowering costs.

In this area, by any measure, the Trump administration and the Republican majorities here in Congress are off to a very poor start. Projected economic growth is down along with Americans' 401(k)'s. Inflation and expectations for inflation in the coming months are up. Last week, discussing the release of higher-than-expected inflation data, one economic analyst observed "the preliminary signs of stagflation pressures."

Now, I am old enough to remember the stagflation of the 1970s: low growth combined with high inflation. It was devastating then, and it would be devastating now. Unsurprisingly, consumer sentiment is down substantially.

Much of this economic weakness is the result of the Trump administration's reckless, indiscriminate, and nonstrategic tariffs, which are expected to raise costs for Americans trying to make ends meet.

To take one example, The Washington Post reported that the recently announced tariffs on automobiles are likely to raise prices most significantly for the most affordable cars.

The President, however, when asked over the weekend about automobile

price increases replied: "I couldn't care less."

The Secretary of the Treasury from my home State of South Carolina was doing quite well financially as a hedge fund manager doesn't think the American people care either. To quote him: "Access to cheap goods is not the essence of the American Dream."

□ 2000

Clearly, Mr. Trump and Mr. Bessent have never struggled to make ends meet from paycheck to paycheck and appear to view those who do with disdain.

With our Nation's economy in such a precarious state and 2 weeks of session left before a 2-week recess, is the Republican majority taking urgent action to bolster Americans' finances, boost growth, and restore confidence? Regrettably, they are not.

Instead, among other ill-advised items, they are tackling the so-called problem of noncitizens voting, which is already illegal. I say so-called problem because the Bipartisan Policy Center's analysis of The Heritage Foundation database—I repeat, a Heritage Foundation database—found just 77 instances of noncitizen voting between 1999 and 2023. That is 77 instances out of hundreds of millions of votes cast over a 25-year period.

The Bipartisan Policy Center goes on to say: "Illegal voting, including by noncitizens, is routinely investigated and prosecuted by the appropriate authorities, and there is no evidence that noncitizen voting has ever been significant enough to impact an election's outcome." That is from The Heritage Foundation.

If my Republican colleagues are truly concerned about the illegal overturning of election outcomes, they should work to prevent a repeat of the current President's attempt to overturn the 2020 election, which culminated in the deadly attack on this building on January 6, 2021. They shouldn't waste the House's time on this legislation.

Worse than a waste of time, the bill being brought to the floor this week would disenfranchise eligible citizens by imposing onerous requirements that many could not meet.

For example, as you just heard, married women who have changed their last names could not use their birth certificates with their maiden names as proof of citizenship. Neither could those born to military parents stationed abroad.

While many of my Republican colleagues may be globetrotting jet-setters, many of my constituents in South Carolina don't have passports. A \$100 passport fee is a lot of money for many people in my district—in this case, an exorbitant poll tax.

This bill is only the latest Republican attempt to erect barriers to the ballot box, following recent attempts to make it more difficult to vote by mail or by ballot drop boxes. Just last

week, the President signed a sweeping executive order with several onerous provisions that would risk disenfranchising millions of Americans.

Democratic bills, like the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act and the Freedom to Vote Act, would stop these attacks on our democracy and ensure every American is able to cast a meaningful vote.

Mr. Speaker, when the American economy is on the precipice, why are my Republican colleagues focused on making it more difficult to vote?

While I possess no special insight into their motivations, I would argue that the two are connected. Republicans don't want to face democratic accountability for their governing failures, so they are trying to curb the electoral power of the struggling Americans who their destructive economic agenda is harming the most.

I am a little bit of a student of history. What we are seeing right now evokes the dark periods of the late 1800s.

During the gilded age, low-income Black and White Americans across the South came together in pursuit of economic justice. The economic power structure responded not by expanding economic opportunities but by restricting the right to vote. The result was Jim Crow 1.0, which deprived generations of African Americans of the right to vote, the right to choose leaders who could ease their economic burdens and expand opportunities for their families.

Mr. Speaker, after these Supreme Court interpretations and these actions by these southern legislatures, let me tell you what happened in South Carolina. When more than 50 percent of the population was African American, they had zero representation here in the Congress. In fact, the last African American left Congress in 1897, and there was not another African American in this body until I took the oath of office 95 years later. That is what happened with Jim Crow 1.0, and what we are seeing happening now is Jim Crow 2.0.

I am very fond of quoting George Santayana's admonition: Those who do not remember the past are condemned to repeat it.

I worry that we are dangerously close to repeating this democratic decline amidst economic disruption. However, heeding the lessons of history, I believe there is still time to prevent it.

As we fight against Republican attempts to diminish our democracy, like the bill on the floor this week, we must deploy this democracy to demand that they address the issues people actually care about. We must make our voices heard on this floor, at townhalls, over the phone, at peaceful protests, and at the ballot box.

We must make clear that Republicans must stop the Trump agenda of economic destruction. They must take action to lower costs. They must abandon their efforts to take healthcare

away from millions to fund tax cuts for billionaires.

It is early in this fight, but our initial efforts are starting to yield results. Republicans fear for their majority, and they should. It is my hope that this fear will prompt my Republican colleagues to rethink their agenda for purposes of electoral self-preservation. If they fail to do so, the American people, as has happened before, will rightfully rethink who they elect so that we can preserve our economy and our democracy.

I will close, Mr. Speaker, with a little story from the 1950s. I graduated high school in 1957. As I was about to graduate, one of my teachers assigned me an essay to write. The essay was simply to share what I wanted to do after graduation, which was 3 months away.

When I wrote the essay, she came to me several days later and told me that she had read my essay and was very disappointed in what I wrote. I thought she had problems with the style, or maybe I didn't get the subjects and verbs to agree.

When I went into her office, she said to me she was disappointed because I said in my essay that, upon graduating high school, I would be leaving my native South Carolina, and I wrote why. It was because I was a college student, and when my parents got the right to cast an effective vote—both of them college graduates—the Democratic primary in South Carolina was a private club, a White-only private club.

These were the kinds of laws that came out of the Slaughter-House Cases and Plessy v. Ferguson, the same kind of laws that are being signaled now in the Supreme Court in the *Shelby v. Holder* decision. Just read it and you will see that what Justice Roberts wrote in that decision could have been lifted from those decisions of the 1870s. Jim Crow 2.0 is upon us.

Mr. Speaker, that bill is coming to this floor. If that bill is passed by this body, we will be taking another step toward disenfranchising people going forward.

It is a sin and a shame that this body in this year will initiate the opportunity to turn the clock back to revisit those years that we thought were gone by.

As we face this great threat to our economy and our democracy, I would hope that we will get a spine, that we will exert the authority of this body, and that we will say to anybody, in low places or high places, that we will not turn the clock back.

Ms. McCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Honorable Mr. CLYBURN for his remarks.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Alabama (Ms. SEWELL).

□ 2015

Ms. SEWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join my CBC colleagues in getting into some good trouble as we voice our very strong opposition to the Republicans' voter suppression bill, the so-called SAVE Act.

As a daughter of Selma and the Representative of Alabama's civil rights district, the fight for voting rights is very personal to me. It was in Selma 60 years ago where John Lewis and hundreds of foot soldiers were bludgeoned on the Edmund Pettus Bridge for the equal right of every American to vote. The legislation before us makes a mockery of that legacy.

Since his defeat in the 2020 election, President Donald Trump and his Republican allies have pushed the big lie of a stolen election. The majority has tried to convince the American people of the lie that noncitizens are a threat to our elections and are using that lie as an excuse to pass a new law, such as the SAVE Act, which would make it harder for millions of Americans to cast their ballots.

Mr. Speaker, the facts are clear: It is already illegal for noncitizens to vote in Federal elections, or in any elections. In fact, under current law, noncitizens would face up to 5 years in prison for attempting to vote in Federal elections and would even risk being deported.

In reality, this legislation would purge thousands of eligible voters from the rolls. It would create significant barriers for the 69 million women who currently are married and changed their last names so that their birth certificates do not match their marriage certificates. Thus, it would be harder for these almost 70 million women to vote.

The 140 million Americans who do not have a passport and those with military IDs and Tribal IDs, none of which would be able to prove their birth citizenship, are not included in the bill as proper forms of ID that will allow someone to show their citizenship.

Americans should see this bill for what it is: a cynical attempt to flame the fire of false voter fraud by the same extremist who brought us the January 6 insurrection.

Their objective of suppressing the vote was made even more clear last week, Mr. Speaker, when President Trump signed an executive order to erode voting rights and gave Elon Musk, an unelected, unconfirmed person, the right to access Americans' personal voter information.

Mr. Speaker, as elected officials in this House, we should be fighting to protect and expand access to the ballot box, not restrict it. As old battles have become new again, we in the Congressional Black Caucus have remained committed to ensuring and defending the sacred right to vote. This right to vote was won with blood, sweat, tears, and even deaths. We in the Congressional Black Caucus see voting rights as our North Star.

Mr. Speaker, we will not stop fighting as long as President Trump and Elon Musk and House Republicans are trying to take away our sacred right to vote.

I urge all of my colleagues to not only vote "no" on the SAVE Act, but to do so with vigor and with purpose.

It was John Lewis who said that ours is not the struggle of 1 day, 1 week, 1 year. Ours is a struggle of a lifetime. As long as the Congressional Black Caucus, 63 Members strong, is in this Congress, we will stand up and protect the right of every American to vote, and we will stop efforts like the SAVE Act.

The SAVE Act is not there to save election integrity. The SAVE Act is all about saving Republican seats and Republican elected officials. We will be voting "no" on that bill when it comes to the floor, and we urge our other colleagues to do the same.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the gentlewoman from Virginia (Ms. McCLELLAN) for leading this Special Order hour. We in the Congressional Black Caucus stand on the shoulders of giants. It is now time for us to get off of their shoulders and to do our own work, and our own work, we will do in defeating the SAVE Act and for standing up for the legacy of John Lewis and those foot soldiers who marched on a bridge in my hometown for the equal right of every American to vote. As long as we have a voice, the CBC will be standing up for voting rights.

Ms. McCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the honorable gentlewoman from Alabama (Ms. SEWELL) for her remarks.

Mr. Speaker, it is now my privilege to yield to the honorable gentleman from Illinois (Mr. JACKSON).

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Congresswoman for her leadership and her stewardship. I thank the body for convening during this very special hour.

Democracy is on trial this week.

Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight with a fervor and the burden of history on all of our backs. The question is: Do we go forward in faith, or do we go backwards in despair?

I rise tonight not just for myself as a legislator, but for all of those who never made it to this mike, for all of those who did not have the opportunity to be viewed as full human beings in our great country, for those who marched in the dust, for those who bled on the bridges, for those who faced the dogs and the batons right here in the United States of America, for those who met the fire hoses just to try to claim their right to vote.

Mr. Speaker, both of my grandfathers served in World War II. Oftentimes, when I look at Union Station, I remember that my grandfather, having fought the Nazis in World War II, coming back to the United States and into Washington, D.C., he had to leave the first-class train car as a soldier and go into the back because he was considered a Negro, a colored man. Nazi POWs went to the first-class train car as they headed back toward South Carolina.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today because the right to vote, the crown jewel of our

democracy, is under attack again. We have seen this play out before, and we know how it ends if we don't act. Tonight, I say: We have come too far and there is too many to go back in time again.

In 1965, a year before I was born, after 346 years, African Americans were finally given full citizenship with that crown jewel of the Voting Rights Act.

I am 59 years of age. I am the first generation in my family, all born in America—all born in America—who has full equal rights. In my lifetime, at the age of 59, my children will have fewer rights than I have had. Those are troubling signs.

In 1965, the Voting Rights Act became the law of the land. It was signed in blood and baptized by the courage of men and women who dared to believe in something better. Selma gave us the foot soldiers. Montgomery gave us the movement, and the movement gave us the right to vote.

Yet, here we are in 2025, and it feels like we are back at square one. This week, the President signed an executive order requiring proof of citizenship to vote in Federal elections. He cut off mail-in ballots unless they arrive on time as he cuts the postal workforce. He says that you cannot have ballots that don't arrive on the day of.

Mr. Speaker, ignoring the rural voters, the disabled voters, the traveling soldiers and our veterans, if your State does not comply, he threatens to take away your funding. How is the President expanding democracy? He is asphyxiating our body politics.

This is not policy. This is punishment. This is not democracy. This is deception. That is suppression dressed in a suit and tie.

Don't be fooled by the language. Republicans call it election security. Jim Crow has had a way of cleaning up vile and vitriolic racist words, but I have lived long enough to know that when they say, "security," what they actually mean is "selectivity." When they say, "integrity," what they actually mean is "inequality."

Let me be clear. We don't have a voter fraud problem in this country. We have a voter suppression crisis. We have polling places shutting down in Black neighborhoods. We have long lines in indigenous communities that stretch around the corner and throughout the night. We have purges, ID laws, and maps drawn to divide rather than to unite.

Mr. Speaker, we have courts gutting the Civil Rights Act, statehouses cooking up new restrictions, and a President threatening to override the will of the people with the stroke of a pen.

Mr. Speaker, that is not justice. That is regression. That is going in reverse. We don't want to go back. We are not going back. We won't go back to a time when folks had to count jellybeans in jars to prove they were American enough.

We won't go back to a time when the color of your skin determined the

weight of your ballot or your opportunity to have a ballot in your hand. We won't go back to a time when power was hoarded by the few and denied to the many. We are marching forward with ballots, not bullets; love, not fear; and with hope, not hate.

When you suppress the vote, you suppress the American Dream. You suppress the worker, the teacher, the farm laborer, the preacher, the nurse, the single mom juggling three jobs just to make it to election day. You suppress the very soul of our democracy.

Mr. Speaker, some would say order is needed. Let me say something about order. There is no order without justice, and there is no justice when you erect barriers to silence people instead of listening to them.

We need access. We need more access, not less. We need more voices, not fewer. We need to make voting easier, not harder; more joyful, not more burdensome; and more sacred, not more cynical.

Mr. Speaker, this Congress must not wait another day. We must pass the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act to restore what the Supreme Court gutted when it ripped out preclearance. We must pass the Freedom to Vote Act to guarantee that every citizen, no matter the ZIP Code that they live in, their income, or ancestry, can register, vote, and be counted with dignity.

We must defend the courts and protect the power of judges to stop injustice before it spreads and metastasizes because, if we silence the judiciary, we silence the law.

While we legislate, we must also organize. We must educate. We must inspire new generations who understand the vote not just as a right, but as a duty, as a voice, as a weapon of choice, and a peace instrument in our long fight and struggle for its freedom and total emancipation.

We must keep people marching in the streets for those who marched before us and those continuing and coming behind.

We must keep dreaming for a democracy big enough for all of us, not just for a favored few.

We must keep building the more perfect union that the Framers spoke out about but never completed.

Mr. Speaker, tonight, in the spirit of Fannie Lou Hamer and Medgar Evers—Fannie Lou Hamer said she was sick and tired of being sick and tired. I know some people are asking why we are relitigating this again.

Some people who are male and White have all of the privileges. Some people think democracy began in 1776, when only White male landowners had the right to vote. We have been a work in progress, and God is not finished with it yet.

I speak for Medgar Evers and Malcolm and Martin and for the people in line in church basements, gymnasiums, and mobile vans who believe in this country even when this country forgot about them.

They are watching as we march. History is watching us. The past is listening.

The future is haunting. The world is watching to see if America is still what it claims to be. Let us not fail the moment. Let us be worthy of the dream and our ideals. Let us not be thick on deeds and thin on action.

Let us be worthy of the dream and aspire to live up to the words of our Constitution. Let us protect the vote, not for ourselves but for all those who cannot be in this Chamber, who are counting on us to speak truth to power, pass laws, and lead with love. The vote is power. The vote is our voice.

The vote is sacred, and I will not rest until every hand that reaches for a ballot is met with a promise, not with a barrier.

□ 2030

Ms. McCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Illinois for his remarks.

Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to the time remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from Virginia has 16 minutes remaining.

Ms. McCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Louisiana, Mr. CLEO FIELDS.

Mr. FIELDS. Mr. Speaker, let me thank the gentlewoman from Virginia and the gentleman from South Carolina for organizing this Special Order at a very important time.

Before the 14th Amendment, I was considered three-fifths of a man. It was not until 1870, through the ratification of the 15th Amendment, that I received the right to vote. It wasn't until 1920, through the passage of the 19th Amendment, that women received the right to vote.

Despite all men and women having the full Federal right to vote by 1920, States still devised schemes to impose draconian restrictions to prevent voter registration for people of color.

These restrictions were Jim Crow laws. I never understood it, but in 1988, when I ran for office for the first time, I wanted my grandmother to vote for me. I was leading folk to the polls to register to vote, and I tried to get my grandmother to go. I said, "Grandmother, why in the world would you not go to vote for your grandson?" She said to me, "Sit down, son. Let me just tell you a story." She went to register to vote, and they gave her a literacy test. She had to state the preamble to the Constitution, my grandmother, in Louisiana.

I finally got her to register to vote, and she voted until she passed.

They gave them tests like citizen tests, voucher tests. They had to get other people to vouch for them. In Louisiana, we had something called all-White primaries, which meant Blacks could not even vote in primary elections.

One of the first successes we have had in the battle of voting rights was

in 1944 with the Supreme Court decision of *Smith v. Allwright* when they outlawed White-only primaries.

Following this decision, Black voter registration went up. It moved from 1,000 in 1944 to 120,000 in 1952 and 160,000 in 1956.

Despite some legal progress, Jim Crow laws were still alive and well in Southern States. Substantial progress was made through the Voting Rights Act of 1956, 1957, and 1960, which authorized the United States Attorney General to file lawsuits on behalf of Americans who were denied the right to vote and gave them the ability to investigate threats on civil rights.

A watershed moment occurred when we passed the 1964 Voting Rights Act and the 1965 Voting Rights Act, which made Jim Crow practices and discrimination illegal. Thank God for subsection 5. I will take a moment of personal privilege to talk about that subsection because it really affected me.

Every law that was passed in my State of Louisiana had to be precleared by the Justice Department, and then there was a challenge to that, *Shelby v. Holder*.

Every progress we have made, all the sacrifices all the leaders have made, like John Lewis, Martin Luther King, Shirley Chisholm, and Jesse Jackson, they kept making these pushes because they knew it was a hard time for people.

Lastly, let me just tell you, these State laws are real. Last year, I served as a member of the Louisiana State Senate, and several attempts were made to make it more difficult on a State level for people to register to vote: S. 226 dealt with absentee ballots, and it required you to put your mother's maiden name on your voter application or your vote would be thrown out. S. 218 prohibits individuals from assisting elderly people in registering to vote.

I say to you, Mr. Speaker, Congress should advance legislation like the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act and the Freedom to Vote Act to increase equal access across the voting ballot.

Ms. McCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his remarks.

Mr. Speaker, I stand here as I started, the great-granddaughter of Henry David Davidson, who had to take a literacy test and find three White men to vouch for him to be able to register to vote in 1902.

I stand here the daughter and granddaughter of two men named James Fennimore McClellan, who had to pay poll taxes to be able to register to vote.

I stand here the daughter of Lois McClellan, the first woman in her family who was able to vote when the Voting Rights Act of 1965 was passed in her thirties.

I took my oath of office on the Bible in which my father kept this poll tax receipt to remind me that I owe it to them to fight for the sacred right to vote.

I stand here as the first Black woman elected to Congress from Virginia. Virginia is the birthplace of American democracy, but her labor was long and her birthing pains deep; the home of the first representative democracy in the Western Hemisphere where only White land-owning men could vote; the home, the birthplace, of American slavery; and the birthplace of Thomas Jefferson, who wrote that all men are created equal and endowed by their creator with the unalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. He excluded nearly half a million enslaved men and women, indeed, all the women who resided in the Thirteen Colonies, including in his beloved Monticello.

The Delegates to the Continental Congress ignored Abigail Adams' plea to "remember the ladies and be [kinder] to them than your ancestors."

Virginia is the birthplace of James Madison, who was the architect of the Virginia Plan that created a Constitution and a government by, of, and for the people in order to form a more perfect Union.

Not only did they not remember the ladies, but they considered the enslaved people who served them every day to be three-fifths of a person for purposes of this body, apportionment, and taxation, and they excluded indigenous people altogether.

Since 1789, the story of America has been one of each generation trying to make true for all Americans the promise of our founding documents. It is a story of cyclical trauma as the Civil War tore this country apart; Reconstruction sought to bind its wounds; and a violent backlash of white supremacy erased the gains made by formerly enslaved men, like my predecessor John Mercer Langston, the first Black man to serve in this body from Virginia.

It is a story of persistence, the persistence of women forcing a seat at the table of democracy and bringing a folding chair like Shirley Chisholm when they weren't let in. It is a story of the Federal Government advancing, retreating, advancing, and retreating in the battle to protect every American citizen's right to vote.

We are in the backlash right now that we have seen to that progress, and I stand here with my father's poll tax receipt behind me to remind me: We cannot go back. We cannot go back to a time when, in the name of voter integrity, barriers are put in people's way, poll taxes are put in people's way, and the requirement to pay money to prove you have the right to vote is imposed on American citizens.

Mr. Speaker, I am tired. I am tired of fighting the same fights as my parents, my grandparents, and my great-grandparents, but I fight those fights as a member of the Congressional Black Caucus, the conscience of the Congress, from a position of more power and strength than they ever dreamed. I fight those fights so that our children and grandchildren don't have to.

I implore this body not to take a giant step back by imposing Jim Crow 2.0 and a poll tax through the SAVE Act or the President's executive order.

The right to vote is sacred. We will defend it.

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

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

#### U.S. BORROWS \$6 BILLION A DAY

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

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, forgive me as we get ourselves organized here. Our friends on the other side ended a little faster than we expected.

Mr. Speaker, I am going to do something a little dangerous. Have you heard the saying you should never go to bed mad? I think there should be another rule. You probably shouldn't come behind these microphones cranky, but let's have at it.

Mr. Speaker, I have been walking through numbers after numbers. For a decade now, I have come behind this microphone trying to walk through the scale of our borrowing, the scale of what is going on. The fact that most of it is driven by our demographics is giving a little bit of an excuse. Saying that makes it so it is not Democratic or Republican; it is just math. At Home, I represent the Scottsdale-Phoenix area. I am trying to figure out what is going on in our brothers and sisters on the left's heads.

I get it. They are cranky. As a former Senator that I sat next to from my State was sharing with me, one of the great frustrations of Democrats in my area is, for 15 years, they raised money and ran on marriage equality. Well, that is pretty much settled. They ran on the right to terminate pregnancies. Well, now that is in my State constitution.

What do they run on now? They run on rage, apparently.

□ 2045

I want to get this out of my head before I start to walk through some of the math. You have a country that is borrowing about \$6 billion a day, about \$70,000 a second. In a decade, there is data saying 30 percent of our tax receipts will go just to pay interest.

The wheels are coming off, and, instead, the brain trust of some of these folks—okay, I accept the tonal quality of some of the folks out of the White House isn't warm and cuddly, but do you go around neighborhoods, offices, and stick Nazi signs on their cars?

My wife drives a Tesla. We bought it a couple years ago. It is funny, at that time she got teased a bit: Oh, now you are driving an electric car. I thought you guys were really conservative.

Is this where your heads are at? Sticking Nazi things on people's windshields? There is no way they knew it

was my wife's car. She just has a little BASIS sticker, which is a charter school my kids go to.

This is really the quality of conversation discourse of communication that is going on with the leftwing activists in my community. It is not: Hey, David, we are concerned about Medicaid. Here are ideas how you can deal with the debt and deficit so we have the resources. No, because it is this really highbrow, intellectual discussion with our brothers and sisters on the other side, stick Nazi things on people's cars. This is what you have come down to? This is what is going on? Come on, people.

Look, I almost always start with this chart. You see what is in blue? It is defense and nondefense discretionary. It is—we expect it to be 26, 25 percent of spending. Last year, for every dollar this country took in in tax collections, we spent \$1.39, but everything we vote on is 26 percent of the budget. Does anyone see a math problem?

We are going to get behind the microphones and have honest discussions of how we are going to save the country. If it is about programs the left cares about, help us figure out how to pay for it. Yet, when you actually look at some of the spending and debt—I think I have the chart. We actually did some of the math.

The crazy thing, one of my Democratic neighbors who makes a lot of money, he has a beautiful home: David, is it true that the President is even talking about going back to the 2017 tax rate for high-income earners?

Well, apparently the President said something like that on Friday.

Well, David, do you think that is fair?

This is a guy I know is a Democrat because he has Democratic signs even of my opponents in his front yard.

We did the basic math. If you actually were saying, let's just go back to the tax rate for the top earners back to 2017, it is \$32.7 billion over 10 years. Okay, we can all divide that by 10, so let's call it \$3.2 billion a year.

We borrow \$6 billion a day. If that is \$3.2 billion, you functionally bought yourself 12½, 13 hours' worth of borrowing for the entire year, and there is the mental breakdown. The left runs around and says: Raise taxes. Okay. We are going to borrow 7.3 percent of GDP, which is my latest number. Some of the other economists are around 7.2 percent of GDP. Either way, you can go to the Manhattan Institute and read the articles. It is from Democratic literature that if you take every tax they have that they have scored: Raise tax on capital gains, raise tax on income, raise tax on businesses, raise tax here.

I am sorry for talking so fast. Believe it or not, I live on coffee, and I need to apparently deal with my issue with a 12-step group for coffee.

However, the point I am going to, read the article. All those taxes when you do the economic adjustment is about 1½ percent of GDP. This place

lies. Excuse me, we make up math because it is really hard to tell people the truth. Almost every cut we talk about as Republicans is about 1 percent or so of GDP.

I am enraged right now because I am hearing down the hallway the Senate, they are talking about doing their reconciliation budget and setting a floor, saying: We are not going to allow the Senate to pass budget cuts of less than \$3 billion. Huh?

I am upset that ours is so anemic at like \$1½ trillion, but if they do \$3 billion, it is functionally a half a day of borrowing. This is, yea, go team.

Look, at some point, the math is the reality. Why is it so hard to tell the truth? One of the other points I sort of want to make—and I stole this graphic from another group, thank you. Baseline. Baseline law, not baseline policy. The law. I will explain that later.

Over the next 10 years, we are going to spend \$86 trillion. We are talking about, at best, on the House budget resolution cutting \$2 trillion over those 10 years. That is 2.3 percent. Oh, God, dear Heaven, you are butchering government. It is 2.3 percent. You are telling me that if we didn't grind through government, look at our programs, look at all the reports the GAO and others have given of the waste and fraud and just programs that haven't been authorized in decades, you couldn't find 2.3 percent, but it is easier to go stick this sort of crap on my wife's windshield than it is to do the intellectual work of saying, hey, we think we have more elegant ideas on how to reform spending in government, modernize it, make it better, faster, cheaper for the American people. No, we would rather burn things down.

Are we all proud of ourselves? The fact of the matter is \$86 trillion in spending over the next 10 years, and at best our budget reconciliation is 2.3 percent of that spending.

This is the one I get complaints from everyone, so please understand, I am trying to offend everyone with facts and math. If you do all this—because we have a number of Senators over there saying: Don't cut any spending. They are Republicans.

When you hear someone say: We should do baseline policy, not the law. What they are basically saying is they don't want to have to deal with telling the truth of the math.

Let's take a look here. We finished this fiscal year \$37.2 trillion in debt as a country. Baseline, we add \$22 trillion of additional borrowing over the next 10 years. If we were to do the tax extensions, which we really need to protect the middle class and others by not raising their taxes, but if we were to do it without any offsets and then you add in the interest, that is about another \$6.8 trillion of borrowing. Then if we were to take care of the President's requests, that is another \$8 trillion, functionally saying we will borrow more in this 10-year period than we did in the

previous 240 years. On the day we are elected we are going to double 240 years of borrowing.

Are we proud of ourselves? This is how we are going to save the Republic? We are going to continue to just bury it in debt because it is hard to tell people the truth about the math?

I have a caveat on this board. We don't have a subscription to Moody's Analytics. It is expensive. Congressional Research Service doesn't have one, but we found four or five articles talking about Moody's saying their model says in 2035, nine budget years from now, 10 years from now, 30 percent of all U.S. tax receipts—so you pay a dollar in taxes, 30 cents of it just paid interest.

Think about that. In 10 years, 30 percent. This year, it is 18 percent. Dear Heaven, there is a model out there that actually shows that if interest rates were to go up 1 percent in that nine budget years, it is like 45 percent of all U.S. tax receipts go just to interest.

We are playing a very dangerous game here, but at least we can stick things on Teslas and protest and be angry because God forbid we talk about actual math.

In 7½, 8 years from now, the Social Security trust fund is empty. The law says you cut benefits. That is a 21 percent cut. We double senior poverty in America. How many people do you think come behind these microphones are willing to have a conversation of how we are going to save it?

The first year, my math, actually the Joint Economic economists' math, the first year—so if the trust fund is gone in 2033, in 2034 it is over \$600 billion just to make up that shortfall. That makes what we are talking about here in the budget resolution tiny. Those are only like \$200 billion a year. We are talking \$600 billion a year, and it grows just to cover the Social Security trust fund being gone.

That is 7½, 8 years from now. Are we going to talk about that, though? No, because they are going to run television ads beating the crap out of us because we tried to figure out a way to save it. The perversity of this place. They don't give a damn about someone's future, their poverty. It is about winning the next election and raising money on it.

We have got to tell the truth also what is going on in our country. You all saw the updates from the Census Bureau basically saying after next year if you zero out immigration, our number of prime-age workers starts to fall. As a matter of fact, there is a dataset. Now, we have been using 8 years from now because that was the official Census Bureau number.

There are a couple demographers out there who wrote articles a week ago saying, we may have already hit more deaths than births in America. I need you to process what that means. You have a system where Social Security, the financing of Medicare, financing of so many of our pensions relies on a

growth of the working population, particularly those prime-age workers.

If we are now entering a time of a shortage of young people—in 2027, not that long from now, we actually go negative of prime-age workers.

Maybe our committees should maybe invite in a demographer and talk about saying, is this Republican or Democrat? Starting in 1990, we started to roll over the number of children we had. Now we are paying the price for it. Now make these long-run programs, which are pay-as-you-go math, make them work.

This should be scaring the hell out of this place. Oh, no, David, we can't tell our voters that. It is harder to raise money when you tell them the truth of how hard the future is.

It is fixable. I have done presentation after presentation of adoption of technology, redesigning some of the programs where you don't cut anything, but you do really hard stuff. The problem is our hallways are crowded with people. Here it is all about the money. Understand, Congress is really about one thing: Money. The inefficiencies, the design failures for these bureaucracies, for the business models that make their living off government, that is their profit. They actually like the inefficiencies.

We came and showed some charts I think a week or two ago just our calculations that there could be \$25 billion a year in duplicative MRIs, X-rays, ultrasound scans in Medicare. Does a duplicative scan when it is not necessary make someone healthier?

On the other hand, you could actually do something crazy, take the scan, attach it to one of these things, the little supercomputer in your pocket, and carry it around with you. There it is. Did that cut anyone's service? Mr. Speaker, \$25 billion this year times 10? It is a quarter trillion dollars with one little reform.

□ 2100

The perversity of this place when I do that piece of legislation is that I will get attacks saying I am trying to cut benefits. No, I am trying to save the programs.

I guess it would cause the difficulty of math, having to design and put something on paper, and getting some of the economists to work through it, but that is our job. We are the board of directors of the biggest economy in the world, the biggest entity in the world. We are going to spend over \$7 trillion this year. Of course, we are only going to take in \$2 trillion in taxes, meaning we may borrow about \$2.1 trillion, \$2.3 trillion this year to keep the wheels on.

The scale of this should be scaring the hell out of people. Look, the demographic curve, when we start to think right now, in 2024, we have 2.9 people working for every person receiving their benefits. A decade from now, that is going to fall to 2.7, 2.6. Then, it really starts to crash. When we start to

look at the 30-year window, we are down to about 2.4. That may not mean much to you, but trying to make these numbers work, it can be done. It is just hard.

You are going to hear people come behind these microphones, give these beautiful speeches of how they want to save the Republic, how we care about the future, how we care about our kids, how we care about your retirement, and then we will do nothing that is actually hard. It is just immoral. It is just absolutely immoral.

I try over and over. When I am doing these, I am trying to do a better job of bringing examples of where we can save.

I am going to admit DOGE and those, I am fascinated with the data mining and those things. I know the quality of the gentleness or gentility of the communications. They have a hard, rough edge. The fact of the matter is a lot of the craziness actually wasn't coming from them. It was coming from people in the bureaucracy trying to throw out stuff to make it more difficult and just really anger people. Then, the government unions have to try to light things on fire, so disharmony.

We have five major databases in the Federal Government. Is it Republican or Democrat to just build a world where those databases would talk to each other? If there is potential of \$100 billion a year in misallocations and fraud and these things, and you could fix it by just having the databases talk to each other and know this is a fraudster, this person isn't with us anymore, they have gone on to their reward, but somehow they are out here asking for an SBA loan, is that Republican or Democrat? It is just technology. Yet you have protesters out there saying we can't allow the databases to talk to each other. Have we lost our minds?

I want to do this just as an example because this one just burns me. Between Christmas and New Year's, I went up and spent 3 or 4 days up in the Navajo Nation. I took my little 9-year-old daughter. Yes, I have a 9-year-old and a 2½-year-old. That is the definition of pathologically optimistic when you are 63 and have a 2½-year-old. It is both funny and true.

Guess what? We have spent \$42.5 billion for broadband equity. Remember, we always like to add that word "equity," except no one has gotten broadband.

The Tribal president of the Navajo Nation and a number of the communities called chapter houses basically said screw this. I am not willing to wait another 20 years. You know what they did, something just crazy? Instead of being patient and waiting for us to spend billions of more dollars and run a piece of wire, they went out and stuck up a satellite dish. Forty-eight hours later, for several hundred dollars, they had broadband for the whole neighborhood, for the whole what we call chapter house.

Is that Republican or Democrat? It is just the adoption of technology, except the lobbyists who run around here wanting billions of subsidies for something they are never going to connect really upset every time I do this board.

Do we care? Does this place care enough to do the hard things, to actually do the math, the creativity.

Last week, I came here with the MedPAC report. It is like this. I have no idea how many Members have actually bothered to read it. Yes, I understand there are some anomalies, but they are rounding errors compared to this. I think it had that \$84 billion was spent last year in the differential between Medicare part D and Medicare part A. That is Medicare Fee-for-Service and Medicare Advantage. It was supposed to be at 95 percent. If anyone wants to go back and do their history, in 2005, when they started Medicare Advantage, if you do that basic math, that is \$104 billion a year.

How about if Republicans and Democrats got together and said we are going to fix this, that we are going to get the capitation program to actually work the way it is supposed to, that we are going to have the providers of services actually make money because they help our brothers and sisters who are in their retirement years earning their healthcare benefits, helping them be healthier? They get rewarded by having their population be healthier, not by running around scoring with sicker. Yay, everyone wins.

What would happen with that several hundred billion dollars over a decade? That is not a cut. It is actually lining up incentives. Instead, it is just easier to run around and scream stories that they are going to cut things.

Let's pay people, so I have hospitals and other groups paying people to fly out here, tell stories, and they have no idea what they are talking about because we make crap up, once again, because everything is about the money.

The last board and the one that always seems to upset people because they don't want to know the truth, the Congressional Budget Office—this one is a year out of date. The numbers are actually apparently worse, but we haven't had the update yet. The Congressional Budget Office estimates that over the next 30 years our country borrows \$124 trillion. Now, I have to tell you, this number when we get our updates could be much worse. If you look at their data, they actually have discretionary, the part we vote on, growing slower than tax receipts. That has a \$9 trillion positive over the 30 years, but Medicare is \$87.2 trillion in the hole. Social Security is \$36.8 trillion in the hole over those 30 years.

It turns out, even the next decade, almost 100 percent of the U.S. sovereign debt growth is interest and Medicare. There is nothing we can do about interest. We can do some things to incentivize going out on the curve so we are not as fragile to communicate

to the bond markets because the bond markets are basically about to run this country. If you have to sell \$6 billion a day, \$60,000, \$70,000 every second, maybe you need to pay attention to your bankers who you are having to sell your debt to, to communicate to those debt markets we are serious and looking at ways to use technology, better models when obesity is the single biggest expense in our society. Yes, we are not supposed to say that. Mr. Speaker, please don't tell anyone.

Last year, the Joint Economic economists calculated \$9.1 trillion additional of healthcare spending. Is it moral with what we do in food policy, nutritional support, how we deliver healthcare? Maybe the concept of helping our brothers and sisters live healthier when 31 percent of Medicare spending is diabetes—33 percent of all healthcare overall is just diabetes.

Is that Republican or Democrat? It is just trying to get your policy alignment to the fact we are buried in debt and getting older as a society. I think in a decade, 23 percent of our population is 65 and up. We now know that we are having this remarkable shortage of young people. We are already potentially on the cusp of having more deaths than births in our country.

In a couple of weeks, we are trying to roll out a STEM-based, talent-based immigration bill because for the economy to grow and stabilize, we don't have a choice. People say, David, you are not allowed to talk about immigration. People won't understand it. Well, they understand the economic survival of you still getting your benefits when you are a senior. We can make this work.

Mr. Speaker, we are now starting to run into articles saying that we are putting the extraordinary privilege. What are the two extraordinary privileges America has? Our currency—the world borrows in our currency, meaning the fact of the matter is when we sell debt, there is a demand to hold U.S. dollars denominated. Then, the second thing is people want to live here. They want to invest here. They want to be educated here. They want to be entrepreneurs here.

□ 2110

Mr. Speaker, we are now running into multiple articles saying some of the things we are doing, particularly our debt stack which is putting our extraordinary privilege of the country at risk. It doesn't have to be this way.

A couple of smart economists say we have 3 or 4 more years. At that point the debt gets so hard to manage. The Federal Reserve last week took us from a 2.1 GDP down to 1.7. Just that movement is almost \$200 billion a year in tax collection. Just that GDP reduction the Federal Reserve calculated for the next 3 years, taking that out to 10, that is more money than everything in our budget reconciliation.

The lack of understanding of the inner dynamics of our debt, the inter-

est, and these dollars terrifies me because there is a path. There is a path for this to work, Mr. Speaker, but we are living on a razor's edge because we are not doing the hard work.

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

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF REPRESENTATIVE RAÚL GRIJALVA

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

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material into the record.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, tonight I rise to honor the life and legacy of Congressman Raúl Grijalva.

Raúl Grijalva passed away peacefully on March 13 of this year, surrounded by his wife and three daughters. Born in Tucson, Arizona, on February 19, 1948, he was raised in a close-knit community with his sisters, Lydia and Norma.

A proud Sunnyside High graduate, he met and married the love of his life, Ramona Garduno, in 1971. Together, they raised three daughters: Adelita, Raquel, and Marisa. They built a life rooted in service and activism.

His parents instilled in him the value of hard work, perseverance, and giving back to the community. He dedicated over 50 years to public service, beginning with the Tucson Unified School Board in 1974, and later serving on the Pima County Board of Supervisors.

As a U.S. Congressman for 22 years, he championed education, environmental protection, social justice, and Native-American sovereignty. His leadership helped secure the 2023 designation of the Baaj Nwaavjo I'tah Kukveni National Monument, protecting nearly 1 million acres of Tribal land.

Known as the most liberal Member of Congress, he never wavered in his fight for justice and equality. He never shied away from that dignified title.

A devoted husband, father, and Tata, he cherished his family and treasured time with his grandchildren. He had a sharp wit about him, a deep love for music and books, and a knack for doodling during meetings. Many of us saw him do his artwork in some of our committee meetings.

His staff and volunteers, the Grijalvistas, were like family, standing by him in his lifelong pursuit of progress.

Mr. Speaker, the Congressional Hispanic Caucus is standing firm with his family during this time of sorrow and need. I know that they are watching this proceeding. I want to salute them and tell them we love them and we stand with them.

Raúl Grijalva's unwavering commitment to justice and his community will continue to inspire generations to come. Since coming to Congress and joining the Natural Resources Committee, Raúl Grijalva was one of the most outspoken champions for environmental justice, public lands, indigenous rights, climate change, and corporate accountability.

He was a visionary leader, both on the committee and as co-chair of the Progressive Caucus, amplifying the voices of historically silenced communities. From Louisiana's Cancer Alley to Alaskan Native communities in the Arctic, he fought for those most impacted by environmental harm.

Under his chairmanship in the 117th Congress, the Natural Resources Committee signed 149 natural resource bills into law. In the minority, he proved that aggressive and effective oversight was possible, holding the Trump administration accountable and exposing corruption.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CASTRO).

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to be here tonight with members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, and with our Democratic leader as well, to celebrate and remember a man who made a difference: Raúl Grijalva.

He never forgot where he came from. Just as importantly, he never forgot why he came. He was somebody who lent a voice to the vulnerable and to the folks who had been discarded and forgotten.

He was a man of his community. I served 10 years in Austin in the State legislature and am now in year 13 here. As I meet all the people that represent and serve the districts that they do, I always wonder how closely each person represents the average person walking down the street in their district. Raúl Grijalva was that every person. To me, that is one of the biggest compliments that can be paid not only to the people who sent him here but also to him.

He left the same way he came in, a man of principle who stood up for what he believed, who fought for the people that he represented, and always spoke truth to power. He was a legend of Mexican-American activism, known across the country for protecting our national parks, the environment, fighting for early childhood education and higher education, and uplifting immigrants and marginalized communities.

As all of us know, he was also a kind and brilliant man. He had a kind heart but a fierce spirit. He was a fearless voice for Arizonans and all Americans.

Mr. Speaker, Raúl will be missed. My condolences go out to his family and to his community.

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. JEFFRIES).

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, my good friend, ADRIANO ESPAILLAT, for his

leadership and for convening us on the floor today in honor of an iconic, heroic, and trailblazing Member of Congress, Raúl Grijalva.

It was an honor for all of us to have had the opportunity to serve with Chairman Grijalva. He was a mentor to many. His principled leadership was a North Star for so many in this Congress. He was a leading progressive voice throughout the years but a friend to all.

□ 2120

We know that throughout his time and throughout his journey in public service it was a journey that led to his working year after year, decade after decade, century into century, laboring in the vineyards of his community and ultimately the country to make a difference in the lives of others who might otherwise have been left behind.

He was an iconic Mexican-American leader and an iconic American leader. We are also appreciative of his life, of his leadership, and of the tremendous legacy that Congressman Raúl Grijalva leaves behind.

Congressman Grijalva throughout the years did many things, from community organizer to school board member, from school board member to county supervisor, from county supervisor to Member of Congress, from Member of Congress to chairman of the Natural Resources Committee.

Through that journey, year after year, decade after decade, and century into century, Raúl Grijalva held many titles. His North Star remained the same. He was a defender of the disengaged, a voice for the voiceless, a climate champion, and a powerful, profound, principled, purposeful, and progressive public servant who made a difference in the lives of so many people.

We are going to miss Raúl Grijalva. We will miss his wisdom, we will miss his insight, we will miss his idealism, and we will miss his laughter and his sense of humor, but we are better off for having had the opportunity to serve with him as individuals.

Most importantly, his community is better off, the State of Arizona is better off, the Congress is better off, and the country is better off because of Raúl Grijalva and his incredible leadership.

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. GARCÍA).

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman ESPAILLAT for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to pay tribute to a giant who represented the State of Arizona and all the people of his district but who also helped advance the well-being of our Nation.

Arizona has lost a giant, and I lost a dear friend. Raúl Grijalva and I both started our careers as community advocates and organizers. We shared a passion for justice and equality in our communities. We both came from working-class families, proud of our

Mexican roots, and we both enjoyed a good laugh and a good mariachi. So it was just natural that we would become friends since I arrived in the House over 6 years ago.

As chairman of the Natural Resources Committee, he fought for strong environmental protections and authored the Environmental Justice For All Act to empower people to protect their communities. He wanted a cleaner, safer, and more just future for all our children. He was also a staunch defender of Tribal sovereignty and workers' rights.

When he was chairman of the Natural Resources Committee, he asked me to serve for one term as his vice chair. It was during that time that Illinois helped facilitate an act in the State of Illinois that required Federal cooperation in that regard as we helped facilitate the recognition of Illinois' first Prairie Band of Potawatomi peoples in the State of Illinois which just last week resulted in the transfer of over 1,500 acres to those Native Americans, the original inhabitants of the land in Illinois.

I was honored to work with him to help the people of Puerto Rico receive the long-promised assistance they needed after Hurricane Maria.

Raúl believed that our country's strength is rooted in our immigrant heritage and worked tirelessly to protect immigrant families and refugees. Whether trying to pass the American Dream and Promise Act, treating immigrants with dignity or stopping the construction of an ineffective and environmentally damaging border wall, Raúl never gave up.

One of Raúl's favorite songs was "El Rey." It means the king, and in particular the line that says: "It is not only about getting there first, but about how you get there," "No hay que llegar primero, pero hay que saber llegar."

And what you do along the way, if I may add. I think this phrase perfectly describes the tenacity of everything that Raúl Grijalva did and stood for.

Raúl was a loving father, husband, and a loyal friend. His kindness and dedication will be sorely missed in the Halls of Congress. Tonight we pay a tribute, and we say: Thank you for everything that you contributed to advancing the well-being of people across our land.

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. GOMEZ).

Mr. GOMEZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for allowing me to speak tonight.

I didn't get to go to Congressman Grijalva's funeral last week because I had to be here for a committee hearing. If he was around, he would have wanted me to stay here and be at that hearing and give them hell. That is exactly what I did, and he would have been extremely proud of that.

I really wanted to talk about whom I meet when I was just out of graduate

school. I was a legislative assistant for Hilda Solis. I was the lowest ranking staffer on her team, and I got the chance to meet Raúl Grijalva when he was a Member of Congress and I was just a legislative assistant.

To the extent I walked into the office, I would kind of go wandering around the halls and go and say hello and try to go just to see whom I could become friends with. I met his chief of staff at that time. She said out of the blue: Why don't you come in and say hello to the Congressman?

They pulled me into the office. I was just a kid who had been here a few months. Raúl sat with me and just had a conversation of who I was, why I was fighting for my community, and why did I want to be in this business.

That interaction really did sit with me for a number of years. That is because I didn't have a title. I was not anybody special, and I wasn't anybody in particular. I was a kid that wandered into his office and tried to get a meeting with him because I said: Why not?

He is a Member of Congress, but he comes from a similar background. His dad was a bracero, and my dad was a bracero. That means that they worked in the fields here in the United States. I think there were two or three sons of braceros who became Members of Congress, but it really shows who he is.

He is a guy who will treat you the same if you are the President or a Member of Congress or a staffer or to somebody who works in the fields. That says more about Raúl Grijalva than I believe any piece of legislation he has ever passed.

When I got here, he remembered me as that kid who often was probably a little bit too arrogant and a little bit in a rush to move ahead but that he helped get accustomed to the House of Representatives.

I was really bummed and sad when we heard the news that he passed away, even though we kind of all had a feeling it was a long time coming. He was pretty sick. He was a guy whom I think a lot of us just loved as family. I think that is why we see so many people from the Congressional Hispanic Caucus and other caucus members who went to his funeral. It is because he was just a great guy, someone that we can have a glass of wine with, and somebody that we can just go and hang out with.

I ended up hiring one of his staffers to be one of my first chiefs of staff, Bertha Guerrero. She loved him to death, and she said that his office was like a family.

Raúl, you will be missed. I know you have done great things, but it is really the people who you touched over the years that will continue your legacy, especially your wife and your daughters.

□ 2130

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, let me just highlight some of the great accomplishments of Congressman Raúl Grijalva.

He championed full, permanent funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund, achieving its passage in the Great American Outdoors Act of 2020.

He led the A. Donald McEachin Environmental Justice For All Act, the most comprehensive environmental justice legislation ever.

His Ocean-Based Climate Solutions Act laid the foundations for protecting coastal communities and promoting clean offshore energy.

The RESPECT Act sought to codify Tribal consultation standards and strengthen our nation-to-nation relationships.

The Puerto Rico Status Act, which he helped pass in the House, represented a historic step toward self-determination.

I was also proud to work with him on several pieces of legislation, including legislation to provide student loan relief to teachers who specialized in teaching English-language learners, like myself as a kid; legislation to increase funding to English-language learner preparation programs; and getting the GAO to study how schools identify English-language learners with disabilities to ensure they have the right support behind them.

He also secured the passage of the Great American Outdoors Act, permanently authorizing the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

His leadership helped pass major ocean and climate action provisions in the Inflation Reduction Act and other landmark legislation.

He held the first congressional hearings on issues like missing and murdered indigenous women in Indian boarding schools.

His work on the Puerto Rico Status Act helped advance the conversation on the island's political future.

Raúl Grijalva's legacy is one of unwavering advocacy, principled leadership, and a deep commitment to justice.

"We will never forget you, Raúl"; "Raúl, nos vas a ser mucho falta. Nunca olvidaremos." Rest in power, hermano.

His impact will be felt for generations.

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

**Mrs. DINGELL.** Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege and honor to recognize and celebrate the remarkable contributions of Congressman Raúl Grijalva—an advocate, a leader, and a true champion for our environment, especially the protection of the most endangered species.

From the very beginning of his tenure in public service, Congressman Grijalva has been a tireless advocate for the preservation of our planet's most vulnerable creatures. Whether it's a rare desert butterfly, sea turtle, or a small fish, Congressman Grijalva has dedicated his career to ensuring that these species—and the ecosystems they inhabit—are protected for generations to come.

In a time when climate change, habitat destruction, and human encroachment threaten biodiversity at unprecedented levels, Con-

gressman Grijalva has consistently fought for policies that safeguard endangered species. As Chairman and Ranking Member, he has been a leading voice on the House Natural Resources Committee, pushing for stronger protections under the Endangered Species Act and advocating for increased funding to support conservation efforts.

One of his most significant accomplishments has been his leadership in securing critical protections for species in the Southwestern United States, where his home state of Arizona sits at the intersection of diverse and fragile ecosystems. Congressman Grijalva has worked tirelessly to preserve the habitats of species like the Mexican gray wolf and the jaguar, whose survival has been threatened by deforestation, poaching, and illegal hunting. His efforts are a testament to his deep commitment to preserving not just the species themselves but also the delicate balance of nature.

In addition to his work on endangered species, Congressman Grijalva has shown an unwavering commitment to environmental justice. He understands that the fight to protect our wildlife goes hand in hand with the fight to protect our communities—particularly those that are most vulnerable to environmental degradation. He has worked to ensure that conservation efforts don't just benefit the wildlife we cherish but also the people who rely on healthy ecosystems for their livelihoods and well-being.

Congressman Grijalva's advocacy has also extended to the legislative arena, where he has played a crucial role in shaping and passing key pieces of legislation aimed at combating the extinction crisis. His work in advancing the Recovering America's Wildlife Act, a bill that seeks to fund state-led conservation efforts for at-risk species, has the potential to change the landscape of wildlife conservation in this country. His vision was clear: we must act now to preserve biodiversity, before more species are lost.

Through his leadership, passion, and vision, Congressman Grijalva has not only safeguarded the lives of endangered species but has also inspired a new generation of environmental advocates to continue the fight for the planet's most precious resources.

As we honor Congressman Grijalva, let us reflect on the profound impact his work has had on the world around us. Let us also renew our own commitment to protecting endangered species, preserving their habitats, and ensuring that future generations will have the opportunity to marvel at the beauty and wonder of our planet's incredible biodiversity.

I thank Congressman Grijalva, for his tireless dedication to our environment, for our lands, waters, and wildlife, and for making our country a cleaner, safer, better place for all Americans. We worked closely together for many years on Natural Resources on many important issues, and I will always be thankful for his leadership, partnership, and friendship. He was a fighter until the end, and his work will always be remembered by the countless people it has impacted.

Above all, he was my friend. He always had my back and could always find a way to make me smile when I was down. He inspired hope in all of us. He fought the good fight. He will be truly missed.

We are deeply grateful for his service and inspired by his example. His legacy will con-

tinue to inspire and guide us in the years to come.

**Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.** Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise to honor the life, the work and the legacy of Congressman Raúl Grijalva.

While others rush to punch down on people who chase a better life, he was always a brave, bold voice for Tribes, workers and migrants.

And he always swung straight and hard at the powerful who blocked their path.

Congressman Grijalva was just as comfortable demanding environmental justice from a Big Oil lobbyist, as he was striking up conversation with a bus boy at a restaurant.

He served his district, and this Nation, with a humility and genuineness that fostered love and respect from anyone who worked with or for him.

His legacy is long and will not be forgotten.

As a community organizer, local elected official and leader in Congress, his footprints are all over this nation's march toward progress.

Countless acres around the Grand Canyon and Bears Ears National Monuments are federally protected because of him.

He demanded and won the right to clean land and water for indigenous peoples and all his constituents.

If you heard demands for urgent climate action and immigration fairness in Congress, it was his voice that often rang out.

As Chairman and the lead Democrat on the Natural Resources Committee, Rep. Grijalva insisted that historic investments be made in our environment and public lands, and that they touch all communities, not just the well-connected ones.

Your grandchildren will benefit from his push to tackle the climate crisis in the Inflation Reduction Act.

We all know that the prevailing currency of this realm is stoking divisions, but Raul Grijalva built bridges.

As a cancer survivor, I also know how hard the battle against this terrible disease can be, and his stoic determination in staring it down while doing his life's work was inspiring.

He fought that disease, and for the people he represented—with grace and dignity.

Congressman Grijalva was a mentor to me and so many others. I'm proud to have been touched by his friendship, and his life of service. May his memory be for a blessing.

#### ADJOURNMENT

**Mr. ESPAILLAT.** Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 33 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, April 1, 2025, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

#### 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. LANDSMAN (for himself and Mr. BENTZ):

**H.R. 2480.** A bill to require SelectUSA to coordinate with State-level economic development organizations to increase foreign direct investment in semiconductor-related

manufacturing and production; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. VALADAO (for himself, Ms. PETTERSEN, Mr. GOLDMAN of Texas, and Mr. SUOZZI):

H.R. 2481. A bill to require online dating service providers to provide fraud ban notifications to online dating service members, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. LATTA (for himself and Ms. MATSUI):

H.R. 2482. A bill to reauthorize the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. GUTHRIE (for himself and Ms. PETTERSEN):

H.R. 2483. A bill to reauthorize certain programs that provide for opioid use disorder prevention, treatment, and recovery, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Education and Workforce, the Judiciary, and 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 Mrs. HARSHBARGER (for herself, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia, Mr. SOTO, Mr. CRENshaw, and Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina):

H.R. 2484. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to establish an exception to the physician self-referral prohibition for certain outpatient prescription drugs furnished by a physician practice 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 Ms. BONAMICI (for herself, Mr. BACON, Ms. PINGREE, Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ, Ms. NORTON, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. RANDALL, Ms. STANSBURY, and Ms. TLAIB):

H.R. 2485. A bill to expand arts education, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

By Ms. ANSARI (for herself, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. BELL, Mr. CARSON, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCORMICK, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. COHEN, Ms. CROCKETT, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. EVANS of Pennsylvania, Mr. FIELDS, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Mrs. MCIVER, Ms. MENG, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. MULLIN, Ms. NORTON, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Ms. OMAR, Ms. PETTERSEN, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. THANEDAR, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. TITUS, Ms. TLAIB, and Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN):

H.R. 2486. A bill to amend the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Act of 1981 to increase the availability of heating and cooling assistance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, 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. BALINT (for herself, Ms. ANSARI, Ms. CROCKETT, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. EVANS of Pennsylvania, Ms. JACOBS, Ms.

JAYAPAL, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI, Mr. LANDSMAN, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Ms. MCCLELLAN, Mrs. MCIVER, Mr. NADLER, Ms. NORTON, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Mr. POCAN, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Ms. RANDALL, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. THANEDAR, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. TOKUDA, Mr. TONKO, Ms. VELAZQUEZ, and Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN):

H.R. 2487. A bill to improve access to evidence-based, lifesaving health care for transgender people, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. BEREA:

H.R. 2488. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3817 Marysville Boulevard in Sacramento, California, as the ‘‘Grantland Johnson Post Office’’; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Ms. BROWN (for herself, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. McGOVERN, Mrs. MCIVER, Mr. COHEN, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. THANEDAR, Ms. ADAMS, Ms. JACOBS, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. CARSON, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. FIELDS, Ms. NORTON, Ms. TOKUDA, Ms. PINGREE, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mrs. SYKES, Mr. FIGURES, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. LANDSMAN, Ms. SALINAS, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. RILEY of New York, Ms. ANSARI, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Mr. SORENSEN, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. TITUS, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. LATIMER, Mrs. DINGELL, Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCORMICK, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. TONKO, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. BISHOP, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Mrs. MCCLAIN DELANEY, Ms. STEVENS, Mr. SOTO, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mr. BELL, Ms. RIVAS, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Ms. CHU, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. DELBENE, Ms. MENG, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, and Ms. STRICKLAND):

H.R. 2489. A bill to prohibit the Secretary of Agriculture from issuing a thrifty food plan update under the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 or reevaluation that would result in an increase in food insecurity; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. BURCHETT:

H.R. 2490. A bill to amend section 505 of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 to prohibit the provision of assistance under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 to States that offer in-State tuition rates to aliens who are not lawfully present in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, 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 Mrs. CAMMACK (for herself, Mr. MAGAZINER, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. WITTMAN, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. ROSS, Mr. SOTO, Mr. COHEN, Mr. VAN DREW, Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, Mr. LANGWORTHY, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia, Mr. GOLDEN of Maine, Mr. STEUBE, Mr. PFLUGER, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Mr. LAWLER, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. CASE, and Ms. OMAR):

H.R. 2491. A bill to require the Administrator of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services and the Commissioner of Social Security to review and simplify the processes, procedures, forms, and communications for family caregivers to assist individuals in establishing eligibility for, enroll-

ing in, and maintaining and utilizing coverage and benefits under the Medicare, Medicaid, CHIP, and Social Security programs respectively, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

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

H.R. 2492. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior to permit removal of trees around electrical lines on National Forest System lands and Bureau of Land Management lands, respectively, without conducting a timber sale, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CARTER of Georgia (for himself, Mr. FIGURES, Mr. RULLI, and Ms. SCHRIER):

H.R. 2493. A bill to reauthorize certain programs regarding rural health care; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCORMICK:

H.R. 2494. A bill to direct the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to annually submit to the Congress a report that analyzes State and local strategies, activities, and plans that promote affordable housing, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. CHU (for herself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. TONKO, and Mr. BACON):

H.R. 2495. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide coverage of medical nutrition therapy services for individuals with eating disorders under the Medicare program; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. COSTA (for himself, Mr. LANGWORTHY, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. VAN ORDEN, Mr. MILLER of Ohio, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. RILEY of New York, and Mr. EVANS of Colorado):

H.R. 2496. A bill to amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to establish a dairy nutrition incentive program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Ms. CROCKETT (for herself, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Ms. MCCLELLAN, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. NORTON, Ms. TLAIB, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. ROSS, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. SWALWELL, Mr. THANEDAR, Mr. TORRES of New York, Mr. LATIMER, Mr. COHEN, Mr. NADLER, and Mr. GOTTHEIMER):

H.R. 2497. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to conduct a public health education, awareness, and outreach campaign to enhance access to abortion and related health services; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CROW (for himself and Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia):

H.R. 2498. A bill to repeal the restriction on the use of funds by the Internal Revenue

Service to bring transparency to the political activity of certain nonprofit organizations; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. HAMADEH of Arizona (for himself and Ms. TENNEY):

H.R. 2499. A bill to codify Executive Order 14248, entitled "Preserving and Protecting the Integrity of American Elections"; to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, 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. HARDER of California (for himself and Mr. GARAMENDI):

H.R. 2500. A bill to amend title 46, United States Code, to assign specified liability to a person who transfers title of a commercial vessel, or former commercial vessel, to a transferee for use as a recreational vessel if the transferee does not have applicable insurance at the time of the transfer and the vessel sinks, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, 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. HARRIS of North Carolina (for himself, Mr. GUEST, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. SELF, Mr. BAUMGARTNER, Mr. MESSMER, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. STUTZMAN, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. OGLES, Mr. HAMADEH of Arizona, and Mrs. MILLER of Illinois):

H.R. 2501. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow charitable organizations to make statements relating to political campaigns if such statements are made in the ordinary course of carrying out its tax exempt purpose; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. KAPTUR (for herself, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Ms. TITUS, Mr. EVANS of Pennsylvania, Mr. CASTEN, and Ms. BROWNLEY):

H.R. 2502. A bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to authorize a grant program for law enforcement agencies and corrections agencies to obtain behavioral health crisis response training for law enforcement officers and corrections officers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. KEAN:

H.R. 2503. A bill to require the development of a strategy to eliminate the availability to foreign adversaries of goods and technologies capable of supporting undersea cables, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. KEATING (for himself, Mr. FOSTER, and Mr. HUIZENGA):

H.R. 2504. A bill to require the Secretary of State to develop a strategy to strengthen United States-European nuclear energy cooperation and combat Russian malign influence in the nuclear energy sector in Europe; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. KEATING (for himself and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina):

H.R. 2505. A bill to require the development of strategies and options to prevent the export to Iran of certain technologies related to unmanned aircraft systems, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. KELLY of Illinois:

H.R. 2506. A bill to amend the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act to provide funding, on a competitive basis, for summer and year-round employment opportunities for youth ages 14 through 24; to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

By Ms. KELLY of Illinois:

H.R. 2507. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the work opportunity credit for certain youth employees; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. LIEU (for himself and Ms. DELBENE):

H.R. 2508. A bill to preempt State data security vulnerability mandates and decryption requirements; to the Committee on the Judiciary, 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. MALLIOTAKIS (for herself, Mrs. FLETCHER, Mr. PFLUGER, Mr. HORSFORD, Mr. CAREY, and Mr. SUOZZI):

H.R. 2509. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide incentives for behavioral health integration; 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 Ms. MALLIOTAKIS (for herself, Mr. KEAN, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, and Mr. GOLDMAN of New York):

H.R. 2510. A bill to enhance counterterrorism and maritime security cooperation and training within the "3+1" structure between the United States, Israel, Greece, and the Republic of Cyprus; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Ms. SCHRIER, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Ms. NORTON, Mrs. McIVER, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. KENNEDY of New York, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. DELUZIO, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, and Ms. UNDERWOOD):

H.R. 2511. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to establish certain labeling requirements for caffeine, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. MENG (for herself, Mr. FITZGERALD, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. GARBARINO, Mr. NUNN of Iowa, Mr. AUCHINCLOSS, Ms. BALINT, Mr. BELL, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. CARSON, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mrs. CHERFILUS-MC CORMICK, Ms. CHU, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. COHEN, Mr. COSTA, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. EVANS of Pennsylvania, Mr. EVANS of Colorado, Mr. FROST, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. GARCIA of California, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. HARDER of California, Mr. HUFFMAN, Ms. JACOBS, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. KEATING, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI, Mr. LANDSMAN, Mr. LATIMER, Mr. LAWLER, Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ, Mr. LYNCH, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Mr. McGARVEY, Mr. McGOVERN, Mrs. McIVER, Mr. MIN, Mr. MORELLE, Ms. NORTON, Ms.

OCASIO-CORTEZ, Ms. PETTERSEN, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. POCAN, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Mr. RILEY of New York, Ms. SALINAS, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Ms. SEWELL, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. SORENSEN, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. THANEDAR, Ms. TITUS, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. TOKUDA, Mr. TONKO, Mr. TORRES of New York, Mr. TRAN, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. VASQUEZ, Ms. VELAZQUEZ, and Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN):

H.R. 2512. A bill to amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to permit supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits to be used to purchase additional types of food items; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. MEUSER (for himself, Mr. HUIZENGA, Mr. BARR, Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas, Mrs. KIM, Mr. DONALDS, and Ms. SALAZAR):

H.R. 2513. A bill to require Senate confirmation of Inspector General of the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, 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. NEHLS (for himself, Ms. HOULAHAN, Ms. SCHOLTEN, and Mr. BABIN):

H.R. 2514. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, with respect to restroom access for certain drivers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. NEHLS (for himself and Mr. MOULTON):

H.R. 2515. A bill to provide for a grant program for adoption of certain telematics systems onboard freight railcars, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. OWENS (for himself, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. ROSE, Mr. BABIN, Mr. ONDER, Mr. MOORE of West Virginia, and Mr. MESSMER):

H.R. 2516. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to prohibit political litmus tests in accreditation of institutions of higher education, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

By Ms. PEREZ (for herself, Mr. NEWHOUSE, and Ms. PINGREE):

H.R. 2517. A bill to amend the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to improve assistance to community wood facilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. PINGREE (for herself, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Ms. TOKUDA, and Mr. HARDER of California):

H.R. 2518. A bill to amend the Farm Credit Act of 1971 to support the commercial fishing industry; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. ROGERS of Alabama:

H.R. 2519. A bill to provide a per diem allowance for Members of Congress for the costs of lodging, meals, and incidental expenses incurred because of travel to and from the Washington Metropolitan Area in order to cast votes in Congress, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. RUIZ:

H.R. 2520. A bill to establish the César E. Chávez and the Farmworker Movement National Historical Park in the States of California and Arizona, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey:

H.R. 2521. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to protect opportunities for families in the Federal student aid process, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey (for himself, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI, and Mr. SUOZZI):

H.R. 2522. A bill to designate the area between the intersections of 18th Street Northwest and Church Street Northwest, and 18th Street Northwest and P Street Northwest, in the District of Columbia as "Jimmy Lai Way", and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign 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. TENNEY:

H.R. 2523. A bill to condition the disbursement of Federal funds to any State on such State establishing a department, agency, or commission of government efficiency, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Ms. TENNEY (for herself and Mr. COLLINS):

H.R. 2524. A bill to amend the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 to provide that Congress may request estimates of legislation from reputable accounting firms for purposes of budget enforcement, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, 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. TITUS (for herself, Mr. STANTON, and Ms. ANSARI):

H.R. 2525. A bill to authorize the appropriation of \$2,000,000,000 for rental vouchers for high population areas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. VAN DREW (for himself and Mr. GOTTHEIMER):

H.R. 2526. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to clarify provisions relating to equal access for over-the-road buses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. VEASEY (for himself and Mr. BILIRAKIS):

H.R. 2527. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to improve children's vision and eye health through grants to States, territories, and Tribal organizations, and the provision of technical assistance to support those efforts; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. JAYAPAL (for herself, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. CASAR, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. GARCIA of Illinois, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Mr. McGOVERN, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Ms. OMAR, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. POCAN, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, and Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN):

H.J. Res. 83. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval of the proposed foreign military sale to Israel of certain defense articles and services; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. JAYAPAL (for herself, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. CASAR, Mr. GARCIA of Illi-

nois, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Ms. OMAR, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. POCAN, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, and Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN):

H.J. Res. 84. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval of the proposed foreign military sale to Israel of certain defense articles and services; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. TLAIB (for herself, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. CASAR, Mr. GARCIA of Illinois, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Ms. OMAR, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. POCAN, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, and Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN):

H.J. Res. 85. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval of the proposed foreign military sale to Israel of certain defense articles and services; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. TLAIB (for herself, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. CASAR, Mr. GARCIA of Illinois, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Ms. OMAR, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. POCAN, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, and Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN):

H.J. Res. 86. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval of the report of enhancement or upgrade of sensitive foreign military related to a sale to the Government of Israel of certain defense articles and services; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin:

H. Con. Res. 22. Concurrent resolution authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for a ceremony to present the Congressional Gold Medals awarded under the 'Six Triple Eight' Congressional Gold Medal Act of 2021; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Ms. JACOBS (for herself, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. McCOLLUM, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. TONKO, Ms. DEGETTE, Ms. NORTON, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Mr. SWALWELL, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. MULLIN, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. BALINT, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. MAGAZINER, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mr. McGARVEY, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI, Ms. SALINAS, Mr. LIEU, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. POCAN, Mrs. FLETCHER, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. SOTO, Mr. CARBAJAL, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. FROST, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. RASKIN, Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, Mr. McGOVERN, Mr. LYNCH, Ms. TOKUDA, Mr. EVANS of Pennsylvania, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. QUIGLEY, Ms. STANSBURY, Ms. MCBRIDE, Mrs. MCIVER, Mr. NADLER, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Mr. CLEAVER, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. RANDALL, Mr. PAPPAS, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Mr. IVEY, Ms. McCLELLAN, Mr. SORENSEN, Mr. LANDSMAN, Mr. CASE, Ms. CHU, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Mr. GARCIA of California, Mr. CISNEROS, Ms. DEXTER, Ms. CRAIG, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. ESCOBAR, Mr. PETERS, and Mr. TORRES of New York):

H. Con. Res. 23. Concurrent resolution supporting the goals and ideals of International Transgender Day of Visibility; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. ADAMS:

H. Res. 269. A resolution reaffirming the commitment of the Federal Government to historically Black colleges and universities and honoring their enduring legacy and contributions; to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

By Mr. BIGGS of Arizona (for himself, Mr. CLYDE, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mr. NEHLS, Mrs. LUNA, and Mr. CRANE):

H. Res. 270. A resolution removing James E. Boasberg, Chief Judge of the United States District Court for the District of Columbia, for failure to remain in good behavior pursuant to section 1 of article III of the Constitution; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CARBAJAL (for himself, Ms. RIVAS, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. CISNEROS, Mr. GOMEZ, and Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois):

H. Res. 271. A resolution honoring the accomplishments and legacy of César Estrada Chávez; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. DAVIDSON:

H. Res. 272. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the United States seeks to restore peace in Ukraine; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. DE LA CRUZ:

H. Res. 273. A resolution expressing support for the diplomatic relations required to encourage the Government of Mexico to fulfill its water deliveries on an annual basis to the United States under the treaty between the United States and Mexico regarding the utilization of the Colorado and Tijuana Rivers and of the Rio Grande; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. EVANS of Colorado (for himself and Mr. TONKO):

H. Res. 274. A resolution expressing support for the designation of the week of April 6 through April 12, 2025, as "National Water Week"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Ms. GARCIA of Texas (for herself, Ms. SCHOLten, Ms. NORTON, Mr. TONKO, Mr. LANDSMAN, and Mr. DAVIS of Illinois):

H. Res. 275. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of Social Work Month and World Social Work Day on March 18, 2025; to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

By Mr. HERNANDEZ:

H. Res. 276. A resolution raising awareness of the racial disparities in the impact of colorectal cancer on the Hispanic community; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. MCCORMICK:

H. Res. 277. A resolution supporting the designation of May 2025 as "National Myositis Awareness Month"; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. McGOVERN:

H. Res. 278. A resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 185) to advance responsible policies; to the Committee on Rules.

By Ms. SÁNCHEZ (for herself, Mr. WIED, Mr. PETERS, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. COHEN, Mr. HAMADEH of Arizona, and Mr. HIMES):

H. Res. 279. A resolution expressing support for designation of a Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day on the last Saturday of March 2025; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. THOMPSON of California (for himself, Mrs. CHERFILUS-MC CORMICK, Mr. COSTA, Ms. McCLELLAN, Mr. CASTEN, Ms. BROWN, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Ms. SEWELL, Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. NORTON, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI, Mrs. BEATTY, Ms.

SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. BARRAGÁN, and Ms. ROSS):

H. Res. 280. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Women's History Month; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. WILSON of South Carolina (for himself, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. DUNN of Florida, and Mr. NEAL):

H. Res. 281. A resolution urging the people of the United States to observe the month of March 2025 as "Bulgarian-American Heritage Month"; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

### CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. LANDSMAN:

H.R. 2480.

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

Article I Section VIII

By Mr. VALADAO:

H.R. 2481.

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

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. LATTA:

H.R. 2482.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. GUTHRIE:

H.R. 2483.

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

section 8 of article I of the Constitution

By Mrs. HARSHBARGER:

H.R. 2484.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Ms. BONAMICI:

H.R. 2485.

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

Article I Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Ms. ANSARI:

H.R. 2486.

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

Article 1 Section VIII

By Ms. BALINT:

H.R. 2487.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the US Constitution

By Mr. BERA:

H.R. 2488.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 7 of the U.S. Constitution

By Ms. BROWN:

H.R. 2489.

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

Article I Section VIII

By Mr. BURCHETT:

H.R. 2490.

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

Article 1, Section 8

By Mrs. CAMMACK:

H.R. 2491.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution

By Mr. CARBAJAL:

H.R. 2492.

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

Article IV, Section 3, clause 2

By Mr. CARTER of Georgia:

H.R. 2493.

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

Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution

By Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK:

H.R. 2494.

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

Article I Section 8

By Ms. CHU:

H.R. 2495.

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

Article I, Section 8, Cause 18

By Mr. COSTA:

H.R. 2496.

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

Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution

By Ms. CROCKETT:

H.R. 2497.

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 U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. CROW:

H.R. 2498.

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

Article 1, Section 8, U.S. Constitution

By Mr. HAMADEH of Arizona:

H.R. 2499.

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

The constitutional authority for this legislation derives from, *inter alia*, the following provisions of the United States Constitution:

1. Article I, Section 4, Clause 1 (Elections Clause): Grants Congress explicit authority to regulate the "Times, Places, and Manner" of federal elections, including measures to ensure their integrity. This legislation codifies safeguards against fraud and procedural irregularities, directly aligning with Congress's power to oversee federal elections.

2. Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 (Necessary and Proper Clause): Provides Congress authority to enact laws necessary to execute its enumerated powers under the Elections Clause. Codifying Executive Order 14248 ensures consistent application of election integrity measures nationwide.

3. Amendment XIV, Section 1 (Citizenship Clause): Reinforces Congress's role in upholding voting rights for U.S. citizens by addressing provisions in the Executive Order requiring documentary proof of citizenship for federal voter registration.

By Mr. HARDER of California:

H.R. 2500.

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

Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution

By Mr. HARRIS of North Carolina:

H.R. 2501.

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

The First Amendment guarantees both free speech and the free exercise of religion. The Free Speech Fairness Act restores these fundamental liberties to churches and non-profits.

By Ms. KAPTUR:

H.R. 2502.

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

Article I, Section 8, to provide for the common defense.

By Mr. KEAN:

H.R. 2503.

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

Article I, Section 8, clause 3, provides Congress with the power to "regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes." The Supreme Court has held that the "power of Congress to promote interstate commerce also includes the power to regulate . . . local activities in both the States of origin and destination, which might have a substantial and harmful effect upon that commerce," including local discriminatory activities that have a "disruptive effect . . . on commercial intercourse." See *Heart of Atlanta Motel v. United States*, 379 U.S. 241, 257-58 (1964).

By Mr. KEATING:

H.R. 2504.

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

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. KEATING:

H.R. 2505.

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

Article 1, Section 8

By Ms. KELLY of Illinois:

H.R. 2506.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause I of the Constitution of the United States.

By Ms. KELLY of Illinois:

H.R. 2507.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause I of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. LIEU:

H.R. 2508.

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

U.S. Const., Art. 1, Sec. 8

By Ms. MALLIOTAKIS:

H.R. 2509.

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

Article I, Section 8

By Ms. MALLIOTAKIS:

H.R. 2510.

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

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. MENENDEZ:

H.R. 2511.

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

Article 1, Section 8

By Ms. MENG:

H.R. 2512.

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

Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. MEUSER:

H.R. 2513.

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

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. NEHLS:

H.R. 2514.

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

Article 1, Section 8 of the US Constitution

By Mr. NEHLS:

H.R. 2515.

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

Article 1, Section 8 of the US Constitution

By Mr. OWENS:

H.R. 2516.

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

Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution

By Ms. PEREZ:

H.R. 2517.

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

Article I of the US Constitution

By Ms. PINGREE:

H.R. 2518.

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

Article I

By Mr. ROGERS of Alabama:

H.R. 2519.

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

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. RUIZ:

H.R. 2520.

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

Article I, 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 Congress.

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey:

H.R. 2521.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the US Constitution

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey:

H.R. 2522.

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

Article I, Section 8

By Ms. TENNEY:

H.R. 2523.

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

Article I

By Ms. TENNEY:

H.R. 2524.

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

By Ms. TITUS:

H.R. 2525.

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

Article 1 Section 8

By Mr. VAN DREW:

H.R. 2526.

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

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. VEASEY:

H.R. 2527.

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

Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution

By Ms. JAYAPAL:

H.J. Res. 83.

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

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

By Ms. JAYAPAL:

H.J. Res. 84.

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

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

By Ms. TLAIB:

H.J. Res. 85.

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

Article 1, Section 1 of the Constitution.

By Ms. TLAIB:

H.J. Res. 86.

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

Article 1, Section 1 of the Constitution.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

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

H.R. 22: Mr. DONALDS, Mr. KNOTT, Mr. BAIRD, Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. MESSMER, Ms.

BOEBERT, Mr. GREEN of Tennessee, Mr. MOORE of West Virginia, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, and Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 25: Mr. MOORE of Alabama.

H.R. 45: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania and Mr. CLINE.

H.R. 169: Ms. SALINAS and Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H.R. 217: Ms. LEE of Nevada.

H.R. 225: Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas.

H.R. 247: Ms. MATSUI.

H.R. 253: Mr. MCGARVEY.

H.R. 273: Mr. WEBSTER of Florida.

H.R. 286: Mr. VINDMAN.

H.R. 298: Mr. PALLONE.

H.R. 303: Mrs. HAYES.

H.R. 381: Ms. STANSBURY and Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ.

H.R. 403: Mr. HUFFMAN.

H.R. 433: Ms. RANDALL, Ms. DEXTER, Mrs. TRAHAN, Mr. KENNEDY of New York, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mrs. TORRES of California, and Mr. SUBRAMANYAM.

H.R. 438: Ms. LEE of Nevada.

H.R. 452: Mr. THANEDAR, Ms. PEREZ, and Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 478: Mr. LAWLER.

H.R. 491: Mr. LEVIN and Ms. KELLY of Illinois.

H.R. 511: Mr. GOLDMAN of Texas.

H.R. 516: Mr. ESTES and Mr. CRAWFORD.

H.R. 530: Ms. MORRISON and Mr. MCGARVEY.

H.R. 553: Ms. LEE of Nevada.

H.R. 586: Mr. RILEY of New York.

H.R. 599: Mrs. BIGGS of South Carolina.

H.R. 617: Mr. SUOZZI.

H.R. 621: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 633: Mr. BRESNAHAN, Mr. HARRIGAN, Mr. LALOTA, and Mr. FULCHER.

H.R. 645: Mr. LUTTRELL.

H.R. 679: Mrs. BIGGS of South Carolina.

H.R. 683: Ms. LEE of Nevada.

H.R. 740: Ms. MACE.

H.R. 753: Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H.R. 759: Ms. BUDZINSKI and Mr. BACON.

H.R. 785: Mr. TAYLOR and Mr. GARBARINO.

H.R. 819: Mr. MOYLAN.

H.R. 845: Mr. MILLER of Ohio and Mr. JOYCE of Ohio.

H.R. 850: Mr. COLLINS.

H.R. 909: Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. TONKO, Mr. GARCIA of Illinois, Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. NEHLS, and Mr. DESJARLAIS.

H.R. 929: Ms. BALINT.

H.R. 945: Mr. GOMEZ and Mr. DELUZIO.

H.R. 951: Mrs. TRAHAN and Mr. GOTTHEIMER.

H.R. 956: Mr. CISNEROS.

H.R. 973: Mr. GOLDMAN of Texas.

H.R. 976: Mr. LAWLER.

H.R. 987: Mr. CLINE.

H.R. 1002: Mr. FIGURES.

H.R. 1004: Ms. LEE of Nevada, Mr. EVANS of Colorado, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, and Mr. LIEU.

H.R. 1042: Ms. DEXTER.

H.R. 1046: Ms. PETTERSEN and Mr. ROGERS of Alabama.

H.R. 1065: Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. EZELL, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mrs. TRAHAN, Ms. BYNUM, and Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 1077: Ms. PEREZ.

H.R. 1102: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.

H.R. 1103: Ms. MCCOLLUM.

H.R. 1131: Ms. LETLOW.

H.R. 1151: Mr. STEUBE, Mr. COSTA, and Mr. NORCROSS.

H.R. 1171: Ms. MALLIOTAKIS and Mr. NEHLS.

H.R. 1177: Ms. TENNEY.

H.R. 1178: Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania, Mr. MCCORMICK, and Ms. POU.

H.R. 1181: Mr. RESCHENTHALER, Mr. CRENSHAW, and Mr. HURD of Colorado.

H.R. 1183: Mr. MAGAZINER.

H.R. 1189: Mr. MOULTON.

H.R. 1196: Ms. RANDALL and Ms. HOULAHAN.

H.R. 1200: Ms. BUDZINSKI.

H.R. 1227: Ms. TENNEY and Mr. PETERS.

H.R. 1229: Mr. FEENSTRA, Mr. JOYCE of Ohio, Ms. PEREZ, and Mr. GREEN of Tennessee.

H.R. 1232: Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. CRANE, Mr. BENTZ, Mr. KENNEDY of Utah, and Mr. MOORE of Alabama.

H.R. 1260: Mr. GARBARINO and Mr. AMODEI of Nevada.

H.R. 1262: Mr. STEUBE, Mr. SUOZZI, Ms. MCCLELLAN, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. NORCROSS, Mr. PETERS, Mr. MAGAZINER, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida, Mr. MEUSER, Mr. MILLER of Ohio, and Mr. ROUZER.

H.R. 1266: Mr. McDOWELL.

H.R. 1286: Ms. LEE of Nevada.

H.R. 1307: Mr. LATIMER.

H.R. 1319: Mr. GROTHMAN.

H.R. 1328: Ms. TENNEY.

H.R. 1329: Mr. AGUILAR and Mr. HUIZENGA.

H.R. 1330: Mr. TRAN and Mr. AGUILAR.

H.R. 1340: Mr. NORCROSS and Mr. SHREVE.

H.R. 1361: Mr. JACKSON of Illinois.

H.R. 1400: Ms. TITUS.

H.R. 1410: Mr. DELUZIO.

H.R. 1422: Mr. FALLON, Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas, Mr. CRANK, Mr. BACON, Mr. HERN of Oklahoma, Mr. FEENSTRA, and Mr. McCaul.

H.R. 1423: Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. PAPPAS, and Ms. BUDZINSKI.

H.R. 1437: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.

H.R. 1477: Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia and Ms. VELÁZQUEZ.

H.R. 1505: Ms. MORRISON and Ms. STRICKLAND.

H.R. 1509: Mr. LANDSMAN, Ms. MCBRIDE, Mr. LATIMER, Mr. VINDMAN, Mr. MAGAZINER, and Mr. MCGARVEY.

H.R. 1517: Mr. CARTER of Louisiana.

H.R. 1521: Mr. MRVAN, Mr. LAHOOD, Ms. PEREZ, Mr. SIMPSON, and Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.

H.R. 1522: Mr. GARCIA of California, Mrs. TRAHAN, Mr. DOGGETT, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. PEREZ, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mr. SORENSEN, Ms. ROSS, Ms. MENG, Mr. HORSFORD, Mr. SOTO, Mr. LANDSMAN, and Ms. CRAIG.

H.R. 1529: Mr. STEUBE, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. LAHOOD, and Ms. WATERS.

H.R. 1542: Ms. BUDZINSKI.

H.R. 1551: Mr. BALDERSO, Mrs. FISCHBACH, Mr. MEUSER, Mr. MILLER of Ohio, Mr. KILEY of California, Mr. CALVERT, and Mr. FRY.

H.R. 1564: Ms. CRAIG.

H.R. 1566: Mr. BAUMGARTNER and Ms. TITUS.

H.R. 1585: Mr. SUOZZI and Mr. MEUSER.

H.R. 1606: Mr. BARR.

H.R. 1616: Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 1645: Ms. CASTOR of Florida.

H.R. 1659: Mr. FIGURES and Mr. CARTER of Louisiana.

H.R. 1669: Mr. CARTER of Georgia.

H.R. 1695: Mr. MOORE of North Carolina.

H.R. 1700: Ms. FRIEDMAN.

H.R. 1702: Mr. BELL and Mr. BILIRAKIS.

H.R. 1745: Mr. LATIMER.

H.R. 1773: Mr. MILLER of Ohio and Mr. LUTTRELL.

H.R. 1792: Mr. GOSAR.

H.R. 1798: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ and Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 1806: Mr. EVANS of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 1810: Mr. AGUILAR.

H.R. 1812: Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H.R. 1818: Mr. BOST.

H.R. 1835: Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ and Mr. FIGURES.

H.R. 1841: Mr. SUOZZI.

H.R. 1866: Mr. GOSAR.

H.R. 1868: Mr. NADLER.

H.R. 1869: Ms. BONAMICI.

H.R. 1870: Mr. BERGMAN.

H.R. 1873: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.

H.R. 1876: Mrs. FOUSHEE, Mr. LATIMER, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. SIMON, Mr. VEASEY,

Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. COSTA, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. RUIZ, Ms. MENG, Ms. WATERS, Mrs. McCCLAIN DELANEY, Mr. PALLONE, Ms. DEXTER, Mr. MRVAN, Mr. McGOVERN, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Ms. SHERRILL, and Mr. BELL.

H.R. 1877: Mr. LATIMER, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. SIMON, Mr. VEASEY, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. COSTA, Mr. RUIZ, Ms. MENG, Ms. WATERS, Mrs. McCCLAIN DELANEY, Mr. PALLONE, Ms. DEXTER, Mr. McGOVERN, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Ms. SHERRILL, and Mr. BELL.

H.R. 1879: Mr. GOSAR.

H.R. 1881: Mr. GRIFFITH.

H.R. 1940: Mr. CAREY.

H.R. 1954: Mr. MORELLE, Mrs. FLETCHER, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. McGOVERN, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Ms. CRAIG, and Mr. CISNEROS.

H.R. 1956: Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas and Mr. VASQUEZ.

H.R. 1993: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.

H.R. 2002: Ms. CRAIG.

H.R. 2005: Ms. TENNEY.

H.R. 2028: Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania, Mr. KILEY of California, and Ms. SCHOLTEN.

H.R. 2031: Ms. FRIEDMAN.

H.R. 2032: Ms. KING-HINDS.

H.R. 2036: Mr. GARBARINO and Mr. SUOZZI.

H.R. 2049: Ms. CRAIG, Mr. SUOZZI, and Mr. SOTO.

H.R. 2059: Ms. JAYAPAL.

H.R. 2066: Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. KING-HINDS, Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, and Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.

H.R. 2075: Mr. GOSAR.

H.R. 2081: Ms. PETTERSEN and Mr. DOGETT.

H.R. 2083: Mr. MOORE of Alabama and Mr. OBERNOLTE.

H.R. 2086: Mr. CONAWAY.

H.R. 2094: Mr. FONG, Mrs. SYKES, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. AMO, Mr. MRVAN, Ms. SHERRILL, Ms. HOULAHAN, Ms. BROWN, Ms. SALINAS, Mr. TONKO, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. GIMENEZ, Mr. ZINKE, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. STANTON, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mr. SOTO, and Ms. KELLY of Illinois.

H.R. 2102: Ms. POU, Ms. MORRISON, Mr. CONAWAY, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia, Mr. NUNN of Iowa, and Mr. FIGURES.

H.R. 2110: Ms. FRIEDMAN.

H.R. 2129: Ms. DEXTER, Ms. SCANLON, and Ms. FRIEDMAN.

H.R. 2145: Ms. STEVENS.

H.R. 2149: Mr. TONKO.

H.R. 2150: Mr. KILEY of California.

H.R. 2151: Mr. MOULTON.

H.R. 2179: Mr. BELL.

H.R. 2189: Mr. BIGGS of Arizona.

H.R. 2198: Mr. HERN of Oklahoma, Mr. MORAN, and Mr. KUSTOFF.

H.R. 2199: Mr. CROW, Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK, Mr. SOTO, Mr. COHEN, and Ms. JOHNSON of Texas.

H.R. 2203: Mr. SHREVE.

H.R. 2221: Ms. FRIEDMAN, Ms. MORRISON, and Ms. CASTOR of Florida.

H.R. 2227: Mr. CISCOMANI.

H.R. 2228: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.

H.R. 2243: Mr. YAKYM and Mr. TIFFANY.

H.R. 2253: Mr. CASTRO of Texas.

H.R. 2287: Mr. WHITESIDES.

H.R. 2290: Mrs. McCCLAIN DELANEY, Mr. CASTEN, Ms. HOULAHAN, and Ms. MALLIOTAKIS.

H.R. 2294: Mr. HARIDOPOLOS and Ms. TOKUDA.

H.R. 2319: Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H.R. 2324: Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H.R. 2326: Mr. WEBSTER of Florida.

H.R. 2332: Mr. STEIL.

H.R. 2333: Ms. TITUS.

H.R. 2335: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.

H.R. 2346: Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. LANDSMAN, and Mr. GOTTHEIMER.

H.R. 2348: Mr. FITZPATRICK and Mr. SOTO.

H.R. 2350: Mr. MCCORMICK, Mrs. BICE, and Mr. EZELL.

H.R. 2351: Mr. GOLDMAN of Texas.

H.R. 2356: Mr. BEGICH.

H.R. 2357: Mrs. McCCLAIN DELANEY, Ms. VELAZQUEZ, Mrs. HAYES, Ms. TLAIB, and Ms. MCCOLLUM.

H.R. 2361: Mr. LYNCH and Ms. TLAIB.

H.R. 2384: Mr. DAVIDSON and Mr. LAWLER.

H.R. 2392: Mr. LAWLER and Mr. NUNN of Iowa.

H.R. 2396: Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ, Ms. TOKUDA, Mrs. McCCLAIN DELANEY, and Ms. BUDZINSKI.

H.R. 2406: Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H.R. 2416: Mr. BERA, Mr. LAWLER, and Ms. TITUS.

H.R. 2422: Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida, Ms. SALAZAR, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. GIMENEZ, Mr. MAST, and Mr. SOTO.

H.R. 2426: Mr. CARTER of Louisiana.

H.R. 2429: Mr. LAWLER.

H.R. 2433: Mr. HARRIGAN.

H.R. 2439: Mrs. McCCLAIN DELANEY and Ms. SCANLON.

H.R. 2443: Mr. NORMAN and Mr. MC GUIRE.

H.R. 2446: Mr. GOLDMAN of Texas.

H.R. 2455: Ms. WATERS and Ms. ANSARI.

H.R. 2461: Ms. OMAR and Mr. NEGUSE.

H.R. 2462: Mr. HARRIGAN, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, and Mr. LUCAS.

H.R. 2468: Mr. SCHMIDT.

H.R. 2469: Ms. BROWNLEY.

H.R. 2470: Ms. MCCOLLUM.

H.J. Res. 38: Mr. McDOWELL, Mr. OWENS, and Mr. PALMER.

H.J. Res. 54: Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. CRAIG, and Ms. MC BRIDE.

H.J. Res. 79: Mr. BENTZ.

H. Con. Res. 12: Mr. GOLDMAN of Texas.

H. Con. Res. 21: Mr. NEGUSE.

H. Res. 23: Mr. BELL.

H. Res. 64: Mr. MACKENZIE, Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia, Mr. LIEU, Mr. CARBAJAL, Ms. STEVENS, Ms. STRICKLAND, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Ms. GILLEN, and Mr. PETERS.

H. Res. 76: Mr. YAKYM, Mrs. CAMMACK, and Mr. NEHLS.

H. Res. 94: Mr. CASTRO of Texas.

H. Res. 119: Mr. EVANS of Pennsylvania.

H. Res. 120: Mr. FLEISCHMANN.

H. Res. 166: Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. EZELL, Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia, Mr. BELL, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, and Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas.

H. Res. 171: Ms. SALINAS, Ms. NORTON, Mr. TORRES of New York, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. TONKO, Ms. TLAIB, and Mr. DOGETT.

H. Res. 209: Mr. MC GUIRE.

H. Res. 238: Ms. DEXTER.

H. Res. 258: Mr. GILL of Texas.

H. Res. 260: Mrs. McCCLAIN DELANEY.

H. Res. 262: Mr. BERGMAN.

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CONGRESSIONAL EARMARKS, LIMITED TAX BENEFITS, OR LIMITED TARIFF BENEFITS

Under clause 9 of rule XXI, lists or statements on congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits were submitted as follows:

OFFERED BY MR. STEIL

The provisions that warranted a referral to the Committee on House Administration in H.R. 22, the Safeguard American Voter Eligibility Act, do not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 119<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

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## Senate

The Senate met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

### PRAAYER

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

Let us pray.

Our Father in Heaven, light of the world, give the Members of this body Your light. Shine Your light to help them see the truth. Shine Your light so that they can see the path You desire them to travel. Shine Your light so that they can see themselves as they truly are and not take for granted the freedoms they enjoy.

Lord, shine Your light so that they may live expectantly, open for what You will do or give. Shine Your light so that they may see You in all Your majesty and love. Fill this Chamber with the light of Your presence, enabling each Senator to discern and do Your will. We pray in Your radiant 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.

### COMMUNICATION FROM THE SECRETARY OF THE SENATE

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BUDD). The Chair lays before the Senate a communication from the Secretary of the Senate regarding a message from the President received during the adjournment of the Senate.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: On Friday, March 28, 2025, the President of the United States sent by messenger the attached sealed envelope addressed to the President of the Senate said

to contain a message from the President on the Continuation of the National Emergency With Respect to South Sudan. The Senate not being in session on the day which the President delivered this message, I accepted the message at 1:17 p.m., and I now present to you the President's message, with the accompanying papers, for disposition by the Senate.

Respectfully,

JACKIE BARBER,  
*Secretary of the Senate.*

### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

### CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

### EXECUTIVE SESSION

### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will 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 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.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

(The remarks of Mr. GRASSLEY pertaining to the introduction of S. 1206 are printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. GRASSLEY. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic whip.

### TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, at this point, Congress is in the midst of an important duty: crafting a budget resolution. The resolution is a framework that will guide Federal spending over the next 10 years and ensure that the United States can fulfill its financial commitments and its priorities.

But under the direction of President Trump, congressional Republicans are using this moment as an opportunity to make cuts that hurt working families and repurpose the savings to pay for tax breaks for the wealthiest people in America.

And what is the most egregious example of this? The Republican plan to slash health coverage for millions of Americans who rely on Medicaid.

House Republicans have proposed \$880 billion in cuts to the Medicaid Program in order to pay for Trump's tax cuts for billionaires, and Senate Republicans have similarly put this program in the crosshairs. Why? Not because they want to lower healthcare costs to improve our healthcare system but because they want to use Medicaid cuts as a source of revenue for tax breaks for billionaires.

The richest man on Earth, Elon Musk, can dance around a stage with a chain saw, cheering cuts to basic healthcare programs, but let me explain to you what that really means for working families. Medicaid covers 30 million children in America, nearly half of all our kids, 60 percent of seniors in nursing homes, and it is the largest funder of addiction and mental health treatment.

Let's zero down on that statement: Thirty million kids, half of all the kids in America, rely on Medicaid for basic health coverage. And if you have a parent or a grandparent in a nursing home or assisted living, 60 percent of them rely on Medicaid to pay for it. What happens to the family of the parent or grandparent if Medicaid isn't there? Bet you know the answer. The family

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



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has to pay for it or mom can't go where you think the best care is offered. That is what Medicaid is all about, 60 percent of folks in nursing homes, and it is the largest funder of addiction and mental health treatment.

How many times have we said that we are so enlightened these days, unlike previous years, that we talk honestly about mental illness and dealing with it? My family, like most families, had a history of mental illness, but it was a deepest and darkest secret. Now we are open about it, and thank goodness we are because it is an illness—it is not a curse—and an illness that can be treated if you can pay for it.

Medicaid pays for more mental health counseling than any other source. And when it comes to narcotics addiction, we talk about fentanyl, we talk about heroin, all these different narcotics, and God forbid, any family has to face that, but if they do, where do they turn for counseling?

It turns out, the biggest source of counseling from narcotics addiction is paid for by Medicaid. So if you cut down the coverage of Medicaid, you reduce the likelihood of good professional care for people who are suffering from mental illness, addiction, or other serious medical problems.

In Illinois, 3.4 million people are enrolled in Medicaid, including 1.5 million children. Under Republican plans to dramatically cut the Medicaid Program, 775,000 adults who gained health insurance coverage under the Affordable Care Act would lose coverage almost overnight.

When I think back to things that I have been part of as a U.S. Senator from Illinois, I am particularly gratified to remember when we passed the Affordable Care Act. Too many Americans at that time had no health insurance coverage.

I found myself stuck in that situation as a law student here in Georgetown many, many years ago. My wife and I were blessed with a little baby girl that was born with a serious health problem, and we had no health insurance.

So where did I go? I went over to the Children's Hospital in this town with my wife and baby and waited in what they called the charity ward for the opportunity to see some doctor—any doctor—that might be able to treat my little girl.

I never felt more worthless as a parent without health insurance with a sick little child. It is a terrible feeling. I have never forgotten it to this day. I wouldn't wish it on anybody.

And I certainly wouldn't take health insurance away from somebody who couldn't afford it otherwise in order to give a bigger tax cut to a wealthier person. I want to help working families, that is for sure, but tax cuts for Elon Musk—come on, he doesn't need it. He wouldn't even notice it. What we ought to be focusing on is that family and their needs.

And for other children, elderly, and disabled Illinoisans who depend on

Medicaid may no longer be able to access lifesaving medical treatment with the cutbacks that are being proposed.

The Republicans are ignoring another obvious point. Medicaid is the absolute lifeline for children's hospitals and rural hospitals in their communities.

You pick a State, in Illinois, 60 percent of our 102 counties are classified as rural, smalltown America. Rural hospitals are the backbone of communities in downstate Illinois. Rural hospitals anchor the local economy. They often are the largest employer in town, in the county, sometimes. And they are critical access points for healthcare.

If you suffer a farm accident or face a complication with a birth in your family, you can't afford to drive that extra hour or two to find the nearest hospital.

That is why I worked for years to improve access to healthcare in rural areas, working to strengthen rural hospitals and recruit more doctors, dentists, and nurses. But rural hospitals in Illinois and across this country could be at risk of closure if Republicans put Medicaid on the chopping block.

Last week, I had a series of press conferences back in my State. I first went to Taylorville, in Central Illinois, and then down to Cahokia Heights, near the St. Louis area, and met with hospital administrators who told the story: They didn't know whether they could keep the doors open if the cutbacks proposed by the House Republicans go through. It will be a cutback that they feel personally.

Already, half of rural hospitals in America operate in the red. They are not getting by with current reimbursement, and with even less, fewer hospitals will be available. For many rural hospitals, Medicaid covers a large percentage of their patients and accounts for a large portion of the hospital's budget.

For HSHS St. Francis Hospital in Litchfield, IL, Medicaid pays for 53 percent of all hospitalizations. For OSF St. Clare Hospital in Princeton, IL, Medicaid pays for 45 percent of all hospitalizations. It is 22 percent for Jersey Community Hospital in Jerseyville, IL. And the list goes on and on.

And it isn't just rural, smalltown areas affected by these Medicaid cuts. It also goes to the inner city. Hospitals struggling to survive won't be able to.

So do you see the picture here? Cuts to Medicaid put rural hospitals and inner-city hospitals in danger. And if rural hospitals close because of Republican budget cuts, communities will suffer, and families will suffer. Children seeking cancer treatments won't be able to access local care when they need it. Pregnant women will have to drive further to deliver their babies. And your grandparent will have to wait months to get in to see that diabetes specialist.

Of course, Americans of all political affiliations rely on Medicaid, and, increasingly, Republican Members of

Congress are recognizing how unpopular it is going to be to cut Medicaid to pay for tax breaks for the wealthy.

Senator TOMMY TUBERVILLE of Alabama acknowledged in an interview that cutting Medicaid would "decimate" his home State of Alabama, where three out of five kids are on Medicaid. He then said that Congress has to find a way around cutting it.

Senator ROGER MARSHALL of Kansas similarly expressed his support for Medicaid, saying that, rather than cutting it, "we will try to strengthen Medicaid for the future of all those who need it the most, the most vulnerable." And Senator MARSHALL, of course, is a medical doctor.

Slashing lifesaving healthcare will hurt Americans in blue and red States. I hope my Republican colleagues will not cave in to the President's pressure and legislate away the health and well-being of the people they represent. If Republicans push forward with their cruel and unpopular funding plan, working families will lose, and a handful of billionaires will win. It is simple and devastating math.

It is not too late. As we consider the budget resolution, as soon as this week, Congress has the ability to do the right thing and protect Medicaid from cuts in our Federal budget.

The numbers in Congress make the difference. In the U.S. Senate, of 100 Members, there are 53 Republicans and 47 Democrats. When it comes to these budget decisions, three Republicans moving over to vote with Democrats to save Medicaid can save and keep open these hospitals I have talked about, can give these kids access to healthcare, can help families pay for mom's and their grandmother's nursing care, can make sure that we have counseling for mental health and addiction.

Three Republicans—that is all it takes. We hope that they will listen to the people they represent, carefully.

I have. I think it is clear.

Medicaid is a popular program. Over 80 percent of the American people reject the idea that we should cut Medicaid—over 80 percent. That goes way beyond any single party. They understand that this gets down to the basics.

How would you like to be sitting in that waiting room with no health insurance, at a hospital far from your home, hoping that your child is going to survive?

Stick with the families of this country. The billionaires will take care of themselves.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. 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.

## TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, work on the President's nominations continues apace. Last week, we confirmed nine members of the President's administration, including the Secretary of the Navy, an Assistant Attorney General, and Deputy Secretaries of Treasury, State, and Veterans Affairs.

The President's Cabinet Secretaries, of course, are all in place. And tonight, we will be voting to invoke cloture on Matthew Whitaker to be the U.S. Permanent Representative to NATO, and I expect to confirm additional nominees this week as well.

A huge focus early on in any new Congress, with a newly elected President, is filling out the President's administration. We have also been focused on the agenda the President and Republicans were elected to deliver. In the very near future, we will be taking up a budget resolution to lay the groundwork for legislation to make the 2017 tax relief permanent, secure the border, unleash American energy, and provide for our Nation's defense. And all of that will be accompanied by substantial savings measures.

And on the subject of maximizing savings, I just want to be very clear: The House and the Senate are united in aiming to do all we can on this. Sure, the instructions we give to our separate committees, which are responsible for finding those savings, may look a little bit different. But that is not because we don't have a shared commitment to cutting wasteful government spending and saving taxpayer dollars. That is simply a function of Senate rules.

In the Senate, if we fail to meet a single savings instruction—even by a dollar—we lose our ability to consider the legislation under reconciliation rules and the simple majority threshold. So we have to be careful not to miss the mark on this and to provide flexibility as we chart our bicameral course. But that won't stop us from maximizing savings. Again, on that point, we are committed.

But back to the bill that we will be moving forward. As I said, the budget resolution we will take up will lay the groundwork for legislation to make the 2017 tax cuts permanent. The 2017 tax relief we passed put more money in American families' pockets with the largest proportional share of the tax relief going to the middle class. And if we don't act to extend this relief, American families will be taking home lower paychecks next year.

Along with the President, Senate Republicans are committed to ensuring that we not only extend this relief, but that we make it permanent. Americans should not have to worry about their tax relief expiring every few years.

In addition to making this relief permanent, the bill will also, as I said, invest in securing our border, unleashing American energy, and defending our Nation. After years of chaos at our southern border under President Biden

and after years of deficiencies in our military readiness, it is time for a serious investment in border and national security.

As I have said before, if we don't get national security right, Mr. President, the rest is just conversation. It is past time to address the deficiencies in our military readiness and to ensure that the good work President Trump is doing to secure the border and remove criminals from our streets can continue.

I am looking forward to taking up our budget resolution in the very near future so that we can deliver permanent tax relief for Americans, provide certainty to the economy, and make a transformational investment in border, energy, and national security. It is going to be a great bill.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. 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.

## RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Democratic leader is recognized.

## TARIFFS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, this week, Donald Trump is preparing to take a sledgehammer to the American economy by preparing a tsunami of tariffs on all sorts of goods Americans purchase every day—a tsunami of tariffs.

Let's be clear. Donald Trump's tariffs are a tax hike on American families. The average costs families will have to pay for groceries, gas, everyday goods, et cetera, will go up by thousands—thousands of dollars a year out of hard-working people's pockets to pay for these tariffs. And Donald Trump has the gall to call his trade war "Liberation Day." That makes as much sense as calling a layoff notice a promotion letter.

The Trump administration clearly has no strategy or goal behind their tariffs. One minute, they say the tariffs will lead to more people buying American-made goods, but Peter Navarro said yesterday that tariffs will also raise trillions in revenue. This is a total contradiction. You can't use tariffs to both raise revenue and bring jobs back. The only way you raise that much in revenue is if Americans pay that much for goods made abroad, and that means consumers will hurt most.

Donald Trump knows his plan will send costs surging. He said he "hopes" automakers raise their prices—spoken like a true billionaire. Donald Trump saying, I hope automakers will raise their prices? OK, Mr. and Mrs. Consumer, Mr. and Mrs. Average American Family, Donald Trump wants you to pay more while he is giving tax cuts to billionaires.

Senate Republicans—where are they? Always, they just go along with whatever Trump wants no matter how idiotic. Senate Republicans should be shouting from the rooftops to get the President to reverse course on tariffs. People in red States will be especially impacted, from farmers to small businesses. Republicans should be swarming the Senate floor with statements calling on the President to change his mind. But their response has been so feeble, so weak—almost nonexistent—that Americans are right to question which side they are really on.

The worst part is that nobody knows what the tariffs will look like—perhaps not even Donald Trump. On a slow day, he changes his mind about them only once a day. He seems to change his mind about them almost every hour.

This is not what the American people want. Americans and American businesses detest the chaos and unpredictability that Trump brings. No surprise—more and more Americans now disprove of his handling of the economy. Meanwhile, the S&P is on track for its worst quarter compared to the rest of the world since the 1980s. Consumer confidence is at its worst since Donald Trump's first term. Outlook for the economy is at a 12-year low. Household debt is on the rise.

Donald Trump's trade war is playing Russian roulette with the American economy, and it will be households, retirees, consumers, and average families that pay the price.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CURTIS). Without objection, it is so ordered.

## WAIVING QUORUM CALL

Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call with respect to the Whitaker nomination be waived.

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

## VOTE-ARAMA

Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, I have a little advice, really, of a parliamentary nature for the U.S. Senate. I hope it will be taken in the constructive spirit that it is intended. This week, the Senate is expected, once again, to vote on a budget resolution. It is among the most important actions we will take all year.

Unfortunately, one unpleasant aspect of this process will be the so-called vote-arama. We just had one a few weeks ago. There is no specific mention of the vote-arama in the 1974 Congressional Budget Act. This process was never envisioned by the drafters of the budget law. But it evolved to its current form because the Congressional Budget Act allows debate up to 20

hours and does not restrict the number of amendments Senators can offer.

Here is how it actually works. And you know this quite well, Mr. President, as a new Member of the Senate. On the day of the amendment votes, Senators will sit around on the floor and in the Cloakrooms and in the anterooms of the Chamber and stare at each other all day, make offers and counteroffers. Then late in the day, usually in the early evening, we begin debate. We make brief 1-minute speeches, and we vote over and over and over into the wee hours of the morning.

One result is that the process is, by then, hidden, relegated to the darkness of nighttime. Most Americans are already asleep when we get down to business in the vote-arama. What they miss, though, is mostly political theater. In this production, the roles never change. I have been in the minority at times during my tenure in the Senate. I have been in the majority, as I am now. But the roles stay the same. The minority party has one job: to offer amendments—germane or not, pertinent or not—that put the majority in an uncomfortable position.

As a Member of the minority party, I have done that. The majority party has the job of defeating every amendment, if possible. It doesn't matter what the merit of the amendments are. The majority party often defeats each one. Why? Because otherwise, we would delay the important work of actually, finally, getting to passage of a budget reconciliation bill, which will come later.

The vote-arama hardly ever has any budgetary substance. The vote-arama is merely a messaging process. Every Member of the Senate, minority and majority, knows this. Americans at least deserve to hear this debate during the light of day. Both parties can achieve their goals without running this process into the wee hours of the morning, which is what we always do.

Over the last few weeks, I have talked with Members on both sides of the aisle, my Republican colleagues and our Democratic friends. I floated the idea of a unanimous consent agreement to conduct these votes during the light of day. I simply say, Mr. President, there is widespread support among the rank and file for getting this done during working hours.

So I would urge the leadership of both parties and all Members of both parties—because it takes unanimous consent—to adopt a unanimous consent agreement that avoids the political theater of a dead-of-night vote-arama. The American people deserve better. And I would like to think the U.S. Senate is better than the process we have come to practice.

I yield the floor.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

#### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 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. 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 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, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO), the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH), the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS), and the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) would have vote “yea” and the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) would have voted “yea”.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER), the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS), and the Senator from Michigan (Ms. SLOTKIN) are necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 49, nays 42, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 156 Ex.]

#### YEAS—49

Banks	Grassley	Paul
Blackburn	Hagerty	Ricketts
Boozman	Hawley	Risch
Britt	Hoover	Rounds
Budd	Husted	Schmitt
Cassidy	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Collins	Justice	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Kennedy	Shaheen
Cotton	Lankford	Sheehy
Cramer	Lee	Sullivan
Crapo	Marshall	Thune
Cruz	McConnell	Tillis
Curtis	McCormick	Tuberville
Daines	Moody	Wicker
Ernst	Moran	Young
Fischer	Moreno	
Graham	Mullin	

#### NAYS—42

Alsobrooks	Cantwell	Gillibrand
Baldwin	Cortez Masto	Hassan
Bennet	Duckworth	Heinrich
Blumenthal	Durbin	Hirono
Blunt Rochester	Fetterman	Kaine
Booker	Gallego	Kelly

Kim  
King  
Klobuchar  
Luján  
Markey  
Merkley  
Murphy  
Murray

Ossoff  
Padilla  
Reed  
Rosen  
Sanders  
Schatz  
Schiff  
Schumer

Smith  
Van Hollen  
Warner  
Warnock  
Warren  
Welch  
Whitehouse  
Wyden

#### NOT VOTING—9

Barrasso  
Capito  
Coons

Hickenlooper  
Hyde-Smith  
Lummis

Murkowski  
Peters  
Slotkin

(Mr. RICKETTS assumed the Chair.)  
The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MARSHALL). On this vote, the yeas are 49, the nays are 42.

The motion is agreed to.

#### 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. 46.

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 Dean Sauer, of Missouri, to be Solicitor General of the United States.

#### 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. 46, Dean Sauer, of Missouri, to be Solicitor General of the United States.

John Thune, Mike Crapo, Roger Marshall, Shelley Moore Capito, Tommy Tuberville, Jim Justice, James Lankford, John Barrasso, Markwayne Mullin, Tim Sheehy, Mike Rounds, Todd Young, Kevin Cramer, Ted Budd, Roger F. Wicker, Katie Boyd Britt, David McCormick.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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. 47.

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 Harriet Dhillon, of California, to be an Assistant Attorney General.

## CLOSURE MOTION

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

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

## CLOSURE 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. 47, Harriet Dhillon, of California, to be an Assistant Attorney General.

John Thune, Tim Scott of South Carolina, Mike Crapo, Lindsey Graham, Tim Sheehy, John Kennedy, John Barraza, Markwayne Mullin, Roger Marshall, Rick Scott of Florida, Mike Rounds, Tommy Tuberville, Steve Daines, Bernie Moreno, Eric Schmitt, Jon A. Husted, Roger F. Wicker.

## MORNING BUSINESS

## ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

## TRIBUTE TO ETTA SMITH PERKINS

• Mrs. BRITT. Mr. President, I wish to honor the life and legacy of Mrs. Etta Smith Perkins, an extraordinary Alabamian who has helped shape our State with courage and conviction.

Mrs. Perkins moved to Selma, AL, at the age of 4, and grew up on Selma University's campus where she attended elementary and secondary school through 12th grade. She was the fourth of ten children born to Henry Daniel Smith, Sr., and Rebecca Sanders Smith.

As a young child, she was baptized at West Trinity Baptist Church, where she developed her love for our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, serving others, and congregational singing. It was in church where she met the love of her life, James Perkins, Sr. Together, they shared an extraordinary 71 years of marriage, 4 children, 7 grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren, and several godchildren who affectionately called her "Momma." Her favorite scripture, Proverbs 3:5, guided her extraordinary life of faith and service.

She began her professional nursing career at the Good Samaritan Hospital School of Practical Nurses. Her dedica-

tion to caring for others led her to further her education at Wallace Community College-Selma, where she graduated as a registered nurse in 1973. As a nurse during the civil rights movement, she fought to integrate waiting rooms in the segregated doctors' offices. Her efforts were later documented in the documentary film "Sisters of Selma: Bearing Witness for Change," which was broadcast nationwide.

Her commitment to service was not limited to her professional career. Mrs. Perkins truly inspired future generations of leaders when she became Selma-Dallas County's first African-American Girl Scout troop leader. She was also appointed as the first African-American board member of the Selma-Dallas County Public Library and a charter member of the National Council of Negro Women. Her leadership also extended to organizations like the American Red Cross, Head Start, Vaughan Home Health Boards, and the Selma-Dallas County AARP.

Mrs. Perkins' remarkable contributions have been memorialized across the State of Alabama. Her story has been written in numerous publications, including "The Alabama Nurse" and "Advances of Nursing Science." Her 35 years of outstanding service were forever cemented in history when she was featured as one of four inaugural nurses in the book "Alabama Notable Nurses."

This Women's History Month, I am honored to recognize Mrs. Perkins on behalf of the people of Alabama as a truly trailblazing woman who made significant contributions to her community and our state. Her legacy serves as a powerful reminder that Alabama women don't just witness history; they make it.●

## RECOGNIZING J&amp;S FARM SUPPLY

• Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, as chair of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize an outstanding Iowa small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit. This week, it is my privilege to recognize J&S Farm Supply of Williamsburg, IA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

In 1955, Leighton Jones founded Jones Fertilizer with a mission to support local growers by providing farming services including shelling corn, filling silos, and making hay. In 1962, legendary corn seed grower Roland Holden, the founder of Holden Foundation Seeds—formerly the largest independent producer of foundation seed in the United States—approached the family business for help with fertilizing his crops. At that time, Leighton did not own a truck capable of helping fertilize Roland's farm, so an agreement was made to exchange work for a 1962 Chevy truck. Leighton not only paid Roland back but also established connections with local farmers

to expand his fertilizing business. Over time, Jones Fertilizer became a comprehensive resource for community members seeking to buy fertilizers, seeking crop input, or in need of agricultural services.

By 1972, Dick Schaefer joined the team, and J&S Farm Supply was born. More than two decades later, in 1999, Leighton's son Tim Jones, Sr., joined the business. After nearly 50 years of growing the business, Leighton passed in 2004, which marked a new chapter as Tim took on full ownership of the family business.

Today, Tim still leads J&S Farm Supply and has spearheaded transformative changes, expanding the company's reach and service offerings. Under Tim's leadership, the business has evolved into a full-service agricultural hub offering advanced agronomy services, expert soil consulting, and sustainable farming strategies. The company's team of eight community employees help Iowa growers with every step of the agriculture process, from maintaining soil quality to hauling grain. Tim's son Tim Jones, Jr.—a certified crop adviser and a graduate of Iowa State University—joined the J&S Farm Supply team, bringing cutting-edge agronomy perspectives to the company. Additionally, Tim's sons-in-law Ryan Sauer and Luke Williams have further grown the company's offerings by expanding the turf and fabrication divisions, respectively. Demonstrating its innovative spirit, J&S Farm Supply plans to introduce on-site research plots and studies, allowing for the evaluation of new products and strategies to better serve the evolving needs of Iowa's agricultural producers.

This family-owned business partners with the Williamsburg JR-SR High School Raiders, as well as the Williamsburg Performance Center. J&S Farm Supply is also a member of the Williamsburg Chamber of Commerce, sponsoring unique events like a donkey basketball fundraiser for the high school FFA. In their personal lives, Tim Sr. has coached the high school girls' soccer team since 2012, and Ryan currently coaches the boys' team. In 2018, Tim Jones, Sr., was awarded the Citizen of the Year by the Williamsburg Chamber of Commerce. With their strong presence in Williamsburg and a history of serving Iowa's agricultural economy, J&S Farm Supply has been a cornerstone of its community. Later this year, J&S Farm Supply looks forward to celebrating its 70th business anniversary in Iowa.

The entrepreneurial spirit and commitment to excellence demonstrated by J&S Farm Supply are clear. I want to congratulate the entire team at J&S Farm Supply for their hard work and dedication to providing exceptional products and services to agricultural producers across Iowa. I look forward to seeing their continued growth and success.●

## MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Hanley, one of his secretaries.

## EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations and withdrawals which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

## PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

## REPORT OF THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY THAT WAS ORIGINALLY DECLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 13664 OF APRIL 3, 2014, WITH RESPECT TO SOUTH SUDAN, RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT OF THE SENATE ON MARCH 28, 2025—PM 19

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 Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

*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 13664 of April 3, 2014, with respect to South Sudan is to continue in effect beyond April 3, 2025.

The situation in and in relation to South Sudan, which has been marked by activities that threaten the peace, security, or stability of South Sudan and the surrounding region, including widespread violence and atrocities, human rights abuses, recruitment and use of child soldiers, attacks on peacekeepers, and obstruction of humanitarian operations, continues to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States.

Therefore, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13664 with respect to South Sudan.

DONALD J. TRUMP.  
THE WHITE HOUSE, March 28, 2025.

## MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:04 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1048. An act 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.

The message further announced that the House has passed the following joint resolutions, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.J. Res. 24. 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 Walk-In Coolers and Walk-In Freezers”.

H.J. Res. 75. Joint resolution 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”.

## MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 1048. An act 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; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

## EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-667. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 13224 of September 23, 2001 with respect to persons who commit, threaten to commit, or support terrorism; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-668. A communication from the Secretary of the Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Form PF; Reporting Requirements for All Filers and Large Hedge Fund Advisers” received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 26, 2025; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-669. A communication from the Sanctions Regulations Advisor, Office of Foreign Assets Control, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Reporting, Procedures and Penalties Regulations” received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 26, 2025; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-670. A communication from the Director, Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Beneficial Ownership Information Reporting Requirement Revision and Deadline Extension” (RIN1506-AB49) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 26, 2025; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-671. A communication from the Chair and President (Acting) of the Export-Import Bank of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Bank’s 2024 Annual Report; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-672. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for General Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Administrator, Transportation Security Administration, Department of Homeland Security, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 26, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-673. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Gulf of America Technical Amendment” (Docket No. USCG-2025-0186) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 26, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-674. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Regulated Navigation Area; Cuyahoga River, Cleveland, OH” (RIN1625-AA11) (Docket No. USCG-2024-0393) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 26, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-675. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone; Demolition of Lock and Dam 3, Monongahela River Mile Marker 23.5-24.5, Elizabeth, PA” (RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2025-0068) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 26, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-676. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone; Cypress Passage overhead powerline demolition and removal, Atchafalaya River, LA” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2024-1095)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 26, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-677. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Hackensack River, Little Snake Hill, NJ” ((RIN1625-AA09) (Docket No. USCG-2024-0412)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 26, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-678. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Umpqua River, Reedsport, OR” (RIN1625-AA09) (Docket No. USCG-2023-0969) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 26, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-679. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of

Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Passaic River, Harrison, New Jersey” ((RIN1625-AA09) (Docket No. USCG-2024-1091)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 26, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-680. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Okeechobee Waterway, Stuart, FL” ((RIN1625-AA09) (Docket No. USCG-2022-0222)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 26, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-681. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel, General Law, Ethics, and Regulation, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, two (2) reports relative to vacancies in the Department of the Treasury, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 26, 2025; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-682. A communication from the Director of the Regulations and Disclosure Law Division, Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Extension of Import Restrictions Imposed on Archaeological and Ethnological Material of Ecuador and Correction” (RIN1685-AA30) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 26, 2025; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-683. A communication from the Senior Advisor, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to sixteen (16) vacancies in the Department of Health and Human Services, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 26, 2025; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-684. A communication from the Chair, Medicare Payment Advisory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “March 2025 Report to the Congress: Medicare Payment Policy”; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-685. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “Federal Vacancies Reform Act, changes that occurred as of March 19, 2025, and additional report on departure of ambassadors” received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-686. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of firearms, parts, and components controlled under Category I of the U.S. Munitions List to Ukraine in the amount of \$1,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 25-015) received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-687. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of firearms, parts, and components controlled under Category I of the U.S. Munitions List to Ukraine in the amount of \$1,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 24-114) received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-688. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act,

the certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles, including technical data, and defense services to the Republic of Korea and Norway in the amount of \$50,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 24-100) received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-689. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles, including technical data, and defense services to Turkey and Luxembourg in the amount of \$100,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 17-047) received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-690. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles, including technical data, and defense services to Italy and Israel in the amount of \$100,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 24-117) received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-691. A communication from the Senior Advisor, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to twelve (12) vacancies in the Department of Health and Human Services, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 26, 2025; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-692. A communication from the Board of Trustees, National Railroad Retirement Investment Trust, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual management report relative to its operations and financial condition for fiscal year 2024; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-693. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for General Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Under Secretary for Strategy, Policy, and Plans, Department of Homeland Security, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 26, 2025; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-694. A communication from the General Counsel, Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Methodology for Calculating Earnings on Court-Ordered Payments” (5 CFR Part 1653) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 26, 2025; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-695. A communication from the Secretary to the Board, Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Board’s fiscal year 2024 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act); to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-696. A communication from the General Counsel, Government Accountability Office, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office’s fiscal year 2024 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act); to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-697. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for General Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Under Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis, Department of

Homeland Security, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 26, 2025; to the Select Committee on Intelligence.

EC-698. A communication from the Senior Advisor, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to two (2) vacancies in the Department of Health and Human Services, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 25, 2025; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

EC-699. A communication from the Acting Chief of Policy and Strategy, Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Alien Registration Form and Evidence of Registration” (RIN1615-AC96) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 25, 2025; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-700. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Administration for Children and Families, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Unaccompanied Children Program Foundational Rule; Update to accord with Statutory Requirements” (RIN0970-AD16) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 26, 2025; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. LEE, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources:

Special Report entitled “History, Jurisdiction, and a Summary of Activities of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources During the 118th Congress” (Rept. No. 119-7).

By Mr. PAUL, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs:

Special Report entitled “Activities of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs During the 118th Congress” (Rept. No. 119-8).

By Mr. CRUZ, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, without amendment:

S. 99. A bill to require the Secretary of Commerce to produce a report that provides recommendations to improve the effectiveness, efficiency, and impact of Department of Commerce programs related to supply chain resilience and manufacturing and industrial innovation, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 119-9).

By Mr. GRASSLEY, from the Committee on the Judiciary:

Special Report entitled “Activities of the Committee on the Judiciary During the 118th Congress” (Rept. No. 119-10).

#### 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. MERKLEY (for himself and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 1200. A bill to amend the Oregon Resource Conservation Act of 1996 to reauthorize the Deschutes River Conservancy Working Group, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. MURPHY:

S. 1201. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide for claims of

ineffective assistance of counsel in immigration matters, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BENNET (for himself, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WELCH, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. MARKEY):

S. 1202. A bill to amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to permit supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits to be used to purchase additional types of food items; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. GALLEGO (for himself, Ms. ROSEN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, and Mr. KELLY):

S. 1203. A bill to authorize the appropriation of \$2,000,000,000 for rental vouchers for high population areas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. HASSAN (for herself, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. KELLY, Mr. SCHMITT, Mr. KAINE, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. LANKFORD, and Mr. HICKENLOOPER):

S. 1204. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain spouses eligible for services under the disabled veterans' outreach program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. LANKFORD (for himself and Mr. CRUZ):

S. 1205. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow charitable organizations to make statements relating to political campaigns if such statements are made in the ordinary course of carrying out its tax exempt purpose; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. BARRASSO, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. BUDD, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DAINES, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. JUSTICE, Mr. KENNEDY, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. MARSHALL, Mrs. MOODY, Mr. MORENO, Mr. SCHMITT, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. CASSIDY, and Mr. LEE):

S. 1206. A bill to amend title 28, United States Code, to prohibit the issuance of national injunctions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. WARNOCK, Mrs. BRITT, and Mr. OSSOFF):

S. 1207. A bill to amend the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 to reauthorize the federal swine eradication and control pilot program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. 1208. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to address records maintained on individuals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 1209. A bill to amend the Federal Crop Insurance Act and the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 to make the native sod provisions applicable to the United States and to modify those provisions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Ms. DUCKWORTH):

S. 1210. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the work opportunity credit for certain youth employees; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Ms. DUCKWORTH):

S. 1211. A bill to amend the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act to provide funding, on a competitive basis, for summer and year-round employment opportunities for youth ages 14 through 24; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. WELCH (for himself, Mr. LEE, and Mr. SANDERS):

S. 1212. A bill to amend the Federal Meat Inspection Act to exempt certain owners of livestock from inspection requirements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. COONS, Ms. COLLINS, and Mr. BENNET):

S. 1213. A bill to prohibit the distribution of materially deceptive AI-generated audio or visual media relating to candidates for Federal office, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. BOOKER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 1214. A bill to amend the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Act of 1981 to increase the availability of heating and cooling assistance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself and Mr. SCHIFF):

S. 1215. A bill to establish the Cesar E. Chavez and the Farmworker Movement National Historical Park in the States of California and Arizona, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself, Mr. CURTIS, and Mr. KIM):

S. 1216. A bill to support Taiwan's international space, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. KING (for himself, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. COONS, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, and Mr. SULLIVAN):

S. 1217. A bill to amend the Farm Credit Act of 1971 to support the commercial fishing industry; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

#### SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. SCHATZ (for himself, Mr. FETTERMAN, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. WELCH, Ms. WARREN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. COONS, Mr. SCHIFF, and Ms. DUCKWORTH):

S. Con. Res. 11. A concurrent resolution supporting the goals and ideals of International Transgender Day of Visibility; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

#### ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 128

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 128, a bill to amend the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 to require proof of United States citizenship to

register an individual to vote in elections for Federal office, and for other purposes.

S. 162

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 162, a bill to amend parts B and E of title IV of the Social Security Act to improve foster and adoptive parent recruitment and retention, and for other purposes.

S. 221

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of Florida, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 221, a bill to extend the customs waters of the United States from 12 nautical miles to 24 nautical miles from the baselines of the United States, consistent with Presidential Proclamation 7219.

S. 237

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 237, a bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to provide public safety officer benefits for exposure-related cancers, and for other purposes.

S. 315

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) 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. 339

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 339, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for Medicare coverage of multi-cancer early detection screening tests.

S. 556

At the request of Mr. SULLIVAN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 556, a bill to impose sanctions with respect to persons engaged in logistical transactions and sanctions evasion relating to oil, gas, liquefied natural gas, and related petrochemical products from the Islamic Republic of Iran, and for other purposes.

S. 557

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 557, a bill to repeal the small business loan data collection requirements under the Equal Credit Opportunity Act.

S. 575

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 575, a bill to amend titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to increase access to services provided by advanced practice registered nurses under the Medicare and Medicaid programs, and for other purposes.

S. 627

At the request of Mr. SCHMITT, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSBOURNE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 627, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make certain provisions with respect to qualified ABLE programs permanent.

S. 858

At the request of Mr. JUSTICE, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 858, a bill to authorize the National Medal of Honor Museum Foundation to establish a commemorative work on the National Mall to honor the extraordinary acts of valor, selfless service, and sacrifice displayed by Medal of Honor recipients.

S. 864

At the request of Mr. MARSHALL, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 864, a bill to amend title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act to apply financial assistance towards the cost-sharing requirements of health insurance plans, and for other purposes.

S. 949

At the request of Mr. KELLY, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. SLOTHKEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 949, a bill to ensure that the National Park Service is fully staffed, and for other purposes.

S. 950

At the request of Mr. KELLY, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. SLOTHKEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 950, a bill to ensure that the Forest Service is fully staffed, and for other purposes.

S. 963

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. MORENO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 963, a bill to establish the Space National Guard.

S. 1060

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1060, a bill to amend the Clayton Act to prevent conflicts of interest and promote competition in the sale and purchase of digital advertising.

S. 1090

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. MORENO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1090, a bill to amend section 2284 of title 28, United States Code, to establish special procedures for civil actions seeking to restrain executive branch actions.

S. 1099

At the request of Mr. HAWLEY, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1099, a bill to amend title 28, United States Code, to limit the authority of district courts of the United States to provide injunctive relief, and for other purposes.

S. 1137

At the request of Mr. COTTON, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr.

MORENO) 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. 1142

At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. SCHIFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1142, a bill to adjust the boundaries of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area to include the Scarper Ridge property.

S. 1193

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKLEY), the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) were added as cosponsors of 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.

S. 1196

At the request of Mr. LUJÁN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) was added as a cosponsor of 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.

S.J. RES. 13

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 13, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency of the Department of the Treasury relating to the review of applications under the Bank Merger Act.

S.J. RES. 43

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. SLOTHKEIN) was added as a cosponsor of 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.

S. RES. 81

At the request of Mr. RICKETTS, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr.

RISCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 81, a resolution calling on the United Kingdom, France, and Germany (E3) to initiate the snapback of sanctions on Iran under United Nations Security Council Resolution 2231 (2015).

S. RES. 136

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 136, a resolution affirming the rule of law and the legitimacy of judicial review.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. BARRASSO, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. BUDD, Mr. CORNIN, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DAINES, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. JUSTICE, Mr. KENNEDY, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. MARSHALL, Mrs. MOODY, Mr. MORENO, Mr. SCHMITT, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. CASSIDY, and Mr. LEE):

S. 1206. A bill to amend title 28, United States Code, to prohibit the issuance of national injunctions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, today, 20 of my colleagues and I will introduce legislation to stop the abuse of universal injunctions that we are seeing all across the country—all of this to stop the Trump agenda.

Universal injunctions violate the words of the Constitution that we agreed that the courts can only hear “case or controversy.” And that is a requirement of article III of the Constitution because they apply court orders to people not even parties to the lawsuits—so the necessity for doing away with universal injunctions violating the “case-or-controversy” requirements.

Universal injunctions were almost unheard of for the first 175 years of our history and only became common in the last decade. In addition to being unconstitutional, they are also anti-democratic. Universal injunctions have become a favorite tool of those seeking to obstruct President Trump’s agenda.

Individual district judges who don’t even have authority over any of the other 92 district courts are singlehandedly vetoing policies the American people elected President Trump to implement.

Now, universal injunctions have been used against both Democrat and Republican administrations since they have sprung up so numerously in the last few years.

But in the past 2 months alone, judges have issued more universal injunctions against the Trump administration than President Biden faced throughout his entire 4-year term.

By exercising power this way, the courts are doing great damage to the judicial process that they should be working to protect, and the Supreme

Court could stop this whole process, but the Supreme Court has not taken such action.

So it is Congress's job to legislate. So what would you expect? I am introducing legislation to solve this problem.

My bill prevents judges from providing nonparty relief, make temporary restraining orders immediately appealable, and reset the separation of powers. In short, I am trying to fix a bipartisan problem that has been plaguing both Democratic and Republican administrations alike.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 1209. A bill to amend the Federal Crop Insurance Act and the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 to make the native sod provisions applicable to the United States and to modify those provisions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

Mr. THUNE. 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. 1209

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the "American Prairie Conservation Act".

**SEC. 2. CROP PRODUCTION ON NATIVE SOD.**

(a) **FEDERAL CROP INSURANCE.**—Section 508(o) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1508(o)) is amended by striking paragraph (3) and inserting the following:

"(3) **NATIVE SOD CONVERSION CERTIFICATION.**—

"(A) **CERTIFICATION.**—As a condition on the receipt of benefits under this subtitle, a producer that has tilled native sod acreage for the production of an insurable crop as described in paragraph (2)(A) shall certify that acreage to the Secretary using—

"(i) an acreage report form of the Farm Service Agency (FSA-578 or any successor form); and

"(ii) 1 or more maps.

"(B) **CORRECTIONS.**—Beginning on the date on which a producer submits a certification under subparagraph (A), as soon as practicable after the producer discovers a change in tilled native sod acreage described in that subparagraph, the producer shall submit to the Secretary any appropriate corrections to a form or map described in clause (i) or (ii) of that subparagraph.

"(C) **ANNUAL REPORTS.**—Not later than January 1, 2026, and each January 1 thereafter through January 1, 2030, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate and the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives a report that describes the tilled native sod acreage that has been certified under subparagraph (A) in each county and State as of the date of submission of the report."

(b) **NONINSURED CROP DISASTER ASSISTANCE.**—Section 196(a)(4) of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (7 U.S.C. 7333(a)(4)) is amended by striking subparagraph (C) and inserting the following:

"(C) **NATIVE SOD CONVERSION CERTIFICATION.**—

"(i) **CERTIFICATION.**—As a condition on the receipt of benefits under this section, a producer that has tilled native sod acreage for the production of an insurable crop as described in subparagraph (B)(i) shall certify that acreage to the Secretary using—

"(I) an acreage report form of the Farm Service Agency (FSA-578 or any successor form); and

"(II) 1 or more maps.

"(ii) **CORRECTIONS.**—Beginning on the date on which a producer submits a certification under clause (i), as soon as practicable after the producer discovers a change in tilled native sod acreage described in that clause, the producer shall submit to the Secretary any appropriate corrections to a form or map described in subclause (I) or (II) of that clause.

"(iii) **ANNUAL REPORTS.**—Not later than January 1, 2026, and each January 1 thereafter through January 1, 2030, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate and the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives a report that describes the tilled native sod acreage that has been certified under clause (i) in each county and State as of the date of submission of the report..."

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Ms. DUCKWORTH):

S. 1210. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the work opportunity credit for certain youth employees; to the Committee on Finance.

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. 1210

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the "Helping to Encourage Real Opportunities (HERO) for Youth Act of 2025".

**SEC. 2. MODIFICATION AND EXTENSION OF WORK OPPORTUNITY CREDIT FOR CERTAIN YOUTH EMPLOYEES.**

(a) **EXPANSION OF CREDIT FOR SUMMER YOUTH.**—

(1) **CREDIT ALLOWED FOR YEAR-ROUND EMPLOYMENT.**—Section 51(d)(7)(A) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

(A) by striking clauses (i) and (iii) and redesignating clauses (ii) and (iv) as clauses (i) and (ii), respectively;

(B) in clause (i) (as so redesignated), by striking "(or if later, on May 1 of the calendar year involved);";

(C) by striking the period at the end of clause (ii) (as so redesignated) and inserting "and"; and

(D) adding at the end the following new clause:

"(iii) who will be employed for not more than 20 hours per week during any period between September 16 and April 30 in which such individual is regularly attending any secondary school."

(2) **INCREASE IN CREDIT AMOUNT.**—Section 51(d)(7) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking subparagraph (B) and by redesignating subparagraph (C) as subparagraph (B).

(3) **CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**—

(A) Subparagraph (F) of section 51(d)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking "summer".

(B) Paragraph (7) of section 51(d) of such Code is amended—

(i) by striking "summer" each place it appears in subparagraphs (A);

(ii) in subparagraph (B), as redesignated by paragraph (2), by striking "subparagraph (A)(iv)" and inserting "subparagraph (A)(ii)"; and

(iii) by striking "SUMMER" in the heading thereof.

(b) **CREDIT FOR DISCONNECTED YOUTH.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Paragraph (1) of section 51(d) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking "or" at the end of subparagraph (I), by striking the period at the end of subparagraph (J) and inserting "or", and by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

"(K) an disconnected youth."

(2) **DISCONNECTED YOUTH.**—Paragraph (14) of section 51(d) of such Code is amended to read as follows:

"(14) **DISCONNECTED YOUTH.**—The term 'disconnected youth' means any individual who—

"(A)(i) is certified by the designated local agency as having attained age 16 but not age 25 on the hiring date, and

"(ii) has self-certified (on a form prescribed by the Secretary) that such individual—

"(I) has not regularly attended any secondary, technical, or post-secondary school during the 6-month period preceding the hiring date,

"(II) has not been regularly employed during such 6-month period, and

"(III) is not readily employable by reason of lacking a sufficient number of basic skills, or

"(B) is certified by the designated local agency as—

"(i) having attained age 16 but not age 21 on the hiring date, and

"(ii) an eligible foster child (as defined in section 152(f)(1)(C)) who was in foster care during the 12-month period ending on the hiring date.".

(c) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by this section shall apply to individuals who begin work for the employer after the date of the enactment of this Act.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Ms. DUCKWORTH):

S. 1211. A bill to amend the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act to provide funding, on a competitive basis, for summer and year-round employment opportunities for youth ages 14 through 24; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

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. 1211

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the "Assisting In Developing Youth Employment Act" or the "AID Youth Employment Act".

**SEC. 2. YOUTH EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES.**

Title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act is amended—

(1) by redesignating subtitle E (29 U.S.C. 3241 et seq.) as subtitle F; and

(2) by inserting after subtitle D (29 U.S.C. 3221 et seq.) the following:

**Subtitle E—Youth Employment Opportunities**

**SEC. 176. DEFINITIONS.**

"In this subtitle:

“(1) ELIGIBLE YOUTH.—The term ‘eligible youth’ means an individual who—

“(A) is not younger than age 14 or older than age 24; and

“(B) is—

“(i) an in-school youth;  
“(ii) an out-of-school youth; or  
“(iii) an unemployed individual.

“(2) INDIAN TRIBE; TRIBAL ORGANIZATION.—The terms ‘Indian tribe’ and ‘tribal organization’ have the meanings given the terms in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

“(3) IN-SCHOOL YOUTH; OUT-OF-SCHOOL YOUTH.—The terms ‘in-school youth’ and ‘out-of-school youth’ have the meanings given the terms in section 129(a)(1).

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

“(5) MARGINALIZED.—The term ‘marginalized’, used with respect to an individual, includes individuals who are homeless, in foster care, involved in the juvenile or criminal justice system, or are not enrolled in or are at risk of dropping out of an educational institution and who live in an underserved community that has faced trauma through acute or long-term exposure to substantial discrimination, historical or cultural oppression, intergenerational poverty, civil unrest, a high rate of violence, or a high rate of drug overdose mortality.

“(6) SUBSIDIZED EMPLOYMENT.—The term ‘subsidized employment’ means employment for which the employer receives a total or partial subsidy to offset costs of employing an eligible youth under this subtitle.

“(7) TRIBAL AREA.—The term ‘tribal area’ means—

“(A) an area on or adjacent to an Indian reservation;

“(B) land held in trust by the United States for Indians;

“(C) a public domain Indian allotment;

“(D) a former Indian reservation in Oklahoma; and

“(E) land held by an incorporated Native group, Regional Corporation, or Village Corporation under the provisions of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.).

“(8) TRIBAL COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY.—The term ‘tribal college or university’ has the meaning given the term ‘Tribal College or University’ in section 316(b) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1059c(b)).

“(9) TRIBALLY DESIGNATED HOUSING ENTITY.—The term ‘tribally designated housing entity’, used with respect to an Indian tribe (as defined in this section), has the meaning given in section 4 of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4103).

#### SEC. 176A. ALLOCATION OF FUNDS.

“(a) ALLOCATION.—Of the funds appropriated under section 176E that remain available after any reservation under subsection (b), the Secretary may make available—

“(1) not more than \$1,800,000,000 in accordance with section 176B to provide eligible youth with subsidized summer employment opportunities; and

“(2) not more than \$2,400,000,000 in accordance with section 176C to provide eligible youth with subsidized year-round employment opportunities.

“(b) RESERVATION.—The Secretary may reserve not more than 10 percent of the funds appropriated under section 176E to provide technical assistance and oversight, in order to assist eligible entities in applying for and administering grants awarded under this subtitle.

#### SEC. 176B. SUMMER EMPLOYMENT COMPETITIVE GRANT PROGRAM.

##### “(a) IN GENERAL.—

“(1) GRANTS.—Using the amounts made available under 176A(a)(1), the Secretary shall award, on a competitive basis, planning and implementation grants.

“(2) GENERAL USE OF FUNDS.—The Secretary shall award the grants to assist eligible entities by paying for the program share of the cost of—

“(A) in the case of a planning grant, planning a summer youth employment program to provide subsidized summer employment opportunities; and

“(B) in the case of an implementation grant, implementation of such a program, to provide such opportunities.

##### “(b) PERIODS AND AMOUNTS OF GRANTS.—

“(1) PLANNING GRANTS.—The Secretary may award a planning grant under this section for a 1-year period, in an amount of not more than \$250,000.

“(2) IMPLEMENTATION GRANTS.—The Secretary may award an implementation grant under this section for a 3-year period, in an amount of not more than \$6,000,000.

##### “(c) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible to receive a planning or implementation grant under this section, an entity shall—

“(A) be a—

“(i) State, local government, or Indian tribe or tribal organization, that meets the requirements of paragraph (2); or

“(ii) community-based organization that meets the requirements of paragraph (3); and

“(B) meet the requirements for a planning or implementation grant, respectively, specified in paragraph (4).

“(2) GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIPS.—An entity that is a State, local government, or Indian tribe or tribal organization referred to in paragraph (1)(A)(i) shall demonstrate that the entity has entered into a partnership with State, local, or tribal entities—

“(A) that shall include—

“(i) a local educational agency or tribal educational agency (as defined in section 6132 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7452));

“(ii) a local board or tribal workforce development agency;

“(iii) a State, local, or tribal agency serving youth under the jurisdiction of the juvenile justice system or criminal justice system;

“(iv) a State, local, or tribal child welfare agency;

“(v) a State, local, or tribal agency or community-based organization, with—

“(I) expertise in providing counseling services and trauma-informed and gender-responsive trauma prevention, identification, referral, and support (including treatment) services; and

“(II) a proven track record of serving low-income, vulnerable youth and out-of-school youth;

“(vi) if the State, local government, or Indian tribe or tribal organization is seeking an implementation grant and has not established a summer youth employment program, an entity that is carrying out a State, local, or tribal summer youth employment program; and

“(vii) an employer or employer association; and

“(B) that may include—

“(i) an institution of higher education or tribal college or university;

“(ii) a representative of a labor or labor-management organization;

“(iii) an entity that carries out a program that receives funding under the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 (34 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.);

“(iv) a collaborative applicant as defined in section 401 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11360) or a private nonprofit organization that serves homeless individuals and households (including such an applicant or organization that serves individuals or households that are at risk of homelessness in tribal areas) or serves foster youth;

“(v) an entity that carries out a program funded under the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2301 et seq.), including Native American programs funded under section 116 of that Act (20 U.S.C. 2326) and tribally controlled postsecondary career and technical institution programs funded under section 117 of that Act (20 U.S.C. 2327);

“(vi) a local or tribal youth committee;

“(vii) a State or local public housing agency or a tribally designated housing entity; and

“(viii) another appropriate State, local, or tribal agency.

“(3) COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATION PARTNERSHIPS.—A community-based organization referred to in paragraph (1)(A)(ii) shall demonstrate that the organization has entered into a partnership with State, local, or tribal entities—

“(A) that shall include—

“(i) a unit of general local government or tribal government;

“(ii) an agency described in paragraph (2)(A)(i);

“(iii) a local board or tribal workforce development agency;

“(iv) a State, local, or tribal agency serving youth under the jurisdiction of the juvenile justice system or criminal justice system;

“(v) a State, local, or tribal child welfare agency;

“(vi) if the organization is seeking an implementation grant and has not established a summer youth employment program, an entity that is carrying out a State, local, or tribal summer youth employment program; and

“(vii) an employer or employer association; and

“(B) that may include one or more entities described in paragraph (2)(B).

##### “(4) ENTITIES ELIGIBLE FOR PARTICULAR GRANTS.—

“(A) ENTITIES ELIGIBLE FOR PLANNING GRANTS.—The Secretary may award a planning grant under this section to an eligible entity that—

“(i) is preparing to establish or expand a summer youth employment program that meets the minimum requirements specified in subsection (d)(1)(B)(iv); and

“(ii) has not received a grant under this section.

##### “(B) ENTITIES ELIGIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION GRANTS.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may award an implementation grant under this section to an eligible entity that—

“(I) has received a planning grant under this section; or

“(II) has established a summer youth employment program and demonstrates a minimum level of capacity to enhance or expand the summer youth employment program described in the application submitted under subsection (d).

“(ii) CAPACITY.—In determining whether an entity has the level of capacity referred to in clause (i)(II), the Secretary may include as capacity—

“(I) the entity’s staff capacity and staff training to deliver youth employment services; and

“(II) the entity’s existing youth employment services (as of the date of submission of

the application submitted under subsection (d)) that are consistent with the application.

“(d) APPLICATION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), an eligible entity desiring to receive a grant under this section for a summer youth employment program shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require, including, at a minimum, each of the following:

“(A) With respect to an application for a planning or implementation grant—

“(i) a description of the eligible youth for whom summer employment services will be provided;

“(ii) a description of the eligible entity, and a description of the expected participation and responsibilities of each of the partners in the partnership described in subsection (c);

“(iii) information demonstrating sufficient need for the grant in the State, local, or tribal population, which may include information showing—

“(I) a high level of unemployment among youth (including young adults) ages 14 through 24;

“(II) a high rate of out-of-school youth;

“(III) a high rate of homelessness;

“(IV) a high rate of poverty;

“(V) a high rate of adult unemployment;

“(VI) a high rate of community or neighborhood crime;

“(VII) a high rate of violence; or

“(VIII) a high level or rate on another indicator of need;

“(iv) a description of the strategic objectives the eligible entity seeks to achieve through the program to provide eligible youth with core work readiness skills, which may include—

“(I) financial literacy skills, including providing the support described in section 129(b)(2)(D);

“(II) sector-based technical skills aligned with employer needs;

“(III) skills that—

“(aa) are soft employment skills, early work skills, or work readiness skills; and

“(bb) include social skills, communications skills, higher-order thinking skills, self-control, and positive self-concept; and

“(IV) (for the marginalized eligible youth) basic skills like communication, math, and problem solving in the context of training for advancement to better jobs and postsecondary training; and

“(v) information demonstrating that the eligible entity has obtained commitments to provide the non-program share described in paragraph (2) of subsection (h).

“(B) With respect to an application for a planning grant—

“(i) a description of the intermediate and long-term goals for planning activities for the duration of the planning grant;

“(ii) a description of how grant funds will be used to develop a plan to provide summer employment services for eligible youth;

“(iii) a description of how the eligible entity will carry out an analysis of best practices for identifying, recruiting, and engaging program participants, in particular the marginalized eligible youth;

“(iv) a description of how the eligible entity will carry out an analysis of best practices for placing youth participants—

“(I) in opportunities that—

“(aa) are appropriate, subsidized employment opportunities with employers based on factors including age, skill, experience, career aspirations, work-based readiness, and barriers to employment; and

“(bb) may include additional services for participants, including core work readiness skill development and mentorship services;

“(II) in summer employment that—

“(aa) is not less than 6 weeks;

“(bb) follows a schedule of not more than 20 hours per week;

“(cc) pays wages at rates not less than the applicable Federal, State, or local minimum wage rate; and

“(dd) for employment involving construction, pays wages at rates not less than those previously on similar construction in the locality as determined by the Secretary in accordance with subchapter IV of chapter 31 of title 40, United States Code (commonly known as the ‘Davis-Bacon Act’); and

“(v) a description of how the eligible entity plans to develop a mentorship program or connect youth with positive, supportive mentorships, consistent with paragraph (3).

“(C) With respect to an application for an implementation grant—

“(i) a description of how the eligible entity plans to identify, recruit, and engage program participants, in particular the marginalized eligible youth;

“(ii) a description of the manner in which the eligible entity plans to place eligible youth participants in subsidized employment opportunities, and in summer employment, described in subparagraph (B)(iv);

“(iii) (for a program serving the marginalized eligible youth) a description of workplaces for the subsidized employment involved, which may include workplaces in the public, private, and nonprofit sectors;

“(iv) a description of how the eligible entity plans to provide or connect eligible youth participants with positive, supportive mentorships, consistent with paragraph (3);

“(v) a description of services that will be available to employers participating in the youth employment program, to provide supervisors involved in the program with coaching and mentoring on—

“(I) how to support youth development;

“(II) how to structure learning and reflection; and

“(III) how to deal with youth challenges in the workplace;

“(vi) a description of how the eligible entity plans to offer structured pathways back into employment and a youth employment program under this section for eligible youth who have been terminated from employment or removed from the program;

“(vii) a description of how the eligible entity plans to engage eligible youth beyond the duration of the summer employment opportunity, which may include—

“(I) developing or partnering with a year-round youth employment program;

“(II) referring eligible youth to other year-round programs, which may include—

“(aa) programs funded under section 176C or the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2301 et seq.);

“(bb) after school programs;

“(cc) secondary or postsecondary education programs;

“(dd) training programs;

“(ee) cognitive behavior therapy programs;

“(ff) apprenticeship programs; and

“(gg) national service programs;

“(III) employing a full-time, permanent staff person who is responsible for youth outreach, followup, and recruitment; or

“(IV) connecting eligible youth with job development services, including career counseling, resume and job application assistance, interview preparation, and connections to job leads;

“(viii) evidence of the eligible entity’s capacity to provide the services described in this subsection; and

“(ix) a description of the quality of the summer youth employment program, including a program that leads to a recognized postsecondary credential.

“(2) INDIAN TRIBE; TRIBAL ORGANIZATIONS.—

An eligible entity that is an Indian tribe or tribal organization and desires to receive a grant under this section for a summer youth employment program may, in lieu of submitting the application described in paragraph (1), submit an application to the Secretary that meets such requirements as the Secretary develops after consultation with the tribe or organization.

“(3) MENTOR.—For purposes of subparagraphs (B)(iv), (B)(v), and (C)(iv) of paragraph (1), a mentor—

“(A) shall be an individual who has been matched with an eligible youth based on the youth’s needs;

“(B) shall make contact with the eligible youth at least once each week;

“(C) shall be a trusted member of the local community; and

“(D) may include—

“(i) a mentor trained in trauma-informed care (including provision of trauma-informed trauma prevention, identification, referral, or support services to youth that have experienced or are at risk of experiencing trauma), conflict resolution, and positive youth development;

“(ii) a job coach trained to provide youth with guidance on how to navigate the workplace and troubleshoot problems;

“(iii) a supervisor trained to provide at least two performance assessments and serve as a reference; or

“(iv) a peer mentor who is a former or current participant in the youth employment program involved.

“(e) AWARDS FOR POPULATIONS AND AREAS.—

“(1) POPULATIONS.—The Secretary shall reserve, from the amounts made available under section 176A(a)(1)—

“(A) 50 percent to award grants under this section for planning or provision of subsidized summer employment opportunities for eligible youth who are in-school youth; and

“(B) 50 percent to award such grants to plan for planning or provision of such opportunities for eligible youth who are out-of-school youth or unemployed individuals.

“(2) AREAS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—In awarding the grants, the Secretary shall consider the regional diversity of the areas to be served, to ensure that urban, suburban, rural, and tribal areas are receiving grant funds.

“(B) RURAL AND TRIBAL AREA INCLUSION.—

“(i) RURAL AREAS.—Not less than 20 percent of the amounts made available under section 176A(a)(1) for each fiscal year shall be made available for activities to be carried out in rural areas.

“(ii) TRIBAL AREAS.—Not less than 5 percent of the amounts made available under section 176A(a)(1) for each fiscal year shall be made available for activities to be carried out in tribal areas.

“(f) PROGRAM PRIORITIES.—In allocating funds under this section, the Secretary shall give priority to eligible entities—

“(1) who propose to coordinate their activities—

“(A) with local or tribal employers; and

“(B) with agencies described in subsection (c)(2)(A)(i) to ensure the summer youth employment programs provide clear linkages to remedial, academic, and occupational programs carried out by the agencies;

“(2) who propose a plan to increase private sector engagement in, and job placement through, summer youth employment; and

“(3) who have, in their counties, States, or tribal areas (as compared to other counties in their State, other States, or other tribal areas, respectively), a high level or rate described in subsection (d)(1)(A)(iii).

“(g) USE OF FUNDS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity that receives a grant under this section may use the grant funds for services described in subsection (d).

“(2) DISCRETIONARY USES.—The eligible entity may also use the funds—

“(A) to provide wages to eligible youth in subsidized summer employment programs;

“(B) to provide eligible youth with support services, including case management, child care assistance, child support services, and transportation assistance; and

“(C) to develop data management systems to assist with programming, evaluation, and records management.

“(3) ADMINISTRATION.—An eligible entity may reserve not more than 10 percent of the grant funds for the administration of activities under this section.

“(4) CARRY-OVER AUTHORITY.—Any amounts provided to an eligible entity under this section for a fiscal year may, at the discretion of the Secretary, remain available to that entity for expenditure during the succeeding fiscal year to carry out programs under this section.

“(h) PROGRAM SHARE.—

“(1) PLANNING GRANTS.—The program share for a planning grant awarded under this section shall be 100 percent of the cost described in subsection (a)(2)(A).

“(2) IMPLEMENTATION GRANTS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The program share for an implementation grant awarded under this section shall be 50 percent of the cost described in subsection (a)(2)(B).

“(B) EXCEPTION.—Notwithstanding subparagraph (A), the Secretary—

“(i) may increase the program share for an eligible entity; and

“(ii) shall increase the program share for an Indian tribe or tribal organization to not less than 95 percent of the cost described in subsection (a)(2)(B).

“(C) NON-PROGRAM SHARE.—The eligible entity may provide the non-program share of the cost—

“(i) in cash or in-kind, fairly evaluated, including plant, equipment, or services; and

“(ii) from State, local, tribal or private (including philanthropic) sources and, in the case of an Indian tribe or tribal organization, from Federal sources.

#### SEC. 176C. YEAR-ROUND EMPLOYMENT COMPETITIVE GRANT PROGRAM.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—

“(1) GRANTS.—Using the amounts made available under 176A(a)(2), the Secretary shall award, on a competitive basis, planning and implementation grants.

“(2) GENERAL USE OF FUNDS.—The Secretary shall award the grants to assist eligible entities by paying for the program share of the cost of—

“(A) in the case of a planning grant, planning a year-round youth employment program to provide subsidized year-round employment opportunities; and

“(B) in the case of an implementation grant, implementation of such a program to provide such opportunities.

“(b) PERIODS AND AMOUNTS OF GRANTS.—The planning grants shall have the periods and amounts described in section 176B(b)(1). The implementation grants shall have the periods and grants described in section 176B(b)(2).

“(c) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible to receive a planning or implementation grant under this section, an entity shall, except as provided in paragraph (2)—

“(A) be a—

“(i) State, local government, or Indian tribe or tribal organization, that meets the requirements of section 176B(c)(2); or

“(ii) community-based organization that meets the requirements of section 176B(c)(3); and

“(B) meet the requirements for a planning or implementation grant, respectively, specified in section 176B(c)(4).

“(2) YEAR-ROUND YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS.—For purposes of paragraph (1), any reference in section 176B(c)—

“(A) to a summer youth employment program shall be considered to refer to a year-round youth employment program; and

“(B) to a provision of section 176B shall be considered to refer to the corresponding provision of this section.

“(d) APPLICATION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), an eligible entity desiring to receive a grant under this section for a year-round youth employment program shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require, including, at a minimum, each of the following:

“(A) With respect to an application for a planning or implementation grant, the information and descriptions specified in section 176B(d)(1)(A).

“(B) With respect to an application for a planning grant, the descriptions specified in section 176B(d)(1)(B), except that the description of an analysis for placing youth in employment described in clause (iv)(II)(bb) of that section shall cover employment that follows a schedule—

“(i) that consists of—

“(I) not more than 15 hours per week for in-school youth; and

“(II) not less than 20 and not more than 40 hours per week for out-of-school youth; and

“(ii) that depends on the needs and work-readiness level of the population being served.

“(C) With respect to an application for an implementation grant, the descriptions and evidence specified in section 176B(d)(1)(C)—

“(i) except that the reference in section 176B(d)(1)(C)(ii) to employment described in section 176B(d)(1)(B) shall cover employment that follows the schedule described in subparagraph (B); and

“(ii) except that the reference to programs in clause (vii)(II)(aa) of that section shall be considered to refer only to programs funded under the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2301 et seq.).

“(D) With respect to an application for an implementation grant—

“(i) a description of how the eligible entity plans to provide mental health services, as needed, to eligible youth participants; and

“(ii) a description of how the eligible entity plans to address barriers to participation among eligible youth, including providing transportation and child care.

“(2) INDIAN TRIBE; TRIBAL ORGANIZATIONS.—An eligible entity that is an Indian tribe or tribal organization and desires to receive a grant under this section for a year-round youth employment program may, in lieu of submitting the application described in paragraph (1), submit an application to the Secretary that meets such requirements as the Secretary develops after consultation with the tribe or organization.

“(3) MENTOR.—For purposes of paragraph (1), any reference in subparagraphs (B)(iv), (B)(v), and (C)(iv) of section 176B(d)(1) to a mentor shall be considered to refer to a mentor who—

“(A) shall be an individual described in subparagraphs (A) and (C) of section 176B(d)(3);

“(B) shall make contact with the eligible youth at least twice each week; and

“(C) may be an individual described in section 176B(d)(3)(D).

“(4) YEAR-ROUND EMPLOYMENT.—For purposes of this subsection, any reference in section 176B(d)—

“(A) to summer employment shall be considered to refer to year-round employment; and

“(B) to a provision of section 176B shall be considered to refer to the corresponding provision of this section.

“(e) AWARDS FOR POPULATIONS AND AREAS; PRIORITIES.—

“(1) POPULATIONS.—The Secretary shall reserve, from the amounts made available under section 176A(a)(2)—

“(A) 50 percent to award grants under this section for planning or provision of subsidized year-round employment opportunities for eligible youth who are in-school youth; and

“(B) 50 percent to award such grants to plan for planning or provision of such opportunities for eligible youth who are out-of-school youth or unemployed individuals.

“(2) AREAS; PRIORITIES.—In awarding the grants, the Secretary shall—

“(A) carry out section 176B(e)(2); and

“(B) give priority to eligible entities—

“(i) who—

“(I) propose the coordination and plan described paragraphs (1) and (2) of section 176B(f), with respect to year-round youth employment; and

“(II) meet the requirements of section 176B(f)(3); or

“(ii) who—

“(I) propose a plan to coordinate activities with entities carrying out State, local, or tribal summer youth employment programs, to provide pathways to year-round employment for eligible youth who are ending summer employment; and

“(II) meet the requirements of section 176B(f)(3).

“(f) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity that receives a grant under this section may use the grant funds—

“(1) for services described in subsection (d);

“(2) as described in section 176B(g)(2), with respect to year-round employment programs;

“(3) as described in section 176B(g)(3), with respect to activities under this section; and

“(4) at the discretion of the Secretary, as described in section 176B(g)(4), with respect to activities under this section.

“(g) PROGRAM SHARE.—

“(1) PLANNING GRANTS.—The provisions of section 176B(h)(1) shall apply to planning grants awarded under this section, with respect to the cost described in subsection (a)(2)(A).

“(2) IMPLEMENTATION GRANTS.—The provisions of section 176B(h)(2) shall apply to implementation grants awarded under this section, with respect to the cost described in subsection (a)(2)(B).

#### SEC. 176D. EVALUATION AND ADMINISTRATION.

“(a) PERFORMANCE MEASURES.—

“(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish performance measures for purposes of carrying out annual reviews under subsection (b) and of developing and implementing a system of continuous quality improvement under subsection (c).

“(2) COMPONENTS.—The performance measures for the eligible entities shall consist of—

“(A) the indicators of performance described in paragraph (3); and

“(B) an adjusted level of performance for each indicator described in subparagraph (A).

“(3) INDICATORS OF PERFORMANCE.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The indicators of performance shall consist of—

“(i) the percentage of youth employment program participants who are in education

or training activities, or in employment, during the second quarter after exit from the program;

“(ii) the percentage of youth employment program participants who are in education or training activities, or in employment, during the fourth quarter after exit from the program;

“(iii) the percentage of youth employment program participants who obtain a recognized postsecondary credential, or a secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent (subject to subparagraph (B)), during participation in or within 1 year after exit from the program; and

“(iv) the percentage of youth employment program participants who, during a program year, are in a youth employment program that includes an education or training program that leads to an outcome specified by the Secretary, which may include—

“(I) obtaining a recognized postsecondary credential or employment; or

“(II) achieving measurable skill gains toward such a credential or employment.

“(B) INDICATOR RELATING TO CREDENTIAL.—For purposes of subparagraph (A)(iii), youth employment program participants who obtain a secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent shall be included in the percentage counted as meeting the criterion under such subparagraph only if such participants, in addition to obtaining such diploma or its recognized equivalent, have obtained or retained employment or are in a youth employment program that includes an education or training program leading to a recognized postsecondary credential within 1 year after exit from the program.

“(4) LEVELS OF PERFORMANCE.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—For each eligible entity, there shall be established, in accordance with this paragraph, levels of performance for each of the corresponding indicators of performance described in paragraph (3).

“(B) IDENTIFICATION IN APPLICATION.—Each eligible entity shall identify, in the application submitted under subsection (d) of section 176B or 176C, expected levels of performance for each of those indicators of performance for each program year covered by the application.

“(C) AGREEMENT ON ADJUSTED LEVELS OF PERFORMANCE.—The eligible entity shall reach agreement with the Secretary on levels of performance for each of those indicators of performance for each such program year. The levels agreed to shall be considered to be the adjusted levels of performance for the eligible entity for such program years and shall be incorporated into the application prior to the approval of such application.

“(b) ANNUAL REVIEW.—The Secretary shall carry out an annual review of each eligible entity receiving a grant under this subtitle. In conducting the review, the Secretary shall review the performance of the entity on the performance measures under this section and determine if the entity has used any practices that shall be considered best practices for purposes of this subtitle.

“(c) CONTINUOUS QUALITY IMPROVEMENT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall, in addition to conducting the annual review, develop and implement a system of continuous quality improvement designed to improve the quality of activities carried out under this subtitle.

“(2) ACTIVITIES.—In implementing the system, the Secretary shall carry out activities including—

“(A) using the performance measures established under this section, to assess the quality of employment programs funded under sections 176B and 176C and providing the eligible entities carrying out those pro-

grams with continuing feedback on their performance on those measures;

“(B) creating improvement plans to address quality issues concerning the employment programs;

“(C) providing targeted support (including technical assistance and training) to staff of the eligible entities on improving the quality of the employment programs in areas where the system demonstrates that improvements are needed; and

“(D) publishing and disseminating information on the quality of the employment programs.

“(d) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—

“(1) PREPARATION.—The Secretary shall prepare a report on the grant programs established by this subtitle, which report shall include a description of—

“(A) the eligible entities receiving funding under this subtitle;

“(B) the activities carried out by the eligible entities;

“(C) how the eligible entities were selected to receive funding under this subtitle;

“(D) an assessment of the results achieved by the grant programs including findings from the annual reviews conducted under subsection (b); and

“(E) a description of the development and implementation of, and outcomes from, the system of continuous quality improvement described in subsection (c).

“(2) SUBMISSION.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of the AID Youth Employment Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall submit a report described in paragraph (1) to the appropriate committees of Congress.

“(e) APPLICATION TO INDIAN TRIBES AND TRIBAL ORGANIZATIONS.—The Secretary may issue regulations that clarify the application of all the provisions of this subtitle to Indian tribes and tribal organizations.

#### “SEC. 176E. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

“There are authorized to be appropriated—

“(1) to carry out section 176B, \$375,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2030; and

“(2) to carry out section 176C, \$500,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2030.”.

#### SEC. 3. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.

(a) REFERENCES.—

(1) Section 121(b)(1)(C)(ii)(II) of the Workforce Investment and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3152(b)(1)(C)(ii)(II)) is amended by striking “subtitles C through E” and inserting “subtitles C through F”.

(2) Section 503(b) of such Act (29 U.S.C. 3343(b)) is amended by inserting before the period the following: “(as such subtitles were in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act)”.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of such Act is amended by striking the item relating to the subtitle heading for subtitle E of title I and inserting the following:

“Subtitle E—Youth Employment Opportunities

“Sec. 176. Definitions.

“Sec. 176A. Allocation of funds.

“Sec. 176B. Summer employment competitive grant program.

“Sec. 176C. Year-round employment competitive grant program.

“Sec. 176D. Evaluation and administration.

“Sec. 176E. Authorization of appropriations.

“Subtitle F—Administration”.

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself and Mr. SCHIFF):

S. 1215. A bill to establish the Cesar E. Chavez and the Farmworker Movement National Historical Park in the States of California and Arizona, and

for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, I rise today to reintroduce the César E. Chávez and the Farmworker Movement National Historical Park Act. This bill would establish the César E. Chávez and the Farmworker Movement National Historical Park in California and Arizona to preserve the nationally significant sites associated with César Chávez and the farm worker movement.

Today, March 31, we celebrate César Chávez Day, a day to honor and celebrate the life and legacy of the civil rights and labor leader whose impact reverberated throughout California and across the world. For César Chávez, it did not matter where you came from or what your job was; he believed in your fundamental right to dignity and respect.

In 2008, with strong bipartisan support, Congress enacted legislation directing the National Park Service to conduct a special resource study of sites that are significant to the life of César Chávez and the farm labor movement in the Western United States. The National Park Service evaluated over 100 sites and found that 5 sites were “nationally significant”. Importantly, the Park Service wrote that these nationally significant sites depict a distinct and important aspect of American history associated with civil rights and labor movements that are not adequately represented or protected elsewhere. While the Park Service provided five management alternatives to protect these special places, they ultimately recommended that Congress establish a national historic park that would include several nationally significant sites.

In 2012, President Obama established the César E. Chávez National Monument. While this action was a critical step forward, the national monument omits many nationally significant sites and leaves many important stories untold. The creation of a national historical park, as originally recommended by the Park Service, would allow the National Park Service to tell the full story of César Chávez and the farm labor movement for the benefit of all Americans.

This legislation would also require the National Park Service to complete a National Historic Trail Study to determine the feasibility of creating the Farmworker Peregrinación National Historic Trail. If ultimately designated, this trail would commemorate the 1966 Delano to Sacramento March, a major milestone event in the farm labor movement.

As the son of immigrants from Mexico and the first Latino to represent California in the U.S. Senate, I believe the movement César Chávez created is as important today as it ever has been. The National Park System—which preserves our natural, historical, and cultural heritage while offering vital spaces for teaching, learning, and outdoor recreation—must paint the full

mosaic of America. Through the sites preserved by this bill, we will ensure that the National Park System preserves the diverse history of our Nation that is too often overlooked, ignored, or not represented.

I want to thank Congressman RUIZ for spearheading this effort with me to ensure that our national monuments and historical parks better reflect the diversity of America's heritage. I would also like to thank Senator SCHIFF for cosponsoring this legislation with me.

Today and every day, let's recommit to the work César Chávez began. As he would say: "La Lucha Sigue." We must not waver as we keep up the fight for justice and equality for all. I look forward to working with my colleagues to enact the César E. Chávez National Historical Park Act.

#### SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

#### SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 11—SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF INTERNATIONAL TRANSGENDER DAY OF VISIBILITY

Mr. SCHATZ (for himself, Mr. FETTERMAN, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. WELCH, Ms. WARREN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. COONS, Mr. SCHIFF, and Ms. DUCKWORTH) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. CON. RES. 11

Whereas International Transgender Day of Visibility was founded in 2009 to honor the achievements and contributions of the transgender community;

Whereas International Transgender Day of Visibility is designed to be encompassing of a large community of diverse individuals;

Whereas International Transgender Day of Visibility is a time to celebrate the lives and achievements of transgender individuals around the world, and to recognize the bravery it takes to live openly and authentically;

Whereas International Transgender Day of Visibility is also a time to raise awareness of the discrimination and violence that the transgender community still faces, which make it difficult and even unsafe or fatal for many transgender individuals to be visible;

Whereas the transgender community has suffered oppression disproportionately in many ways, including—

- (1) discrimination in employment and in the workplace;
- (2) discrimination in health care and housing;
- (3) discrimination in access to public services;
- (4) discrimination in educational institutions; and
- (5) disproportionate exposure to victimization and violence;

Whereas forms of anti-transgender oppression are exacerbated for transgender individuals of color, individuals with limited resources, immigrants, individuals living with disabilities, justice-involved individuals, and transgender youth;

Whereas a record number of anti-transgender bills have been introduced in re-

cent years at all levels of government, targeting areas such as—

(1) education, including by prohibiting school staff from acknowledging or respecting transgender pupils, colleagues, and family members, barring transgender students from accessing gender-appropriate programs and facilities, and censoring curriculum that allows readers to explore and engage with differing perspectives;

(2) health care, including restrictions on medically necessary transition-related medical care and routine health care services;

(3) public accommodations, such as safe access to public restrooms; and

(4) identification documents, including by restricting the ability to realign or correct birth certificates and other forms of identification;

Whereas President Trump issued multiple Executive orders that attempt to erase transgender people, including—

(1) Executive Order 14168 (90 Fed. Reg. 8615; relating to defending women from gender ideology extremism and restoring biological truth to the Federal Government);

(2) Executive Order 14183 (90 Fed. Reg. 8757; relating to prioritizing military excellence and readiness);

(3) Executive Order 14187 (90 Fed. Reg. 8771; relating to protecting children from chemical and surgical mutilation);

(4) Executive Order 14190 (90 Fed. Reg. 8853; relating to ending radical indoctrination in K-12 schooling); and

(5) Executive Order 14201 (90 Fed. Reg. 9279; relating to keeping men out of women's sports);

Whereas the transgender community and allies of the transgender community have made it clear that transgender individuals will not be erased and deserve to be accorded all of the rights and opportunities made available to all;

Whereas, before the creation of the United States, Indigenous two-spirit, transgender individuals existed across North America in many Native American communities, with specific terms in their own languages for these members of their communities and the social and spiritual roles they fulfilled, and while many were lost or actively suppressed by the efforts of missionaries, government agents, boarding schools, and settlers, two-spirit individuals have promoted increased public awareness in recent decades;

Whereas transgender individuals continue to tell their stories and push for full equity under the law;

Whereas the civil-rights struggle has been strengthened and inspired by the leadership of the transgender community;

Whereas transgender individuals in the United States have made significant strides in elected office and political representation;

Whereas at least 36 States and the District of Columbia have at least 1 transgender elected official at the State or municipal level;

Whereas there are at least 23 openly transgender, gender-nonconforming, or non-binary elected officials in State legislatures;

Whereas voters in the State of Delaware elected Sarah McBride as the first openly transgender member of Congress;

Whereas voters in the State of Virginia elected Danica Roem to be the first openly transgender State legislator in the United States;

Whereas voters in the State of Oklahoma elected Mauree Turner as the first openly nonbinary State legislator in the United States;

Whereas voters in the State of New Hampshire elected James Roesener as the first openly transgender man State legislator in the United States;

Whereas 6 States have at least 1 transgender or gender-non-conforming jurist on the bench;

Whereas more transgender individuals are appearing in movies, on television, and in all forms of media, raising awareness of their experiences and the importance of living authentically;

Whereas transgender individuals have created culture and history as artists, musicians, organizers, and leaders; and

Whereas International Transgender Day of Visibility is a time to celebrate the transgender community around the world: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress—*

(1) supports the goals and ideals of International Transgender Day of Visibility;

(2) encourages the people of the United States to observe International Transgender Day of Visibility with appropriate ceremonies, programs, and activities;

(3) celebrates the accomplishments and leadership of transgender individuals; and

(4) recognizes the bravery of the transgender community as it fights for equal dignity and respect.

#### PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that DeNay Adams, Quentin Mansfield, Victoria Espanza, and Kelsey Handschuh be granted floor privileges until April 3, 2025.

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

Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the following law clerks on Senator CAPITO's staff be granted floor privileges until April 4, 2025: Camryn Runyon, Megan Banke, and Harry Kazenoff.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

#### TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

Mr. BOOKER. Mr. President, I am really grateful you are in the Chair and grateful to be able to rise right now and speak.

I want to say at the top that I have a tremendous love for this institution, and a lot of that is born from the people that are here—from the pages I get to know in every class, to the folks that work the door, the clerks, the Parliamentarians. It is a special place, and a lot of people who are known here are not the ones that really keep this place functioning.

I come in here days and I have good moods or bad moods but always find myself lifted when I walk onto this floor. It is a sacred civic space. It is extraordinary. And I am always aware of the weight of history when I walk in here. No matter a good day, bad day, whether I am in a rush or not, when I touch the Senate floor, I feel something really magnificent.

I don't think that our Founders would have ever imagined a body like this with Black people on both sides of the aisle, with women serving here, with folks from many different backgrounds. We are in many ways doing what the Founders had envisioned, which was this idea of every generation making this a more perfect Union.

But there have been times in this journey where our Union was in crisis and was in peril. There were times in this great American journey, over our 250 years, where so many heroes had to emerge, people that I have come to revere, like Joshua Chamberlain from Maine, who played such a pivotal role in the Battle of Gettysburg. What a noble soul he was. He would later go on to be Governor of his State and go on to do great things, but his heroism lay in that a time of crisis, he stood up.

I know there are veterans in this body—I admire them so much—who have answered that call to serve our country and put their lives in sacrifice.

There are people I admire that are heroes of mine that were suffragettes. There were people who fought as abolitionists. There are people more recently that I have come to lionize and admire because they did so much for this country—not with titles, not with high ranks or positions, but folks who, when this country was facing crossroads, was facing crises, they stood up. They spoke up.

One of my greatest heroes of life was a man I got to serve with named John Lewis. I served with him while in this body. Every opportunity I had, I would ask him about the times when he was just a 20-something. He was the youngest person who was a feature speaker on the March on Washington. He was called the bravest man in the civil rights movement because he kept putting himself in harm's way to dramatize, to let folks know, to bring attention to the injustices in this world and to say very strongly that this—what was going on in our country—is not normal, that what is going on in our country is wrong.

I stand on this floor as a U.S. Senator, but I revere people who never stood on this floor; people who, before they even got to their thirties and forties and fifties in life, were out there as great patriots fighting for this Nation.

I rise today in an unusual manner, and I want to be clear and explain that. But I just want to tell you what John Lewis said. It is a quote so many people know. He really spoke not to Members of the Senate or the Congress; he was really speaking to Americans. He said:

Get in good trouble, necessary trouble, and help redeem the soul of America.

John Lewis died in 2020, in July, at a time that—it was Donald Trump's first term in office. He did what Congresspeople did, but he also did some really extraordinary things to fight for healthcare.

My friend CHRIS MURPHY knows about that. He was there when John Lewis did an open Facebook chat—not in this Chamber or the House Chamber; he sat on the steps, and people were there. I remember when he did a sit-in. They had to shut the cameras off him. He got in good trouble on the House side too.

So I start tonight thinking about him. I have been thinking about him a

lot during these last 71 days—“Get in good trouble, necessary trouble, and help redeem the soul of America,” and I had to ask myself, if he is my hero, how am I living up to his words?

I think Democrats and Republicans have made a lot of mistakes. No side has a monopoly on the truth. No side has been perfect servants of this country. But what has happened in the last 71 days is a patent demonstration of a time where John Lewis's call to everyone has, I think, become more urgent and more pressing. If I think it is a call for our country, I have to ask myself, how I am living these words?

So tonight, I rise with the intention of getting in some good trouble. I rise with the intention of disrupting the normal business of the U.S. Senate for as long as I am physically able. I rise tonight because I believe sincerely that our country is in crisis. And I believe that not in a partisan sense because so many of the people that have been reaching out to my office in pain, in fear, having their lives upended—so many of them identify themselves as Republicans. Indeed, in conversations from in this body, to in this building, to across my State, and recently in travel across the country, Republicans as well as Democrats are talking to me about what they feel is a sense of dread about a growing crisis or what they point to about what is going wrong.

The bedrock commitments in our country that both sides rely on—that people from all backgrounds rely on—those bedrock commitments are being broken. Unnecessary hardships are being borne by Americans of all backgrounds. Institutions which are special in America, which are precious, which are unique in our country, are being recklessly—and I would even say unconstitutionally—affected, attacked, even shattered.

In just 71 days, the President of the United States has inflicted so much harm on Americans' safety, financial stability, the core foundations of our democracy, and even our aspirations as a people from our highest offices, a sense of common decency. These are not normal times in America, and they should not be treated as such.

John Lewis and so many heroes before us would say that this is the time to stand up, to speak up. This is the time to get in some good trouble, to get into necessary trouble.

I can't allow this body to continue without doing something different, speaking out. The threats to American people and American democracy are grave and urgent, and we all must do more. We all must do more against them.

But those 10 words—“If it is to be, it is up to me”—all of us have to think of those 10 words, those 10 two-letter words—“If it is to be, it is up to me”—because I believe generations from now will look back at this moment and have a single question: Where were you? Where were you when our country was in crisis and when American people

were asking for help: Help me. Help me. Did we speak up?

When 73 million American seniors who rely on Social Security were to have that promise mocked, attacked, and then to have the services undermined, to be told “There will be no one there to answer if you call for help”; when our seniors became afraid and worried and panicked because of the menacing words of their President, of the most wealthy person in the world, of Cabinet Secretaries, did we speak up?

When the American economy, in 71 days—71 days—has been upended; when prices at the grocery store were skyrocketing and the stock market was plunging; when pension funds, 401(k)s were going down; when Americans were hurting and looking up; when the resounding answer to this question was no—are you better off economically than you were 71 days ago?—where were you?

Did you speak up at a time when the President of the United States was launching trade wars against our closest allies, when he was firing regulators who investigate America's biggest banks and biggest corporations to stop them from taking advantage of the little guy or the little gal or my grandmother or your grandfather, dismantling the Agency that protects consumers from fraud—the only one whose sole purpose is to look out for them?

Did you speak up when the President of the United States, in a way that is so crass and craven, peddled his own meme coin and made millions upon millions upon millions of dollars for his own bank account at a time so many are struggling economically?

Did you speak up when the President of the United States did what amounts to a car commercial for the richest man in the world right in front of America's house, the White House?

When the President tried to take healthcare away, where were you? Did you speak up? Threatening a program called Medicaid that helps people with disabilities, helps expectant mothers, helps millions upon millions of Americans. And why? Why? As a part of a larger plan to pay for tax cuts for the wealthiest amongst us who have done the best over the last 20 years, for billionaires that seem so close to the President that they sat right on the dais at his inauguration and sit in his Cabinet meetings at the White House.

Did you speak up when he gutted public education, slashed funds for pediatric cancer research, fired thousands of veterans who risked their lives for their country; when he abandoned our allies and our international commitments at a time when floods, fires, hurricanes, and droughts are devastating communities across this country; when countries all around the world are banning together to do something and he turned his back?

Did you speak up when outbreaks of dangerous, infectious diseases are still

a global threat, yet we have stopped engaging in the efforts necessary to meet those threats?

Where were you when the American press was being censored; when international students were being disappeared from American streets without due process; when American universities were being intimidated into silence, challenging that fundamental idea of freedom of thought, freedom of expression; when the law firms that represent clients that may not be favored are attacked and attacked and attacked? Where were you? Did you speak up when they came for those firms?

What about when the people who attacked the police officers who defended this building—an American democracy—on January 6; who just outside those doors put their lives on the line for us, and many of them would later die—where were you when the President pardoned them, celebrated them, and even talked of giving them money, people who savagely beat American police officers?

Did you speak up when Americans from across the country were all speaking up, when more and more voices in this country were speaking up, saying: “This is not right. This is un-American. This is not who we are. This is not America”? Did you speak up?

So I rise tonight because I believe to be about what is normal right now when so much abnormal is happening that is unacceptable. I rise tonight because silence at this moment of national crisis would be a betrayal of some of the greatest heroes of our Nation, because at stake in this moment is nothing less than everything that we brag about, that we talk about, that makes us special.

At stake right now are some of our most basic American principles that so many Americans understand are worth fighting for, worth standing for, worth speaking up for—like, if you work hard your entire life and pay into Social Security, it should be there for you when you retire, and you should not have to question that those paychecks will arrive and that the government should strive to improve service to you, not brag about cutting it; basic American principles like, if you serve your Nation in the military, if you put your life in danger abroad, you will be respected and taken care of. You will be cherished and honored and not forced to worry that the Federal employees who provide you with care, many of whom were veterans themselves, will be fired or the benefits that you rely on will be denied or that your healthcare needs won’t be met; basic American principles like your child will have access to a high-quality public education, that every child has a unique genius, even our children—beautiful children—with special needs; they have genius; and that our children can go to school and parents and teachers know that they will be safe there.

Safe now are those basic American principles; that the people you elect to

serve you in government will represent you and not to try to make themselves richer, not run some scam, and call you a sucker; the basic ideals of our Nation that everyone’s rights will be equally protected, and everyone will be held accountable under the law. Right now, all of this—things that make our country different—are under attack. Our constituents are asking us to acknowledge this. Everywhere I travel now, I hear from Republicans and Independents and Democrats who are afraid, who are worried, who are angry.

I think about John Lewis, who taught me that fear is not something to be shunned. It is almost a signpost that you are headed in the right direction. It is something that is a necessary precondition. You cannot have great fear without great courage. John Lewis would tell us that this is a time for great courage. He would tell us that anger is a fuel. It can consume you, debilitate you, or it can fuel you to put yourself in the service of others. I feel, if my friend were here, if my hero were here, he would tell us and try to teach us that this is a moment to know that despair is only possible if you don’t meet it as an agent of hope.

If John Lewis were here, he would look at me and say: What are you doing? What are we doing?

So, tonight, I rise in an unusual way. I rise with the intention to stand here until I can stand no longer, until I am physically unable to stand anymore. I am going to speak up. I am going to try to cause some good trouble in this body I respect so much. I am going to try to cause what I believe is necessary trouble. I am going to try to honor the legacy that I know I have inherited as an American, the legacy I think about when I come to this floor and feel sometimes overwhelmed with all of the sacrifice and struggle that had to get me here: good people who caused good trouble in the face of slavery; good people who caused good trouble in the face of the denial of the right to vote; good people who caused good trouble in the cause of equal rights; good people who caused good trouble in the fight against hate; good people who caused good trouble in the fight against demagogues from McCarthyism to Father Coughlin, to big people who showed such small character when they tried to suppress others. I want to cause good trouble and prove worthy of those who came before.

This is not normal. Listen to America. Listen to Americans. They seem to always be ahead of this body. They are rising up in State after State, not along partisan lines, but along an American line, not because they hate other Americans, but because they love America. What does love look like in public? It looks like justice, and there is so much injustice going on.

I don’t know how long I can stand, but I will stand and speak up. I want to start by reading some of these letters to try to give folks a flavor of what has happened in my office for 71 days. The

calls we have gotten have gotten more and more and more numerous. I know I am not the only one because the calls became so numerous to the Senate as a whole that it locked up the lines. There are letters I am getting and emails I am getting. There are people taking scraps of paper and just writing their hearts out and sending them in to say: These are not ordinary times. These are painful times, frightening times, times when people question what is happening to America and worry that there are powerful people trying to fundamentally change our Nation in a way that will hurt people to the benefit of the powerful and the wealthy.

I look at these letters like this one. I won’t read the name, but they say:

Hi, Senator Booker. Medicaid has saved my life many, many times. Without it, many people in America will die. Please, help us.

It is underlined multiple times.

Here is another scrap of paper on which somebody writes their heart out:

Dear Senator Booker, when I got out of the Navy, I had mental illness. I needed psychiatric medicine to stop going in and out of the hospital. Because of Medicaid, I have medicine that has kept me out of the hospital for 18 years. Without Medicaid and my medicine, I will wind up in the hospital.

Americans are telling me their most vulnerable pains. Their most terrified realities are now confronting them, rendering their pride and telling their truth.

Here is another one:

Dear Senator Booker, I am writing you today as a constituent. In addition to being a concerned citizen, I am a 25-year employee of the local board of education and a parent of a permanently disabled daughter who has just started receiving Medicaid. Even with her master’s degree, my daughter is only able to work 19 hours a week. Therefore, insurance is not provided. Medicaid is a necessity to maintain her physical and emotional health and provide services to assist with her independence so she can continue to be a contributing member of society. By withdrawing funding for Medicaid, the policy would disrupt programs serving disabled and elderly people in New Jersey and throughout the country. And Medicaid is only one area which will potentially be affected by Donald Trump’s funding freeze. Please protect Social Security and Medicare for the hard-working Americans who have earned it. Social Security isn’t a “handout.” We have paid into it with every paycheck throughout our entire working lives, and the 66 million seniors relying on Medicare could have their healthcare put on hold or canceled. We deserve to know these programs will be there for us. If Federal grants are limited, medical and science research limited, including vaccines and disease prevention, they will all be severely impacted. The United States should be a world leader in healthcare and education and scientific advancement. This is an embarrassment to us as a country. It should not be possible in America for one single man—even an elected President—to stop funds which Congress has already allocated. I implore you to use your power as my Senator and a key member of our government to stand up for what is important to the people of your district. We want to go to work, take care of our families, and ensure all citizens have the health services they deserve. These latest orders are inappropriate, untenable, and illegal. As a Senator, please

take action. Please take action to defend and protect these programs. Thank you for your time.

Cory Booker, recently it has come to my attention that my students' rights in New Jersey are under threat from new legislation. This has caused distress and uncertainty in my classroom for my students who depend on funds from Medicaid. My students depend on consistency, and a lapse in their education and care would result in regression, trauma, and worse. I teach students in New Jersey who are supported by your legislature. I teach all abilities, meaning many of the students live with ADHD, autism, and other disorders that require extra care and attention. It is my life's mission to bring what I know to those who want to learn it. I love the job I do. I love that I get to spend time with those who need it most and deliver care and education. The job that I do helps my students live more independently and achieve richer and more fulfilling lives. I live out of State, but most of my students are from the State you help legislate. My students' rights are in trouble and need you to advocate for them. I urge you to continue to fight for Medicaid. Please work to oppose any and all cuts or caps to the Medicaid program.

Dear Senator Booker, my name is—I am a registered voter in New Jersey. I am writing today to strongly urge you and your fellow policymakers to oppose all cuts to the Medicaid program as it is a lifeline for individuals with disabilities. Oppose all cuts or caps. I was a special education teacher for 30 years, and after I retired, I volunteered as a special education advocate for 10 years. I had the privilege of advocating for many disabled children and young adults who were receiving Medicaid services. Medicaid gave many of my clients the opportunity to participate in society by providing daily life skills for independence. Skills reinforced through Medicare programs include shopping, safety, job search, speech and language—just to point out a few of the services provided by Medicaid. My clients require repetition of these skills to function in their daily lives. Without these programs provided by Medicaid, regression will occur, and learned skills will not be retained. Without Medicaid, this community will struggle, isolate, and lose any quality of life they have enjoyed since receiving Medicaid services. Medicaid has made a critical difference in the lives of my clients. Cutting and capping Medicaid will have devastating consequences for them and their family.

Senator, there are 1.6 million New Jersey residents with disabilities who rely on Medicaid for access to vital care, resources, and essential medications needed to survive. Please support and fight for these vulnerable New Jersey citizens. Please take action to protect these vital programs provided by Medicaid.

Thank you in advance for your anticipated efforts in my request of your support for our most vulnerable residents.

I am going to rise tonight, as I said, and stay for as long as I physically can, and I am going to go through issue area after issue area after issue area and talk specifically to the concerns, the fears, the actions taken, to the hurts that are already being felt throughout America, elevating others' voices who don't have the privilege of standing in this body, honoring those Americans who, even though they don't have such a position, they are raising their voice. I will rise for as long as I can to honor them and raise mine.

The first area I want to talk about is Medicaid, Medicare, and healthcare, as my constituent spoke to.

I don't need to tell anyone the importance of healthcare to humanity. Without our health, we would not be able to do anything else. We would not be able to provide for our families, spend time with our loved ones, do all of the things that make life worth living. That is why I am going to stand here and explain to people what is going on and how our healthcare programs are at risk and being undermined.

The Trump administration and Republicans in Congress are, right now, discussing how to cut these programs in a way of putting those savings either into tax cuts for the rich—I say “either” because they are going to be putting them into tax cuts for the rich, but those tax cuts, as we know, are still going to blow massive trillion-dollar holes in our deficits.

They are trying to gut Medicaid and Medicare programs on which nearly a third of our country rely, all to pay for those tax cuts to billionaires and corporations. They are also dismantling the very institutions meant to safeguard our Nation's health and well-being. And this is not the first time.

They tried this before during Trump's first administration when he unsuccessfully tried to repeal the Affordable Care Act and cut Medicaid, despite its popularity across the Nation, across the political aisle. He was going after something that wasn't left or right, that Americans were saying in the course of conviction that this is about right or wrong, and it is wrong to take away healthcare for millions of people.

Let me explain, if I can, or speak to a few points from a recent report by Protect Our Care to explain what the administration is trying to do to our healthcare system. They want to slash almost a trillion dollars—about \$850 billion—from Medicaid, forcing people to choose between healthcare and putting food on the table.

In every State, hundreds of thousands of seniors, children, and working families could lose their health insurance, thanks to Republicans' plan to cut those hundreds and hundreds of billions of dollars from Medicaid.

It would impose, they seek, burdensome work requirements for people on Medicaid. The last proposal coming from Republicans of that work requirement has one goal: to make it harder for people to qualify for Medicaid, to slash benefits, and deny up to 36 million people access to healthcare so they could fund, again, those tax breaks for the wealthiest, for corporations.

Work requirements only increase the redtape of hard-working families already burdened by working multiple jobs, caring for children, and more. They are simply increasing the redtape working families have to go through to obtain affordable care.

Their intention is also to hike premium costs. Millions of families who

use private health insurance saved an average of \$2,400 per year on their premiums, thanks to the Inflation Reduction Act advanced premium tax cuts. But now the proposals Republicans are putting forth want to end these savings and raise costs for over 24 million Americans.

The proposal wants to take away protections from people with preexisting conditions. The GOP plans to repeal and undermine the ACA; meaning, if they are successful, 135 million people with preexisting conditions like asthma, cancer, and diabetes would lose critical protections, and private insurers, insurance companies can charge them higher premiums.

The efforts that they are discussing—Republicans are discussing—would raise prescription drug prices. It would stop medical research and stop medical debt relief.

Over the first 3 months of his administration, Donald Trump and Republican allies have increased the prices of prescription drugs—including cancer and heart medications, as well as vital antibiotics—delayed the implementation of a Biden administration rule that barred medical debt from showing up on credit reports, cut NIH grants, halted all studies and activities within the NIH relating in any capacity to the health of LGBTQ Americans, including active research programs, and President Trump violated court orders to halt funding freezes to organizations like the NIH.

Republicans rejected legislation to cap insulin costs for millions of people with diabetes nationwide. Now they want to raise costs for seniors by repealing the cap for people who rely on Medicare. As many as one in four of the 7.5 million Americans depending on insulin are skipping or skimping on doses. I want to say that again. As many as one in four of the 7.5 million Americans depending on insulin are skipping or skimping on doses. This is a life-threatening practice. No one in this country should have to bear that.

This week, we know Republicans in the Senate will make us vote on a budget that will, inevitably, intend to harm the strength of programs like Medicaid and vital health programs in general.

Here is what a few organizations are saying about the impact of the budget that will soon be put on this floor, what impact it will have on our health systems.

According to this nonpartisan Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, a nonpartisan policy and research institute, this is what they write:

The House Republican budget would require deep cuts to Medicaid, and recent statements from House Energy and Commerce Committee Chair Brett Guthrie suggest the Affordable Care Act's . . . Medicaid expansion to adults with low incomes—which covers more than 20 million [Americans]—will be a prime target. Cutting Medicaid by hundreds of billions of dollars and focusing many of those cuts on the Medicaid expansion would lead millions of people to become

uninsured. Eliminating Medicaid expansion was a key goal of Republicans' failed effort to repeal the ACA eight years ago, and Congress should once again reject efforts to undermine it.

Recent Republican proposals such as reducing the federal matching rate for Medicaid expansion, repealing the 2021 Rescue Plan's incentive for new states to expand, or taking away Medicaid coverage from certain adult enrollees by imposing work requirements would leave expansion enrollees at risk. They could lose their coverage due to work requirements, or their state might drop their coverage due to a drastic increase in state costs. Twelve states—

#### Twelve American States—

have "poison pill laws" that would automatically end expansion coverage or require review of the coverage if the federal matching rate drops below 90 percent. In [those] states, expansion enrollees are at even greater risk.

[Representative] Guthrie's recent statement confirms that [House] Republicans are eyeing proposals such as work requirements, a reduction in the federal matching rate, or a per capita cap on funding for the expansion group. This last option could shift . . . \$72 billion and \$190 billion in costs to states from 2026 to 2034—

Putting that burden from \$72 billion to \$190 billion on States—

increasing the state costs of expansion by 41 to 108 percent and [thus] jeopardizing [medical] coverage for millions.

Forty states plus Washington, D.C. have adopted the Medicaid expansion—

Forty States, plus the District of Columbia have adopted the Medicaid expansion—

helping adults with low incomes become healthier and more financially secure. Health coverage through expansion improves people's access to—

Something that makes so much economic sense. It—

improves people's access to preventive and primary care, [it also] provides care for [people with] chronic illnesses, prevents premature deaths, and protects people from catastrophic out-of-pocket medical costs.

Let me pull away from the non-partisan group's remarks for a second because I saw this as a mayor. When you scrimp on regular treatment for people with chronic care, when you scrimp on preventing disease, it costs more to taxpayers. I saw that because folks would end up in my emergency rooms in Newark. And the care there is so much more expensive. For a taxpayer, you get a much better deal in helping someone treat their chronic disease. You get a much better deal in giving them regular access to doctors. But to cut that makes no sense.

Not only are you cutting it to give, again, those larger tax cuts to billionaires and corporations, but you are cutting it, and you are just going to add more and more to the overall healthcare costs of our country and to the size of the debt.

#### Let me go back to the text.

Having health coverage also makes it easier for adults to work or . . . look for a job. Considering that Medicaid supports work and that 9 out of 10 Medicaid adults are al-

ready working, caring for family, attending school, or are ill or disabled, work requirements are unnecessary. [They are] burdensome. [They are] more redtape and hassles.] Proposals to use work requirements as a way to take away Medicaid coverage from certain adults are just another way to undermine the Medicaid expansion.

Attacks on the Medicaid expansion are often based on false claims that covering adults with low incomes takes away care from groups traditionally eligible for Medicaid. In reality, Medicaid expansion supports better outcomes for all groups, including children, older adults, and people with disabilities.

Medicaid expansion has driven coverage gains for parents, which improves their access to care as well as [their] overall well-being [the overall well-being] of their children.

Stepping away from the text, there is not a parent in America who knows that when you are sick, when you are being hurt by your chronic disease, it is harder to take care of children, and their well-being suffers.

#### Back to the text:

Expansion has also driven coverage gains among people with disabilities. People with disabilities who receive Supplemental Security [insurance] Income generally also qualify for Medicaid, but 2 out of 3 people with disabilities who participate in Medicaid qualify on another basis, meaning Medicaid expansion is an important path to coverage for those with low incomes.

Medicaid expansion also supports hospitals and other health care providers by reducing their uncompensated care costs and improving their operating margins, especially [especially, especially] for rural and safety-net hospitals. If all states [in America] were to drop the Medicaid expansion in response to a decline in federal support, a recent analysis found that [the] provider revenues would fall by \$80 billion and uncompensated care costs would increase by \$19 billion in 2026 [alone].

That is the end of the article. This is not a hyperbole or scare tactic. These are real possibilities. Even the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office has said there is no way to meet the Republican budget resolution dedicated cuts without cutting Medicaid or Medicare.

#### (Mr. MORENO assumed the Chair.)

Tonight and into tomorrow morning, I am going to do everything I can to elevate the voices of Republicans because this is not intended to be a partisan speech.

From the Cato Institute to the Wall Street Journal, to nonpartisan groups, to the Congressional Budget Office, everyone is pointing to what is happening as not normal, not what the President says it is, as something that is going to hurt Americans, something that is going to cost us more money in the long run—that someone is going to take people with disabilities and put them even more in the shadows and in the margins when they should be centralized and empowered, that what they are proposing is not just morally wrong; it actually adds to the fiscal crisis of our country.

It will drive up healthcare costs in America. It will drive up chronic disease in America, an issue so important to me that I have been fighting for it

since I got here, because America—this great Nation, this great land—is one of the leading countries on the planet Earth, in the Western World—in the leading democracies, I should say—that has maternal mortality rates that are extraordinarily high.

Forty-plus percent of our babies are born on Medicaid.

Here is an article from NBC: "Republicans can't meet their own budget target without cutting Medicare or Medicaid."

House Republicans can't meet their own budget target that is necessary to pass President Donald Trump's legislative agenda without making significant cuts to Medicare or Medicaid, the official budget scorekeeper confirmed Wednesday.

House Republicans adopted a budget blueprint last week that opens the door to pass Trump's policy priorities on immigration, energy and taxes. It instructs the House Energy and Commerce Committee to cut spending under its jurisdiction by \$880 billion.

The Congressional Budget Office, a non-partisan in-house think tank that referees the process, said that when Medicare is set aside, the total funding under the committee's jurisdiction is \$8.8 trillion over 10 years. Medicaid accounts for \$8.2 trillion of that, or 93%.

When Medicare and Medicaid are excluded, the committee oversees a total of \$581 billion in spending—much less than the \$880 billion target—the CBO said. The letter outlining the figures was in response to a query by—

I will step away from the article for a second—by my friend and longtime New Jerseyan Representative FRANK PALLONE—he is the ranking member of the Energy and Commerce Committee—and BRENDAN BOYLE, a Democrat, of Pennsylvania, the ranking member of the Budget Committee. They asked the question.

That leaves Republicans in a deep predicament. The budget resolution, adopted by the slimmest of margins in the narrowly divided House, was the delicate product of negotiations among conservative hard-liners who demand steep spending cuts and swing-district GOP lawmakers who say they don't want to slash funding for the health programs their constituents rely on.

Off the article for a second, God bless you for caring about your constituents.

Revising the target would mean upsetting one of those factions and potentially risking the support of key votes to pass the eventual budget reconciliation bill that advances Trump's agenda.

Democrats have made protecting Medicaid a centerpiece of their attack on the party-line GOP agenda, accusing Trump of trying to cut health care for the working class to pay for tax cuts for the wealthy.

"This letter from CBO confirms what we've been saying all along: the math doesn't work without devastating Medicaid cuts," Pallone said Wednesday in a statement. "Republicans know their spin is a lie, and the truth is they have no problem taking health care away from millions of Americans so that the rich can get richer and pay less in taxes than they already do."

You see—stepping away from this—they are saying we are going to make these cuts to balance the budget, but their budget blows a bigger hole in our deficit. If this is what Trump said, then why are they proposing to cut \$880 billion from critical healthcare programs

like Medicaid, Medicare, and the Children's Health Insurance Program?

You can't have it both ways. Donald Trump promised to make America healthy again, but gutting healthcare for millions of Americans—gutting healthcare for millions of Americans—rolling back healthcare for millions of Americans, rolling back support for new mothers, slashing innovative cancer treatments—this doesn't help families.

I love what Dr. King said. Martin Luther King famously stated:

Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in health is the most shocking and inhumane.

Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in health is the most shocking and inhumane.

Paul Farmer—extraordinary leader, physician, anthropologist, renowned humanitarian, pioneer of global health—I read his book “Mountains Beyond Mountains.” In another one of his books, “Pathologies of Power: Health, Human Rights, and the New War on the Poor,” he wrote:

If access to healthcare is considered a human right, who is considered human enough to have that right?

I think, in a country this wealthy, where we are seeing stratospheric wealth created here in individuals, we are seeing some of the richest people in the world, and yet we still are targeting—for tax breaks for them, we are targeting millions and millions of Americans who rely on things like Medicare.

I started my speech with John Lewis. Let me quote him now. In 2012, he said:

Healthcare is a right, and it is not a privilege, not just for some people but for all people.

John Lewis was a visionary.

So let me tell you a bit more about Medicaid. If you are watching, let me break it down and show just how critical it is for millions of Americans.

Medicaid, right now, is in the crosshairs of many, many Republicans in Congress. It is on this precipice. It is not abstract policy. It is not just numbers in a line item in a budget.

At stake, when we talk about Medicare, it is millions and millions of Americans' health. It goes to this question: How deeply do we care for one another?

I love what our Founders said in the Declaration of Independence. At the very end of that, they say: “We [must] mutually pledge”—pledging to each other—“our Lives, our Fortunes, and our sacred Honor.

Are we living up to that when we are saying we are going to take away healthcare from millions of Americans in order to have greater tax cuts?

You see, people want to just say, “Oh, it is a government program,” as if that is a slur, when, really, it is something that we the people, in order to create a more perfect Union, created as a lifeline to tens of millions of Americans that, but for programs like this, would be succumbing to diseases, succumbing to ill health. And we as an entire country would suffer.

Think about this not as that slur where they try to call this in ways that try to shift public opinion away from human beings, fellow Americans, our patriots. Think of it instead as a lifeline.

It is the reason a child with asthma can breathe easier. It is the reason a senior can receive the care they need in a nursing home—our elders. It is the reason a low-income mother can take her child in for vaccinations or a person with a disability can live with dignity and independence.

Congress is entertaining proposals now—conversations are being had in this building and in Senate and House office buildings about how we can gut programs.

God, I wish somebody said: In a bipartisan way, let's come together and find healthcare savings. I offered that. I literally said to the now-Secretary of Health—I told stories about private sector folks who saved money by expanding access to food—to healthy, fresh food. Let's say that, because I know private sector companies that have bent their cost curves and saved money not by cutting healthcare but by giving people better access to nutritious, healthy foods. You are what you eat.

We are not coming up with bipartisan proposals to save money, to create efficiencies, to do things that can make programs run better. Heck, when I was mayor, we were able to lower expenditures, create more efficiency, have more customer service. There are ways to do that.

But no, this is folks coming with an ax to cut your healthcare or your neighbor's healthcare or your elder's healthcare.

It is not a government program; it is a commitment we make to each other. In the greatest Nation on the planet Earth, we say we will take care of our children; we say we will take care of expectant mothers; we say we will take care of our own.

But they passed that House budget resolution. Republicans who call themselves moderates or budget hawks, they all voted for it except for one, who had this crazy thing to do in Washington—to tell the truth. Massie said that, by their own numbers, this don't add up; what they are pushing on the American people, it is going to steal from the future generations by racking up trillions of debt. He stood on principle.

They are not even doing what they are telling us they are going to do. And \$880 billion in Medicaid funding cuts, that is not trimming the fat. It is not finding deficiencies. It is not a plan to cut out any possible corruption. It is to make children and expectant mothers and seniors and people with disabilities have a harder time accessing healthcare, which we already said—Martin Luther King said:

Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in healthcare is the most shocking and inhumane.

Not bigotry, not poverty—two things he fought so nobly against—he said the most inhumane, the most unjust are what we are talking about here.

Take away access to healthcare from children, take away access to healthcare from our elders, take away access to healthcare from people with chronic diseases. Why? Why? To cut the deficit?

Well, there are some Republicans willing to tell the truth. It is not going to cut the deficit. It is to take from the poor and give it to the rich and powerful. Well, we know the rich and powerful will get bigger tax cuts.

They are not shrinking the government, folks. They are creating bigger and bigger governmental obligations.

And what do they mean when you look at 10 years out and have trillions and trillions and trillions of more? It means that future generations—or maybe 10 years from now—their debt payments are going to grow more and more and more, taking away more money that we have as a collective body, as Americans, to invest in scientific research, to invest in cutting-edge medical technology.

So let's be clear. Let's be clear. Children from low-income families would lose access to routine checkups, vaccinations, and emergency care. Seniors who depend on Medicaid for long-term care, many of whom are already exhausting their life savings, would be left without options. People with disabilities who require constant medical attention, specialized equipment, and home-based services would face uncertainty and loss of those services.

And let us not forget the low-income adults who gained coverage through Medicaid expansion, who worked hard every day. They got access to Medicaid through expansion under the Affordable Care Act. For them, this is not ideology. For them, this is not political philosophy. For them, this is life or death. It is about survival.

These proposed cuts would also devastate the very infrastructure of our healthcare system.

These proposed cuts would also devastate the very infrastructure of our healthcare system. I have heard this from hospitals—again, Republican and Democratic leaders in my State who know our hospitals are speaking to this injustice. Medicare provides nearly 19 percent of all hospital revenue. It allows rural hospitals already on the brink to keep their doors open—rural hospitals.

It would take safety-net hospitals that serve uninsured and underinsured populations. Without Medicaid, with these cuts, these institutions would crumble. That is not rhetoric. I have talked to my safety-net hospital.

I did an event, and I remember the fear in this hospital administrator's eyes who lives every day to help the poor, to help the uninsured. In many ways, we share a faith, and I know he believes he is answering the highest calling of his country and his faith to

help those who come with nothing because when hospitals close and when Medicaid staff lose their jobs, tired communities lose access to care. Ambulances end up having to drive farther and farther. Wait times increase. Lives are at risk.

The ripple effects are vast. Schools will suffer when children with disabilities lose access to Medicaid support services like physical therapy, transportation, and mental health support. Children's abilities to learn and thrive is compromised. Schools in rural areas where Medicaid often funds onsite nurses and telehealth programs, they would be stripped of essential support.

What we are witnessing is—again, don't get caught in this Washington parlance. This is not a normal time. This is a threat to millions of Americans. It is not a budgetary proposal.

It is like the metaphorical sword of Damocles. It is people all over this country who are beginning to see what this really means. It is an economic crisis that would be rolled upon States and rural areas and communities and cities. It is a moral crisis that speaks to the soul of our Nation.

It is a deliberate, calculated—and being calculated right now—it is a deliberate and calculated attack on healthcare for Americans in order, again, to give tax cuts to the wealthy.

If the enhanced Federal match for Medicaid is eliminated, one of the things on the chopping block: States would be forced to absorb the difference, an estimated \$80 billion every year. That is a 29-percent increase in State-funded Medicare spending per resident.

To fill those holes, States would be left with impossible choices. Either raise taxes or slash services; education, infrastructure, public safety. For them, they would have to figure out where to get the money from, or else they would be slashing services.

It is an unholy choice. Cutting Medicare doesn't make us stronger. It will weaken our economy. It will raise healthcare costs for everyone and push millions of Americans into crises that will ripple and radiate through their lives, their families' lives, their work lives.

Hospitals will pass unpaid bills onto insured patients. Healthcare premiums will rise. People will delay care, omit medications, and then show up in emergency rooms later, more sick, and therefore more expensive to treat.

And in the end, who pays for it? Who pays for this moral failure, this financial failure? Who pays for it? We do, the American people. And who gets rich on this? Well, I know the last tax cut they wanted to extend to the people who make the most money off this system and these cuts because the tax cuts they will get will be billionaires.

And working families in America, the people who are paying insurance rates—hurts; it is hard; it is difficult. The people who have high premiums, copays—it is the rest of us that pay.

So I want to talk about the people at risk. There are nearly 12 million people who qualify for both Medicare and Medicaid, our Nation's most vulnerable. They would lose critical wrap-around services, services like long-term care, dental care, vision, and non-emergency transportation services that are not luxuries for these folks, but they are lifelines.

A higher share, those with both Medicaid and Medicare, have cognitive impairments and conditions, impairments like Alzheimer's, and God, my father who had dementia.

We are a well-off family. I saw the challenges, the resources, the drains, the physical challenges for his primary caregiver, my mother.

Millions of Americans, though, would rely on Medicaid, and they would face devastating choices; to quit their jobs to provide full care—full-time care—or leave their loved ones while they go off to work on a job without the support they need.

When it comes to Alzheimer's and dementia, I know personally you cannot leave someone without the care. Nursing homes may be forced to shut their doors and cut staffing levels to dangerous lows. In fact, people who can't take care of their elders, they might be going to nursing homes, which again, increases costs for taxpayers. Home healthcare services, often the only thing keeping people and their communities out of institutions, that would disappear.

This would be a crisis for elder care. This would be a crisis for disability services. What it is: When a nation isn't taking care of its elders, it is a crisis of our national character.

Medicaid also plays a profound role in the success of children and their well-being. Nearly half of all children in the United States are covered by Medicaid and CHIP. Research shows that when children have access to care, they are more likely to stay in school, graduate, and earn more as adults.

That is not surprising to people just to think it through. It is true. If kids have access to healthcare, they succeed more in life. Medicaid helps diagnose learning disorders, treat chronic conditions, and ensure children don't fall behind simply because they are born in poverty. It is essential to the American dream, that just because you are poor, it shouldn't affect your destiny.

For us to be the America of which we speak, a child born in poverty shouldn't have their future cut off because they can't get the healthcare to empower them to thrive. Talk to any school district in any State in any county. Those resources are necessary to help children.

Medicaid pays for nearly half of the births in the United States. The United States, as I said earlier, has a shameful distinction of a massive maternal health crisis. We have the highest rate of maternal deaths of any high-income nation. I am going to say that again: America has the highest rates of ma-

ternal deaths—women dying in childbirth or in the days after—of any nation. A majority of these maternal deaths take place during that postpartum period, the days after birth.

For years, I fought for Medicaid to provide coverage for women for up to 1 year postpartum instead of just 60 days. In 2022's Congress, I was so happy that States had the option to expand Medicaid coverage for up to 1 year postpartum. It was one of the solutions to this maternal healthcare crisis that expert after expert after expert says: Just make sure those women who gave birth are not knocked off of healthcare after 2 months.

As of this January, 49 States, plus the District of Columbia, have expanded postpartum Medicaid coverage past those 60 days. Hey, we are stepping in the right direction to show that we love our moms, we value those lifegivers that are mothers. We value them. But cutting Medicare means potentially eliminating the progress we made toward ending that maternal mortality crisis. There is just no justifying that in a nation this great and this wealthy.

We talk so much about children and motherhood. All of us should be coming together about this maternal health crisis, but what is happening now, again, is the very program that has helped us to begin to address this is under attack.

When we invest in Medicaid, we are investing in the future. Children will grow up to be healthier, and seniors will age with dignity in rural communities with limited access to healthcare and services and families who don't have to choose between a prescription and rent.

This is about health, but I want to tell you, for all those doing the math at home, you cannot have a thriving economic engine without good healthcare. The two are incompatible. Widespread sickness, illness, and disease and people can't get their health issues covered, it takes away from our economic strength.

In fact, just cutting Medicaid would cost jobs, nurse's aides, support staff, medical technicians. Entire communities depend on funding that Medicare provides. Cutting it would destabilize State budgets, force those impossible tradeoffs and widen the gap—widen the gap—between the richest in our country and the rest, a gap that is already widening at stunning rates.

These cuts are not about efficiency. Don't let anybody tell you these cuts are about efficiency. I know a lot about making government more efficient. This is not about innovation. There are so many things that we as a country should be doing to deal with medical innovation. I will be the first to say: Republicans and Democrats have failed to step up to the 21st century and do things that really can create more efficiencies in our healthcare system.

I really hope to see more bold thinkers about creating real efficiency. But

what they are doing now is not about efficiency. It is not about innovation. It is not about the heart priorities of Americans who know everything that I am saying.

The letters I have gotten, Republicans and Democrats and Independents in my State, scared people—they know what this is about. Republicans in New Jersey who run hospitals know what this is about. This should be a bipartisan strategy to how do we make our society more healthy and less dependent on healthcare. When it comes to healthcare, heck, let's not do the stupid things like cutting scientific and biosciences and the research that often leads to medical breakthroughs.

Let's come together and figure out how to deliver services more efficiently. Making Americans healthier, I don't believe them. They are cutting access for kids to fresh and healthy foods. They are cutting school lunch resources. There is a way to do this that should be bringing the best ideas from both sides of the aisle to deal with these issues, but that is not what they are doing.

Every data point, every story, hospitals from rural areas to urban areas, everyone is saying the same thing to illustrate the same point: Medicaid is critical to the health of some of the most vulnerable Americans. It is critical to our elders, to our children, to our mothers. It is a lifeline for more than 72 million people.

With control of the Senate, the House, and the Presidency, Republicans have the opportunity to dream big. They have an opportunity to lead with a vision for better health in America, to come before the people and Congress and hearings and say: This is our vision for American health and well-being. We are going to show what some private companies did. They cut their healthcare costs and improved the health of their employees by providing better access to food.

There are so many good ideas that I learned when I was mayor, from Republicans, from private sector people, but those aren't the ideas coming forward. The ideas coming forward are: Hey, let's just send to the Energy and Commerce Committee the mandate to cut \$808 billion. Let's rush now. Let's rush now. Let's get it done before our narrow majority somehow gets undermined. Let's just cut, cut, cut, cut, cut, and in the end, what is the result?

Americans get sicker, driving up overall healthcare costs, all to give billionaires more of a tax cut.

I know the character of so many of my friends in this body on both sides of the aisle. This is not who we are. It is not who we are.

But God, there is no big vision, there is no big dream for healthcare. Instead of improving Medicaid and increasing funding, as 42 percent of Americans support, they want to make extraordinary cuts that will demolish the program. They are proposing that \$880 billion cut from Medicaid, taking

healthcare away from millions of Americans. They want to impose work requirements even though 90 percent of Medicaid beneficiaries are already working or cannot work for legitimate reasons.

Arkansas actually tried this. I love case studies. They tried this in 2017, and the results were disastrous. People lost coverage that they shouldn't have, and employment didn't increase.

Nationally, such requirements could put 36 million people at risk of losing their healthcare.

They are proposing failed policies, not breakthrough ideas, not a bold vision that I know is in America's heart.

This repeal that some folks are saying that they want to do to save money, the hatred for the previous President—they want to repeal Biden-era rules that made Medicaid and CHIP enrollment easier, less redtape, easier for seniors and children. Let's repeal that, they say.

They want to end a rule requiring minimum staffing standards in nursing homes, including 24/7 access to registered nurses—one of the hardest, most underappreciated jobs in America. Let's give less access to these noble, noble professionals.

They propose per capita caps that would upend Medicaid's financial model in every State, leaving States with less money to meet their residents' needs. In States that expanded Medicaid under the ACA, these cuts could jeopardize coverage for 20 million people who gained access.

The budget that they are proposing would require deeper cuts.

Speaker JOHNSON claims these changes are about rooting out fraud, waste, and abuse, but that is not what is happening, folks. What is happening is an assault on a program that provides dignity, health, and stability, economic growth, improved outcomes for kids, and more respect for our elders and care for the disabled. Nearly 2 million New Jerseyans, 2 million people in my State rely on Medicaid, and yet our State is slated to see cuts of up to \$5.2 billion.

Medicaid accounts for a quarter—more than a quarter—of New Jersey's State budget. Think about that. It accounts for more than a quarter of our State's budget. My State—one of the hardest working States that are out there—just their work requirement would put about 700,000 of my neighbors at risk of losing their healthcare.

Medicaid covers about one-fifth of hospital spending. At University Hospital in Newark, New Jersey's only level I trauma center, more than \$149 million in potential cuts loom. I know this hospital. I have been there when my officers have been injured. I have been there when my firefighters in Newark were injured. I have been there when heroic citizens are injured and brought there. It is our level I trauma center. People from all around our region are sent there. These emergency room workers are incredible. Heck,

they have treated me coming out of an emergency. And they are facing \$149 million in cuts. And their leadership, knowing how vital that hospital is, how that hospital stands in the breach between life and death, health and illness, they know what it would mean.

We should be strengthening this program through innovations that come from people on both sides of the aisle. We should be coming together as a body and saying: OK, let's spitball this. Let's put up the best ideas in America to make things more efficient.

Well, wait a minute, you mean if we treat chronic diseases with access to healthy food, we might actually be able to lower diabetes rates, lower hypertension rates, lower obesity rates? Well, that is one great way to make this investment happen.

There is technology and innovation that are happening right now with our best scientists that could create better access to telehealth, that could create more efficiency in medical records, that could cut down on mistakes that are still made in medical care, like combining the wrong drugs or other challenges that drive up costs.

There are systems that we could create that could create more transparency and eliminate more real fraud and go after the fraudsters themselves in a more efficient manner.

There are so many things that we could do if we came together as a body. But what are we doing instead? Following our President that wants his tax cuts renewed.

What did those tax cuts do the first time around? Most of the benefits went to the wealthiest people and corporations, and it drove trillions of dollars—the largest deficit growth that we have seen in a generation; rapacious, rapacious, misguided budgeting, creating bigger and bigger debt payments.

I remind you that Clinton balanced the budget.

Bush—the first President in American history that didn't call for the common sacrifice to go to war. We spent trillions of dollars in those foreign wars. And guess what he said. No common sacrifice. Only about 1 percent of our people will fight in those wars. I am going to give you a tax cut.

Well, that makes no sense. You are going to drive up deficits that my children will have to pay for.

Obama comes along, and at least he lowers deficit spending, but then Trump comes in and increases it by trillions of dollars on the backs of working Americans to give those benefits to the wealthiest.

Now, Biden, who shrunk the deficit a bit—didn't eliminate it—still spent what any fiscally prudent person might say is really problematic. Let's not make this blindly partisan. But for anybody who would criticize Biden and follow Trump into what he is doing with this budget proposal that is going to slash healthcare for millions of Americans, increase the deficit by trillions and trillions of dollars, and make

Elon Musk richer and richer—is that your solution? It violates our values. It violates our national character. It violates the highest principles put forth by the most noble people in American history.

I stand today—and I will not sit down for hours and hours if God gives me the ability to stand here—because I want to be the voices of Americans. I want to share their voices in this body. I want it to echo in history. I want it to be recorded by these extraordinary people who stand here every day and record my words and my colleagues' words. I want it to be in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

I want DeAnna's story—DeAnna's daughter is disabled, and Medicaid provides her with lifesaving medications, medical equipment, orthotics, and multiple specialists for her rare disease diagnosis. She has life-threatening seizures and requires rescue procedures, medications, oxygen, CPR, and has nurses that accompany her to school and meet her medical needs during the day so that DeAnna can go to work.

DeAnna is "terrified"—she uses this word—she is "terrified" of her daughter losing her Medicaid. She is so afraid, she is literally talking openly about going to Canada and asking for asylum there so that her daughter has her healthcare needs met. That is outrageous to me, that an American who is fearful for their child would think about fleeing to Canada for better healthcare.

Wendy and Cassie. Wendy is the mother, and she wrote about the threats that Medicaid cuts would pose to her daughter Cassie.

Cassie is 32 years old. She has Rett syndrome—R-E-T-T—a rare neurological disorder that significantly impairs even basic motor functions, requiring the individual to have lifelong care and supervision. Without Medicaid funding, Cassie and Wendy would not be able to afford housing, the day program, and the prescriptions that she needs on a daily basis.

Tonya and Cameron. God, Tonya uses Medicare and Medicaid to care for her son, her beloved child Cameron. Cameron is battling stage IV cancer and is confined to a wheelchair. Due to the severity of his illness, he cannot be without his cancer treatment and prescription medication. Medicare and Medicaid coverage are for them, they say, a matter of life and death for Cameron.

Here is this amazing group in New Jersey, in Cherry Hill—amazing group—the Cherry Hill Free Clinic. Volunteers sustain the Cherry Hill Free Clinic, doctors who give up their own time because they are driven by the conviction that in America, we take care of each other, we love each other.

When you say "Love your neighbor," love requires sacrifice and service, and these doctors and professionals that volunteer their time at the Cherry Hill Clinic—I just want to tell you: God bless you. Thank you for living our

American values and the values of your faith's traditions.

The Cherry Hill Free Clinic provides free healthcare treatment and medication to low-income individuals not just in Cherry Hill but throughout New Jersey. Without the support of Medicare and Medicaid coverage for their patients, the free clinic would not be able to provide the extent of services and care their patients desperately need; they would not be able to be the source of light to so many people that are facing scary darkness.

They think: That is not going to happen to me. That cancer diagnosis is not going to happen to me. That rare disease that affects the child—it is not going to happen to me.

But when it does and they can't imagine how they will make ends meet, they find in the Cherry Hill Clinic doctors and medical professionals willing to step up. And they have been doing extraordinary things. It would make every American proud. And now they see what is coming from this Republican, from this Donald Trump proposal.

Jeanne is an awesome soul. She is a disabled citizen. She relies on Medicaid coverage for her frequent hospitalizations. Without Medicaid, she would be unable to receive the critical care that she needs.

God bless you, Jeanne.

Susan writes to us. She is a disabled person who is confined to a wheelchair. Susan relies on Medicaid for her healthcare. Medicaid provides her wheelchair transportation to get her to her medical appointments. Without Medicaid, she would not have medical coverage or the transportation means to receive the essential healthcare.

Edna. Edna. Edna is 98. God bless her—98. What a life. Now, as a 98-year-old, she has dementia. Her daughter is 78 years old. I can't imagine this moment when you realize at 78 that you can't any longer care for your 98-year-old mom due to her worsening dementia. Edna receives Medicaid coverage and is now able to have full-time care at a rehabilitation center for senior citizens.

Her daughter, at 78 years old, is so grateful, so grateful to live in a country where her 98-year-old mom can be in a rehabilitation care center. But they know what savage cuts in Medicaid would do.

Randi and Dylan. Randi enrolled her son Dylan in Medicaid. Dylan is 10. He is wheelchair-bound due to Duchenne muscular dystrophy.

Dylan requires frequent medical care and daily heart medications to prevent the issues with his heart functioning.

Randi relies on Medicaid to provide medical care for Dylan, whom Randi loves so much. Medicaid covers the costs and his critical prescription medications.

And then there is Theresa, who recently lost her job, and required urgent medical assessments due to a medical issue that was discovered by her doctor.

During what was a difficult time where you go to the doctor and the doctor discovers something that is so urgent you need immediate support, Theresa was without insurance and needed to receive care as instructed by her doctor. Due to her enrollment in Medicaid, she was able to receive the diagnostic testing that she needed.

It is a good story, but stories like that have become more difficult if cuts are made.

Pamela: Pamela writes that Medicaid is essential to her 22-year-old son's life. He has epilepsy, cerebral palsy, vision impairment, and too many other complex medical issues for Pam to list to us. Medicaid provides his health benefits and is his funding source to attend his day program and receive therapies. Private duty nursing comes to his home, and it pays for vital medications.

She writes to me that "Our private insurance is not enough to cover our son's complex medical needs. We would not be able to pay for his monthly prescription costs, nor the lengthy hospital stays when he is sick. We would not have the nursing hours to support his care to be able to continue to live at home, nor would we be able to leave home on weekdays and have a day program to attend."

Pamela writes:

As his parent, I need to take an early retirement from public school teaching to care for our son because the medical coverage he has just isn't enough.

It doesn't provide for his transportation and his day programs. So she is leaving her job early.

She writes—and she holds this:

Our disabled community members and their families deserve better. Medicaid provides for a bare minimum existence.

And she has a message for the lies being told by too many. She says:

There are no excesses here in my house.

Sally and Mike:

We rely on Medicaid for our two adult children with disabilities for long-term care, especially for my daughter who just finished her 2½-year chemo treatment regime. We will need it for monthly checkups and prevention of a relapse. We use the funding to provide the much-needed care she needs at home.

We also have 90-plus-year-old parents who need Medicaid in order to survive. We are the real sandwich generation, caring for two adult children with special needs and two very elderly parents who couldn't survive on their own. Please do everything in your power to help fund and not cut Medicaid in any way. Thank you for your time and your commitment in helping the more vulnerable population.

I mean, Sally and Mike, you are not alone. That sandwich generation, taking care of children and parents. You are taking care of adult children and 90-plus-year-old parents. I hear you. I hear you.

Carole:

My son Jason is 41 and autistic. He has severe behavioral issues. Medicaid has enabled my son to attend a day program 3 days a week. The program bills Medicaid for his

participation. We would not have the financial resources to pay for my son's day program. Medicaid helps us to have our son living at home with his loved ones, not in a group home. We save the State money by taking care of him. Do not cut—do not cut—this vital program.

Rosemarie: Now, Rosemarie says that she has an adult son, and that son has CP, a seizure disorder, cystic—this is where maybe I should have gone to medical school and not law school—cystic encephalomalacia. My cousin, the doctor is here. She would be able to help me if she was down here.

But it is her son, her adult son is on the autism spectrum, yet he earned a BA—“yet he earned a BA on the autism spectrum and lives ‘independently’ but with our support and works a part-time job.” She put “independently” in quotes.

If he loses his medical coverage, he would not be able to afford to live where he lives and, most importantly, will not be able to afford his meds. He has medications that would run \$500 a month. We live with the anxiety.

We live with the anxiety. We live with that anxiety that millions of Americans live with; that erodes them; that burns at their spirit. That anxiety that has put millions of Americans in bankruptcy. That anxiety. That anxiety that I can't afford my medications. That anxiety that I can't care for my children. That anxiety that I won't have the resources. That anxiety.

We live with the anxiety of Medicaid cuts, every report about what House Republicans are doing. We support anything that can be done to maintain Medicaid. Please, Senator.

Danielle, she writes:

I am the oldest sibling to my two younger brothers, Matt and Christian, who have been living with a rare neuromuscular disease since they were diagnosed as babies. Throughout their lives, Matt and Chris, along with my parents and family, have fought to ensure that they have the best care possible, despite how unknown and under-researched their condition is.

Taking Medicaid away from them would strip Matt and Christian of basic access to specialized care that they rely on and therefore strip them of their dignity and their independence.

As someone who has had a front row seat watching two people I love suffer from a neuromuscular condition and as a human being who believes in the right to access medical care, I implore—

I implore; I implore—

our representatives and the Trump administration to consider the devastating impact that these cuts would have on people like my brothers. Slashing funds for an already underfunded program is not only the wrong target in the name of, quote, efficiency, but also a decision that would cement our Nation's treacherous path toward becoming a nation that does not seek—

Does not seek—

justice for all. Instead a nation that only serves those in power, only serves the powerful, only serves the wealthy. As your constituent affected by neuromuscular disease, I am concerned about the potential unintended consequences of the efforts to so-call reform Medicaid.

Seventy-two million Americans rely on Medicaid for affordable accessible

and State health coverage, including children, pregnant women, parents, seniors, and individuals with disabilities. Any effort to reform Medicaid should not inadvertently prevent patients from having access to the healthcare that they deserve. Danielle, I hear you.

Judith: She goes right to the point.

Please stop Trump. Please stop Trump now. He is going after Medicaid. I have an adult, severely autistic granddaughter who relies on Medicaid for her special needs program. She writes:

A country is judged by how it meets the needs of the weakest people. Please stop him.

I want to read your words again, Judith:

A country is judged by how it meets the needs of its weakest people.

A country is judged by how it meets the needs of the weakest people.

Elizabeth writes:

Medicaid helps me access healthcare and direct supports in my home, in my community. Cuts to Medicaid would mean I wouldn't have the services I need to live on my own with supports and would be forced to live in a more restrictive setting.

Sandra writes:

Medicaid has allowed my son's needs to be met at home and not in a group home. It has allowed my husband to participate in his caregiving, not a stranger. It has allowed him to be employed with the aid of a job coach.

These are just a few things, in addition to healthcare, if the cuts to Medicaid happen—it goes away.

Alicia:

Medicaid provides healthcare and services to my developmentally disabled adult child. If Medicare funding is cut, my son will not have the healthcare they need and the programs to attend.

Maggie:

My 28-year-old son Will has Down's syndrome. He currently lives a full and active, inclusive life.

His life is full. His life is active.

He is in the community where he is cherished.

He lives in the community. He is cherished.

He has wonderful support staff and has lots of activities that keep him healthy and happy. His days include volunteering at a senior citizen center, working at the local gym, shopping, leisure activities, speech therapy. He does music therapy.

We follow the self-direction model, which is work on my end, but I would not have it any other way. But if Medicare funding is cut, these cuts would impact his livelihood.

Nybil:

Without my Medicaid, I would not be able to be as mobile nor independent. Without Medicaid evaluating my physical disability, cerebral palsy, and related limitations and prescribing me an electric power wheelchair for daily independence and assistance with mobility and even pain management due to not being able to walk well. I am actually up for a new wheelchair this year, as it was allowable every 5 years for a new wheelchair prescription.

Without my Medicaid, I would not have been properly diagnosed with things like sleep apnea in 2017. I now use a CPAP machine to force air into my body so I can sleep

peacefully instead of gasping for air at night. Without my Medicaid, I would not be able to be fitted for a leg brace for my physical support and mobility, enabling me to actually stand up straight and walk without my wheelchair. Without my Medicaid, I would not be able to be a full-time employee, a full-time worker.

Laura:

Medicaid has provided my sister with benefits to help support her medical and mental health issues since she graduated high school. She is now 33 and living with me and my husband after being separated from our parents that are now in assisted living and nursing home arrangements.

Wow.

Susan has never worked or been married because of her mental disability, and she is dependent on her Medicaid benefits. Please keep these benefits in place for people like my sister who don't have much in their lives they can depend on.

Laura, your sister is now living with you after being separated from your parents, who are now in a nursing home. I see you.

Michael:

I need Medicaid because it provides me the ability to get my anxiety medication and to afford my therapist. I use Medicaid for medical, dental, and visual visits. I wear glasses. Without Medicaid, I am unable to live or function in this world.

Robin:

Courtney is my 35-year-old daughter with severe disabilities. From 2009 to present, she has needed crucial surgeries, as well as medications and hospital stays. Medicaid has made the financial support for these procedures possible and to save her life.

And I know, I can tell from her letter, that Robin loves her 35-year-old daughter Courtney.

Mary:

Medicaid is helping to improve my daughter's life through the services of the Division of Developmental Disabilities. Without it, she would be left to whittle away at home 7 days a week with no community interaction. She is learning prevocational skills in a manner that she is validated and viewed as a person with strengths.

Thank you, Mary.

Allison:

I am my daughter's caregiver in New Jersey. Medicaid-funded programs allow her to remain an active part of our community at home with her family. If Medicaid is cut, we would lose our healthcare. It would be devastating.

Gihan:

My daughter has a disability. Through Medicaid, she receives a lot of services that help her improve and progress. Also, to help her stay active and social, she gets speech therapy, occupational and physical therapy. People come to our home to help her as well. If Medicaid cuts happen, she will stop all the services she receives, and her life will be threatened. Please, she must keep her Medicaid because, as a parent, I don't know what I can do with my daughter if that is happening. It will be so hard for her and us.

Roseanne:

Medicaid has supplied the nurses that take care of my disabled granddaughter that I am raising at home, instead of being sent to an institution. She will put her life at risk for a medical emergency or fatal injury without nurses here.

Ash:

My daughter takes speech therapy, occupational and physical therapy, and tutoring. So if that is all gone, she will stop progress, and she will be more disabled and will be unable to do anything by herself or live inadvertently. She needs a lot of help. And if these Medicaid cuts happen, I don't know what I will do with her, and it will make life so hard.

These Americans are facing challenges that I can't imagine. And what is amazing about so many of them is they find the goodness and the decency of their neighbors, of people who are helping and supporting them, of people who do the jobs, the occupations that many Americans would find incredibly challenging—the occupational therapist, the physical therapist, the person who does the transportation, the nurses that take care of folks. It is a community of people out there that are trying to make our Nation stand for what we say we do. They are trying to show that we are a loving and caring and compassionate community.

And what I love is that this is not partisan. I keep saying this over and over again for this whole time I can stand. I hope it is as many hours as possible. I am going to be bringing in the voices of Republicans and Democrats because it is not a partisan issue. Maybe it is in Congress, but the Republicans and Democrats of America don't want Medicaid cuts. They especially don't want them to benefit the richest amongst us, who don't need more help. God bless them. They are doing all right.

And it is not going to solve our budget problems. Their budget proposal, as was said by the one lone Republican who voted against it because he is such a fiscal hawk—he said: If you just read their own numbers, this is a lie, a sham. It increases the deficit by trillions.

Let me go to some Republicans.

Joe Lombardo, the Governor of Nevada:

An abrupt reduction in federal funding would not only disrupt care of those who rely on Medicaid, but would also destabilize public and private healthcare providers, leading to workforce reductions, service limitations, and financial strain on already overburdened health care facilities.

The Governor of Nevada knows that my mom, my aunt, my uncle, my other aunt—they live in Nevada. My mom lives in a retirement community there. This Governor knows that that State would be hit so hard by a reduction of these services that it would be like an impact that ripples out throughout the State, raising costs, lowering care, hurting Americans, hurting Nevadans.

My colleague MIKE ROUNDS of South Dakota said:

That is not a cost-cutting measure—that's a cost transfer.

He said:

And when you've got partnerships with the states, you shouldn't be doing that without having them involved in the discussion.

I tell you, I have conversations with lots of my Republican colleagues, and I appreciate this quote from one of them.

The Coalition of State Medical Associations writes:

On behalf of 50 state medical associations and the District of Columbia, the hundreds of thousands of physicians we represent—

I am adding this. I am sure of both political parties and Independents.

Back to what they write:

—and the 80 million Medicaid patients we serve, we are united in urging the U.S. [Senate] . . . to protect Medicaid from the devastating \$880 billion [cuts] . . . in spending reduction target in the House Budget Resolution.

If these cuts are enacted millions of Medicaid patients will lose their coverage and we expect all Medicaid patients to lose some of their existing benefits—

“All Medicaid patients”—“all Medicaid patients to lose some of their existing benefits”—

and access to essential healthcare services.

The American Academy of Pediatrics, Children's Defense Fund, Children's Hospital Association, Family Voices National, First Focus Campaign for Children, March of Dimes, and National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners—they all came together to jointly write:

By reducing vital support from Medicaid and CHIP, you would not just be cutting a budget line—you would be eliminating the health prospects of our children, leaving them without the care they need to grow into healthy adults.

AARP:

More than half of all the funds for long-term care in America come from Medicaid. As our country gets older, and as millions of Baby Boomers continue to age, our country is on the brink of a serious long-term care crisis.

AARP would welcome the long-overdue debate about how to address this challenge, which should involve reforms to remove Medicaid's bias toward institutional care and increased support for families who take care of their loved ones at home. Large-scale cuts, however, threaten millions of seniors with disruption to the care they need.

Listen to AARP: “We would welcome the long-overdue debate”—“We would welcome the long overdue debate on how to address this challenge.”

But we are not having a long-overdue debate. We are not bringing together the world's most deliberative body to focus on how to solve these problems.

Michael Tuffin, the president and CEO of AHIP, America's Health Insurance Plans:

Medicaid is indispensable to low-income people and working families. If their Medicaid coverage is disrupted, these Americans will lose access to primary care and be unable to fill prescriptions for drugs to treat chronic illnesses. Many will end up in the emergency room, the costliest site of care. Loss of Medicaid coverage means people will be less healthy and their care will ultimately cost more.

Rick Pollack, president and CEO of the American Hospital Association:

On behalf of the hospitals, nurses, doctors and those who care for and serve the needs of 72 million patients that rely on Medicaid, we urge you to consider the implications of hinging the budget reconciliation bill's fate on removing health care access for millions of our nation's patients. These are hard-

working families, children, seniors, veterans, and disabled individuals who rely on essential care services.

We ask the House to construct a path forward that protects Medicaid from [these] harmful cuts that would impact the access to care for millions of Americans.

We did Republican Governors. Here is a Democrat. Colorado Governor Jared Polis joined with Oklahoma Governor Kevin Stitt. They are the chair and vice chair of the National Governors Association—Democrat and Republican—and they write:

Without consultation and proper planning, Congressionally proposed reductions to Medicaid would impact state budgets, rural hospitals and health care service providers. It is necessary for Governors to have a seat at the table when discussing any reforms and cuts to Medicaid funding. States and territories should be afforded more flexibility when it comes to administering these programs in a manner that best suits the need of [their States].

What a radical thing that a Republican and a Democratic Governor are simply asking for a seat at the table in the conversation. What is the table? Is there a hearing? Are there discussions? Did we form a national commission? None of that. None of that. And they warn about what it will mean to their States.

The American Academy of Family Physicians, American Academy of Pediatrics, the American College of Gynecology, the American College of Physicians, the American Psychiatric Association, all together write:

Our organizations, representing more than 400,000 physicians who serve millions of patients, are alarmed by proposals to implement cuts or other structural changes to Medicaid during the budget reconciliation process. Cuts to Medicaid will have grave consequences for patients, communities and the entire health care system.

Lisa Lacasse, president of the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network:

ACS CAN opposes cuts that will increase the number of uninsured nationwide by severing the lifeline that Medicaid provides for cancer patients and those at risk for cancer. It is imperative for cancer patients and millions more at risk that this valuable health insurance program be protected for decades. ACS CAN has advocated in support of Medicaid and we will continue to advocate at the federal and state levels in support of expansion of access to the program and against policies that jeopardize individuals' access to lifesaving health insurance coverage.

Bruce Siegel, president and CEO of America's Essential Hospitals:

This budget resolution will open the door to devastating Medicaid cuts that will impact millions of Americans, especially those middle-to-low-income working Americans in both rural and urban communities, who rely on Medicaid access to critical health care services.

This budget resolution and its directive to the House Energy and Commerce Committee to cut \$880 billion of federal spending will slash the Medicaid Program and threaten to discontinue lifesaving, safety-net services in many communities.

Thirty-eight national parents organizations—I didn't know there were 38

national parents organizations. But they wrote in a chorus of conviction:

Cuts on this magnitude would require enormous changes—such as instituting per capita caps, reducing the federal match rate for Medicaid expansion, adding barriers to coverage including work reporting requirements, and repealing rules that strengthen enrollment processes and access to care in Medicaid—that would severely harm many individuals fighting serious and chronic health conditions. Our organizations—

All 38 national parents organizations—

oppose any cuts to either traditional or Medicaid expansion that take away coverage, jeopardize access to services and providers, shift costs to states and reduce patients' access to care.

Here is a huge group that includes the National Alliance on Mental Illness, the March of Dimes, the Muscular Dystrophy Association, the National Cancer Coalition, the National Health Council, the National Kidney Foundation, the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, the National Organization for Rare Disorders. It is about—and I will estimate and give it to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—325 or 330 organizations.

On behalf of the undersigned chapters of the American Academy of Family Physicians, representing over 130,000 family physicians and medical students across the country, we write to convey our deep concerns regarding proposals to reduce Medicaid funding or implement further eligibility restrictions. We strongly urge you and your colleagues to reject any reforms that have the potential to impede access to essential care for millions of Americans who rely on Medicaid, including our Nation's most vulnerable populations.

Mr. SCHUMER. Would my colleague yield for a question?

Mr. BOOKER. I would yield specifically for a question, yes.

Mr. SCHUMER. Thank you.

I first want to thank my colleague for taking the floor and showing the American people how horrible this administration is treating average families—working families—in so many ways, and I know he intends to hold the floor for a long time to make sure that that is the case in letting America know how bad this is.

Now, our healthcare is the main focus right now, and it is amazing, I would say to my colleague: Isn't it incredible that all of these cuts they are proposing in healthcare are done with a purpose in mind, and that is to reduce the taxes on billionaires? Doesn't it bother my colleague that these people whom he has been documenting who so desperately need healthcare are going to lose that if our Republican colleagues have their way simply to cut taxes for the very wealthy?

That is my question.

Mr. BOOKER. To my leader, Leader SCHUMER, I mean, that is the pain of these stories from the families that I read of the fear that they have to rely on these lifelines that are going to be cut and of the services that are going to be cut that are going to affect their beloved parents or their children with disabilities.

When they ask the question, Why? Is it for a noble purpose? Is it for collective sacrifice? No. The answer that they have to stare at is that you are going to cut services for my vulnerable child or for my parents in order to give tax cuts to the wealthiest Americans, in order to give tax cuts to the billionaires.

Here is the insult added to that injury: It is also this lie that we are going to be focused on the fiscal strength of our Nation. They are going to give all those tax cuts away and give away healthcare benefits, and the results are going to be even bigger deficits. So people like Elon Musk and Donald Trump—billionaires, where most of these tax cuts will accrue to their benefit—will get more, more, more money. And if you were spending \$100,000 a week for the rest of your life, you wouldn't get near the net worth of Elon Musk.

Mr. SCHUMER. Would my colleague continue to yield for another question?

Mr. BOOKER. Yes. Yes.

Mr. SCHUMER. From what I understand—and tell me if this is correct—if they did this tricky thing that even our Republican colleagues are calling fakery and hocus-pocus, our conservative Republican colleagues, it might increase the deficit by \$30 trillion; is that accurate?

Mr. BOOKER. That is accurate.

It is stunning that they know that they can't do this, so they are going to use some budget trickery to mask the truth. Math doesn't lie. Numbers don't lie. You may be able to mask it so you could use rules of reconciliation and try to force it through, but the result for the American people is going to be the same.

CHUCK, people will lose healthcare, healthcare benefits, and watch the deficit of this Nation not increase but explode, which means the cost of our debt payments alone are going to be more than the very programs that they are going to be slashing for families. That is outrageous, cruel, unacceptable, and we have to do everything we can as a people to stop it.

Mr. SCHUMER. Would the Senator yield for another question?

Mr. BOOKER. Yes, sir.

Mr. SCHUMER. Despite this fiscal hocus-pocus, this fakery, this trickery which my colleague has alluded to, when they cut Medicaid, when they cut Social Security, when they cut Medicare, those cuts remain just as devastating—is that accurate?—no matter what kind of bunk they put on their balance sheets to say it doesn't matter.

Mr. BOOKER. I was reading stories, and many of them will live with me. There is a family who is taking care of their two parents in their nineties and their disabled adult children. They are desperately relying on these programs. No matter what you do or say or call it or label you slap on it, those are the kinds of Americans who are stepping up to take care of their loved ones who will get hurt.

Mr. SCHUMER. Will my colleague yield again?

Mr. BOOKER. Yes.

Mr. SCHUMER. So, just today, I visited a nursing home on Staten Island and a nursing home on Long Island—both in Republican congressional districts—and I spoke to people there.

At the nursing home I visited, if Medicaid were cut significantly, the nursing home would close, according to the head of this nursing home. He was there. Three hundred people would lose their jobs, and these people—hundreds of people in this nursing home—would have nowhere to go. Isn't it accurate that they say, "Oh, they can move in with their kids"?

First, isn't it accurate that many of them are in a condition where the kids can't take care of them?

Second, given the housing shortages we face—and the tariffs will make that worse with the wood—isn't it true that many families just don't have room to take an elderly person, particularly one who needs care, into their homes and that this would cause chaos to all sorts of people who are not on Medicaid themselves but who have loved ones who need it in assisted living, in nursing homes, in care facilities?

Mr. BOOKER. Yes, Senator SCHUMER.

To tell a family to just double up or triple up drives up their costs. It is often that the elder who is living with them who might have dementia demands care. So the family member who is caring for them has to decide, Oh, my God. Am I going to give up my job, which I need to pay the rent? Am I going to stay home to take care of them or go to the job and let really difficult things happen? This is the thing that the leader is pointing out that, I think, is really important.

Mr. SCHUMER. One final question.

Mr. BOOKER. Yes, please.

Mr. SCHUMER. Share something personal with us. You are taking the floor tonight to bring up all these inequities that will hurt people—that will so hurt the middle class, that will so hurt poor people—that will hurt America, that will hurt our fiscal condition as you have documented. Just give us a little inkling. Give us a little feeling for the strength and conviction that drives you to do this unusual taking of the floor for a long time to let the people know how bad these things are going to be.

Mr. BOOKER. I appreciate the Democratic leader's question.

I think that all 100 of us in this body are getting what I have gotten. I can't go to the grocery store. I can't walk my neighborhood. I just did a travel around the country to do what a lot of us elected officials do, and I got stopped in the airport by people who want to tell me stories about a parent with dementia or a disabled child or a child with a rare disease who has seizures. It is story after story after story.

There are people who have been writing in to me, some of them on scraps of

paper, just to try to tell us: Please—they are not saying don't do \$880 billion in cuts; they say any diminution of resources. They live on such a precipice that any diminution of resources would drive their families into crisis and despair. Many of the professionals I am quoting are saying: We don't need to be cutting. We need to be finding ways to extend services to do more. How can we do more?

I talked earlier about the fact—and you helped with this, Senator SCHUMER, when we were battling, many of us, and I know my friend LISA BLUNT ROCHESTER was a leader in the House when we said: Why are so many women dying in childbirth in a postpartum period in America? It is shameful that we are the worst Nation of all the wealthy nations, and that is for us as a whole, but for Black women, it is almost four times as much.

So what do we do here, CHUCK? You remember this. Excuse me. Senator SCHUMER, what do we do here?

Mr. SCHUMER. "CHUCK" is OK.

Mr. BOOKER. "CHUCK" is OK.

We came together, and we said: This is a time for Medicaid expansion. It was to say to a woman: You don't just get 60 days postpartum; we are going to expand that beyond 60 days. State after State—red and blue States—said: You are right. This is a crisis. That which should be the happiest period of a woman's life is the most devastating with women hemorrhaging and dying. We began to treat that.

Now what is the threat? The threat is that they are going to cut these things that we did to help more people, to stop more folks from dying.

And here is the trick: You know this battle well. I wasn't here, Chuck. You were here, and I know my chief of staff was on your staff, writing this in. This is why you all said: We are going to try to incentivize States to expand Medicare. We are going to cover 90 percent of the costs.

I still don't understand why some States—talk about cutting off your nose to spite your face—said no. In my State, the Republican Governor said: Heck, yes. Sign New Jersey up. But many of those States have this automatic trigger that if the funding is cut—even if they say we are not going to cut \$880 billion, just \$250 billion—well, that is going to trigger many States to give up that Medicare expansion and go back to the days where millions upon millions of Americans don't have coverage at all.

So, again, this whole speech is because, CHUCK—Senator SCHUMER—it has been business as usual in this place when that kind of threat has been happening; that of the stories that I read that I had to struggle through. We should be doing hearings. We should be bringing in the people. I know the values that we share on both sides of the aisle. How could we be so abjectly cruel, and why? To push through a tax break plan from which families in the neighborhood I live won't see the benefits.

Mr. SCHUMER. So I thank my colleague for his strength, his courage, and his effectiveness in letting the American people know how badly this upcoming bill will affect them if our Republican colleagues insist on passing it.

Finally, I yield the floor back to him, and I thank him for his courage and strength and effectiveness.

Mr. BOOKER. Thank you for allowing me to yield the floor for you to ask a question.

I see my colleague here from Delaware. I am going to read a few more stories, but I suspect that she, too, has a question because she and I did not just meet when she was sworn in here in January. God bless her. She is my colleague, but she is my sister, and she has inspired me for years.

When she heard I was doing this—and I am not sure how much this is done on the Senate floor—my sister came over and prayed with me that I could stand for a long time because she knew what we were trying to do, which was to try to create—with whom we served—John Lewis-type good trouble in this institution, to not do things as normal, and to begin to say that the voices I am reading are of Democrats and Republicans. The voices I am reading are of Democratic and Republican Governors, of Democratic and Republican heads of hospitals, of Democratic and Republican heads of medical associations, of Democratic and Republican constituencies. This is not right or left. This is right or wrong.

My colleague—my colleague—I am going to put her on blast, but God bless your friends who remind you of who you are when you forget. She didn't know that I really wanted to give a speech that was speaking to all of America, but she came up here, and when we were praying, she said: I pray that you speak words of love because she and I know love is ferocious. It is the strongest force on the Earth. It is not soft. She asked God to give me words of love today.

So I know that this friend of mine—my sister here, my colleague—whom I have worked with for years and years and years, asked me if she could come to the floor and ask a question. So, as I am instructed to do, if you were asking me to yield for a question, then I am going to say: Go ahead if you want to ask me.

Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER. I would ask my colleague, the great Senator from the State of New Jersey, if he would yield the floor.

Mr. BOOKER. I will yield for a question. I yield for a question while retaining the floor.

Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER. I want to begin by thanking you so much, Senator BOOKER, for your leadership, and thank you for the opportunity to ask you a question.

As I stood and listened to you, I was reminded of why we are in this place in the first place. I see my colleague—the Presiding Officer, a member of my

class—and I think one of the key things that you talked about was ensuring that we recognize that we are all in this together. I think it was even Martin Luther King who said we may have come over on different ships, but we are all in the same boat now. We may have come over on different ships. I feel like, in this very present moment, we have to recognize we are all in this together.

And, to your point, when we think about the importance of Medicaid to this country, a lot of people don't even realize that they are on Medicaid. They might think of a health program that they are on, but they don't even make the connection with the fact that they are on Medicaid and that almost half of the babies in this country are born because of Medicaid. And it is not just from birth; it goes all the way to seniors who are aging with dignity because they have access to Medicaid, and it is allowing their family members to go to work because they don't have to worry about that family member. And so I wanted to, No. 1—in addition to asking my question—say thank you to you for not only shining a light on these potentially dangerous cuts but also ringing the alarm.

It is alarming that we are faced with this kind of question of do we take money from those who are in need and are connected—because we are all connected—and give it to a few.

As I think about our work on maternal mortality and how we are trying to make sure that our country is not only one of the richest in the world but the lowest in our maternal mortality numbers, as we look at issues of families who might have a family member who has a special needs child, or when I went home on our recess break, I was able to meet with folks from our developmental disability council. I heard a gentleman named Emmanuel. He is a wheelchair user. He said to me something that just stuck. He said: If you pull the thread of Medicaid out of my life, it will unravel.

He had been sleeping in his car before Medicaid. He wasn't sure if he was going to have employment before Medicaid. And even he and his wife thought about what impact it might have, whether they were able to stay married or whether he would have to go into a facility.

So I want to thank you for shining the light and ringing the alarm. And I want to ask you, what do you think will be the impact on children in this country without Medicaid?

Mr. BOOKER. I am so grateful for that question. It sobered me when you ask it because just a reduction in Medicaid—I love that metaphor use—is pulling a string out for families who are barely holding it together right now—families with children with disabilities or who are developmentally disabled who have been struggling so much to get their children into programs that could help move them—some of them to independence, some of

them into adulthood where they can get jobs. So many of these things that help to propel these children would be undermined. Just transportation services going away would create hardship and devastation on families.

So here we are in America, when costs are going up, housing is going up; we are about to have these awful tariffs where the price of vehicles will go up, the price of transportation will go up. So the ripple effect of an impact on children, just by a fraction of the cuts that they are proposing—not to mention the grandeur of the \$880 billion—would have a devastating impact on millions and millions of children.

But it doesn't stop there. You quoted King. King said in the letter from the Birmingham jail:

We are all caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny.

To think that there could be an injury to their family and their child and have it not affect you is not only self-defeating ignorance, it is callous and uncaring, and it demands us to step up for those children that you so rightfully asked me about in your question.

Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER. Would the gentleman yield for another question?

Mr. BOOKER. I will definitely yield for a question while retaining the floor.

Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER. As the former executive of a city, a major city in this country, can you talk a little bit about the impact that these cuts will have on cities, municipalities, and States, because some might think: Oh, this is just a nice issue? No, this is an economic issue as well. If you can talk a little bit about the impact that this is going to have and why mayors across this country should care, why Governors across this country should care, and city councils. Why should they care?

Mr. BOOKER. Well, that is the thing that is so significant. Already, Governors and mayors are writing letters and speaking up.

When I go to different cities in New Jersey, I am often called by local leaders because they know, No. 1, the stories of the people who rely on Medicaid—the seniors, the children, the disabled families. But more importantly than that, they know their hospitals who already have very fragile budgets, to carve out millions and millions of dollars, as I said, over tens of millions of dollars for our level 1 trauma hospital in New Jersey, that would devastate the entire economic model for our hospital. It would affect jobs. It would affect the economy. It would affect small businesses. It would be devastating.

Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER. I will end my questions at the moment by saying, again, thank you so much, Senator BOOKER, for your leadership. We have had an opportunity to work on food as medicine—

Mr. BOOKER. Yes.

Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER.—maternal mortality. There are so many more im-

portant things to work on. But the fact that you are spending your time, your energy, and your intellect to stand up for millions of Americans, I commend you for that. I am grateful to serve with you.

I had the opportunity to serve with John Lewis in the House and get in good trouble, and I am glad to be here with you in the Senate.

I yield back.

Mr. BOOKER. Thank you. Thank you very much.

I am going to continue elevating here, throughout the hours and hours of my speech, the voices of Americans from all backgrounds, all geographies, elevating the stories of leaders—Democrat, Republican, and Independent.

I want to start with Matthew Cook, who is the president and CEO of Children's Hospital Association. Matthew Cook writes:

The House budget resolution directive to the Energy and Commerce Committee to cut 880 billion in spending will almost certainly lead to deep reductions in Medicaid funding for children who rely on the program and destabilize the financial viability of the providers caring for them.

To the point that my colleague from Delaware asked:

Slashing funding would mean fewer healthcare providers, fewer services, and longer wait times for patients who already—

Who already—face significant barriers to care. These cuts will impact the 37 million children on the Medicaid Program, including the nearly 50 percent of children with special healthcare needs.

Three million children in military-connected families—

I am going to repeat that.

Three million children in military-connected families, more than 40 percent of the children living in rural areas and small towns, patients in rural communities would be hit especially hard as hospitals and clinics in these areas rely heavily on Medicare funding to stay open.

Here is a letter from the Mental Health Liaison Group:

In the midst of our Nation's ongoing mental health crisis—

I am going to pause there. When I ran for President and moved around the country, in townhall meeting after townhall meeting after townhall meeting, I was even surprised with how many Americans—I don't think we had a townhall where someone didn't want to stand up and tell me about the mental health crisis in America and how poorly we were doing. So when the Mental Health Liaison Group starts off with that, it hits me very hard.

I still remember meeting with a guy in a New Jersey diner who had mental health issues, was a teacher in a high school, and he stabilized his mental health because of his prescription drugs but then stopped being able to afford them, started skimping on the drugs, had a mental health crisis, lost his job, and his whole life destabilized. Just because of not being able to have access to a costly prescription drug, a valued teacher had his life upended.

I start this letter again:

In the midst of our Nation's ongoing mental health crisis, including its devastating impact on youth and our ongoing overdose epidemic, it is paramount that access to life-saving MHSUD services is not reduced and the integrity of the Medicaid Program to serve as a vital Federal and State partner safety net is preserved. Limiting access to Medicaid threatens to undermine gains in reducing overdose mortality rates and could lead to increasing rates of incarceration and hospitalization.

My colleague from Delaware knows this. The biggest mental health institutions in America—the biggest ones—pick your State, from Illinois to Los Angeles, the biggest mental health institutions are Los Angeles prisons, are Chicago's prisons and jails, wasting taxpayer dollars. Where folks got their mental health treatment, their lives could stabilize. They could be workers. They could be helpers. They could not be sick.

Here is Chip Kahn, the CEO of the Federation of American Hospitals:

Key Republican lawmakers recognizing that so many constituents rely on Medicaid for critical care made it clear that their vote today was based on an understanding that the final reconciliation bill would not include devastating cuts or changes. I believe that is gratifying.

Chip Kahn writes:

It is important that these members came to the same conclusion. Medicaid cuts should be off the table.

Medicaid cuts should be off the table.

It is up to these lawmakers to follow through and ensure spending cuts don't come at the expense of care for over 70 million Americans, including kids, seniors, and hard-working families.

I love the appeal in that letter because it was an appeal that I am reminded of when my colleagues LISA MURKOWSKI and the great John McCain and an extraordinary friend SUSAN COLLINS when they voted to save the Affordable Care Act. They listened to the appeal of people like this gentleman.

My colleague sitting there, it is like, often, we resort to words of vicious cruelty. John Lewis didn't do that when he advocated against the most horrific racists. He didn't take on words of hate. We have got to appeal to colleagues of good conscience, not to let—as this person says, no Medicaid cuts; no Medicaid cuts.

I know President Trump has said that Medicaid cuts are off the table. He said that over and over and over again. We will see. We will see.

Modern Medicaid Alliance:

With over 70 million children, seniors, and hard-working families who are relying on Medicaid for their health and well-being, it is critical Congress listens to State and local government officials, faith leaders, healthcare providers, and hard-working Americans, and blocks proposed cuts to the program.

As organizations representing and caring for the millions of Americans who receive coverage and benefits through Medicaid, we know firsthand how the current level of cuts being considered by Congress would impact

their care. They will cause Americans to lose coverage, reduce health access, and increase costs. We oppose any cuts—

We oppose any cuts.

We oppose any cuts or harmful policy changes to Americans' Medicaid benefits as part of the budget reconciliation process and call on congressional leaders to reverse course and protect the program moving forward.

Here is the Modern Medicaid Alliance:

The latest House vote breaks a vital promise to more than 70 million Americans who depend on the Medicaid Program and now face the potential for unprecedented, destabilizing cuts to their coverage and access to care. The full extent of cuts being considered go far beyond addressing "waste, fraud and abuse" and would undermine Medicaid coverage for those who depend on it. Already, Senators are issuing stark warnings about the impact of Medicaid cuts on the stability of their communities. State budgets, hospitals and providers. We urge members of the House and Senate to block any Medicaid cuts or harmful policy proposals as part of the ongoing budget process.

Sister Mary Haddad, President and CEO of Catholic Health Association:

We are deeply concerned that the budget resolution would force the House Energy and Commerce Committee to slash \$880 billion from the Medicaid Program, an essential healthcare program for nearly 80 million low-income Americans. Medicaid provides coverage for one in five individuals, funds 41 percent of all national births, and is the largest payor for long-term care and behavioral health services. These cuts would have devastating consequences, particularly for those in small towns and rural communities, where Medicaid is often the primary source of health coverage.

Medicaid is not just a health program; it is a lifeline. It provides access to care for those who need it most—poor and vulnerable children, pregnant women, elderly adults, and disabled individuals in our Nation—while ensuring their dignity. Their dignity.

Here is the Partnership for Medicaid again:

The Partnership for Medicaid, a non-partisan nationwide organization representing clinicians, healthcare providers, safety-net health plans, and counties, calls on Congress to reject cuts to Medicaid during the budget reconciliation process. The Partnership for Medicaid stands ready to work with policymakers to identify more sustainable strategies to strengthen Medicaid and improve upon its promise of providing high-quality coverage and access to care populations.

So this is another organization saying: Hey, put me in. Let us help you improve this program, and maybe we can achieve some of our mutual goals.

Here is Susan Kressly, president of the American Academy of Pediatrics, the great AAP:

The American Academy of Pediatrics urges lawmakers to reject the budget resolution before the U.S. House of Representatives and to protect programs that are vital to the health and well-being of children. We oppose the proposed funding cuts to programs like Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program, which cover nearly half of all U.S. children, as well as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. These cuts would have devastating consequences for children and families.

We are going to talk about cuts to SNAP later, but I love how Dr. Susan Kressly, president of the American Academy of Pediatrics, can't help but mention them together. Why is a doctor concerned about healthcare also mentioning SNAP? Well, fundamental to our children's health and well-being is having access to fresh and healthy foods.

This is me being a little critical of people saying they are MAHA—Make America Healthy Again—and then immediately cutting kids' access to fresh, healthy fruits and vegetables.

I love this doctor. It is almost like you are doubling down on the injury to our children. We are cheapening highly processed and sugar-filled, nutritionally empty foods, denying access to fresh, healthy fruits and vegetables, and then not letting people with chronic diseases get healthcare. I love this doctor for pointing out those connections.

Now I am going to go to Brian Connell, who is the vice president of the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society:

The fiscal year 2025 budget resolution would create not just the opportunity but the obligation for the House Committee on Energy and Commerce to make dangerous cuts—

Dangerous cuts—

to the Medicaid program in the budget reconciliation process expected in the coming week. The hundreds of billions of dollars of cuts demanded by the budget resolution cannot be achieved without slashing benefits for enrollees or altogether taking away Medicaid coverage for millions of Americans.

To be clear, the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society and the patients we represent are clamoring for Congress to lower healthcare costs, but the framework before the House today would pave the way for policies that do just the opposite, putting affordable access to healthcare out of reach of millions of Americans.

Feeding America—I love this organization:

Cuts to vital federal nutrition programs like SNAP, necessitated by this resolution and the Senate version passed last week, will harm families grappling with high food costs, hurt rural economies and strain food banks already overwhelmed by rising demand. We urge the House to reject spending cuts to nutrition programs in the budget reconciliation process and support the work the House and Senate agriculture committees are doing to create a strong, bipartisan farm bill.

The Federal AIDS Policy Partnership:

We are writing on behalf of 95 national, regional, and local organizations advocating for Federal funding legislation and policy to end the HIV epidemic in the United States. We urge Congress to reject all proposals to enact cuts to Medicaid, whether through per capita caps or block grants, restrictions to the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage, or FMAP, or mandatory work requirements during reconciliation for the 2025–2026 fiscal year budgets.

Medicaid is the most important source of health coverage and lifesaving care for people living with HIV—

The most important source of health coverage and lifesaving care for people living with HIV—

providing coverage for more than 40 percent of the people living with HIV and contributing 45 percent of all Federal funding for domestic HIV care and treatment.

The next letter starts:

To be clear, the cuts outlined above are being proposed for one simple reason: to pay for \$4.5 trillion in tax breaks that disproportionately benefit the wealthy. Congress can and must take a different path—

Congress must take a different path—

one that lifts more families out of poverty and provides more Americans with the opportunity to reach their full potential. A people-first agenda should include expanding the child tax credit for the 17 million children who don't receive the full credit due to low family incomes, expanding rental assistance, increasing SNAP benefits to reflect rising grocery prices and closing the Medicaid coverage gap.

If Congress focused on ensuring that wealthy Americans pay their fair share rather than providing additional tax breaks, we could fund these initiatives and so much more.

This is a group of groups that you will recognize or many people will recognize: American Association of Nurse Practitioners, Gerontological Advanced Practice Nurses Association, the National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health, National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners, and the National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties. They write:

We are deeply concerned with the impact of these cuts on the healthcare system and their potential to harm our most vulnerable patients. Further, these cuts will threaten the viability of practices that treat Medicaid patients, financially destabilizing and having a disproportionate impact on those who provide care to underserved and rural communities.

Association of American Medical Colleges, AAMC:

We remain extremely concerned that the budget resolution's reconciliation instructions would result in unsustainable cuts to Federal healthcare programs—specifically Medicaid—by requiring at least \$880 billion in savings from the House Energy and Commerce Committee. Cuts of this magnitude would jeopardize both access to care for millions of Medicaid enrollees and the financial stability of the providers who care for them.

Here is one from Chimes International:

Cuts in Medicaid will have a dramatic negative impact on our healthcare system and the first responder community. Millions of Americans will be at risk of losing access to housing, thereby increasing homelessness for some of the most vulnerable members of society, especially in areas that already lack affordable housing. Provider organizations like ours will be forced to close the doors of residential facilities and reduce support staff, which is already in short supply.

Katie Smith Sloan, who is the president and CEO of LeadingAge:

States would have to fill in massive budget holes if Federal funding to Medicaid programs were cut. Even if a cut such as a change to the expansion FMAP proposal does not seem to directly impact aging services, it would because the cost of the cut would have to somehow be absorbed by State budgets. That type of hole cannot be filled in via

more efficiency. Balancing the 10-year program budget cycle on the back of the Medicaid program is not a good tradeoff for the American people.

Alan Morgan, who is the CEO of the National Rural Health Association—this letter is powerful. He represents the National Rural Health Association:

Any cuts to the Medicaid program will disproportionately affect rural communities. Rural Americans rely on Medicaid coverage, with about 20 percent of non-elderly adults and 40 percent of children living in rural areas enrolled in Medicaid and CHIP. In almost all States, rural areas have higher rates of Medicaid enrollment than metropolitan areas. Cuts to Medicaid would shift healthcare costs onto rural families, many of whom already struggle with financial instability. Medicaid cuts would force families to face higher out-of-pocket expenses, leading many to delay or forgo necessary treatments. The burden would worsen health outcomes, especially for those managing chronic conditions like diabetes, heart disease, and cancer.

To the extraordinary prescience of my colleague from Delaware, who knew this letter was coming, I imagine, this is a letter from the U.S. Conference of Mayors, the National League of Cities, the National Association of Counties, the National Conference of State Legislatures, the Council of State Governments, and the International City/County Management Association.

I am going to pause for a second just to remind folks—because I have been involved in the U.S. Conference of Mayors and the National League of Cities. I have dealt with the National Association of Counties on things that were important here in the Senate. All of these groups are bipartisan. All of these groups represent Democrat and Republican mayors, Democrat and Republican city council people.

I was actually a nonpartisan mayor. New York does not have partisan elections. So they have nonpartisan folks.

This is a group of people who have those jobs where the rubber meets the road. A change in State policy, a change in Federal policy—we had to eat it when I was mayor if it cost us more money. I was a mayor that talked like lots of mayors do, not in partisan lingo. They just talk about: Hey, it is an unfunded mandate. Hey, that is adding more bureaucracy. Hey, that is going to cause more people in my community to be homeless. It is going to cause more children in my community to use an emergency room as their primary care physician.

When I meet a mayor, I look at them and I thank them because it is one of the hardest jobs in America.

So this organization that represents Democrats and Republicans—they write:

As a coalition of bipartisan membership organizations representing State legislatures, mayors, cities, and counties, we are committed to working collaboratively to strengthen the Medicaid program so that the States and localities can continue to meet the needs of their residents effectively. We write to express concern over proposed changes to Medicaid financing and requirements that could significantly impact State

and local budgets, healthcare infrastructure, and millions and millions of Americans who rely on the program.

I would say so far there are at least half a dozen to a dozen of these letters where bipartisan groups are saying: Let us help you. Don't rush this through in a way that is going to cause havoc to State and local governments, cause havoc to children and seniors and the disabled, cause havoc to hospitals and businesses, cause havoc to rural communities, cause havoc to the idea of what it means to be an American: that we take care of our own, that we stand up for each other, that we lend a hand, that we lift folks up. And here it is, this voice of bipartisan sensibility that says: Hey, hold a hearing. We will come. Put some of us on a commission.

This is a group called Advocates for Community Health:

Medicaid's successes as a national program derive from its variations across different States.

Different States doing things in different ways.

Medicaid looks different in every State and territory because the program is able to reflect and accommodate the specific needs of the State's patients, providers, and communities.

These State-based programs are vital to the patients served by community health centers, patient-to-direct primary care providers that serve rural and underserved communities nationwide.

As the House and Senate work toward a budget reconciliation package, Advocates for Community Health encourages a cautious approach to changes to Medicaid policy as broad changes have a potential to destabilize State Medicaid programs and community health centers, impact local economies and job creation, and further exacerbate rural healthcare access challenges.

Families USA. Their executive director—his name is Anthony Wright:

Americans are storming townhalls, calling their Representatives in Congress, and demanding that House Republicans stop their plan to massively cut the healthcare that Americans want and need. President Trump and some Republicans have said they won't touch Medicaid, but their vote today is when we see who walks the walk. The vote is the walk-the-plank moment for moderates who say they don't want Medicaid cuts but are being asked to cut over \$880 billion to the care and coverage of their constituents.

Policymakers and the public alike understand that there is no version of this budget resolution that does not include deep cuts to vital programs, services, and benefits the American people use every day to help them see a doctor, pay rent, or feed their families.

Justice in Aging is an organization that is led by its executive director, Kevin Prindiville. He writes:

With this vote, lawmakers endorsed taking away Medicaid from millions of Americans, including older adults, all to bankroll tax cuts for the wealthy. Thanks to our collective advocacy, the vote to pass this dangerous budget blueprint did not come easily, and we will make sure lawmakers know that voting to enact these cuts would be voting to abandon older Americans.

The National Alliance for Caregiving:

The House budget blueprint to eliminate at least \$800 billion in Federal funding unfairly targets critical healthcare and supportive

services that older adults, people with diabetes, and their family caregivers depend upon to maintain health and economic security for families and themselves.

Home- and community-based services funded via Medicaid are cost-effective. They save millions of taxpayer dollars on unnecessary and often unwanted institutional care. Most of all, Medicaid-funded HCBS—

Home- and community-based services—

offers consumers a choice in how they receive care in the dignity of their own homes.

In the dignity of their own homes. Dignity.

The Coalition for Whole Health Legal Action Center:

Among the options being discussed are work requirements for enrollees, despite the fact that most people receiving Medicaid do work, and other cuts to Federal funding that would disproportionately harm people with substance abuse and mental health conditions and those with arrest and conviction records by making it harder to access critical health coverage and service, medications, and support.

Such individuals already face pervasive stigma and discrimination, including significant barriers to employment that threaten their stability and well-being, at a time when overdose and suicide are claiming more than 400 lives a day. We cannot afford to reduce access to comprehensive healthcare services that people with substance abuse use, mental health conditions, and those rebuilding their lives after incarceration desperately need to recover and thrive.

Let me tell you something about that that really strikes me. I was blessed to go to colleges, and there, people would use drugs. Now I live in a community where the consequences for drug use often mean jail time. In fact, if you look at low-income people, their chances of being incarcerated are far greater than college kids, who have drug usage rates at about the same.

So now you say to somebody who has an arrest record and served some time that when they come out, they can't get help? People with mental illness are over-incarcerated. You are going to say to them "You have this mental illness. Now you have a record, and you also can't get healthcare services?" That is, again, self-defeatist when it comes to our Nation trying to give people ways of elevating themselves above their past mistakes or the diseases that challenge them.

Here is another group, Community Catalyst:

These cuts will hit hardest where healthcare access is already fragile.

Here is the Alliance for Ageing Research:

We, the undersigned organizations, urge you to oppose any cuts to Medicaid and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, SNAP, including those called for in the proposed budget resolution. We are concerned about the negative impact these deep cuts will have on the Americans living with chronic disease and other disabilities.

But we are willing to draw your attention now to how devastating it will be on those with Alzheimer's and related diseases, including frontotemporal degeneration and Lewy body dementia, and their family caregivers.

April Verrett, the president of SEIU:

Let's be clear, Americans have flooded congressional phone lines, rallied at townhalls, and lifted their voices to make it clear that they do not want massive cuts to the healthcare and public services they depend on. Despite that, today Speaker Johnson pressed a budget resolution forward that puts our Nation on a disastrous path to ripping away healthcare from 80 million children, pregnant women, veterans, seniors, people with disabilities by gutting Medicaid.

Lee Saunders, the president of AFSCME:

This budget proves that extremists are more concerned with giving wealthy trillions in tax cuts than helping working people. Voters across the country are packing townhalls to demand no cuts to Medicaid and SNAP. They are calling Representatives and asking them, Please save these services.

They want elected leaders who will lower rising costs, who make it easier to afford rent and food, but instead of listening to workers, the House moved forward on a budget plan that will cause millions to lose their healthcare, increasing food insecurity for families, and jeopardize Medicare and Social Security in the long term.

He calls this "shameful."

The Diabetes Leadership Council and the Diabetes Patient Advocacy Coalition:

We are deeply concerned about the budget resolution passed in the House of Representatives this week. This budget resolution will likely lead to cuts to the safety-net Medicaid programs, which provide health insurance to almost 80 million Americans, including children, pregnant women, elderly adults, people with diabetes, and low-income adults and families.

This action would disproportionately impact Americans who most need us, including those with diabetes or other chronic conditions who rely on Medicaid to access medications and technology that they need to manage their conditions.

Members of Congress should, instead, work to ensure access to health insurance through the Medicare program—work to ensure access to healthcare without barriers for the most vulnerable Americans.

Here is the Alliance for Childhood Cancer:

Work requirements may also impact caregivers of children with cancer who are unable to work due to the demands of cancer treatment for young adults with cancer who may not be eligible for insurance via their employer or may not be able to work due to their diagnosis. Many young adults rely on Medicaid, especially Medicaid expansion, for coverage, and research shows a clear increase in survival for young adults with cancer in Medicaid expansion States.

UnidosUS:

The proposed resolution would slash at least \$880 billion from programs that have long provided lifesaving, affordable coverage to millions of Americans. Medicaid alone serves 80 million people, covering nearly 40 million children, half of those with special healthcare needs, and more than 40 percent of all births.

In Latino communities, Medicaid reaches 20 million individuals, protecting nearly one-third of community members, more than half of Latino children, and roughly 30 percent of Hispanic elders. Without these vital programs, it would be higher hospitalization rates, delayed diagnoses, and increased mortality. This would become the norm, placing an unsustainable strain on public health and national financial security.

As UnidosUS recently pointed out, these proposed cuts would represent

the largest cuts to Medicaid in U.S. history.

The Coalition of Survivors of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault:

On behalf of the adult and child survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault, we serve and advocate for them. We, on behalf of them, write to ask you to reject cuts to Federal Medicaid funding.

Survivors rely on Medicaid every day to escape abuse, to rebuild their lives after violence, to care for their children and families.

The Catholic Health Association of United States, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, and Catholic Charities USA:

Weakening Medicaid through structural challenges such as per capita caps or block grants would undermine these values and risk leaving millions without access to essential health services.

Furthermore, policies like work reporting requirements have shown clear evidence of creating artificial barriers to care, generating paperwork and bureaucracy while doing little to support people looking for work. These requirements also fail to recognize that most people on Medicaid already work and ignore the realities of low-wage workers, caregiving responsibilities, and health limitations, and studies have shown they frequently result in loss of coverage for eligible individuals and children.

The Disability and Aging Collaborative and the Consortium for Constituents with Disabilities on behalf of 107 national organizations and more than 230 State and local organizations:

The undersigned members of the Disability and Aging Collaborative, the health and long-term service and support task forces of the Consortium for Constituents with Disabilities, and allied organizations write to urge you to exclude Medicaid cuts, work requirements, or any changes that limit funding or eligibility from budget reconciliation or other legislation.

People with disabilities, older adults, family caregivers and their children, direct care workers and other low-income individuals and families depend on Medicaid every day for their health, safety, and independence. Medicaid enables our communities to go to work and to care for loved ones. It is our community's lifeline, and we cannot afford for any part of it to be cut.

(Mr. BANKS assumed the Chair.)

The Jesuit Conference:

Programs that meet basic needs such as SNAP, Medicare and Medicaid, health insurance premium tax credits, and Social Security should be protected and remain as robust as possible. We oppose modifications that would have the effect of reducing important benefits or excluding vulnerable people from participating.

Thank you, the Jesuit Conference.

Why? I mean, we have just read dozens and dozens of letters from real people who are relying on these programs to take care of their elderly parents, to take care of their loved one with dementia, to take care of their children, to take care of their adult children with disabilities, to take care of their children with special needs, to take care of their families, to take care of their communities, to take care of rural towns, to take care of the hospitals that take care of people.

Why? Why? Why are all of these people lifting their voices now, pointing to

the crisis that can't be normalized, pointing to the challenges? Because we have seen this reconciliation process call for \$880 billion of cuts, when, as I read earlier, there is only one place that the majority of those cuts can come from, and that would be hundreds of millions of dollars in cuts to Medicaid, which organization after organization told you it is already a delicate balance; that cuts to these programs could ultimately tear down people's access to lifesaving benefits.

People use the word "dignity" over and over again—dignity. It is a value in our country that we treat our elders with dignity, that we give people struggling with chronic disease dignity, that we give parents who are slammed with the unimaginable diagnoses for their children—we help them to access dignity.

People that we have talked about and that we read their letters, they all said: We can help you find efficiencies. We can help you make the programs work better. We can help you, but why are you doing this if it is all part of a larger package to give tax cuts to the wealthiest Americans, to give tax cuts to billionaires? How does that work?

That Elon Musk should get richer and richer and richer, and families—the love in these letters—who love their children, who love their aging parent, who love that person with dementia, even though they don't recognize them anymore. But that doesn't stop the heroic love. And they piece together their finances in a nation where housing costs are going up, food costs are going up, and transportation is going up. They piece together the fragile finances of their lives. The Medicaid funding is one part of it that gets yanked away, and everything unravels. Why, they ask, why? They plead for help. They ask us to do something.

I want to read some articles, coming from a variety of backgrounds—but perhaps this one from PBS, "A closer look at who relies on Medicaid."

This is what PBS wrote:

As congressional Republicans seek about \$4.5 trillion to extend expiring tax cuts, the Federal Government will need to find savings elsewhere.

You are going to give that \$4.5 trillion that disproportionately go to the wealthy, and you are going to have to find savings elsewhere.

Experts say budget cuts could affect Medicaid coverage for as many as millions of Americans, at a time when the program may need more funding, not less.

The proposed House bill requires the Committee on Energy and Commerce to find \$880 billion in spending cuts, which means some aspects of Medicaid, which the committee oversees, may be on the chopping block.

Medicaid is a massive . . . program that provides free and reduced-cost health care for eligible enrollees. It offers critical coverage to a wide variety of Americans, including children, adults with disabilities and older people in nursing homes.

Even for Americans who have private insurance, Medicaid can play a part in their health care. That's because Medicaid is such a large engine of funding for so many aspects of the country's health coverage.

So many benefit from these aspects of this country's health coverage.

The public health insurance option is funded in part by the Federal Government and in part by states, covering around 72 million [Americans].

The Federal Government spent about \$880 billion on Medicaid in fiscal year 2023, the most recent year for which there's data, according to an analysis by the nonprofit health policy research organization KFF.

Medicaid is an extremely popular entitlement program, said Robin Rudowitz, director of the program on Medicaid and the uninsured at KFF.

More than 9 in 10 adults say Medicaid is "very" or "somewhat" important to their local community, according to recent KFF polling. Forty percent of respondents said they wanted Medicaid funding to remain the same, while 42 percent wanted to increase funding for the program. Just 17 percent wanted to decrease funding "a little" or "a lot."

Some studies have found that expanding Medicaid can save money for states, including in spending reductions in corrections health care as well as mental health and substance abuse care.

Pulling away from the article for a second, that is so logical. Expanding health coverage for people with mental health challenges or substance abuse means an investment now and saves a lot of money for society later and saves them from being rearrested because of their disease.

Back to the article:

President Donald Trump has said his administration will not cut Medicaid benefits, and will instead reduce spending by eliminating waste and fraud.

[Well,] according to health policy experts, there may not be a way to fund the tax cuts without cutting Medicaid. Doing that will have real implications, said Allison Orris, senior fellow and director of Medicaid policy at the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities.

Another nonpartisan group.

"It's fair to say if Medicaid is cut by hundreds of billions of dollars, people will lose coverage. But some of the ways in which they will lose coverage and health care and access are a little bit tricky," she said.

[So] who and what relies on Medicaid?

Medicaid covers low-income Americans in all 50 states, as well as D.C. and the American territories, but the program's benefits are farther reaching.

Medicaid pays for around 2 in every 5 births in the country. The program accounts for about 20 percent of both hospital funding and total health care spending nationwide, according to KFF. That organization's analyses of hundreds of studies conducted since 2014 largely found that Medicaid expansion helped cut hospital costs associated with uninsured patients. Many studies also found that Medicaid expansion helped with overall hospital funding and resulted in fewer hospital closures.

And Medicaid—not Medicare—is the single largest payer of long-term coverage, including nursing home care.

Here are some of the ways Medicaid is crucial for so many Americans' health care.

Long-term care for people with disabilities.

According to KFF analyses, 35 percent of Americans with disabilities have Medicaid, [that is about] 15 million people. That compares with 19 percent of people without disabilities, [and] the majority of whom have employer-provided health insurance.

Currently, Medicaid covers about 60 percent of long-term care coverage, much of which provides care for younger adults with disabilities.

Nursing homes.

Medicaid is the primary payer of nursing care in the U.S.; it covers 63 percent of nursing home residents.

For many older adults, "Medicaid is the safety net," says David Grabowski, professor of health care policy at Harvard Medical School. "An individual can be middle-income their entire life and then reach their older, long-term care years and have to enter a nursing home."

Because nursing homes can be so expensive, families can quickly deplete [all of] their assets, then rely on Medicaid to cover long-term care.

Another group:

Children.

Thirty-seven percent of people enrolled in Medicaid are children, but they account for only about 15 percent of the program's spending.

In 2023, KFF found that of the 72 million people enrolled in Medicaid, about 30 million were children. Millions more children are enrolled in the Children's Health Insurance Program, which some states run with Medicaid expansion funds.

They are tied. Forgive me. That is off the article.

Back to the article:

So far, political conversation has not yet focused on cutting CHIP.

Rural maternal health.

Medicaid covered around 40 percent of births nationwide in 2023, KFF found, and nearly half—

Nearly 50 percent—  
of all rural births.

Studies also show that being enrolled in Medicaid leads to improved health outcomes for children, including declines in infant and child mortality, preventive care visits on par with privately insured children and even potentially positive outcomes into adulthood, such as improvements in education.

That is what studies show being enrolled in Medicaid leads to.

How about Native Americans and Alaskan Indians?

Four in 10 American Indian/Alaskan Native people are enrolled in Medicaid, the highest enrollment rate among any race and ethnicity category. This includes about 23 percent of nonelderly AIAN adults and 44 percent of [American Indian/Alaskan Native] children.

How the Federal Government funds the states' Medicaid plans.

Medicaid began as an optional program in 1966 alongside Medicare, with around 8 million people eligible for enrollment. By the 1980s, all states had opted into providing health insurance through Medicaid.

Though eligibility requirements have changed over the last 60 years and vary by state, the most significant change to Medicaid was the enactment of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act in 2010. It required states to cover adults with incomes up to 138 percent of the [federal] poverty line. After the Supreme Court ruled in 2012 that expansion for states should be optional, 40 states and Washington, D.C., have expanded Medicaid.

Forty of our 50 States accepted "federal funds at a much higher rate than the match rate for non-expansion coverage."

That is a good summary by PBS of how far-reaching this program is, how

many Americans in every single State, from all backgrounds, from both sides of the political aisle—Independents, old, young, hospitals, businesses, care professionals, and more—this is who we are. We have expanded the program. We have made it better. We have brought improvements. And yet we are doing a process, and it is not going through a committee. We are not soliciting the best ideas from both sides of the aisle about how to make it more efficient, more effective. We are not bringing in private sector professionals to give advice and input or hospital providers or people that are seeing things that we can learn from and craft legislation to make the program better.

And the letters are even showing that we are not even doing any of those things, and then we are cutting the very programs that allow people access to fresh, healthy food, that then cause us to need more health care for chronic diseases.

This alone would be bad enough if we were gutting a program with no input from professionals, if we were taking away healthcare from seniors, children, expectant mothers, the disabled. That would be bad enough.

But why? Again, why? Because it is part of a larger budget package to give trillions of dollars in tax cuts disproportionately to the wealthiest Americans and still add trillions to the national deficit.

I talked about American Indians and Alaskan Natives. I mentioned that I recently visited some proud Native Americans and heard their stories and was inspired by their conviction and their grit, and how under incredible odds, they were able to create better lives. After extraordinary oppression and vicious policies and more, they found a way forward.

There is a disproportionate number of Native Americans and Alaska Natives that rely on these programs, people who have maintained extraordinary dignity despite promises made and promises broken.

So many people are talking about that idea of a sacred trust; that the richest Nation in the world, to honor its ideals of freedom, has to focus on keeping people free from fear that one medical bill will throw their family in crisis or fear that one diagnosis for their child will unravel their lives or fear that, if their parent gets dementia, there will be no care for them.

So much of this conversation is within this larger understanding of who we are, and what do we stand for. I want to take a look at some of the things the Trump administration is doing that is going to undermine not just Medicaid but health insurance coverage for Americans, for all Americans, and raise the cost of healthcare, and negatively impact our health. At a time when basic prices of everyday goods are going up, the President is making healthcare harder to access and drug prices even higher.

I want to explain this. On his first day back in office, Trump rescinded the

policy that extended the enrollment period for ACA plans. This policy gave Americans sufficient time to enroll in healthcare for the year, and enrollment in the ACA continues to go up as people see how affordable this program is and how they can get quality healthcare. But the first thing—one of the first things he does—is rescind the policy that extended the enrollment period.

In addition to this, Republicans in Congress want to take away the tax credits that make healthcare more affordable for so many people. Millions of working-class Americans rely on Affordable Care Act tax credits to access affordable, quality healthcare and coverage.

I could go on with the things. For example, currently these tax credits, they are set to expire at the end of this year. If these tax credits were taken away, families will pay up to 90 percent more for their healthcare, and 5 million Americans could lose their healthcare altogether. All, again, if this goes through in 2025, billionaires and CEOs will get a huge tax break while working Americans relying on this tax credit will lose it.

Think about that. This would allow billionaires and CEOs to get more of a tax break, while these tax credits that help more Americans access healthcare would expire.

For New Jerseyans, ending the ACA tax credit would make health insurance less affordable for 352,000 hard-working people and their families and would force 75,000 people to go uninsured—75,000 people in my State alone.

Last year, 24 million people chose Affordable Care Act plans during the most recent open enrollment due to these expanded tax credits that made plans available to people for little or no monthly premiums and extended the enrollment period, which I just said the President has rolled back.

President Trump also overturned an effort for Medicare to lower drug costs like implementing a \$2 monthly out-of-pocket cap on certain generic drugs as well as a measure that would reduce Medicare payments for rare disease drugs and drugs that treat life-threatening conditions.

I just don't understand that. I really see that as cruel. Americans struggling to afford their drugs had a cap of out-of-pocket expenses on certain generic drugs, and that was overturned.

Costs are going up. Costs are going up. And now this President is expanding costs for out-of-pocket generic drugs as well as Medicaid payments being eligible for rare diseases.

I had the privilege of becoming close to John McCain. I came here in the Senate, got this admonition, almost, from Bill Bradley, somebody who held my seat beforehand, and he challenged me to go and have lunch with or meetings with all my Republican colleagues at the time. That was way back in 2013. And I was told by John McCain's staff that I had like 10, 15 minutes, but I was

going to take it. This is John McCain. He is legend.

And I go in and meet with him, and I don't come out of that office for 90 minutes. We both got emotional as he showed me pictures and documentation from his time as a prisoner of war.

In 2017, he was under extraordinary pressure in this healthcare crisis, and there were thousands of Americans descending on our Capitol. I will never forget the “little lobbyists,” they called themselves, kids in wheelchairs that would roll up to Congress people and raise their little voice, respectfully, and ask them not to take away their health coverage.

I remember people coming in here with preexisting conditions and saying: Don't repeal my healthcare and not even have a plan to replace it.

President Trump was asked about healthcare when he was Candidate Trump for this office, and he said he had, I think it was, “conceptions of a plan.” And since he has been in office, I haven't heard a vision for healthcare besides budget proposals that would cut people's healthcare.

But John McCain, I will never ever forget that moment. I was actually standing on the Republican side, if I remember correctly, having conversations, and he came to the floor, after listening to Arizonans tell stories like the ones I have been reading, and put his thumb down.

He wrote a speech about his decision, and I want to read a part of that now.

I have been a Member of the U.S. Senate for 30 years. I had another long, if not as long, career before I arrived here, another profession that was profoundly rewarding and in which I had experiences and friendships that I revere. Make no mistake, my service here is the most important job I have had in my life. I am so grateful to the people of Arizona for the privilege—for the honor—of serving here and the opportunities it gives me to play a small role in the history of the country I love.

I have known and admired men and women in the Senate who played much more than a small role in our history—true statesmen, giants of American politics. They came from both parties and from various backgrounds. Their ambitions were frequently in conflict. They held different views on the issues of the day. They often had very serious disagreements about how best to serve the national interest.

But they knew that however sharp and heartfelt their disputes and however keen their ambitions, they had an obligation to work collaboratively to ensure the Senate discharged its constitutional responsibilities effectively. Our responsibilities are important—vitally important—to the continued success of our Republic. Our arcane rules and customs are deliberatively intended to require broad cooperation to function well at all. The most revered Members of this institution accepted the necessity of compromise in order to make incremental progress on solving America's problems and to defend her from her adversaries.

That principled mindset and the service of our predecessors who possessed it come to mind when I hear the Senate referred to as the world's greatest deliberative body. I am not sure we can claim that distinction with a straight face today. I am sure it wasn't always deserved in previous eras either. I am

sure there have been times when it was, and I was privileged to witness some of those occasions.

Our deliberations today, not just our debates but the exercise of all our responsibilities—authorizing government policies, appropriating the funds to implement them, exercising our advice and consent role—are often lively and interesting. They can be sincere and principled, but they are more partisan, more tribal more of the time than at any time I can remember. Our deliberations can still be important and useful, but I think we would all agree they haven't been overburdened by greatness lately. Right now, they aren't producing much for the American people.

Both sides have let this happen. Let's leave the history of who shot first to the historians. I suspect they will find we all conspired in our decline, either by deliberate actions or neglect. We have all played some role in it. Certainly, I have. Sometimes, I have let my passion rule my reason. Sometimes I made it harder to find common ground because of something harsh I said to a colleague. Sometimes I wanted to win more for the sake of winning than to achieve a contested policy.

Incremental progress, compromises that each side criticizes but also accepts, and just plain muddling through to chip away at problems and to keep our enemies from doing their worst aren't glamorous or exciting. It doesn't feel like a political triumph. It is usually the most we can expect from our system of government, operating in a country as diverse, quarrelsome, and free as ours.

Considering the injustice and cruelties inflicted by autocratic governments and how corruptible human nature can be, the problem-solving our system does make possible, the fitful progress it produces, and the liberty and justice it preserves, are a magnificent achievement.

Our system doesn't depend on our nobility. It accounts for our imperfections and gives an order to our individual strivings that has helped make ours the most powerful and prosperous society on Earth. It is our responsibility to preserve that, even when it requires us to do something less satisfying than winning, even when we must give a little to get a little, even when our efforts managed just 3 yards in a cloud of dust, while critics on both sides denounced us for timidity, for our failure to triumph.

I hope we can again rely on humility, on our need to cooperate, on our dependence on each other to learn how to trust each other again and, by so doing, better serve the people who elected us. Stop listening to the bombastic loudmouths on the radio and television and the internet. To hell with them. They don't want anything done for the public good. Our incapacity is their livelihood.

Let's trust each other. Let's return to regular order. We have been spinning our wheels on too many important issues because we keep trying to find a way to win without help from across the aisle. That is an approach that has been employed by both sides: mandating legislation from the top down, without any support from the other side, with all the parliamentary maneuvers it requires. We are getting nothing done.

All we have really done this year is confirm Neil Gorsuch to the Supreme Court. Our healthcare insurance system is a mess. We all know it, those who support Obamacare and those who oppose it. Something has to be done. We Republicans have looked for a way to end it and replace it with something else without paying a terrible political price. We haven't found it yet. I am not sure we will. All we have managed to do is make more popular a policy that wasn't very popular when we started trying to get rid of it.

I voted for the motion to proceed to allow debate to continue and amendments to be offered.

I will not vote for the bill as it is today. It is a shell of a bill right now. We all know that. I have changes urged by my State's Governor that will have to be included to earn my support for final passage of any bill. I know many of you will have to see the bill changed substantially for you to support it. We have tried to do this by coming up with a proposal behind closed doors in consultation with the administration, then springing it on skeptical Members, trying to convince them it is better than nothing—that it is better than nothing—asking us to swallow our doubts and force it past a unified opposition. I don't think that is going to work in the end and probably shouldn't.

That is prescient. I mean, that is prescient. As a great New Jerseyan, Yogi Berra says "It's like *deja vu* all over again." To hear what John McCain was criticizing—one party behind closed doors without consultation of experts, against the wishes of Republican Governors, is trying to force something through past a united opposition—he literally is describing what is happening right now and condemning both sides of this institution for playing this record over and over and over again.

Yes, I am a Democrat, and I admit that our healthcare system needs so much help and so much reform. One out of every three of our tax dollars is being spent on healthcare. That is ridiculous. And what are we getting from it? A society that is getting more and more sick.

And what are our solutions as a body? Did we come together as a team? Did we set up a special conference, set up a special committee to study the issues, to bring in the experts, to involve the best technology, to learn the lessons from private sector and public sector, from universities, from scientists—are we doing that, or are we doing exactly what John McCain said we shouldn't do, exactly what he described why he voted no?

It is maddening in this country to create greater and greater healthcare crises and for us not to solve it but to battle back and forth between trying to make incremental changes or to tear it all down with no plan to make it better, leaving more and more Americans suffering what is still one of the most significant ways people go bankrupt, which is not being able to afford their healthcare.

And what are we doing it for this time, John? Senator McCain? I know you wouldn't sanction this. I know you would be screaming. I have seen how angry you can get, John McCain. I have seen you tear people apart on the floor, Democrat and Republican, for doing the same stupid thing over and over again.

Listen to John McCain explain why he voted no the last time the Republican Party tried to unite and tear down healthcare with no idea how to fix it and threatening to put millions of Americans in financial crisis and healthcare crisis.

I can't believe we are here again with thousands upon thousands upon thou-

sands of Americans writing letters, storming into townhalls—hospital leaders, private sector leaders, Republican Governors, Republican mayors, Democrat Governors, Democrat mayors, all saying: What are you doing in Congress and why?

I think what is even more outrageous this time is the why—to redo the tax cuts that independent budget analysis says, no, that the overwhelming benefit went to the billionaires who sat on stage with Donald Trump during his inauguration. We are not saving any money in our budgets. Their plan is to expand our budget crisis. Their plan will add trillions of dollars to our budget and give tax cuts to the wealthiest and not help the people that John McCain is talking about. His echoes haunt me that he said we are mistaken when we don't come together across the aisle—across our differences—to try to make things better.

There is a healthcare crisis in this country. One out of three dollars in our government is going to healthcare. And we have more chronic disease in this Nation than we have ever had before. And there is no solution being offered in this reconciliation to deal with that. In fact, we are making it worse because we are denying children access to healthy foods. This is ridiculous.

If they are successful, what kind of country will we be with more stratifications of wealth, with people who have done so good?

I am not one of these Democrats who hates successful or wealthy people. Heck, people in my neighborhood—I am the only Senator that probably lives in a low-income neighborhood—strive to be wealthy. They are doing great. The top quartile of our country the last 20 years has made extraordinary wealth. God bless them.

But when you see that 70, 80 percent of Americans don't want Medicaid cuts because most Americans know neighbors, family members, church members who rely on Medicaid; they know that their grandmother in a nursing home relies on Medicaid; they know that the disabled child next door relies on Medicaid. And now we want to gut it \$880 billion?

John McCain—most people remember the thumb down. They don't remember his words; they don't remember the warnings. This man is in Heaven now and his words, they speak to us in this moment again. Why won't we listen to them?

Our deliberations today, not just are debates but the exercise of all our responsibilities—authorizing government policies, appropriating the funds to implement them . . . They can be sincere and principled, but they are more partisan, more tribal more of the time than at any time I can remember. Our deliberations can still be important and useful, but I think we would all agree they haven't been overburdened. . . . Right now, they aren't producing much for the American people.

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spired in our decline, either by deliberate actions or neglect.

Listen to John McCain:

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Listen to us:

Let's trust each other. Let's return to regular order. We have been spinning our wheels on too many important issues because we keep trying to find a way to win without the help from [the other side]. That is an approach that has been employed by both sides: mandating legislation from the top down, without any support from the other side . . . We are getting nothing done.

All we have really done this year is to confirm Neil Gorsuch. . . . I voted for the motion to proceed to allow debate to continue and amendments to be offered.

I will not vote for the bill as it stands today.

I will not vote for the bill.

We have tried to do this by coming up with a proposal behind closed doors in consultation with the administration—

Donald Trump—

then springing it on skeptical Members, trying to convince them it is better than nothing . . . asking us to swallow our doubts and force it past a unified opposition. I don't think that is going to work in the end and probably shouldn't.

Well, this shouldn't work either. This shouldn't work either. This is wrong. This is wrong.

I see the leader here. I am sorry, sir. I should be conserving my energy.

Mr. SCHUMER. Would the gentleman yield for a question?

Mr. BOOKER. I would yield for a question while retaining the floor.

Mr. SCHUMER. First, your impassioned remarks are so meaningful. I hope all of America is watching. If some people are not up at this hour, watch it tomorrow. It is inspiring.

And I would just ask my colleague a question. I was there. I spent 4 hours with John McCain before he voted. We talked and talked and talked and went over the courage of his father and his grandfather in the Navy and the courage that he hoped to show, as they did.

I ask my colleague this question: Isn't it eerily reminiscent that after John McCain did his courageous act, that here we are years later—almost a decade later, a few years less—and they are doing the same thing again, cutting people's healthcare to give tax breaks to the wealthiest people? Isn't it true that John McCain saw the suffering of people who wouldn't get healthcare and urged people to come together on a bipartisan solution? Wouldn't it be much better if our colleagues from across the aisle—they may not agree with us on everything—but instead of trying to jam another bill down our throats like they did back in 2017, came and worked with us for the betterment of the country, for the betterment of the 80 percent of the people who need healthcare, who will struggle without that healthcare?

Some will be ill, some will die—will die—so does it strike the gentleman

that how could the people on the other side of the aisle try to do this again after John McCain made such a courageous stance. It is not echoing. It doesn't seem to be echoing in their ears, is it?

I ask my colleague just to answer that general line of questions.

Mr. BOOKER. COLLINS, MURKOWSKI, and McCain, I think, took a lot of courage. They were getting a lot of pressure from the White House. John McCain was viciously attacked afterwards. But his private conversations with Members and you, Senator SCHUMER—I know at the last lap around his track of life, he didn't want to be remembered as someone doing something—to use John McCain kind of language—boneheaded; to hurt a lot of innocent, fragile people and leave them without a plan. When his own Republican Governor—I read Republican Governors earlier who were saying, don't do this.

I want to say something else to the Senator in response to his question. I watched you that night, and I just loved something you did. I never said this to you. People over here tried to start applauding and you stood up angry and told them not to because what John showed was something bigger than partisanship. He talked about it, one side trying to win; it is more ego sometimes than it is ideals. And you stood up and said, no, this is not that moment. We are watching a man take a position that was not easy. It didn't serve his politics but served his spirit.

I don't know if my staff has the envelope of the article I want, specifically because there is a story in there—I don't have it now, I will read it later—about John McCain in the prison camps.

I wasn't here when we had this moment. But when I got here weeks after this moment, Mr. Leader, all my colleagues on both sides of the aisle talked about a special conference in the Old Senate Chamber. I was not there, but the Democrats and Republicans—it actually changed our behavior in here. It didn't last. But I came here and people said, because of that, we were all going to partner up, and for State of the Union Addresses, you have a Republican partner and Democrat—we would go as couples, basically.

Mr. SCHUMER. I remember.

Mr. BOOKER. It was something about this man where the dignity that he had that we all treasured, in a moment like that, he began to elevate.

I had my partner Senator here say to me when I got here: You are not a full Senator until you get ripped by John McCain's anger.

Mr. SCHUMER. Will the Senator yield? I am well aware.

Mr. BOOKER. And I never got ripped by him. After my meeting, I mentioned earlier in his office, he started inviting me with him. My first codel was with him. He told me all the time: Booker, there are two types of Senators here. I don't mean to cast any aspersions on

others, but there are people who represent their States, and there are statesmen. He kept challenging me to be a statesman, not a great Democratic Senator but to be a great American Senator. He would challenge me over and over and over again.

I would go to his national security conferences out at his ranch. One of my favorite moments as a Senator—if I have my top 10 favorite moments as a Senator, this is one of them. The leader knows that I am a vegan, and when you go to one of his open barbecues, there is nothing vegan. I mean, they even saturated every vegetable in butter, and mayonnaise was everywhere. But I am not going to complain. I am just going to sit and enjoy conference conversations.

So now I am in a golf cart, going home at the end of the night, and the young man who was shuttling me home goes to me: How was the food? Did you enjoy the dinner?

I go: Well, actually, if I am going to be honest, I didn't eat.

They go: You haven't had dinner?

I go: No. I am a vegan.

They go: Well, we are about to pass John McCain's home, where he lives, and I am sure it is late, and I am sure he is asleep, but maybe we can break in and see what is in his fridge.

And I am like: Dude, I am from New Jersey. I love this. Breaking into John McCain's house, and I won't have to worry about getting arrested? I am all in.

And so we went in, and as soon as we looked around in the kitchen, I looked through the kitchen, and John McCain was sitting there with another elderly, tough-looking man on the couch, engaging in some conversation. So I didn't get my joy of breaking into John McCain's house, but I walk in, and he is sitting there with a former Secretary, if I remember correctly, of the Navy.

And they were like: Booker, ske-daddle. We are going to have a meeting.

So I am sitting there, eating peanut butter and, like, celery or whatever, and these two men are talking about government inefficiency. They say the place that we could be saving the most money—the former Secretary, if I remember correctly, of the Navy and one of the great men on national security. They started detailing the waste in the military. They both claimed that we could have much more capacity and greater military effectiveness for billions and billions and billions of dollars less.

I will never forget. Again, this is me new to the Senate. I don't know foreign policy like I do 12 years later or the military like I do 12 years later, but I was listening to these two experienced men complaining about the gross waste that was undermining our overall effectiveness and efficiency. That is why, to this day, I am infuriated that, when people come in and say they want to cut budgets, the first thing they want

to go for is not to have a real conversation—because the military hasn't passed an audit in years—about a lot of the baked-in corruption and misspending in the military, but they are going after programs that hospital after hospital, that healthcare provider after healthcare provider, that leader after leader, and that Governor after Governor says: Are you crazy?

So this is one of the more preposterous moments. You and I both know, if John McCain were here right now, he would reject this whole thing because we were literally repeating the same thing we did in 2017, 8 years ago.

Mr. SCHUMER. Would the Senator yield for a question?

Mr. BOOKER. I will yield for a question while retaining the floor.

Mr. SCHUMER. Isn't it true, when McCain talked about waste in the military, he studied it; he documented it; he said this is a good thing; this is a bad thing? He helped guide me on many of these things. I voted for some weapons systems, getting some people upset because he showed me they worked, and I voted against a lot of them because he showed me they didn't.

But isn't it so that our colleagues on the other side, when they talk about waste in the healthcare system, they don't document a thing? They use just a meat-ax or a chain saw, as Elon Musk perversely but proudly said he is going to carry one. They don't document the waste that they say exists. They just slash things that people need that is not waste at all but that is life support for people. Isn't that a huge difference between the way McCain looked at waste, whether it was in the military or anything else, and what we are hearing here today?

Mr. BOOKER. Resoundingly, yes.

I am just laughing that every time DOGE puts up their supposed savings, they then try to take them down because, as soon as they are fact-checked, so many of them are not done. And I don't want to say all of them. I don't want to paint that broad a brush. I know about having Microsoft licenses, too many. Yes, there is waste. I wish we were doing this in a bipartisan way. Those cuts would be bigger and probably have a lot more staying power than what they are doing, which is ready, fire, aim, and then having to beg people to come back to work because they fired FAA people or nuclear regulators or what have you.

But this is the bigger point that you are making that really is getting me: So you know this. I used to be an executive. There is nobody in this body—here is a bold, bold, braggadocious thing to say, but fact-check me, anybody. There is nobody in this body who was a Governor, a county executive, like COONS or a mayor who cut government as much as I did. I had to cut my government by 25 percent. Imagine that here at the Federal level. I had to do it because I couldn't print money. It was a national recession. I was left with a mess. I had to do it, but we

found ways to do it cooperatively with the legislature and bringing in experts.

But this is the point I want to make to you: One thing I couldn't cut were my healthcare costs. So I started asking people: What can I do?

Do you know whom I found? I found a big business owner, with tens of thousands of employees, who said: I had the same problem, and do you know what I did? I went into my cafeteria where thousands of people eat—a big, big place—and I saw deep fryers and, like, Cinnabon-like products and all this unhealthy stuff, and I ripped it all out and had the union ready to go crazy on me, but then I brought in the best chef. I paid extra money to get the best kind of all healthy, nutritious whole foods. Then they loved it, and then they started asking me: Can we get food to take home for our kids? Because we stop at McDonald's and Burger King on the way home. Long story short, he said it began to bend their cost curve.

What are we doing in the United States of America? What has Donald Trump—I just read all he is doing. He is cutting access to healthy lunch programs. He is cutting—they are threatening to cut the SNAP program. They are cutting the things that give our residents in America not the cheap, hyperprocessed, empty nutrition foods but the stuff that is healthy for our kids.

There is so much hypocrisy based in this that even the private sector folks are saying: You are going to drive up costs for your country when you make people get their healthcare in emergency rooms. You are going to drive up costs for your country when you are going to force people to have to quit their jobs so they can come home and take care of their loved ones with dementia. This will drive up costs, ultimately, for our country and put more hardship on people, all while giving the most wealthy people who don't need it bigger tax cuts. It makes no sense, and that is the spirit of why John McCain voted against this effort in 2017.

(Mr. CURTIS assumed the Chair.)

Mr. SCHUMER. I thank the Senator. There is a hope—it may be forlorn—that maybe one of John McCain's words will influence a few folks over there before we proceed disastrously.

I wish the Senator strength, and I yield the floor to him.

Mr. BOOKER. I appreciate your allowing me to yield to you to answer a question while retaining the floor.

I am going to continue with a little bit more here before we change topics for the night.

I want to point out how grateful I am for my friend CHRIS MURPHY. The last time I stood on this floor for many hours was just in support, doing like my colleague is doing for me right now, after the Pulse shooting. We wanted a vote on commonsense gun safety—bipartisan-supported, commonsense gun safety. We didn't get it. CHRIS MURPHY, who is right down there, held the floor for 15 hours. I paced around, walked

the floor, helped to support things, stayed up with him all night. So it is profound to me, when I told my brother that I wanted to cause some good trouble and that I was going to rise, that he said: I am in. I am in. So there he is, helping me out, especially as we approach 11 o'clock at night and the fourth hour. I am just grateful for him. I am grateful for him.

I want to go now to cuts that are being made to local and State health department funding. Again, from Republican and Democratic Governors, we have letters from people on both sides of the aisle who are saying that this is just wrong, and it makes no sense, but here we go.

It is actually, really, what I would call a dangerous reversal. Trump's HHS recently announced the cancellation of almost \$12 billion in Federal grants that State and local health departments have been using to track infectious diseases, health disparities, vaccinations, mental health, substance use and services. Because of that reversal, my State, for example, is going to lose \$350 million in Federal funding for health programs due to these cuts. My Governor, Phil Murphy, said that these cuts would create an unfillable void in funding that will have disastrous ramifications for our most vulnerable neighbors.

Last week, we learned that HHS planned to cut an additional 10,000 jobs. In total, since January, HHS has cut 20,000 of its employees. That is over a quarter of its workforce. These are people who inspect nursing homes to ensure that they are safe. They approve diagnostic and treatment services for children. They regulate health insurance to make sure that they are not discriminating against you based on your health conditions and health status. They protect you from infectious diseases. They conduct inspections to make sure that infant formula is safe.

I want to tell you that Secretary Kennedy has committed to bringing radical transparency to the HHS. I would love radical transparency, but at the end of February, Secretary Kennedy announced that HHS is no longer required to undergo the public comment period—a practice that has taken place at the Agency since 1971.

Another critical resource of health information for the American public is the CDC's "Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report." It has been published since 1952 and is often called the voice of the CDC. Unfortunately, on January 23, for the first time since its inception, the report was not published in a direct response to the Trump administration's freeze on public communications.

In addition to pausing the critical publication, it also reported that the Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System had halted operation. This PRAMS, which was developed in 1987, is designed to identify groups of women and infants at higher risk of health problems to monitor changes in

health status, to measure the progress toward goals, and improve the health of mothers and infants. Over the last 38 years, the program has collected essential data on maternal behaviors and experiences before, during, and shortly after pregnancy. Maternal care providers rely on that data collected by PRAMS—the sole source of this type of information—to enhance prenatal and postnatal care. The United States is in the midst of a mortality crisis, which we mentioned before. We have the highest rate of maternal deaths of any high-income nation.

As I learned when I was a mayor, data is power. You can't manage a problem unless you have measures on the problem. If you pull back things like that, again, you are reducing transparency, and you are cutting back on vital reports that people who are trying to meet this crisis rely on to inform their strategies.

Again, the frustration is that we are the worst in maternal health outcomes for developed nations, but even in our country, African-American women are three times more likely to die from pregnancy-related causes than the majority. This is one of the countries where it is profoundly dangerous to have kids.

Again, this is yet another thing that HHS is doing. It is leaving us more vulnerable, less informed, and less empowered to deal with the health challenges that we still deal with.

Since the Trump administration made the disastrous decision for Agencies to pause external communications, we have been seeing significant delays in critical information from other key Agencies.

There have been avoidable delays in critical data from the CDC so that States are starting to speak out, saying that they need to protect the health of their communities. As of March 20, when it comes to vaccines, what we are seeing in America—talk about getting less safe—there were 378 confirmed cases of measles throughout the United States. As one of my doctor friends said, there are more children with measles right now than there are trans athletes in the NCAA.

This is a real crisis. For the first time in a decade, a child who was not vaccinated for measles tragically died in that outbreak. And while measles is spreading across our Nation and we are having one of the worst flu seasons in the last decade, HHS has delayed the convening of critical advisory councils of the CDC and FDA. These advisory councils are responsible for determining the vaccine schedule—what vaccines must be covered by insurance—and the safety, effectiveness, and appropriate use of vaccines. They do essential and timely work to keep people safe, and disruptions to their work can be harmful to the health of American people.

Let me go to the National Institutes of Health. It is the largest public funder of biomedical research in the

world. It is facing devastating cuts. The NIH is one of the greatest successes in publicly funded scientific research in all of human history. The United States is one of the best places to do scientific research because it has had more capacity than any other country to fund and conduct research at the highest levels.

Pauses, lapses, and elimination of NIH funding will drive researchers to do their research in other countries and undermine the efforts to cure diseases, to find solutions to conditions from obesity, to Alzheimer's, to cancers. One of the best taxpayer dollars we can invest is in NIH because it returns more than 5 taxpayer dollars back in the breakthroughs that they make.

We have put the future of scientific research in the United States at grave threat with what the Trump administration is now doing. They have imposed cuts and a number of harmful orders on the NIH that have both stalled its research and confused its partners.

Now, 99.4 percent of the FDA-approved drugs come from the NIH-funded research. Let me just say that again. NIH-funded research has led to 99.4 percent of all the FDA drugs that are out there.

The NIH funding cuts will directly affect your access to future novel treatments that can improve the quality of life for your children or—if you love your neighbor like so many religions call us to do—your neighbor's children as well.

Here is an example of that. Hepatitis C is a liver disease caused by the virus HCV, and it is one of the most common types of viral hepatitis in the United States. It is estimated that 3 to 4 million Americans have hepatitis. In 2014, the first complete treatment for hepatitis C was approved by the FDA. The development of this revolutionary new treatment that has since been used to cure millions of people around the world was funded by—you know—NIH research.

This is the type of lifesaving innovation we will lose out on if we defund the NIH as the Trump administration is currently doing. American enterprise and knowledge will be drained. We will fall behind.

We already know there is fierce competition for the researchers by countries like China. They are aiming—in fact, they are upping their investments in scientific research, doing everything they can to keep scientific researchers in their country.

I was just talking to an innovator out on the west coast who was telling me that they are starting to take passports away from their researchers.

There is a fierce competition going on to keep the best minds here in this country or be drawn away to other places, from Europe to China. And we are stopping our funding?

I have heard from academic institutions that are telling me that they are not even offering as many Ph.D. pro-

grams in some of these key areas of science because of the attacks that are happening on our universities, all while China is upping their investments in universities. I can't believe that they are trying to out-America us and we are trying to turn our backs on our most successful traditions.

In one of his first actions, President Trump imposed a communications freeze on all U.S. health Agencies, effectively silencing some of our Nation's top researchers, scientists, and public health experts. This action stalled 16,000 grant applications for around \$1.5 billion in NIH funding. The NIH has since begun to incrementally send notices to the Office of the Federal Register to resume reviews.

The combination of these actions has irresponsibly stalled our Nation's primary source of lifesaving biomedical research. It is our understanding that full communications have not been resumed and that it continues to impede critical research at the NIH.

As I have been told time and time again by experts in this area, just to pause funding could set research back years because, when you are conducting research, whether it is in a test tube, a biomedical researcher can't pause; or whether it is a human body, in biomedical research, you can't pause.

Across the Nation, brilliant researchers have been finding out daily the Trump administration has canceled their research—research on critical issues like maternal health, long COVID, diabetes, new pharmaceutical drugs, cancer, and so much more.

The NIH has decided to cancel its 2025 summer internship program. On average, 1,100 interns participate in this program each year, helping develop the next generation of scientists and researchers. A small number of summer interns had already accepted their offer to join the NIH in 2025. The decision follows the Trump administration's Federal hiring freeze.

Again, in my faith, as I said, you train a child in the way he shall go, and he will not depart from it. These are our young people. These are the future scientists who now aren't getting the experience of a lifetime. I have met people in this institution who first came here as college summer interns.

The NIH has decided not only to cancel those internships but to shut the door to many kids who had already made their summer plans. Many people here know what it is like to have a summer plan, have a summer internship, and not apply for other ones. It is another act of just meanness and cruelty. Let this class come in and then say: OK. I am going to cut the program next year.

But the way they are doing things is mean and cruel and is having an impact on people's lives.

Congressionally directed medical research programs—I have worked across the aisle with my colleagues. I have friends in here that have worked with

me on specific diseases in a bipartisan way. I am so proud of some of that work.

Well, we have long appropriated about \$1.5 billion a year in Federal funds for medical research, nearly half of which typically goes to cancer. It is something that we have found common ground on in my 12 years here in significant stretches.

The medical research program was created and sustained by Congress and competitively awards funds to hundreds of projects each year at both the Defense Department labs and outside research institutions, including at many American universities, to study everything, again, from cancer, to battlefield wounds, to suicide prevention.

In 2024, \$130 million was specifically appropriated in a bipartisan way in this body—incredibly good Senators of good conscience coming together and saying: We should do more in these areas.

They approved \$130 million for research in breast, kidney, lung, melanoma, ovarian, pancreatic, prostate, and a handful of very rare cancers. Why? Because there are people of good conscience here.

We meet folks who come to this—not lobbyists. They come and they tell us about their stories of rare cancers. There are people on both sides of the aisle who have marched for prostate awareness, for breast cancer awareness. There is goodness and decency here.

But in 2024, this funding—it is a bill that passed in March. It was now slashed—slashed—by 57 percent. And I told you earlier, that data—one of the best taxpayer dollars we can spend is in medical research. We have all heard this in this body when the NIH has come through and has shown that \$1 invested and you get more than \$5 back. Any Wall Street executive that would get five times their money back from an investment—who is this helping? And do we think about the people?

I thank God I don't have any family members that are going about their day, go to the doctor, and come back with cancer. I know lots of people, though. I know their stories, when they are diagnosed with a cancer and they are told there is no cure. I have seen people go through what you go through with that.

So how could a country that has led humanity for more than a generation or two suddenly have a President come along and say: I am going to slash all of these things. Oh, by the way, I am going to give billionaires a big tax cut.

So what do we say when these folks come to our offices? Some of the people with rare diseases came to my office a couple weeks ago. And the amount of their funding is so small. And maybe—maybe—if it was to solve our budget deficit. If we are going to do this as a country, we have to come together in a bipartisan way. The debt is—I am one of those Senators who believe it is a real crisis. But we are not solving the deficit in what they are proposing here.

They are cutting and cutting and cutting things that make no sense to cut, and they are doing it for tax breaks which disproportionately go to the wealthiest and to rack up even more debt.

I want to read this article. My staff told me that we have lots of sections to go through, and it has been 4 hours, 11 minutes. But this is one that hurts me because I have met so many people who fall into this category. I want to read an article that deals with an issue called medical debt and the ongoing impact it has on people as part of their lives.

The Affordable Care Act—when we did that, we lowered the costs and implemented protections for Americans, requiring insurers to cover preexisting conditions; expanding Medicaid, which we have talked a lot about tonight; implementing caps on out-of-pocket costs for Americans. All of these helped in alleviating medical bankruptcy for some.

Medical bankruptcies in America have gone down but not all. We still live in a country where one of the top reasons for bankruptcy is medical debt.

One of my staffers kind of shook me with the reality she was dealing with, which is she has stratospheric medical debt.

So here is an article from Healthcare Insights. It is not a partisan rag; it is a scientific journal. “How Medical Debt Is Crushing 100 Million Americans.” It is from October of last year.

This author—I just want to give a little more understanding of what kind of article this is—is John August. He is the Scheinman Institute’s director of healthcare.

George Curlee is one of 52 million people or 1/3 of Americans in the workforce who earn \$15/hour or less.

I had the opportunity to interview George recently about his experience with medical debt and how it has impacted his life. Having suffered an industrial accident, and even though his employer was responsible for his injuries and he carried health insurance, he still accumulated \$20,000 in medical debt.

George grew up near Dallas, and spent his life working hard as a full-time warehouse and retail worker.

At one point in his life, he found a job he enjoyed as a fork lift driver in a factory that produced ceramic tile. In time he switched jobs, working on the production line. One fateful day a piece of metal struck him in the foot. He had to have surgery and underwent the amputation of one of his toes.

He had to take a month off of work, and when he returned he went back to driving the forklift truck. He found that due to his accident and surgery, he could not operate the forklift to his satisfaction. He became frustrated with not being able to operate the forklift, grew depressed, and left the job.

“It took me three months to get back on my feet after the toe amputation. There was nursing care for two months to help me walk again. This life saving medical procedure left me with over \$20,000 in debt, even with insurance!

I avoided doing [necessary] follow up with doctors due to not being able to afford additional needed care.

There were hard times on top of this. I suffered a great deal of depression due to losing

my job during my leave of absence. This medical debt is currently following me. There was a point of time that I was rebuilding my credit. Before the surgery, I built it up by over 120 points. With this medical debt on my credit report, my credit score dropped 60 points.

The big drop in score has not allowed me to get my own place. I’m not able to continue to pursue my dream of being a voice actor due to not having proper financial footing to get back to school. I can’t travel and do things I would like to do. I am working, but things are very financially tight. The medicine I need is being paid out of pocket.

After paying my bills, I am in the negative. There is no money left over to pay my medical debt. I can’t save money right now, not even towards retirement. To have this medical debt on my credit score means not being able to pursue a better life.”

He went on short-term disability for a while, but then found a part time job he holds now at Walgreen’s. He had to return to work to pay for the house he and his brothers had purchased.

Through this period, George had to take payday loans. Between those loans and his weekly wages, he attempted to pay back the money he owed the hospitals.

He learned that because of his medical debt, his credit rating was destroyed by credit agencies who learned that he had fallen behind on his payments to the hospitals.

According to the Consumer Finance Protection Bureau—

Which I guess barely exists now—100 million Americans owe \$220 billion in medical debt.

So “100 million Americans owe \$220 billion medical debt.”

George told me that the medical debt has had several devastating impacts on his life:

Inability to borrow money for a mortgage or a car.

Employees ask for credit reports, and reports that show an applicant for a position are often rejected due to a poor credit report. This has impacted his ability to find a better job than his part-time job at \$15/hour with no benefits working at Walgreen’s where he lives in Garland, TX.

Incredible stress that further impacts his health conditions including diabetes. (An additional note: Garland, TX, where George lives, is near Dallas. Tarrant County, which includes Garland and Dallas, is a locality with high medical debt and high profit for healthcare systems in the region.)

Though George makes very low wages, medical debt is a broadly shared experience by Americans across income groups. Clearly, low-wage workers suffer a worse burden, but the problem is pervasive and a broad feature of American life.

Some background.

In the oft-cited study, as many as 66.5% of people who file for bankruptcy blame medical bills as a primary cause.

I am going to repeat that in the article: 66.5 percent of Americans “who file for bankruptcy blame medical bills as their primary cause.” Two-thirds of Americans who are filing bankruptcy point to medical bills as the cause.

As many as 550,000 people file for bankruptcy every year for this reason.

More than half a million Americans, year after year after year after year after year after year, for no fault of their own—because of a metal bar shoved up through his toe, because of a diagnosis of cancer, because of diabetes,

because of things outside of their control—they rack up medical debt that, as this man, can erode their well-being.

This data has been known [about how many Americans are affected] and has continued with the passage of the Affordable Care Act.

Lesser known is the amount of medical debt that Americans carry.

What are the causes of the burden on so many?

While more Americans have health insurance today than ever before, coverage has many gaps. High deductibles and narrow networks which prevent patients from seeking health providers of their choice are common causes of accumulation of high cost bills. When patients understandably seek care from a preferred provider, too often that care is not covered.

Most healthcare plans only provide 80% of payment for covered cost. 20%—

Twenty percent—

patient responsibility of high medical bills can leave people unable to pay their bills.

Approximately 14 million people in America (6% of adults) in the U.S. owe over a \$1,000 in medical debt and about 3 million people (1% of adults) owe medical debt of more than \$10,000.

Additionally, this government report identifies many of the components of medical debt which are completely out of control of the patient. In most cases these practices are unlawful, but hospitals use these tactics frequently to press patients to pay, including:

Double billing: Companies cannot attempt to collect on medical bills that have already been paid by the consumer, insurance, or a government program such as Medicare or Medicaid. This practice can coerce consumers into paying twice for the same service.

Exceeding legal limits: Companies must attempt to collect amounts that surpass federal or state caps, such as those set by the federal No Surprises Act or state laws on “reasonable” rates. These violations can saddle consumers with unjustly high medical debts, burdening their finances.

Falsified or fake charges: Debt collectors must not collect on bills that include “up coded” or exaggerated services, or charges for service the consumer did not receive.

Collecting unsubstantiated medical debts: Debt collectors must not attempt to collect medical debts.

These are all awful practices that go on.

Here is Paul Sugar’s story, compelling and tragic.

Paul spent much of his life, starting as a child, learning about jewelry, living in a small town near Albuquerque, NM. At an early age, he earned enough money selling silver and turquoise necklaces to be able to buy a motorcycle. As he became an adult, he developed a successful business in the mining and selling of silver and turquoise used in making jewelry.

He also worked at a GE engine plant, but was laid off during the time of industrial downsizing. He also [went] to work for Quest, installing communications infrastructure, but was laid off from that job when Quest was acquired by US West.

So, he returned to his business.

On January 9, 2019, he was terribly injured in a fire in his home. He is still recovering physically and economically. After losing 66 percent of his skin and getting care at a specialty trauma unit in another part of the country, he ended up owing over \$82,000 in medical bills. The medical debt on his credit

report means he has not been able to get loans to expand his business and earn more. After the fire, his medical bills [totaled] \$550,000.

Insurance covered most of it, but it was still more than he could pay. He made payment plans with all of his various bills, but when his credit card number changed, some of the automatic payments he had arranged for did not go through, and the bills ended up in collection before he even knew he was behind.

Prior to the fire, he had always had a stellar credit rating, but since this medical debt, it has gone down. In his business, it is important to be able to take out short-term loans to resupply the company, but now he can't do that at reasonable terms and rates. He spent his retirement savings account trying to pay back all his medical bills—

#### His retirement savings—

but it wasn't enough. Now, he worries about his future. How will he retire? Will he have enough for his daughter's college education? Can he move homes if he needs to?

At one point, he needed to replace his car because he and his wife had to travel in 18 hours round trips every couple of weeks to receive prescriptions for pain medication. He was denied the credit to do so.

Our Health Care Professionals are on the Frontlines of Impact of Medical Debt.

Doctors and other healthcare professionals experience firsthand when patients are denied care due to medical debt. This article describes how healthcare systems deny patients with medical debt.

Dr. Matt Hoffman, who is a leader in the successful effort to form a union with Doctors Council in 2023 [talked about this problem.]

[They] instructed staff to stop providing care to patients more than \$4,500 in overdue bills, going beyond the more common practice of turning such debts over to collection agencies.

He and his fellow doctors protested their health system's decision to deny the patients access to care due to medical debt. Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison banned the denial of care for patients . . . [with] medical debt.

I mean these practices sound like they are Byzantine. They sound like—they don't sound like America or at least who we should be.

There are a lot of New Jerseyans who are dealing with medical debt. There are a lot of New Jerseyans who are being impacted by these programs that the President has already rolled back.

I am standing today because of this crisis in our country, and one of the strategies that Donald Trump and his team talked about is to flood the zone—flood the zone, flood the zone. So sometimes the press doesn't even cover the cutting of some of these programs, some of these benefits that help people who are struggling with medical debt or struggling to make ends meet, to help them access healthcare.

It is a level of distraction and cruelty. Again, why? Why are they cutting this? They are saying they are trying to make government more efficient or more effective. Well, it is not effective for these folks.

What are the savings going to go to? Is it going to go to expanding medical research, expanding those things that, when the taxpayers invest money, they get a return? No. They are cutting

medical research. They are cutting the things that empower children to grow up and have healthy, productive lives. And again, what they are aiming to do with it—what they are aiming to do with it—is to provide massive, massive tax cuts.

I am coming to the end of this section, but there are more voices that I want to include. I want to read a few, and then I think I am going to get a question from my colleague. So a few more pages, if I may, before we begin to dialogue—or at least I will receive a question, I imagine.

I want to elevate some of these voices.

This is a person writing to me in February 28:

Dear Senator BOOKER, I am writing to you as a concerned citizen, most importantly as a proud aunt of a Ph.D. in neuroscience, dedicating her life to research that could lead to lifesaving treatments.

As a minority in science, she has worked incredibly hard to break barriers in a field that has not always welcomed people like her.

Watching the current political attacks on research funding is not just heartbreaking; it is dangerous for our country's future.

Science is not political. It serves all people, regardless of race, background, or party affiliation.

Yes, funding cuts to Agencies like NIH and the National Science Foundation threaten to halt critical research, slowing the development of treatment for diseases that impact millions. These cuts will push out brilliant young scientists, many of whom have already had to fight to get where they are to do the research they are doing.

This is not just about my niece or scientists in general. It is about every American. Disease does not choose a political party. Cancer, Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, and countless others affect Republicans and Democrats alike. Without strong investment in research, we are all at risk of losing the chance for better treatments, new cures, and improved healthcare.

Beyond health, defunding science will hurt our economy. Scientific research drives innovation, creates jobs, and ensures that the U.S. remains a global leader.

A country that does not invest in science is a country that falls behind.

I urge you to continue standing with the scientific community, supporting young researchers from all backgrounds, and fighting to protect and expand research funding. This is one of the most critical investments we can make for health, for economic growth, and for the future of every American.

Thank you for your time, leadership, and dedication for building a stronger, smarter, and healthier Nation.

A couple of New Jersey sources—this is a letter from someone in Somerset, NJ:

At my university, I am extremely concerned that we are not as large an institution as some of the others and do not get as much State aid. We rely on these funds for more than running facilities.

If this goes into effect, it will ultimately lead to the loss of jobs, research, opportunities for students, and will stunt our growth as we embark on a journey to become an R1 institution. I am not sure we can recover from this anytime soon.

Another person on these cuts to the NIH:

I am a postdoctoral researcher performing basic science research on bacterial communication. In short, I am seeking to understand bacterial chemical communication to find new pathways for therapeutic development.

Antibiotic resistance is already killing thousands of Americans each year. We need new treatments provided by indirect costs to find these cures.

Indirect costs, actually, directly funded my day-to-day work, providing funds for building maintenance staff, university shared resources, such as electron microscopes, and common laboratory supplies, such as liquid nitrogen.

Without any of these resources, my job and those of other researchers seeking new cures would be impossible. Thus, eliminating or reducing these funds will have negative repercussions on the health and well-being of the American people for generations to come.

That is my constituent from Plainsboro, NJ.

Relating to Federal grant fund freezes, another New Jerseyan writes:

I am a researcher at the University of New Jersey where I study ways to combat cancer and promote infant health, critical research that ensures generations grow into healthy adults. My aspirations align with yours, fostering a strong, healthy, and educated population. For this reason, I urge you, CORY BOOKER, to take immediate action to restore normal federal grant operations so that my colleagues and I can continue making paradigm-shifting, state-of-the-art discoveries with the potential to save millions of lives.

This university is dependent upon federal grants, a testament to the world-class quality of our research and its leadership in the biomedical field. These grants enable groundbreaking advancements that position the United States at the forefront of scientific information.

I had planned to apply for a federal grant in 2025 to further my research, but with the current uncertainty, I am deeply concerned about my application's future.

Here is another scientist:

My 5-year NIH grant is in its second year; and although my first-year budget ended and I submitted all the required documents, my second-year funding was cut. We need the funding to be able to continue our critical research.

Here is another patient story:

At age 17, a large black spot blocking his vision suddenly appeared in my patient's right eye. Over the next couple of months, multiple trips to increasingly specialized doctors led to a clinical diagnosis of Von Hippel-Lindau disease, the diagnosis received by phone on his 18th birthday. This is a genetic disease in which the damaged VHL tumor-suppressor gene fails to stop tumors from growing. Patients experience randomly occurring tumors in up to 10 organs, and the only available treatment was surgery to try to remove the tumors.

The patient is one of about 10 percent of patients who are de novo, the result of random genetic mutation. In this patient's case, scans had revealed not only a large tumor on the optic nerve of his right eye but also a huge tumor encompassing one of his adrenal glands that, in retrospect, had been causing him headaches, inability to concentrate, and anxiety due to consistently elevated adrenal levels. While MRI scans also relayed tumors in his spine, kidney, and pancreas, this tumor and entire adrenal gland needed to be removed.

After months of injections in his eye interspersed with laser treatment, he lost the vision in his right eye. The time needed for

medical care required him to give up his team sport, losing both his support group and his chance to compete in the Division I level, but he continued with his final exams, graduation, and plans to study engineering at the university. With continued regular monitoring, he was able to attend university, but the trauma of his diagnosis and the processing of the impact of what it might mean for his life, coupled with the stress of engineering studies, brought on significant mental health challenges.

He did go on to graduate, traveling to the NIH for his regular surveillance, supported by various specialists. In 2022, a kidney tumor had grown large enough that he needed surgery again. The kidney is a sensitive organ and will normally have full nephrectomy of the affected kidney. Doctors were treating him, and now at age 24, his tumor was removed in a successful kidney-sparing robotic operation, yet tumors on his spine continue to grow.

This experience with my patient and many others encapsulates that the miracle of medical research funding has such a powerful impact on people's lives. We were able to get seriously miraculous things done; but without funding for these diseases, we may never have had a chance to test the ideas and develop them in a way that led to a drug that ultimately helped this patient with these tumors.

This is a success story, but will we have more? Will we have others? The drug we've developed is expensive. Current recommendations are to take it daily. Nothing is known about its long-term side effects. More research isn't done. It's not known whether patients can take breaks from the drug. Stopping at some point might mean tumors would resume. One of the congressionally directed medical research program grants recommended for FY25 funding is going to look precisely at many of these questions. Two others will examine other aspects of critical treatment.

These are life-or-death issues for the patients, and yet this funding now is threatened, yet this research now is threatened. Please continue to fully fund the congressionally directed medical program.

I am going to read a few more and then pause, just in case my colleague wants to ask a question.

But this is Kerry Muller from Texas:

My family has benefited from congressionally directed medical research programs because my 13-year-old daughters have neurofibromatosis, a rare genetic disease which causes uncontrolled tumor growth. My daughter Kaitlyn was diagnosed with a brain tumor 2 years ago, and thanks to the drug whose research was seeded with a congressionally directed medical research program, her brain tumor has decreased to the point that it is now undetectable on an MRI.

Without this drug, she would have had to have tried other chemotherapy treatments that would have been more invasive, in addition to brain surgery to bypass the blockage the tumor would have caused.

This is Samantha Pearson from Las Vegas:

For just over 4 years, I have been at a clinical trial at UCLA. The meds were just recently FDA-approved. While the side effects have made me question agreeing to the trial, being told my tumors have drastically shrunk made it all worthwhile. My pain has decreased. My plexiform neurofibroma is 90 percent smaller, and I am so happy that I get to be a part of this clinical trial made possible by NFRP because of my participation in the drug trial.

There is story after story here of people: Camille Oldenburg; Jane

Dmochowski; Lola Neudecker; Professor Alexander Rabchevsky; Kyle Reitz; Karissa Haberkamp from Illinois; Samuel Kirton; Dr. Stephanie Buxhoeveden; Katharina Hopp; Jerrod Kerr; Dr. Terry Watnick; Scott Howe, Marine Corps retired; Van Stewart, United States Navy; Reid Novotny, colonel, Air National Guard; Alex and Lesley; Chip and Kristin; Gregg and Molly from Denver.

William Tuttle, United States Navy:

After my son's birth and diagnosis, I was diagnosed with tuberculosis sclerosis complex at the age of 43, just 3 months after I retired from a 23-year naval career.

The complexity of this disease means that it remains to be seen whether my young son will be able to live the typical life that I have been fortunate to live. Because of research conducted through the TSCRP, my son has effective treatment options available to him that were not available even just a decade ago. But there is still so much to learn.

Again, another person benefiting from our research, benefiting from the funding that is now being threatened and cut.

Beth Tinlin from Nevada; Shelly Meitzler; Ron Heffron; David and Brooke Carpenter, military family; Major David Long, U.S. Air Force; Debora Moritz; Fran Hillier.

I just want to say that the Declaration of Independence clearly states:

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.

How can you have life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness without health? Health is at the core of life. Health is at the core of true liberty. Health is at the core of the pursuit of happiness.

The right to health is fundamental for overall well-being and for the realization of other human rights. In his annual State of the Union Address to Congress on January 6, 1941, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt underscored the importance and shared commitment to four freedoms. Many of you know them.

The first freedom is freedom of speech and expression; the second is the freedom of every person to worship their own way; third is the freedom from want, which means every person deserves peace and health, among other things, he said. The fourth freedom is a freedom from fear, which in our country of great wealth, no one should fear their healthcare going away.

We have known from our country's beginnings and throughout that we must do all we can to provide for our people, and we have tried to do that over the years from the Social Security Act of 1965, which created Medicaid and Medicare, the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, HIPAA, the Patient Protection Affordable Care Act of 2010—the ACA.

We should be adding to these protections and benefits trying to get more people health coverage. We should be

caring for each other. We should be loving each other. We should be fighting for the justice of each other. We should be hearing the cries of parents worried for their children. We should be hearing the agony of a partner whose spouse has Alzheimer's. We should be standing up for these folks. This is why we fight. This is why I stand.

Mr. MURPHY. Will the Senator yield?

Mr. BOOKER. Yes, I will yield for a question while retaining the floor.

Mr. MURPHY. Senator BOOKER, first of all, I want to express my gratitude to you for recognizing the gravity of this moment. Your ability to see that we are facing a series of threats that are not normal—a series of threats to families, to children, to individuals, threats to our democracy, threats to our rule of law—I think it is really important.

And you have endeavored to do something extraordinary here, to stand on your feet for as long as you can to convey both to our colleagues and to the public that because these are not normal times, what is required of us is something different than a normal response.

And I know maybe we have extended the amount of time that you had planned to talk on this particular topic of the threat to Americans' healthcare, but I don't know that there is anything more important that we are talking about today in the U.S. Senate because the scope of what Republicans are talking about here is absolutely extraordinary.

And I want to lay out for you, you know, a few additional facts and numbers and ask you to respond to them as you wrap up your time talking about this particular topic.

But let me just underscore what you have laid out very well. We are talking about nearly \$900 billion worth of cuts to Medicaid in order to pay for about a trillion dollars' worth of tax cuts for the wealthiest 1 percent of Americans.

There will be table scraps in the Republican bill for middle-class consumers and families, but the bulk of the tax cuts are going to the very, very wealthy—millionaires and billionaires; frankly, people who have done tremendously well in this country over the past several decades, who are not in need of more.

And so you were very right to point out the immorality of the 2017 attempt to cut the Affordable Care Act, which insured 20 million Americans. But Medicaid covers 70 to 80 million Americans, and the new wrinkle is that this proposal doesn't just cut healthcare for tens of millions of Americans; estimates are that it could be 30 million Americans that lose healthcare under the Republican proposal.

No, this is even more difficult to swallow for the American public than the 2017 attempt to cut and eliminate the Affordable Care Act because this measure is a direct transfer of money from the poor, the middle class, the

people who are on Medicaid to the very, very wealthy.

Frankly, it could turn out to be the biggest transfer of wealth in the history of the country from the poor and the middle class to the wealthy, which is why, I think, you are taking this extraordinary step to make sure that our colleagues and the American people know the gravity of this moment.

A lot of Republicans all across the country are not doing townhalls any longer; they are not meeting in person with their constituents. And so there are a lot of Americans that are going to be in the dark that have a lot of questions, have a lot of questions about what is happening here, about why it is necessary to cut a program like Medicaid—that insures 24 percent of Americans—to the bone in order to finance a tax cut for the very, very wealthy.

One of the things I just wanted to set up for you here is, you know, just to note that Americans may be surprised to know that 24 percent of Americans are actually on Medicaid today, because some Americans may say: Well, my insurance isn't Medicaid. My insurance is through MississippiCAN. My insurance is through ACCESSNebraska. My insurance is through Centennial Care. Or in Connecticut, my insurance is through HUSKY Health. In New Jersey, it is New Jersey Family Care, right? So Medicaid normally isn't called Medicaid; it is called something different in every State.

So it is important for you to understand that so many of your neighbors are on Medicaid even though it may not be called Medicaid in your State. That is how we get to 24 percent of American families on this particular program.

The Joint Economic Committee, which is a committee of Congress, did a study, issued a report, talking about how many people would lose their healthcare insurance on a State-by-State basis if this \$880 billion cut to Medicaid went through. I won't go through the whole list, Senator BOOKER, but I just pulled out some States that are represented by our Republican colleagues.

In Alabama, 20 percent of Alabamans are on their Medicaid Program. In total, 330,000 people in one State—Alabama—would lose their healthcare if this cut went through.

In Arkansas, 25 percent of families are on the Arkansas Medicaid Program. A quarter of a million people would lose their health insurance.

In Florida, 17 percent of the State is on Medicaid, and 1.3 million Floridians could lose their healthcare because of these Medicaid cuts.

We can just go on and on. Twenty percent of Iowans are on the Medicaid Program, 20 percent of Indiana residents, and 25 percent of Kentucky residents. Thirty percent of Louisianans are on their State's Medicaid Program, and 500,000 residents of Louisiana could lose their healthcare.

Some of that would happen in a sort of slow-moving catastrophe, but, as

you pointed out, Senator BOOKER, a lot of that would happen immediately because many of the States that have taken advantage of the Affordable Care Act Medicaid expansion have a built-in clause to their State's law that says that the minute the reimbursement rate declines, even if it declines by only a few percentage points, the entirety of the Medicaid expansion program is eliminated. So, overnight, you will have millions of people who would lose their healthcare insurance.

But, as you have rightly pointed out, that is just the beginning of the disaster because there are hundreds of rural hospitals in this country that are right now living on the brink of disaster. If Medicaid reimbursements drop by just 5 or 10 percent, those rural hospitals are out of business. The same can be said of thousands of drug treatment centers in this country, addiction treatment centers. So you are ultimately talking about hundreds, if not thousands, of hospitals and health centers closing and millions of Americans losing their healthcare insurance. And for what? And for what? To be able to hoard a bunch of money so that the richest Americans can buy a third vacation home? So that millionaires can double their landscaping budget? Who is asking for this in America today?

Of course there is a conversation to be had about efficiency in our healthcare programs, but none of that conversation is happening here. If it was, you wouldn't be reading the letters of all of these associations representing healthcare groups predicting disaster; they would actually be in the room at the table. If you really wanted to save money, you would actually put the doctors and the hospitals and the medical providers who know something about the system in a room, but instead this is a political decision that has been made to cut a certain amount of money that does not coincidentally line up to the amount of money that the Republican budget bill wants to give in tax cuts to the very, very wealthy.

So you, I think, rightly put emphasis on and drew attention to John McCain's decision—and, of course, we should always give credit to LISA MURKOWSKI and SUSAN COLLINS, who also voted no in 2017 on the repeal of the Affordable Care Act bill—because it is just a reminder that you are under no obligation as a U.S. Senator to do the wrong thing if you know what the right thing is.

You work so hard to get this job, spend your entire life working to become somebody who can make important decisions like we can in the U.S. Senate, and you are under no obligation to outsource your decision making to the President of the United States or your party leadership. Everybody here gets to make an independent decision on what is right or wrong, and this just feels plain wrong—a thoughtless, unplanned, massive cut in Medicaid that is going to throw millions of peo-

ple off their healthcare in order to finance a tax cut, the majority of which is going to go to people who don't need it. Every Senator here can make up their own mind as to whether that is the right thing or the wrong thing to do for this country.

The exercise that you are engaged in, Senator BOOKER, is a simple one: just trying to make sure that all the facts are on the table.

That last segment you did on the impact on medical research should be reason alone for folks to reconsider the path this administration is taking. But the Medicaid cuts as a mechanism to further enrich those that are already plenty rich—man, I just don't imagine that is anything the American public are clamoring for.

So, Senator BOOKER, I just wanted to really thank you for standing up and making this moment possible. I want to leave you with just two stories on this topic that have come into my office and then ask you a question. This is all lead-up to a question.

So I have a constituent who was paralyzed about a decade ago, and he now uses a wheelchair, and the only insurance program that can provide him with what he needs from a mechanical and technological standpoint, plus the drugs he needs to survive, is Medicaid. It is his only option. It is his only option. He can't work. He is paralyzed. Medicaid is his only option. For him and for millions of others, Medicaid is life or death. It is just life or death.

If you are talking about cutting Medicaid by as much as 20 percent—that is what we are talking about here today. An \$880 billion cut in Medicaid represents about 10 percent of the overall program, but you have to assume that States are not going to continue to match if the Federal Government isn't putting in their share. So that 10-percent cut could very quickly become something closer to a 20-percent cut. There is no way that you can cut the Medicaid Program by 20 percent without it impacting people like my constituent in a wheelchair who comes to many of my events when we protest these Medicaid cuts. This is life or death for many Americans.

But that is not the full extent of the horror that will happen. I was just reading a letter the other day from an 80-year-old constituent of mine who lives at home with his wife, but his wife is very frail, and it is Medicaid and Connecticut's Medicaid waiver that allow for her to receive in-home healthcare services.

He is panicked. He wants to spend the final years of his life with his wife. He knows that if Medicaid gets cut even on the margins, that Medicaid waiver likely is gone, and either his wife will pass or she will have to be in an institution.

Query whether that institution will even be able to give her a place because two-thirds of nursing home beds in this country are paid for by Medicaid.

So one way or the other, he is staring separation from his wife in the eye.

She either doesn't make it without the Medicaid reimbursement that gives her the services at home or she is forced to go to an institution, and they live separately for their final days.

This is the reality facing people who rely on Medicaid, whether you are disabled or elderly. This is the reality that will be imposed on millions of Americans in order to finance a tax cut for the wealthy.

The scope of this is just enormous, Senator BOOKER. So I guess this is the question I wanted to ask you. You and I have been in government for a long time. We have served in a variety of different capacities.

I don't think this country is really ready for the scope of the healthcare cataclysm that could come with a trillion-dollar cut to the health insurance program that is responsible for the care of one-quarter of Americans, two-thirds of nursing home beds, and the budgets of literally tens of thousands of vital healthcare institutions in this country.

Nobody is better than you at conveying the moral consequences of the decisions we make here. Just share with us for a minute, as you sort of wrap up a conversation on this topic of the healthcare priorities of the Trump administration and the Republican Congress, what America may look like in a world where we have decided to gut the health insurance program of last resort for the most vulnerable Americans and the health insurance program that insures 24 million Americans, two-thirds of whom are working for a living. Just give us a little bit of a sense of the enormity of the consequence that this ultimately would bring to this country.

Mr. BOOKER. First of all, thank you for the question. But I just want to reiterate the friendship I have with CHRIS MURPHY and his willingness to spend the night with me here on the floor as we go hour after hour after hour. I just want to say this again, and I am going to say it a few times in this long speech that will go on for as long as I am physically able.

CHRIS, the last time we spent 15 hours on this floor together was a health issue. It was yet another stunning mass shooting, this time at the Pulse nightclub.

You and I talked a lot before we got on this floor, and I think the agony that you and I were feeling was, how can this be the strongest Nation in the world, organized government?

If you read our founding documents, if you read our Founding Fathers, one of the first things they organized this government for—you know, it is good to carry around the Constitution. It is so important to understand what the preamble to the Constitution says we are about.

We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of

Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

Which each one of us, each one of us in this body, went down there and swore an oath to uphold. Those are the first words of this, CHRIS.

And, God, I remember your agony.

Folks, I want you to know, when I came to this body, my staff was talking about the maiden speech, the maiden speech.

Please don't go back and look at my maiden speech—not great.

But the maiden speech my staff wanted me to watch was yours, and it was gut-wrenching about Newtown, gut-wrenching that the strongest Nation on planet Earth should now be this Nation where we tell our children in this implicit lesson—not explicit but implicit lesson—that we are going to teach you how to hide, we are going to run active shooter drills because we can't protect you.

My mom lives in Vegas—that Vegas shooting. The shooting at a synagogue in Pittsburgh.

So here we were in yet another of these maddening realities in our country that the leading cause of death for our children is shooting. In our conversations leading up to it, I still remember you and I saying: We need to come to this floor.

You said: I am going to stand and do something different.

And we—again, just like tonight—we had no end to that. We were 9 years younger, my friend, and we said we were going to stand down here and try to get this body to do something different, try to get this body to recognize the gravity of what was going on in the strongest Nation on Earth that was having child after child after child, American after American dying of gun violence. And the response we were getting from this body—the world's most deliberative body—was nothing is going to change. We can't do anything.

I mean, I am giving you respect years later. You were part of the first gun legislation to pass out of this body in 30-something years. And now I just found out that the Community Violence Intervention money that you allowed me to fight so hard to get in that bill is being clawed back by Donald Trump—our bipartisan bill, our bipartisan-approved finances, money, and I think the taking away of our power in this body—from the bill that you were one of the main architects of with Republican colleagues, God bless them, people like CORNYN and others.

I want to take people back to what the insider conversations—and you were generous. I want to remind you, teasingly, on the floor, you never asked me if you could publish my text messages, but you put them in your book.

Mr. MURPHY. I did.

Mr. BOOKER. It is a great book. I actually learned—I read my colleague's book, and I learned a lot of data about gun violence from your book.

We were talking about this belief that these words—this belief in our

country that these words, why this government was formed is so important. America, this is who we are, these imperfect geniuses. We formed this:

We the people, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty.

You stood right down there for 15 hours. I paced this room pledging to you I wouldn't go to the bathroom. I wouldn't sit down. And I was hurting after 15 hours, but you were steadfast until we finally got MITCH MCCONNELL to give us something. It was one or two votes. It was two votes. Both of them failed; we didn't get 60. At least what we forced this institution to do was to confront the horrendous horrors of that nightclub shooting.

So you ask me now—as you and I and my dear brother whom I have known since he was coming out of college, three of us on this floor at a new day, it is past midnight, a new month, it is past midnight as we sit here—why? Because of your question. I can't stand anymore to live in a country where it seems that these convulsions come that threaten our most vulnerable over and over again. I can't stand it. I have to stand up and speak up. We have to do something different yet again. You and I talked about this last week.

America, we are not doing a good job right now. We read the section about medical debt. Tens of millions of Americans are saddled with medical debt. Sixty-six percent of the people that declare bankruptcy is because they can't afford their medical bills because something that happened to them could happen to us and our families.

My mother, my brother, and I had a lot of challenges, a lot of problems, but we weren't saddled with a rare disease. We didn't have tumors springing up all over our bodies. I don't know what that would have done to my family.

Mr. MURPHY. Will the Senator yield?

Mr. BOOKER. Yes.

Mr. MURPHY. There is so much similarity between the debate that you are forcing this Senate to have tonight and the debate that we were having back in 2016 on this epidemic of gun violence. I would describe it this way. The only thing that matters, the thing that matters more than anything else in your life is protecting your loved ones from physical harm.

Mr. BOOKER. Yes.

Mr. MURPHY. You would give anything, right? Anything. You would give your life savings, your house. You would perhaps give your own life in order to protect your child or your brother or sister or mother or father from physical harm. So when you and I have sat across from the victims of gun violence, many of whom live in your neighborhood and my neighborhood, in Newark and Hartford, we are looking at a kind of desperation and sorrow that is unique—that is unique that also

comes with not just losing a loved one to gun violence but feeling powerless in that exercise.

Mr. BOOKER. Yes.

Mr. MURPHY. Feeling like there was nothing you could do and watching your elected leader stand by and allow for this reality to continue to occur in your neighborhood, where kids are being shot down in cold blood and your elected leaders—the adults in charge of your community—are standing idly by.

That is not fundamentally different than the reality that will be visited upon millions of families if this size of a cut in Medicaid funding goes into effect because families out there who rely on Medicaid to keep alive their son or daughter who has a complicated medical disease have no other quarter, have no other last resort besides Medicaid. Medicaid stands between life and death for their son or daughter. There is no other place for them to go.

So that same empty, hollow look that we have seen so many times in the eyes of a mother or father who lost a son or daughter to gun violence, that is the look that we are choosing to visit upon millions of families in this country who, when faced with the loss of their only health insurance option for their disabled child, will watch their child potentially face the same fate as those young men in your neighborhood and my neighborhood.

That is the reason why I pose this question to you that you are answering about the moral gravity of this moment because it is not fundamentally different than the one that brought us here in 2016.

Mr. BOOKER. In answering this question—again, I continue to yield the question to you while retaining the floor. I want to just compound this for people. I know these numbers—\$880 billion, 100 million Americans affected that would be affected directly by Med-

icaid cuts or the people that work in the hospitals will be affected by Medicaid cuts or nursing homes affected by Medicaid cuts—these are big, big numbers. But people, these are human beings.

I was in a community that had a horrible lead poisoning problem for their kids, that had horrible toxic sites. And children born around toxic Superfund sites, as you know they are called, have higher rates of autism, higher rates of birth defects.

Even coming up as a city council person, I saw that the environmental injustices surrounding my community were causing parents to have to deal with medical complications amongst their children at alarming rates and needed help, and Medicaid was the program—no fault of their own, environmental injustice.

Here is the double insult of the Trump administration. One is they gutted the Environmental Justice section at the DOJ. They are not investigating corporate polluters. They are not investigating the injustices environmentally that big, powerful, wealthy people do that often cause people—we all saw “Erin Brockovich”—that cause people to get seriously hurt.

And then the second part of that insult is, we are not only not going to hold people accountable and let them get away with that, the polluters, the folks causing the source of the disease, we are now not going to get healthcare to the families who often live in fragile communities that have these resources.

These are the people, when you sit with them in your offices, as you and I have and the other Senator from New Jersey on the floor tonight has—as you sit with them and they tell you their stories and you see that this is a lifeline, this Medicaid Program—and you are so good by telling people—I saw

this during the Affordable Care Act. Just the name alone, people were like, I don’t have ObamaCare. Yes, you have the ACA, and let me explain it to you. It is under many, many different names, including in my State that people don’t know this is a Medicaid-funded program. So they don’t know this is a sort of Damocles of their family’s well-being. But this is the larger issue, Senator MURPHY, is these are real people in every county, in every State.

It is why their representatives—it is why I read statements demanding there not to be cuts by the organizations that are bipartisan. I read the League of Cities—the largest mayoral association—Republican Governors, and others are all saying do not cut this program. They are not even saying, “Don’t do \$880 million, just do \$400 million.” They are saying, “Do not cut this program.”

Many are saying we need to find ways to expand the program because there are still gaps that people are falling into. And it doesn’t make economic sense because if you get regular care, if your chronic disease is treated, it ultimately could be cheaper to the taxpayer as opposed to people ending up in hospitals. But those hospitals now, because of what is being threatened in this bill, rural hospitals and tier I trauma hospitals, are all being threatened in their care.

So tonight, it is not normal. I ask everybody to understand this is not a normal moment in America. This is a crossroads moment in America. It is one of those times where the values that we talk about in the Constitution are at stake. What is going to define us, our commitments to ideals of justice, fairness, of being there for each other.

## NOTICE

### Incomplete record of Senate proceedings.

**Today's Senate proceedings will be continued in the next issue of the Record.**

## NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

### DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

MARC ANDERSEN, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY, VICE CARAL E. SPANGLER, RESIGNED.

### NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

GREGORY AUTRY, OF FLORIDA, TO BE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION, VICE MARGARET VO SCHAUS, RESIGNED.

### DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

DONALD BERGIN III, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS (CONGRESSIONAL AND LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS), VICE PATRICIA L. ROSS, RESIGNED.

### DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

MARC BERKOWITZ, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE, VICE JOHN F. PLUMB.

### DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

JONATHAN BERRY, OF MARYLAND, TO BE SOLICITOR FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, VICE SEEMA NANDA, RESIGNED.

DAVID BRIAN CASTILLO, OF WASHINGTON, TO BE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, VICE JAMES EDWIN WILLIAMS.

### DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

BART MCKAY DAVIS, OF IDAHO, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE DISTRICT OF IDAHO FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE JOSHUA D. HURWITZ.

### DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

ANTHONY D’ESPOSITO, OF NEW YORK, TO BE INSPECTOR GENERAL, DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, VICE LARRY D. TURNER.

### DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

WILLIAM GILLIS, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY, VICE RACHEL JACOBSON, RESIGNED.

JULES HURST III, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY, VICE AGNES SCHAEFER, RESIGNED.

JOSEPH JEWELL, OF INDIANA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE, VICE APRILLE JOY ERICSSON, RESIGNED.

BENJAMIN KOHLMANN, OF TEXAS, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE NAVY, VICE FRANKLIN R. PARKER.

### DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

JOYCE MEYER, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF COMMERCE FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, VICE JED DAVID KOLKO, RESIGNED.

### DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

SUSAN MONAREZ, OF WISCONSIN, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION. (NEW POSITION)

### DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RONALD A. PARSONS, JR., OF SOUTH DAKOTA, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE DISTRICT OF SOUTH DAKOTA FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE RONALD A. PARSONS, JR., TERM EXPIRED.

### DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

ANDREW ROGERS, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE WAGE AND HOUR DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, VICE JESSICA LOOMAN, RESIGNED.

### DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

BRENDAN ROGERS, OF CONNECTICUT, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE NAVY, VICE MEREDITH BERGER, RESIGNED.

## DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

DAVID CHARLES WATERMAN, OF IOWA, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF IOWA FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE MARC KRICKEBAUM, RESIGNED.

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WITHDRAWALS

Executive Message transmitted by the President to the Senate on March

31, 2025 withdrawing from further Senate consideration the following nominations:

ELISE STEFANIK, OF NEW YORK, TO BE THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS, WITH THE RANK AND STATUS OF AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY, AND THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL OF THE UNITED NATIONS, WHICH WAS SENT TO THE SENATE ON JANUARY 20, 2025.

ELISE STEFANIK, OF NEW YORK, TO BE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE SESSIONS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS DURING HER TENURE OF SERVICE AS REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS, WHICH WAS SENT TO THE SENATE ON JANUARY 20, 2025.

GREGORY AUTREY, OF FLORIDA, TO BE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION, VICE MARGARET VO SCHAUER, RESIGNED, WHICH WAS SENT TO THE SENATE ON MARCH 24, 2025.

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### HONORING THE LIFE OF CIRILO TIRADO DELGADO

#### **HON. PABLO JOSÉ HERNÁNDEZ**

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 31, 2025*

Mr. HERNÁNDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of Cirilo Tirado Delgado, who passed away this month at the age of 86. Mr. Tirado was a respected public servant, educator, and attorney in the great Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

He served in the Puerto Rico House of Representatives from 1973 to 1984, worked in the executive branch from 1984 to 1988, and returned to the legislature as a Senator from 1988 to 1996. After that, he practiced law in the town of Guayama.

I would like to extend my condolences to his widow, children, and grandchildren. May he rest in peace.

### SALUTING THE SERVICE OF LIEUTENANT BRIAN M. FRICK

#### **HON. JOHN R. CARTER**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 31, 2025*

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to present a Congressional Veterans Commendation to Lieutenant Brian M. Frick, U.S. Navy, for his exemplary service. His unwavering commitment to our Nation and his efforts to improve his community have made lasting, positive impacts on countless lives.

LT Frick served honorably in the U.S. Navy as a member of the operational team. During his eight years in the Submarine Service, he held key roles as a lead sonar operator/technician, sonar watch supervisor, and sonar supervisor. Throughout his service, LT Frick earned numerous awards and accolades, including the Navy Achievement Medal for his exceptional submarine tracking abilities and technical expertise.

After leaving the Navy, LT Frick pursued higher education at the University of Texas at San Antonio, earning a degree in Criminal Justice with a minor in Sociology. He continued his dedication to public service by beginning his civilian career with the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS).

At DPS, LT Frick worked with the Highway Patrol and served as a K-9 handler before joining the Criminal Investigations Division (CID) as a Narcotics Agent in Amarillo, Haltom, and Brownsville, Texas, where he focused on Border and Drug Interdiction issues. Later, as a Senior Agent in Amarillo, he mentored new agents in surveillance techniques, conducted criminal investigations, and drafted search warrants. He now leads the CID Training Unit, supervising eight Training Agents/Coordinators.

I am honored to join LT Frick's friends and family in celebrating his years of dedicated service and sacrifice. I applaud his work and wish him success and safety as he continues to serve our community with pride and honor.

### HONORING MRS. YASHICA SUDDETH

#### **HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 31, 2025*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an amazing employee of the Jefferson County School District, who is continuously nurturing futures daily.

Mrs. Yashica Suddeth has been recognized as one of the employees for the month of February 2025. Her unwavering dedication to the prekindergarten scholars at Jefferson County Early Learning Collaborative is profoundly shaping their educational journeys. From warmly greeting each child to meticulously planning engaging learning activities, Mrs. Suddeth is cultivating a deep appreciation for learning among the young learners.

The Early Learning Collaborative is one of many exemplary initiatives within the Jefferson County School District, designed to prepare children for future success by fostering essential social skills, self-control, and readiness for reading. Mrs. Suddeth's contributions are very vital in creating a strong foundation for these scholars and ensuring they not only meet but exceed academic standards.

Superintendent Adrian Hammitt expressed, "Mrs. Suddeth's genuine love for children shines through in everything she does. Her commitment to nurturing the scholars not only enriches their lives but also strengthens our entire school community. We are immensely grateful for her dedication and passion."

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Yashica Suddeth for her extraordinary contributions to our educational community and the Jefferson County School District.

### HONORING TEXAS-24 HOMETOWN HERO LOANN PHAM

#### **HON. BETH VAN DUYNE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 31, 2025*

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize our Texas-24 Hometown Hero, Loann Pham of Richardson. She has been a dedicated volunteer with Feed My Starving Children since 2019. Over the past six years, Loann has contributed to nearly 500 food-packing sessions and organized 900 volunteer groups, playing a key role in engaging the community.

Feed My Starving Children Richardson is a nonprofit committed to providing nutritionally

complete meals to starving children in need around the world. Through their efforts, volunteers pack meals in the U.S. and they are distributed to over 70 countries worldwide.

We thank Loann for her commitment to the fight against childhood hunger and her efforts to inspire others to give back. Her passion makes a lasting impact on our North Texas community and beyond.

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### **HON. NANETTE DIAZ BARRAGÁN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 31, 2025*

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Mr. Speaker, I missed votes on March 27, 2025. Had I been present, I would have voted: NAY on Roll Call No. 77; NAY on Roll Call No. 78; YEA on Roll Call No. 79; NAY on Roll Call No. 80; NAY on Roll Call No. 81; NAY on Roll Call No. 82; and NAY on Roll Call No. 83.

### SALUTING THE SERVICE OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL BARBARA MACMILLAN

#### **HON. JOHN R. CARTER**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 31, 2025*

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to present a Congressional Veteran Commendation to Lieutenant Colonel Barbara MacMillan, U.S. Army, Retired. Her life and career reflect hard work, selfless service, and dedication to her Nation and Central Texas.

LTC MacMillan served from 1976 to 1999, amassing experience at Fort Liberty, West Point, Fort Cavazos, and others. As a 1st Lieutenant with the 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment (2ACR), she managed the operation of a Top-Secret Telecommunications Center and served as the Communications Security (COMSEC) Custodian. Her duties took her to the East German border, where she routinely inspected COMSEC procedures to ensure they remained uncompromised.

A trailblazer throughout her career, LTC MacMillan became a jumpmaster at a time when few women served in airborne units. In 1994, she was deployed to Haiti in support of Operation Uphold Democracy with the 1st Corps Support Command, XVIII Airborne Corps, as the G1 (Human Resources Director). She was responsible for theater-wide missions, including organizing a USO show with the Gatlin Brothers on October 24, 1994. Her exemplary service earned her numerous accolades, including the Legion of Merit and the Humanitarian Service Medal.

After retiring, LTC MacMillan continued her commitment to service, joining the Fort Cavazos Retiree Council and working with

● 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.

The Caring Place, speaking to schools about selfless service and visiting veterans at homes and local events. LTC MacMillan works tirelessly for youth in her community, both as a Scout leader for over 21 years and through her involvement with the American Legion's mentorship, scholarships, and outreach programs. Her efforts continue to make a lasting impact on the next generation.

LTC MacMillan's determined efforts for veterans and youth are a powerful reflection of her commitment to selfless service. Her patriotism, honor, and commitment to excellence reflect the very best of Central Texas.

**RECOGNIZING CHANCELLOR JOE GARCIA**

**HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 31, 2025

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Chancellor Joe Garcia on his retirement from the Colorado Community College System (CCCS). Joe spent more than 35 years working in higher education and leaves CCCS in a strong position for the future.

Joe is the former Lieutenant Governor and Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Higher Education, becoming the first person in our state's history to hold both roles at once. Joe was a strategic advisor to then-Governor John Hickenlooper to increase the state's investment in higher education and expand opportunities for students from low-income backgrounds. Throughout his career, he has prioritized access to education for students of all ages and backgrounds, fought for college affordability, and invested in workforce development efforts to meet the needs of our changing economy. Joe is a true public servant, and generations of students will remember his dedication to higher education long after his retirement.

On behalf of the people of Colorado's Seventh Congressional District, it is my honor to congratulate Joe Garcia and thank him for his commitment to the people of Colorado.

**HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF HUEY PAUL WILLIAMS, SR.**

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 31, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Huey Paul Williams, Sr., a devoted man of faith, a trailblazer in gospel music, and a proud native of Mississippi.

Born to the late Leon "Pop" Williams and Mrs. Amanda Williams in Smithdale, Mississippi, Huey was raised in a household where faith and music were intertwined. His parents instilled in him the values of worship, perseverance and dedication to spreading the Gospel through song. With their encouragement, Huey embarked on a journey that would make him a beloved figure in the gospel music community.

A dedicated family man, Huey was supported throughout his life by his loving wife,

Mamie Williams, his son, Huey Paul Williams, II, and his daughters, Dee Dee, Wanda, Shononda, and Joy. Their unwavering support allowed him to pursue his calling in gospel music, ensuring that his message of faith and inspiration reached audiences across the nation and beyond.

Huey began his musical journey singing gospel alongside his brothers in their youth. Though he was the last remaining original member of the group founded by his late father, he carried forward its mission and propelled the Jackson Southernaires to national and international recognition. Under his leadership, the group became one of the most influential gospel recording artists in Mississippi and the United States. Their music resonated deeply with fans of all generations, securing them a place in gospel history.

The Jackson Southernaires, originally formed in 1940 and becoming active in recording in 1969, have released more than 34 albums. From 1969 to 2010, they released 28 albums that consistently ranked among the top in gospel music. Huey's songwriting, arranging, and powerful vocals contributed to the group's longevity and success, ensuring their music became a staple in gospel households. His contributions not only enriched the gospel music industry but also uplifted countless individuals through the power of song.

Beyond his musical achievements, Huey was an avid outdoorsman who enjoyed hunting and fishing in his spare time. Even when he was not on the road ministering through music, he found solace in these simple joys of life.

On March 24, 2025, at the age of 87, Huey Williams passed away, leaving a remarkable legacy of faith, music, and perseverance. His voice and message will continue to inspire future generations of gospel artists and listeners alike.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and honoring the life and legacy of Huey Paul Williams, Sr. His impact on gospel music and his devotion to his faith and family will never be forgotten. We celebrate his contributions and extend our deepest condolences to his loved ones and the countless fans who cherished his music and ministry.

**HONORING BOSWELL HIGH SCHOOL'S LADY PIONEER BASKETBALL TEAM FOR WINNING TEXAS' 6A DIVISION 2 STATE CHAMPIONSHIP**

**HON. CRAIG A. GOLDMAN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 31, 2025

Mr. GOLDMAN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Boswell High School's Girls Basketball team for winning Texas' 6A Division 2 State Championship. The Lady Pioneers defeated Fort Bend Hightower with a final score of 51–42. This victory marks not only Eagle Mountain-Saginaw Independent School District's first girls basketball state title, but also the City of Fort Worth's first in over 18 years.

The Lady Pioneers' dominance was evident throughout the season. The team finished with an outstanding 39–2 overall record, including a 12–0 district record and an undefeated

home record of 14–0. Their success extended beyond team achievements, with several standout individual performances. Head Coach John Reese was named 3–6A Coach of the Year and is the Lady Pioneers' all-time winningest coach. Throughout his career, Coach Reese has amassed over 200 overall wins, more than 100 district wins, and now a state championship title. Team Captain Camille Williams was awarded District 3–6A MVP, while Haleigh Jackson earned District 3–6A Defensive Player of the Year honors.

On behalf of the 12th Congressional District of Texas, I am proud to recognize Boswell High School's Lady Pioneers Basketball team for its historic season. Their remarkable record and numerous accolades stand as a testament to their dedication, talent, and relentless hard work. Their success has brought immense pride to our community. I wish Coach Reese and the Lady Pioneers continued success in all their future endeavors, both on and off the court.

**SALUTING THE SERVICE OF COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR ANGELA WILSON**

**HON. JOHN R. CARTER**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 31, 2025

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize the extraordinary career of Command Sergeant Major Angela Wilson, U.S. Army, Retired. Throughout her life, she has dedicated herself to her country, fellow heroes, and neighbors. I am proud to present her with the Congressional Veteran Commendation.

CSM Wilson's 30 years of service in the U.S. Army exemplify strength, compassion, and duty. CSM Wilson was and continues to be a trailblazer. Selected in 1996, she served as the first-ever female Command Sergeant Major in the Military Police Corps. Then in 2004, she became the first female Command Sergeant Major to lead a Combat Brigade, the 89th Military Police Brigade, into a combat zone.

Throughout her service, CSM Wilson demonstrated true and unwavering commitment to her fellow soldiers and the civilians she protected. She served in various locations, including Taegu, Korea, Fort Lewis, Guantanamo Bay, Iraq in Operation Iraqi Freedom, and served her last assignment at Fort Cavazos. Her extraordinary service has been recognized with more than 20 military medals, awards, and commendations, including the Legion of Merit and Bronze Star.

CSM Wilson's service on and off duty reflects the true meaning of "Soldier for Life". After retirement, she worked as an elementary school teacher in KISD for 20 years, chaired the Harker Heights Parks and Recreation Committee for 12 years, and coached youth soccer for over a decade. Her selfless work has positively impacted the lives of countless young people. Today, she continues to serve as a Wounded Warrior member and volunteer and has been a member of the Fort Hood Retiree Council for the last five years.

CSM Wilson's life stands as a model of selfless and genuine care for those around her. Her fearless dedication, devotion to service

above herself, and trailblazer spirit make her a worthy recipient of a Congressional Veteran Commendation.

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RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE NINTH DISTRICT CONGRESSIONAL YOUTH COUNCIL

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**HON. LISA C. MCCLAIN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 31, 2025

Mrs. MCCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an exceptional group of young students who have worked with my staff and me to better their civic engagement and understanding of the federal government. This year's Congressional Youth Council consists of some of the brightest and most dedicated young minds from throughout the Thumb of Michigan.

These young leaders have remained committed to regular meetings, coming together to immerse themselves in the legislative process on a non-partisan, academic basis. Throughout their time in the program, these students have studied legislation, prepared mock bills, and worked to better understand critical issues that impact their communities and countless families across the country. It is incredible how in-depth and thorough their work has been. This determined group of students has demonstrated an incredible wealth of knowledge of our democratic system, its key challenges, and what is to come in the future.

Mr. Speaker, as policymakers, we would be wise to take notes from this generation of promising young leaders. I ask all my colleagues to join me in commending Michigan's Ninth District Congressional Youth Council for their outstanding performance this year. These students, along with their families and those in their lives who support them, should be incredibly proud of the work they have done.

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CELEBRATING MRS. ODESSA BOWIE'S 111 YEARS OF LIFE

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**HON. JASMINE CROCKETT**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 31, 2025

Ms. CROCKETT. Mr. Speaker, it is with great joy and honor that we celebrate Odessa Bowie's 111th birthday. I would like to celebrate her life and the impact she has had on others. A milestone that many people can only hope to reach one day. May we acknowledge this day and hope that this celebration be filled with love, joy, and gratitude as she celebrates alongside those most important.

The life of Mrs. Odessa Bowie has had an immeasurable impact on those around her. As a mother and grandmother, she has extended love and kindness to her children and grandchildren. Instilling in them the value and importance of hard work, compassion, and grace for others. She has never hesitated to provide a system of support for those in her life or help them in a time of need. When one has experienced the many seasons of life and all that it brings to us, it can be easy to harden our hearts and lose faith, but Mrs. Bowie never

has. She has remained a steadfast believer and a faithful attendant of St. Paul United Methodist Church. The faith she has carried throughout her life is one reflected in the character she possesses.

Mrs. Bowie has been a pillar in her community, and we hope that her legacy is an inspiration to others to always be of service to others with a gracious heart and humility.

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HONORING MR. EDDIE COTTON, JR.

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**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 31, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a torchbearer of the blues tradition, Mr. Eddie Cotton, Jr. Mr. Cotton exemplifies what can be achieved through hard work, dedication, and a desire to achieve success.

Bluesman Eddie Cotton, Jr.'s music is rooted in the church. His father was a Pentecostal minister, shepherding the Christ Chapel Church of God in Christ, which he founded in Clinton, Mississippi, just west of Jackson. While music was central to church services, both his family and his congregation shunned secular music. Still, Cotton reflects, "The deepest of the blues I've ever played is in church. . . . The style they play on is nothing but blues." When he was six, his father bought him his first electric guitar, and by age eight, the younger Cotton was an official member of the church band, eventually becoming the lead guitarist. At 18, he earned a full scholarship to study music theory at Jackson State University, where he learned music theory and discovered that the basic structures of blues were ingrained in his playing. After college, he became the minister of music at the family church while simultaneously playing with Mississippi bluesman King Edward Antoine, known in Jackson as "The Blues Picking King."

Cotton is a master of a genre called soul blues. Emerging in the 1960s, soul blues fuses the gritty guitar sound central to blues with the smoother, gospel-influenced vocal style of soul and R&B music. Soul blues is music meant to move the body and spirit, which is why Cotton describes his sound as "hard-driving blues" or "juke joint blues." Eddie's musical career remains focused on two things: regular gigs for enthusiastic soul blues audiences and a continuing commitment to his home church in Clinton, where he serves as both church administrator and minister of music. Whatever the venue, Cotton's goal is always to find what his church calls "the pocket," a place of spiritual transcendence where "the music just pulsates in everybody's mind and heart."

Now in his 50's, Eddie Cotton, Jr. is a blues master with a growing international fan base. He has opened for legends like Ike Turner and B.B. King, and in 2015, he took top honors at the International Blues Challenge in Memphis. Eddie Cotton performed at the Richmond Folk Festival in 2017 and is among the favorites returning to celebrate the festival's 20th anniversary. He released his latest album, *The Mirror*, in March of 2024, just days after an electrifying set at the SXSW Festival in Austin, Texas. In July of 2024, he traveled to Las

Vegas to perform at the National NAACP Convention, where he has frequently performed for the gathering's Mississippi Catfish and Blues Night over the past 15 years. Recently, Eddie received the 2025 Governor's Arts Award for Excellence in Music. Among his awards and accolades, he has a Mississippi Blues Trail marker in his hometown of Clinton.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Eddie Cotton, Jr. for his passion and unwavering dedication to the art of music.

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SALUTING THE SERVICE OF MASTER SERGEANT DUANE C. BYGUM, JR.

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**HON. JOHN R. CARTER**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 31, 2025

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to award Master Sergeant Duane C. Bygum, Jr., USMC and USAF, Retired, with a Congressional Veteran Commendation. His unwavering commitment to our country and community is a shining example of honor and duty.

During his 32 years of military service, MSgt Bygum served in both the U.S. Marine Corps and the U.S. Air Force in various roles including Law Enforcement, Security Operation, and Emergency Management. During his four years in the Marine Corps, he served as an Infantry Corporal in Subic Bay, Philippines.

Upon transitioning to the Air Force, MSgt Bygum served under the Secretary of the Air Force Director, Security, Counterintelligence and Special Program Oversight (SAF/AAZ). There he implemented the first Biometric Identification Fingerprint System, significantly enhancing the use of technology to expedite time-critical and sensitive data for the Department of Defense and the Air Force.

Throughout his service, MSgt Bygum participated in Operation Northern Watch and Operation Enduring Freedom, and supported recovery efforts following the 9/11 attacks. He was awarded over 30 Military medals, awards and commendations including the Meritorious Service Medal.

After retiring from active service, MSgt Bygum's duty to his fellow servicemembers and community did not end. He currently serves as an Associate Professor of Homeland Security and Emergency Management at National University. Additionally, he helped establish the Disaster Recovery International Military Mentorship Program, which provides transitioning veterans with training, mentorship, resume writing assistance, job placement, and skill-building opportunities, helping them smoothly transition into private and governmental sectors.

MSgt Bygum's unwavering dedication and service to his Nation exemplify why he deserves this honor. I commend his remarkable contributions and extend my best wishes for his continued success as a steadfast advocate for our service members and veterans.

HONORING A.J. SLATER, CARNEGIE MEDAL RECIPIENT FROM LAKE LAND, FLORIDA

**HON. SCOTT FRANKLIN**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 31, 2025

Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a true hero from my hometown of Lakeland, Florida. Mr. A.J. Slater was awarded the Carnegie Medal, North America's highest civilian honor for heroism.

In November, Mr. Slater came upon the horrific scene of a fiery crash along the shores of Lake Parker. Without hesitation, and with no regard for his own safety, he rushed toward a burning vehicle where two small children were trapped inside. He heard a mother's desperate cries—"Save my kids!"—and immediately jumped into action.

Mr. Slater pulled 3-year-old Walker Wills from the flames, saving his life. In a second, selfless attempt, he returned for Walker's sister, 5-year-old JoLynn. Tragically, the flames and smoke overwhelmed the vehicle before he could free her. For his heroic actions, Mr. Slater suffered severe burns, underwent multiple surgeries, and now carries both the physical and emotional scars of that day.

Though the pain of loss remains, his courage has inspired our community. His humility is just as powerful as his bravery. In his words, "To receive this medal is a wonderful feeling—but still a reminder of JoLynn." Mr. Slater never sought recognition—only to make his parents, his friends, and his community proud.

A.J. Slater represents the very best of us. In a moment when seconds mattered, he chose to run toward danger—saving a child's life and forever impacting a grieving family. As the first known recipient of the Carnegie Medal from Polk County, Mr. Slater now joins the ranks of those who have put the lives of others above their own in a time of great need.

Let his story be a beacon of hope reminding us of the extraordinary courage that can exist in everyday people. Today, we honor A.J. Slater—not just for his heroism, but for his humanity.

HONORING NORTH CROWLEY HIGH SCHOOL'S FOOTBALL TEAM FOR WINNING TEXAS' 6A DIVISION 1 STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

**HON. CRAIG A. GOLDMAN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 31, 2025

Mr. GOLDMAN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor North Crowley High School's football team for winning the 2024 Texas' 6A Division 1 State Championship. The Panthers dominated in the final, amassing 640 yards of total offense and defeating Austin Westlake 50–21 to cap off a perfect 16–0 season. This victory marked the second state championship in program history and the first for the City of Fort Worth in 21 years. The team's outstanding performance earned them a number three ranking in the Nation.

North Crowley's excellence was evident throughout the season. They began with a vic-

tory over nationally ranked DeSoto and later defeated Duncanville in the state semifinals. Their success extended beyond team accomplishments and high-profile matchups, with several standout individual performances. Wide receiver Quentin Gibson was named the 2024 MaxPreps National High School Football Player of the Year and was named the Offensive MVP for the championship game. Quarterback Chris Jimerson, Jr. and running back Cornelius Warren also had stellar seasons and will continue their careers at the Division 1 level next year. Additionally, Head Coach Ray Gates was recognized as the 2024 MaxPreps National High School Football Coach of the Year.

On behalf of the 12th Congressional District of Texas, I am proud to recognize the North Crowley High School Football Team for its remarkable season. Their undefeated record and numerous accolades are a testament to their dedication, talent, and hard work. Under Coach Gates's leadership, I have no doubt this program will continue to excel—not just in Texas, but on the national stage.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF ROSIE CARTER ROSS

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 31, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of a remarkable, professional and kind individual, Rosie Carter Ross, who for decades, has been a steadfast pillar of strength, compassion, and leadership.

Rosie Carter Ross was born on February 5, 1920, on a farm in Redwood, Mississippi. She is the daughter of Annie Jefferson and Green Carter. Her heritage is a rich blend of cultures—her mother's side has Jamaican and French Creole roots, while her father is of Choctaw and French Creole descent. Throughout her life, Rosie has witnessed the world change in ways few can imagine, yet her principles have remained steadfast, rooted in faith and a deep respect for her elders.

She attended Cherry Street Elementary School in Vicksburg, Mississippi. Her thirst for knowledge, love for education, and aptitude for learning led her to Louisiana, where she studied dance, and later to Rust College, continuing her academic journey. Her involvement in the church played a pivotal role in shaping her life. A lifelong Baptist, she has devoted herself to the Rock of Ages Church in Shaw, where she faithfully served as the choir director and a Sunday school teacher. She was instrumental in commissioning seven churches and served as the spokesperson for the Bolivar County Association, traveling across Bolivar, Washington, and Warren counties.

Rosie, affectionately called "Grandma Love," has lived a life full of love, resilience, wisdom, and grace, inspiring all who have had the privilege of knowing her. Her unwavering dedication to her family, community, Christian faith, and friends has left an indelible mark on the hearts of all who have been touched by her presence. Throughout her 105 years, Rosie has witnessed history unfold, contributed her talents, and remained a beacon of strength, compassion, and kindness. Her en-

during vitality and positive spirit continue to inspire others to cherish the blessings of life, embrace each moment, and face every challenge with courage and optimism.

Her longevity is not merely the result of genetics or diet—it is a reflection of her obedience and wisdom. She credits the elders of her youth for instilling values that shaped her character. Rosie always preferred the company of older individuals, learning from them how to live and grow into the intelligent woman she is today. As her legacy continues through her family, she encourages them to live a Christian and spiritual life guided by God and to never forget the importance of the House of God.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the life and legacy of Mrs. Rosie Carter Ross for her dedication, unwavering commitment to service, and her contributions to local communities throughout the Mississippi Delta.

SALUTING THE SERVICE OF COLONEL GARRY PATTERSON

**HON. JOHN R. CARTER**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 31, 2025

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I proudly present Colonel Garry Patterson, U.S. Army, Retired, with a Congressional Veteran Commendation. A "Soldier for Life," COL Patterson embodies the values of selfless service and true leadership.

From 1972 to 2003, COL Patterson had an extraordinary 31-year career serving our Nation in the U.S. Army, holding numerous leadership positions across every level. As Chief of Staff for the 49th Armored Division, he played a pivotal role in preparing the unit for deployment in support of peacekeeping operations in war-torn Bosnia. Once deployed, he assumed the role of Chief of Staff for the Multi-National Division (North), leading a diverse team of officers from over ten nations, including Russia, Turkey, and Norway.

COL Patterson's distinguished military service earned him numerous accolades, including the Legion of Merit with oak leaf cluster, the Army Commendation Medal with oak leaf cluster, and the Meritorious Service Medal with four oak leaf clusters. He is also a recipient of the prestigious De Fleury Medal and has been inducted into the Order of St. George, underscoring his outstanding contributions to both the Army and his country.

After retirement from the Army, COL Patterson continued serving his community and the Nation. He leveraged his expertise to improve efficiency while working with several U.S. Defense Contractors. In partnership with the University of Texas and the US Army, COL Patterson assisted soldiers in obtaining the Project Management Professional (PMP) certification, impacting the lives of more than 800 students. He serves on the Round Rock Chamber of Commerce Defense Advisory Task Force Committee and is the current Chapter President of The AUSA Executive Committee of the Texas Capital Area.

It is with great appreciation that I award COL Patterson with the Congressional Veteran Commendation. I join his family, friends, and colleagues in recognizing his profound contributions to Texas and to our Nation.

## RECOGNIZING KATHY QUIGLEY

**HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 31, 2025

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Kathy Quigley as she retires from the South Shore YMCA. Kathy is a true community leader, who has tirelessly advocated for disadvantaged communities in Quincy and the South Shore throughout her remarkable 30-year career. Whether during her time with the South Shore YMCA, Quincy Community Action, or DOVE, she has dedicated her career to working for the betterment of her community.

In 2007, Kathy oversaw the old St. Boniface Church's transition into the new Germantown Neighborhood Center in Quincy. Kathy then went on to lead the center, which serves over 2,000 people annually, including hundreds of young people.

Under Kathy's leadership, the Neighborhood Center became a beacon of hope for the Germantown community. Today, the center is home to a food pantry, music studio, countless youth activities, and women's empowerment programs.

Throughout her career, Kathy relentlessly pursued funding to support her community, including working with private industry to secure college scholarships for Germantown High School seniors.

Kathy's list of accomplishments range from grand gestures—like in 2011, when she raised the necessary funds to allow the annual Quincy MLK breakfast to continue—to what may be seen as more minor acts of kindness—such as helping an elderly neighbor keep their lights on or a family receive groceries for the week. Kathy has always made sure that no one goes without during the holidays, ensuring that thousands of families in Quincy and the South Shore receive gifts and food during the season.

On March 30, 2025, Kathy will retire from the YMCA. Over the last 30 years, Kathy has dedicated her life to the betterment of others. We are deeply grateful for her service. The world could use a few more Kathy Quigleys.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Kathy Quigley, and I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing her extraordinary career and thanking her for her years of service to the Quincy and South Shore community.

## HONORING THE 45TH ANNIVERSARY OF LEADERSHIP METRO RICHMOND

**HON. JENNIFER L. McCLELLAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 31, 2025

Ms. McCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the 45th anniversary of Leadership Metro Richmond (LMR), an organization that has been a cornerstone of leadership development and community engagement in the Richmond region since its founding in 1980.

For 45 years, LMR has worked to cultivate diverse, collaborative, and effective leaders who are committed to strengthening the Great-

er Richmond community. Through its signature Leadership Quest program, LMR has empowered thousands of individuals from various backgrounds, industries, and sectors to build meaningful relationships, engage in critical dialogue, and drive positive change.

LMR's alumni include public servants, business leaders, nonprofit executives, and community advocates who have contributed to the progress of Central Virginia. By fostering civic engagement and cross-sector collaboration, LMR continues to shape the future of the region, ensuring that leaders are equipped with the knowledge, networks, and skills necessary to address pressing challenges and seize opportunities for growth.

As we celebrate this milestone, we recognize LMR's commitment to inclusivity and the power of collective leadership. The organization's dedication to uniting diverse perspectives and fostering a spirit of service has had a profound impact on Richmond and beyond.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Leadership Metro Richmond for 45 years of service, inspiration, and transformative leadership. May LMR continue to thrive and empower generations of leaders for years to come.

## HONORING DELTA FOUNDATION, INC.

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 31, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the remarkable contributions and enduring legacy of the Delta Foundation, Inc., a nonprofit 501(c)(3) community development corporation dedicated to transforming the Mississippi Delta region.

The genesis and vision for the Delta Foundation began in the late 1960's, during a time when many towns in the Delta, with memorable names such as Sledge, Alligator, Beulah, Nitta Yuma, Darling, Bobo, and Midnight, remained trapped in economic hardship. In these communities, the Great Depression's effects seemed never to have fully lifted. Tarpaper shanties and stick houses marked rural Hoovervilles, lacking indoor plumbing or paved roads. Open sewers, disease, and overcrowding were harsh realities faced daily.

In 1969, a coalition of local community organizations resolved to transform this persistent despair into hope. Their vision took shape through the creation of the Delta Foundation—a development vehicle dedicated to building real assets, generating income, and cultivating human capacity within minority and economically underprivileged communities. The Foundation was designed to establish a solid foundation for long-term economic growth in the region.

Through the representation of 14 civil rights and community organizations working in Mississippi, the Delta Foundation was formally chartered. Its core purpose was, and remains, the creation of businesses and jobs for its primary constituents: minority and economically disadvantaged residents of its target areas. Central to the Foundation's mission is the creation of for-profit enterprises aimed at increasing control and ownership of resources by the poor.

For over forty years, the Delta Foundation has faithfully honored the vision of its founders. It has persistently supported economic growth and development across the Mississippi Delta and extended its reach to incorporate community development directly or through strategic partnerships. By challenging the enduring poverty of the region, the Delta Foundation has replaced hopelessness with hope, idleness with productive jobs, and reliance on welfare with financial independence.

The impact of the Delta Foundation has been profound. Entire communities have been transformed, and the lives of thousands of individuals have been permanently changed. The Foundation has created ladders of opportunity where only poverty and dependency once existed.

Today, the mission of the Delta Foundation is to provide community, social, human, and economic development activities to underserved, predominantly minority families, businesses, and communities. This mission is pursued tirelessly to eliminate poverty and build a future of opportunity and prosperity for the people of the Delta region.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the extraordinary accomplishments of the Delta Foundation, Inc. and its unwavering dedication to uplifting the Mississippi Delta and its residents.

## SALUTING THE SERVICE OF DR. GARY L. GOSNEY

**HON. JOHN R. CARTER**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 31, 2025

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is with great appreciation that I present Dr. Gary L. Gosney, U.S. Army Veterinary Corps with a Congressional Veteran Commendation. Dr. Gosney embodies service and compassion through his commitment to the people and cherished animals of his community.

Dr. Gosney began his military career as a Captain in the U.S. Army Veterinary Corps in August 1968. While stationed in Vietnam from 1969 to 1970, he cared for animals and injured soldiers until they could be medically evacuated. During his deployment, he served selflessly as a Zoonosis Control Officer, cared for the animals of the 4th Infantry Division, became the veterinarian for the 25th Infantry Division, and volunteered at a Catholic leper colony outside of Saigon. His bravery and patriotism in Vietnam earned him numerous commendations, including the Bronze Star Medal with a "V" for Valor.

Upon returning to Texas, Dr. Gosney continued his dedication to service. He opened his own veterinary practice in Temple, Texas in 1970 and was voted the top veterinarian in Central Texas for 17 years in a row. Beyond his veterinary work, Dr. Gosney has made significant contributions to his community. A past president and longtime member of the Temple Founder Lions Club, he has raised thousands of dollars to support local charities. Additionally, as an avid supporter of the arts, he has contributed to over 100 Temple Civic Theater productions and served as its president for seven terms.

Dr. Gosney is a shining example of service and a valued member of the community. I

proudly join Dr. Gosney's friends, family, and colleagues in saluting his contributions to the Army and to the Central Texas community.

**HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE  
OF TIMOTHY BOWEN**

**HON. JOE COURTNEY**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 31, 2025*

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the extraordinary career of Timothy Bowen as he prepares for his retirement from E.O. Smith High School at the end of the 2024–2025 school year.

Tim's remarkable 26-year career as a social studies teacher and student mentor at E.O. Smith will be long remembered by his unwavering diligence, inspiring pedagogy, and the profound impact he had on the lives of countless students. Throughout his distinguished tenure Tim did so much more than teach social studies; he embodied the very essence of the subject—he fostered critical thinking, civic engagement, and a deep understanding of the human experience within his students.

Tim's dedication extended far beyond the traditional classroom setting. The innovative and engaging activities he meticulously planned for his students epitomize what it truly means to be an educator in the 21st century. He cultivated a dynamic learning environment where history comes alive, government becomes relevant, and the complexities of society are explored with curiosity and intellectual rigor.

In 2007, Tim initiated the cherished annual tradition of a farewell celebration for students on the last day of school, a heartwarming display of faculty and staff unity that sets a positive tone for the summer ahead. Similarly, his establishment of a welcoming event for students on the first day of classes in 2015 demonstrates his proactive approach to fostering a supportive and inclusive school climate. His thoughtful recognition of the school cafeteria workers underscores his appreciation for the contributions of all members of the E.O. Smith family. Furthermore, his regular participation as a faculty player in the annual Unified Staff vs Student Basketball Game highlights his commitment to student engagement and inclusive activities. Tim's consistent presence as a chaperone for extracurricular events and his enthusiastic attendance at student performances further illustrate his deep investment in the holistic development of E.O. Smith students.

A cornerstone of Tim's impact lies in his tireless efforts to promote civic education. He established an annual Voter Registration Drive in 2010, and coordinated visits from locally elected officials, providing students with invaluable opportunities to engage directly with their government. Tim initiated another annual tradition in 2007 when he invited me as the Congressman for eastern Connecticut for a "Student Town Hall" to engage in a question and answer dialogue on a wide range of issues. Over the many years I participated in their visits, I am still deeply impressed by the thoughtful, well informed comments and questions students posed to me. It was obvious to me, that Tim's teaching plans and skills were instrumental in shaping and forming future citi-

zens, voters and activists in our region. Tim also has been a regular chaperone on field trips to Washington, D.C., where he organized meaningful itineraries in our Nation's capitol for students that brought the principles of American democracy to life. Locally, his coordination of field trips to the Connecticut State Capitol and Rockville Superior Court ensured that all levels and branches of our republic were included in his curriculum, which is essential to a lifetime of healthy citizenship.

Tim's passion for storytelling is evident in the way he empowered students to explore civic issues in-depth in a Civic Documentaries independent study, culminating in notable achievements such as the Quiet Corner Film Festival Award in 2017 and multiple accolades at the same festival since.

Tim's dedication to service extends to the veteran's community. His deep care for those who have served our Nation is evident in the holiday card drives he and his students coordinate at veteran's hospitals and coffeehouses throughout eastern Connecticut. He understands the importance of honoring our troops and made a point to let his students witness the Veteran Stand Down Day at the Rocky Hill Veterans Home and Hospital each year, fostering empathy and a sense of responsibility in them. His impactful work with and for veterans earned him a commendation and thank you from the commissioner of the Connecticut Veterans Affairs in 2024. His coordination of grave cleaning and flag placement on local veterans' graves for Memorial Day further underscores his dedication to connecting students with the veteran community.

Finally, Tim's commitment to student well-being is demonstrated in his coordination of student presentations of weekly Star Card drawings—an initiative to promote positive student behavior. As a member of the faculty Wellness Committee he helped to establish a "Wellness Corner" in classrooms—complete with reminders to help students know they are not alone in their daily struggles.

For his unwavering dedication, innovative spirit, profound impact on students, and exceptional contributions to E.O. Smith High School and the wider community, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the inspirational career of Timothy Bowen.

**PERSONAL EXPLANATION**

**HON. PRAMILA JAYAPAL**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 31, 2025*

Mr. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, I missed Roll Call Vote No. 77 on March 27, 2025. Had I been present, my vote would have been: Nay on Roll Call Vote No. 77.

**INTRODUCTION OF THE  
SUSTAINABLE BUDGET ACT**

**HON. ED CASE**

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 31, 2025*

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to focus attention on one of our most pressing crises: our rapidly deteriorating federal budget, crippled

by unsustainable annual deficits and accelerating overall debt. While most prefer to deny or explain it away, we all recognize it, and we all must address it.

Our federal budget operates on principles no different from those of a business or family budget. Revenues come from taxes and fees, and expenses from government operations. When revenues exceed expenses, the government runs a surplus. When expenses exceed revenues, the government runs a deficit.

The federal budget operates on a fiscal year, meaning surpluses and deficits are calculated annually. When the government runs a deficit in any given year, it must borrow money to cover the shortfall. This is done primarily through issuing government bonds. Additionally, we borrow from intragovernmental sources such as the Social Security Trust Fund, which must eventually be repaid in order to fund Social Security benefits.

We also pay interest on the money we borrow. The total amount borrowed, largely to cover accumulated net deficits over time, constitutes our national debt.

Much like a family or business, it is ideal to avoid deficits and debt. However, some level of debt can be acceptable so long as it is not chronic, not an excuse for irresponsible spending, and remains proportionate to our overall budget and our gross domestic product (GDP).

Sadly, none of these sound budgetary principles has been followed for a full generation now. The last time the United States had a balanced budget was in 2001. Since then, we have run deficits every year, and our total debt and annual interest on that debt have ballooned.

The highest recorded annual deficit was in 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic, reaching \$3.1 trillion. Since then, the deficit has remained high, with the current year's deficit at approximately \$1.9 trillion. If we continue on this path, the annual deficit is projected to reach \$2.9 trillion by 2034.

Our national debt has reached unprecedented levels as well. In 2004, the total debt was \$7 trillion. By 2014, it had increased to \$18 trillion. In 2019, it stood at \$23 trillion. Today, our total debt has surpassed \$36 trillion.

Our gross debt-to-GDP ratio is now 124 percent, the highest it has been since the final years of World War II, when it peaked at 126 percent. If left unaddressed, this ratio is projected to reach 134 percent of GDP by 2034, with total debt climbing to \$57 trillion.

Additionally, we are now spending more on interest payments on our national debt than any other federal program except for Social Security, so including even defense or Medicare. Interest will rise from \$881 billion in Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 to \$1 trillion by FY 2026.

Failing to address our mounting debt and deficits has severe implications. It crowds out other critical spending in both defense and non-defense areas; reduces fiscal flexibility especially in times of crisis; contributes to inflationary pressures; slows economic growth; increases pressure to raise interest rates; creates national security risks, particularly as adversaries hold significant portions of our debt; discourages responsible budgeting practices on an international scale; and fuels arguments made by our adversaries in particular the People's Republic of China for replacing the U.S. dollar as the world's reserve currency.

In a Congress where we often repeat the platitude that our budget reflects our values, it is disturbing that the main common value reflected is fiscal unsustainability ranging to irresponsibility. We need look no further than a mirror for the root cause: our collective inability to face the music of fiscal responsibility and sustainability. It is clear that we need additional help to focus our Nation on the specific issues and collective decision-making required to stabilize our budget.

To set us on some path to righting our fiscal ship, I have introduced the Sustainable Budget Act with my colleagues Congressmen Steve Womack, Scott Peters and Zachary Nunn. Our bill will create a National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform, similar to other such commissions past, to serve this function.

The commission would consist of eighteen members split between Democrats and Republicans, and would be charged with proposing recommendations designed to achieve a balanced annual federal budget within ten years and meaningfully improve the long-term federal fiscal outlook. This commission would also include recommendations to address the growth in entitlement spending, which we all, regardless of our views on the issue, know is a key fiscal concern on its current track.

The commission's final recommendations would be due to Congress by no later than one year after the Commissioners are appointed. If the proposal is supported by at least twelve members of the committee, including at least four members of each party, it would receive expedited consideration in the House and Senate, which would have to vote on the proposal.

A commission process has been utilized in other times of fiscal uncertainty and has facilitated some tough, but necessary, discussion. It has been attempted before in the federal fiscal context through various commissions such as Simpson-Bowles, which came close to succeeding in restoring some fiscal discipline in Washington. There is no reason to conclude that it would not work here, and every reason to conclude that absent such an approach we will be in far worse shape far faster than followed previous attempts.

We clearly need help with our collective inability to confront this reality. My Sustainable Budget Act is at least a start toward a solution.

I urge this bill's prompt consideration and passage.

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#### HONORING DIETRICH D. JOHNSON

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#### HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 31, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Dietrich D. Johnson.

Dietrich D. Johnson was born on October 26, 1963, in Como, Mississippi. He is the fifth child of Minnie B. Boyd and Moses L. Frazier, having one brother and three sisters.

He attended West Crenshaw Elementary School, West Crenshaw Junior High School, and North Panola High School in Sardis, Mississippi. He later pursued higher education at Mississippi State University, where he studied Industrial Psychology and Computer Science.

Dietrich served in the United States Air Force and is now a disabled veteran. He was employed with Bridgestone Tire Company for 15 years, during which he served as Chief Steward for United Steelworkers Union Local 1055. He also held the position of Vice President of the Nashville Chapter of the A. Philip Randolph Institute. He is a graduate of the AFL-CIO Leadership Institute and served as a Trustee on the Nashville/Middle Tennessee Central Council Executive Board, as well as Supervisor of the Mississippi Delta Services Corporation. He is a member of the Community Census Redistricting Institute and the Southern Coalition for Social Justice. Mr. Johnson has participated as a panelist at the Good Jobs, Green Jobs National Conference and the "Fighting Climate Change and Building the Clean Economy from the Bottom Up" conference.

At the request of Julius Harris, Dietrich returned to Mississippi to contribute to his community. Upon returning, he joined the Panola County Democratic Party and was elected as a voting delegate to the 2012 National Democratic Convention and to the Mississippi Democratic Party Executive Board. Previously, he served as the Election Commissioner for District 2 and collaborated with the USDA and Alcorn State University to provide technical assistance for sustainable farming practices. Dietrich established a family farm and later transitioned it into a sustainable farming operation.

Dietrich is an active member of Shiloh C.M.E. Church, where he serves as both a Trustee and Treasurer.

Dietrich is a seasoned public servant with 15 years of dedicated service to labor advocacy and community engagement. A skilled strategist and organizer, he possesses a unique ability to build strong relationships, foster collaborative solutions, and mobilize teams toward shared goals.

Dietrich's commitment to public service is further evidenced by his involvement in initiatives such as the Community Census and Redistricting Institute and the Tennessee Immigration and Refugee Rights Coalition. He has consistently demonstrated a deep understanding of community needs and a strong desire to empower individuals and create positive change.

Dietrich has a strong passion for making a difference in the Panola County community. His ability to articulate a compelling vision and motivate others to action has made him an invaluable asset to the community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Dietrich D. Johnson for his dedication in serving his community.

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#### SALUTING THE SERVICE OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL JEFF DAVISON

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#### HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 31, 2025

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Lt. Col. Jeff Davison, U.S. Air Force, Retired, with a Congressional Veteran Commendation. Over his two-decade long career in the Air Force, he embodied the courage, honor and commitment that make our military the world's premier fighting force.

Lt. Col. Davison had a distinguished career specializing in the F-111 aircraft, serving as a Fighter Pilot, Flight Examiner, Instructor, Test Pilot, and Air Force Exchange Officer to Australia. His leadership extended across various levels of the Air Force, including roles as Flight Commander of the 54th Fighter Training Squadron at Reese Air Force Base, Chief of Airspace at Randolph Air Force Base, and Air Force Reserve Commander at Reese Air Force Base. In 2004, Lt. Col. Davison took on the role of Director of Combat Operations for the NORAD Continental Region, where he managed all U.S. alert fighters and oversaw Presidential support. He earned numerous accolades, including three Top Gun awards and a Meritorious Service Medal with 3 oak leaf clusters.

After retiring from the Air Force, Lt. Col. Davison has continued to serve his community. He is an active member of the Central Texas Chapter of the Military Officers' Association of America since 2015 and served as president in 2022. Lt. Col. Davison volunteers for the Alzheimer's Association and continues to contribute to the Longest Day fundraiser. Guided by his faith, Lt. Col. Davison is an active member of First Baptist Church in Temple, and in 2019 became Chairman of the Committee on Committees.

Lt. Col. Davison leads with strength, integrity, and drive in each community he joins. He is a fitting recipient of a Congressional Veteran Commendation, and I am proud to honor his outstanding achievements.

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#### RECOGNIZING COLLIN MILLER FOR EXEMPLARY WORK AND DEDICATION

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#### HON. MARK E. GREEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 31, 2025

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Collin Miller for his exemplary work and dedication to the people of Tennessee's Seventh Congressional District.

Roughly four years ago, Collin joined my staff as a Military Legislative Assistant, where he handled armed services and worked in Congress to support our troops. Utilizing his experience from the Department of Defense, Collin helped me introduce and push forward key bills, including the General Thaddeus Kosciuszko Memorial Exchange Program For Polish-American Defense Cooperation Act, the Special Relationship Military Improvement Act to strengthen arms-sharing with the United Kingdom, and a congressional resolution and NDAA amendment to protect servicemembers from COVID vaccine mandates. Collin was a master of legislative strategy, adept at crafting impactful speeches and shepherding my bills through committee.

Within just a year, Collin's hard work and strategic expertise earned him a promotion to Legislative Director. He was instrumental in getting my Protecting Hunting Heritage and Education Act signed into law, a version of my SCREEN Act passed in the FY24 NDAA, and five of my bills included in the FY25 NDAA.

Collin's accomplishments will have lasting impacts on our Nation, and he did it all without asking for recognition. From his support for our farmers to his dedication to our nation's

veterans, Collin embodies the Volunteer Spirit. He even spearheaded my Congressional Resolution honoring the father of country music, Hank Williams, on his 100th birthday. Just like the “Hillbilly Shakespeare,” Collin dedicated himself to preserving the vibrant spirit of Music City.

Collin’s influence extended far beyond state lines. During his time in my office, Collin championed timeless principles, recognizing that we stand on the shoulders of giants and understanding that conserving Western Civilization is a fight worth having. A steadfast patriot, he is a stalwart defender of liberty and our Constitutional principles.

Collin’s hard work, his passion for Article I, and his eagerness to learn were only a portion of what made his impact in my office and the House of Representatives so robust. His deep understanding of history and insights into conservative giants like Winston Churchill and Margaret Thatcher greatly benefited our team.

I’d be remiss if I didn’t mention Collin Miller’s admiration for the great J.R.R. Tolkien. Collin’s shelves lined with Tolkien’s books weren’t just for decoration—they were a well-worn source of inspiration. As Tolkien wrote, “It is not our part to master all the tides of the world, but to do what is in us for the succor of those years wherein we are set . . .” I believe Collin is doing just that.

While Collin recently departed my office for an incredible opportunity, I know that he will continue to bring the same light and joy into the lives of others as he did to me and my staff. We will miss his steadiness on difficult days and his quick wit.

I want to leave Collin with this quote from one of his favorite historical figures, William Wilberforce:

Fix your eye on the glorious prize which is before you, and when your strength begins to fail, and your spirits are well-nigh exhausted, let the animating view rekindle your resolution, and call forth in renewed vigour the fainting energies of your soul.”

I wish Collin all the best in his future endeavors as he and his wife, Reiley, go out and conquer this next chapter in their lives.

#### HONORING GORDON “GORDY” KIRK

##### HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 31, 2025

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the life of an extraordinary man, cherished community member and dedicated veteran, Mr. Gordon Willis Kirk, affectionately known as “Gordy.” Gordy passed away on March 2, 2025, just three weeks shy of his 102nd birthday. He is preceded in death by his loving spouse Gwendolyn and their legacy lives on through their children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great grandchildren.

Born in Helena, Montana, Gordy and his family moved to Saint Paul at the age of 10 for his father’s work with the Northern Pacific Railway during the Great Depression. He graduated from Saint Paul’s Marshall High School in 1942. Gordy is a product of Saint Paul’s Rondo neighborhood, a predominantly African American community, most of which was demolished to make way for Interstate 94

in the late 1950’s. Throughout his life, Gordy remained a tireless advocate for the Old Rondo neighborhood by keeping its history alive and seeking healing and reconciliation by preserving its rich heritage and culture.

Gordy was a proud veteran of World War II. Bravely serving in combat, Gordy became a Quartermaster with a trucking company, Third Army, Fourth Armor Division (Patton’s Vanguard) on the front lines in the European Theatre from 1943 to 1945 at a time when the ranks of U.S. servicemen were segregated. The company landed at Omaha Beach six days after D-Day, was with General Patton at Saint-Lô, fought at Verdun and the Battle of the Bulge where he suffered frostbite on his hands during the winter. He stated that he felt fortunate that he was in battle on the front lines and came home whole.

Gordy’s courage was demonstrated well before he was deployed to Europe. Following his enlistment in the U.S. Army in 1943, he and his fellow enlisted men departed by train for basic training at Fort Wolter, Mineral Wells, Texas. While in route the train stopped at a station; the African American men were told to leave the Pullman passenger cars they had been traveling in and go to the Jim Crow car—with its much less desirable accommodations. He refused, as did other enlisted men. He and the men essentially said, “If we’re good enough to fight for our country like other enlisted men, then we’re good enough to ride in a Pullman car like they do.” The train was held up for six hours as the railroad located another Pullman car for the group.

Upon returning to Saint Paul, Gordy drove a streetcar from 1947 to 1952 until streetcars were replaced by buses. He then went to work on the railroad as a waiter. He next went to work for Braniff Airways as a skycap, joining Northwest Airlines in 1960 where Gordy has a long and successful career, eventually becoming the head skycap, retiring in 1993.

His extraordinary commitment to his fellow veterans and their families compares to none. As a long-time leader and advocate in Minnesota’s veterans community, Gordy became the first African American VFW District Officer in Minnesota in 1986. He rose through the leadership ranks of the Fourth District as well as the state and national VFW organizations—advocating for all veterans while seeking to bring diversity to the ranks of our state’s veterans organizations and ensuring that all veterans are welcome. Gordy was instrumental in establishing the Twin Star VFW Post 8854, which was located on Concordia Avenue in the Rondo neighborhood until 2008 when the hall closed, with Gordy serving as the Post’s Commander.

Until well into his 90’s, Gordy was a VFW Hospital Representative at the Minneapolis VA Medical Center, acting as an advocate for veterans attempting to resolve issues experienced by veterans at the Medical Center. When once asked the question, do any special veterans and their cases come to mind, and his response was “every veteran is special to me!”

Gordy was very special to me and to the constituents of Minnesota’s Fourth Congressional District. It was my privilege to nominate Gordy for a Minnesota Humanities Center Veterans Voices Legacy Award which I presented to him on September 11, 2016, for his outstanding work in service to others.

It was an honor to call Gordy a friend. He has been an inspiration to me and his legacy

will continue to inspire many for generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in celebrating the remarkable life and the dedicated work of Mr. Gordon “Gordy” Willis Kirk.

#### CELEBRATING ELIZABETH AND CHARLES J. MAJIKES, SR. 70TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

##### HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 31, 2025

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the 70th wedding anniversary of a beloved couple. I ask you to join me in honoring Mr. and Mrs. Charles J. Majikes, Sr., of Ashley, Pennsylvania, as they celebrate this important milestone.

The couple was married in St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Creek Catholic Church in Wilkes-Barre by the late Very Rev. Gregory Szeyko on Feb. 19, 1955. Mrs. Majikes is the former Elizabeth “Betty” Chmil, daughter of the late Mary (Gulick) and John Chmil. Mr. Majikes is the son of the late Theresa (Hughes) and John Majikes. The Majikes’ are the parents of four sons, Charles J. Jr. and his wife, Mary, Larksville; Paul, Sr. and his wife, Ann, Hanover Township; John and his wife, Kim, Apex, North Carolina, and Matthew, Sr., and his wife, Linda, Richmond, Virginia.

They are proud grandparents of Kristen and her husband, Adam Scali, Hanover Township; Jacob, Gaithersburg, Maryland; Alison and her husband Bryan Rivello, Old Forge; Charles J. III, and his wife Kylee, Ashley; Keri and her husband Nick Carnes, Durham, North Carolina; Paul, Jr. and his wife, Alyson Klush, Richmond, Virginia; Mark and his wife Adele, Larksville; Matthew, Jr., Richmond, Virginia, and Daniel, Richmond, Virginia. Also, great-grandchildren Charles IV, Jack, Charlotte, Alex, Joe and Preston.

Mrs. Majikes is retired after working in the shoe industry and as a waitress in local restaurants. Mr. Majikes, a USMC Korean War Purple Heart Veteran, was employed at Eberhard Faber in Mountain Top for more than 30 years and continued employment at Wyoming Valley Health Care Systems until his retirement at age 78. To mark their 70th wedding anniversary, blessings were given to the couple by the Rev. Michael Lepa, their nephew the Rev. John Chmil, and the Rev. Vincent Dang.

Family is their mantra. Their marriage is a role model to their family as their boys and family’s 11 marriages total over 250 years married together, and they have helped to build a wonderful family with 31 lives celebrating over 1,000 years. Now that’s a Wonderful Life. A family dinner party was held in their honor at Patte’s Sports Bar in Wilkes-Barre and was hosted by their family.

Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to recognize the Majikes family on this momentous occasion. May they continue to find joy to one another as they inspire generations to come.

SALUTING THE SERVICE OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL SPENCER HUTSON SMITH

**HON. JOHN R. CARTER**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 31, 2025

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and honor that I present Lieutenant Colonel Spencer Hutson Smith, U.S. Marine Corps (Ret.), with a Congressional Veteran Commendation. His life and career are a testament to his exceptional character and unwavering commitment to service.

On active duty from 1973 to 1997, Lt. Col. Smith served in various locations around the globe, including Quantico, London, Brussels, Hong Kong, Australia, and Turkey. In 1990, Lt. Col. Smith was deployed to Kuwait in support of Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm. He played a critical role in contingency operations in Beirut, Lebanon, where he developed essential emergency plans. Notably, Lt. Col. Smith served on Marine Helicopter Squadron One responsible for Executive Transport for President Ronald Reagan and was the Marine One Command Pilot for President George H.W. Bush. His dedication earned him numerous prestigious awards, including the Presidential Service Badge and the Navy and Marine Corps Parachutist Insignia.

After retiring from the Marine Corps, Lt. Col. Smith continued to serve his community with the same passion. He served for six years as the Mayor of Harker Heights, following 14 years of work in Harker Heights city government. His contributions also extended to the Greater Killeen and Harker Heights Chambers of Commerce and as a tri-county soccer official. His leadership extends to his faith community as well, where he has held the title of deacon at Temple Bible Church since 2007, following a decade of service as a deacon at First Baptist Church of Killeen.

I join Lt. Col. Smith's family, friends, and colleagues in saluting his honorable contributions to our Nation and to Texas. He is a deserving recipient of the Congressional Veteran Commendation and a deeply valued member of our community.

HONORING DEWAYNE SIMS, SR.

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 31, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the distinguished service and leadership of Mr. Dewayne Sims, Sr., who, after 23 years of dedicated service as Chief of Police for the Vicksburg Warren School District (VWSD), has officially retired. His tireless efforts to engine the safety and well-being of students, staff, and the broader community leave an enduring legacy.

A proud graduate of Alcorn State University, where he earned a bachelor's degree in communication and broadcast journalism, Mr. Sims furthered his education by obtaining a master's degree in public administration and human resources from Jackson State University. He was first hired at VWSD by Dr. James Price and Dr. John Walls, and over the years,

he rose to lead a team of six resource officers and oversaw the district's security contracts. His leadership and expertise were instrumental in creating a secure environment in which students could thrive.

Mr. Sims has also contributed to the community beyond his role with the school district. He served on the board of directors at the YMCA and worked with the Mississippi Department of Education for School Safety. These roles reflect his deep commitment to public service and his dedication to improving safety and security throughout our state.

In his own words, Mr. Sims noted that one of the most rewarding aspects of his job was the opportunity to cultivate meaningful relationships with students and coworkers.

He worked tirelessly to guide students, especially those facing difficulties, offering them hope and alternatives to negative decisions. His ability to connect with young people and serve as a mentor is a testament to his character and heart for service.

As Mr. Sims begins his well-deserved retirement, he looks forward to spending time with his children, Destiny and Dre, and enjoying his favorite pastimes, including running, working out, and hunting.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Dewayne Sims, Sr. for his remarkable career, his selfless service, and his lasting impact on the Vicksburg Warren School District and the community at large. His leadership and dedication will be greatly missed, but his legacy will continue to inspire future generations.

RECOGNIZING NATHAN WHITTINGTON

**HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 31, 2025

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Nathan Whittington of Broomfield, Colorado for receiving the 2024 Statewide Emergency Manager of the Year Award.

As the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office's Emergency Manager, Nathan leads coordination and response plans during natural disasters and other emergencies. He was instrumental in developing Jeffco's new Emergency Operations Center. During the Quarry Fire in 2024, Nathan managed the EOC and re-entry plans—ensuring all evacuees were able to return home safely. Nathan's commitment to public service extends beyond Jefferson County—he also deployed to Sarasota County, Florida to provide critical support during Hurricane Ian.

Nathan has led the way in adapting innovative technology and strategies that have strengthened our community's preparedness and resilience. We are grateful for his leadership and commitment to keeping our communities safe.

On behalf of the people of Colorado's Seventh Congressional District, it is my honor to thank Nathan Whittington for his service to the Jefferson County community.

HONORING JUDY ADAMS AND THE I SUPPORT THE 1% FOOD PANTRY FOR THEIR SERVICE TO MICHIGAN VETERANS

**HON. LISA C. MCCLAIN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 31, 2025

Mrs. MCCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary dedication and service of Judy Adams, Director of the I Support the 1% Food Pantry. The I Support the 1% Food Pantry, an organization celebrating its 10th anniversary this year, is committed to ensuring that no veteran in Michigan goes hungry. Through their tireless efforts, Judy and her team have provided not just food but also hope and dignity to those who bravely served our Nation.

Founded on July 28, 2014, and opening its doors in April 2015, the I Support the 1% Food Pantry was established in response to the growing crisis of food insecurity among veterans and military reserve members. Too many of our Nation's heroes struggle to put food on the table, often feeling ashamed or hopeless in their hardship. Judy and her team understand the critical need for support and made it their mission to ensure that "No Veteran Should Ever Go Hungry."

The pantry partners with VA social workers, including those in the HUD-VASH Homeless program and Home-Based Primary Care program, to ensure food reaches veterans in need—even those who are homebound due to medical conditions.

Additionally, the I Support the 1% Food Pantry works directly with military reserve units, assisting service members and their families during times of financial difficulty. Since its founding, the pantry has served over 1,000 veterans across Michigan, including WWII and Korean War veterans living on fixed incomes, combat-wounded veterans, and those struggling with PTSD and economic hardship. For many, the pantry is the difference between going hungry and being able to provide for their families. Thanks to Judy Adams and I Support the 1% Food Pantry, these veterans now have a place to turn for assistance and compassion.

Mr. Speaker, the work of Judy Adams and the I Support the 1% Food Pantry is a testament to the power of community and service. Their unwavering commitment to Michigan's veterans embodies the very spirit of selflessness and patriotism. Today, we honor Judy Adams for her leadership, her compassion, and her unyielding dedication to ensuring that those who have served our Nation never have to face hunger alone.

SALUTING THE SERVICE OF MAJOR GENERAL PATRICK HAMILTON

**HON. JOHN R. CARTER**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 31, 2025

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to salute the extraordinary career of Major General Patrick Hamilton, U.S. Army, Retired, with a Congressional Veteran Commendation. His service to both the Army and

his Nation exemplifies our Nation's altruistic spirit.

MG Hamilton served honorably in Armor and Cavalry units in the Texas Army National Guard for 35 years. He served full time in operational assignments including Director of the Joint Staff, Chief of Staff to the Adjutant General of Texas, and the Texas Army National Guard Director of Operations.

In 2000, MG Hamilton served with the 49th Armored Division in Bosnia-Herzegovina as the Current Operations Officer. He later deployed to Afghanistan where he served as the Red Team Leader for the Commanding General. Additionally in 2017, he served as the Joint Task Force Commanding General for Hurricane Harvey military response, commanding 18,000 troops supporting evacuation and aid operations.

From 2018 to 2021, MG Hamilton served as the Commanding General of the 36th Infantry Division, where he commanded soldiers in nine countries across the Middle East as part of Task Force Spartan, under Operation Spartan Shield.

MG Hamilton's retirement did not end his service. He continues to train National Guard Division Commanders and staffs. In addition, he serves on the Board of Directors for the Central Texas YMCA and the Board of Governors of the Central Texas Community Foundation. For his extraordinary efforts during and after service he was awarded the 2023 Lieutenant General Raymond S. McLain Medal.

I am honored to join MG Hamilton's friends and family in celebrating his outstanding achievements. His commitment to selfless service makes him a deeply respected and honorable recipient of the Congressional Veteran Commendation.

**HONORING THETA PI ZETA CHAPTER OF ZETA PHI BETA SORORITY, INC.**

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 31, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a truly exceptional organization, the Theta Pi Zeta Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., based in Itta Bena, Mississippi. Since its inception, the chapter has been a steadfast beacon of service, community involvement, and the embodiment of the principles upheld by Zeta Phi Beta.

Founded on November 10, 1976, with the leadership of then State Director Bertha Blackburn and co-founders Henri E. Lowe and Maxine P. Stewart, Theta Pi Zeta began its journey in a small yet significant way at the Western Sizzlin' Steak House in Greenwood, Mississippi. The chapter's roots are deeply intertwined with the spirit of dedication, as evidenced by the work of Henri E. Lowe and M'Elena Matthews, who signed the chapter's charter application, helping to ensure its establishment.

Throughout the years, 14 remarkable women have served as president, with the late Henri E. Lowe leading the charge during the formative years. Currently, under the leadership of Denise Pitchford, the chapter continues its dedication to service and community outreach, earning recognition at the state and re-

gional levels. The chapter boasts 32 financial members and has been involved in countless community initiatives, such as hosting a State Round-Up for Zetas in Greenwood, Mississippi, and supporting local events like the March for Babies campaign.

The Itta Bena Amicai Auxiliary, established in 1986 and sponsored by Sister Shirley Burks, remains a vital part of the chapter's outreach efforts, and the chapter's youth auxiliaries—including the Archonette, Amicette, and Pearlette Clubs—engage in community service projects like adopting families for Thanksgiving and Christmas, ringing Salvation Army bells, and delivering care bags to local nursing homes.

The chapter's charter members, such as Riller Bennett, Thelma Collins, Laura Davis, Dorothy Edwards, Amanda Elzy, Anna Hicks, Irene Howard, Zelma Howard, Jean Jennings, Henri E. Lowe, M'Elena Mathews, Betty Morris, Geneva Pickens, Henrine Stewart, Bobbie Wicks, Ann Wilson, and Malinda Winters laid the foundation for what has become a powerful and enduring force in the Mississippi Delta. Many of them have left lasting legacies, including the late Henri E. Lowe, and Florence Weathersby, who served for an impressive 70 years and remained an inspiration to many.

The chapter's commitment to service continues with a full slate of community activities for 2025, including events like hosting a Sisterhood Tea for Women's History Month, visiting nursing homes, organizing water hydration drives, and supporting the March of Dimes Campaign.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in taking a moment to acknowledge the Theta Pi Zeta Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., for their unwavering dedication to service, leadership, and the betterment of their community.

**CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF PATSY PETTUS**

**HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 31, 2025

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the life of Patsy Pettus, a cherished member of our community. Patsy is an extraordinary individual whose life has exemplified nothing short of the beauty in living life curiously.

Patsy is a passionate member of the Richmond community. Through her love of art and architecture, she has bettered the lives of everyone around her. Described by many as the "role model for aging gracefully," her lively character has made her a beloved figure to all who have the joy of knowing her. Patsy's commitment to the local community leaves an indelible mark on our district and beyond.

Patsy's efforts as an advocate for art programs across the state will leave a legacy to inspire generations to come. The Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, where she volunteered as a docent decades ago, has benefited greatly from her and her beloved husband Hunter's generosity and support. Her family's contributions to Virginia Commonwealth University's (VCU) Institute for Contemporary Arts helped transform the creative arts programs at VCU. Ask anyone in Richmond's art scene and Pat-

sy's name will bring a sparkle to their eyes—She has always been known as the life of the party.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in celebrating Patsy. Our community is eternally grateful for everything she and her husband Hunter have done.

**RECOGNIZING BOB DAVIDSON'S LEGACY**

**HON. PRAMILA JAYAPAL**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 31, 2025

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the career and legacy of Bob Davidson. Bob is retiring after 23 years of committed service as the CEO and President of the Seattle Aquarium. I am so grateful for his tireless efforts to make the Seattle Aquarium a leader in conservation, education, and visitor experience.

Thanks to Bob's leadership, the Seattle Aquarium is now the largest marine conservation institution in the northwestern United States. His work has transformed the Seattle Aquarium from a local aquarium into a globally recognized conservation organization. Bob waited to step down from his post until the completion of the \$180 million Ocean Pavilion, which highlights sea life in the biodiverse Indo-Pacific Coral Triangle and educates guests on how we must work together to protect the world's oceans. His wide array of professional experiences helped him forge the partnerships necessary to complete the Ocean Pavilion project. Bob also led Woodland Park Zoo's \$40 million renovation project that transformed the zoo into a modern leader for design and habitats.

Thanks to Bob Davidson's many accomplishments, Seattle has seen significant expansion and continued improvement of the Aquarium's buildings, the ongoing transformation of the Seattle waterfront, and the growing reputation of the Seattle Aquarium as a global leader in ocean conservation. I am very grateful for his incredible service and confident that he will continue to be a staunch advocate for protecting our oceans and sea life. His leadership will serve as a model for years to come.

**PERSONAL EXPLANATION**

**HON. GLENN THOMPSON**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 31, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, due to unforeseen scheduling complications, I was unable to attend the first vote in the series. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 77.

SALUTING THE SERVICE OF  
COMMANDER JON LUXHON. JOHN R. CARTER  
OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 31, 2025

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr Speaker, I am proud to honor Commander Jon Lux, U.S. Navy, Retired, with a Congressional Veteran Commendation. Commander Lux's commitment, strength, and leadership reflects the very best of Texas.

Commander Lux's distinguished naval career spanned over 2 decades. After being commissioned as an Ensign in the U.S. Navy, he served as a Surface Warfare Officer on multiple sea tours, primarily in the Middle East. His assignments also include serving as Commander, Mine Warfare Command and Commander, Mine Countermeasures Squadron Three, as well as Executive Officer of Naval Station Ingleside, Texas.

Following his military service, Commander Lux continued to demonstrate his dedication to his community. He has served on the Cedar Park City Council, the Cedar Park Tourism and Advisory Board, and the Planning and Zoning Committee. Additionally, he is a member of the Board of Directors for the Williamson County Appraisal Board, where he also chaired the Bond Oversight Committee. Driven by a passion for service, Commander Lux was a founding member of American Legion Post 911 in Cedar Park, raising funds for the Gold Star Monument and supporting Boys and Girls State programs. Commander Lux is a devoted husband to his wife, Michelle, and a proud father to their two children.

I commend Commander Lux's dedication to his community and our Nation. I join his colleagues, family, and friends, in honoring his career, saluting his commitment to public service, and celebrating his outstanding achievements.

HONORING THE LIFE OF BRENDA  
FAYE GRAHAM JOHNSONHON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH  
OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 31, 2025

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Brenda Faye Graham Johnson, who passed away on March 26th at the age of 77.

On March 31, 1947, Ms. Johnson was born in Christiansburg, Virginia, but was raised in nearby Salem, Virginia. After graduating from Andrew Lewis High School, she attended Marion College in Marion, Virginia. Ms. Johnson graduated as part of the last class from Marion College.

Following her studies at Radford University, where she earned a teaching degree, Ms. Johnson taught in the classroom. She stayed close to Southwest Virginia during her life and raised a family with her loving husband, Don, by her side.

In addition to her service as an educator, Ms. Johnson helped contribute to the Republican Party of Virginia in various capacities.

Primarily, Ms. Johnson held officer roles in the Republican Party of Bristol and the Republican Party of Salem, two units who helped

shape local conservative candidates for elected office.

Virginia's Ninth District Republican Committee benefitted from Ms. Johnson's loyalty and service, particularly in her role as the Committee's official secretary. This sometimes required her throughout the year to drive away from home to assist the Committee with its meetings and business.

A woman of strong faith and appreciation for the Lord, Ms. Johnson was an active member of Salem's First United Methodist Church.

In addition to her husband, family remaining to cherish her memory includes her children, Jessica J. Funk (Kevin), and Lauren J. Paige, both of Richmond, Va.; grandson, Declan Funk; siblings, Connie Melton (Carter), Jennifer Brown (Bill), and Bradley Graham; and many nieces and nephews.

I always appreciated her dedication to the Republican Party and helping the various Republican committees where she was living.

Further, Brenda and her husband helped to start the Salem G.O.P.'s annual Olde Salem Days Breakfast which has grown into a major event for candidates seeking a Republican nomination in Virginia.

Ms. Johnson's love for Southwest Virginia and her community was strongly evident. Whether it was helping a student with reading or passing out campaign literature to voters, Ms. Johnson made a profound impression on those around her. She will be missed.

HONORING MRS. ROSA MAE  
WILLIAMS ON HER 95TH BIRTHDAY

## HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 31, 2025

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a devoted mother, a woman of faith, and an extraordinary Georgian, Mrs. Rosa Mae Williams. Mrs. Williams celebrated her 95th birthday with her family and friends on March 22, 2025, in Leary, Georgia.

Mrs. Williams was born in Chula, Georgia on March 22, 1930. Throughout her 95 years on this earth, she has exemplified hard work, resilience, and dedication to her community. As a single mother who raised 13 children, she faced great challenges but never wavered in her commitment to her children's education and success. Mrs. Williams takes great pride in her children, and while she did not have the opportunity to receive a formal education herself, she was successful in steering most of her kids towards earning a degree of higher education. They attended institutions such as Morehouse College, Spelman College, Georgia Tech, Clark Atlanta University, and Albany State University.

A woman of strong faith, Mrs. Williams has been a member of Bethel C.M.E. Church in Leary for over 70 years where she currently holds the position of Mother of the Church. Her deep faith has been the guiding light of her life, and her legacy is rooted in her devotion to both her family and her Heavenly Father.

Mrs. Williams instilled within her children the importance of hard work, education, and faith. Over the course of her life, she has been proud to see her offspring continue to make meaningful contributions to the community.

Thanks to her devoted parenting, her children have gone on to take on professions as attorneys, educators, elected officials, corporate managers, and more.

Former Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm once said that "service is the rent we pay for the space we occupy here on this earth." As we celebrate Mrs. Williams' 95 years of life, we can say without a doubt that Mrs. Rosa Mae Williams has paid her rent and paid it well. Her dedicated life of service to her family and community is truly commendable. I know that her children and grandchildren are very proud of her and look up to their matriarch as a role model of faith and unconditional love.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join my wife Vivian, and me—along with the family and loved ones of Mrs. Rosa Mae Williams—in extending our heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to her on this remarkable occasion. May God continue to bless her with health, peace, and joy, and may her example continue to inspire us all.

## SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, April 1, 2025 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

## MEETINGS SCHEDULED

APRIL 2

10 a.m. Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation  
To hold hearings to examine restoring Boeing's status as a great American manufacturer, focusing on safety first. SD-G50

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources  
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Katharine MacGregor, of Florida, to be Deputy Secretary of the Interior, and James Danly, of Tennessee, to be Deputy Secretary of Energy. SD-366

Committee on Environment and Public Works  
To hold hearings to examine constructing the Surface Transportation Reauthorization bill, focusing on United States Secretary of Transportation's perspective. SD-406

Committee on Foreign Relations Business meeting to consider pending calendar nominations.	Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Scott Kupor, of California, to be Director of the Office of Personnel Management, and Eric Matthew Ueland, of Virginia, to be Deputy Director for Management, Office of Management and Budget.	Drug Administration for purposes of sharing information and providing technical assistance with respect to patents, S. 1095, to enable the Federal Trade Commission to deter filing of sham citizen petitions to cover an attempt to interfere with approval of a competing generic drug or biosimilar, to foster competition, and facilitate the efficient review of petitions filed in good faith to raise legitimate public health concerns, and S. 1096, to prohibit brand name drug companies from compensating generic drug companies to delay the entry of a generic drug into the market, and to prohibit biological product manufacturers from compensating biosimilar and interchangeable companies to delay the entry of biosimilar biological products and interchangeable biological products, and the nomination of Patrick David Davis, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice.
10:15 a.m. Committee on the Judiciary To hold hearings to examine District Judges, focusing on exploring legislative solutions to the bipartisan problem of universal injunctions.	SD-342	
2:30 p.m. Committee on Indian Affairs To hold an oversight hearing to examine Native American education, focusing on Federal programs at the U.S. Department of Education.	SD-628	
Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship Business meeting to consider S. 1199, SBA Fraud Enforcement Extension Act.	SR-428A	
Select Committee on Intelligence To receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters.	SH-219	SH-216
	APRIL 3	
9:30 a.m. Committee on Armed Services To hold hearings to examine the posture of the United States European Command and United States Africa Command in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2026 and the Future Years Defense Program; to be immediately followed by a closed hearing in SVC-217.	SD-G50	
10:15 a.m. Committee on the Judiciary Business meeting to consider S. 527, to require the Federal Trade Commission to study the role of intermediaries in the pharmaceutical supply chain and provide Congress with appropriate policy recommendations, S. 1040, to amend the Federal Trade Commission Act to prohibit product hopping, S. 1041, to amend title 35, United States Code, to address the infringement of patents that claim biological products, S. 1097, to amend title 35, United States Code, to establish an interagency task force between the United States Patent and Trademark Office and the Food and	SD-538	
10:30 a.m. Committee on Foreign Relations Business meeting to consider pending nominations.	S-116	
	APRIL 9	
2:30 p.m. Committee on Armed Services Subcommittee on Personnel To hold hearings to examine personnel policies and programs in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2026 and the Future Years Defense Program.	SR-222	

# Daily Digest

## Senate

### *Chamber Action*

#### *Routine Proceedings, pages S1917–S1960*

**Measures Introduced:** Eighteen bills and one resolution were introduced, as follows: S. 1200–1217, and S. Con. Res. 11. **Pages S1923–24**

#### **Measures Reported:**

Special Report entitled “History, Jurisdiction, and a Summary of Activities of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources During the 118th Congress”. (S. Rept. No. 119–7)

Special Report entitled “Activities of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs During the 118th Congress”. (S. Rept. No. 119–8)

Special Report entitled “Activities of the Committee on the Judiciary During the 118th Congress”. (S. Rept. No. 119–10)

S. 99, to require the Secretary of Commerce to produce a report that provides recommendations to improve the effectiveness, efficiency, and impact of Department of Commerce programs related to supply chain resilience and manufacturing and industrial innovation. (S. Rept. No. 119–9) **Page S1923**

**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 13664 of April 3, 2014, with respect to South Sudan, received during adjournment of the Senate on March 28, 2025; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs. (PM–19) **Page S1922**

**Whitaker Nomination:** Senate resumed 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 S1917–20**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 49 yeas to 42 nays (Vote No. EX. 156), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S1920**

**Sauer Nomination—Cloture:** Senate began consideration of the nomination of Dean Sauer, of Missouri, to be Solicitor General of the United States. **Page S1920**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur on Wednesday, April 2, 2024. **Page S1920**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S1920**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S1920**

**Dhillon Nomination—Cloture:** Senate began consideration of the nomination of Harmeet Dhillon, of California, to be an Assistant Attorney General. **Page S1921**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Dean Sauer, of Missouri, to be Solicitor General of the United States. **Page S1921**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S1920**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S1921**

**Nominations Received:** Senate received the following nominations:

Marc Andersen, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Army.

Gregory Autry, of Florida, to be Chief Financial Officer, National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

Donald Bergin III, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs (Congressional and Legislative Affairs).

Marc Berkowitz, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

Jonathan Berry, of Maryland, to be Solicitor for the Department of Labor.

David Brian Castillo, of Washington, to be Chief Financial Officer, Department of Labor.

Bart McKay Davis, of Idaho, to be United States Attorney for the District of Idaho for the term of four years.

Anthony D'Esposito, of New York, to be Inspector General, Department of Labor.

William Gillis, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Army.

Jules Hurst III, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Army.

Joseph Jewell, of Indiana, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

Benjamin Kohlmann, of Texas, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Navy.

Joyce Meyer, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Economic Affairs.

Susan Monarez, of Wisconsin, to be Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Ronald A. Parsons, Jr., of South Dakota, to be United States Attorney for the District of South Dakota for the term of four years.

Andrew Rogers, of Virginia, to be Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, Department of Labor.

Brendan Rogers, of Connecticut, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Navy.

David Charles Waterman, of Iowa, to be United States Attorney for the Southern District of Iowa for the term of four years. **Pages S1959–60**

**Nominations Withdrawn:** Senate received notification of withdrawal of the following nominations:

Gregory Autrey, of Florida, to be Chief Financial Officer, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, which was sent to the Senate on March 24, 2025

Elise Stefanik, of New York, to be the Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations, with the rank and status of Ambassador, and the Representative of the United States of America in the Security Council of the United Nations, which was sent to the Senate on January 20, 2025

Elise Stefanik, of New York, to be Representative of the United States of America to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations during her tenure of service as Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations, which was sent to the Senate on January 20, 2025 **Page S1960**

**Messages from the House:** **Page S1922**

**Measures Referred:** **Page S1922**

**Executive Communications:** **Pages S1922–23**

**Additional Cosponsors:** **Pages S1924–25**

**Additional Statements:** **Page S1921**

**Privileges of the Floor:** **Pages S1931–59**

**Record Votes:** One record vote was taken today. (Total—156) **Page S1920**

**Adjournment:** Senate convened at 3 p.m. and continued in evening session.

## Committee Meetings

*(Committees not listed did not meet)*

No committee meetings were held.

# House of Representatives

## Chamber Action

**Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced:** 48 public bills, H.R. 2480–2527; and 19 resolutions, H.J. Res. 83–86; H. Con. Res. 23–23; and H. Res. 269–281, were introduced. **Pages H1371–75**

**Additional Cosponsors:** **Pages H1376–77**

**Reports Filed:** There were no reports filed today.

**Speaker:** Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Taylor to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H1341**

**Recess:** The House recessed at 12:18 p.m. and reconvened at 2 p.m. **Page H1343**

**Recess:** The House recessed at 2:16 p.m. and reconvened at 4:20 p.m. **Page H1345**

**Committee Resignation:** Read a letter from Representative Houchin wherein she resigned from the Committee on Education and Workforce. **Page H1356**

**Recess:** The House recessed at 5:46 p.m. and reconvened at 6:30 p.m. **Page H1356**

**Suspensions:** The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

*Directing the Librarian of Congress to promote the more cost-effective, efficient, and expanded availability of the Annotated Constitution and pocket-part supplements by replacing the hardbound versions with digital versions:* H.R. 1234, to direct the Librarian of Congress to promote the more cost-effective, efficient, and expanded availability of the Annotated Constitution and pocket-part supplements by replacing the hardbound versions with digital versions; **Pages H1345–47**

*Filing Relief for Natural Disasters Act:* H.R. 517, amended, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the rules for postponing certain deadlines by reason of disaster, by a  $\frac{2}{3}$  yea-and-nay vote of 388 yeas with none voting “nay”, Roll No. 84; **Pages H1347–48, H1356**

*Internal Revenue Service Math and Taxpayer Help Act:* H.R. 998, amended, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to require additional information on math and clerical error notices; **Pages H1348–49**

*National Taxpayer Advocate Enhancement Act of 2025:* H.R. 997, amended, 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, by a  $\frac{2}{3}$  yea-and-nay vote of 385 yeas with none voting “nay”, Roll No. 85; **Pages H1349–51 H1356–57**

*Recovery of Stolen Checks Act:* H.R. 1155, amended, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow taxpayers to elect to receive certain replacement refunds electronically; and **Pages H1351–53**

*Electronic Filing and Payment Fairness Act:* H.R. 1152, amended, 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. **Pages H1354–56**

**Suspension—Proceedings Postponed:** The House debated the following measure under suspension of the rules. Further proceedings were postponed.

*Disaster Related Extension of Deadlines Act:* H.R. 1152, amended, 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. **Pages H1353–54**

**Presidential Messages:** Received a message from the President transmitting a notification stating that the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13694 of April 1, 2015, regarding significant malicious cyber-related activities originating outside the United States, 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—referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed (H. Doc. 119–33). **Page H1344**

Received a message from the President transmitting a notification stating that the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13664 of April 3, 2014, with respect to South Sudan is to continue in effect beyond April 3, 2025—referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed (H. Doc. 119–34). **Page H1345**

**Senate Referral:** S.J. Res. 18 was held at the desk. **Page H1345**

**Senate Message:** Message received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appears on pages H1344–45.

**Quorum Calls—Votes:** Two yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H1356 and H1357.

**Adjournment:** The House met at 12 p.m. and adjourned at 9:33 p.m.

## Committee Meetings

NO ROGUE RULINGS ACT OF 2025;  
SAFEGUARD AMERICAN VOTER  
ELIGIBILITY ACT; DISAPPROVING THE  
RULE RELATING TO OVERDRAFT  
LENDING: VERY LARGE FINANCIAL  
INSTITUTIONS; DISAPPROVING THE RULE  
RELATING TO DEFINING LARGER  
PARTICIPANTS OF A MARKET FOR  
GENERAL-USE DIGITAL CONSUMER  
PAYMENT APPLICATIONS

**Committee on Rules:** Full Committee began a 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”; and 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". Testimony was heard from Chairman Steil, and Representatives Issa, Raskin, Morelle, Barr, Waters, and Johnson of Texas.

## Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

### COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR TUESDAY, APRIL 1, 2025

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

#### Senate

*Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry*: to hold hearings to examine S. 222, to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to allow schools that participate in the school lunch program to serve whole milk, 10 a.m., SR-328A.

*Committee on Armed Services*: to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Lieutenant General John D. Caine (Retired), to be general and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Department of Defense, 9:30 a.m., SD-G50.

*Committee on Finance*: business meeting to consider the nomination of Frank Bisignano, of New Jersey, to be Commissioner of Social Security Administration, 10 a.m., SD-215.

*Committee on Foreign Relations*: to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Tilman Fertitta, of Texas, to be Ambassador to the Italian Republic, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador to the Republic of San Marino, Warren Stephens, of Arkansas, to be Ambassador to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and Thomas Barrack, of Colorado, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Turkey, all of the Department of State, 10:30 a.m., SD-419.

*Committee on the Judiciary*: Subcommittee on Antitrust, Competition Policy, and Consumer Rights, to hold hearings to examine big fixes for big tech, 2:30 p.m., SD-226.

*Committee on Veterans' Affairs*: to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Samuel Brown, of Nevada, to be Under Secretary of Veterans Affairs for Memorial Affairs, James Baehr, of Louisiana, to be General Counsel, and Richard Topping, of Ohio, to be Chief Financial Officer, all of the Department of Veterans Affairs, 10:30 a.m., SR-418.

*Select Committee on Intelligence*: to receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH-219.

#### House

*Committee on Appropriations*, Subcommittee on National Security, Department of State, and Related Programs, hearing entitled "Member Day", 8:30 a.m., H-140 Capitol.

*Committee on Armed Services*, Full Committee, hearing entitled "U.S. Military Posture and National Security

Challenges in North and South America", 10 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Full Committee, hearing entitled "U.S. Military Posture and National Security Challenges in North and South America", 10 a.m., 2212 Rayburn. This hearing is closed.

*Committee on Education and Workforce*, Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education, hearing entitled "From Chalkboards to Chatbots: The Impact of AI on K-12 Education", 10:15 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

*Committee on Energy and Commerce*, Subcommittee on Health, hearing entitled "Examining the FDA's Regulation of Over-the-Counter Monograph Drugs", 10:15 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled "Aging Technology, Emerging Threats: Examining Cybersecurity Vulnerabilities in Legacy Medical Devices", 10:30 a.m., 2322 Rayburn.

*Committee on Financial Services*, Subcommittee on National Security, Illicit Finance, and International Financial Institutions, hearing entitled "Following the Money: Tools and Techniques to Combat Fraud", 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

*Committee on Foreign Affairs*, South and Central Asia Subcommittee, hearing entitled "Censorship-Industrial Complex: The Need for First Amendment Safeguards at the State Department", 10 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Full Committee, hearing entitled "A Return to Maximum Pressure: Comprehensively Countering the Iranian Regime's Malign Activities", 2 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

*Committee on Homeland Security*, Subcommittee on Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Protection, hearing entitled "Cybersecurity is Local, Too: Assessing the State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program", 10 a.m., 310 Cannon.

Subcommittee on Border Security and Enforcement; and Subcommittee on Emergency Management and Technology, joint hearing entitled "Exploring the Use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems Across the DHS Enterprise", 2 p.m., 310 Cannon.

*Committee on the Judiciary*, Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property, Artificial Intelligence, and the Internet; and Subcommittee on the Constitution and Limited Government, joint hearing entitled "Judicial Overreach and Constitutional Limits on the Federal Courts", 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

*Committee on Oversight and Government Reform*, Subcommittee on Economic Growth, Energy Policy, and Regulatory Affairs, hearing entitled "America's AI Moonshot: The Economics of AI, Data Centers, and Power Consumption", 10 a.m., 2247 Rayburn.

Task Force on the Declassification of Federal Secrets, hearing entitled "Task Force on the Declassification of Federal Secrets: the JFK Files", 2 p.m., HVC-210.

*Committee on Rules*, Full Committee, continue 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"; and 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", 8 a.m., H-313 Capitol.

*Committee on Science, Space, and Technology*, Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics, hearing entitled "Leveraging Commercial Innovation for Lunar Exploration: A Review of NASA's CLPS Initiative", 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

*Committee on Small Business*, Full Committee, hearing entitled "The Golden Age: Unleashing Main Street Through Deregulation", 10 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.

*Committee on Veterans' Affairs*, Full Committee, hearing entitled "Harnessing Biomedical Innovation: Modernizing VA Healthcare for the Future", 10:15 a.m., 360 Cannon.

## CONGRESSIONAL PROGRAM AHEAD

Week of April 1 through April 4, 2025

### Senate Chamber

On Tuesday, Senate will continue 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, post-closure, and vote on confirmation of the nomination.

During the balance of the week, Senate may consider any cleared legislative and executive business.

### Senate Committees

*(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)*

*Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry*: April 1, to hold hearings to examine S. 222, to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to allow schools that participate in the school lunch program to serve whole milk, 10 a.m., SR-328A.

*Committee on Armed Services*: April 1, to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Lieutenant General John D. Caine (Retired), to be general and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Department of Defense, 9:30 a.m., SD-G50.

April 3, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the posture of the United States European Command and United States Africa Command in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2026 and the Future Years Defense Program; to be immediately followed by a closed hearing in SVC-217, 9:30 a.m., SD-G50.

*Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs*: April 3, business meeting to consider the nominations of Paul Atkins, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Securities and Exchange Commission, Jonathan Gould, of Virginia, to be Comptroller of the Currency, and Luke Pettit, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary, both of the Department of the Treasury, and Marcus Molinaro, of New York, to be Federal Transit Administrator, Department of Transportation, 10 a.m., SD-538.

*Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation*: April 2, to hold hearings to examine restoring Boeing's status

as a great American manufacturer, focusing on safety first, 10 a.m., SD-G50.

*Committee on Energy and Natural Resources*: April 2, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Katharine MacGregor, of Florida, to be Deputy Secretary of the Interior, and James Danly, of Tennessee, to be Deputy Secretary of Energy, 10 a.m., SD-366.

*Committee on Environment and Public Works*: April 2, to hold hearings to examine constructing the Surface Transportation Reauthorization bill, focusing on United States Secretary of Transportation's perspective, 10 a.m., SD-406.

*Committee on Finance*: April 1, business meeting to consider the nomination of Frank Bisignano, of New Jersey, to be Commissioner of Social Security Administration, 10 a.m., SD-215.

*Committee on Foreign Relations*: April 1, to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Tilman Fertitta, of Texas, to be Ambassador to the Italian Republic, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador to the Republic of San Marino, Warren Stephens, of Arkansas, to be Ambassador to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and Thomas Barrack, of Colorado, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Turkey, all of the Department of State, 10:30 a.m., SD-419.

April 2, Full Committee, business meeting to consider pending calendar nominations, 10 a.m., S-116, Capitol.

April 3, Full Committee, business meeting to consider pending nominations, 10:30 a.m., S-116, Capitol.

*Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs*: April 3, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Scott Kupor, of California, to be Director of the Office of Personnel Management, and Eric Matthew Ueland, of Virginia, to be Deputy Director for Management, Office of Management and Budget, 9:30 a.m., SD-342.

*Committee on Indian Affairs*: April 2, to hold an oversight hearing to examine Native American education, focusing on Federal programs at the U.S. Department of Education, 2:30 p.m., SD-628.

*Committee on the Judiciary*: April 1, Subcommittee on Antitrust, Competition Policy, and Consumer Rights, to hold hearings to examine big fixes for big tech, 2:30 p.m., SD-226.

April 2, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine District Judges, focusing on exploring legislative solutions to the bipartisan problem of universal injunctions, 10:15 a.m., SD-226.

April 3, Full Committee, business meeting to consider S. 527, to require the Federal Trade Commission to study the role of intermediaries in the pharmaceutical supply chain and provide Congress with appropriate policy recommendations, S. 1040, to amend the Federal Trade Commission Act to prohibit product hopping, S. 1041, to amend title 35, United States Code, to address the infringement of patents that claim biological products, S. 1097, to amend title 35, United States Code, to establish an interagency task force between the United States Patent and Trademark Office and the Food and Drug Administration for purposes of sharing information and providing technical assistance with respect to patents, S.

1095, to enable the Federal Trade Commission to deter filing of sham citizen petitions to cover an attempt to interfere with approval of a competing generic drug or biosimilar, to foster competition, and facilitate the efficient review of petitions filed in good faith to raise legitimate public health concerns, and S. 1096, to prohibit brand name drug companies from compensating generic drug companies to delay the entry of a generic drug into the market, and to prohibit biological product manufacturers from compensating biosimilar and interchangeable companies to delay the entry of biosimilar biological products and interchangeable biological products, and the nomination of Patrick David Davis, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, 10:15 a.m., SH-216.

*Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship:* April 2, business meeting to consider S. 1199, SBA Fraud Enforcement Extension Act, 2:30 p.m., SR-428A.

*Committee on Veterans' Affairs:* April 1, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Samuel Brown, of Nevada, to be Under Secretary of Veterans Affairs for Memorial Affairs, James Baehr, of Louisiana, to be General Counsel, and Richard Topping, of Ohio, to be Chief Financial Officer, all of the Department of Veterans Affairs, 10:30 a.m., SR-418.

*Select Committee on Intelligence:* April 1, to receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH-219.

April 2, Full Committee, to receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH-219.

### House Committees

*Committee on Appropriations:* April 2, Subcommittee on National Security, Department of State, and Related Programs, hearing entitled "Outside Witness Day", 10 a.m., 2358-C Rayburn.

April 2, Subcommittee on Legislative Branch, budget hearing on the House of Representatives, 10 a.m., 2362-A Rayburn.

*Committee on Armed Services:* April 2, Subcommittee on Tactical Air and Land Forces, hearing entitled "Small UAS and Counter-Small UAS: Gaps, Requirements, and Projected Capabilities", 3:30 p.m., 2118 Rayburn.

*Committee on Education and Workforce:* April 2, Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions, hearing entitled "A Healthy Workforce: Expanding Access and Affordability in Employer-Sponsored Health Care", 2 p.m., 2175 Rayburn.

*Committee on Financial Services:* April 2, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 2392, the "Stablecoin Transparency and Accountability for a Better Ledger Economy (STABLE) Act of 2025"; H.R. 2384, the "Financial Technology Protection Act of 2025"; H.R. 976, the "1071 Repeal to Protect Small Business Lending Act"; H.R. 1919, the

"Anti-CBDC Surveillance State Act"; H.R. 478, the "Promoting New Bank Formation Act"; and H. Res. 259, 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, 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

*Committee on the Judiciary:* April 2, Subcommittee on the Administrative State, Regulatory Reform, and Antitrust, hearing entitled "Artificial Intelligence: Examining Trends in Innovation and Competition", 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

April 2, Subcommittee on Oversight, hearing entitled "Inside the Biden FBI: Waste, Fraud, Abuse, and a Bureau Leadership in Decline", 2 p.m., 2141 Rayburn.

*Committee on Natural Resources:* April 2, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled "Unleashing the Golden Age of American Energy Dominance", 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

*Committee on Oversight and Government Reform:* April 2, Subcommittee on Military and Foreign Affairs, hearing entitled "Salt Typhoon: Securing America's Telecommunications from State-Sponsored Cyber Attacks", 10 a.m., HVC-210.

*Committee on Small Business:* April 2, Full Committee, hearing entitled "Fueling America's Future: How Investment Empowers Small Business Growth", 10 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.

*Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure:* April 2, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 2390, the "Maritime Supply Chain Security Act"; H.R. 2351, to direct the Commandant of the Coast Guard to update the policy of the Coast Guard regarding the use of medication to treat drug overdose, and for other purposes; H.R. 252, the "Secure Our Ports Act of 2025"; H.R. 2035, the "American Cargo for American Ships Act"; H.R. 188, the "Amtrak Transparency and Accountability for Passengers and Taxpayers Act"; H.R. 248, the "Baby Changing on Board Act"; H.R. 1373, the "Tennessee Valley Authority Transparency Act of 2025"; H.R. 1948, to authorize the International Boundary and Water Commission to accept funds for activities relating to wastewater treatment and flood control works, and for other purposes; H. Res. 137, designating the House Press Gallery (Rooms H-315, H-316, H-317, H-318, and H-319 of the United States Capitol) as the "Frederick Douglass Press Gallery", 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

*Committee on Veterans' Affairs:* April 2, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled "Answering the Call: Examining VA's Mental Health Policies", 2 p.m., 360 Cannon.

*Next Meeting of the SENATE*

Tuesday, April 1

**Senate Chamber**

**Program for Tuesday:** Senate will continue 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, post-cloture, and vote on confirmation of the nomination.

*Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES*

10 a.m., Tuesday, April 1

**House Chamber**

**Program for Tuesday:** Consideration of S.J. Res. 18—Disapproving the rule submitted by the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection relating to “Overdraft Lending: Very Large Financial Institutions” (Subject to a Rule). Consideration of S.J. Res. 28—Disapproving the rule submitted by the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection relating to “Defining Larger Participants of a Market for General-Use Digital Consumer Payment Applications” (Subject to a Rule).

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