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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,

May 7, 2025.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ROGER WILLIAMS to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

MIKE JOHNSON,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

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

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with time equally allocated between the parties and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

HONORING THE REMARKABLE LIFE AND LEGACY OF JIM AYERS

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

Mr. KUSTOFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a lifelong Tennessean and a good friend of mine, Jim Ayers, who recently passed away on April 1.

Throughout his life, Jim Ayers wore many hats: a loving husband and father, a successful businessman, and a generous philanthropist.

Originally from rural Decatur County, which is just outside of my district,

Jim's father was a lumberman and a farmer. His mother ran a fabric shop and managed duplexes. They were a family of very modest means.

From an early age, Jim and his siblings learned the value of hard work. At the age of 8, Jim decided that he was an entrepreneur. He shined shoes for 10 cents a pair and drove a tractor on the family farm.

In 1961, Jim began college at Memphis State University, which is now the University of Memphis. It was there that he got married and started a family. In the years after graduation, Jim started working in finance and accounting at a nursing home company in Memphis called Care Inns.

He quickly rose through the ranks and was eventually named as president. After selling the company, Jim started a nursing home in Parsons, Tennessee. American Health Centers grew from 40 nursing homes across the Volunteer State.

By the mid-1990s, Jim decided to sell the nursing home business to focus on his new growing interest: community banking.

Jim partnered with his friend to buy the Farmers State Bank in Scotts Hill, Tennessee, and eventually would go on to acquire First National Bank in Lexington. It was there that FirstBank was born.

Serving as chief executive officer and before becoming executive chairman of the board, he took the bank public on the New York Stock Exchange in 2016. Today, FirstBank is known across the State of Tennessee as a good bank, a good employer, and a good community partner.

However, it is Jim's work outside of the office for which he will truly be remembered. Jim was a man of deep faith. He firmly believed that, as the Scriptures state: "To whom much is given, much is expected." It was in that spirit that Jim started the Ayers Foundation with the mission of giving

back to Tennessee, especially to our children.

For over 25 years, the Ayers Scholars Program has supported more than 20,000 students in rural Tennessee. To help children, the Ayers Foundation has a footprint in 33 high schools across 21 of Tennessee's rural counties.

Mr. Speaker, Jim spent much of his life making sure that every child, no matter his or her financial status, should have the opportunity to receive a good education and build a good life.

In addition to the scholarship program, Jim established the Ayers Institute at the Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center, the Jim Ayers Medical Tower at Vanderbilt University Medical Center, the Ayers Children's Hospital in Jackson, and the Ayers Institute for Teacher Learning & Innovation at Lipscomb University, among other entities.

I recently spoke with Jim's good friend, former Tennessee Highway Patrol Lieutenant Joey Hargrove, who traveled all across the State with Jim for about 30 years.

Joey remembers the one thing that remained constant through the years: Jim never wanted any recognition or acknowledgement for any of his good deeds. Joey told me that he learned a lot about being a good man from Jim Ayers. Whether it be a scholarship or getting treatment at a medical center, Jim never wanted you to know that it was he who made it happen.

The last time I sat down with Jim and his wife, Janet, who he loved and adored, was several months ago. Jim may have known that he was sick, but he didn't want that to be the topic of conversation. He wanted to focus on the future and what could be done for the community. It was never about Jim. He did everything out of the goodness of his heart and the genuine love for others.

In the years to come, Jim's legacy and that of Janet will live on in the

□ 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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children he gifted an education to, the patients he helped to receive care, and the families who will never know his impact.

Roberta and I continue to think about Janet; his son, Jon; and all the family and wish them the best during these challenging times. Jim Ayers will be remembered for a long time in Tennessee for all of the good that he did for so many people.

RECOGNIZING JESSICA SUAREZ NIETO DURING TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

(Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, during Teacher Appreciation Week, I rise to honor Jessica Suarez Nieto, a middle school teacher at Telpochcalli School, a dual language school, recently named Bilingual Teacher of the Year by the Illinois State Board of Education.

As a young immigrant child who didn't speak English when I arrived in the U.S., I knew firsthand the impact that teachers like Ms. Suarez can have on their students.

Ms. Suarez is a champion of dual language education. She uses language as a bridge to connect with families, affirm cultural identities, and empower students. She helps them feel seen, heard, and confident in classrooms where they are often told to shrink or stay silent. She teaches her students more than just math. She teaches them that they matter. She gives them a voice.

I thank Ms. Suarez for being an incredible teacher and for her work and deep commitment to her students.

CELEBRATING CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF LEYDEN HIGH SCHOOL

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate a century of excellence in public education, the 100-year anniversary of Leyden High School District No. 212, proudly serving the western suburbs of Chicago.

What began as a 2-year school in a portable building has grown into a thriving, two-campus district. East Leyden and West Leyden, now serving more than 3,300 students with over 200 dedicated teachers.

Rooted in blue and gold and soaring under the banner of the eagle, Leyden's commitment to academic and artistic excellence has inspired pride, unity, and spirit across the district's communities.

True to its mission to educate, enrich, and empower, Leyden does more than reach; it uplifts. It lives by one simple, powerful motto: Do What's Best for the Kids.

I congratulate the students, teachers, alumni, and school leaders of this century of service. Here is to the next 100.

MIGRANT ABDUCTION

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to sound the alarm on a crisis threatening our democracy.

President Trump has defied a unanimous Supreme Court order blocking the return of Kilmar Abrego Garcia and, instead, vanishing him to a prison in El Salvador without a trial, without a hearing, and without a shred of justice.

This isn't just cruelty, but it is lawlessness. It is a direct assault on our values and the rule of law. He was abducted from his home and sent to a foreign prison infamously known for human rights violations. When the President defies the courts, he crosses the line into tyranny. He is even arresting judges whom he sees as standing in his way.

When tyranny takes root, no one is safe. Today, it is immigrants with tattoos, 2-year-olds, and even children with cancer. Tomorrow, it could be anyone who falls out of favor, even Republicans who don't clap long enough or make the pilgrimage to Mar-a-Lago to kiss the ring.

We have to stand up for our rights and for the rule of law not just for Kilmar but for the future of our Republic.

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

□ 1015

HONORING BORDER PATROL AGENT HECTOR MORENO, JR.

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

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

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

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

I had the opportunity to join Mr. Moreno in south Texas to participate in a ride-along, hear from Border Patrol agents, and experience their day-to-day assignments to protect our communities.

Last summer, Mr. Moreno retired as the division chief for the Rio Grande Valley Sector. We are grateful for his honorable service and exemplary leadership to his fellow agents and our community. In his retirement, he continues to serve others as a criminal justice teacher at Nikki Rowe High School and leads the student criminal justice club in McAllen.

Mr. Speaker, once again, I thank Mr. Moreno for his selfless service, and I

congratulate him on his well-deserved retirement.

HONORING SMALL BUSINESS OF THE MONTH MATT'S BUILDING MATERIALS

Ms. DE LA CRUZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Matt's Building Materials as Texas' 15th District's Small Business of the Month.

In the wake of Hurricane Beulah in 1967, Matt's Building Materials, then known as Valley Cash & Carry Building Materials, was founded to help the community rebuild from the severe damage the hurricane caused in the Rio Grande Valley.

Several years later, Ira Matt took over the company and brought Danny Smith on board to manage their various locations. At the time, Matt's was the only lumberyard and building material store to cater to the Hispanic community.

Challenges were brought on throughout the decades, but the team at Matt's always stayed true to their values and dedication to faith, family, and service.

Four generations of Matt's have operated the business, and today, the business is run by Danny's son, Jeremy, alongside his brothers.

Their team goes above and beyond to help south Texans across our communities build and rebuild homes. By providing high-quality service and building materials, the family-owned small business has become an integral part of our south Texas community.

In 2022, disaster struck when their flagship location in Pharr caught fire. Their physical store was lost, but their commitment to community was strong. Through unwavering faith and teamwork, their service to the community was able to resume as the team rebuilt their Pharr location.

Today, their commitment to community lives on. Following the devastating flooding in south Texas earlier this year, the team immediately launched a flood relief program to help those who are rebuilding from the flood damage, just like they did over 50 years ago.

Through faith and hard work, no challenge is impossible to overcome, and we are so grateful to have businesses like theirs in south Texas.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the team at Matt's for all they do for our community, for south Texas, and for our State.

CELEBRATING MOTHER'S DAY

(Ms. TLAIB of Michigan was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, as the chair of the Congressional Mamas Caucus and a mother of two incredible boys, I rise today to celebrate Mother's Day.

I recognize the strength and love that mothers bring to our families and our neighborhoods, yet too often mothers are left behind in this Chamber.

In the richest country in the world, Mr. Speaker, no mother should worry about feeding her children or affording

basic care. Ending child poverty is a policy choice. I introduced the End Child Poverty Act to provide a universal child benefit for every child in our country and cut child poverty by 60 percent.

Paid leave, affordable childcare, and universal school meals should be a guarantee, not a privilege.

I also introduced and helped cosponsor the Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act to ensure that all mothers are safe, respected, and supported. We know that Black women are three times more likely to die from pregnancy-related causes.

This week, I am proud that the Congressional Mamas Caucus is launching Mamas for Medicaid, as we see, again, many folks in this Chamber cutting a lifeline for so many mothers and families across our country.

An \$880 billion cut to Medicaid would be devastating, so this Mother's Day, I am asking all of my colleagues to not only thank our mothers but do it with action as we recommit to fighting for the dignity and health of every mother in our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I thank all the amazing mothers of the 12th Congressional District and wish a happy Mother's Day to all of our mamas. We see and honor them, and we must, again, be able to celebrate them with action.

STARVATION IN GAZA

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, using starvation as a weapon is a war crime.

For over 2 months, the Israeli Government has completely and deliberately blocked food, water, medical supplies, and fuel from entering Gaza and targeting local aid convoys.

At least 57 Palestinians, including children, have already starved to death. Over 9,000 children are already experiencing malnutrition.

Palestinians have been forced to eat grass, dirty flour, and animal feed just to survive, while thousands of trucks carrying food and lifesaving aid have sat blocked at the border because of the Israeli Government.

Palestinians deserve to live. Instead of agreeing to an offered cease-fire and the release of all hostages, war criminal Netanyahu announced his plans to forcibly expel and ethnically cleanse the entire Palestinian population and to flatten and annex Gaza.

This was always the plan, and I am waiting for my colleagues in this Chamber to call it out. Our country is an accomplice in this genocide, and the world is letting it happen. The only path to make it stop is an arms embargo. Americans overwhelmingly support it. We should listen to our residents and save lives now.

Silence here on starvation is supporting this war crime.

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN STUDENT RIGHTS

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, from the university president to its board of regents, from the State attorney general to the White House, University of Michigan students and faculty exercising their rights to speak out against

genocide have been under attack from all sides.

From selective prosecutions to eight faculty members being fired for attending protests, the university has damaged its reputation while putting its full weight into suppressing speech and First Amendment rights.

Their courageous solidarity movement has been undaunted, and this past week has offered a ray of hope that the Constitution still applies on campus, Mr. Speaker. It doesn't end when you enter a campus.

First, the university president responsible for suppressing student rights, gutting DEI, and rolling over for the Trump administration resigned and fled to another State. Then, the attorney general in Michigan was forced to drop felony charges against campus protesters before a judge could rule on whether to remove her from the cases due to bias.

This coordinated smear campaign is especially outrageous and egregious as Michigan prides itself on being an incubator for protests and social justice movements, where students are inspired to hold the powerful accountable and make the world a better place, but there is an exception for Palestinians.

All across campus, historic divestment campaigns, from apartheid in South Africa to fossil fuels, are celebrated. Yet, there is an exception for Palestine when it comes to free speech, and it remains strong.

Whether intentionally or not, Mr. Speaker, its proponents are playing directly into the Trump administration's hands as they seek to destroy universities as we know them.

These governmental overreaches and power grabs are test cases, and their impacts won't be confined to college campuses. Mr. Speaker, you don't have to agree with their speech to understand what is at stake when their rights are being threatened.

CELEBRATING NATIONAL TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

(Mr. MOYLAN of Guam was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate national teachers week and to express my deepest gratitude to the dedicated and hardworking educators who shape the minds and futures of our next generation.

Teachers are the heart of our schools and the soul of our communities. In Guam, like every other corner of America, we see that every day. Our educators in the Guam Department of Education wear many hats. They are not only teachers but mentors, counselors, coaches, and role models.

This past year, our teachers have faced enormous challenges such as recovering from the effects of typhoons and teaching in aging and damaged infrastructure. Despite this, our teachers have remained committed to our students and to the mission of education.

As a member of the Education and Workforce Committee, I am committed

to ensuring our teachers get the support and resources to succeed.

Mr. Speaker, I thank every teacher in Guam and across the country for going to work with dedication and love. I thank them for investing in the next generation of leaders, thinkers, and changemakers.

CELEBRATING ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate May as Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month.

This month, we honor the cultures, histories, and contributions of AAPI communities across the United States, and especially in places like my district of Guam.

In Guam, we are surrounded by the heritage of Asian and Pacific Islander cultures every day. From our Chamoru traditions to our rich multicultural identity, many cultural aspects are woven into every part of island life. From language and family to service and resilience, Guam's people have answered our Nation's call in times of war and peace, contributed to our economy, enriched our culture, and stood as a strategic cornerstone in the Pacific.

As I stand here today representing the island of Guam, I am committed to ensuring that our voice on the national stage is seen, heard, and respected.

This AAPI Heritage Month, let us celebrate the differences that strengthen us and reaffirm our commitment to creating communities that bring people together here, across the Pacific, and in Guam.

OPPOSING ILLEGAL POWER GRABS

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

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the Trump administration's illegal power grabs.

Through executive orders, the Trump administration continues to circumvent Congress and violate the checks and balances of our three branches of government. He also continues to ignore court orders, including from the highest Court in the land, the U.S. Supreme Court, inching every day closer and closer to a constitutional crisis.

□ 1030

Mr. Speaker, in addition, Senate and House Republicans have made it clear time and time again that they have no interest in holding the President accountable to the American people and the Constitution of the United States of America, leaving the judicial branches of government as our strongest tool, leaving the courts as our only hope.

Within hours of taking office, President Trump issued an executive order that would have unlawfully denied birthright citizenship, which is guaranteed to everyone born in America by the 14th Amendment. He did this although this principle has been affirmed

by the courts on numerous occasions. Currently, the courts have halted this executive order, citing how unconstitutional it is. More than 200 Democrats filed an amicus brief against this executive order when it was challenged in court. This attempt has been successfully halted.

In February, over a dozen religious organizations filed a lawsuit. These organizations sued the Department of Homeland Security after the administration rescinded guidance that would prevent immigration enforcement in sensitive locations, like schools, hospitals, and houses of worship.

Mr. Speaker, you could be praying at a church or in a synagogue or temple, and immigration enforcement could bust in to arrest somebody as they pray to their God. They tried to implement this aggressive practice, and yet people have gone to the courts for relief.

This echoes my own bill, H.R. 1061, Protecting Sensitive Locations Act, which would codify the Biden-era guidance. More than 70 of my Democratic colleagues have joined to support this legislation. Democrats have been hard at work to support ongoing legal cases by joining our amicus briefs.

When the Trump administration tried to dismantle the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, the agency that provides relief to consumers, 200 Democrats filed an amicus brief when it went to court. The amicus brief was cited by the judge in the decision, pausing the dismantling of this important bureau.

Mr. Speaker, after one of Trump's latest crackdowns on scientific research at universities, Harvard filed a lawsuit against the administration, arguing that its freezing of research funding is unconstitutional and flatly unlawful.

Though undocumented families and small businesses were explicitly encouraged for decades by government and legal counsel to come forward out of the darkness and pay their taxes through their ITIN number, the Trump administration is now trying to target this data to carry out his mass deportation plan.

This is not just an immigration issue; this is a privacy issue. Taxpayer privacy is key to our democracy. That is why, as chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, I led the CHC in an amicus brief on this legislation. More than 100 Democrats have signed on.

It is clear through his actions and his words that President Trump has no interest in upholding the Constitution and granting every American the due process that they are owed. There has been a longstanding tradition of under-represented communities resorting to the judicial system when all else has failed to hold larger, richer, and more powerful entities accountable.

We must continue the fight to uphold the right to due process. We must fight to continue to hold the Trump administration accountable. We must pre-

serve our system of checks and balances. Not to do so would damage the balance of power and permanently fracture our democracy.

HONORING DEVYN MARTIN AND COACH TOMMY EGGLESTON

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

Mr. BURCHETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Devyn Martin and his coach, Tommy Eggleston. Both Devyn and Coach Eggleston have left an incredible, lasting mark, not only on West High School basketball but also on the entire community.

Devyn is a heck of a ballplayer, Mr. Speaker, and this year he earned the title of Player of the Year for District 4-4A, averaging a double-double, while being a key leader in the locker room.

As Devyn heads off to college to continue his career, Mr. Speaker, please join me in wishing him good luck.

Coach Tommy Eggleston joined West High School's faculty and coaching staff in 2011 and has always been a role model and tremendous leader for students at West High School. I have seen it firsthand, Mr. Speaker.

This past year he was promoted to be the head coach of the basketball team. In his first season, Mr. Speaker, he led his young men to a 21-4 record, finishing second in the district.

On behalf of all the Members in this Chamber, I offer congratulations to Devyn and Coach Egg, and I wish them the best of luck in the future. I can't wait to see what each of them achieve.

HONORING MARY FRANCES TUCKER

Mr. BURCHETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mary Frances Tucker for her service to the community with the Emerald Youth Foundation.

Emerald Youth Foundation is a Christian ministry that has served young people in Knoxville for over 30 years, offering ministry, mentorship, and fellowship. The organization under Ms. Tucker's board leadership serves over 3,000 young people each year in urban Knoxville.

Mary Frances Tucker has dedicated her life to Christ and serving the least amongst us. Her devotion to serving children in Knoxville started with raising four amazing children along with her late husband, Guy Tucker. I know her daughter very well. She is quite a lady.

Mrs. Tucker has spent countless days selflessly volunteering to make sure that inner-city children and young adults have access to resources that are so vital to their success.

Prioritizing education, healthy habits, and helping young people in their walk with Christ has allowed Mrs. Tucker to have a profound impact on countless generations of east Tennesseans. I have no doubt that every person who has been and continues to be touched by Mary Frances Tucker will go on to achieve great things and, most importantly, be good stewards of Jesus.

I had the time of my life the other morning having breakfast with her when they were honoring her, and it was quite a deal. She is quite a lady. I am proud to know her.

HONORING MILES MENCER ON HIS RETIREMENT

Mr. BURCHETT. Mr. Speaker, I am going to change sides here real quick. I rise today to honor a good friend of mine, a great Tennessean, my buddy Miles Mencer, who is finally retiring after five decades of hard work in east Tennessee. I am sure he will continue to be a thorn in my side, Mr. Speaker.

Miles has worked his tail off for 54 years. He started working for his father when he was only 9 years old for Mencer's Tree Service in Knoxville, Tennessee. Miles eventually took over his father's beloved business, turning it into one of the most successful tree services in east Tennessee.

If you know anything about Miles, you know the impact that he has on a room when he walks in. He is one of the most fun-loving, outgoing, and dadgummit, he is just hilarious, Mr. Speaker. He is also a little bit too loud for my taste, but that will go for some other time. He is just an incredible person.

I always remember in junior high school, me and a friend of mine, who has since passed away, I was always the designated driver for obvious reasons, and we were going to a place out a ways, and Miles walked out disgusted. My friend remarked that we needed to turn around because Miles Mencer just got carded. He has been quite a friend of mine since then.

Please join me in congratulating Miles on 54 years of hard work and dedication to his community in east Tennessee. I know Miles will enjoy having more time to spend with his amazing children and grandchildren. I am sure he will continue to be a thorn in my side. I am proud to call him a friend.

FUNDING FOOD AID FOR MALNUTRITION

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

Mr. MAGAZINER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today for the sixth time to call for the Trump administration to restore funding for lifesaving food aid for malnourished children.

It has been 2 months since Congress passed and President Trump signed a funding bill for fiscal year 2025. It included money that can be used to continue purchasing ready-to-use therapeutic food, a miracle peanut paste that saves the lives of starving children and is produced by, among others, Edesia Nutrition in my district in Rhode Island with ingredients sourced from States all across our country.

Here we are in May, and since the Trump administration came into office in January, not a single dollar of that money has gone to buying this promised lifesaving food aid. Instead, Edesia

has boxes of food stuck in warehouses, factory workers laid off, with children suffering from severe malnutrition and famine.

This is food that has already been paid for by the American taxpayers that could be used to feed starving children who are victims of war and famine, but instead, it sits in a warehouse benefitting no one.

We need the funding that this Congress provided to go through now because starving children can't wait. To make matters worse, the administration's fiscal year 2026 so-called skinny budget completely eliminates funding for the Food for Peace program, a bipartisan program that is the main source of funding for food assistance to combat hunger and malnutrition while also supporting America's farmers and agriculture industry. We must reject that plan and continue to fund Food for Peace.

In the meantime, though, this is urgent. For fiscal year 2025, the funding has already been appropriated. It has been approved. It has been signed by the President. We need the administration to put in the new orders to continue this flow of lifesaving aid to children.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. JACOBS), a person who has been a real champion on the issue of hunger around the world, to hear her thoughts on the subject.

Ms. JACOBS. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman MAGAZINER for championing this issue and fighting to address the malnutrition of millions of children around the world.

Every year, about 45 million young children worldwide suffer from severe malnutrition. That is about one in every three children under 5 years old. Tragically, about 1 to 2 million of those children will die.

Nutrition during that time is incredibly important for long-term development. It is what powers kids to grow taller, get stronger, develop their brains, and have a stronger immune system. If kids don't get the nutrition they need during this time, it literally has generational consequences.

Thankfully, as Congressman MAGAZINER has highlighted, we have a proven treatment to save the lives of malnourished children: ready-to-use therapeutic food, or RUTF. RUTF is the go-to treatment for malnutrition in hard-to-reach areas and emergencies because it doesn't require refrigeration, preparation, or any training to deliver. It is nutrient rich, delivering essential nutrients and calories so people can recover from malnutrition quickly.

Mr. Speaker, I worked at UNICEF. I have seen firsthand the power of these lifesaving treatments. I have seen that they work. I have seen how fast kids can bounce back and recover. I have seen that U.S. funding and U.S. assistance makes a difference.

Unfortunately, President Trump has eliminated countless assistance pro-

grams that have kept children alive. His administration hasn't placed new orders for RUTF at Edesia Nutrition in Rhode Island, causing production to almost stop.

We already knew that the promises of waivers for emergency food assistance were lies, and now we have further proof. Starving children shouldn't be political pawns, and their futures shouldn't be toyed with.

Here is my message to the Trump administration: Do the right thing. Restore funding for emergency food assistance and help save the lives of children around the world.

Mr. MAGAZINER. Mr. Speaker, I thank Ms. JACOBS for her long body of work championing children around the world, particularly on the issue of malnutrition. I will continue to stand in this Chamber every day we are in session and speak on this topic until funding for RUTF is restored.

ADVOCATING AGAINST MEDICAID CUTS

(Mr. AUCHINCLOSS of Massachusetts was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. AUCHINCLOSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to advocate against the funding cuts to the Medicaid program that have been proposed for consideration during the budget reconciliation process.

Specifically, the Energy and Commerce Committee, of which I am a member, has been tasked with cutting \$880 billion of Federal spending across the healthcare programs it oversees, a vast majority of which supports Medicaid.

Cutting this program will be used in service of tax cuts for people who don't need tax cuts and will be devastating to children and families who do need the healthcare.

□ 1045

Mr. Speaker, as we discuss cuts to this program, we must not forget the people behind these budgetary numbers. As such, I will highlight one Massachusetts family today. I will be reading a poem entitled, "The Mathematics of Mercy." It was written by Betsy Johnson. Betsy is an autism educator with the ARC of Massachusetts and a mother of two young adult children with autism and other intellectual disabilities. They rely on Medicaid.

She shared this poem with me to highlight the importance of Medicaid with her family and all families who care for their loved ones with disabilities. It speaks more powerfully than any amount of budgetary debate.

"The Mathematics of Mercy":

A direct care worker holds
Someone's universe for \$16 an hour,
Lifts world, bathes dignity back into being
Her hands trembling now
As she reads the letter
Saying her client's hours are cut,
Knowing some bodies can't survive
On spreadsheet logic.
They speak of cuts in marble rooms,

Voices that have never whispered,
"Your therapy is never medically necessary"
To a nonverbal child
Who just learned to make sounds
Like morning birds.
In living rooms turned sacred spaces,
Therapists pack up their tools of possibility—

Weighted vests, sensory brushes,
Piece of someone's future
Now deemed too expensive
By men who've never seen
How a body learns to trust itself
One careful touch at a time.
Listen to power chairs going still,
To screens falling dark in throats
That borrow them for voice,
To support workers saying goodbye
To people who stopped being clients
Somewhere between the first smile
And the last hug,
While offshore accounts grow fat
On the mathematics of suffering.
This is how a nation bleeds:
Not on battlefields but in group homes,
Not from enemy fire but from funding gaps,
Where independence becomes too expensive,
Where institution beds cost less
Than community care.
In the halls of power,
They call this fiscal responsibility
As if responsibility means
Telling a mother her daughter
Can no longer see the therapist
Who taught her how to speak,
As if America means
Pricing dignity like a luxury good.
Every denial letter bears
A signature of someone
Who has never watched a child
Take their first steps at 12,
Never seen the light in eyes
When words finally come,
Never felt the weight
Of a family's hopes
Balanced against
The coldness of cost.
Yet in these rooms where care persists,
Where love defies their calculations,
We piece together what they tear apart
Like a quilt of borrowed time,
With midnight shifts and morning prayers,
Hands that hold when budgets say let go.
Here, in this web of grace we weave,
Because what flows through us is stronger
Than their ledgers and our stubborn refusal
To let spreadsheets tell us what a life is worth.

Again, this comes from Betsy Johnson, an autism educator with the ARC of Massachusetts.

ENHANCING SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the Nation's number one antipoverty program for the elderly and the Nation's number one antipoverty program for children.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, I am talking about Social Security. More alarming, Mr. Speaker, is that it has been more than 50 years since Congress has enhanced Social Security for the citizens of this great country.

What does that mean? That means that more than 70 million Social Security recipients have not seen an enhancement to Social Security since Richard Nixon was President of the United States.

I applaud Leader HAKEEM JEFFRIES for putting together a plan and for presenting something to the American people that stands in stark contrast to nothing being put forward.

It doesn't bother me so much that Republicans aren't putting any proposals forward, but they would deny a hearing on Social Security and a vote on a measure that Congress hasn't addressed in more than 50 years.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, there are more than 70-plus million Social Security recipients. Ten million baby boomers a day become eligible for Social Security and wonder why Congress hasn't acted.

Mr. Speaker, for more than 5 million of our fellow Americans who have paid into this system all their lives, they get below-poverty-level checks from their government because Congress hasn't acted.

Mr. Speaker, for more than 35 million people, this is the only pension they will receive, and Congress hasn't responded.

Again, I applaud Mr. JEFFRIES for saying, yes, what we need is an across-the-board increase for everyone on Social Security. As Mr. JEFFRIES has laid out, we need to repeal the provision to have people who continue to work after they retire and not have their Social Security taxed.

That is part of the Democratic plan, along with making sure that no one can retire into poverty and lifting the more than 5 million people who get below-poverty-level checks out of poverty.

Mr. Speaker, I know you know this. In Illinois' 12th Congressional District, there are more than 179,000 Social Security recipients, and more than 131,000 of them are retirees. Mr. Speaker, 21,000-plus are disabled. There are 11,000-plus widows; 4,000-plus spouses; and 10,000-plus children who haven't seen an increase in more than 50 years. It is long overdue for Congress to take action.

I plead with you, Mr. Speaker, to join us and to encourage Republican leadership minimally to have a hearing on this. If you have a better plan, Mr. Speaker, by all means, put it forward. At least let the plan that HAKEEM JEFFRIES has put forward have a vote. If my colleagues disagree with it, that is fine. It is America. It is a democracy. Vote against it.

Why shouldn't Congress vote on making sure that Illinois' 12th Congressional District sees an increase they haven't seen in more than 50 years, as well as the First Congressional District in the State of Connecticut and all 535 congressional districts where individuals have not seen an increase, especially during these inflationary times.

For a party that used to pride itself on entrepreneurialism and capitalism, imagine this is the safety net for capitalism and entrepreneurialism. Where is the money spent in Illinois' 12th Congressional District? It is put right back in the local economy to the stores, the pharmacies, et cetera.

RENAMING THE GULF OF MEXICO TO THE GULF OF AMERICA

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

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, at a time when Americans are struggling to afford groceries, housing, and gas, Congress should be focused on lowering the cost of living that Americans care most about and not renaming bodies of water.

As Sergeant Friday used to say on the show "Dragnet": Just the facts, ma'am.

The facts during the first 100 days of Mr. Trump's administration are the following: The economy has shrunk; The stock market has taken a hit; 401(k)'s that are critical for a majority of Americans' retirement have declined; there has been a launch of a trade war that could cost the average family in America over \$4,900 a year this year alone with no trade agreements in sight, threatening a recession.

Rather than offering solutions, my Republican friends are at this time wasting this valuable effort on the floor by renaming the Gulf of Mexico. I think the Gulf of America Act is an absurd bill. It is political theater. The Gulf of Mexico has held that name for over 500 years. Spanish explorers from Spain chartered these waters hundreds of years before the United States ever existed. Let's call this bill for what it is. It is a vanity project.

My constituents in California's San Joaquin Valley aren't asking me about the Gulf of Mexico. They are asking me about their healthcare, reducing inflation, and investing in our communities. That is what they care most about.

Congress must focus on what really matters: passing a budget, getting a farm bill done, and delivering on the priorities the American people sent us here to do.

If this is the best my Republican friends and the majority can do, it is no wonder that the American people are fed up with Congress and our numbers are so low.

Mr. Speaker, enough with political stunts. The American people deserve better. We must work together in a bipartisan effort.

CELEBRATING ALL MOTHERS ON MOTHER'S DAY

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday, we will celebrate Mother's Day. Throughout our country, families and friends will gather together to recognize and pay tribute to this important day. I think for all of us the reality is every day should be Mother's Day.

On Sunday, let us say thank you in the most meaningful way we know how, and that is with love and affection. We should do what is appropriate, and that is to thank those moms who throughout our lives have made a difference.

Mr. Speaker, every day, therefore, should be Mother's Day. Let us cele-

brate this day on Sunday and never forget those who brought us here today.

PROTECTING SENSITIVE DATA FOR MILLIONS OF AMERICANS

(Mr. MENENDEZ of New Jersey was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to sound the alarm that sensitive data for millions of Americans is at risk. Many of us have heard of the scams, data breaches, and hacks that have plagued businesses and individuals for years.

Unfortunately, the newest threat to our personal data comes from within the Federal Government. Over the past 3 months, Elon Musk's DOGE employees embedded themselves in dozens of Federal departments and agencies without any guardrails or protections put in place by our colleagues on the other side of the aisle.

We know this data is extremely valuable to bad actors and foreign adversaries. In fact, after DOGE infiltrated the National Labor Relations Board, suspicious attempts were made to access the data from an IP address in Russia.

Congress should be working to fulfill our obligations to the American people and safeguard their data. Instead, my colleagues across the aisle have seemingly left the door open for DOGE and anyone else to potentially access and misuse their constituents' personal information.

It is not just the recklessness that should concern everyone across the country. It is the fact that the data being held by the government is being weaponized by the Trump administration.

The IRS recently entered into an agreement with ICE to share information about immigrants. The same is true of data on affording housing recipients. If we allow them to use this data now, then what will stop them from using information from other agencies in the future against other groups of Americans?

Mr. Speaker, at a recent Energy and Commerce Committee hearing, we heard from experts in this field who were invited there by my Republican colleagues that as we seek to harness the growth of AI, we must put guardrails in place to protect all Americans' sensitive information, which we know is a target-rich environment for foreign adversaries.

My colleagues don't have to take my word for it. Just listen to the testimony of the people whom Republicans invited here to testify. Malicious actors do not care what someone's political party is or where they live before they steal our data. Our response to this threat should be bipartisan.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to stand alongside House Democrats in calling upon the Trump administration, the Office of Management and Budget, and DOGE to clarify

what actions they are taking to safeguard the most sensitive taxpayer data that exists on our Federal systems. If they don't act, then we should here in Congress.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 59 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

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

PRAYER

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

Holy Lord, we want little else than to lead a life worthy of the calling to which You have called us. For these legislators, it is to remain committed not just to the needs of their constituents, not just to the welfare of these United States, but to be faithful to the expectations You place on each one of them.

Therefore, with all humility and gentleness, may we approach the issues at hand. With patience, may we bear with one another in love, even with those across the aisle to whom we are adamantly opposed. Instead, may we make every effort to maintain the unity of Your spirit, which has brought us here in this place to work together for the common good.

Remind us again that You are the same God and Father of us all. You have bestowed on each of us the same grace, according to the measure of forgiveness and mercy You offer all who believe in You.

Let us then strive to speak truth in love, that our words would be lifted up in glory to You. For in You this whole body is called to be joined and knit together, to build itself up in love, as each of us participates in the work You have given us to do.

In Your compassionate name, we pray.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr.

WILSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

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

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

BACKBONE OF AMERICAN WORKFORCE

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, small businesses create jobs as the backbone of the American workforce and account for nearly half of the American private-sector jobs.

Small businesses come in many forms. America recognizes this as National Small Business Week and the contributions this sector adds to the strength of America.

There are nearly 35 million small businesses in America, employing 59 million people. The National Federation of Independent Business, NFIB, along with local chambers of commerce, AmChams, and industry associations such as the Asian American Hotel Owners of America and home-builders make a difference.

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, revealing war criminal Putin lies as patriots of Georgia in Tbilisi demonstrate, expressing appreciation of Congress supporting fair elections, with the courageous President Salome Zourabichvili.

HUNGER IS ALL-CONSUMING PAIN

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

Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, hunger is an all-consuming pain. Many of us are lucky never to have known that pain. Yet, in my district alone, nearly 25,000 households rely on food assistance to stave off hunger. SNAP feeds seniors who live alone, children without nutrients to grow, and families who work hard every day, but it is still not enough.

Now, Republicans sadly want to cut SNAP in order to subsidize another tax break for the rich, a move that could increase a household of four's grocery bill by \$175 a month, or nearly \$2,000 a year.

Our common humanity should be enough to block this cut, but sadly, it seems it is not for too many of my colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, I raise another argument: SNAP dollars flow directly into our economy, local businesses, and farms. We have a chance to ease the pain of our most vulnerable.

I will not stand by as Republicans steal from the American people and give even more to the rich.

The Gospel of Matthew reminds us of the power of caring for the least among us, saying: "For I was naked and you clothed me"; "for I was hungry and you gave me food."

RECOGNIZING RICK GRIZZELL

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

Mr. MCGUIRE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a good and selfless neighbor in Virginia's Fifth Congressional District, my friend, Rick Grizzell, from Goochland County, Virginia.

After Hurricane Helene swept through the Carolinas, Tennessee, and Virginia last year, Virginians across the Commonwealth answered the call.

Rick formed a team of Virginians, in conjunction with the Goochland County Tea Party, to collect donations and take them to folks in need. They collected and delivered tents, propane tanks, sleeping bags, winter clothes, heaters, food and water, and much more.

As recently as last week, Rick received a call on Monday and delivered supplies on Tuesday. Rick and his team save lives with his work, and I am extremely privileged to recognize a hero like Rick Grizzell.

FIVE SANTA ANA STUDENTS TAKEN TOO SOON

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

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to recognize five young students who were taken too soon from the Santa Ana community.

A few weeks ago, five students from the Santa Ana Unified School District were victims of a devastating car crash: Aurelia Robles, Natalia Vidal Zarate, Jacqueline Torres Zarate, Cynthia Torres Zarate, and Emanuel Gonzalez Martinez.

This tragic loss has broken the hearts of our community.

Mr. Speaker, our prayers are with the families of these students. May the souls of Arely, Jacqueline, Natalia, Cynthia, and Manny rest in peace. Our community will never forget them. We miss them dearly. We thank them for the time they spent with us.

CONGRATULATING FRANK ABBATE ON HIS RETIREMENT

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

Mr. HARIDOPOLOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Frank Abbate on his upcoming retirement next Thursday, marking the end of a 36-year career in public service in Brevard County.

Frank has spent the last several years, since 2017, serving as our Brevard County manager. Throughout his tenure, he has played a key role in guiding Brevard County through a period of substantial growth and change.

Frank's steady leadership helped preserve the unique character of our community while meeting the evolving needs of our residents.

Mr. Speaker, as he prepares to close this chapter, I thank Frank for his dedicated service to Brevard County, and I congratulate him on his well-earned retirement.

FIGHTING TO REINSTATE FUNDING FOR PUBLIC TELEVISION

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

Ms. ELFRETH. Mr. Speaker, I stand here on the House floor as an American proudly and profoundly shaped by the wonder and joy of public television.

Mister Rogers taught us how to be a good neighbor. Bill Nye inspired us to ask questions and never give up on the search for discovery. "Sesame Street" taught us how to read and count while instilling values of sharing and empathy.

Mr. Speaker, I would be hard-pressed to find an American in this Nation whose childhood wasn't profoundly shaped by the magic of public television. For over 50 years, PBS has brought our kids educational, inspiring, and commercial-free media, but last week, the Trump administration issued an executive order slashing Federal funding to NPR and PBS, meaning that smaller stations would lose nearly half of their funding, posing an existential threat to the future of this media.

I contend that the values that PBS taught us all are exactly the values we need in this moment and the values we could use right here in this Chamber: how to think critically, how to care for the Earth and one another with respect and dignity, how to count votes, how to resolve our differences with manners and empathy, all of which is why I continue to push for the reinstatement of these funds so that future generations can benefit as I did. I will be fighting for viewers like you.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS WEEK

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to ad-

dress the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of National Correctional Officers Week.

In 1984, President Ronald Reagan designated the first full week of May to honor correctional officers, calling them "a vital component of the field of corrections."

Correctional officers carry out one of the most difficult and dangerous jobs in public service: maintaining the custody, safety, and well-being of inmates in our prisons and jails.

Pennsylvania's 15th Congressional District is home to three such Bureau of Prisons facilities: FCI McKean, FCI Allenwood, and USP Lewisburg.

Throughout my time in Congress, I have worked closely with the correctional officers at these facilities to find solutions in addressing the BOP's biggest obstacles, including addressing chronic staffing shortages plaguing these and other facilities nationwide.

Mr. Speaker, correctional officers serve with professionalism and courage. As we recognize these important law enforcement officers this week, I remain committed to resolving these challenges to protect those who protect our communities. They deserve our full support, and I thank all correctional officers for their service.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF TROY WENDELL PATE, JR.

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

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of Troy Wendell Pate, Jr., of Goldsboro, North Carolina, who passed at the age of 94.

Mr. Pate was a United States Navy veteran of the Korean war, a lifelong banker, and a dedicated community servant.

After a distinguished career as the CEO of East Coast Savings Bank, he devoted his time to enhancing education, fostering economic development, and strengthening military relations in Wayne County. He served as the trustee and the chair at East Carolina University and was instrumental in helping to bring the Brody School of Medicine into the East.

Mr. Pate also worked tirelessly to support Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, founding the Seymour Support Group and advising Air Force leadership at the highest levels. His many honors include the Air Force Distinguished Public Service award and The Order of the Long Leaf Pine.

Troy Pate's life exemplifies service, leadership, and a deep love for eastern North Carolina and our country.

Mr. Speaker, I extend my deepest condolences to his beloved wife, Joyce, and the Pate family.

RECOGNIZING SMITH'S BAKERIES

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

Mr. FONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a cherished institution in my district, Smith's Bakeries, located in Bakersfield, California.

Since 1945, Smith's has been more than just a bakery. It has been a pillar of joy in our community. Founded by Howard Smith and Roy Balmain, the goal was simple: to provide the best baked goods possible.

As we celebrate Small Business Week, Smith's Bakeries exemplifies how local businesses can thrive while staying deeply connected to their customers. A key part of their success is Jim Balmain, son of cofounder Roy, who, along with his wife, Jacque, took over in 1985, ensuring the bakery's continued legacy.

Celebrating 80 years of business, Smith's has been a symbol of excellence and community spirit, known for their iconic treats, like the famous happy face cookie.

As Jim Balmain once said: "If you care and you try to do things right, people will appreciate it," and that is exactly what Smith's has done for decades.

Here is to many more years of sweet memories and continued success for one of the most popular small businesses in California's 20th District.

□ 1215

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, May 7, 2025.

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on May 7, 2025, at 11:07 a.m.:

That the Senate agreed to S. Con. Res. 12.
That the Senate passed without amendment H.J. Res. 61.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,
Clerk.

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 12 o'clock and 15 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1403

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SESSIONS) at 2 o'clock and 3 minutes p.m.

DHS RESTRICTIONS ON CONFUCIUS INSTITUTES AND CHINESE ENTITIES OF CONCERN ACT

Mr. PFLUGER. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 377, I call up the bill (H.R. 881) to establish Department of Homeland Security funding restrictions on institutions of higher education that have a relationship with Confucius Institutes, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 377, in lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Homeland Security printed in the bill, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 119-2, is adopted, and the bill, as amended, is considered read.

The text of the bill, as amended, is as follows:

H.R. 881

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 "DHS Restrictions on Confucius Institutes and Chinese Entities of Concern Act".

SEC. 2. LIMITATIONS ON CONFUCIUS INSTITUTES' HOST SCHOOLS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) CHINESE ENTITY OF CONCERN.—The term "Chinese entity of concern" means any university or college in the People's Republic of China that—

(A) is involved in the implementation of military-civil fusion;

(B) participates in the Chinese defense industrial base;

(C) is affiliated with the Chinese State Administration for Science, Technology and Industry for the National Defense;

(D) receives funding from any organization subordinate to the Central Military Commission of the Chinese Communist Party;

(E) provides support to any security, defense, police, or intelligence organization of the Government of the People's Republic of China or the Chinese Communist Party;

(F) purposefully undermines the United States' relationship with Taiwan;

(G) aids, abets, or enables the detention, imprisonment, persecution, or forced labor of Uyghur Muslims in the People's Republic of China;

(H) willfully and knowingly engages in malicious activities, including online disinformation campaigns and propaganda, for the purpose of interfering with United States Federal, State, or local elections; or

(I) is affiliated with the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

(2) CONFUCIUS INSTITUTE.—The term "Confucius Institute" means a cultural institute funded by the Government of the People's Republic of China.

(3) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The term "institution of higher education" has the

meaning given such term in section 102 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002).

(4) RELATIONSHIP.—The term "relationship" means, with respect to an institution of higher education, any contract awarded, or agreement entered into, as well as any in-kind donation or gift, received from a Confucius Institute or Chinese entity of concern.

(5) THOUSAND TALENTS PROGRAM.—The term "Thousand Talents Program" means any technological or educational program funded or administered by the Chinese Communist Party's Ministry of Industry and Information Technology.

(b) RESTRICTIONS ON INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—Beginning with the first fiscal year that begins after the date that is 12 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall ensure that an institution of higher education (referred to in this subsection as an "institution") which has a relationship with a Confucius Institute, Thousand Talents Program, or Chinese entity of concern is ineligible to receive any funds from the Department of Homeland Security, unless the institution terminates the relationship between the institution and such Confucius Institute, Thousand Talents Program, or Chinese entity of concern, as the case may be. Upon termination of such a relationship, the institution at issue shall be eligible to receive funds from the Department of Homeland Security.

(c) WAIVER.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Homeland Security may, after consultation with the Director of National Intelligence, on a case-by-case basis and for a period not to exceed one year, waive the application of subsection (b) with respect to an institution of higher education if the Secretary determines the institution at issue maintains robust safeguards and enforcement protocols to monitor the relationship at issue, including active measures to detect and deter attempts by Chinese nationals affiliated with a Confucius Institute, Thousand Talents Program, or Chinese entity of concern that is the subject of such relationship to gain unauthorized access to sensitive research, data, or federally funded development activities conducted at or on the premises of, or by, such institution, and either of the following conditions is satisfied:

(A) The relationship at issue is in the national security interests of the United States.

(B) The relationship at issue does not present a direct or indirect national security risk to the United States or its allies.

(2) RENEWAL.—The Secretary of Homeland Security may, after consultation with the Director of National Intelligence, annually renew a waiver issued pursuant to paragraph (1) if the Secretary determines all of the conditions described in such paragraph continue to be satisfied.

(3) EFFECTIVE DATES.—A waiver issued or renewed pursuant to paragraph (1) or (2), respectively, takes effect and applies beginning on the date that is 30 days after such issuance or renewal, as the case may be.

(4) NOTIFICATION.—If the Secretary of Homeland Security, after consultation with the Director of National Intelligence, issues or renews a waiver pursuant to paragraph (1) or (2), respectively, not later than 30 days before such issuance or renewal, as the case may be, takes effect, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate written notification regarding such issuance or renewal, including a justification relating thereto.

(d) ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall provide outreach and, upon request, technical assistance to institutions of higher education relating to compliance with this Act.

(e) REPORTS.—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act and annu-

ally thereafter, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report regarding implementation of this section during the immediately preceding 12 month period. Each such report shall include information relating to the following:

(1) Any institution of higher education that has a relationship with a Confucius Institute, Thousand Talents Program, or Chinese entity of concern and receives funds from the Department of Homeland Security.

(2) The implementation of subsections (b), (c), and (d).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The bill, as amended, shall be debatable for 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Homeland Security or their respective designees.

The gentleman from Texas (Mr. PFLUGER) and the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PFLUGER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 881.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of my bill, H.R. 881, the DHS Restrictions on Confucius Institutes and Chinese Entities of Concern.

I have long been concerned that the threats the Chinese Communist Party poses to our homeland are not only real, but they are right here.

In the Homeland Security Committee and on my Subcommittee on Counterterrorism and Intelligence, we have heard from a wide array of national security experts and law enforcement officials who have continuously raised alarms about the CCP's increasing subversive activities inside our country through organizations like the CCP's Confucius Institutes, the Thousand Talents Program, and other CCP-affiliated groups.

While Confucius Institutes are presented as centers for promoting Chinese language and culture, it is proven that they have been used to steal critical research, recruit talent for military-civil fusion enterprises, conduct espionage, commit transnational repression, and influence academic institutions to the benefit of the CCP.

At their peak, the United States hosted approximately 118 Confucius Institutes, primarily at colleges and universities. Now, there are fewer than 14 active Confucius Institutes today, but the danger still remains. Many of these programs have rebranded themselves within universities with the same mission as before, and that is to subvert national security and expand CCP influence operations.

Another example is the CCP's Thousand Talents Program, which the FBI has listed as the most prolific sponsor of State-sponsored talent recruitment programs that bring outside knowledge and innovation back to China, often through stealing trade secrets, breaking export control laws, or violating conflict of interest policies.

These talent recruitment programs are a win-win for China. China wins twice. First, U.S. taxpayers are funding their research, not China; and, second, China then uses the research it would not have otherwise had to advance its own economic and military interests.

Today, we are debating H.R. 881, my legislation which, by the way, is bipartisan, that would prohibit DHS from funding American universities that host a Confucius Institute or Thousand Talents Program or maintain relationships with Chinese entities of concern. H.R. 881 also ensures that universities prioritize the education of their students over any of their partnerships with these institutions.

This legislation passed the House last year with bipartisan support, and this year H.R. 881 passed the Committee on Homeland Security with unanimous, bipartisan support.

I thank Chairman GREEN; Ranking Member THOMPSON; my counterpart on the Subcommittee on Counterterrorism and Intelligence, Ranking Member MAGAZINER; and the Committee on Homeland Security staff for moving this critical legislation forward.

The DHS Restrictions on Confucius Institutes and Chinese Entities of Concern Act would play a vital role in protecting our students, intellectual property, and national security. Together, this effort demonstrates a unified, bipartisan way to protect our Nation from the insidious influence of the CCP, and that our students, our intellectual property, and our national security are protected from the malign influence of the CCP.

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 881, the DHS Restrictions on Confucius Institutes and Chinese Entities of Concern Act seeks to help address the threat posed to U.S. colleges and universities by the People's Republic of China and Chinese Communist Party.

The People's Republic of China and the CCP have poured hundreds of millions of dollars into U.S. universities through Confucius Institutes and other programs. These programs have given China, a strategic competitor, a platform to potentially interfere with academic freedom and free speech as well as greater access to sensitive intellectual property and national security information.

To curtail these efforts, H.R. 881 requires the Secretary of Homeland Security

to ensure that U.S. institutions of higher education that have relationships with Confucius Institutes, Thousand Talents Program, or vaguely defined Chinese entities of concern do not receive any funds from the Department of Homeland Security.

This funding prohibition is similar to those found for the Department of Defense in the 2019 and 2021 National Defense Authorization Acts and the National Science Foundation in the CHIPS and Science Act of 2022. However, the restrictions in those measures were limited to universities with Confucius Institutes only, and the ban was so successful there are only a handful of Confucius Institutes remaining on U.S. campuses.

That is why H.R. 881 includes a new category of banned relationships: those between U.S. institutions of higher education and so-called Chinese entities of concern. In the bill, a Chinese entity of concern is any university or college in the People's Republic of China that meets at least one of nine very broad criteria. As a result, H.R. 881 has the possibility to prohibit any DHS funding from going to any U.S. university that has any relationship with virtually any Chinese university.

That is why Democrats on the House Homeland Security Committee have worked to bring H.R. 881 more in line with the funding bans found in previous legislation by including a waiver for the Secretary of Homeland Security like those the past legislation had for the Secretary of Defense and National Science Foundation Director.

Now, H.R. 881 contains a waiver provision that allows the Secretary of Homeland Security to permit Department funding to go to U.S. institutions of higher education that maintain a relationship with programs and entities in China if the relationship is either in the national security interests of the United States or has no bearing on the national security interests of the United States or its allies.

This is critical, as the bill's language could encompass all sorts of agreements between academic institutions in the United States and China, including student exchange programs and other cultural programs that benefit American students, and ultimately our country.

Along those same lines, the bill now also includes a provision that requires the Secretary of Homeland Security to provide outreach and, upon request, technical assistance to U.S. institutions of higher education relating to compliance with the bill.

I appreciate Representative PFLUGER's willingness to work with us to improve his bill by including the waiver and technical assistance language.

Mr. Speaker, House Democrats share concerns that Chinese Communist Party interference with U.S. colleges and universities could lead to a wide variety of negative outcomes. That said, House Democrats do not want to

see legitimate academic activity between the United States and China hindered.

The compromise language recognizes the spirit of the bill—the need to protect America's intellectual property and academic freedom—and takes steps to mitigate the risk of going too far and denying critical Homeland Security funding to U.S. universities for any relationship with virtually any Chinese university.

I do not support creating another pretext for the Trump administration to deny U.S. universities Federal funding, but I also do not want to see our greatest strategic competitor gain a greater foothold on college campuses that could put our national security at risk, either.

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

Mr. PFLUGER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Michigan (Mr. MOOLENAAR), the chair of the China select committee.

Mr. MOOLENAAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of Representative PFLUGER's bipartisan bill, H.R. 881, the DHS Restrictions on Confucius Institutes and Chinese Entities of Concern Act.

□ 1415

Mr. Speaker, this legislation is about one thing, and that is protecting American students, American research, and America's future from malign foreign influence, especially from the Chinese Communist Party.

The CCP is engaged in a persistent strategic campaign to influence every corner of American life, and one of their most dangerous efforts is to target our education system.

Often disguised as cultural exchange programs, the CCP efforts to infiltrate America's universities are intended to manipulate curriculum, suppress academic freedom, and monitor Chinese students here in the United States.

Let's be clear. The Chinese Government isn't investing in these programs to teach language. They are trying to shape how young Americans see the world and to rewrite the story of the Chinese Communist Party one classroom at a time.

This is part of a broader effort by Beijing to manipulate the next generation, whether through TikTok on their phones or authoritarian propaganda on their campuses, and it is working. That is why this bill matters.

H.R. 881 makes it simple. If a university wants DHS funding, it cannot maintain ties to CCP influence operations. If we want taxpayer dollars, we cannot partner with a foreign adversary.

We have already made real progress. The number of Confucius Institutes in the U.S. has dropped from over 100 to just a few. However, too many Confucius Institutes are rebranding or maintaining quiet ties behind the scenes.

As chairman of the Select Committee on the Chinese Communist Party, I can

tell you the threat is real, and the evidence is overwhelming. This isn't about blocking cultural exchange. It is about blocking foreign exploitation. Academic freedom is not for sale. It is not for sale to Beijing and not on our watch.

Let's stand together, Republicans and Democrats, to protect our students, safeguard our campuses, and push back on foreign influence. I ask my colleagues to vote "yes" on H.R. 881.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. CHU).

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 881. This bill would block Department of Homeland Security funding from colleges and universities with a Confucius Institute, which is known to have CCP ties, but it expands the prohibition to any institution that has a relationship with a Chinese entity of concern.

What is a Chinese entity of concern? Because a bill defines such entities so broadly, that list could potentially include every single college in China.

Because this is a new definition that is not shared with any other Federal agency, universities would be required to independently verify that their Chinese counterpart institutions do not meet this broad definition just to cooperate on activities as simple as study abroad programs. The University of California has said they do not have an intelligence agency within their structure that can do this.

This is a completely unreasonable expectation of universities, and that is because the real goal of the legislation is to completely sever academic relations with institutions in China.

Ending study abroad programs, student exchanges, and every research agreement will do nothing to make America safer. In fact, the only improvement that this bill makes over the version that Republicans advanced last year is giving the Secretary of Homeland Security the authority to grant waivers. That means universities are expected to ask for a waiver from the same administration that is continually threatening their Federal funding and their tax-exempt status.

This is a harmful bill that would only serve to weaken America and give the Trump administration yet another weapon to attack the American institutions that they deem are insufficiently loyal to President Trump.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on this bill.

Mr. PFLUGER. Mr. Speaker, I will point out that this bill was actually brought up during the Biden administration and has nothing to do with one administration or another. It was bipartisan, and those entities of concern are named in and are labeled within the DOD. We do have a pattern of history of Confucius Institutes switching

names but remaining the same for the purpose of malign influence.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. STAUBER).

Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the rule on the DHS Restrictions on Confucius Institutes and Chinese Entities of Concern Act.

Mr. Speaker, over the past decade, Communist China has persecuted the Uyghur population for their religious and cultural practices. Xinjiang authorities have detained Uyghurs in internment camps without formal charges, forced them into slave labor, and have committed numerous other human rights abuses against the Uyghur people.

This includes severe physical abuse, as well as the forced collection of biometric data like DNA and fingerprint samples.

While the Chinese Communist Party refuses to admit it, researchers believe these abuses are a part of China's "second-generation ethnic policy." This policy advocates the forced assimilation of minorities to create a "state race." One of the founding fathers of Communist China's second-generation ethnic policy is Hu Angang, who leads the Institute for Contemporary China Studies at Tsinghua University.

Unfortunately, American universities such as Yale, Harvard, and the University of Pennsylvania have engaged in partnerships with Tsinghua University. There is no reason why our universities should be complacent in religious persecutions in the 21st century.

Last Congress, the House adopted my amendment to address the persecution of Uyghur Muslims in the previous iteration of this legislation. I am grateful that the gentleman from Texas (Mr. PFLUGER) has included the language in this year's bill text. We should all agree that higher education's willingness to look the other way is always unacceptable.

For these reasons, I encourage my colleagues to support this rule, which is the first step in ending our universities' appeasement of China's crimes against the Uyghur people and countering China's malign influence and espionage at our academic institutions.

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

Mr. PFLUGER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. EVANS), also a cosponsor of this bill.

Mr. EVANS of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in strong support of H.R. 881, the DHS Restrictions on Confucius Institutes and Chinese Entities of Concern Act, of which I am an original cosponsor. The stakes for our national security, constitutional freedoms, and the future of American innovation could not be higher.

My 12 years of service in the Army provided me with a deep understanding of the criminal transnational activities of the Chinese Communist Party. CCP

intellectual property theft is not a distant threat. It is actively happening, and it is targeting military readiness and the very foundations of American competitiveness.

In my district, where energy production, manufacturing, and agriculture are paramount, we know the looming threat of the Chinese Communist Party on jobs and national security.

Mr. Speaker, as you have heard from my colleagues, the CCP has also systematically expanded its influence throughout Confucius Institutes and affiliate programs on U.S. colleges and campuses. These programs, often cloaked in the promises of language and cultural exchange, have served as vehicles for espionage, intellectual property theft, and transnational repression.

We cannot allow these vulnerabilities to persist. Today, House Republicans are taking action. Our Nation's most innovative breakthroughs have been developed at U.S. universities, while conducting vital research related to defense, energy sciences, and other sensitive industries. Many colleges and universities have accepted CCP funding, hoping to simply expand their foreign language learning. They have, unfortunately, opened the doors for our biggest foreign adversary to exploit breakthroughs for Chinese strategic advantage.

This bill protects our institutions of higher education from the dangers of the CCP by prohibiting American universities that receive Department of Homeland Security funding from continuing relationships with Chinese entities of concern.

Today, foreign language and cultural exchange programs thrive in my State of Colorado, without the influx of CCP dollars, enhancing students' global knowledge and growing our Nation's vital national security workforce.

Congress needs to send a clear message to the CCP that we will not allow foreign powers to erode national security, steal intellectual property, or threaten our immigrant population.

This Congress, I have partnered with my colleagues on other legislation in this area. My bill, the bipartisan Countering Transnational Repression Act, continues this important work by stopping Chinese Communist Party surveillance and intimidating Chinese nationals on U.S. soil.

We have also introduced the Global Investment in American Jobs Act. We must now come together to restrict the infiltration of the Chinese Communist Party onto our college campuses by passing the DHS Restrictions on Confucius Institutes and Chinese Entities of Concern Act.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to stand in defense of American values and support this bill.

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

Mr. Speaker, we must carefully balance potential risks to homeland security posed by the CCP with the benefits

of educational and cultural exchange programs.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I thank the ranking member and the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. MAGAZINER) for his work on this bill. This is a process that has taken a couple of years, and I believe that we have a good, bipartisan bill that addresses the issue at hand.

Mr. Speaker, let me close with this. Continuing to use our taxpayer dollars to give the Chinese Communist Party a seat in the front row of our universities' classrooms and research labs would be a catastrophic mistake.

It has been proven that the CCP does use programs like Confucius Institutes, not to build bridges or promote culture, as they may say, but to expand their influence inside the United States for malign purposes. This legislation would put an end to this egregious national security threat. Quite frankly, it is well overdue.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to come together, to stand firm for our American education system, and to vote "yes" on this legislation.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 377, the previous question is ordered on the bill, as amended.

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

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

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

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

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 28 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1700

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. ROGERS of Alabama) at 5 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

The motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 1503; and,

Passage of H.R. 881.

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.

STOP FORCED ORGAN HARVESTING 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. 1503) to combat forced organ harvesting and trafficking in persons for purposes of the removal of organs, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MAST) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 406, nays 1, not voting 25, as follows:

[Roll No. 119]

YEAS—406

Adams
Aderholt
Agular
Ansari
Alford
Allen
Amo
Amodei (NV)
Ansari
Arrington
Auchincloss
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Balint
Barr
Barrett
Baumgartner
Bean (FL)
Beatty
Begich
Bell
Bentz
Bera
Bergman
Beyer
Bice
Biggs (AZ)
Biggs (SC)
Bilirakis
Bishop
Boebert
Bonamici
Bost
Boyle (PA)
Brecheen
Bresnahan
Brown
Brownley
Buchanan
Budzinski
Burchett
Burlison
Bynum
Calvert
Cammack
Carbajal
Carey

Carson
Carter (GA)
Carter (LA)
Carter (TX)
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Cherfilus-
McCormick
Chu
Ciscomani
Cisneros
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Cline
Cloud
Clyburn
Clyde
Cohen
Cole
Collins
Comer
Conaway
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crane
Crank
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crockett
Crow
Cuellar
Davids (KS)
Davidson
Davis (IL)
Davis (NC)
De La Cruz
Dean (PA)
DeGette
DeLauro
DeBene
Deluzio
DeSaunier
DesJarlais

Dexter
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Donalds
Downing
Edwards
Elfreth
Ellzey
Emmer
Espallat
Estes
Evans (CO)
Evans (PA)
Ezell
Fallon
Fedorchak
Feenstra
Fields
Figures
Fine
Finstad
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fletcher
Flood
Fong
Foster
Foushee
Fox
Foxy
Frankel, Lois
Franklin, Scott
Friedman
Frost
Fry
Fulcher
Garamendi
Garbarino
Garcia (CA)
Garcia (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Gill (TX)
Gillen
Gimenez
Golden (ME)
Goldman (NY)

Goldman (TX)
Gomez
Gonzales, Tony
Gonzalez, V.
Gooden
Goodlander
Gosar
Graves
Gray
Green, Al (TX)
Greene (GA)
Griffith
Guest
Guthrie
Hageman
Hamadeh (AZ)
Harder (CA)
Haridopolos
Harrigan
Harris (MD)
Harris (NC)
Harshbarger
Hayes
Hern (OK)
Higgins (LA)
Hill (AR)
Himes
Hinson
Horsford
Houchin
Houlahan
Hoyer
Hoyle (OR)
Hudson
Huffman
Huizenga
Hunt
Hurd (CO)
Issa
Ivey
Jack
Jackson (IL)
Jackson (TX)
Jacobs
James
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (SD)
Johnson (TX)
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Kamlager-Dove
Kaptur
Kean
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy (NY)
Kennedy (UT)
Khanna
Kiggans (VA)
Kiley (CA)
Kim
Knott
Krishnamoorthi
Kustoff
LaLota
LaMalfa
Landsman
Langworthy
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latimer
Latta
Lawler
Lee (FL)
Lee (NV)
Lee (PA)
Letlow
Levin
Liccardo
Lieu
Lofgren
Loudermilk
Lucas

Luttrell
Lynch
Mace
Mackenzie
Magaziner
Malliotakis
Maloy
Mann
Mannion
Mast
Matsui
McBath
McBride
McCaul
McClain
McClain Delaney
McClellan
McClintock
McCollum
McCormick
McDonald Rivet
McDowell
McGarvey
McGovern
McGuire
McIver
Meeks
Menendez
Meng
Messmer
Mfume
Miller (OH)
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Mills
Min
Moolenaar
Moore (AL)
Moore (NC)
Moore (UT)
Moore (WI)
Moore (WV)
Moran
Morelle
Morrison
Moskowitz
Moulton
Mrvan
Mullin
Murphy
Nadler
Neal
Neguse
Nehls
Newhouse
Norman
Nunn (IA)
Oberholte
Ocasio-Cortez
Ogles
Olszewski
Omar
Onder
Owens
Pallone
Palmer
Panetta
Pappas
Patronis
Pelosi
Perez
Perry
Peters
Pettersen
Pfluger
Pingree
Pocan
Pou
Pressley
Quigley
Randall
Raskin
Reschenthaler
Riley (NY)
Rivas
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose

Ross
Rouzer
Roy
Ruiz
Rulli
Ryan
Salazar
Salinas
Sánchez
Scalise
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schmidt
Schneider
Schrier
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Self
Sessions
Sewell
Sherman
Shreve
Simon
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Smucker
Sorensen
Soto
Stansbury
Stanton
Stauber
Steil
Steube
Stevens
Strickland
Strong
Stutzman
Subramanyam
Suozi
Swalwell
Sykes
Takano
Taylor
Thanedar
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Timmons
Titus
Tlaib
Tokuda
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Tran
Turner (OH)
Underwood
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Duyn
Vargas
Vasquez
Veasey
Velázquez
Vindman
Wagner
Walberg
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Webster (FL)
Westerman
Whitesides
Wied
Williams (GA)
Williams (TX)
Wilson (FL)
Wittman
Womack
Yakym
Zinke

NAYS—1

Massie

NOT VOTING—25

Barragán
Casar
Connolly
Dunn (FL)
Escobar
Gottheimer
Green (TN)
Grothman
LaHood
Leger Fernandez
Luna
Meuser
Miller (IL)
Norcross
Ramirez
Rutherford
Scholten
Sherrill

Spartz
Stefanik
Tenney

Tiffany
Van Orden
Weber (TX)

Wilson (SC)

□ 1725

Ms. BYNUM, Mr. MIN, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, and Mr. GREEN of Texas changed their vote from “nay” to “yea.”

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I was attending a vital meeting. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 119.

Ms. SCHOLTEN. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote today. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 119.

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 119.

Stated against:

Ms. BARRAGAN. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 119.

RECOGNIZING BEN NAPIER

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

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, this week, we say good-bye to a longtime member of my staff and also a long-known face here on the floor of the House, Ben Napier.

Ben started his career on the Rules Committee, and he has been a part of Team Scalise for nearly a decade. Starting as floor assistant and working his way all the way up to the position he serves today: floor director of the House of Representatives for the last 6 years.

Nobody knows the ins and outs of floor procedure better than Ben, and he is a trusted presence and a familiar face on the floor to all Members. Ben has had a hand in every piece of legislation that has crossed the floor in the last 9 years and has shepherded nearly every House Republican through the process of getting bills to the floor.

Ben has been an integral part in setting and carrying out the House agenda during our time in the majority and has overseen major legislative wins, touching everything from tax reform to energy policy to crypto modernization.

Ben has been a trusted adviser and a critical team player. His departure will be felt by everyone on Capitol Hill, but I know he will excel in his next chapter.

I thank Ben for his years of dedicated service to the Capitol family.

Thank you and congratulations, Ben.

□ 1730

DHS RESTRICTIONS ON CONFUCIUS INSTITUTES AND CHINESE ENTITIES OF CONCERN ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unin-

ished business is the vote on passage of the bill (H.R. 881) to establish Department of Homeland Security funding restrictions on institutions of higher education that have a relationship with Confucius Institutes, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 266, nays 153, not voting 14, as follows:

[Roll No. 120]

YEAS—266

Aderholt
Alford
Allen
Amodei (NV)
Arrington
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Barr
Barrett
Baumgartner
Bean (FL)
Begich
Bentz
Bergman
Bice
Biggs (AZ)
Biggs (SC)
Bilirakis
Bishop
Boebert
Bost
Brecheen
Bresnahan
Buchanan
Budzinski
Burchett
Burlison
Calvert
Cammack
Carey
Carter (GA)
Carter (LA)
Carter (TX)
Case
Ciscomani
Cisneros
Cline
Cloud
Clyde
Cole
Collins
Comer
Conaway
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crane
Crank
Crawford
Crenshaw
Cuellar
Davids (KS)
Davidson
Davis (NC)
De La Cruz
Deluzio
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Donalds
Downing
Edwards
Ellzey
Emmer
Estes
Evans (CO)
Ezell
Fallon
Fedorchak
Feenstra
Fields
Figures
Fine
Finstad
Fischbach
Fitzgerald

Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Flood
Fong
Fox
Franklin, Scott
Fry
Fulcher
Garbarino
Gill (TX)
Gillen
Gimenez
Golden (ME)
Goldman (TX)
Gonzales, Tony
Gonzalez, V.
Gooden
Goodlander
Gosar
Graves
Gray
Greene (GA)
Griffith
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hageman
Hamadeh (AZ)
Harder (CA)
Haridopolos
Harrigan
Harris (MD)
Harris (NC)
Harshbarger
Hern (OK)
Higgins (LA)
Hill (AR)
Hinson
Horsford
Houchin
Hudson
Huizenga
Hunt
Hurd (CO)
Issa
Jack
Jackson (TX)
James
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (SD)
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Kaptur
Kean
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy (NY)
Kennedy (UT)
Kiggans (VA)
Kiley (CA)
Kim
Knott
Kustoff
LaHood
LaLota
LaMalfa
Landsman
Langworthy
Latta
Lawler
Lee (FL)
Lee (NV)
Letlow
Levin
Loudermilk

Lucas
Luna
Luttrell
Mace
Mackenzie
Magaziner
Malliotakis
Maloy
Mann
Mannion
Massie
Mast
McBath
McCauley
McClain
McClintock
McCormick
McDonald Rivet
McDowell
McGuire
Messmer
Meuser
Miller (OH)
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Mills
Moolenaar
Moore (AL)
Moore (NC)
Moore (UT)
Moore (WV)
Moran
Morelle
Moskowitz
Mrvan
Murphy
Nehls
Newhouse
Norman
Nunn (IA)
Oberholte
Ogles
Owens
Palmer
Panetta
Pappas
Patronis
Perez
Perry
Pfluger
Pou
Reschenthaler
Riley (NY)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Rouzer
Roy
Rulli
Rutherford
Ryan
Salazar
Scalise
Schmidt
Scholten
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Self
Sessions
Sewell
Shreve
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smucker

Sorensen
Stanton
Stauber
Steil
Steube
Stevens
Strong
Stutzman
Suozi
Taylor
Tenney
Thompson (MS)

Thompson (PA)
Timmons
Torres (CA)
Tran
Turner (OH)
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Duyne
Vasquez
Veasey
Vindman
Wagner

Walberg
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Westerman
Whitesides
Wied
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Yakym
Zinke

NAYS—153

Adams
Aguilar
Amo
Ansari
Auchincloss
Balint
Barragan
Beatty
Bell
Bera
Beyer
Bonamici
Boyle (PA)
Brown
Brownley
Bynum
Carbajal
Carson
Casar
Casten
Castor (FL)
Cherfilus-
McCormick
Chu
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Correa
Crockett
Crow
Davis (IL)
Dean (PA)
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
DeSaulnier
Dexter
Dingell
Doggett
Elfreth
Escobar
Espallat
Evans (PA)
Fletcher
Foster
Foushee
Frankel, Lois
Friedman
Frost
Garamendi

Garcia (CA)
Garcia (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Goldman (NY)
Gomez
Green, Al (TX)
Hayes
Himes
Houlihan
Hoyer
Hoyle (OR)
Huffman
Ivey
Jackson (IL)
Jacobs
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (TX)
Kamlager-Dove
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Khanna
Krishnamoorthi
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latimer
Lee (PA)
Leger Fernandez
Liccardo
Lieu
Lofgren
Lynch
Matsui
McBride
McClain Delaney
McClellan
McCollum
McGarvey
McGovern
McIver
Meeks
Menendez
Meng
Mfume
Min
Moore (WI)
Morrison
Moulton
Mullin
Nadler
Neal
Neguse

Ocasio-Cortez
Olshewski
Omar
Pallone
Pelosi
Peters
Petersen
Pingree
Pocan
Pressley
Quigley
Ramirez
Randall
Raskin
Rivas
Ross
Ruiz
Salinas
Sanchez
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schneider
Schrier
Scott (VA)
Sherman
Simon
Smith (WA)
Soto
Stansbury
Strickland
Subramanyam
Swalwell
Sykes
Takano
Thanedar
Thompson (CA)
Titus
Tlaib
Tokuda
Tonko
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Underwood
Vargas
Velázquez
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Williams (GA)
Wilson (FL)

NOT VOTING—14

Castro (TX)
Connolly
Dunn (FL)
Gottheimer
Green (TN)

Miller (IL)
Norcross
Onder
Sherrill
Spartz

Stefanik
Tiffany
Van Orden
Williams (TX)

□ 1734

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

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, due to a personal family matter, I was unable to vote on H.R. 881—the DHS Restrictions on Confucius Institutes and Chinese Entities of Concern Act. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 120.

Mr. ONDER. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 120.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mrs. SPARTZ. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 119 and YEA on Roll Call No. 120.

HOUR OF MEETING ON TOMORROW

Mr. LAWLER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 9 a.m. tomorrow.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BAUMGARTNER). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

MOMENT OF SILENCE IN MEMORY OF LANCE CORPORAL ALBERT A. AGUILERA AND LANCE CORPORAL MARCELINO M. GAMINO

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

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, we gather on the floor of the House of Representatives to pay tribute to two United States marines who died in service to our Nation. Lance Corporal Albert A. Aguilera of Riverside and Lance Corporal Marcelino M. Gamino of Fresno were both killed in a tragic vehicle accident while on deployment as part of Joint Task Force-Southern Border.

Both were combat engineers with the 1st Marine Division at Camp Pendleton, and both were far too young to be taken from their families, friends, and fellow marines.

It is a terrible grief that these families now carry, and it is incumbent on all of us as a Nation to remember the sacrifice of these young men.

I ask all my colleagues to join us in a moment of silence in memory of Lance Corporal Aguilera and Lance Corporal Gamino.

MEDICAID RUMORS

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

Mr. HARRIS of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I am sure what you are going to hear on the floor today is what you have heard in the past, these rumors that somehow those mean, nasty Republicans are going to cut Medicaid.

It reminds me of what Groucho Marx once said: Who you going to believe, these claims or your lying eyes?

This is the graph of what the Republican plan is for Medicaid spending over the next 10 years. This assumes that we actually get all the able-bodied, single people without children on Medicaid to agree to work 20 hours a week or volunteer at a church or train. It doesn't seem like too much. The average American thinks that is pretty reasonable.

If we eliminate all the fraud, waste, and abuse—and there is plenty of it—

we are left with at least a 25 percent increase in Medicaid over the next 10 years from the current spending level. Only in Washington could anyone claim that is a cut.

Mr. Speaker, who are you going to believe, the claims or your lying eyes?

MENTAL HEALTH SOLUTIONS

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

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about an issue that touches every community in this country: mental health.

More than one in five adults in the United States live with a mental health illness. These are our friends, neighbors, coworkers, or family members. For many of us, this is a deeply personal issue.

Whether you live in a big city or a small town, almost everyone has a person in their life who is struggling, and chances are you know someone who has struggled or you could be struggling yourself.

In Ohio, we have seen just how urgent this crisis has become, where we have only about half the behavioral health workforce we need to meet the demand. In fact, there is just one psychiatrist for every 6,000 Ohioans. That is not just a workforce problem. It is a public health emergency, a safety issue, and a challenge to our quality of life.

When I came to Congress, I promised to work with anyone from either side of the aisle to address the challenges that matter most to the people of Ohio's 13th. That is why I have reintroduced the Mental Health Improvement Act, a bipartisan bill to provide tens of millions of dollars annually to expand our behavioral health workforce, helping to train, recruit, and retain mental health professionals across the country.

It is a commonsense solution that will bring resources directly to communities like mine, helping to address addiction, reduce suicide, and ensure more Americans get the care they need when they need it.

I hope that everyone joins me in passing this bipartisan bill. Our country demands it.

□ 1745

PROTECTING MEDICAID

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

Mr. HARRIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, why is the Federal Government spending more taxpayer dollars on healthcare for illegal aliens and basement bums instead of those who truly need it? For the past several weeks, there have been fearful rumblings on both sides of the aisle about reforming Medicaid.

Here is the bottom line. If we fail to act now and allow millions more working, capable adults to continue to free-load off ObamaCare expansion, taxpayers will bear the burden of what will become a \$1 trillion program.

ObamaCare significantly expanded Medicaid, and it is quickly bankrupting the program. Ironically, Medicaid expansion has shifted resources away from the most vulnerable Americans—single moms, infants, and the disabled—in favor of adults capable of working.

Mr. Speaker, if 30-year-olds living in their parents' house get more Federal Medicaid benefits than pregnant, single mothers, then it is clear the system is utterly broken and in dire need of reform. We have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity before us to finally do what we said we would do.

PROTECTING SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS

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

Mr. DELUZIO. Mr. Speaker, I represent more than 180,000 people in western Pennsylvania who receive Social Security benefits. Those are earned benefits. My constituents receive more than \$350 million of those monthly benefits.

I join my colleagues in sounding the alarm on this administration's attacks on the bedrock national promise of Social Security, which Mr. Musk called a Ponzi scheme. We have already seen firings in the Social Security Administration, threatening to close field offices, a website crashing several times in March, a plan to end paper checks as an option, and DOGE accessing sensitive data systems.

All of this puts people at risk, and the impact will be clear. It means longer waits and travel times to get the benefits people have earned, putting those benefits at risk.

My office has gotten hundreds and hundreds of calls from constituents who are worried about their Social Security benefits. My Social Security telephone townhall had nearly 18,000 people. More than 2,000 folks responded to my survey about these problems. Why? People are worried about their earned benefits.

Mr. Speaker, I will continue to stand strong against these attacks on Social Security.

HONORING LINDA JOHNSON WADE FOR 50 YEARS OF SERVICE

(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 over 50 years of service that Linda Johnson Wade has provided the citizens of Pooler, Bloomingdale, Garden City,

West Chatham County, and Effingham County as a pharmacy technician.

Linda began serving patients at Elliott's Drugs and continued her work at Rupert Heller's Prescriptions, at Carter's Pharmacy, and, most recently, at Pooler Pharmacy.

Throughout the years, she provided crucial healthcare services to generations of patients, counseling and aiding patients, and providing for their healthcare needs. Patients depended on her. She took care of them, and she became a trusted resource for their healthcare needs.

Linda recently announced her well-deserved retirement and now will devote her full talents and attention to her family: her husband, Jimmy; her children, Jan and Jared; and her grandchildren, Carly, Abby, and Coleman.

We congratulate Linda on her retirement. A grateful community thanks her for her devotion to providing quality healthcare to generations of our community.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF ELAINE WYNN

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

Ms. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor the loss of a true caretaker of Las Vegas, my dear friend and mentor, Elaine Wynn.

There are no words and certainly not enough time to express my sadness and share the enormous impact that Elaine had on Las Vegas, on Nevada, and on this country.

Her trailblazing philanthropy touched the lives of millions, whether it was a kid able to play in afterschool sports, a struggling student who was able to graduate high school, or a kid who received food backpacks each weekend. Of course, there was her strong support of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

Elaine was an incredible businesswoman because her bottom line started with taking care of her employees first and her customers second.

While my heart is still heavy, I can't be anything but grateful that I was able to know her and to learn so much from such an amazing woman. Her memory and impact will be felt forever.

CELEBRATING NCAA DIVISION II NATIONAL CHAMPION REECE BARNHARDT

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

Mrs. FEDORCHAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate an incredible athlete and a historic moment for North Dakota. Reece Barnhardt of Bismarck has made history as the first NCAA Division II national champion in the University of Mary's wrestling program.

With a dominant 10-4 victory, Reece showed the Nation what we in North Dakota have long known. His toughness, work ethic, and determination set him apart. Success like this takes years of discipline, sacrifice, and resilience.

I have had the privilege of watching Reece compete long before he stepped onto the national wrestling stage. He played football with both my sons at St. Mary's Central High School in Bismarck, and I loved watching him fly down the field with reckless abandon. He was fearless then, and he is fearless now.

Reece's journey is an inspiration to young athletes across our State. His hometown, his school, and all of North Dakota are proud of him. We congratulate Reece on this well-earned and well-deserved national title.

PENDING OPM CLAIMS

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

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because I have been hearing from so many constituents in northern Virginia about the Office of Personnel Management. That is because there are 16,000 retirement claims pending at OPM, and a lot of them are my constituents.

We were making progress towards reducing that backlog. Then what happened? DOGE and this administration came in and started indiscriminately firing OPM employees. This even included the congressional liaisons who help our offices resolve retirement issues for Federal retirees.

I have heard directly from my constituents who spent their careers serving this country. These folks are now waiting months or even years for their retirement benefits that they earned. This backlog directly impacts their ability to pay their bills, remain financially stable, and live with dignity.

Our constituents are paying the price, and we are hearing about it. Let's inject some common sense and fix this process instead of firing key staff for short-term savings.

UNLEASHING AMERICAN ENERGY AND BUILDING A STRONGER ECONOMY

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, the House Natural Resources Committee is doing exactly what we said and what President Trump has called for. We are unleashing American energy and using our own resources to build a stronger economy.

Through budget reconciliation, we are generating over \$18.5 billion in savings and new revenue by getting Washington out of the way and letting

Americans do what we do best, which is work and produce.

We are expanding clean, safe energy production here at home and ramping up mining for critical minerals so we are not relying on China. We are cutting the red tape that blocks progress.

We are also protecting taxpayers by managing our forests and public lands better, so we are not paying out billions later in disaster response, wildfire costs, and cleanup. We are reversing the Biden policies that locked up land, killed jobs, and handed too much power to Federal bureaucrats.

Mr. Speaker, the plan is really about energy, jobs, and putting America first. It is long overdue.

OPPOSING REPUBLICAN BUDGET PLAN

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

Ms. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to the Republican's budget plan that would gut funding for Medicaid. In 2023, my home State of North Carolina achieved a historic victory by finally implementing Medicaid expansion after a decade of political gridlock.

Medicaid expansion has helped new moms and their babies during a critical phase of life. It has supported older Americans living in nursing homes. It has ensured that individuals with disabilities get the care that they need.

Republicans want to roll back this progress to pay for tax cuts for billionaires. Their current budget would immediately terminate Medicaid expansion, ripping away healthcare from more than 600,000 North Carolinians and shuttering rural hospitals that may never be able to open their doors again.

Mr. Speaker, don't be fooled. The Republican budget is cruel, and it will cost the lives of North Carolinians.

CLEANING UP MEDICAID ROLLS

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

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, evidently, this is what gutting Medicaid looks like. You see it goes up 25 percent over 10 years. This only happens in Washington, D.C.

Mr. Speaker, the difference between the last administration and the current one is the last administration restricted the States from cleaning up the Medicaid rolls and verifying eligibility. I don't know what coalition in the House of Representatives is for that. Apparently, it is the same one that is for over \$100 billion lost annually to improper payments.

There is a coalition here, Mr. Speaker, that wants to take tax dollars and pay \$100 billion, losing it annually to improper payments. What we are asking the States to do is verify eligibility

and issue payments to protect people in poverty, pregnant women, the disabled, and children.

Mr. Speaker, what the Republican plan is doing is saving Medicare for the people it was intended to be there for.

HONORING GEORGE TORRES AND URSULA CRUZ-GREENE

(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, today, I honor George Torres and Ursula Cruz-Greene from Bronx Community Board 12 which serves the north Bronx neighborhoods including Wakefield and Edenwald in the 16th Congressional District. My friend, RITCHIE TORRES, represents other neighborhoods in this area.

George Torres is the district manager of Community Board 12. Born and raised in the Bronx, his parents still live in the Parkchester home that he grew up in.

After serving in several roles in the Bronx for city and State officials, including Jose Serrano and Mayor Bloomberg, George joined Community Board 12 in 2015. His experience makes him a tremendous liaison for public officials and community leaders in the Bronx.

Ursula Cruz-Greene is the community coordinator and has been with Community Board 12 since 1995. She started as a temporary employee, and her hard work paid off. She became a permanent employee 6 months later. Ursula's dedication to the community is clear to anyone who knows her.

Mr. Speaker, our community is lucky to have such dedicated public servants like Ursula and George.

INCREASING MEDICAID FUNDING

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

Mr. BIGGS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, the original Medicaid program was designed to help the disabled, pregnant women, seniors, and children.

Then there was this expansion that came along, and it is filled with able-bodied adults of working age who could be working. That is the fastest growing program in the United States today. They pay out about \$100 billion a year in lost payments.

The Republicans want to deal with that. How we deal with it is an increase in funding over the next 10 years of 25 percent. We just heard somebody say we are going to gut it. Only in Washington, D.C., would someone say an increase in spending is a cut. That is the weirdness of this place, but this is the reality. These are the facts right here.

□ 1800

TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

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

Mr. MIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Tracy Havens, a second grade teacher at Hicks Canyon Elementary School in my district. Tracy has taught our kids in Irvine for the past 20 years and had the honor recently of being 1 of 6 educators out of 20,000 across Orange County to be selected as Orange County Teacher of the Year.

Tracy is known for her outstanding ability to build a positive classroom culture and to find creative ways to engage her students. Tracy goes above and beyond outside of the classroom, as well. She mentors teacher candidates and serves as a lead math model for her district while also helping her students leave their mark through community initiatives.

Teachers like Tracy inspire us all and are the foundation of the American Dream.

As a product of California public schools myself, the father of three young kids in California public schools, and a former educator, I know how important public education is for economic advancement.

Dedicated teachers like Tracy who go the extra mile for their students are the key to a good public education.

I congratulate Tracy on earning Teacher of the Year, and I thank the thousands of teachers across Orange County for their tireless work for lifting up future generations.

MEDICAID

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

Mr. BRECHEEN. Mr. Speaker, Medicaid was created to provide health insurance for the poor, blind, disabled, pregnant, and elderly. Mr. Speaker, as you can see from this Paragon chart, Medicaid is no longer for the poor and now serves more people living above the poverty line than below it.

Additionally, since 2012, the Medicaid population has grown 60 percent, while the U.S. population has only grown about 6 percent according to the Foundation for Government Accountability.

Following ObamaCare's Medicaid expansion, able-bodied adults now make up its largest subgroup according to FGA. Democrats claim these able-bodied adults are working, but these claims are derived from self-reported data relying on sample sizes as small as a few dozen.

In reality, FGA has records for 21 million beneficiaries among 23 States showing that 6 in 10 of these able-bodied beneficiaries do not work at all.

As more able-bodied individuals are added to Medicaid, truly needy and disabled Americans are being displaced from priority services. 700,000 disabled

Americans are stuck on Medicaid wait lists while able-bodied adults above the poverty line have access to taxpayer-funded healthcare.

The goal of social programs should never be to gain able-bodied enrollees, but to decrease government dependency and help them escape poverty as shown during this chart's depiction of the Contract With America and the first Trump administration time period.

RECOGNIZING TED POULIOT

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

Ms. OMAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ted Pouliot for a lifetime of service supporting our Minneapolis community.

As a senior at DeLaSalle High School in Minneapolis in 1952, Ted first started volunteering at House of Charity's dining hall to help feed Minnesotans going hungry. This was just the start of his decades of service.

Later in life, Ted founded the Minneapolis affordable housing nonprofit, Project for Pride in Living, helping folks find stable housing.

Now, at 91, Ted paints to raise funds for nonprofits throughout Minneapolis. This past weekend, he raised \$12,000 at his art sale to benefit nonprofits working to end homelessness and address hunger for Agate Housing and Services, Groveland Emergency Food Shelf, and Sabathani Food Shelf.

Ted truly embodies what it means to live a life of service. It is truly an honor to recognize him here today.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF EDWARD "CHIP" CHIDESTER

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

Mr. MEUSER. Mr. Speaker, it is very important that we here in the Chamber discuss the truths behind Medicaid and how we are working to save it.

However, today, right now, Mr. Speaker, I rise with a heavy heart to honor the life and service of a local hero from my district, Assistant Fire Chief Chip Chidester of the Harford Volunteer Fire Company in Susquehanna County, Pennsylvania.

Sadly, Chip passed away on April 27 from complications stemming from injuries he sustained in an early March fight against a fire in his community.

Chip grew up in the firehouse, volunteering from a young age, alongside his father who had served as assistant chief. His early calling turned into a lifetime of service; 40 years with the department, Mr. Speaker, including 29 years as assistant chief.

Chip was a mentor to younger members, served on several truck teams, and was a trusted, steady presence in the firehouse and in the community.

To those who knew him, Chip never met a person who didn't become a friend, and once a friend, you were always a friend. Community members just describe him as one great guy.

We extend our deepest sympathies to Chip's wife of nearly 20 years, Barbara; to his entire family; and to the Harford Volunteer Fire Company.

Mr. Speaker, I thank them all for their service.

May God bless his soul.

NATIONAL FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS MEMORIAL: THE LYONS FIRE

(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 to celebrate the members of Ohio's Lyons-Royalton Fire Department, a pillar of the Lyons community.

Firefighters recently saved the life of a local man while responding to a fire call. Homeowners Barb and Steve Bates reported a fire that had sparked in the woods. When the fire crew arrived, they contained the fire with the help of Mr. Bates, who then, sadly, experienced cardiac arrest.

Firefighter and EMT Tim Ellithorpe, Fire Chief Devon Kelble, and Lyons Fire Chief Zachary Miramontes launched into action, performing life-saving efforts. They succeeded.

This illustrates how our brave first responders will always answer the call.

In honor of the bravery of all first responders lost in the line of duty and recognizing National Fallen Firefighters Memorial weekend, let us celebrate those who are sworn to serve and to their dedication to public service to others.

As members of our community who have made great sacrifices, first responders truly are the backbone of public safety. They are the heroes and heroes of our northwest Ohio community.

EXPANDING SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Ms. HOYLE of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, my district has more Social Security recipients than 87 percent of the congressional districts nationwide. Back home I heard a clear, urgent message from seniors. They are scared because Social Security and Medicaid are not luxuries. They are lifelines.

They are earned benefits, not handouts, and now they are at great risk because DOGE-led staff cuts are making it impossible to get through and are breaking the agency.

I introduced the Social Security Expansion Act with Representative SCHAKOWSKY, Senator SANDERS, and Senator WARREN because we believe in protecting the promise of Social Security is our duty.

Our bill would increase benefits by over \$2,400 a year and extend the life of the program by 75 years, all without costing 91 percent of Americans one cent more.

We owe that to the seniors who built this country and to future generations who deserve the same dignity in retirement.

MOURNING MARSHAUN FUTRELL, JR.

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

Mr. BELL. Mr. Speaker, another child in the St. Louis region is gone too early.

Marshaun Futrell, Jr., was 11 years old. He was a football star, a big brother, and a son. Monday night this 11-year-old was yet another victim of senseless gun violence.

Across the St. Louis region, 20 children have been shot since the beginning of 2025. This is not just a crisis, it is a collapse of our responsibility to protect our children.

Gun violence is ripping through our neighborhoods, and if we truly believe in public safety, then we must start treating it like what it is: a public health emergency.

That means commonsense gun reform, investments in trauma-informed care, and asking ourselves: How many more funerals before we decide enough is enough?

To the families who have suffered the unspeakable tragedy of losing a loved one, I hear you, I see you, and I will not stop fighting for the change we are long overdue for.

WE HAVE A SHARED HUMANITY

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

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, bigotry and hate threaten our mutual safety, and they deny our interconnectedness.

Yet, from the murder of Wadee Alfayuomi in Illinois to the recent attack on celebrants during the Assyrian New Year Parade in Iraq to the persecution of Ukrainian Christians by Russian occupation forces, so many of our neighbors at home and abroad live with vulnerability and insecurity as they endure the dangers of religious and ethnic persecution within their own communities.

It is important that these incidents, though only a fraction of the examples we have of the destructive force of hate are confronted and placed on the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Congress must renew its commitment to root out hate-fueled violence that violates our neighbors' safety, their dignity, and their rights because of their ethnicity, religion, or beliefs.

A more just, peaceful, and loving world that recognizes our diversity and

honors our shared humanity is, in fact, possible.

HONORING MARY ROSE WILCOX

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

Ms. ANSARI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor local Phoenix trail-blazer and community leader, Mary Rose Wilcox.

As the first Hispanic woman ever elected to the Phoenix City Council and Maricopa County Board of Supervisors, Mary Rose spent her career in public service standing up for our vibrant immigrant and Latino communities and lifting up underserved neighborhoods like south Phoenix, the west valley, and Grant Park.

Even in her retirement, she and her husband Earl continue to bring the community together, utilizing their restaurant, El Portal, as a gathering space for advocacy and organizing.

She has been a huge inspiration to me in my career. More than anything, Mary Rose shows all of us what it means to be a fighter. Despite having faced discrimination, threats, and even violence, Mary Rose stands tall as an example of the resilient spirit of Phoenix.

I was so glad to see Mary Rose recently honored with a ceremonial street sign at Second Avenue and Grant Street, now named Mary Rose Wilcox Way. This weekend, I was honored to attend the celebration for the new Mary Rose Wilcox Health Center in Grant Park.

Mr. Speaker, I thank her for her service and kindness.

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

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

Mr. MULLIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to the Trump administration's proposal to gut the National Institutes of Health.

Put simply, NIH's work is the difference between life and death for millions of Americans. Almost everyone knows someone who has lost a loved one to cancer or Alzheimer's, and cutting NIH funding will halt progress on developing cures for these diseases, just as we are on the cusp of once-in-a-generation advancements.

Mr. Speaker, 99 percent of all FDA-approved therapies between 2010 and 2019 were tied to NIH-funded science. Thanks to its research, heart disease deaths dropped 75 percent over the past 40 years.

If the majority wants to have a debate about whether it is worth curing diseases, then let's have it. I invite my colleagues to explain to their constituents why they are fighting cancer or Alzheimer's.

Mr. Speaker, I urge Members to reject those devastating cuts and stand up for the well-being of the American people.

TAX CUTS AND CREDITS

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

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, we are on the final couple of weeks, the home stretch, with regard to our big, beautiful bill. There are going to be a lot of debates as to what we should do. Some people actually want to expand programs which, in our current crisis, is unbelievable for a Republican to do.

However, I am going to address which tax cuts we have. Different tax cuts do different things. We have tax credits to encourage manufacturing. We have tax credits to encourage more work. We have tax credits to encourage more research. We have tax cuts to encourage more children.

However, there are some people who want tax cuts to encourage State and local governments to spend more money and raise taxes.

When I was home over the weekend, I talked to one of my county executives. He said: GLENN, don't let it happen.

He is a conservative county executive, and he is trying to hold down the spending on the county level, and here the people in Washington are talking about encouraging more State and local taxes.

Please, Mr. Speaker, stand up and fight. Do not encourage our State and local governments to raise taxes.

□ 1815

KEEP YOUR HANDS OFF MEDICAID

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

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Mr. Speaker, don't believe the lies. House Republicans are trying to pass a budget that kicks people off healthcare.

Today, the Congressional Budget Office released an analysis that Republicans' proposals that they are considering would slash Medicaid spending that would lead to millions of people losing healthcare coverage.

Behind every Medicaid recipient is a person whose life depends on it.

Brian Gutierrez, a constituent from South Gate, California, lives with spina bifida, a lifelong disability. He says: For many of us, these cuts are not abstract numbers. They are the difference between stability and crisis, between life and death. I am healthy today because Medicaid stood by me. I am thriving because I have had consistent, reliable access to the care I need.

Medicaid makes independence possible. It makes survival possible. It makes dignity possible. Any threat to Medicaid is a threat to our lives.

The Republican budget is a threat to millions of lives. That is why House

Democrats are fighting to protect Medicaid.

Please, keep your hands off Medicaid.

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, May 7, 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 May 7, 2025, at 2:50 p.m., said to contain a message from the President on the Continuation of the National Emergency With Respect to the Central African Republic.

With best wishes, I am,
Sincerely,

KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,
Clerk of the House.

CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 119-48)

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 with respect to the Central African Republic declared in Executive Order 13667 of May 12, 2014, is to continue in effect beyond May 12, 2025.

The situation in and in relation to the Central African Republic, which has been marked by a breakdown of law and order; intersectorian tension; widespread violence and atrocities; and the pervasive, often forced recruitment and use of child soldiers, including widespread violence and atrocities committed by Kremlin-linked entities such as the Wagner Group, threatens the peace, security, or stability of the Central African Republic and neighboring states, and continues to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign pol-

icy of the United States. Therefore, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13667.

DONALD J. TRUMP.
THE WHITE HOUSE, May 7, 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, May 7, 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 May 7, 2025, at 2:50 p.m., said to contain a message from the President on the Continuation of the National Emergency With Respect to the Actions of the Government of Syria.

With best wishes, I am,
Sincerely,

KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,
Clerk of the House.

CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO THE ACTIONS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF SYRIA—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 119-49)

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 with respect to the actions of the Government of Syria declared in Executive Order 13338 of May 11, 2004—as modified in scope and relied upon for additional steps taken in Executive Order 13399 of April 25, 2006, Executive Order 13460 of February 13, 2008, Executive Order 13572 of April 29, 2011, Executive Order 13573 of May 18, 2011, Executive Order 13582 of August 17, 2011, Executive Order 13606 of April 22, 2012, and Executive Order 13608 of May 1, 2012—is to continue in effect beyond May 11, 2025.

Syria's lack of structure and limited governance capability with respect to chemical weapons and combatting terrorist organizations continue to pose

an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to continue in effect the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13338.

The United States will consider changes in policies and actions of Syria in determining whether to continue or terminate this national emergency in the future.

DONALD J. TRUMP.
THE WHITE HOUSE, May 7, 2025.

BIG, BEAUTIFUL BILL

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

GENERAL LEAVE

MR. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the topic of this Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

MR. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I am glad to be joined by my colleagues this evening to talk about our progress on the reconciliation bill, as well as the importance of supporting our Main Street businesses during National Small Business Week.

I understand some of my colleagues have commitments, and I want to be respectful of their time. So I will have them start us off before I provide some of my own comments.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from North Dakota (Mrs. FEDORCHAK), a much improved Representative from the previous individual of the great State of North Dakota.

Mrs. FEDORCHAK. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative MOORE for yielding. I never get tired of that joke.

Mr. Speaker, as we consider the critical reforms in the reconciliation process, I rise today to make the case for why we must eliminate the generous Federal subsidies for wind and solar energy paid for by taxpayers.

By continuing to incentivize these intermittent energy sources with generous tax credits, we are distorting energy markets, sending the absolute wrong signal to investors, and spending hundreds of billions of dollars in taxpayer money.

We must stop providing generous incentives that run contrary to the types of energy resources we need, and tonight I want to highlight 10 reasons why. Yes, you heard me right. There are 10 good reasons to eliminate these incentives.

First, the cost to taxpayers is enormous. Over the next decade, these subsidies are projected to cost up to \$900 billion.

Second, these subsidies are driving instability in our power grid. Right

now two-thirds of the country is at risk of not having enough power to meet demand. That is not a few years from now. That is not a near, long-term problem. That is today. Keep in mind, the power needed for AI is also growing exponentially, further creating a more difficult problem for us.

Third, grid operators are asking for dispatchable resources, such as coal, natural gas, and nuclear. Yet, we continue to incentivize the opposite.

These reliable resources are being prematurely retired, and we are not replacing them with the technologies we can count on around the clock.

This is not a political statement. It is simply a matter of physics. We don't need to imagine the consequences of retiring these baseload energy resources. Spain, just a few weeks ago, experienced nationwide blackouts, and their economy came to a grinding halt.

Spain relied on wind and solar for 80 percent of its power, which is ultimately what jeopardized their grid. This should be a wake-up call for policymakers everywhere.

That brings me to reason number four. Despite the warning signs and the cries from grid operators, 95 percent of the projects waiting to connect to our grid in the U.S. are wind and solar; 95 percent.

That is not because of market demand for wind and solar. It is because of the very generous subsidies that this body and the rest of Washington continues to provide for these resources. This artificial growth is making it harder for reliable baseload generation to connect to the grid.

Number five, the incentives. These same incentives are distorting the market. Eliminating these subsidies would allow private investment to go toward other technologies that are more in line with what our grid actually needs.

As I mentioned earlier, with the rise of AI, we are going to need a lot more power. We should be sending the right market signals to bring the power on that will actually meet the demand that we need for the future.

Number six, wind and solar are no longer emerging technologies. They are mature. They are widely developed. Wind and solar now account for 17 percent of our electric generation.

The cost of these technologies has also dropped dramatically, and this is the seventh reason to phase them out. Wind and solar technologies have less overhead, longer lifespans, and higher profits than they did when these credits were introduced nearly 30 years ago in the 1990s.

For example, the cost of solar has decreased more than 80 percent since 2010. Truly, the market is more than capable of supporting continued growth without subsidies.

As if that isn't compelling enough, there are yet more reasons to phase out these subsidies.

Number eight, their efficiency has increased substantially. Today's wind turbines and solar panels are far more

productive than they were even a decade ago.

When I first started permitting these projects 12 years ago, the capacity factor for wind was around 25 percent. Today that average capacity factor is up to 40 percent and in some places even 50 percent. Clearly, these are proven technologies.

Number nine, the true cost of installing wind and solar is often misrepresented. Advocates routinely leave out the cost of the massive transmission infrastructure needed to connect remote wind and solar projects to population centers.

They also ignore the cost of backup generation needed to keep the lights on at night or when the wind isn't blowing. The low-cost claims don't account for these expenses, but, rest assured, utility customers still pay for them.

And last, but not least, eliminating these subsidies is fully consistent with an all-of-the-above energy strategy.

I believe in competition. Wind and solar are viable, market proven, widely available technologies. Mr. Speaker, it is time to let them compete and succeed without the help of Federal taxpayers.

Phasing out these tax credits will save taxpayers billions of dollars, help restore reliability to our power grid, and help deliver on the promise of one big, beautiful bill to make America stronger, safer, and more competitive.

Let's retire these subsidies permanently.

MR. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from North Dakota for her remarks.

I yield to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. STUTZMAN).

MR. STUTZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to talk on such an important issue that faces our country.

Our country has been ailing since 2020, but, thankfully, President Trump is back, along with Republicans in both the House and the Senate, and we are ready to govern responsibly.

The prescription that will help heal our country and get us back on track is the beautiful reconciliation bill that Republicans have been working on diligently to get to President Trump's desk. It cannot be overstated. Our debt crisis is out of control.

When I was first sworn into office in 2010, our Federal Government had \$9 trillion of debt. When I left temporarily in 2017, despite our efforts to curb spending, it had doubled to \$18 trillion of debt, and now today in 2025, we are staring down the barrel of \$36 trillion of debt.

This is only going to hurt our children, grandchildren, and, frankly, it is going to hurt us today.

Republicans' big, beautiful bill was passed out of our Budget Committee just under 3 months ago and is already well on its way to being approved by this body by Memorial Day.

□ 1830

The legislation that committees are marking up this week and next is going

to usher in the new golden age of America by prioritizing a revolutionary, conservative agenda that will improve the efficiency of government and finally get a handle on runaway spending that has gone unchecked for far too long.

This bill is going to lower taxes. This bill is also going to increase border security and restore fiscal sanity back to the greatest country on Earth. Gone are the days of prioritizing wokeness, frivolous spending, and the leftist dream of open borders. Here to stay is a new era of putting America first.

The American people spoke loud and clear in November. They are ready for Washington to operate in a new patriotic and responsible way, and our reconciliation package is the first step in that direction.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to be a part of such a historic opportunity, and we as Republicans cannot let this opportunity slip by. I appreciate our Speaker and the leader in the Senate working together well and this body working together to make sure that our country is strong, not only for our generation but for generations to come, and continue to keep America great.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Indiana for his comments, and I appreciate his work. We share a lot of work together on the Budget Committee, and it has been a very active time.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Wyoming (Ms. HAGEMAN). Her State, quite possibly, may be the second-best State out there in the West, second to Utah, of course. I think we have that mantle pretty well locked up, but there are some other good ones in the running.

Ms. HAGEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I like being in the top five. I rise to recognize Wyoming's outstanding small businesses during this Small Business Week.

Like Wyoming's diverse topography, from pastures to sagebrush to majestic mountains, our small business landscape boasts a robust variety of services and industries. We have small businesses catering to the oil and gas industry and mining and energy, and we have boutique shops that make up our incredibly vibrant downtown areas. We have international businesses, like Brunton, within our State and those with similar national prominence, even some supporting our space mission and our military and putting food on the tables of Americans across this great country.

I recently had the opportunity to meet Wyoming's Small Business Person of the Year, Lauren Heerschap, of Brunton International. Lauren is an innovator who saw an opportunity to improve a product she used every day. She worked with her husband to refine the tool and presented it to Brunton, a company that at the time was just a business whose equipment Lauren was using.

Within only a few years of presenting that idea, and the company deciding to move forward with then manufacturing and eventually marketing a new product, Lauren and her husband, David, purchased that company. Thanks to Lauren, Brunton International is now, once again, an American-owned company. It is a beacon of resilience and prominence, in no small part due to the company's passionate leaders, who are willing to take on new opportunities with enthusiasm and trudge through challenges with tenacity.

Wyoming businessmen and -women are a special kind of people. If you are in business in Wyoming, you are willing to be both the janitor and the CEO, sometimes even on the same day. You have a growth mindset and are willing to take on the challenges brought by fluctuating markets. You both strive to progress into new areas but are willing to take time for one-off projects in order to help an individual in your hometown.

For Wyoming's business community and small businesses across our great Nation, I am committed to ensuring that we pass legislation that creates a legacy and regulatory climate that allows our small businesses to be competitive and to grow.

Small businesses are pivotal to the success of our Nation's economy. I join my colleagues this week in celebration of the small businesses that keep our country thriving, and I will work with them to ensure that there is opportunity long into the future.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Wyoming for her comments, and I appreciate her being a part of the Special Order this evening.

Our last colleague who is going to address us this evening is a new Member from the great State of Kansas.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. SCHMIDT), also an improvement to the previous Member. He is a good friend.

Mr. SCHMIDT. Mr. Speaker, I will have no comment on that last comment from my colleague from Utah.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, that is smart.

Mr. SCHMIDT. Mr. Speaker, I am very proud to join my colleagues tonight in recognition of National Small Business Week, and actually, all the parts we have talked about are connected.

National Small Business Week recognizes the importance of the small businesses throughout all of our communities, and the numbers aren't that different from State to State.

In my home State of Kansas, 99 percent of the businesses that operate are small businesses. Whether they are small businesses on Main Street, small mom-and-pop shops, little manufacturing operations, farming operations, or supporting operations, 99 percent of our businesses are small businesses.

Those 99 percent in my State employ about 600,000 Kansans, which is roughly

half the total number of Kansans who work. All but 1 percent our businesses, 99 percent, employ half of our people who rely on them for their livelihood, for their hope, for their jobs, for their benefits in many cases, and for filling their days because they, obviously, have to work in order to support their families and pursue their dreams.

We cannot overstate the importance of small businesses to all of us, the people we represent. Yet, that often doesn't get reflected in the decisions and the actions that come out of this town.

My colleagues have talked a bit about reconciliation, and I say these are connected because we are going to make large policy decisions here in the House, in the Senate, and with the President over the course of the coming weeks that are going to have huge implications for all of those small businesses on our Main Streets and all of those individuals who work in them and rely on them for their livelihoods.

We talk a lot about the tax implications. That is not my focus this evening. It is critically important. We have to extend the small business and middle-class tax relief so that those businesses can continue to operate and continue to employ the people we represent.

I want to talk a little bit tonight about the regulatory environment and the burden that we have created—really, a tax by another means. When the government says to a small business, “thou shalt do this,” the compliance cost of doing it is borne by that business, and it comes out of their bottom line or out of their pockets. It takes away from their ability to invest in expanding, growing, and hiring more people. It has the same effect as taking another dollar of tax out of their pocket to pay not for their priorities, their community's priorities, or their employees' priorities, but for the government's priorities. That is true whether it is a dollar taken out of their pockets collected in tax, in cash, or whether it is a dollar taken out of their pockets and ordered by the government to be used to comply with a government requirement, a mandate, a regulation.

I am one who believes, because my constituents have told me this, that one of the most important things we can and must do in this Congress is make real progress on regulatory relief for the small businesses that all of our communities rely on. We have begun to take some steps.

You know, Mr. Speaker, that we are currently using one of several tools available to us in this body to undo some—a small number, but some—of the newer regulations that have piled burdens on our small businesses. We are using the Congressional Review Act. We only have a short amount of time that we can use that tool, so we have to strike while the iron is hot.

So far, in the House, we have used that tool to propose undoing 15 new regulations that were adopted in

roughly the last 6 months of the prior administration. Of those 15 that we have approved here, 3 have been signed into law by the President. We have done three. Another six have been approved by the Senate and are currently awaiting President Trump's signature. Then, there are an additional six that are awaiting consideration and, I hope and expect, passage in the Senate.

That is good. It is a good thing. We are using the tool available to try to make progress to provide some relief for those small businesses, but, Mr. Speaker, it is barely a drop in the bucket.

The chart next to me was compiled by George Washington University. It shows the number of pages in the Federal Register, starting back in 1950. The Federal Register, of course, is the government book, the government entity, where all the agency regulations, not the laws passed by this body, but the agency regulations, the bureaucratic regulations, get published.

They have the force and effect of law. They are just as burdensome and binding on somebody running a mom-and-pop shop on Main Street in Kansas as is a statute enacted by this body. Usually, they are regulations adopted by an agency at the direction or, arguably, with the permission of this body. We fight over that sometimes when agencies exceed the authority they were given.

There is a penchant here in Congress to avoid some of the hard decisions and just ship it downtown, let the agencies have a lot of running room. As a result of that, you get lots of decisions. Sometimes, they are not consistent.

One administration goes one way, and another administration goes the next way, or they adopt one regulation, then pile another regulation on top of it, and then another on top of that. I heard a term the other day—I had never heard it before—"coral reefing," this idea that you lay down something that is living and makes sense, then that layer dies, and you just build another on top and another on top. Eventually, you get this giant dead mass. That is what we have done with a lot of these agency regulations. Part of it is Congress' fault. Part of it is the agency's fault.

If you look at this chart, Mr. Speaker, back in 1950, roughly the time they started publishing the Federal Register, compiling all these agency rules, diktats, actions, there were about 10,000 pages. That is about how long it was, the sum of all regulations adopted by agencies. The year I was born in, 1968, it had grown fivefold to 50,000 pages. When this chart was compiled about a year ago, a little more, it was nearly 200,000 pages. Nearly 200,000 pages of regulations that folks in our country, our small businesses, have to comply with.

By the way, to put that in comparison, the number of pages in the U.S. Code, the laws actually adopted by the people's Representatives in this body,

last time it was compiled, it was around 60,000 pages, so about four times, roughly, three or four times as many rules and requirements on Main Street businesses written by people nobody out in the real world ever voted for as opposed to laws that their elected Representatives are accountable for.

By the way, this chart is not current. It doesn't include those regulations piled on top of this last tallest bar. Since this chart was compiled, we know that in the last 5 months of the Biden administration alone, more than 1,400 new regulations were adopted and shoved out the door. That is not 1,400 pages. That is 1,400 regulations, most of which were long, so this chart is actually much higher.

Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to remind all of my colleagues and all of us who serve in these roles how important it is that, during this Small Business Week, as we are doing our reconciliation bill and doing all the things we do, we not forget about this hidden tax, that we have created this burden that we have placed on the 99 percent of small businesses in our community, which employ half the people working in my State, making it harder for them to do what they do, what we rely on them to do, what we count on them to do, and, more importantly, what the people we represent, our constituents, count on them to do.

We can't lose sight of it. We must fix this system, tear down some of the coral reef, and get those lines moving back down.

□ 1845

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. SCHMIDT), who had excellent points. We all talk about small business. We all use it as a line and a bullet point, and we all say that we support them, and then where does the actual policy come in?

Those are incredibly important points to highlight that they are the lifeblood. We have data that suggests that Utah, which has an incredible economy, strong work ethic, low unemployment, good volunteerism across the board, is ranked high in the economic indicators for the country, and we are heavily tilted toward small business out of Utah. There aren't an enormous amount of global headquarters for big, multinational firms. It is a ton of small businesses. I thank the gentleman for highlighting that.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my other colleagues for being here to discuss the goings-on for this week. We have heard so much about the reconciliation process and the dangers of not getting this done. There is a real threat.

We are working under unique circumstances because there is a time limit set for the end of this year that, if we don't accomplish this piece of legislation, there is no other way to look at it except for the fact that taxes will increase on virtually every American family and business.

We desperately want to create good, strong, predictable tax policy so that our companies and our families can continue to thrive and continue to understand what their landscape is for them to compete and go and create more job growth and actually go and create more revenue for our Nation to become a wealthier nation. This is a priority for Republicans. It is a priority for House GOP leadership, the President, his administration, and we are neck deep in the process of getting this over the finish line.

This bill will deliver on our conservative agenda and make positive changes that we know that Americans want. From a more secure border to stronger domestic energy resources, to more efficient Federal programs, to a tax code that supports families and businesses, this is a once-in-a-generation moment, and I am grateful to be part of this effort on both the Committee on Ways and Means and the Budget Committee.

There is obviously a lot going into this and, on the Committee on Ways and Means, we are trying to find the sweet spot of many considerations at play. We need to ensure the provisions in the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act aren't just extended but, where possible, made permanent.

If we don't act, we risk seeing critical policies roll back, such as the child tax credit, which goes back to just \$1,000. It was \$1,000 prior to 2017. Republicans doubled it. That reverts back to \$1,000, and \$1,000 in 2026, after the inflation that we have seen over the last 4 years in the previous administration, is a significantly different number than it would be from pre-2017.

While we can't solve the debt crisis with this bill alone, it will drive strong economic growth, bolster GDP—we know this because we have seen this—and it puts us in a better position to address our national deficits. This is probably the most substantive action that I have been a part of, and it has been an honor to have been right in the thick of it.

Over the last few weeks, several committees have passed bills aimed at saving hundreds of billions of dollars, and we are well on our way to making historic savings a reality. As we work through this, we are doing so with a clear focus on the needs of our economy, particularly on small businesses.

This week is Small Business Week, and I am recognizing the hard work of our small business owners as something that we can all support from both sides of the aisle. Small businesses are the backbone of our economy, as I mentioned what it means to the State of Utah, and they are critical to every local community across this country.

In this role, I am grateful to get to know as many small business owners as possible and hear their concerns, understand their areas of growth, what their opportunities are, and, most importantly, what their challenges are.

Going back to the reconciliation package—and we are working on, particularly, the tax portion—we are looking to deliver positive results to our small businesses and craft policies that will allow them to thrive.

The 199A, small business, LLC, S corp, deduction from their qualified business expense, a 20 percent deduction, expires at the end of this year. That is a massive tax hike on small businesses, and this is oftentimes a category that gets overlooked because my colleagues talk about corporations and about high-net-worth individuals, but the small businesses are structured in a way that their ordinary income is taxed at what some of the highest income individuals of our society are taxed at.

These small businesses are taxed at a significantly high rate, oftentimes higher than other corporations. We need to make sure that 199A is extended and, if not just extended, made permanent. The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act made our small businesses more competitive, and we want to continue to pursue policies that provide regulatory relief, economic stability, and the ability to grow and create jobs.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues again for joining me tonight to talk about these important issues, and we will continue to dig into this in the weeks to come.

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

GROSS VIOLATIONS OF LAW BY TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

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

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MIN. 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 (Mr. BAUMGARTNER). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. MIN. Mr. Speaker, we just heard all day from Republicans on the other side of the aisle that the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act is going to lead to helping small businesses and reducing the deficit. Yet, what we just missed in all of this discussion was any discussion of the T-word, and I am not talking about Trump here. I am talking about tariffs.

In fact, when I talk to the small businesses in my district, that is the number one, number two, and number three concerns that they have.

When Members talk about the deficits and the jobs creation that the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act are supposed to have, note that this is going to add \$7 trillion to our national debt. It will blow up our deficit. In fact, Donald Trump is responsible for roughly 40

percent of the national debt just in the 4 years in which he was in office.

He oversaw, of course, the worst jobs record of any President since Herbert Hoover.

That is right. He oversaw the worst jobs growth of any President since the Great Depression.

It now looks like he is doubling down on those failed policies, and congressional Republicans are looking to support those efforts and potentially take us into the Great Depression 2.0, as economist after economist has warned us.

Mr. Speaker, that is not what I am here to talk about today. I rise today to speak about the Trump administration's egregious Hatch Act violations and also Congress' failure to hold Donald Trump and his administration accountable for these gross violations of law.

That is, of course, a theme that we have seen. Trump has bent and broken the law and key provisions of the Constitution over and over. Yet, this body, which, as any kid knows, is supposed to be a coequal branch of government to the President, to the executive branch, has rolled over and played dead rather than holding anybody accountable.

Today, we heard another oversight hearing about something that people in my district just don't care about: trans athletes who are fencing in different types of competitive atmospheres. That may be something for local sporting bodies to take up. It is not something that is pressing to my constituents. It is not pressing in the way that the corruption, the lawlessness, the tariffs, or so many other things are.

The Hatch Act, I think, embodies the problems that we are seeing right now with just the sheer criminality and lawlessness of this administration and the failure of Congress—again, a coequal branch of government—in standing up for itself. We have an hour for this Special Order, but we would need much more time to talk about all of the Hatch Act violations made by members of the Trump administration.

Mr. Speaker, this is important to me because, as someone who has spent my career trying to uphold the rule of law, I turned down Wall Street to begin my career at the Securities and Exchange Commission to crack down on corporate fraud, exactly the type that Donald Trump and many of his allies are committing right now, such as securities fraud, corporate fraud, and the like.

When I was a law professor at the University of California, Irvine, I spent my career trying to uphold law enforcement and the rule of law, and right now we are just seeing a level of sheer criminality and lawlessness that is unprecedented in history. What is happening right now makes the Teapot Dome scandal and all of these scandals we read about in history look like penny-ante stuff.

The Trump administration is doing everything it can right now to allow

for people to violate the Hatch Act. I emphasize the Hatch Act was a series of laws passed by Congress to prevent senior officials in the administration from abusing their official executive branch positions to campaign and to engage in politics.

Of course, the Trump administration issued an executive order essentially undoing many of the provisions of the Hatch Act, allowing members of the administration to use their official offices to campaign for Donald Trump and Republicans, something that is totally outrageous, something that is totally in defiance of the Hatch Act.

Again, this is a law that we passed in Congress, and, no, the President does not get to make law by executive order. This President has issued more executive orders than the last approximately 10 Presidents combined already, and we are only 3½ months into his Presidency. Executive orders do not rewrite laws that we pass.

I remind my colleagues of something that my kids learned in third grade: Article I of the Constitution gives Congress and only Congress the authority to create laws, to enact laws. The President does not get to rewrite laws that we passed, including the Hatch Act, by just having his lawyers come up with some nonsense and calling it an executive order. Yet, that is what we have seen done here.

The administration has also directed the Office of Special Counsel to refer Hatch Act violations by White House-commissioned officers directly to the President for disciplinary action, rather than the Independent Merit Systems Protections Board.

What he is basically saying is to send those to the White House. If Members expect this White House to enforce any violations of law committed by a Trump supporter, my colleagues haven't been following the news at all. Of course, this White House, this President, from the very beginning, when he pardoned all of the January 6 felons, including people who had assaulted police officers, he was, again, showing his contempt for the rule of law. If we rely on the White House to enforce the law, we have another thing coming.

Mr. Speaker, this is good news for people like Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick, who told viewers during a FOX News interview in March that they could buy Tesla stock, that they should buy Tesla stock, again, violating his position, abusing his position, going on national television to promote a stock aligned with Donald Trump's interests.

It also looks to be great news for people like Lynne Patton, who is returning to work for President Trump this week after finishing up a 2-month suspension from Federal service after she improperly used her position with the Department of Housing and Urban Development for political purposes during President Trump's first term.

It is also good news for all of the White House employees who helped set

up that shameless display where Trump and his White House essentially turned the White House lawn into a Tesla dealership, promoting Tesla.

Where is the rule of law? Where is the concern for enforcement of the rule of law? I know a lot of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle profess to care a lot about crime. Yet, we have seen them turn a blind eye over and over to the many, many acts of criminality committed by this administration.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. GARCIA), my colleague from Long Beach, the former mayor of Long Beach, and the best-looking politician out of Long Beach.

Mr. GARCIA of California. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Congressman for yielding. I appreciate the gentleman having this opportunity for us to speak.

Mr. Speaker, we all know that the Hatch Act is here to keep partisan politics out of our government. It has been in place to over 80 years, and I rise today to make sure that our government serves every single American.

Mr. Speaker, we know that the Hatch Act protects public service from being used for political gain. It means you can't use a government office to help a political campaign or promote a candidate.

I was mayor of Long Beach for 8 years, 2 terms, and I knew it didn't matter how my constituents voted. We had to serve them all equally. We had to put our community above politics.

Mr. Speaker, here in Washington, the Hatch Act was written to keep trust in our government strong. It helps to make sure public officials stay focused on the job that we were elected or hired to do and not on personal or political goals.

Yet, Donald Trump, of course, thinks he is above the law. We have seen President Trump and Elon Musk try to pressure government workers to do their bidding and to help themselves personally and politically.

In his first term, Donald Trump profited from his hotels in violation of the Constitution. Yet, now, his conduct is even more extreme. Just days before his inauguration, Trump launched a meme coin. Buyers can now funnel money directly into Donald Trump's pockets, and it is happening.

We know that he actually offered the top buyers of this coin a private dinner at his golf club. He is basically selling access to the Presidency for cash.

We also saw Donald Trump fire someone whose job was actually to look into and punish Hatch Act violations. By doing that, he removed someone whose job was to hold rulebreakers like himself accountable. It is clear that he doesn't care about anything but himself, and he is putting his MAGA politics ahead of the law. The American people deserve better than this.

Mr. Speaker, that is why I have introduced the Hatch Act Enforcement Transparency and Accountability Act

earlier this year. This bill will make sure that we know when the executive branch chooses not to investigate a Hatch Act violation. It requires full transparency so that we can see exactly how and why those decisions are being made.

If the Trump administration or anyone else in power refuses to investigate a clear violation, we will know why, and we will demand accountability. We can't let powerful people break the rules—not Donald Trump, not Donald Trump's family, not Elon Musk, not anyone.

The Hatch Act was made to keep things fair and honest in government. It is a simple rule that protects all of us. We can't let anyone ignore it. By properly enforcing the Hatch Act, we are not just saying that we want to protect our democracy. We are actually doing it.

This protects our government workers, our agencies, and our whole country. There have been extreme violations of the Hatch Act by the Donald Trump Presidency, not just this time in this term, but also in the first term.

We saw how they abused the office for real estate deals outside of government. We saw how foreign governments flowed and sent money to his family when they left the White House. Donald Trump, today, by the use of the meme coin and other means, is profiting off our government. We need to ensure that our government is working openly and fairly for everyone, not just for those with a political agenda.

□ 1900

Mr. MIN. Mr. Speaker, I echo the comments just made by Mr. GARCIA. We are roughly 3½ months into Trump's second term, but it looks to be shaping up like a more extreme and more radical version of the first term, where the Office of Special Counsel identified over 12 different members of President Trump's administration as having violated the Hatch Act.

As a refresher, Kellyanne Conway promoted Ivanka Trump's clothing line in the last Trump administration. Stephanie Grisham, Nikki Haley, and Dan Scavino engaged in political activity on their government social media accounts. Former Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue unlawfully promoted President Trump's 2020 reelection campaign.

I will say that the acquiescence of Congress at that time, the failure to hold Donald Trump accountable for those abuses, those violations of the rule of law, has led Donald Trump to be even more bold and aggressive in violating the law this time around.

At this point, I think this is very clearly the most corrupt administration in history. Already, we have seen them engage in breathtaking actions that are unprecedented, all of which have created constitutional crises. They fired over 17 inspectors general to start the term. They issued a mass pardon of those convicted of assaulting

our government, including police officers, on January 6. They went after the FBI and tried to fire anybody who was seen as insufficiently loyal to Donald Trump at the FBI. They did the same thing at the Department of Justice. They looked to illegally usurp our Article I powers by firing thousands of government employees, redirecting funding that we had appropriated here in Congress, violating the Impoundment Control Act, and trying to rewrite laws by shuttering agencies through executive action that Congress had created.

As a reminder, Congress and only Congress, under Article I—this is something that the Founders in their great wisdom decided was important, the separation of powers, something we all learn early on. Apparently, not too many of my colleagues on the other side have incorporated this message: Congress and only Congress has the authority to pass laws and to appropriate funds. That is exactly what they are trying to take away from us.

We have seen this time after time. Now, it is with the illegal sweeps of immigrants, including immigrants who are here on travel visas, leading to a stark drop in tourism, and the possibly illegal usurpation of our taxation authority by an unprecedented series of tariff announcements.

A great gauge of how corrupt things are right now is by seeing how much litigation has already proceeded against the Trump administration. We have seen over 220 lawsuits brought against them in their first 100 days. That is clearly a record.

It is also a record of how many of them they have lost already, how many motions they have lost, how many motions have been filed against them that they have lost in court.

In response, rather than trying to adhere to the rule of law, the Trump administration, again, exhibiting its utter contempt for the rule of law, has gone after members of the judiciary.

At this point, there are not a lot of guardrails left. They have gone after the IGs. They have weaponized the Department of Justice. They have weaponized the FBI.

There are the courts, and there is Congress. Unfortunately, Congress, with the majority on the other side of the aisle, has decided to roll over and play dead and be Donald Trump's lapdog rather than enforcing our constitutionally mandated duties.

When we take office, you may remember that we all swear an oath to defend and support the Constitution of the United States. That means regardless of what party affiliation you have or what party affiliation the President has, regardless of what threatens the President or Elon Musk may make against you, we swear to a higher power to take that oath, to support and defend the Constitution. Right now, that is not happening with Congress, and Donald Trump and his minions have become emboldened to attack the courts.

I have attempted to bring light to these issues through my membership on the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, as well as part of the rapid response team that our leadership has set up.

For example, I have sent letters to the law firms that acquiesced to the Trump administration and the Florida bar for the apparently unscrupulous ethical behavior of Attorney General Bondi.

We have seen them go after higher education. We need to stand up and fight back right now. Donald Trump has weaponized the Federal Government to go after Columbia, for example, based on what appears to be a personal vendetta over a real estate deal that didn't happen like 30 years ago.

As my colleague from Long Beach mentioned earlier, another outrageous example we have seen is the Trump crypto meme coin, which President Trump is using to profit personally from the Presidency. We just saw a couple of weeks ago that an Abu Dhabi firm had invested \$2 billion into the coin, directly enriching the President. He is going to celebrate this by holding a meme coin gala dinner this month for the top holders of his coin.

The level of corruption right now is breathtaking. It is unprecedented. Unfortunately, he is not going to stop because Congress is not stepping up to enforce our rights. We are not stepping up to do the oversight that is required of us.

As the Romans used to say, who watches the watchmen? When there are no guardrails in place, who watches the watchmen? Unfortunately, right now, Congress, which is supposed to act as a coequal branch of government, is failing to uphold its duties.

Mr. Speaker, I note that this is unprecedented in its corruption. We will continue to see violations of the Hatch Act. We will continue to see a failure of enforcement of the rule of law, but I yield back the balance of my time.

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

HONORING COMMITMENTS

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

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow, May 8, marks 80 years since Nazi Germany surrendered to America and its Allies. Victory in Europe, known as VE Day, came at a tremendous price: hundreds of thousands of Americans and millions of others dead, many more physically maimed and mentally scarred, an indeterminate amount of treasure exhausted, and a continent reduced to ruin.

On that day, Mr. Speaker, President Truman said that the only way to repay that debt was through "ceaseless devotion . . . to build an abiding peace, a peace rooted in justice and in law."

He said, "We can build such a peace only by hard, toilsome, painstaking work—by understanding and working with our allies in peace as we have in war."

Mr. Speaker, I was born just a few months before that war began. I was only 5 years old when Truman said those words. I have lived my entire life virtually amid the abiding peace he envisioned all those years ago. I have lived my entire life knowing that America was the world's most consequential nation. I have lived my entire life believing that America was also the nation most committed to freedom, democracy, free markets, and self-determination, even if our deeds sometimes fell short of those goals.

The Pax Americana that began in 1945 was not inevitable. As Truman said, it took hard, toilsome, painstaking work not only by the Greatest Generation that saw the horrors of World War II but also the generations that have followed.

President Kennedy said, in his inaugural address, "The torch has been passed to a new generation of Americans—born in this century, tempered by war, disciplined by a hard and bitter peace, proud of our ancient heritage—and unwilling to witness or permit the slow undoing of those human rights to which this Nation has always been committed, and to which we are committed today at home and around the world."

Kennedy spoke of universal brotherhood and sisterhood of all mankind and the recognition that we are inextricably connected. It reflected the pledge we make to our flag, the symbol of our value and our unity, recognizing that, under God, we are indivisible.

United around that principle, we did not repeat the mistake we made after 1918. We came together. We made an alliance. We did not disarm. We did not turn our backs on our Allies and the world. We did not try to appease dictators and authoritarians. We continued to express to the world our willingness to partner with democratic and free nations to defend liberty, as Kennedy said, here and around the world.

That is, Mr. Speaker, until 2016. Sadly and dangerously, candidate Donald Trump announced that America might not honor that pledge. He made it conditional, transactional, if you will. He was right, of course, to demand our NATO allies pay their proportionate share for NATO's expenses, but he sent shock waves of doubt to our allies, to our friends, and, yes, to our enemies and our adversaries.

He expressed uncertainty about whether the United States would honor its commitment under Article 5 of the NATO charter to defend a NATO ally in the event that they were attacked, as our NATO allies have done for the United States after the September 11 attacks.

Mr. Speaker, in 2017, I worked across the aisle with Speaker Paul Ryan, Leader Kevin McCarthy, and others to

pass an overwhelmingly bipartisan resolution that reassured NATO nations, and potential adversaries, as well, that the United States would always honor Article 5. It passed, Mr. Speaker, 419-3.

For over three quarters of a century, the credibility of our commitment to ensuring we would never see world war III, which, of course, was the assurance of deterrence and resolve against warmongers, was unassailable.

President Trump, however, as a candidate, put the premise of peace through strength and unity in doubt, which brings me, Mr. Speaker, to Ukraine.

I wear the Ukrainian flag and the flag of the United States every day. Every morning, I pin this pin on the suit that I am wearing.

When the Soviet Union collapsed, largely because of a failed economic system and the resolve of America, NATO, and the free world, the USSR's captive nations regained their independence and sovereignty. While their histories were unique, their status as independent nations was recognized by the United Nations and most of the world.

In 1994, a few years later, the Russians signed an agreement recognizing Ukraine's sovereignty and pledged to respect the integrity of the then-existing borders in exchange for Ukraine turning over all of its nuclear weapons to Russia.

Predictably and sadly, the Russians did not honor their agreement. On February 20, 2014, they invaded a part of Ukraine, Crimea, in an act of international criminal behavior.

□ 1915

Two agreements that Russia and Ukraine signed in Minsk—the first in September of 2014 and the second in February of 2015—outlined a Russian commitment to withdraw from the Donetsk and Luhansk regions of Ukraine and to respect Ukraine's territorial integrity. Instead, Russia continued waging a proxy war in eastern Ukraine for years.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that the West's failure to respond to the 2014 invasion and the illegal annexation of Crimea led to Russia's second criminal and horrific invasion of Ukraine without provocation in 2022, some 3 years ago.

Our failure to act sent a message not only to Putin, but to the rest of the world that the United States and the free world may not respond to illegal war invasion.

Although President Trump may not bear the blame for how the war began, he may determine how it ends: in victory or defeat for freedom, democracy, and international law.

Mr. Speaker, I fear that this administration is pursuing a strategy of defeat in Ukraine. The Trump administration is trying to appease Vladimir Putin, just as Neville Chamberlain tried and failed to appease Adolf Hitler.

Trump and many of his loyalists parrot the Russian propaganda lie that

somehow Ukraine, the victim of Putin's unprovoked invasion, started the war. The President has now said he did not mean that, but that is what he said.

The Trump administration has halted American efforts to investigate and prosecute Russian war crimes. He pressures Ukraine to forfeit Crimea, a part of Ukraine agreed to by Russia in 1994. He pressures Ukraine to forfeit Crimea and large swaths of its eastern lands.

Crucially, President Trump and other members of the administration have dismissed Ukraine's ambitions and desire to become members of NATO. I believe NATO membership is the best and perhaps only way to assure Ukraine's security.

Mr. Speaker, we didn't ask Russia's permission to have Sweden join NATO. We didn't ask Russia's permission to have Finland join NATO. They joined because they correctly feared additional Russian invasions, including on the long borders that Finland has with Russia.

Why would we ask Russia's permission, therefore, to let Ukraine join NATO? That decision belongs to us, our NATO allies, and Ukraine. No one else.

Not once has NATO threatened to invade Russia. That is not Putin's fear. No, he is afraid that NATO will stand in the way of Russia invading others.

Yet, Mr. Speaker, even with all of Trump's concessions, Vladimir Putin continues to drag his feet in negotiations. He wanted this war when he launched his invasion 3 years ago and, frankly, he still wants it today. He wants conquest, not simply concessions. He is laser-focused on restoring and expanding the old autocratic dictatorship known as the Soviet empire.

Even if Putin were to agree to a peace deal, we could never trust him to keep it. Eventually, he would toss it into the ashbin with the U.N. Charter, the Helsinki Final Act, the Budapest Memorandum, the Minsk agreements of which I spoke, and all the other international laws and agreements he has violated over the years.

Mr. Speaker, Trump risks falling for the same grand illusion that Chamberlain fell for, that feeding the Russian bear will make Putin less hungry for expansion, less dangerous, less dismissive of international law. That did not happen with Hitler, and it will not happen with Putin.

Supporting Ukraine, Mr. Speaker, is the moral thing to do, but importantly and centrally, it is also in America's interests, and in the interests of international security and global stability.

Vladimir Putin is part of a new axis of aggression, one made up of Russia, China, Iran, and North Korea. A Russian victory in Ukraine would embolden not only Putin, but also expansionist authoritarians everywhere to prey on the free world.

When our adversaries doubt our resolve, they become more willing to test our strength. Mr. Speaker, if Putin wins, Xi Jinping wins, Khomeini wins,

Kim Jong-Un wins, they are authoritarians, aggressive, acquisitive, and dangerous.

If Ukraine loses, America loses, Europe loses, the free world loses, democracy loses, and international law loses. Freedom is at risk.

That is, I tell you, Mr. Speaker, the consensus of our allies. This year, I visited five of our European allies on congressional delegations, one led by MIKE TURNER, the former chair of the Intelligence Committee, and the other led by MICHAEL ROGERS, chairman of the Armed Services Committee.

I spoke to leaders and many others at the Munich Security Conference. They all agree, Russia must not win its war of aggression. They are committed not only to Russia's strategic defeat, but also to securing a lasting peace like the one that began in 1945, a peace through strength and resolve.

Our allies, Mr. Speaker, also recognize that we all need to do more. Experts predict Russia will field a 2 million-strong army by 2030. Right now, Russia produces more ammunition in 3 months than NATO does in an entire year. That includes America, of course. That has to change, and it is.

Of NATO's 28 nations, 23 reached and exceeded the alliance's requirement for a minimum 2 percent of GDP for defense spending. Poland, Estonia, and Latvia are now over 3 percent. Lithuania and Finland will be over 3 percent in 2025. For context, the U.S. spent 3.38 percent of GDP in 2024. Poland and Estonia are already higher. Most of our NATO allies, Mr. Speaker, already have plans to increase spending further in the years ahead.

The only action that will deter Putin's expansionist vision and break through his KGB psychology is one strong enough, resolved enough, and credible enough to dispel any doubt that waging war against the West would come at an untenable cost.

However, if we shrink from the concept of victory in Ukraine against a despotic, illegal invasion, Russia and other authoritarian regimes may not believe that the West will act. We can only secure peace through strength if we help Ukraine deal Putin a definitive, strategic defeat.

Mr. Speaker, most Members of this Congress agree. The Congress has had at least 12 votes on the issue of supporting Ukraine since Russia's savage invasion on February 24. Less than 2 weeks later, Republicans and Democrats overwhelmingly voted to support Ukraine's defense. Mr. Speaker, 84 percent of the Members voted "yes."

Two months later, there was a second vote, and 87 percent of the Members of this body voted "yes." Over the next 2 years, there were 10 more votes on support for Ukraine. They received an average of 80 percent of the votes of the U.S. House of Representatives.

We provided Ukraine with the military aid it needed to stay in the fight. With incredible resolve, extraordinary courage, and a commitment to their

freedom and to their land, with our help, with the help of our NATO allies, and other free-loving nations around the world, they have hung in there for longer than anybody thought was possible.

Now, however, we need to give Ukraine the resources it needs to win the war. This Republican majority will do, I think, what Trump asks. All he has to do, Mr. Speaker, is pick up the phone and tell them to put a Ukraine supplemental on the floor with his support. He has made an economic deal. I don't know fully the details, but that gives us a further stake from an economic standpoint, a business standpoint, and a transactional standpoint, which of course our President focuses on so often. If we put that bill on the floor, it will pass overwhelmingly.

Concessions, Mr. Speaker, will never get Putin to the negotiating table. Only strength will do that.

Truman told Stalin to lift the blockade of Berlin, and he did. Kennedy told Khrushchev to stay out of Cuba, and he did. Reagan told Gorbachev: "Tear down this wall." He did.

Why? Certainly not because America made endless concessions and kowtowed to our adversaries. No, those Presidents succeeded because America stood strong, stood up for its values, and stood up for its allies, for freedom.

He clearly cares about his image, and I refer to "he" as President Trump. The image that he likes to portray is winning.

Mr. President, make history. Make Putin get out of Ukraine. You said this war would never have started if you were President. Now that you are President, make Ukraine whole and make the aggressor leave. Tell him to go home, to stop taking lives and start making the lives of his people better.

President Trump must do this, if we are to maintain the peace secured 80 years ago, if our children are to have a world we want for them, a world of peace and decency and respect for one another, a world where transgressors are held accountable.

Mr. Speaker, the work to build a more secure world remains just as hard, just as toilsome, just as painstaking as it did eight decades ago, as Truman pointed out, but it remains just as important today as it was then and has been for 80 years.

Mr. President, let us stand up for freedom. Let us stand up for law and justice and stand with the courageous Ukrainians who, like us, want to protect their land, protect their families, protect their economic well-being, protect freedom. Mr. President, I think you can do it. Please do.

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

□ 1930

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 7 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, May 8, 2025, at 9 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

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

EC-904. A letter from the Manager, Legal Litigation and Support, AGC-010, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2025-0745; Project Identifier MCAI-2025-00187-T; Amendment 39-23028; AD 2025-09-07] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received May 2, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-905. A letter from the Manager, Legal Litigation and Support, AGC-010, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bell Textron Canada Limited Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2025-0740; Project Identifier MCAI-2024-00775-R; Amendment 39-23022; AD 2025-09-01] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received May 2, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-906. A letter from the Manager, Legal Litigation and Support, AGC-010, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Revocation of Class E Airspace; Pinecreek, MN [Docket No.: FAA-2025-0161; Airspace Docket No.: 25-AGL-1] received May 2, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-907. A letter from the Manager, Legal Litigation and Support, AGC-010, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bell Textron Canada Limited Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2025-0743; Project Identifier MCAI-2024-00711-R; Amendment 39-23024; AD 2025-09-03] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received May 2, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-908. A letter from the Manager, Legal Litigation and Support, AGC-010, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 31601; Amdt. No.: 4162] received May 2, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-909. A letter from the Manager, Legal Litigation and Support, AGC-010, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 31600; Amdt. No.: 4161] received May 2, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-910. A letter from the Manager, Legal Litigation and Support, AGC-010, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Canada Limited Partner-

ship (Type Certificate Previously Held by C Series Aircraft Limited Partnership (CSALP); Bombardier, Inc.) Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2024-1703; Project Identifier MCAI-2023-01054-T; Amendment 39-23005; AD 2025-07-04] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received May 2, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-911. A letter from the Manager, Legal Litigation and Support, AGC-010, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Leonardo S.p.A. Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2024-2425; Project Identifier MCAI-2023-00967-R; Amendment 39-23009; AD 2025-07-07] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received May 2, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-912. A letter from the Manager, Legal Litigation and Support, AGC-010, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace at Pine Bluffs Municipal Airport, Pine Bluffs, WY [Docket No.: FAA-2024-2737; Airspace Doc. No.: 24-ANM-115] received May 2, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-913. A letter from the Manager, Legal Litigation and Support, AGC-010, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace; Beckley, WV [Docket No.: FAA-2025-0062; Airspace Docket No.: 25-AEA-1] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received May 2, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-914. A letter from the Manager, Legal Litigation and Support, AGC-010, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2025-0009; Project Identifier MCAI-2024-00317-T; Amendment 39-23018; AD 2025-08-05] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received May 2, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-915. A letter from the Manager, Legal Litigation and Support, AGC-010, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2024-2548; Project Identifier MCAI-2024-00401-T; Amendment 39-23026; AD 2025-09-05] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received May 2, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-916. A letter from the Director, Regulations and Disclosure Law Division, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Extension of Import Restrictions on Certain Archaeological Material of Jordan (RIN: 1685-AA29) received May 2, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

EC-917. A letter from the Director, Regulations and Disclosure Law Division, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Imposition of Import Restrictions on Archaeological and Ethnological Material of Uzbekistan (RIN: 1685-AA31) received May 2, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

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. SMITH of NEW JERSEY (for himself, Mr. KEATING, and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina):

H.R. 3225. A bill to reauthorize and modify the Belarus Democracy Act of 2004; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Financial Services, and 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. GARBARINO (for himself, Mr. CONNOLLY, and Mr. FITZPATRICK):

H.R. 3226. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to include certain Federal positions within the definition of law enforcement officer for retirement purposes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Ms. LOFGREN (for herself, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. COSTA, Mr. VALADAO, and Mr. GRAY):

H.R. 3227. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide for terms and conditions for nonimmigrant workers performing agricultural labor or services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, Education and Workforce, 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 Mr. CLYDE (for himself, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. BURLISON, Mr. HARRIS of Maryland, Mr. OGLES, Mr. STUTZMAN, Mr. BRECHEN, Mr. CRANE, Mr. FINSTAD, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. RULLI, Mr. MCGUIRE, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. GILL of Texas, Mr. WIED, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. HARRIS of North Carolina, Mr. SELF, Mrs. HARSHBARGER, Mr. HERN of Oklahoma, Mr. ZINKE, Mr. DOWNING, Mr. MASSIE, Mr. RESCIENTHALER, Mr. PERRY, Mr. STEUBE, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. ESTES, Mr. FEENSTRA, Mr. FULCHER, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. MILLER of Ohio, Mr. ROY, Mr. SMUCKER, and Mr. KUSTOFF):

H.R. 3228. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to remove silencers from the definition of firearms, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CLINE (for himself, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. WITTMAN, and Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina):

H.R. 3229. A bill to amend the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended to clarify that the obligation of individuals who formerly served as agents of foreign principals to register as foreign agents under the Act is continuing with respect to activities carried out previously on behalf of such foreign principals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BARR (for himself and Mr. MEUSER):

H.R. 3230. A bill to increase the asset thresholds at which financial institutions become subject to certain requirements, and

for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. BOEBERT (for herself, Mr. HURD of Colorado, Mr. OGLES, Mr. ZINKE, Mr. DONALDS, Mr. NEHLS, Mr. STAUBER, Mr. BIGGS of Arizona, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. CRANK, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. HARRIGAN, Ms. FEDORCHAK, Mr. CLINE, and Mrs. FISCHBACH):

H.R. 3231. A bill to amend the Mineral Leasing Act to clarify the effect of a pending civil action on the processing of an application for a permit to drill, to require courts to remand lease sale Environmental Impact Statements to agencies to remedy when necessary, and to establish a term limit for permits to drill; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. COHEN (for himself, Ms. TITUS, and Ms. SCHOLTEN):

H.R. 3232. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to authorize appropriations for the Federal-State partnership for intercity passenger rail grant program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. DE LA CRUZ:

H.R. 3233. A bill to amend the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to allow infant food combinations and dinners under the special supplemental nutrition program for women, infants, and children, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

By Mr. EMMER (for himself, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. MEUSER, and Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin):

H.R. 3234. A bill to amend the Federal Deposit Insurance Act to modify the amount of reciprocal deposits of an insured depository institution that are not considered to be funds obtained by or through a deposit broker, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mrs. FISCHBACH (for herself, Mr. FINSTAD, Mr. STAUBER, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mrs. HARSHBARGER, Mr. GUEST, Mrs. CAMMACK, Mrs. HINSON, Mr. MCGUIRE, Mr. MCDOWELL, Mr. MOORE of West Virginia, and Mr. VAN DREW):

H.R. 3235. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide more opportunities for mothers to succeed, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. TONY GONZALES OF TEXAS:

H.R. 3236. A bill to prohibit the Federal Government from establishing, implementing, or enforcing any Federal requirement for members of the Armed Forces to wear a face mask while in uniform when not directly related to their duties; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. HAGEMAN (for herself, Mr. GILL of Texas, Mr. GOSAR, and Mr. NEHLS):

H.R. 3237. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide for a limitation on availability of student visas for institutions in sanctuary jurisdictions; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HERNÁNDEZ (for himself, Mr. TORRES of New York, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Mr. CASE, Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ, and Mr. TRAN):

H.R. 3238. A bill to codify Executive Order 13166; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Ms. HOULAHAN (for herself and Mr. BALDERSON):

H.R. 3239. A bill to improve commercialization activities in the SBIR and STTR programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business, and in addition to the Committees on Science, Space, and Technology, and the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. JACKSON OF TEXAS:

H.R. 3240. A bill to restore fairness to service members who filed religious accommodation requests and ensure their career progression is justly reviewed; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mrs. KIGGANS OF VIRGINIA (for herself, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. BACON, and Mr. PANETTA):

H.R. 3241. A bill to provide for greater defense workforce integration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. KNOTT (for himself, Mr. FRY, Mr. SCHMIDT, Mr. HARRIGAN, Mr. EDWARDS, Mr. HARRIS of North Carolina, Mr. MCDOWELL, Mr. MOORE of North Carolina, Mr. MESSMER, Mr. ONDER, Mr. NEHLS, Mr. STUTZMAN, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. BARR, Mr. HARIDOPOLOS, Mr. STAUBER, Mr. BAUMGARTNER, Mr. COLLINS, Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. ROY, Mr. BIGGS of Arizona, Mr. MAST, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. EVANS of Colorado, Mr. MCCORMICK, Mr. JACK, Mr. HUNT, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. KENNEDY of Utah, and Mr. DOWNING):

H.R. 3242. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide additional criminal penalties for aliens who are unlawfully present in the United States and are convicted of crimes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LIEU (for himself, Mr. NADLER, Mr. LYNCH, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. NEAL, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. LANDSMAN, Mr. MCGARVEY, Ms. ANSARI, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. PETERS, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Mr. STANTON, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. CORREA, Ms. DELAULO, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. STRICKLAND, Ms. SALINAS, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. HORSFORD, Ms. DELBENE, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Mr. MOSKOWITZ, Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, Ms. ROSS, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. CARSON, Mr. QUIGLEY, Ms. NORTON, Ms. CROCKETT, Mr. CASTEN, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. LATIMER, Mr. DELUZIO, Ms. SHERRILL, Ms. OMAR, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. MAGAZINER, Ms. SIMON, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. DEGETTE, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. FROST, Mr. POCAN, Ms. SCHOLTEN, Mr. THANEDAR, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. IVEY, Mr. HUFFMAN, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. SEWELL, Ms. BALINT, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. KHANNA, Mrs. SYKES, Mr. COSTA, Mr. RYAN, Mr. KENNEDY of New York, Ms. TITUS, Mr. MULLIN, Ms. PRESSLEY, and Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 3243. A bill to prohibit commercial sexual orientation conversion therapy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. LUCAS:

H.R. 3244. A bill to require certain entities to clearly disclose to small business concerns key information about factoring facility agreements prior to entering such agreements with such concerns, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business.

By Mrs. LUNA:

H.R. 3245. A bill to repeal the USA PATRIOT Act; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Intelligence (Permanent Select), Financial Services, Foreign Affairs, Energy and Commerce, Education and Workforce, Transportation and Infrastructure, and 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. MACE (for herself, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. GIMENEZ, Ms. SCANLON, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Ms. MENG, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. TRAN, Mrs. HARSHBARGER, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. NEHLS, Mrs. MCBATH, Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. CHU, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Ms. OMAR, Ms. TITUS, Mr. CARSON, Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. TOKUDA, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. STAUBER, Ms. NORTON, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mrs. KIM, Ms. SCHOLTEN, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, and Mr. PERRY):

H.R. 3246. A bill to amend the Animal Welfare Act to allow for the adoption or non-laboratory placement of certain animals used in Federal research, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mrs. MILLER OF ILLINOIS (for herself and Mr. MCCORMICK):

H.R. 3247. A bill to prohibit entities receiving Federal assistance that are involved in adoption or foster care placements from delaying or denying placements under certain conditions; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MOORE OF UTAH (for himself, Mrs. TRAHAN, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, and Mr. FOSTER):

H.R. 3248. A bill to establish a domestic ownership succession investment facility, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. MOORE OF WISCONSIN (for herself, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. CHU, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. MCCOLLUM, and Mr. LATIMER):

H.R. 3249. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the qualified business income deduction; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MORELLE:

H.R. 3250. A bill to create a grant program to support the development of innovative learning models, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

By Mr. MOSKOWITZ (for himself and Mr. BURCHETT):

H.R. 3251. A bill to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to provide for an alternative block grant program for funding public assistance for response to a major disaster, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. MOSKOWITZ (for himself and Mr. BURCHETT):

H.R. 3252. A bill to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to provide for an alternative block grant program for funding temporary housing in response to a major disaster, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. NUNN OF IOWA (for himself and Ms. BUDZINSKI):

H.R. 3253. A bill to amend the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to improve biorefinery, renewable chemical, and biobased product manufacturing assistance,

and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Ms. SALINAS (for herself, Ms. LOFGREN, Ms. DELBENE, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. DOGGETT, Ms. STRICKLAND, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. CARSON, Mr. FROST, Ms. STANSBURY, Mr. TONKO, Ms. CHU, Ms. BARRAGAN, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. COSTA, Mr. GARCIA of California, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, and Mr. VARGAS):

H.R. 3254. A bill to amend the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 with respect to emergency assistance for farm workers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Ms. SCHOLTEN (for herself, Mr. JAMES, Ms. TLAIB, and Ms. STEVENS):

H.R. 3255. A bill to reaffirm and clarify the Federal relationships of the Grand River Bands of Ottawa Indians of Michigan as a federally recognized Indian tribe, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. SELF:

H.R. 3256. A bill to name the Runway 5L/23R at Marine Corps Air Station, Cherry Point, North Carolina, the "Lieutenant General Carey Runway"; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. SEWELL (for herself and Mr. FIGURES):

H.R. 3257. A bill to ensure affordable health insurance coverage for low-income individuals in States that have not expanded Medicaid; 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. STAUBER (for himself and Ms. CRAIG):

H.R. 3258. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to remove the exclusion of the State of Minnesota from certain contracting for engineering and design services requirements; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. STEVENS (for herself and Ms. TENNEY):

H.R. 3259. A bill to amend the National Quantum Initiative Act and the Cyber Security Research and Development Act to advance the rapid deployment of post quantum cybersecurity standards across the United States economy, support United States cryptography research, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mrs. SYKES (for herself and Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 3260. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize mental and behavioral health education and training grants; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. TAKANO (for himself, Ms. SEWELL, Mr. GOMEZ, Ms. SANCHEZ, Ms. WATERS, Mr. PETERS, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Ms. NORTON, Mr. FROST, Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK, Mrs. MCBATH, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Ms. BUDZINSKI, Mr. MRVAN, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. KEATING, Mr. HOYER, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. CONAWAY, Ms. SHERRILL, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. KENNEDY of New York, Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. AMO, Mr. DOGGETT, Ms. MCCLELLAN, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. MCGARVEY, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. FOSTER, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Mr. SUBRAMANYAM, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. MORELLE, Mr. GOLDEN of Maine, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Ms.

CRAIG, Mr. NORCROSS, Mr. STANTON, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. CHU, Mr. HORSFORD, Ms. STRICKLAND, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. STEVENS, Ms. HOYLE of Oregon, Ms. OMAR, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Ms. TITUS, Mr. RYAN, Mr. POCAN, Ms. BROWN, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Mr. BISHOP, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. THANEDAR, Ms. DEXTER, Ms. MCBRIDE, Ms. GOODLANDER, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. LEVIN, Ms. SALINAS, Mr. PAPPAS, and Ms. MENG):

H.R. 3261. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to modify authorities relating to the collective bargaining of employees in the Veterans Health Administration; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. TITUS (for herself and Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia):

H.R. 3262. A bill to make demonstration grants to eligible local educational agencies or consortia of eligible local educational agencies for the purpose of increasing the numbers of school nurses in public elementary schools and secondary schools; to the Committee on Education and Workforce, 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. TOKUDA (for herself and Mr. CASE):

H.R. 3263. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to establish a floor on the work geographic index for physicians' services furnished in Hawaii; 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. WILSON of SOUTH CAROLINA (for himself and Mr. PANETTA):

H.R. 3264. A bill to require a determination and report relating to money laundering and violations of export controls and sanctions in Hong Kong; to the Committee on Financial Services, 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 Mr. GARBARINO (for himself, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. LAWLER, Mr. LANGWORTHY, Mr. LALOTA, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. STAUBER, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, and Ms. STEFANIK):

H. Res. 395. A resolution establishing a "Bill of Rights" to support United States law enforcement personnel nationwide in their work to protect our communities; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself, Mr. BILLIAKIS, Mr. MULLIN, and Mr. BEAN of Florida):

H. Res. 396. A resolution expressing support for the designation of the week of May 4, 2025, through May 10, 2025, as "Tardive Dyskinesia Awareness Week"; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. STEIL (for himself, Mr. HARDER of California, and Mr. MEUSER):

H. Res. 397. A resolution supporting the designation of May 8, 2025, as "National Scam Survivor Day"; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey:

H.R. 3225.

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

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. GARBARINO:

H.R. 3226.

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

Article I, Section 8

By Ms. LOFGREN:

H.R. 3227.

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

Article I, Section 8, clause 4 provides Congress with the power to establish a "uniform rule of Naturalization."

By Mr. CLYDE:

H.R. 3228.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1:

The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

By Mr. CLINE:

H.R. 3229.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. BARR:

H.R. 3230.

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

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. BOEBERT:

H.R. 3231.

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

The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

By Mr. COHEN:

H.R. 3232.

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

Article I, Section 8

By Ms. DE LA CRUZ:

H.R. 3233.

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

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. EMMER:

H.R. 3234.

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

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mrs. FISCHBACH:

H.R. 3235.

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

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas:

H.R. 3236.

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

Article I, Section 8

By Ms. HAGEMAN:

H.R. 3237.

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

Article I Section 8

By Mr. HERNÁNDEZ:

H.R. 3238.

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

Article I, Section 8.

By Ms. HOULAHAN:

H.R. 3239.

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

Article I, Section 8, of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. JACKSON of Texas:

H.R. 3240.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia:

H.R. 3241.

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

Art. 1, Sec. 8

By Mr. KNOTT:

H.R. 3242.

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

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. LIEU:

H.R. 3243.

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

U.S. Const., Art. 1, Sec. 8

By Mr. LUCAS:

H.R. 3244.

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

Article 1 Section 8

By Mrs. LUNA:

H.R. 3245.

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

Article 1 Section 8 Clause 1

Article 1 Section 8 Clause 18

By Ms. MACE:

H.R. 3246.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution

By Mrs. MILLER of Illinois:

H.R. 3247.

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

Article I

By Mr. MOORE of Utah:

H.R. 3248.

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

Art. I, Sec 8, cl. 3

By Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin:

H.R. 3249.

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

The Congress enacts this bill pursuant to Sections 7 & 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution and Amendment XVI of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. MORELLE:

H.R. 3250.

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

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. MOSKOWITZ:

H.R. 3251.

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

Pursuant to clause 3(d)(1) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee find the authority for this legislation in article I, section 8 of the Constitution.

By Mr. MOSKOWITZ:

H.R. 3252.

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

Pursuant to clause 3(d)(1) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee find the authority for this legislation in article I, section 8 of the Constitution.

By Mr. NUNN of Iowa:

H.R. 3253.

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

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Ms. SALINAS:

H.R. 3254.

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

Pursuant to Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

By Ms. SCHOLTEN:

H.R. 3255.

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

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. SELF:

H.R. 3256.

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

Article I, Section 8

To name the Runway 5L/23R at Marine Corps Air Station, Cherry Point, North Carolina, the "Lieutenant General Carey Runway".

By Ms. SEWELL:

H.R. 3257.

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

US Constitution Article I, Section 9, Clause 7

By Mr. STAUBER:

H.R. 3258.

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

Article I, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Ms. STEVENS:

H.R. 3259.

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

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

By Mrs. SYKES:

H.R. 3260.

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

Section 7, Article 1

By Mr. TAKANO:

H.R. 3261.

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

Article 1 Section 8

By Ms. TITUS:

H.R. 3262.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause I

By Ms. TOKUDA:

H.R. 3263.

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.

By Mr. WILSON of South Carolina:

H.R. 3264.

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

Article 1, Section 8

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

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

H.R. 44: Ms. TOKUDA.

H.R. 251: Ms. BOEBERT.

H.R. 291: Mr. VINDMAN.

H.R. 309: Mr. MIN, Ms. STRICKLAND, and Ms. KELLY of Illinois.

H.R. 369: Mr. TAYLOR.

H.R. 396: Mr. HURD of Colorado, Mr. MOSKOWITZ, Mrs. SYKES, Mr. KHANNA, and Mr. NORCROSS.

H.R. 406: Mr. OWENS.

H.R. 416: Mr. CLOUD.

H.R. 433: Mr. GARAMENDI.

H.R. 493: Ms. ELFRETH.

H.R. 539: Mr. FLEISCHMANN and Mr. PFLUGER.

H.R. 585: Mr. VINDMAN.

H.R. 646: Mr. THANEDAR.

H.R. 669: Mr. THOMPSON of California.

H.R. 740: Mrs. FISCHBACH.

H.R. 745: Mr. DONALDS.

H.R. 793: Mr. KEATING, Ms. NORTON, and Ms. SIMON.

H.R. 795: Mr. BRECHEEN.

H.R. 829: Mr. SORENSEN.

H.R. 879: Mr. WHITESIDES, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. MOSKOWITZ, and Mr. FIGURES.

H.R. 895: Mr. ROY.

H.R. 909: Mr. CONAWAY and Mr. CASE.

H.R. 911: Mr. VASQUEZ.

H.R. 929: Mr. BILIRAKIS.

H.R. 979: Mr. AMO and Mr. LUTTRELL.

H.R. 995: Ms. SIMON.

H.R. 1008: Ms. STEFANIK.

H.R. 1009: Ms. STEFANIK.

H.R. 1024: Ms. JOHNSON of Texas.

H.R. 1027: Ms. McDONALD RIVET.

H.R. 1061: Mr. AMO.

H.R. 1065: Ms. McDONALD RIVET, Mr. MFUME, and Mr. COSTA.

H.R. 1103: Mr. CONAWAY.

H.R. 1119: Mr. MCCORMICK.

H.R. 1151: Mr. JAMES, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. GARAMENDI, Ms. TENNEY, Ms. MCBRIDE, and Mr. MILLS.

H.R. 1160: Mr. OWENS.

H.R. 1177: Ms. MCBRIDE.

H.R. 1181: Mr. STUTZMAN.

H.R. 1200: Mr. MCCAUL.

H.R. 1229: Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. KILEY of California, Mr. WEBER of Texas, and Ms. JOHNSON of Texas.

H.R. 1262: Mr. MORELLE and Mr. JACKSON of Illinois.

H.R. 1296: Mr. MANNION.

H.R. 1314: Ms. TOKUDA, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, and Ms. BROWN.

H.R. 1329: Ms. BARRAGÁN.

H.R. 1357: Mr. LANGWORTHY.

H.R. 1361: Mr. WEBER of Texas and Mr. VINDMAN.

H.R. 1379: Ms. ROSS.

H.R. 1383: Mr. SORENSEN.

H.R. 1415: Mr. PFLUGER.

H.R. 1423: Ms. PETTERSEN.

H.R. 1492: Ms. FEDORCHAK, Mr. CAREY, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. SHREVE, and Mrs. HARSHBARGER.

H.R. 1517: Ms. DE LA CRUZ.

H.R. 1518: Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 1520: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.

H.R. 1530: Ms. HOULAHAN and Mr. FRY.

H.R. 1551: Mr. HUNT.

H.R. 1585: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.

H.R. 1600: Ms. MCBRIDE.

H.R. 1611: Mr. DESAULNIER and Ms. ADAMS.

H.R. 1616: Ms. McDONALD RIVET.

H.R. 1637: Ms. HOULAHAN.

H.R. 1735: Mr. JAMES.

H.R. 1777: Ms. VELÁZQUEZ.

H.R. 1782: Ms. SEWELL.

H.R. 1788: Mr. CASAR.

H.R. 1803: Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H.R. 1822: Ms. SEWELL and Mr. BISHOP.

H.R. 1868: Mr. CONAWAY.
H.R. 1869: Mr. CONAWAY.
H.R. 1902: Ms. McDONALD RIVET.
H.R. 1909: Ms. LOFGREN.
H.R. 1940: Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 1960: Mr. VINDMAN.
H.R. 1989: Ms. SHERRILL and Mrs. FLETCHER.
H.R. 1993: Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Mr. WOMACK, Mr. TAKANO, and Ms. FRIEDMAN.
H.R. 2029: Mr. FOSTER.
H.R. 2048: Mr. CASAR, Mr. KEATING, Ms. CRAIG, Ms. SCHOLTEN, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. SHERRILL, Ms. McDONALD RIVET, Mr. KENNEDY of New York, and Ms. BONAMICI.
H.R. 2059: Ms. McBRIDE.
H.R. 2062: Mrs. MILLER of Illinois.
H.R. 2094: Ms. CRAIG, Mr. VINDMAN, Mr. KILEY of California, Mr. MIN, Ms. TOKUDA, and Mr. WITTMAN.
H.R. 2125: Mr. MOOLENAAR.
H.R. 2128: Mr. GOLDMAN of Texas.
H.R. 2202: Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. OGLES, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. ROY, Mr. ONDER, and Mr. WEBER of Texas.
H.R. 2225: Mr. CLEAVER.
H.R. 2232: Mr. MANN.
H.R. 2253: Ms. FRIEDMAN.
H.R. 2282: Mrs. MILLER of Illinois.
H.R. 2311: Mr. POCAN.
H.R. 2332: Mr. FINSTAD.
H.R. 2333: Ms. BROWNLEY.
H.R. 2357: Mr. DESAULNIER.
H.R. 2360: Mr. GROTHMAN and Mr. KENNEDY of New York.
H.R. 2387: Mr. FRY and Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida.
H.R. 2467: Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. COURTNEY, Ms. SALINAS, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. JACOBS, and Ms. MCCOLLUM.
H.R. 2477: Mr. HERN of Oklahoma, Mr. CAREY, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. WEBER of Texas, and Mr. MOYLAN.

H.R. 2509: Mr. CONAWAY.
H.R. 2512: Mr. GREEN of Texas.
H.R. 2514: Mr. CARBAJAL.
H.R. 2548: Mr. MOYLAN and Mr. PALLONE.
H.R. 2550: Mr. AUCHINCLOSS, Mr. CISNEROS, Mr. JEFFRIES, and Mr. AGUILAR.
H.R. 2581: Mr. BAIRD.
H.R. 2595: Ms. McDONALD RIVET.
H.R. 2596: Mr. LANGWORTHY.
H.R. 2629: Ms. STANSBURY and Mr. FOSTER.
H.R. 2678: Ms. HOULAHAN and Mr. LYNCH.
H.R. 2708: Mr. ZINKE.
H.R. 2736: Mr. BISHOP and Mr. CARBAJAL.
H.R. 2753: Mr. BELL, Mr. OLSZEWSKI, Mr. AMO, Ms. SEWELL, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. MCCLELLAN, Mr. HORSFORD, Mr. MORELLE, Mr. CISNEROS, Mrs. MCCLAIN DELANEY, Mrs. SYKES, and Mrs. TORRES of California.
H.R. 2767: Mr. JACKSON of Illinois.
H.R. 2799: Mr. SUBRAMANYAM, Mr. CASE, Ms. STRICKLAND, and Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ.
H.R. 2808: Mr. DAVIDSON, Mr. FINSTAD, Mr. VINDMAN, Mr. GOLDEN of Maine, Mr. HUIZENGA, Mr. DONALDS, and Mr. STUTZMAN.
H.R. 2830: Ms. PEREZ and Ms. STRICKLAND.
H.R. 2851: Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 2854: Mr. MRVAN.
H.R. 2888: Mr. QUIGLEY.
H.R. 2902: Mr. FIELDS.
H.R. 2904: Ms. GARCIA of Texas.
H.R. 2907: Mr. THOMPSON of California and Mr. FITZPATRICK.
H.R. 2909: Ms. McDONALD RIVET.
H.R. 2910: Ms. ROSS and Mr. MOULTON.
H.R. 2933: Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia and Mr. CROW.
H.R. 2948: Mrs. BEATTY.
H.R. 2969: Ms. McDONALD RIVET.
H.R. 2985: Ms. BROWN.
H.R. 2992: Mr. FITZPATRICK.
H.R. 3033: Mr. BRECHEEN.
H.R. 3034: Mr. DOWNING and Mr. BRECHEEN.
H.R. 3081: Mrs. MILLER of Illinois.

H.R. 3093: Mr. HUFFMAN.
H.R. 3094: Mr. HUFFMAN.
H.R. 3099: Mr. FITZPATRICK.
H.R. 3105: Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.
H.R. 3107: Mr. RYAN and Ms. SHERRILL.
H.R. 3112: Ms. SHERRILL and Mrs. SYKES.
H.R. 3117: Mr. CARSON, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Mr. GREEN of Texas.
H.R. 3132: Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, and Mr. DESJARLAIS.
H.R. 3137: Mr. NUNN of Iowa.
H.R. 3151: Mr. SUOZZI and Mr. BELL.
H.R. 3163: Mrs. MILLER of Illinois and Mr. CLOUD.
H.R. 3164: Mr. KUSTOFF, Ms. SEWELL, Ms. VAN DUYN, Mr. DOGGETT, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, and Mr. CISCOMANI.
H.R. 3171: Mr. GARAMENDI.
H.R. 3190: Mr. LAWLER and Mr. NADLER.
H.R. 3213: Mr. BARR.
H.J. Res. 32: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
H.J. Res. 67: Mr. FIGURES.
H.J. Res. 80: Mr. VASQUEZ.
H. Con. Res. 26: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H. Con. Res. 30: Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. OWENS, Mr. HUIZENGA, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. BACON, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, and Mr. MOORE of Alabama.
H. Res. 160: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
H. Res. 166: Ms. PETTERSEN and Mr. WIED.
H. Res. 277: Mr. TONKO.
H. Res. 279: Mr. ISSA.
H. Res. 284: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
H. Res. 340: Ms. ROSS.
H. Res. 364: Mr. BRESNAHAN and Ms. POUL.
H. Res. 369: Mr. FOSTER.
H. Res. 386: Ms. SCANLON.



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No. 76

Senate

The Senate met at 2:30 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Almighty God, teach us the mystery of life. Help us to not be victims but victorious in the living of our days. Lead us to a place of understanding in spite of pain and sorrow. Lord, make us more than conquerors because You love us.

Today, instruct our lawmakers as they seek to do Your will. As they perform their daily tasks, guide their priorities. Show them Your truth so that they will be instruments of Your purposes. Lord, transform their lives from a hurried succession of days into a walk with You that brings enduring peace.

We pray in Your mighty Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

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

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BANKS). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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—Resumed

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of S.J. Res. 13, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (S.J. Res. 13) 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.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

JEFFERSON, IOWA

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, over the last 2 weeks, during the Senate recess, I continued my annual 99 county meetings across Iowa.

My travels brought me to the Western Iowa community of Jefferson, in Greene County, for a Q&A. I often say Iowans don't brag enough, and Jefferson has got something to brag about, so I want to take this opportunity to brag about the people of Jefferson, IA.

Jefferson is about an hour northwest of Des Moines, our capital city. This community is home to the 168-foot Bell Tower, located in an iconic town square. These hard-working Iowans went to bat for their community and came out on top. In other words, it is like baseball—they hit a home run.

Jefferson recently was presented with the 2025 Great American Main Street Award at a national conference

in Pennsylvania. Winners are recognized for excellence in commercial district revitalization and historic preservation efforts. Jefferson exemplifies how "small communities can overcome economic challenges through ingenuity and collective effort."

As a product of smalltown Iowa, I am aware of obstacles facing rural communities. So I applaud everyone involved in the program named "Jefferson Matters" for your teamwork, your resilience, and your can-do attitude.

Jefferson is a shining example to communities across Iowa and all America.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

BUDGET RECONCILIATION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, one of Republicans' biggest priorities this year is extending the tax relief we passed in 2017 and preventing a massive tax hike on hard-working Americans.

We took a big step forward before Easter with the passage of a budget resolution necessary for a final bill, and we are rapidly moving toward final bill text. Senate Republicans held hours of great discussions today to hammer out a number of details.

The issue before us is simple: If we don't act, Americans making less than \$400,000 will face a \$2.6 trillion tax hike next year—\$2.6 trillion. Small businesses will face a \$600 billion tax hike. Republicans do not intend to let that happen.

We are going to extend the tax relief we passed during President Trump's first administration, starting with the lower individual rates that put more money in Americans' pockets and eased the burden on small businesses. I say "extend," but in fact, we intend to make that tax relief permanent. Hard-working Americans should not have to worry about tax hikes every few years, and small businesses need tax certainty for long-term planning. So we

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



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are committed to not only extending the lower individual rates we passed in 2017 but to making them permanent.

We are also committed to making other small business tax relief from the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act permanent, like bonus depreciation and the section No. 199A deduction. The National Federation of Independent Business reports that making the small business section No. 199A deduction permanent would result in the creation of an additional 1.2 million jobs annually, with that number climbing as the law goes on.

And the Tax Foundation reports that long-run GDP would increase by a substantial 1.1 percent. That means more jobs and more opportunities for American workers. It also means an increase in Federal revenues—but an increase in Federal revenues the right way, by growing and expanding the economy, not raising taxes.

Ensuring permanent tax relief for hard-working Americans and small businesses would be a substantial part of the final bill, but that is not all that would be included. We will also be focusing on some of the other challenges our country has faced over the past 4 years: a dangerous border crisis, deficiencies in our military readiness, and Biden administration policies that threaten to weaken our already shaky electric grid and jeopardize our Nation's energy supply.

President Trump has already made tremendous progress on securing the border and deporting criminals here illegally, but we need to dedicate additional resources to border security to secure those gains for the long term. So the final bill that we pass will include a transformational investment in securing our borders, including things like additional detention space, more Border Patrol and Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents, and additional barriers and technology.

We will also make a transformational investment in our military readiness to address deficiencies and ensure that we are equipped to detour and defeat any threat.

And we will implement policies to unleash American energy production to ensure a secure, stable, and affordable energy supply for the long term.

Finally, we will take a hard look at how we spend taxpayer dollars and implement savings measures to put our country on a more fiscally sustainable path.

It is going to be a great bill, and it is going to help produce a stronger and a more secure America.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

ECONOMY

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, over the Easter break, I continued my annual 99 county meetings. And, as always, Iowans set the agenda.

At my open town meetings, I had big turnouts. People shared strong views about tariffs, deportations, and the Department of Government Efficiency. At

nearly every one of those Q&A's, Iowans also raised concerns about the Federal deficit and the \$36 trillion debt hanging over our heads.

I am sharing this feedback with my colleagues here because that is what representative government is all about.

It seems like, no matter which issues put a burr under their saddle, my constituents are hungry for the same thing. So, simply, they would like to have some certainty of policy coming out of Congress and some predictability. Such predictability is very essential for our country to move forward economically.

Some people see Washington in chaos. These feelings of uncertainty keep Americans up at night. Workers are worried about their retirement savings when they watch the stock market seesaw. Farmers are wondering if they will have a market to export their grain. Small businesses are worried that rising import costs will drive them into the red or force them to jack up prices on their customers. And everybody is concerned that come January 1, 2026, they could be subject to the largest tax hike in U.S. history. And that is without even a vote of Congress.

I have long been an open book regarding my concerns about tariffs. I consider myself what, around this town, we call free and fair traders, negotiating tariffs down.

That said, the President has another approach. President Trump has raised valid concerns about some of our existing trading relationships, especially with China. That is why I am willing to take a wait-and-see approach as Trump's trading partners come to the negotiating table.

I hope his policies will ultimately result in free and fairer trade. If they do, he will be much more successful than my approach over the last 50 years. If he is successful, I will be the first one to say: Praise the Lord.

But in the meantime, it is clear the on-again, off-again tariffs are driving uncertainty, and that uncertainty is the same that is reverberating across our economy.

There is no better example than when the market for U.S. treasuries went haywire at the beginning of April as a result of some of this tariff talk. Foreign investors got skittish and actually dumped U.S. treasuries. That caused interest rates to spike on the 10- and 30-year bonds. That should have set off the alarm bells here in Congress.

American taxpayers are on the hook for a \$36 trillion national debt. Americans are already paying \$1 trillion a year in interest payments—about three times what they were before interest rates and inflation hit us after the last 4 years. This trillion dollars is more than we spend annually on national defense, and, in the end, we don't have anything to show for all that interest.

Don't forget, those costs rise when interest rates rise. If we pay more servicing on our debt, there is less money

for everything else that the Federal Government does to help the American people.

Given the size of our national debt, even slightly higher than expected interest rates mean trillions more spent servicing our debt over the next decade.

Worse yet, if our bondholders were to lose confidence in our ability to budget or govern responsibly, soaring debt payments could trigger a return of sky-high inflation or even end America in a fiscal crisis.

In 2023, the credit rating agency Fitch downgraded the U.S. credit rating, noting the size of our national debt and "the erosion of governance." Those words, "the erosion of governance" are from the Fitch report.

More than ever, Congress must step up—step up its game—to provide stability in the form of good governance and fiscal restraint. This means we must work to deliver on essential congressional functions without the last-minute brinksmanship that has become a norm when either we don't appropriate for next year and government should shut down or, like I am going to talk about, with the national debt and the debt ceiling coming, if we don't handle that issue, we can possibly shut down the government.

Along the lines of what I am talking about, I would like to delineate three must-do items on our agenda that need to be completed before October 1 of this year.

First, we must pass a tax and spending package to avert massive tax hikes on the American people. That must include resources for the administration to secure our borders and beef up our depleted military.

Second, we must guarantee that we will always pay our debts. This means we must raise the debt ceiling well in advance of the Treasury running out of money to pay the bills.

Currently, we are expected to hit the debt ceiling mid-summer to early fall. So common sense tells me we should avoid the chaos in the bond market, which could cause our debt payments to skyrocket. We must lift the debt ceiling with plenty of room to spare. Why wait to the midnight hour of government shutting down? That is too often the practice around here in the U.S. Senate.

Finally, we must fund the government to avoid the threat of that government shutdown. Our rinse-and-repeat shutdown stare-downs have become an unnecessary recurring source of heartburn for our constituents and deliver unnecessary uncertainty for the economy. We can surely do better.

Completing our must-do list on time and drama free begins with passing the tax and spending package in a timely and fiscally responsible fashion.

I know what it takes to grease the wheels and enact historic tax cuts using the budget reconciliation process. It is a four-letter acronym, KISS, K-I-S-S. In other words, keep it simple, Senators.

The 2017 Trump reform was a historic achievement. We cut taxes across the board. We did so by simplifying the Tax Code and trimming back the special deductions and credits. As a result, most taxpayers paid less tax simply by claiming the increased standard deduction that was in that 2017 law. They were able, then, to avoid the headache of spending hours sifting through receipts and IRS forms.

We now have the chance to make these tax cuts and reforms permanent. This alone would take the weight of a \$4 trillion tax hike off the chest of the economy. That would provide much needed certainty to families and businesses.

So we must keep our eye on the ball. Let's avoid the laundry list of costly new items that we can't afford and that, at the same time, complicate the Tax Code and, at the same time, risk causing progress on the reconciliation package to come to a screeching halt.

We are coming off of an unprecedented peacetime spending binge, and it is time to pay the piper. The fact is, the Federal Government is broke. We are currently running \$2 trillion annual deficits, and in just 3 years, our national debt is set to eclipse the World War II-era record relative to the size of the U.S. economy.

Let's get in the habit of paying for all new policies so we don't continuously keep digging ourselves into an ever-larger fiscal hole.

Let's stick to common sense. When you find yourself stuck in a hole, stop digging. Start climbing. This would require Senators, Congressmen and Congresswomen, and President Trump to set priorities and be willing to make tradeoffs.

Let's move forward with consensus spending reductions. Let's pull back expensive Biden-era regulations that supercharged mandatory spending programs. And, at the same time, who is going to argue with eliminating waste, fraud, and abuse?

Relative to new tax-and-spending policies, the overall package must result in significant deficit reduction, but we can't let the perfect be the enemy of the good. We didn't get into our fiscal situation, the present situation, overnight, and we are not going to solve it in this single bill either.

Polling repeatedly shows Americans hold Congress in low regard. I have said this before, but it bears repeating. At my county meetings, someone will yell at the back of the room "Grassley"—referring to me—"why can't you do something about the deficit?"

We can begin to restore the public's confidence in Congress by doing our jobs, getting our work done on time, and—egads—stop digging a deeper fiscal hole.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

REMEMBERING DIANA DENMAN

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, I rise today with both sorrow and gratitude in my heart to honor and celebrate the life of an extraordinary woman, the Honorable Diana Denman.

Diana has rightly been described as the "Godmother of the Texas Republican Party." She was a fierce warrior for freedom, but she was also a radiant spirit, a source of wisdom and kindness, and the embodiment of grace, conviction, and truth. Diana was a patriotic American. She loved this country. She was a true daughter of Texas and a very dear and cherished friend.

Diana was born in Abilene, TX. Her grandfather, Jefferson Davis Sandefer, Sr., led Hardin-Simmons University for decades, and Diana often said she inherited her lifelong passion for service and scholarship from his example.

But Diana's journey took her far beyond Texas. She left Abilene for Washington to study at George Washington University, from which she graduated with a degree in journalism. From there, she traveled to Hollywood to be an actress. She worked with legends like Cecil B. DeMille as well as a young actor named Ronald Reagan. Ever quick with a smile and a story, Diana used to say that the very first vote she ever cast for Reagan was for president—of the Screen Actors Guild.

That vote was the start of a lifelong commitment to conservatism. From Reagan's 1976 campaign to his election and through the Presidency, Diana stood shoulder to shoulder with the movement for freedom and optimism that defined the era and which we so badly need today. She later served in the Reagan administration in roles ranging from the Peace Corps to the National Museum Services Board. She did not see that as a break in the work she had been passionately doing.

She brought to Washington the same conviction as President Reagan, the same impulse that had brought both to Hollywood—that politics requires persuasion, that it requires winning hearts and winning minds, that we need to tell stories, that we need to bridge the gaps between generations, between communities, between ideologies.

Diana knew exactly what and why she was doing. When she was nominated by President Reagan in 1986 to be a member of the National Museum Services Board, her bio read:

Since 1983, Mrs. Denman has been vice chairman of the Republican Party of Texas. She owns and operates a ranch in San Antonio, TX, and was formerly an actress in Los Angeles, CA.

By her side throughout her remarkable journey was her beloved husband Leroy, who was the chief lawyer for the storied King Ranch for more than 50 years. Plenty more offers came to

Diana for prestigious diplomatic appointments, and yet Diana turned them down because she would not be separated from him.

I came to know Diana through politics, but she became family. I would not be standing here today were it not for her faith in me. She was among my earliest and strongest supporters when I first ran for Senate in 2012, and in 2016, Diana was a Presidential delegate for me. You could not ask for a fiercer fighter. Despite her diminutive stature, she could carry a knife crawling under barbed wire.

Diana's devotion to others extended especially to our men and women in uniform. Her home became a refuge for young servicemembers far away from their families. She visited bases. She met with veterans. She wove their struggles and triumphs into the fabric of her life's mission.

Even into her nineties, Diana remained undaunted. She sent emails, she hosted gatherings, she mentored young conservatives, and she dreamed bigger dreams for Texas and for America. Her energy defied her years, and her vision never dipped.

Her consistent friendship and endless hospitality meant the world to me and my family. Diana was dear friends with my father and dear friends with my wife Heidi, and Diana loved our daughters Caroline and Catherine. When we were in San Antonio, Diana invited us over. When she came to Houston, she always stopped by. When I was up here in Washington, Diana would always call, would always text, would always provide a word of encouragement, a word of hope, and a word of wisdom. And she always had a word of wisdom.

Diana was proper. She was elegant. She was old-school. One time, when she was hosting a dinner for me at her home, I had the temerity at the dining room table to remove my jacket. I will say, Diana braided me for 10 minutes after the dinner at lacking the good graces to know that a good gentleman should keep his jacket on during dinner.

Through and thanks to her tireless work, Diana changed how Republicans approached politics across the country, and she always led with humility and courage and grace. She cared passionately for foreign policy, for defending America, and for America being the leading voice for freedom in the world—America being a shining city on a hill.

Diana was many things. She was a journalist. She was an actress. She was a leader. She was a mentor. She was a philanthropist. And at her core, she was loyal—fiercely loyal—to those she held dear.

And now, Diana has been laid to rest in the soil of Abilene where her story began and from where she became part of Texas's story. Diana loved Texas with all her heart. Diana loved America with all her heart, and she loved freedom with all her heart.

I loved Diana. My entire family did. May God bless Diana Denman, and may

He continue to bless the great State of Texas that she loved so dearly and the United States of America that Diana was so instrumental in shaping.

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.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SCHMITT). Without objection, it is so ordered.

PHARMACY BENEFIT MANAGERS

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, when it comes to healthcare access, one of the biggest issues that Tennesseans face is rising costs, especially on prescription drugs. I will tell you, this comes up in meeting after meeting, questions about why our pharmaceuticals are costing me so much.

According to a study by the Department of Health and Human Services, the average drug price increased by more than 15 percent—15 percent—between 2022 and 2023. That translates to about \$590 per prescription. Nearly half of all the medications that were studied saw price increases that outpaced inflation, including some with increases of—get this—over 3,000 percent.

This is unsustainable. And the reason it is unsustainable is why President Trump decided to take Executive action last month to lower drug prices for so many Americans. Among his actions, the President is taking on a category called pharmaceutical benefit managers or they are referred to in acronym parlance as PBMs.

PBMs raise prices and limit choices for consumers. When you look at this industry, we have pharmaceutical companies that are manufacturing the pharmaceuticals. You have health insurers that cover the cost of these. You have pharmacies that sell them, patients that rely on them, and in the mix, there are now PBMs. They are middlemen that came about decades ago. They are between the drug manufacturer, the health insurer, and the pharmacies. Think of this as a triangle with the cost of that running around from point to point.

PBMs came into play decades ago. Bill Clinton was President when they came to be. They were supposed to help manage prescription drug costs and benefits for employers. It sounds like a worthy goal. But over time, these benefit managers have gained incredible power over the prescription drug access across the entire country. They determine which medications will be covered by health insurance plans. I would imagine that many of us have had something that was prescribed, and then we find out no longer can we take that; there is going to be something to replace it or it is not going to be covered at all.

They also determine the price. Many times, we have gone to pick up a phar-

maceutical, and we have known what the copay was. It was covered. Then, all of a sudden, it is not and the price jumps and you are standing there at the pharmacy counter asking what has happened. Then you have to go call your insurance company. Then they say it is because of the pharmacy benefit manager, and then they will tell you, well, the employer is trying to reduce their costs—all of this “excusitis” because they are focused on how much money they can make.

This revenue is often linked to the price of the drug, and the PBMs steer health plans toward more expensive options rather than lesser expensive options. They game the system by tying administrative fees, rebate-based compensation, and other payments to the list price of the drug. And to make matters worse, current regulations allow Medicare Part D plan sponsors to contract selectively with pharmacies, favoring PBMs’ preferred networks that often exclude independent pharmacies that are probably located on the town square there in your hometown.

This is something we have seen far too often in Tennessee, and we have realized this hurts those who live in rural and other underserved areas the most.

Recently, the Tennessee Department of Commerce and Insurance conducted an audit of a single PBM in our State. They wanted to see how this is affecting the price of pharmaceuticals in our State. What they found was truly troubling. To the report, the PBM in question forced nonaffiliated pharmacies to pay higher rates for more than 550 medications, including some drugs that they tagged as, again, 3,000-percent more expensive than what would have been the lower cost option.

A nonaffiliated pharmacy is generally an independent pharmacy. They are not part of a chain. They are not part of that vertical integration of the pharmacy—the physician, the PBM, the insurance company, the drug manufacturer. They are there in your neighborhood.

We also saw in this report that the PBM in question repeatedly failed to reimburse low-volume pharmacies. Again, that is probably the pharmacy in your neighborhood. And they, in good faith, fill your prescription. And then the PBM challenges it and does not pay the bill.

So the next time you go to the pharmacy, what do you hear? Oh, this is not covered. We cannot help you. You are going to have to drive 30 miles or 20 miles or whatever to get to one of the affiliated pharmacies, which, again, that is one of the big changes.

Again, what you are seeing is those that are in underserved and rural areas and use an independent pharmacy, they lose out. We also found that this PBM in question was engaged in spread pricing that allowed them to pocket \$30 million.

That is one PBM in one State—Tennessee—and spread pricing put an extra

\$30 million in their pocket. What that means is patients were overpaying by \$30 million, plus the inconvenience, plus the accelerated price, plus the fact that these PBMs jockey for what they can get in these rebates, and they change what you are allowed to get. And by the way, they do that without ever talking to your physician.

When you look at that spread pricing, it is the difference between what the PBM charges the health plan and what they reimburse to the pharmacy. This is increasing the cost—another burden you bear—of your insurance. That is what PBMs are doing.

So President Trump is addressing this issue by directing his administration to evaluate the role of PBMs in raising drug prices. The resulting report should provide an even clearer picture nationwide of the harms that are being caused by these PBMs, these middlemen, and they are totally unnecessary.

In the Senate, we are working on bipartisan legislation to hold the PBMs accountable. In March, Senator HASSAN, Senator WARNER, and I reintroduced the bipartisan Patients Before Middlemen Act. This piece of legislation—which we want to get across the finish line and to the President’s desk—would restore fairness for patients by requiring Medicare Part D plans to contract with any willing pharmacy, not just those in the PBM network. That means Medicare Part D would be contracting with your local community pharmacy, the one where you have a relationship, the one where you know the pharmacist, the one where you go in and say: Help with this; explain this medication to me; talk me through this.

Also, our legislation would enhance transparency by assuring that PBMs are not limiting patient access to available pharmacy options under Medicare Part D. If your doctor says: You need this, and the PBM says: No, we are not going to pay for that; we are going to pay for this one over here, it would give you the right to get what the doctor says is best for you. It would ensure PBM service fees are no longer connected to the price of drug discounts, rebates, or other fees.

When you hear these rebates advertised, guess who gets them. The PBM. When you hear discounts advertised, who gets it? The PBM.

Also, this would create an enforcement mechanism requiring PBMs to pay the Department of Health and Human Services any amount more than the designated service fee. It means they would no longer be able to game the system, get the rebate and the money, pocket it, and you get a higher price.

It is far past time that Congress took action to hold these middlemen accountable. I think we should just do away with them completely. It is time that we lower these drug costs for Tennesseans and Americans across the country. With the PBM Act, we know that this will happen.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GRAND OLE OPRY

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, 100 years ago this November, the world of American music changed forever. Nashville's Grand Ole Opry hit the airwaves for the very first time. Today, fans across the country know it as country music's most famous stage.

It began as a small radio show at the National Life and Accident Insurance Company right in downtown Nashville. In those early days, the Opry showcased the dance tunes and ballads that were being performed by a new generation of musicians in Tennessee and across the South. Drawing on America's folk tradition, these artists were pioneering an entirely new genre—country music. Soon crowds were showing up at the company's radio station. And after moving between different venues in Nashville, they settled down. The Opry called the Ryman Auditorium its home. That was in 1943.

At the Ryman, some of the music tradition's biggest stars made their Opry debut: Hank Williams, Patsy Cline, Johnny Cash, Elvis Presley, Dolly Parton, and the list goes on and on.

Since moving to its current home at the Grand Ole Opry House in 1974, the Opry has welcomed generation after generation of new stars who have stepped into its famous wooden circle and added another chapter to country music's incredible, amazing history. Along the way, the Opry has become the longest running radio show in U.S. history, reaching millions of listeners in America and across the world with its weekly broadcast.

To honor this extraordinary and historic institution, I am asking for unanimous consent to pass my resolution that congratulates the Opry on 100 years of incredible music, legendary performances, and musical heritage. Here is to 100 more.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 207, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 207) celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Grand Ole Opry.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 207) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

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

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

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

NOMINATION OF MICHELLE BOWMAN

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, this week, the Senate Banking Committee—the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs—advanced the nomination of Michelle “Miki” Bowman to be the Vice Chair for Supervision at the Federal Reserve. Miki Bowman is my constituent. She is a Kansan, a native of Morris County. Miki has deep roots in rural America.

After graduating from the University of Kansas, followed by Washburn University's Law School, she came to Washington, DC, working across Capitol Hill and the executive branch. Like many good Kansans, Miki eventually found her way back home, and she became the vice president at Farmers and Drovers Bank, a community bank in Council Grove, KS. That occurred in 2010. In 2017, Miki became the Kansas State bank commissioner, where she was responsible for overseeing hundreds of State-chartered banks, trust companies, money transmitters, and other nondepository entities.

When President Trump chose Miki to serve as the community bank representative on the Federal Reserve Board of Governors, it was clear she was a great choice, the right choice to give small lenders and rural communities a voice at the Fed. Not only did Miki exceed the qualifications for the position set by law, but her time living and working in rural Kansas helped guide her decision making.

With immense experience working in and supervising community banks, I am confident Miki will continue to be a champion for those community banks but really, more importantly, for those those community banks serve, the people of States like mine and the Presiding Officer's. She will serve those people and those communities well.

The Vice Chair for Supervision plays the critical role of overseeing the regulatory environment and the supervision of many of our Nation's financial institutions, large and small. This Vice Chair position will be responsible for both rightsizing regulations for smaller lenders and finalizing the Basel III Endgame.

Not only do I trust Miki's professional experience, but I have come to know her as an independent, forthright, intelligent, quality individual with a demonstrated record of service to her State and Nation. Miki will make an excellent Federal Reserve Vice Chair for Supervision. I look forward to voting to confirm her nomination here in the full Senate, and I urge my colleagues to support her confirmation.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MORENO). The Senator from Louisiana.

S.J. RES. 13

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, as I have said before—and I want to make this really clear—I don't hate anyone. I don't. I look for grace wherever I can find it, and when I say my prayers, one of the things I ask my Maker for is, “Please, God, don't let me hate,” because sometimes it is hard here in Washington.

You know, there have been many a morning when I have gotten up in my overpriced Capitol Hill apartment, and I am walking over here to the Capitol, and I give myself a pep talk. I talk to myself. I say: Kennedy, today you are going to follow Jesus.

And by 10 o'clock, I still want to follow Jesus, but I also want to slap the hell out of somebody.

So it is important that we remind ourselves: Don't hate.

And I don't hate anyone. And that includes President Biden. But President Biden and his people had the remarkable ability to take something that wasn't broken and try to fix it. They would take something that wasn't broken in government and take it apart, loosen a few screws, and then it would be broken.

In a few minutes, I am going to ask the Senate to vote to try to repair some damage that President Biden's folks did in that regard. It has to do with banks.

As you know, the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency—I will call it the OCC, so you will know what I am talking about. The OCC regulates our banks, and that includes big banks but also small banks. We have got more small banks in America than we have big banks.

In fact, our smaller banks throughout this wonderful country make most of the loans to ordinary people. At a lot of the big banks, now, if you are just an average small businesswoman or businessman and you need a loan, you go to the larger banks, and they won't even see you. You have to go to a small bank to get that loan.

Small banks merge all the time. You have probably seen it in your local communities. Why do small banks merge a lot? Well, one of the reasons is they can provide better services to their customers.

Another reason that small banks tend to merge a lot is because maybe they want to move into a new geographical area, and they can't do it

alone. So they will merge with another bank in that area.

A third reason that small banks merge a lot is because they think, when they discuss their merger, that together they will be stronger and more profitable, and therefore, can make more loans.

But another reason is to try to comply with Federal regulations. I mean, our Federal regulations with respect to a bank will take your breath away. There are a bunch of them, and it costs so much to comply with rules and regulations by the Federal Government.

Our rules and regulations now cost the American businessperson about \$2 trillion a year. And I am not saying all of those are banking regulations or not, but the cost of those regulations gets passed on to consumers, and that is why, in part, products and services have increased in price.

But there are so many Federal rules and regulations that a small bank will often say: You know, I can't comply with all of this loan. I have got to get help. And we have got to spread the costs.

So that bank will merge with another bank and have more people in it, and it will be cheaper through economies of scale, which I know, Mr. President, you understand because you are a very successful businessperson. But they can spread the cost through economies of scale.

So small banks merge all the time. Now we recognize that. The Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, OCC, back in 1995, saw this coming. And the OCC, at that time, said: We want to devise a way for small banks to be able to merge fairly easily, but, at the same time, we at the OCC want to be able to make sure that what they are doing in this merger is not a risk to the consumer.

So the OCC, in 1995, issued what is called the Bank Merger Guidelines of 1995. Their rule for the merger of small banks was pretty simple. The OCC devised this short questionnaire where, if you were two small banks and you wanted to merge, you had to answer yes or no to 14 separate questions—very simple, very straightforward. To 14 questions, you answered yes or no.

And then the OCC—the folks at OCC—could look at your answers and see if they thought there was any risk to consumers. And the OCC also adopted a rule that said: Look, if we don't give you an answer within 15 days, because we are busy—the OCC said—your merger is automatically approved.

Short, sweet, very effective. We haven't had problems with our small banks, and none of these mergers—hundreds have taken place since 1995, which have actually made the financial system in America stronger and created virtually no risk.

Well, President Biden's people at the OCC decided that it wasn't broken; so they were going to fix it. Again, I don't hate anybody, but you have got to call it like you see it.

I think the folks at President Biden's OCC got up one day and thought there was an award for being stupid. They took this very simple and effective rule and procedure, and they turned it on its head. What they did was tier-one-level moronic.

Here is what they did. They threw out the old rule. They said: We are going to have a new rule, and the new rule is instead of these—this was in 2013—instead of these 14 simple yes-or-no questions, we are going to make all of these small banks submit so much paperwork to us that you could stack that paperwork right here and stand on it and practically paint the ceiling.

They threw out the 14 simple yes-or-no questions. They said that now these small banks—these are small banks, now, community banks—have to submit reams and reams of evidence: We, at the OCC, will start making a decision based on 19 criteria. The banks will have to prove that they complied with 13 of what the OCC call positive indicators, and the banks will have to show that they do not align with six of what the OCC started calling negative indicators.

The procedure, not only did it require reams of evidence, but just trying to read their rule that they put out, it was written in Sanskrit. You would have to hire a bucketload of lawyers to be able to just understand the rule.

Then President Biden's people said: Not only that, we are going to throw out this 15-day rule that, if you don't hear from us within 15 days, your merger is automatically approved.

Well, it threw the merger process for small banks that was working beautifully into total disarray. It just made the whole process more expensive, less efficient, and more expensive for consumers because the costs are passed on.

So in a few minutes, I am going to ask the Senate to reject President Biden's cumbersome rule. I am not going to suggest that we not regulate small bank mergers. I am going to suggest that we go back to the procedure that we were using since 1995, which worked, and that we go back and adopt that procedure. That doesn't mean that the OCC can't revisit it at some point.

But let me just be blunt. What President Biden's OCC people did was put together a plan—a new rule—that looks like it was put together by a heroin addict with a socket wrench. I mean, it is the most convoluted thing you have ever seen.

If we vote yes today—and I hope we do—then we will reject this rule and go back to doing it the old way.

BUDGET RECONCILIATION

Mr. President, since I have a few minutes, I am going to move to another topic, reconciliation, which you are very familiar with. Thank you for all of your contributions to it, by the way, as we put together the bill.

The American people may be a little confused about what "reconciliation" means. As you know, a reconciliation bill is just a budget bill. That is all it

is. It deals with spending of taxpayer money.

And why is it important?

Well, first it is going to be important to try to lower the prices that are gutting the American people like a fish. Inflation—President Biden's inflation—was simply pernicious. I don't know of another word for it.

It got to the point—I don't know about in your State, but in my State, you know, people shouldn't have to sell blood plasma to be able to go to the grocery store. They shouldn't. And make no mistake—we all know this—those high prices were man-made. Again, no disrespect, but that man's name was Joe Biden, and that is true.

The first goal of our reconciliation bill is to try to help get those prices down. How are we going to do that? No. 1, we are going to reduce government spending.

Why does that matter? Well, how did we get the inflation? We got the inflation because President Biden's favorite form of spending was more. I said many times if the White House during President Biden's term had discovered life on Mars, they would have sent it money immediately. And it was all this money that they injected into the economy, trillions of dollars, Inflation Reduction Act and the America Rescue Plan. They spent all this money. We had all of this money that came into the economy chasing too few goods, created demand, supply constant, and we had inflation.

So we are going to try to get those prices down—we, meaning this Congress—by reducing the government spending, which will reduce the stimulus to the economy, which, if we do it right, ought to lower interest rates. That is step 1 that we are going to try to achieve in reconciliation.

The second part of reconciliation, we are going to continue to try to reduce the rules and regulations. All of these rules and regulations have a price.

And when you are adding \$2 trillion in costs that fall on the backs of businesswomen and businessmen, to stay in business they have got to pass the costs of all those rules and regulations on to the consumer.

So if we can get rid of some of these rules and regulations, like we are going to continue to do in a few minutes when we vote on a rule to get rid of the Biden rule I was just talking about, if we can reduce those rules and regulations, goods and services will cost less.

The third thing we are going to try to do in reconciliation or our "budget bill," if you prefer that term, is redesign the Tax Code so that it looks like somebody designed it on purpose.

Since 1990, average GDP growth in America has been 2 percent a year. Now, that is just not acceptable. When we hit 2.5 percent now of GDP growth, we are so happy we want to go have a toga party. Two and a half percent is not acceptable.

We have got to start growing again at a normal rate. What used to be normal for America was 3 percent. Now,

how are we going to do that? We are going to do that by encouraging businesswomen and businessmen to invest in their businesses and grow their businesses and hire more people.

And the byproduct of that is that wages will go up, and that way people will be making more money so they will be able to afford this inflation that President Biden left us with.

So the first goal of reconciliation is to try to reduce these prices, to try to kill inflation dead, but there is a second equally, some would say more, important reason, as the Presiding Officer well knows. In 2017, this Congress, during President Trump's first term, passed the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. We cut taxes by \$4.3 trillion. And, boy, did it work.

The economy took off like a SpaceX rocket ship. Within a year, median household income in America had gone up \$4,400, and people at the lower end of the wage scale enjoyed more tax benefits and more money in their pocket than people at the other end.

That is why I have to laugh when my Democratic colleagues say: Well, you know, this was a tax cut for the rich. No, all you have to do is look at the data. Unless you do your research on Twitter, you know that it helped people at the lower end of the wage scale more than those at the upper end. That is the good news.

The bad news is that those tax cuts expire at the end of this year. So we are going to try to extend them and make them permanent in our reconciliation bill. And if we don't, if we don't, then we are going to have a \$4.3 trillion tax increase on the American people—\$4.3 trillion.

I want the Presiding Officer to think about that when some of our colleagues try to throw up roadblocks to the reconciliation bill. In effect, what they are saying is, they want to raise taxes on the American people by \$4.3 trillion. That is the most important thing we want to do in our reconciliation bill. It is not the only important thing, as I mentioned, but it is clearly the most important fact.

If we raise taxes right now, \$4.3 trillion on the American people, this economy will begin a journey to the center of the Earth. We cannot let it happen.

Now, I don't want to minimize the importance of the role that reconciliation will play in lowering prices and lowering inflation. That is important. But worse than inflation is depression, and if we don't extend these tax cuts and make them permanent, we are going to be in a depression. And that is really what the reconciliation bill is all about.

I thank the Presiding Officer for his time, I will end like I began. I am not saying everything President Biden and his people did was wrong, but on this rule that they promulgated to hurt small banks, it was just disastrous, and we are going to try to fix it today. And my colleagues will vote with me on this.

We will return some sanity to the merger rules for small banking.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, I rise today to urge my colleagues to vote no on S.J. Res. 13. President Trump promised that he would lower costs for American families on day one. He promised to cap interest rates on credit cards at 10 percent, and so what is it that the Senate is prioritizing today? Making it easier for banks to merge, raising the cost of credit for small businesses and households, and eroding banking services in local communities.

This resolution would undo common-sense provisions and improvements to the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency bank merger review framework after decades of that office rubberstamping deals that have reduced competition in the banking sector and put community banks all across this country out of business.

Now, we have witnessed small banks just vanishing from our local communities over the past several decades. These are the banks that are deeply rooted in our neighborhoods, that do the painstaking local lending that many small businesses rely on.

Regulators' long record of rubberstamping bank mergers has resulted in scores of branch closures, leaving consumers with fewer choices when it comes to whom to trust with their money.

Between 2006 and 2021, the Federal Reserve approved more than 3,500 consecutive mergers without denying a single one—not even one single no. With the regulators completely asleep at the switch since 1990, the number of banks in the United States has declined from more than 18,000 to fewer than 5,000.

The biggest banks have been the beneficiaries of this consolidation because they have grown even bigger. In the mid-1990s, the 20 biggest banks in this country held a total of 15 percent of all bank assets—the 20 biggest had 15 percent of all the assets.

Today, the top 20 hold more than 65 percent of all bank assets, and the concentration at the very top is even more extreme. The biggest four banks alone hold more assets than the next 75 banks combined.

This problem can be life or death for small businesses that can't get ahold of anyone at a big bank who understands the local economy or the nuances of their business or their credit needs.

At a big bank, you get a 1-800 number and a cookie-cutter product developed in some far-off headquarters. The problem is even more dire in low-income neighborhoods where research shows that predatory lenders and check cashers proliferate as bank consolidation increases.

Concentrating power into a few financial giants and money centers reduces competition, and it results in Americans paying higher prices for

their banking services. That means higher credit card interest rates, higher fees, higher auto loan payments, and unaffordable mortgages. And when these banks become too big to fail, the entire economy feels the pain when those banks' risk-taking blows up, and taxpayers are the ones who have to foot the bill when Wall Street comes in here demanding bailouts.

In recent years, regulators started to wake up to the fact that a highly consolidated banking sector is bad for consumers and bad for our economy. Bank supervisors and antitrust enforcers have been taking a careful look at the rules that guide how mergers are scrutinized, and they finally—finally—began to apply the law, as written by Congress, and they retired the rubberstamp.

In 2024, the OCC, which oversees most of the very largest banks, finalized improvements to the bank merger framework, creating a more comprehensive process and a more transparent process. First, the new rules will end the practice that allows certain mergers to be automatically approved just 15 days after the closing of the public comment period.

This resolution would reinstitute automatic approval just as Elon Musk's, his DOGE, guts the very staff that are reviewing these bank merger applications. It is a dangerous combination to actually say: We are going to do these automatic approvals, give them a really short period of time, and then cut the number of people who are there in the regulatory Agencies to be able to review the mergers.

Second, the updated rules also ensure that all applicants provide regulators with the information they need to weed out harmful transactions and to ensure that the OCC is more transparent about how it weighs certain factors when making a determination for whether to approve or deny a merger, and all that would go away.

The OCC's final rule is a common-sense step to revitalize the bank merger framework after decades of lax review. Passing this resolution would turn back the clock, raise costs for Americans at a time when they can least afford it, and choke off credit even more for the small businesses that need it most.

I urge my colleagues to vote no on S.J. Res. 13. It is bad for consumers, bad for small businesses, and, ultimately, that means it is bad for our economy.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Under the previous order, all time is expired.

The clerk will read the title of the joint resolution for the third time.

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

VOTE ON S.J. RES. 13

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The joint resolution having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the joint resolution pass?

Ms. BALDWIN. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senator is necessarily absent: The Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON).

The result was announced—yeas 52, nays 47, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 237 Leg.]

YEAS—52

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

NAYS—47

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

NOT VOTING—1

Cotton

The joint resolution (S.J. Res. 13) was passed, as follows:

S.J. RES. 13

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That Congress disapproves the rule submitted by the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency of the Department of the Treasury relating to "Business Combinations Under the Bank Merger Act" (89 Fed. Reg. 78207 (September 25, 2024)), and such rule shall have no force or effect.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. JUSTICE). The Senator from Kansas.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

The Senator from Rhode Island.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING UTAH'S APPOINTEES TO SERVICE ACADEMIES

• Mr. LEE. Mr. President, it is my distinct pleasure to recognize 21 exemplary men and women who are among the best and brightest that Utah has to offer. These individuals have answered the call to service by applying and receiving appointments to the U.S. Air Force Academy, the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, the U.S. Military Academy, and the U.S. Naval Academy.

As a Member of Congress, it is my privilege under title 10 of the U.S. Code to nominate young men and women to these iconic service academies. However, receiving a congressional nomination does not guarantee acceptance. To be admitted, each applicant must meet—on his or her own merits—the academies' rigorous standards.

I am happy to report that each individual has done this and more. They have demonstrated their impressive mental and physical aptitude, which are essential in meeting the standard of excellence upon which our service academies are built. Perhaps more importantly, they have shown their high moral character and capacity for leadership, courage, honesty, prudence, and self-discipline. They maintain a steadfast commitment to stand up for our country.

I can say without hesitation or exaggeration that you would be hard-pressed to find a more accomplished, talented, patriotic group of citizens than these young Americans. They will be a credit to our Nation as they begin their training in Colorado Springs, Kings Point, West Point, and Annapolis. I look forward to seeing what they do in their academic years and beyond.

It is one of my greatest honors to recognize and congratulate these fine Utahns in the U.S. Senate:

Wilford William Beck, from Highland, Utah, will join his brother at the U.S. Naval Academy as a midshipman. He maintained a 4.0 GPA at Lone Peak High School while taking challenging classes. Wil lettered in cross country and tennis, where he also served as captain and helped lead his team to a state championship. He participated in the Chinese Club and provided community service with his church youth group and at the VA hospital. He participated in multiple medical mission trips to Honduras to provide assistance to those in need.

Kohler C. Beckstrand has accepted an appointment to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. A student of Davis High School, Kohler challenged himself in both academics, where he took a high number of AP classes, and athletics, where he ran cross country and track. He was a member of the National Honor Society and the Health Organization Students of America (HOSA). He plays trumpet and earned superior ratings in the Solo and Ensemble festival. Kohler is active in his community serving neighbors and leading food drives.

Asher Randall Bowcutt after graduating from Copper Hills High School will enter the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. He served as captain of both the football team, where he earned Academic All-State Honors, and the track and field team, where he holds school records in the shot put and discus, all while maintaining a 4.0 GPA. Asher enjoys snowboarding, chess, drawing, and working as a welder with Hardwick Machinery. He will follow his grandfather, aunts, and uncles into Army service.

Dawson Lee Douglas accepted an appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy. From Sandy, Utah, he will graduate from Alta High School where he took a high number of AP classes and was awarded AP Scholar with Distinction. He stays active in sports and volunteers in his neighborhood and community, where his church youth group annually puts flags on the graves of our veterans. He routinely challenges himself academically and physically and is looking forward to the challenges of the academy.

Lucas McCoy Fassio will be attending the U.S. Air Force Academy after graduating from Park City High School. He stayed busy in school taking a high number of AP classes while at the same time competing for the cross-country ski team, where he has qualified for both the U.S. Junior and Senior National Cross-Country Championships. He served as captain of the Park City Ski and Snowboard Club, a member of the Park City Ski and Snowboard Leadership Athlete Council, and as an officer in the Aviation Club.

Bradley Joseph Floyd, will be joining the cadets of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point following his graduation from Syracuse High School. Bradley has proven himself a leader and someone who can inspire others as the president of the band, captain of the track team, and president of his church youth group. He plays the trombone and has received superior ratings in Solo and Ensemble and Jazz and Wind festivals. Bradley said his father is his inspiration and he will be following his father into the Army.

Aadi Garg graduated from Providence Hall Charter School and has been attending the University of Utah. He has now accepted an appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy. He prepared himself by participating in Navy JROTC where he served as the platoon leader and was on the academic, orienteering, and PT teams. He played tennis and ran on the cross-country and track and field teams. He earned Academic All-State awards and was named student of the year. He served his community with the National Honor Society and the Red Cross.

Zoe Lee Hein, from West Jordan, has accepted an appointment to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. She is serving as Senior Class President of Copper Hills High School and is captain of the track and field team where she holds several school records in the long jump, 100M, 200m, and relays. She is an AAU All American. She maintains a 4.0 with a rigorous academic schedule and is a member of the National Honor Society. She descends from a long line of military service members and will be the first female in her family to serve.

Malcolm Johnson accepted an appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy. A graduate last year of Herriman High School, Malcolm has spent this year at the Naval Academy Preparatory School. In high school, Malcolm was captain of the basketball team, was awarded the school's Male Athlete of the Year, and earned Academic All-State Honors. He worked in his community serving in food kitchens and gathering supplies for those in need. He is known for his natural leadership abilities and unwavering work ethic.

Aedan Frederick Marr will be attending the U.S. Military Academy at West Point after his graduation from Corner Canyon High School. He served as captain of the track and field team and lettered on the state champion football team. The Eagle Scout earned two Gold Eagle Palms, a Silver Eagle Palm, and two Bronze Eagle Palms. He was a leader in JROTC, serving as a squad leader, platoon sergeant, and acting company commander. He lived in Germany where both his mother and father served in the Army.

Keon Matinkhah, from Salt Lake City, has accepted an appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy. He attended the Northwestern Preparatory Academy after graduating from the American Preparatory Academy, where he served two years as student body president. As captain of the Speech and Debate team, he took first in the state for Oratory. He is an accomplished road cyclist and was a member of the Ascent Cycling Club. He participates in Ironman and Spartan races and has raised money for cancer research through his racing.

Kaitlyn Olivia Meyer was proud to accept her appointment to the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy. She will soon graduate from Skyridge High School in Lehi. Kait attended Girls State, is a member of the National Honor Society, and is active in her church youth group. She joined the Air Force JROTC and participated on the Raiders team. Kait is captain of the track and field team and was a leader on both her high school and club soccer teams, where she was the game MVP five times and the defensive MVP eight times.

Ian McKay Nielsen will join the midshipmen at the U.S. Naval Academy after graduating from West High School. A 4.0 student with a heavy load of AP classes, Ian still found time for the Arabic Club and the Boy Scouts. He led the wrestling team in high school and is a champion Sport Bike and SuperMoto racer. He joins a long family legacy of military service that includes his brother, who graduated from the Naval Academy in 2025, his sister in Air Force ROTC, and grandfathers, who each have their own noble records of service.

Samantha Pope will follow in her father's footsteps and attend the U.S. Air Force Academy. The volleyball captain helped her Lone Peak High School volleyball team earn two state championships. Not to be outdone, her basketball team also earned two state championships. Sam has been preparing academically and physically for the academy since she was young. The natural leader remembered those who helped her with her community service as she prepared bags for 2,500 teachers through *Show Up For Teachers*.

Theodore Sun Seigrist will be joining his sister at the U.S. Naval Academy. He has been living in Hong Kong with his family and attending the Chinese International School. Teo has made a name for himself as a champion rugby athlete. While challenging himself with an International Baccalaureate class load, he has also tutored refugees in Hong Kong, and helped develop a video game, through *Games for Change*, to educate young people about ocean pollution. He plays piano and enjoys studying military history and taking time out to ski and scuba dive.

Joseph M. Smith, from Santa Clara, has accepted an appointment to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. A 4.0 student from Snow Canyon High School, Joseph excelled in his AP and concurrent enrollment classes. The senior class president attended Boys State and served as a youth city councilman, and as captain of his football team. His skill in javelin helped his track and field team win two state championships. He participated in Air Force JROTC where he

served as staff sergeant. Joseph hosts a religious podcast and enjoys hunting and pickleball.

William Nakanelua Stant will be attending the U.S. Air Force Academy after graduating from Pine View High School in St. George. Active in Air Force ROTC, William served in many leadership positions—including drill commander and the unit executive officer—and participated in the JROTC drill team, color guard, and Raiders team. He earned the Air & Space Forces Association. He was captain of the high school swimming team and vice-president of the Ping Pong club. He joins several members of his family in military service, including his great-uncle who was a Navajo Code Talker.

Abigail Thornton, a student of West High School, will join her brother and other cadets at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. She was very active in high school, taking a number of AP and International Baccalaureate courses and joining the soccer, basketball, and track and field teams. In addition to serving as the captain of her high school soccer team and twice earning the team MVP, she also plays for a number of club soccer teams. She was a member of the National Honor Society, Key Club, Hope Squad, and Environmental club.

Bradley Rex Thornton will be returning to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point with his sister after serving a church mission in Texas Fort Worth. He graduated from West High School where he served as captain of the basketball team and as a student body officer. He coordinated school assemblies and joined both the German Club and Health Occupation Students of America (HOSA). Bradley was active in the Boy Scouts and achieved the rank of Eagle Scout.

Caleb Bradley Watson will be returning to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point after serving a church mission in Misión Chile Concepción. Caleb originally entered the academy in 2022 after graduating from Hillcrest High School. During high school, he was captain of the baseball team and was a member of the National Honor Society. He attended Boys State and served on the Draper Mayor's Youth City Council. He was active in the Boy Scouts where he earned the rank of Eagle Scout.

Preston Lee Whatcott accepted an appointment to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. The Corner Canyon High School student continues the academy and military tradition in his family but wanted West Point over following his brother and father to the Air Force Academy. He is an excellent student, who has been studying Chinese for over twelve years. Preston is an Eagle Scout and has been a leader in his church youth group and on the Draper Mayor's Youth City Council. In addition to playing football, he also enjoys golf, track, and filming and editing videos.

It has been inspiring to meet with and nominate each of these exceptional young men and women. They give me great hope for the future of our armed services and confidence in the future of our Nation.

To those 21 appointees and to all their future classmates from around the country, I thank you for your commitment to service and commend your achievements. While this is but the beginning of your journey, I urge you to remember the foundation of your success thus far.

You would not have arrived at this point without the dedication and example of your parents, family, teachers, coaches, and mentors. Moreover, you

would not have arrived at this point without your own sacrifice and hard work.

Strive to continue on the path of strong moral character, and to keep love of country as a guiding principle. Look to the past with gratitude and to the future with conviction. If you stay this course, I have no doubt that your future holds great things in store. I look forward to your continued service to our country.●

TRIBUTE TO PAUL "PUCK" ESPOSITO

● Mr. TUBERVILLE. Mr. President, in Alabama, we take a lot of pride in honoring and supporting the heroes who have served in our Nation's military. But it takes people who are dedicated to this mission 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

No one embodies this cause better than Captain Paul "Puck" Esposito of Auburn, AL. The son of a World War II and Korean war veteran, Puck followed in his father's footsteps and joined the Navy in 1986. Puck spent 30 years in Active Duty as a Navy aviator. From flying grey helicopters, serving on an exchange tour with the Canadian Air Force, to spending 8 years at sea—you name it, Puck did it. He was sent on nine long deployments and served in every theatre the Navy has a presence in.

A native of Long Island, Puck found himself settling down over 1,000 miles from home in Auburn, AL. Upon taking charge of Auburn University's Navy ROTC unit, Puck and his wife Dana quickly fell in love with the Plains. After retiring from Active Duty in 2016, he was offered the position to direct the Auburn University Veterans Resource Center. It was in this role at Auburn that Puck, a career Navyman—and a native Northeasterner—embraced all that the South has to offer.

His role at the vets resource center has been an essential part of filling the gaps for Auburn student-veterans and military-affiliated students. Though the center is largely focused on providing academic resources for its participants, Puck has taken a deeper approach. In addition to educational support, Puck and his team have worked to combat critical issues such as veteran suicide, food insecurity, and homelessness.

Under the last decade of Puck's leadership, Auburn's vets resource center has expanded from supporting 600 students to 2,100 currently. They put on events like Project Iron Ruck and help Auburn recognize and honor veterans at many of the university's athletic events.

We are proud to now call Puck one of our own, and we are grateful for all he does to support our veterans. It is my honor to recognize Puck Esposito as the May Veteran of the Month.●

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 MESSAGE REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate a message from the President of the United States submitting a withdrawal which was referred to the appropriate committee.

(The message received today is printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGES

REPORT ON THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY THAT WAS ORIGINALLY DECLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 13667 OF MAY 12, 2014, WITH RESPECT TO THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC—PM 24

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 with respect to the Central African Republic declared in Executive Order 13667 of May 12, 2014, is to continue in effect beyond May 12, 2025.

The situation in and in relation to the Central African Republic, which has been marked by a breakdown of law and order; intersectarian tension; widespread violence and atrocities; and the pervasive, often forced recruitment and use of child soldiers, including widespread violence and atrocities committed by Kremlin-linked entities such as the Wagner Group, threatens the peace, security, or stability of the Central African Republic and neighboring states, and 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 13667.

DONALD J. TRUMP,
THE WHITE HOUSE, May 7, 2025.

REPORT ON THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY THAT WAS ORIGINALLY DECLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 13338 OF MAY 11, 2004, WITH RESPECT TO THE ACTIONS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF SYRIA—PM 25

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 with respect to the actions of the Government of Syria declared in Executive Order 13338 of May 11, 2004—as modified in scope and relied upon for additional steps taken in Executive Order 13399 of April 25, 2006, Executive Order 13460 of February 13, 2008, Executive Order 13572 of April 29, 2011, Executive Order 13573 of May 18, 2011, Executive Order 13582 of August 17, 2011, Executive Order 13606 of April 22, 2012, and Executive Order 13608 of May 1, 2012—is to continue in effect beyond May 11, 2025.

Syria's lack of structure and limited governance capability with respect to chemical weapons and combatting terrorist organizations continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to continue in effect the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13338.

The United States will consider changes in policies and actions of Syria in determining whether to continue or terminate this national emergency in the future.

DONALD J. TRUMP,
THE WHITE HOUSE, May 7, 2025.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 1668. A bill to amend chapter 131 of title 5, United States Code, to prohibit the President, Vice President, Members of Congress, and individuals appointed to Senate-confirmed positions from issuing, sponsoring, or endorsing certain financial instruments, and for other purposes.

PRIVILEGED NOMINATION REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

On request by Senator MARTIN HEINRICH, under the authority of S. Res. 116,

112th Congress, the following nomination was referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Tina Pierce, of Idaho, to be Chief Financial Officer, Department of Energy.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. KAINE, and Mr. KING):

S. 1632. A bill to provide for greater defense workforce integration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. LUJÁN (for himself, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. RISCH, and Mr. WELCH):

S. 1633. A bill to require the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology to establish a pilot program that uses testbeds to develop measurement standards for the evaluation of artificial intelligence systems, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. WARNER (for himself, Mr. HAWLEY, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 1634. A bill to promote competition and reduce consumer switching costs in the provision of online communications services; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. CRAMER (for himself and Mr. GALLEGO):

S. 1635. A bill to amend the National Housing Act to authorize State-licensed appraisers to conduct appraisals in connection with mortgages insured by the FHA and to ensure compliance with the existing appraiser education and competency requirements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. ROUNDS:

S. 1636. A bill to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to establish oversight mediation committees to help resolve property boundary disputes regarding National Forest System land, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. MULLIN (for himself, Ms. HASSAN, and Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina):

S. 1637. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to codify value-based purchasing arrangements under the Medicaid program and reforms related to price reporting under such arrangements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASSIDY (for himself and Ms. ROSEN):

S. 1638. A bill to protect the United States from artificial intelligence applications based in or affiliated with countries of concern, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. YOUNG (for himself, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. LANKFORD, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. DAINES, Mr. WARNER, Mr. BARASSO, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. PETERS, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. KENNEDY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. KELLY, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. KAINE, Mrs. CAPITO, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mrs. FISCHER, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. MORAN, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. COONS, Mr. MULLIN, Ms. SLOTKIN, Mr. WICKER, Mr. KING, Mr. BUDD, Mr. OSSOFF, Mr. HUSTED, and Mr. HEINRICH):

S. 1639. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to enhance tax benefits for research activities; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MARSHALL:

S. 1640. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to increase support for physicians and other practitioners in adjusting to Medicare payment changes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. LEE, and Mr. SCOTT of Florida):

S. 1641. A bill to restore fairness to service members who filed religious accommodation requests and ensure their career progression is justly reviewed; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself, Mr. BENNET, Mr. TILLIS, and Mr. COONS):

S. 1642. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the advanced manufacturing investment credit to include materials integral to semiconductor manufacturing; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. WELCH, Mrs. CAPITO, and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 1643. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to protect patient access to ground ambulance services under the Medicare program; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself and Mr. BOOZMAN):

S. 1644. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to modify the authority of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish improvements and structural alterations as part of home health services for disabled veterans; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself, Mr. MORAN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. YOUNG, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SCHMITT, and Mr. WELCH):

S. 1645. A bill to establish a domestic ownership investment facility, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself and Ms. LUMMIS):

S. 1646. A bill to place further congressional oversight on any quantitative easing or tightening program or any emergency lending programs of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, to require reports to Congress relating to those programs, to require congressional approval of the extension of those programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida:

S. 1647. A bill to limit purchases of the Federal reserve banks, to require Generally Accepted Accounting Principles standards, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida:

S. 1648. A bill to limit the total assets of Federal reserve banks, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. TUBERVILLE (for himself and Mr. CRAPO):

S. 1649. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to treat certain marketplace providers as importers for purposes of the excise tax on sporting goods; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. 1650. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to modify authorities relating to the collective bargaining of employees in the Veterans Health Administration; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. MULLIN (for himself, Mr. KELLY, Mr. CRAPO, and Mr. CRAMER):

S. 1651. A bill to require the Federal Communications Commission to ensure equitable and nondiscriminatory contributions to the mechanisms that preserve and advance universal service, to reduce the financial burden on consumers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mr. CRUZ):

S. 1652. A bill to address gun violence, improve the availability of records to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System, address mental illness in the criminal justice system, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MORENO:

S. 1653. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a deduction for qualified automobile interest; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself and Mr. WELCH):

S. 1654. A bill to require transportation network companies to provide customers notice when a driver has a camera in their motor vehicle and provide customers an opportunity to opt out of riding in motor vehicles with cameras, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. DUCKWORTH:

S. 1655. A bill to expand congressional oversight of the operation of the Veterans Crisis Line of the Department of Veterans Affairs, to improve workforce protections for all Veterans Crisis Line personnel, and to ensure robust performance standards that fulfill the Veterans Crisis Line mission and meet caller demand, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 1656. A bill to provide compensation to certain residents of the island of Vieques, Puerto Rico, for the use of such island for military readiness, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BANKS (for himself and Mr. KING):

S. 1657. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to limit the authority of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to deny the claim of a veteran for benefits under the laws administered by such Secretary on the sole basis that such veteran failed to appear for a medical examination associated with such claim, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. BANKS (for himself and Mr. COTTON):

S. 1658. A bill to prohibit entities receiving Federal assistance that are involved in adoption or foster care placements from delaying or denying placements under certain conditions; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. BOOKER, and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

S. 1659. A bill to amend titles 11 and 28, United States Code, to modify the compensation payable to trustees serving in cases under chapter 7 of title 11, United States Code, to extend the term of certain temporary offices of bankruptcy judges, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. COONS (for himself and Mr. CURTIS):

S. 1660. A bill to improve commercialization activities in the SBIR and STTR programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. BENNET (for himself and Mr. PADILLA):

S. 1661. A bill to amend the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 with respect to emergency assistance for farmworkers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. RISCH, Mr. BENNET, and Mr. DAINES):

S. 1662. A bill to amend the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 to reauthorize the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. COONS, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. Kaine, Mr. KELLY, Mr. KIM, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. REED, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHIFF, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. SLOTKIN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WELCH, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 1663. A bill to prohibit commercial sexual orientation conversion therapy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself and Mr. MORAN):

S. 1664. A bill to require the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy to develop a consistent set of policy guidelines for Federal research agencies to address financial instability of graduate researchers and postdoctoral researchers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL:

S. 1665. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to ensure veterans of secrecy oath programs receive the full benefits they have earned, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. KING, Mr. LANKFORD, and Mr. SANDERS):

S. 1666. A bill to amend title VII of the Social Security Act to provide for a single point of contact at the Social Security Administration for individuals who are victims of identity theft; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. BRITT (for herself and Ms. ALSOBROOKS):

S. 1667. A bill to amend the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act to meet the needs of homeless children, youth, and families, and honor the assessments and priorities of local communities; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. WARREN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. REED, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. KIM, Ms. ALSOBROOKS, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. SLOTKIN, Mr. KELLY, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 1668. A bill to amend chapter 131 of title 5, United States Code, to prohibit the President, Vice President, Members of Congress, and individuals appointed to Senate-confirmed positions from issuing, sponsoring, or endorsing certain financial instruments, and for other purposes; read the first time.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself and Mr. CASSIDY):

S. 1669. A bill to improve drought-related disaster assistance programs of the Department of Agriculture, and for other purposes; 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 Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself and Mr. HAGERTY):

S. Res. 207. A resolution celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Grand Ole Opry; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 201

At the request of Mr. KELLY, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BANKS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 201, a bill to provide for a study by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine on the prevalence and mortality of cancer among individuals who served as active duty aircrew in the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

S. 478

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 478, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to prohibit the Secretary of Veterans Affairs from transmitting certain information to the Department of Justice for use by the national instant criminal background check system.

S. 688

At the request of Mr. SULLIVAN, the names of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 688, a bill to combat illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing at its sources globally.

S. 847

At the request of Mrs. BRITT, the names of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. TUBERVILLE) and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) were added as cosponsors of S. 847, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the employer-provided child care credit and the dependent care assistance exclusion.

S. 858

At the request of Mr. JUSTICE, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. GALLEGO) 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. 911

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 911, a bill to amend the

Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to include certain retired law enforcement officers in the public safety officers' death benefits program.

S. 1232

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1232, a bill to direct the Secretary of Labor to issue an occupational safety and health standard that requires covered employers within the health care and social service industries to develop and implement a comprehensive workplace violence prevention plan, and for other purposes.

S. 1289

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. KIM), the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) and the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) were added as cosponsors of S. 1289, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the 25th anniversary of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the United States and to support programs at the National September 11 Memorial and Museum at the World Trade Center.

S. 1304

At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1304, a bill to permit the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Latino to be located within the Reserve of the National Mall, and for other purposes.

S. 1404

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. SHEEHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1404, a bill to combat organized crime involving the illegal acquisition of retail goods and cargo for the purpose of selling those illegally obtained goods through physical and online retail marketplaces.

S. 1458

At the request of Mr. CRAMER, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1458, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a refundable adoption tax credit.

S. 1515

At the request of Mr. YOUNG, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) and the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1515, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reform the low-income housing credit, and for other purposes.

S. 1518

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1518, a bill to redesignate the Saratoga National Historical Park as the "Saratoga National Battlefield Park".

S. 1519

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1519, a bill to designate a portion of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge as wilderness.

S. 1532

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1532, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the railroad track maintenance credit.

S. 1543

At the request of Mr. BANKS, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mrs. MOODY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1543, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish in the Department of Veterans Affairs the Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration, and for other purposes.

S. 1582

At the request of Mr. HAGERTY, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1582, a bill to provide for the regulation of payment stablecoins, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself and Mr. MORAN):

S. 1664. A bill to require the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy to develop a consistent set of policy guidelines for Federal research agencies to address financial instability of graduate researchers and postdoctoral researchers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, I rise to introduce the bipartisan RESEARCHER Act.

This legislation would require Federal research Agencies to enact policies to address the financial insecurity of graduate and postdoctoral researchers, while collecting data to better understand the financial challenges that these researchers experience.

This legislation would require the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, OSTP, to develop guidelines on addressing the financial insecurity faced by graduate and postdoctoral researchers. Federal research Agencies would then be required to use these guidelines to implement their own policies to tackle this pressing issue.

It would also improve our understanding of the financial insecurity experienced by graduate and postdoctoral researchers by awarding universities and nonprofit organizations grants to study this issue, as well as commissioning a study by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine.

The future of American leadership in science and technology depends on our

success in securing our scientific workforce by strengthening the STEM pipeline.

One of the most significant barriers that imperils our ability to attract new talent into the STEM pipeline and keep our young people in the pipeline once they are there is the many financial stressors that make it difficult for graduate and postdoctoral researchers to provide for themselves while conducting critical research.

Alongside issues with their salaries, young researchers face challenges concerning food insecurity, student loan debt, health, housing, childcare, and more.

Research shows that graduate and postdoctoral researchers identify compensation, including salaries and benefits, as one of the most significant barriers that they face as young people trying to support their personal lives and jumpstart their early careers.

Alongside requiring Federal research Agencies to update their policies to address these concerns, we must also collect more data on this problem to ensure that our solutions are well thought out and effective.

Ensuring continued American leadership in STEM depends on what we do now to support the researchers who will guide the future of our scientific enterprise.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 207—CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GRAND OLE OPRY

Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself and Mr. HAGERTY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 207

Whereas, on November 28, 1925, the Grand Ole Opry was born when the WSM Barn Dance was launched with Uncle Jimmy Thompson, a 77-year-old fiddle player;

Whereas, in December 1927, the program was officially named the Grand Ole Opry when George D. Hay, a legendary announcer and program director, proclaimed on-air, "For the past hour, we have been listening to the music taken largely from the Grand Opera, but from now on we will present the Grand Ole Opry";

Whereas the Grand Ole Opry was housed in the Ryman Auditorium, the "Mother Church of Country Music" in Nashville, Tennessee;

Whereas some of the most historic moments of the Grand Ole Opry occurred inside Ryman Auditorium, including the inductions of country music legends like Hank Williams, Patsy Cline, Loretta Lynn, Tammy Wynette, Willie Nelson, George Jones, Jeanne Seely, Dolly Parton, and Johnny and June Carter Cash;

Whereas the popularity of the Grand Ole Opry surged during the 1930s and 1940s, with its live radio broadcast becoming a staple in households across the United States;

Whereas, on March 15, 1974, the Grand Ole Opry broadcast its final show from Ryman Auditorium;

Whereas, on March 16, 1974, the Grand Ole Opry debuted its first show in the new 4,400 seat Grand Ole Opry House in Nashville, Ten-

nessee, with President Richard Nixon in attendance;

Whereas a piece of the Ryman Auditorium stage, known as the circle, was laid into the center of the new Grand Ole Opry House stage and remains a hallowed piece of country music history;

Whereas the Grand Ole Opry is the longest-running radio show in the history of the United States, reaching millions of listeners each week;

Whereas the contributions of the artists and members of the Grand Ole Opry family have had an innumerable impact on the culture and history of the United States;

Whereas the Grand Ole Opry is more than just a concert hall or a radio show, it is a United States institution that has played a pivotal role in shaping the music landscape in the United States;

Whereas the Grand Ole Opry has continued to be the most famous stage in country music and has solidified Nashville, Tennessee, as the country music capital of the world; and

Whereas, in 2025, the Grand Ole Opry is celebrating its 100th anniversary: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes and celebrates the 100th anniversary of the Grand Ole Opry;

(2) commemorates the legacy of the Grand Ole Opry and the lasting contributions of the Grand Ole Opry to the advancement of country music; and

(3) congratulates the artists and members of the Grand Ole Opry family on 100 inspiring years.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I come to the Senate floor today for the 298th time in my "Time to Wake Up" speech series to once again call attention to the looming climate calamity.

I went last week to the Our Ocean Conference—a conference founded by the United States of America and dedicated to protecting our oceans before the damage to them and ultimately to us becomes irrecoverable. It was the 10th such conference, which made it a bit of a benchmark.

I was the entirety of the U.S. delegation. You are looking at it—100 percent of the entire U.S. delegation. Ordinarily, many executive branch officials come. In this case, not one executive branch official attended from the United States. And of course not. This administration is nothing more than hirelings of the fossil fuel industry, and the conference, of course, addressed the harm that fossil fuel emissions are doing in the oceans and the harm that petrochemical plastics are doing in the oceans.

Fossil fuel emissions are heating up the oceans in zettajoules. It is a massive number. The joule, as you probably know, is the unit measure for heat energy. "Zetta" means it has 21 zeroes behind it. In more commonly articulated big numbers, it is a billion trillion joules. It looks something like this: 14 zettajoules of heat going into the oceans every single year.

To give a more practical definition, the entire energy production of the human species across the entire planet Earth amounts to one-half of a

zettajoule of energy—everything. All the energy sources of humankind produce one-half of a zettajoule of energy every year. That is how much our species relies on.

The price to all of us of the fossil fuel component of that half-zettajoule is that those 14 zettajoules get pushed into the ocean, get absorbed by the ocean, every single year. The heating of the oceans from fossil fuel pollution is more than 30 times the energy used that causes the heating. It is not a part of it; it is multiple of it, magnified by the greenhouse effect. It is not that fossil fuel creates some excess heat and some of that goes into the oceans; the fossil fuel creates changes in the Earth's physical environment that magnify the heat retention of the planet, the so-called greenhouse effect. So for the component of the half zettajoule of human energy use that comprises the entire species' energy, 14 zettajoules of heat go into the ocean.

Put another way, if you imagine the heat energy given off by the nuclear bomb explosion over Hiroshima, multiply that by seven. Seven Hiroshima nuclear detonations' worth of excess heat is what fossil fuel emissions are driving into our oceans every single second—every single second. Every second, seven Hiroshimas' worth of heat.

In the 10 minutes that it takes me to give this speech, the oceans will absorb 4,000 Hiroshima detonations' worth of heat. That is why seawater off the Florida Keys hit jacuzzi temperatures. That is why measuring devices along our coasts show a foot of sea level rise already. That is why fish species are moving about and fisheries are collapsing. That is why the world's coral reefs are bleaching out—over 80 percent of the world's reefs hit in the last ocean heating surge caused by fossil fuel.

The physical disruption of the ocean with this massive injection of multiple Hiroshimas-per-second of excess physical heat is matched by a chemical effect—acidification.

The excess carbon dioxide added to the atmosphere by fossil fuel pollution interacts with the surface of the ocean, covering 70 percent of our planet—so a lot of surface to interact—and it causes the seawater chemically to acidify.

I actually did an experiment here at my desk, blowing the carbon dioxide in my breath through an aquarium bubbler into my water glass. And, sure enough, pH strips showed that the water in the glass acidified, measurably, just from my breath.

Acidification in the ocean degrades structures that are made up of calcium. It injures coral reefs, worsening the problems of pollution and warming. We are headed for a world of dead reefs at this rate. It makes life harder for shelled creatures, particularly in their larval stages, to grow. There are many of them, but one species measurably hit is the pteropod.

Who cares about the humble pteropod, you may ask. Well, you might,

and your kids likely will because it is an important part of the oceanic food web. Crash the pteropod, and a lot of other species fall.

A trawl survey a few years ago off the Pacific Northwest found that most of the pteropod caught in the trawl survey showed what the scientists called severe shell damage—severe shell damage. Pteropods don't survive well in acidified oceans. That much severe shell damage in a foundational species is a bad harbinger of things to come, and it is just one of many harms from fossil fuel emissions acidifying the world's oceans.

Then we get to the other petrochemical problem, plastics. The ocean is awash with marine plastic waste. Unlike natural substances that biodegrade into basic elements that return into the cycle of life that other beings can consume, plastics are man-made. Unlike natural substances, they break down eventually into microplastic and even nanoplastic particles that have no use to anything.

Ocean plastic waste is a menace. Large ocean plastic waste ends up in the bellies of whales, indigestibly, killing them. Ghost gear made of plastic goes about its lethal business with no fisherman ever retrieving the catch, just killing, killing, killing.

Pretty much every sea bird consumes plastic, lodging in its belly, starving its young of real food. You can walk midway island and see the cadavers of dead young birds with stomachs full of indigestible plastic unwittingly fed to them by their parents.

Small creatures consume tiny plastic particles. Bigger creatures consume the small creatures. We consume the bigger creatures. And now we find plastic particles in mothers' breast milk, in human brain tissue samples, even in rain drops over Colorado. Unless we change direction, there will soon be more plastic by weight in the world's oceans than the weight of living fish in the world's oceans.

The plastics and fossil fuel industry may chortle about their profits, but none of this is good for humans. These industries are damaging the natural systems of the planet, the natural systems to which we have adapted as a species, the natural systems that make Earth so beautifully and abundantly livable. And there comes a reckoning. As Pope Francis said, you slap Mother Nature, she will slap you back.

Regrettably, the plastics and fossil fuel industries are also damaging the political systems of the planet, corrupting government so as to disable our ability to remedy their pollution. The question of the moment that people should be asking is why are so many politicians lying to us about climate change? The answer, of course, is money. Fossil fuel money floods our political system, pours into it, much of it secretly.

Politicians, whose home State universities teach about climate change, lie about climate change. How is that

possible? It is not like there is some unfathomable mystery about how climate change works that eludes human understanding. No, it is known. There is a counterforce at work against knowledge. Fossil fuel money and political pressure is that counterforce.

That force—that malign, corrupt, political operation of the fossil fuel industry—has now become dangerous. If you delay treatment of a disease, things get worse and a treatable disease can become lethal. If you delay dealing with termites in your house, things get worse, and it is no longer a repair but a teardown.

The fossil fuel political operation, for very selfish reasons, has delayed the remedies that would have given us a broad pathway to climate safety, and it is now getting dangerous.

The control of our government by this political operation is right now complete. Neither House of Congress will do anything right now to avert the looming danger. After asking for \$1 billion from the fossil fuel industry and getting massive donations, our madman President says there is no danger—a supposedly educated man calling our climate perils a “hoax.”

His executive officials are all in tow to the fossil fuel industry, doing exactly as they are told—puppets on a fossil fuel string. They even put Justices on the Supreme Court to ignore the facts about climate danger.

Here is their problem, which is our problem as well: Politics responds to money, but nature, she can't be bought. She couldn't care less. Nature will keep administering the consequences dictated by natural laws, by laws of physics and chemistry, and biology.

I flew home from the Our Ocean Conference, thanks to our understanding of those natural laws when you honor those laws, aerodynamics and metallurgy, and make flying from Seoul, Korea, to Dulles airport outside Washington, DC, possible. Dishonoring those laws is foolhardy and dangerous. Dishonoring those laws for money is reprehensible and dangerous.

A corrupted U.S. Government, a polluted planet, and trillions—literally trillions—of dollars in economic harm is headed our way fast, well and completely predicted, all from the bad behavior of a greedy and amoral industry that knows no bounds—not of decency, not of honesty, and certainly, not of protection for our planet. If taking that fight on is not a fight worth having, I don't know what is.

I yield the floor.

ADDRESSING THE HOMEWORK GAP THROUGH THE E-RATE PROGRAM

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, I rise this evening in strong opposition to S.J. Res. 7, the Congressional Review Act resolution that would repeal the Federal Communications Commission's commonsense rule allowing schools and libraries to use E-Rate funds—“E-

Rate” stands for “Education Rate funds”—to ensure that there is access to the educational tools of a school or a library to every child in America, and that would occur by extending out the way in which we view this program so that Wi-Fi hotspots can be provided to students and to educators so that they can use them even when they are not in the school, even when they are not in the library.

If we pass this resolution—the resolution which the Republicans are malevolently bringing out onto the floor—we are not simply undoing a regulation; we are pulling the plug on progress in our country; we are abandoning millions of students who lack the internet access needed to complete their homework, to attend class, to reach their full potential.

This repeal will widen educational disparities in our country, it will deepen the digital divide, and it will slam shut the doors of opportunity for millions of children in our country.

We should be doing everything in our power to close the homework gap that exists between rich and poor in our Nation, not reopen it, not make that homework gap even larger, making it more difficult for poor kids to get access to these educational tools they need. In this modern era, that absolutely meets the definition of a Wi-Fi hotspot. That is the society of 2025. You have to move to that era.

That homework gap is the cruel chasm that separates students who have reliable internet access at home from those who don't. It is a gap that existed long before the COVID-19 pandemic, but it was laid bare when schools closed and kids were forced to learn from kitchen tables and living rooms. For some, the transition was difficult; for others, it was impossible. For too many children, especially in low-income, rural, and Black and Brown communities, they were locked out of virtual learning because, simply, they lacked a basic internet connection.

You didn't have to worry about the families that had a good income. Those kids had internet at home when their schools were shut down during COVID. But you had to create some kind of a solution for kids who didn't have that at home.

We saw the stories of the students sitting in parking lots outside fast-food restaurants just to pick up a Wi-Fi signal strong enough to complete their assignments. We saw families choosing between paying rent and paying for broadband. We saw the urgent, indisputable need for action.

In that moment of need, Congress stepped up. We passed, at my request, \$7 billion to help provide hotspots and other connectivity tools to students and educators. Demand was overwhelming in our Nation. We had a COVID shutdown. Schools were closed, and there was going to be a huge digital divide which would open up because kids in the suburbs, for the most

part, had access, but kids who were poorer—and, disproportionately, they were Black and Brown—in our Nation did not. And we are still reeling from the effect that period of time had upon young people in our Nation.

The program, as it was implemented, however, helped nearly 18 million students at 10,000 schools and libraries connect to the internet. I am very proud of that. It was a big difference in the lives of those kids. But that funding ran out, leaving millions of students across the country at risk of falling back into the digital divide.

That is why, last year, the Federal Communications Commission took steps to extend the reach of the E-Rate Program—a program that I was proud to author in 1996 in the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

If I can take you back to that period of time, not one home in America had broadband. We still lived in an analog world, not a digital world. We lived in a world of dial-up internet technology. Broadband had not been deployed.

So the legislation, which I am proud to have been the House author of, along with Senators—what we did was we broke down every monopoly that existed. The telephone monopolies, the cable monopolies—they all were eliminated. Telephone companies could do what cable companies do. Cable companies could do what telephone companies do. All of a sudden, Comcast can offer phone service, and Verizon and AT&T can offer cable service. So they need to deploy broadband in order to accommodate all this information.

We are going to move very rapidly into a digital era, into a broadband era, and it happened pretty much in the blink of an eye for about 80 percent of our country. We are still working on the final 10 percent of our Nation, but for the most part, it happened by the year 2000, 2001. It was done. People had it. Broadband was deployed.

But what we did was we said to ourselves: We have got to take care of the poorest kids in our country as we move rapidly on a technological revolution. Yes, the economy is going to be absolutely exploding. In fact, about \$1.5 trillion worth of private sector investment was put into that broadband expansion in just a 5-year period. It was incredible. It transformed our Nation.

A 14-year-old girl today thinks that she has an entitlement to a 65-inch screen in her living room and a little digital device on her lap at the same time. That didn't exist in the year 2000. It all happened in the blink of an eye.

Now, what would happen, though, to the kids that didn't come from suburban or wealthier families? So what I suggested was that we have a program, an education program, so that every time someone made a little phone call, there would be a little tax on it, and that tax would then create a fund. I called it the education fund, the Education Rate, and it ultimately just had a nickname called E-Rate. That is what helps to provide for internet serv-

ice in schools—in schools in Harlem or Roxbury, MA, inner city, Washington, DC. That is what helps to supplement that, to make it possible for every kid to have access to the internet.

That program works, and so far, it has spent about \$70 billion. It is still the largest educational technology program in the history of the United States—\$70 billion, very profitable. But times change, and we learn about what has to happen as we are changing the way in which our country operates and new technologies get developed.

So, yes, we had that revolution from the 1996 act. I am very proud of it. We called the companies that got created Google, eBay, Amazon, Hulu, YouTube. I am very proud of that. We wanted a Darwinian, paranoia-inducing revolution out in the marketplace. We would no longer be tied to this old telecommunications system that Alexander Graham Bell would have recognized. No. We were moving on to the future, but with it, we had to bring along the young people in our Nation, and I mean every young person had to have access to it in their school, at their desk. So it was ensured to make sure that the schools and libraries had the connectivity which they needed. That is essentially what the E-Rate Program is all about.

But as the technology evolved, so too did the nature of education in our Nation, and today, learning doesn't end when the school bell rings. Learning follows students home, and so should internet access for everybody—everybody.

The Federal Communications Commission's decision to allow schools and libraries to lend Wi-Fi hotspots was not a radical idea; it was a responsible idea. It recognized that in the 21st century, a student's ability to succeed should not depend on whether their parents can afford a broadband subscription. It helped ensure that millions of students that relied upon the Emergency Connectivity Fund during the pandemic wouldn't suddenly lose access to crucial connectivity at home.

In other words, the Federal Communications Commission learned from what happened during the pandemic, learned from what happened when I was able to move over the \$7 billion for these Wi-Fi hotspots to help kids at home get it, and they said: Well, do you know what we should do? We should just make sure that no student is left offline. We will make it a permanent program. And they passed that regulation.

You don't have to take my word for this. In study after study, it has been shown that students without access to broadband internet at home performed worse than their better educated, better connected classmates. It is not that these kids are smarter in the suburbs than the kids in the inner city. Those kids are just as smart. But you can't allow an education gap because the kids who have access are going to get a better education because they have ac-

cess to the technology by which young people in our Nation get their education in the 21st century. So you have to make sure everyone gets access to it; otherwise, without access to broadband internet at home, those kids are going to perform worse than their better connected classmates. It is not that their intelligence is less than the kids in the suburbs. It is not that they wouldn't study as hard. They would. It is just that they don't have access.

The Department of Education's National Assessment of Educational Progress, for example, has repeatedly shown that high-performing students had much better access to the internet at home. I don't think you have to be Horace Mann—the founder of the public school system in the United States—to think that that makes sense. Of course it does.

In 2023, a study of Michigan students found that a student without access to home internet earned significantly lower grades—actually, 0.6 lower on the 4.0 scale—than their connected classmates. Not because they weren't as intelligent. Not because they wouldn't have learned equally well on their device. But you need the device. You need access. You need a Wi-Fi hotspot. You need internet at home. You need something that is going to help you to compete.

By the way, we have another word for those kids. We call them the future of the 21st century in the United States of America. Kids that are 20 percent of our population, they are 100 percent of our future. We are living in a digital world, and it is a portable skill set that every child should be able to take to anywhere they want to go in the world for the rest of their lives. It will be a skill set that employs them, educates them, makes them better citizens. But you can't reach that stage if you are denying it to them when they are 6 years old, 8 years old, 10 years old, 12 years old, and expect them to be able to compete with the kids that come from wealthier families. That is what this vote is all about. It is all about that one issue.

When I was a boy, I had my books. I could take them home. My father drove a truck for the Hood Milk company. I would take my books home. The school superintendent's kids would bring their books home. I could compete against them. Books are equal. That is not the world we live in anymore. If you don't have the internet at home, the other kids essentially have their books in their knapsack. It is called their iPad. They have their home computer. They have access.

I am only here because it was books and I could compete against any kid in Malden, MA, in a blue-collar community. That is why I am a Senator. I had never even been to Washington before I got elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. That was my first visit to Washington. I am 29, 30 years old, but I have been competing because you give me the books you give the kid

whose father is the school superintendent, and I will compete against him.

As a matter of fact, I actually sit here at the desk which Jimmy Stewart—"Mr. Smith Goes to Washington"—had in the movie "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington." He had never been to Washington. I had never been to Washington.

But it didn't mean you couldn't do a good job if you had access to the same tools that young people had in the best school systems in America. That is what this debate is all about. It is about ensuring that every child has access to the internet through a Wi-Fi hotspot if they need it.

If the school, the library, says we have got to help them at home, they don't have it—because that kid will fall behind the kids who have it. And it won't have anything to do with their ability, won't have anything to do with their desire to be a full participant in this great American experiment.

A study using Census Bureau data estimated that individuals with greater access to the computer and internet at home spent 28 percent more hours learning than those kids without that access. I mean, do we really need a study of this? Of course not. We know that is the truth.

So as this evidence on home connectivity piles up, there is no debate: Students without access to internet at home are seriously disadvantaged compared to their classmates, plain and simple.

I identified with this because my father was a truck driver. We didn't have trips to the Himalayas. We didn't have some kind of summer school at universities to help out my brothers and me when we were 15, 16, or 17. But we didn't feel deprived because we had the same books as the kids in the suburbs, in the private schools. We had the same books; and I am going to study as hard as I can.

Today, that is not possible. If you don't have a Wi-Fi hotspot, you can't do it. If you don't have internet at home, you can't do it. You might want to do it, but you can't do it. And by the way, they know they don't have it. They can see the kids on the other side of town who have it. They know it. They are 9; they are 10; they are 11; they are 12. They know it. That is what this program is all about. It is just to say: You have got it; you have got it at home. Go to it. Be whoever you can be.

These Republicans, they are going to vote this program out of existence. This is the great equalizer. This is the access to opportunity. This is democratization of access to opportunity through education, which is supposed to be the foundation of our country.

You know, when I grew up, I would look at Abe Lincoln and his story. I would look at the movies about Abe Lincoln. He would be reading books by candlelight in his house on the prairie. That is all you needed, was the light, because the book was there. You could do it.

Well, without a Wi-Fi hotspot, there is nothing to read. Your device is not working. You are denying that ambitious, hard-working, imaginative, creative young person—by the way, disproportionately Black and Brown in our Nation—from having the same opportunities that we have provided for 250 years since the dawn of our country.

So we are putting these young people at a serious disadvantage compared to their classmates. So now my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, they want to just take that tool away. They want to rip the hotspots out of students' hands. Why? Let's just listen to a few of their arguments.

First, the Congressional Review Act supporters say: The hotspots rule is illegal.

This is simply untrue. It is not illegal.

In section 254 of the Communications Act, Congress provided the FCC with flexibility to adapt the E-Rate program for changing times and educational conditions. How do I know? I am the author of that provision. So when people tell me it is illegal, it is not illegal. I wrote the provision which says the Federal Communications Commission can do this for the children of our Nation.

Second, the Congressional Review Act supporters argue that the hotspots rule endangers students by allowing them to access inappropriate content, including on social media.

False. That is also not true. Under the Children's Internet Protection Act, schools and libraries receiving E-Rate dollars must ensure that hotspots block or filter images that are obscene or harmful to minors.

By the way, with all the crocodile tears coming down from my colleagues on the other side about their concern for children, I have had a children's online privacy protection act pending here in the Senate for years that gives total privacy protection to children under the age of 17 in our Nation, and we can't get it passed.

Why can't we get it passed? Because too many Republicans are concerned about what the big social media companies might say to them.

Well, where is their concern, then, for the poor child being exposed? Not there. They should be more concerned about what Meta is doing to them, what Google is doing to them, what those big companies are doing—because, under the law, it can't happen under the E-Rate dollars. It can't happen. It is illegal. We need another law to pass that makes it illegal to let the big social media companies in our country do the same thing.

If my colleagues are really so concerned about children's online privacy and safety, I urge them to support my legislation—if they care about it—because that would block it.

Third, they say that the program is wasteful.

That is false. Again, the hotspots rule limits the amount of money that

can be requested by an E-Rate applicant and prohibits the duplication of the funding. It is all written into the law.

Let me be clear: This repeal will not save the taxpayer a dime. What does the resolution really do? It doesn't make our schools stronger. It doesn't make our libraries better. It doesn't improve student outcomes. It doesn't lower your taxes. It doesn't save the government money. All it does is strip away a lifeline for the children in our Nation who need it the most, that they can take it home with them, that they can study at home. That is it.

So this E-Rate expansion didn't just connect students; it connected futures. It helped make good on the promise that every child, regardless of their income, their race, their geography deserves a fair shot at learning, and that promise is worth defending. It is worth defending.

Education is a great equalizer. It is the foundation of our democracy, the engine of our economy, and the heartbeat of our shared American dream that any child, regardless of where they come from, regardless of who their mother and father is, can dream the great dreams. But we have to give them access to the tools they need in order to maximize all of their God-given abilities.

In today's world, to be cut off from the digital world is to be cut off from education. And that means that broadband is not a luxury; it is a necessity. It is an essential tool as much as a textbook or schoolbus or a lunch program. This is not a partisan issue. It is not a liberal issue. It is not a conservative issue. It is a children's issue. It is an American issue. It is who we should be. It is a fairness issue.

I urge my colleagues to not vote to deepen inequality. Instead, vote to affirm our values. Vote to defend every child's right to learn, to thrive, to reach for the stars. Let's reject this resolution and recommit ourselves to closing the homework gap so that all children have equal access to learning.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 1668

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I understand that there is a bill at the desk from Senator MERKLEY, and I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title.

A bill (S. 1668), a bill to amend Chapter 131 title 5, United States Code, to prohibit the President, Vice President, Members of Congress, and individuals appointed to Senate-confirmed positions from issuing, sponsoring, endorsing certain financial instruments, and for other purposes.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I now ask for a second reading, and in order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bill will receive its second reading on the next legislative day.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, MAY 8,
2025

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on Thursday, May 8; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, morning business be closed, and the Senate resume Calendar No. 24, S.J. Res. 7, and at 11:15 a.m., the joint resolution be read a third time, and the Senate vote on passage of the joint res-

olution; further, that following disposition of the joint resolution, the Senate resume consideration of Calendar No. 65, H.J. Res. 60, the joint resolution be read a third time, and the Senate vote on passage of the joint resolution; finally, that upon disposition of Calendar No. 65, H.J. Res. 60, the Senate resume consideration of the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 66, S. 1582, the GENIUS Act, and at 1:45 p.m., the Senate vote on cloture on the motion to proceed.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M.
TOMORROW

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come be-

fore the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:57 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, May 8, 2025, at 10 a.m.

WITHDRAWAL

Executive Message transmitted by the President to the Senate on May 7, 2025 withdrawing from further Senate consideration the following nomination:

JANETTE NESHEIWAT, OF NEW YORK, TO BE MEDICAL DIRECTOR IN THE REGULAR CORPS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE, SUBJECT TO QUALIFICATIONS THEREFOR AS PROVIDED BY LAW AND REGULATIONS, AND TO BE SURGEON GENERAL OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE FOR A TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE VIVEK HALLEGGERE MURTHY, RESIGNED, WHICH WAS SENT TO THE SENATE ON JANUARY 20, 2025.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING CHOBANI'S MILITARY APPRECIATION EFFORTS

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2025

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Military Appreciation Month. Throughout the month of May, Americans nationwide acknowledge and honor the dedication of the brave men and women who have served this Nation.

Idaho is home to over 115,000 veterans and 8,700 service members. I am deeply grateful for the heroes who protect our freedom and am proud to support our military families and veterans in our great state.

Military Appreciation Month can be honored in various ways, such as through parades, tributes, flying the American flag, or simply expressing gratitude to veterans for their sacrifices. Regardless of how Americans choose to observe this important month, we stand united in our deep appreciation for our servicemembers, veterans, and their families for their sacrifices.

Chobani, an American food company that has its main manufacturing facility in Twin Falls, Idaho, is honoring our military servicemembers through facilitating connections between Blue Star Families, Mountain Home Airforce Base, and Chobani military employees.

The collaborative efforts among these groups have strengthened military families, created new relationships, and better supported those who serve us.

Throughout the years, Chobani has done incredible work to support families in the Magic Valley and throughout our country. This month, Chobani has taken the initiative to empower military families in Idaho and nationwide, an effort that shows pride and support for our Nation.

America would not be what it is today without those who risked their lives for the greater good. Our service members and their families have sacrificed so much for our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, as we take time this month to recognize those who have served and continue to serve this great country, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Chobani's military appreciation efforts. God bless our Armed Forces.

RECOGNIZING JAMES SHERIDAN

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2025

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding contributions that James "Jay" Sheridan has made through his work with the Greater Tampa Bay Area Council of Scouting America. Jay Sheridan is cur-

rently a Scoutmaster of Troop 148 and the outdoor program Chair for the Greater Tampa Bay Area Council. He volunteers for scouts at least 40 weekends a year. During those weekends, he could be leading his troop camping, helping with a training event, running a target range, cooking in the kitchen or helping with camp maintenance. He oversees all of the outdoor program committees such as camping, target sports and climbing. Jay is responsible for reestablishing the resident camp program for the council which includes driving out to camp on Christmas Day with his family to prepare for winter camp. Jay is a steadfast proponent for getting youth outdoors. He was part of the council COVID response committee which helped keep youth Scouting during the pandemic and is currently chairing the committee for the whole-council camporee this coming year.

It is clear James Sheridan has made a profoundly positive impact on our community, and I am grateful for his service. May we all strive to serve our communities with the same dedication and humility.

CELEBRATING NATIONAL SPACE DAY 2025

HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2025

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in celebration of National Space Day, a moment to honor the extraordinary contributions of the aerospace community to our Nation and the world. Designating May 2, 2025, as National Space Day gives us the opportunity to reflect on the achievements of the past, recognize the advancements of today, and inspire the possibilities of tomorrow.

Our Nation has long led the way in space exploration. From the Apollo missions that landed the first humans on the Moon to today's Artemis program, which will take us back to the Moon and beyond, the United States has shown what's possible when bold ideas meet determination. These milestones remind us of the pioneering spirit that defines America. Today, we see that same spirit driving innovation in every corner of the space sector.

NASA's groundbreaking missions, the Space Force's contributions to national security, and the work of private companies and universities are redefining what we can achieve in space. The work being done by numerous companies in my district, such as Intuitive Machines, continues to set new milestones and push the boundaries of ingenuity, technology, and inspire the next generation.

However, space exploration doesn't just inspire; it delivers real benefits to our daily lives. Our Nation's farmers utilize technologies like GPS, weather satellites, and the internet, which have allowed our producers to increase efficiencies and productivity in their operations.

Beyond that, the aerospace industry supports thousands of jobs in Texas, contributing greatly to our state economy and strengthening our Nation's competitiveness.

Perhaps most importantly, National Space Day reminds us to invest in the next generation. By prioritizing STEM education, we ensure that young people across Texas' Thirty-Sixth Congressional District and the country have the tools they need to dream big and meet the challenges of tomorrow head-on. The programs and work done at the Johnson Space Center are lighting the way for future scientists, engineers, and astronauts.

On this National Space Day, I encourage all Americans to reflect on how space exploration shapes our lives and futures. I'm proud of my district's contributions to this great endeavor, and I look forward to seeing what we can achieve together in the years ahead.

HONORING THE GREATER BUCKLEY REGION AS A GREAT AMERICAN DEFENSE COMMUNITY

HON. JASON CROW

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2025

Mr. CROW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Greater Buckley Region in my district, which was recently recognized as a 2025 Great American Defense Community by the Association of Defense Communities.

The Great American Defense Communities program recognizes and celebrates communities and regions that support military installations that demonstrate an exceptional commitment to improving quality of life for military families, veterans, and service members—while fostering collaboration across the defense ecosystem.

I am proud of our community—anchored by Buckley Space Force Base and also home to the Colorado National Guard's Joint Force Headquarters—for its unwavering dedication to advancing quality-of-life initiatives. As an Army Ranger veteran, I understand that morale and readiness depend on more than infrastructure—we must create environments where military families can thrive. The Greater Buckley Region has led in areas such as housing, health care, employment, and education.

This recognition also reflects the strength of local partnerships, including the Aurora Chamber of Commerce's Buckley Regional Military Affairs Council, which plays a vital role in bridging military and civilian communities, advocating for service members, and fostering enduring support networks.

The Greater Buckley Region shows us what's possible when communities unite around those who serve. I congratulate them on this well-deserved honor and look forward to their continued leadership as a model for defense communities nationwide.

• 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.

RECOGNIZING JASON CHASE

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2025

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding contributions that Mr. Jason Chase has made to our community in the aftermath of Hurricane Milton. In addition to providing countless hours of direct support to neighbors and flood victims, he helped coordinate the collection and distribution of emergency supplies, meals and donated services to help those who needed help. A truly selfless leader, Mr. Chase was a strong advocate for bringing in government and non-profit resources to aid in the recovery process.

It is clear that Jason Chase has made a profoundly positive impact on our community, and I am grateful for his service. May we all strive to serve our communities with the same dedication and humility.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT
OF FRANK CASKEY**HON. BARRY MOORE**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2025

Mr. MOORE of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize the outstanding contributions, hard work, and legacy of Mr. Frank Caskey. His dedicated service to the Alabama Legislature over several decades has made a lasting impact on the lives of many Alabamians.

Mr. Caskey has dedicated many years of his life to serving the Alabama Legislature and its citizens. Beginning his career in 1970 as a clerk for Senator James B. Allen, Frank's commitment to public service continued through his education at Auburn University and his work as a legislative aide. He joined the Alabama Legislative Reference Service in 1974 and served there until 1979 before pursuing a successful legal career. In 1992, he returned to the Legislative Reference Service, bringing with him a wealth of legal knowledge and expertise, making significant contributions to the legislative process.

Throughout his career, Frank's work in areas like local laws, taxation, and environmental law had a lasting impact, and his advice was highly valued by legislators, lobbyists, and fellow attorneys. His exceptional memory and institutional knowledge of the legislature were unmatched, and his dedication to public service earned him great respect. Now retired, Frank's legacy continues, and we wish him happiness and fulfillment as he enjoys his retirement, exploring the Great Smoky Mountains. His contributions to the state will never be forgotten.

I would like to congratulate Mr. Frank Caskey on his well-deserved retirement and thank him for his public service.

CONGRATULATING BILL KEPNER
ON HIS RETIREMENT**HON. LLOYD SMUCKER**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2025

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to honor and congratulate Mr. Bill Kepner on his retirement as CEO of United Disabilities Services.

Bill Kepner has a storied history with United Disabilities Services, a nonprofit that helps disabled individuals, veterans, and seniors live more independent and fulfilling lives. He first served as a board member and board president for ten years in two separate stints and joined the organization as their Chief Operating Officer in 2008. Following the departure of Gerry Meck, Bill became CEO in 2010 and has marked his tenure as a vocal advocate for people with disabilities.

Before his position with UDS, Bill was the Chief Operating Officer for the Inglis Foundation, a Philadelphia housing and community services organization for disabled individuals, and he was Regional Vice President for Apria Healthcare and CEO for the Kairos Foundation. Additionally, he served as president of the Pennsylvania Providers Coalition Association and developed Non-Profit Management Solutions, a nonprofit LLC that assists other nonprofits with management services.

As he settles into his new role as Senior Consultant, I thank Bill Kepner for his invaluable and selfless work at United Disabilities Services. UDS has transformed the lives of people with disabilities across Pennsylvania's 11th Congressional District and beyond, and I am proud to represent both their CEO and their foundation in Congress.

RECOGNIZING JEANNE WHITE

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2025

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding contributions that Jeanne White has made through her work with K-9 Partners for Patriots. After retiring from a successful career, Jeanne completed a two-year apprentice trainer program. She currently serves as Director of K9 Acquisition and a Certified Dog Trainer with more than 20 years' experience at K-9 Partners for Patriots. Jeanne's dedication to matching Veterans with the perfect rescue dog goes far beyond expectations. She has an encyclopedic understanding of dogs and their behaviors and serves multiple roles from training to K9 evaluations and acquisitions. She is also the liaison with Rescues; Animal Societies; and Animal Control agencies throughout the greater Tampa Bay metro area. Jeanne places dogs into temporary care at foster homes and follows them all the way through until she is able to schedule a meet-and-greet with a Veteran she feels would be the right match for the dog. Once a match is made and the dog goes home with their Veteran, Jeanne remains a constant source of support—always just a phone call away—even during late nights and weekends. She never lets anyone feel alone or without help.

It is clear Jeanne White has made a profoundly positive impact on our community, and I am grateful for her service. May we all strive to serve our communities with the same dedication and humility.

HONORING LIEUTENANT COLONEL
TIMOTHY G. VOWELL**HON. CHARLES J. "CHUCK"
FLEISCHMANN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2025

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Timothy G. Vowell, who has dedicated 30 years of exemplary service to our Nation through his career in the United States Air Force (USAF), as well as his subsequent contributions to education and the federal government. His outstanding service and unwavering commitment to the values of leadership, integrity, and duty are a testament to his character and devotion to our country.

After joining the Air Force, Colonel Vowell served with distinction in a variety of roles, ultimately retiring as a highly respected officer. Following his distinguished military service, Mr. Vowell continued to serve his community as an Air Force Junior ROTC (AFJROTC) instructor at Clinton High School. His impact as an educator was profound, shaping the lives of countless young cadets and imparting the values of discipline, respect, and leadership that will carry them throughout their lives.

Additionally, Colonel Vowell served as the Faculty Advisor for the Academy of Military Science, further extending his reach in mentoring future leaders of our Nation. His dedication to the academic and moral development of young minds is a model of public service that goes beyond military duties, inspiring students to pursue excellence in both their academic and personal lives.

In his role within the Department of Defense (DoD), Colonel Vowell provided invaluable support for national aerospace leadership, helping to advance strategic initiatives that continue to safeguard our national interests. His expertise and guidance played a significant role in shaping policy and providing support to the United States Congress on aerospace and defense matters.

Furthermore, Colonel Vowell's tireless efforts led to the development and implementation of the Inspector General Complaints Resolution Program within the federal government. His leadership in this important initiative improved the transparency and accountability of federal operations, ensuring that complaints were addressed with the seriousness and efficiency they deserved.

It is with great pride and deep gratitude that I recognize Timothy G. Vowell for his extraordinary service to our Nation. His dedication, leadership, and contributions to both the military and civilian sectors stand as a model of public service. I wish him continued success in his well-deserved retirement and express my sincere appreciation for all he has done in support of our great Nation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOSEPH D. MORELLE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2025

Mr. MORELLE. Mr. Speaker, I regrettably missed Roll Call No. 115 and Roll Call No. 116 on May 5, 2025.

Had I been present for Roll Call No. 115, I would have voted YEA, and had I been present for Roll Call No. 116, I would have voted YEA.

RECOGNIZING JENNA COUSINS

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2025

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding contributions that Jenna Cousins has made through her volunteerism at Gulf Highlands Elementary School. Jenna supports the school in so many ways. She is at every School Advisory Council (SAC) meeting, supports all extra-curricular events, and consistently pitches in whenever needed. The students know her and look forward to seeing her around campus.

It is clear Jenna Cousins has made a profoundly positive impact on our community, and I am grateful for her service. May we all strive to serve our communities with the same dedication and humility.

IN MEMORY OF THE HONORABLE
JUDY THOMAS**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2025

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable educator, dedicated public servant, and longstanding friend, the Honorable Judy Thomas. Sadly, Judy passed from labor to reward on April 19, 2025. A funeral service to celebrate her remarkable life will be held on Thursday, May 8, 2025, at St. Luke Church in Columbus, Georgia.

The genesis of Judy Thomas's life began with her birth to the union of William H. Lt. (Bill) Williams and Alice Williams. She graduated from Jordan Vocational High School in 1964, later earning her bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from the Women's College of Georgia, now Georgia College and State University.

Judy began her teaching career at Bibb Elementary School in Columbus, where she was a fifth and sixth grade teacher. Due to her unwavering commitment to education and the future of young people, she was honored as Columbus Teacher of the Year in 1973. During that same time, she served as President of the Muscogee Association of Educators. On May 9, 2021, Judy was awarded the Jim Buntin Leadership Award for Excellence in Education for the Muscogee Educational Excellence Foundation, which was a special honor for her as this award was named after her close friend and former Muscogee County School Superintendent.

Judy eventually moved to California to continue her educational career, but Columbus was never far from her heart. She returned to her beloved Columbus in 2006 and became actively involved in the successful Mayoral Campaign of Mayor Jim Wetherington, where she served as Chief of Staff from 2006 to 2010. During her time in the Mayor's Office, she was instrumental in passing the 2008 SLOST Referendum, which enabled the hiring of 100 police officers in Columbus—a measure that continues to benefit our community today. Judy left the Mayor's Office in 2010 to launch her campaign for the Columbus City Council.

Elected to the Columbus City Council in 2011, Judy served honorably for four terms representing District Nine (At-Large). She diligently assumed the role of Budget Chair for several Council cycles, always focused on fiscal responsibility while ensuring that the needs of Columbus citizens were met. Her fingerprints and legacy will be evident in Columbus for many years to come. Her voice and vote were critical in efforts to renovate Golden Park, which helped bring the Atlanta Braves Double-A team to our city.

Judy was a truth-teller, always voting her conscience, earning the respect and admiration of those she served.

Throughout her life, Judy exemplified a commitment to service, a trait she inherited from her parents, who were both devoted to their community—her father as the Columbus District Fire Chief and her mother as the first certified medical assistant in the State of Georgia. It has been said that “service is the rent that we pay for the space that we occupy here on this earth.” Judy paid her rent and paid it well, dedicating her time and resources to numerous community organizations, including the National Infantry Museum, the Muscogee Educational Excellence Foundation, Open Door Community Center, St. Luke Church Administrative Board, Girls in the Game, Chattahoochee Council of the Boy Scouts of America, Jordan Vocational High School College and Career Academy Advisory Board, RiverCenter for the Performing Arts, Columbus State University Military Affiliated Student Support Fund, the Rotary Club of Columbus, and the Miracle Riders.

On a personal note, I have had the privilege of knowing Judy for many years. I am incredibly grateful for her support and the fidelity of her friendship. She never told me what she felt I wanted to hear; instead, she always shared what she felt I needed to hear.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join my wife, Vivian, and me, along with the more than 765,000 people of Georgia's Second Congressional District, in honoring the life and legacy of Councilor Judy Thomas. Moreover, we extend our deepest sympathies to Councilor Thomas's family, friends, colleagues, and all those who mourn her loss during this difficult time of bereavement. We pray that they will find consolation and comfort through abiding faith and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks, and months to come.

HONORING TONY LAMONT

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2025

Mr. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in honor of Tony Lamont, a pillar of Indianapolis who has dedicated over 40 years of service to our community.

Tony is a broadcasting legend and proud Hoosier, whose remarkable career has touched the lives of countless individuals across multiple generations. His trailblazing journey began in 1980 at WTLC FM as the morning on-air personality, a role that set him on a trajectory to further success. He went on to become the longest-standing African American game show host with the Hoosier Lottery.

Today, as the host of his own gospel radio show on AM 1310, The Light-Praise Indy, Tony's message continues to resonate, bringing inspiration, hope, and encouragement to Hoosier listeners. Together with his wife, Cathy Holloway Hill, Tony produced the Living by Design TV show, which became the highest-rated program on the WHMB network. Tony was inducted into the 2024 Indiana Broadcasting Hall of Fame for his exceptional contributions to broadcasting.

Tony's commitment to the Indianapolis community extends far beyond media. His work with the Marion County Health Department helped reduce rates of STD's and syphilis in Indianapolis. Through the Tony Lamont Youth Motivational Programs, established in 1985, Tony has helped mentor and train hundreds of thousands of young people, offering them a path from the streets to meaningful opportunities.

Tony Lamont's life is a testament to perseverance, leadership, and service. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Tony Lamont for his lifelong achievements and commitment to the people of Indianapolis and beyond.

RECOGNIZING JERRY PHILLIPS

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2025

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding contributions that Jerry Phillips has made through his volunteerism with the Area Agency on Aging of Pinellas and Pasco Counties. Jerry Phillips began his journey with the SHINE program in 2013 and with his easy manner and tremendous amount of patience he has put Pasco & Pinellas residents at ease about their Medicare options. SHINE, (Serving Health Insurance Needs of Elders) is a statewide, volunteer-based program offering free Medicare and Health insurance education, counseling, and assistance to people with Medicare and their families and caregivers.

Since 2013, Jerry has demonstrated his commitment and dedication to serving seniors through the SHINE Program. Jerry has provided more than 2,000 hours volunteering since 2013. He continues to educate seniors and people with disabilities about Medicare ensuring they have the best possible

healthcare. Since 2013, Jerry has also served as the Pasco County Local Coordinator for SHINE Volunteers within the Area Agency on Aging as well as a Florida Statewide SHINE Trainor. He has traveled around the state for the Florida Department of Elder Affairs educating SHINE Volunteers. Jerry is a true advocate and can be relied on to accept any challenges that arise.

In addition to Volunteering with the SHINE program he is a Lay Pastor in his church and has spent time assisting with Metropolitan Ministries, the Shepard Center in Tarpon Springs, Cares Senior Center, and other non-profit organizations. He also volunteers with the Supervisor of Elections and as an election worker during the voting season. In addition to his volunteer work, his wife Phyllis, who is his high school sweetheart of 50+ years, and his children and grandchildren keep him busy.

It is clear Jerry Phillips has made a profoundly positive impact on our community, and I am grateful for his service. May we all strive to serve our communities with the same dedication and humility.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF COLONEL RICHARD TUCKER

HON. BARRY MOORE

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2025

Mr. MOORE of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize the outstanding contributions, hard work, and legacy of Colonel Richard Tucker. His dedicated service to Alabama and the United States has made a lasting impact on the lives of many.

Colonel Richard Tucker is a graduate of the United States Military Academy in West Point, New York, where he was commissioned in 1998. Mr. Tucker served as Chief of Staff at Ft. Novosel, U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence.

Colonel Tucker has served our Nation throughout a remarkable career spanning multiple continents, commands, and combat zones. He is highly decorated for valor and meritorious service, and his leadership has been instrumental across a wide array of assignments, from commanding aviation units in North Carolina, Central America, and Korea, to shaping strategic initiatives at the U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence. He has been deployed in support of critical operations in Bosnia, Egypt, Iraq, Afghanistan, Kuwait, Haiti, and Central America. A Master Army Aviator and Senior Parachutist, Colonel Tucker holds advanced degrees in psychology, human resources, and strategic studies. His legacy of leadership, dedication, and excellence will leave a lasting impact on Army Aviation and all who have served alongside him.

I would like to congratulate Colonel Richard Tucker on his well-deserved retirement and thank him for his service and dedication to the United States of America.

HONORING THE CAREER ACHIEVEMENTS OF MS. CHRISTINA L. RICHARDS

HON. DON BACON

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2025

Mr. BACON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the exceptional career achievements of Ms. Christina L. Richards, a committed civil servant, decorated veteran, and a constituent of the 2nd Congressional District of our great state of Nebraska. Today she works as Executive Director of the Office of the Inspector General of the United States Strategic Command at Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska. In this role she is responsible for overseeing the Inspector General's staff which includes conducting Inspector General inquiries, analysis, investigations and inspections, as well as providing technical advice for the command.

She previously served in the U.S. Air Force for over 21 years, where her hard work and dedication enabled her to work her way to the top. Ms. Richards started her military service as an Air Force loadmaster where she worked on over twenty campaigns and operations. She then served as adjutant for a KC-135 training squadron and later as Chief of Protocol at Altus Air Force Base in Oklahoma. As she advanced in rank and experience, Ms. Richards was given more authority and responsibility, ultimately becoming a Detachment Commander with the Air Force Office of Special Investigations (AFOSI). In this position she performed critical work in Colorado, California, Hawaii, the Republic of Korea, and Qatar. As an AFOSI Detachment Commander she directed felony-level criminal investigations, counterterrorism operations, protection of the President, and defensive and offensive counterintelligence and counterespionage operations.

After retiring from the Air Force, Ms. Richards continued to serve her country. Among her many positions, she served for more than six years in United States Strategic Command's Missile Defense and Combating Weapons of Mass Destruction Division, where she led the command's Missile Defense Issue Team, several Deputy Secretary of Defense-directed Strategic Portfolio Reviews, the Secretary of Defense Combatant Command Review 1.0 and 2.0 for missile defense matters, and the President of the United States-directed 2019 Missile Defense Review. She co-authored a proposal for transfer of the missile defense mission from USSTRATCOM that was ultimately accepted and included in the 2022 Unified Command Plan.

Ms. Richards' major awards include the Omaha-Lincoln Federal Executive Association Team of the Year and Supervisory Employee of the Year; DoD's Best Force Protection Program Team Award; the FBI Director's Award for Exceptional Service in the Public Trust; and multiple awards of the Meritorious Service Medal; the Air Medal; the Aerial Achievement Medal; the Meritorious Unit Award; the USAF Outstanding Unit Award; the Combat Readiness Medal; and other military medals and decorations.

Ms. Christina Richards' dedication, service, and leadership stands as a testament to the hard work and loyalty of the service men and women of our country and is an inspiration for

future civil servants and members of the United States Armed Forces.

RECOGNIZING JOANNE GILLESPIE

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2025

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding contributions that Joanne Gillespie has made to our community through her volunteerism at NAMI Hernando. Joanne is a retired Exceptional Student Education (ESE) teacher and current Board Secretary of NAMI Hernando since 2017. In these roles, she has been a dedicated champion for mental health education and inclusion. As the mother of an adult son living with schizophrenia, Joanne brings both personal insight and professional experience to everything she does. NAMI is grounded in the power of lived experience, and Joanne embodies that mission wholeheartedly. For eight years, Joanne has taught Family-to-Family classes and led Family Support Groups, offering encouragement and understanding to others walking a similar path. She is also a certified instructor for Mental Health First Aid and Wellness Recovery Action Plan (WRAP), further extending her impact in the community. In addition to her peer support and education roles, Joanne chairs NAMI Hernando's Fundraising Committee and has been an active contributor to the Finance Committee, helping guide sustainable growth for the organization. Her thoughtful insight and nurturing spirit bring clarity and compassion to board decisions, and she has played a key role in streamlining internal communications and administrative processes. Joanne's background as an educator gives her a unique perspective on the emotional and developmental needs of families and youth. She frequently goes above and beyond to offer support, guidance, and hope to those navigating complex mental health systems. Whether advocating for youth mental health, organizing community events, or mentoring families, Joanne is a voice of wisdom, patience, and grace.

It is clear Joanne Gillespie has made a profoundly positive impact on our community, and I am grateful for her service. May we all strive to serve our communities with the same dedication and humility.

HONORING TONY REINHART

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2025

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize a dedicated constituent of Missouri's Sixth Congressional District: Mr. Tony Reinhart. Tony is celebrating his thirtieth year with Ford Motor Company, a remarkable professional milestone. Tony's three decades of devoted service is an exceptional achievement that reflects his deep commitment, expertise, and enduring leadership within one of America's most iconic corporations.

Throughout his tenure, Tony has held various critical roles. He currently serves as Ford

Motor Company's Head of State, Local and Stakeholder Government Affairs. In this vital capacity, he leads a team to navigate the complex systems of state and local governments in order to strengthen the American auto industry.

However, Tony's influence extends well beyond his role with Ford Motor Company. He serves as Vice Chair of the Ford Civic Action Fund, a member of the Executive Committee of the Alliance for Automotive Innovation, and former Chairman of the Autonomous Vehicle Industry Association. These underscore his significant contributions to shaping the automotive landscape and public policy for the industry.

Tony's service extends deep into the community. He has served in many roles in the Sixth Congressional District of Missouri and the Northland of Kansas City, Missouri, as he has worked to make it a better place to live and work. He serves on the Board of Directors for both the Northland Regional Chamber of Commerce and Liberty Economic Development Corporation. He is the President of the Northland CAPS Board of Directors. He is the Chairperson of the Board of Directors for the Kansas City Zoo and sits on the Advisory Council of the North Kansas City Hospital. He is the Past Chair Advisor for the Clay County Economic Development Council. His service and commitment to our community is deep and the impact is tremendous.

As a native of Lexington, Missouri, and a proud graduate of Drury University in Springfield, Missouri, Tony's roots are firmly planted in our state, and we are incredibly proud to count him a Missourian. I am proud to call him a friend.

A strong American auto industry means a strong American economy. We live and breathe that in Missouri. Ford's Kansas City Assembly plant makes the best-selling vehicle in America, creating jobs not only at the plant, but at dealerships, suppliers, and other parts of the community. Tony's work at Ford helps the company invest in local communities and make an impact both in Missouri and across the country.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me and the people of Missouri's Sixth Congressional District in congratulating Tony Reinhart on his incredible professional milestone. I am proud to represent Tony in the United States House of Representatives and wish him continued success in his career.

RECOGNIZING CLAY COUNTY POLICE MEMORIAL DAY AND LAW ENFORCEMENT APPRECIATION WEEK

HON. AARON BEAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2025

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, diamonds are rare and among the most sought-after treasures in the world—but so are police officers. Their courage, dedication, and commitment to protecting communities make them priceless. Unlike diamonds, their shine comes not from the way they reflect light, but from the way they reflect honor, integrity, and sacrifice every single day.

Today, I rise in observance of Clay County Police Memorial Day on Thursday, May 8th, in

Clay County, Florida, and to honor the brave men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty.

Clay County Police Memorial Day is more than a ceremony—it is a solemn tribute, a reminder of their courage, and a commitment to never forget their service.

These officers answered the call to protect and serve, putting their lives on the line every day to ensure the safety of our community. They walked into uncertainty, faced danger without hesitation; and upheld the values of integrity, justice, and duty. Their legacy lives on in the hearts of those they touched.

To the families of our fallen heroes, we offer our deepest gratitude. No words can truly capture the weight of your loss or the sacrifice, but please know that your loved ones will forever be honored and remembered.

Mr. Speaker, let us reaffirm our commitment to those who continue to serve. Let us support and lift up our law enforcement officers, recognizing their dedication and ensuring they have the resources and protection they need.

Mr. Speaker, let us pledge to keep the memory of our fallen officers alive—not just today, but every day. So that just as the legacy of diamonds is everlasting, so will be the legacy of our fallen Clay County police officers.

RECOGNIZING JOHN WAJDOWICZ

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2025

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding contributions that John Wajdowicz has made through his work at The Pasco County Sheriff's Citizen Service Unit (CSU). A truly dedicated public servant, John always carries himself with professionalism and is quick to offer a helping hand to anybody who needs one. John has been volunteering with the Pasco Sheriff's Office since 2021. He usually volunteers at least three days a week, as well as most special events that the CSU is asked to help out with. John is relied upon throughout the year to train new CSU members. During the year 2024, John provided the agency and his community with 1,320.25 volunteer hours. John has been instrumental in updating forms and practices within the CSU. His input has been especially helpful in the creation of an electronic Daily Activity Report, which captures trackable information pertaining to the calls-for-service handled by CSU Volunteers. John is a tremendous asset to the CSU, Pasco Sheriff's Office, and the citizens of Pasco County. His hard work and selflessness is deserving of recognition, although that is not why he volunteers his time to help others. John exemplifies what it means to be a hero.

It is clear John Wajdowicz has made a profoundly positive impact on our community, and I am grateful for his service. May we all strive to serve our communities with the same dedication and humility.

RECOGNIZING WJBC RADIO'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ERIC SORENSEN

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2025

Mr. SORENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a true institution in Central Illinois—WJBC Radio—as it celebrates its 100th anniversary. For a century, WJBC has been the trusted voice of McLean County, keeping families informed, entertained, and connected to the heart of our community.

As an avid listener and frequent guest, I know firsthand the dedication of WJBC's incredible team—past and present—who have made this station a pillar of local journalism. From legendary broadcasters like Don Munson and Steve Vogel to today's voices like Scott Miller, WJBC has been a reliable source of news, sports, and thoughtful discussion.

WJBC continues to cement its legacy as a cornerstone of regional media—but more than that, WJBC has been a constant companion to its listeners, always delivering the stories that matter most. On this historic milestone, I congratulate WJBC on 100 years of excellence and look forward to many more years of trusted reporting and community service.

RECOGNIZING JAMI FRAZIER

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2025

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding contributions that Ms. Jami Frazier has made to our community in the aftermath of Hurricane Milton. In addition to providing countless hours of direct support to neighbors and flood victims, she helped coordinate the collection and distribution of emergency supplies, meals and donated services to help those who needed help. A truly selfless leader, Ms. Frazier was a strong advocate for bringing in government and non-profit resources to aid in the recovery process.

It is clear that Jami Frazier has made a profoundly positive impact on our community, and I am grateful for her service. May we all strive to serve our communities with the same dedication and humility.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LORI TRAHAN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2025

Mrs. TRAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to attend the May 5, 2025 vote series due to a delayed flight into Washington, D.C. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 115; and YEA on Roll Call No. 116.

RECOGNIZING JOAN MOORE

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2025

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding contributions that Joan Moore has made through her work with Gulfside Healthcare Services. Since February 2022, Joan Moore has touched the lives of over 10,000 hospice patients and their families through giving her time, talent, and treasure with Gulfside Hospice. With a servant's heart, Joan quietly, yet passionately finds ways to support one of the most vulnerable groups in her community—the elderly. Joan's journey into volunteering began later in life. At nearly 79 years old, instead of slowing down, she stepped up when she heard Gulfside needed volunteers. In just three years, she has donated more than 3,650 hours of her time to Gulfside Hospice.

Inspired by her mother, a longtime hospice volunteer, Joan has always felt a deep connection to those in hospice care. Facing her own health challenges, including chronic pain and limited mobility, only deepened her empathy. Now retired from a successful career in sales and as a former actress and model, Joan remains driven to stay active and give back.

She began by helping with clerical tasks in Gulfside's Philanthropy department and soon joined the Women for Gulfside group in May 2022. Since then, she has played a key role in fundraising efforts supporting programs that rely entirely on donations, such as care for uninsured patients, family bereavement support, and Pet Peace of Mind®, which helps hospice patients care for their pets. Joan also contributes to Gulfside's four major annual fundraising events, offering hands-on help, in-kind donations, and support wherever it's needed. In 2024, Joan made a generous gift to the Raising Hope for Hospice capital campaign to help build a new in-patient unit in New Port Richey. The soon-to-open Gulfside Center for Hospice Care will provide 24-hour support for patients in their final days, meeting a critical need, thanks in part to donors, like Joan. Now nearly 82, Joan's energy, wit, and compassion continue to inspire everyone she meets. While many her age focus on slowing down, Joan stays energized and youthful by serving others. Her mind is always on how to help—then doing exactly that. Joan is truly a Hero Among Us. As she puts it, "I started volunteering to help others but never realized it would help me too. It has given me more joy than I could ever imagine. Volunteering for hospice saved my life, and I hope it does the same for others too."

It is clear Joan Moore has made a profoundly positive impact on our community, and I am grateful for her service. May we all strive to serve our communities with the same dedication and humility.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF MILTON HUDSON

HON. BARRY MOORE

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2025

Mr. MOORE of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize the outstanding contributions, hard work, and legacy of Mr. Milton Hudson. His dedicated service as a World War II Navy Veteran has made a lasting impact on our country.

Mr. Hudson's time in the Navy has shown his bravery, dedication, and deep love for his country. Throughout Mr. Hudson's military service, he has had the honor of receiving the Asiatic-Pacific Ribbon, a Commendation by Captain Strauss of the U.S. Navy, an American Campaign Ribbon, and a Victory Medal.

I would like to wish Mr. Milton Hudson a Happy 98th Birthday and thank him for his great service to our country.

ROSE-HELENE SPREIREGEN

HON. BRADLEY SCOTT SCHNEIDER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2025

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD remarks from Rose-Helene Spreiregen, a Holocaust survivor.

Never, as a young Jewish girl hiding in France during World War II, could I have possibly dreamed of standing where I am now. Never could I have imagined addressing democratically elected representatives, in a country where people can live freely, a country that I love.

My name is Rose-Helene Spreiregen. I was born in Paris in 1931 into a family that fled Poland in the late 1920s because of anti-Semitism. Little could they imagine what was to happen a decade later.

Germany invaded Western Europe in May 1940. France fell a month after, and Nazi occupation began immediately. Jews were ordered to register with the police, who became close collaborators with the occupiers. Anti-Jewish laws and acts of discrimination quickly followed. Jews could not go to restaurants, to movie theaters, not even parks. They could not own radios or telephones. They could not be out after 6:00 p.m. It got only worse.

In 1942, every Jewish person over six years old was issued three yellow Stars of David inscribed with the word "JUIF" (Jew in French). It had to be sewn on an outer garment. Jews could shop only one hour a day at a time when stores were mostly sold out of goods. On the Metro subway, they were restricted to the last car. They could not travel more than 17 miles from Paris.

I stopped going to school in July 1942 because Jewish children were pulled from their classrooms by collaborating police and deported with their families to Nazi concentration camps.

More than 13,000 Jews were arrested that same month, most were sent to their deaths. Luckily, my mother was warned by a sympathetic policeman. Immediately she went into hiding. She then obtained forged identity papers and, with the help of a smuggler, set out to cross the border from Nazi-occupied northern France into French-controlled southern France—so-called Vichy France—but still equally dangerous for Jews. Instead

of helping her cross the border, the smuggler betrayed her, and she was arrested. She was then sent to Drancy, an infamous rail junction and holding town just north of Paris. From there, its prisoners were transported to concentration or death camps.

Grandmother and I stayed hidden in my mother's apartment for a year, never leaving for fear of being arrested or worse. I went out alone to get food. Every day I stood in lines, unable to conceal my Star of David, and because of it, I was cursed as a "dirty Jew." From our window, we saw other families being pulled from their apartments and hauled away in trucks.

In August 1943, grandmother decided we had to flee Paris. We obtained false identity papers with new names and equally false personal information. We departed from Paris on an overnight train that would pass through two border control checkpoints, the first under German control, the second under French. I decided to take charge for us since grandmother spoke with a thick Polish accent—a giveaway. I told her to pretend she was asleep. When the German soldiers came to check our papers, I asked them not to wake her. They complied. At the second checkpoint, controlled by the French, I made the same request. Miraculously it worked. We got through. In all those years of living in near unbearable fear, none had been more terrifying than those border passages. I couldn't stop shaking for hours after.

I was twelve years old.

We found our way to the small and remote mountain town of Voiron in east central France. My aunt and younger cousin had successfully made the same journey to a nearby town. Grandmother and I found a place to stay in what I recall as a warehouse. We had no furniture, but a kind neighbor gave us a mattress, a small cooking stove which helped keep us warm, and other utensils.

I found a job running a small grocery. I was paid meager wages. Grandmother mended clothing and bartered her wine rations for food. We scoured the nearby forest for chestnuts and firewood. My only warm dress, made from a blanket, was destroyed beyond use by mice.

Deliverance finally came with the liberation of Voiron in August 1944 by American soldiers, the "greatest generation," the generation of many of your grandparents. They gave us crackers, chocolate, and, of all things, chewing gum, something I'd never known. But above all, they gave us freedom. Still, I had no knowledge of my mother's fate. I kept hoping she would come back. She never did. Later I learned what happened. At Drancy, she had volunteered to accompany a trainload of children to Auschwitz, 1,000 miles east, a horrific journey of several days and nights. They were packed into freight cars like animals. No water. No food. No sanitation. No windows. No place to sit let alone room to lie down. All this was in the heat of August. Upon arrival, all who survived the journey were murdered in gas chambers. Such was my mother's fate.

She was thirty-one years old.

It is always difficult for me to tell my story. But I am compelled to tell it because of the global surge in antisemitism, including here in the United States. While it is reassuring that our government—in your hands—is addressing it at the highest levels, it is troubling that it has to be addressed at all. It doesn't take much history to teach us that what starts with hatred of the Jewish people does not end there.

What are the conditions that nurture antisemitism? Ignorance. Intolerance. Indifference. Injustice. That is why Holocaust education is so vital. That is why this country must again lead this fight, as it has done for just causes so often and so nobly in the past.

That is my story.

RECOGNIZING JORDAN FRENCH

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2025

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding contributions that Jordan French has made through his work with the Pasco County Human Services Team. The Pasco County Human Services Team has proven itself to be a cornerstone of resilience, innovation, and unwavering commitment to the community. Amidst the devastating impacts of Hurricanes Helene and Milton, they emerged as an indispensable force, transforming challenges into triumphs and ensuring no resident was left behind. The team managed and helped coordinate efforts for shelters that housed 485 residents. When Hurricane Milton struck shortly thereafter, the team rose to even greater heights, coordinating shelters for 5,800 individuals and 1,315 animals—an extraordinary feat of operational precision and compassion. Despite personal hardships, including one case manager losing her home while another lost her rental property, the team prioritized the welfare of the community, working tirelessly to ensure safety and stability for all. Post-storm, the team was responsible for helping shelter residents whose homes were no longer safe, find appropriate alternatives for housing. Their dedication shone through in rapid response efforts. In the days immediately following Hurricane Helene, 49 residents received critical assessments and essential resources. After Hurricane Milton, they worked with 225 displaced individuals who remained in shelters, demonstrating their unparalleled ability to adapt and respond under pressure. The team leveraged the Human Services Needs app to streamline disaster case management, supporting 1,351 residents. Their follow-up system, in partnership with other agencies, ensured personalized service for every individual. This innovative approach epitomized their ability to harness technology and partnerships for meaningful impact. Beyond immediate relief, the team worked with individuals and families who would require long-term recovery efforts. For approximately 150 permanently displaced residents, they implemented a housing eligibility process, with the intent of ensuring fair and transparent allocation of resources. By securing placements at facilities like Pasco Hope, the team supported individuals and families along a pathway to rebuild their lives. Between September 28 and October 18, 2024, the team managed an overwhelming volume of calls—1,194 through their direct line and another 1,214 through work phones. Yet every call was met with care, professionalism, and actionable solutions, reflecting the team's deep commitment to being a lifeline for the community. The Pasco County Human Services Team exemplifies what it means to serve with excellence, compassion, and innovation. Their remarkable achievements during Hurricanes Helene and Milton, coupled with their dedication to long-term recovery and cutting-edge approaches to disaster management, have left an indelible mark on Pasco County. For their tireless service, extraordinary impact,

and embodiment of resilience, the Pasco County Human Services Team is a truly deserving nominee for the Heros Among Us Award.

It is clear Jordan French has made a profoundly positive impact on our community, and I am grateful for his service. May we all strive to serve our communities with the same dedication and humility.

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 Thursday, May 8, 2025 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MAY 12

3:30 p.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Strategic Forces
To receive a closed briefing on space superiority.

SVC-217

MAY 13

9:30 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Richard Anderson, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Air Force, Adam Telle, of Mississippi, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Army, and Matthew Napoli, of Virginia, to be Deputy Administrator for Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation, National Nuclear Security Administration.

SD-G50

10 a.m.
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of David Pink, of New Hampshire, to be Administrator of the Federal Railroad Administration, David Fogel, of Connecticut, to be Assistant Secretary and Director General of the United States and Foreign Commercial Service, and Pierre Gentin, of New York, to be General Counsel, both of the Department of Commerce, and Robert Gleason, of Pennsylvania, to be Director of the Amtrak Board of Directors for a term of five years.

SR-253

Committee on Foreign Relations
To hold hearings to examine East Africa and the horn, focusing on a turning point or breaking point.

SD-419

10:15 a.m.

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine competition issues in the prescription drug supply chain, focusing on pharmacy benefit manager power play.

SD-226

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Subcommittee on Disaster Management, District of Columbia, and Census

To hold hearings to examine the insurance industry's claims practices following recent natural disasters.

SD-342

3 p.m.

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

To hold hearings to examine perspectives from the field, focusing on conservation.

SR-328A

4:45 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Strategic Forces

To hold hearings to examine Department of Defense missile defense activities in review of the Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2026 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SR-232A

MAY 14

10 a.m.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine FAA reauthorization one year later, focusing on aviation safety, air traffic, and next generation technology.

SR-253

Committee on Finance

To hold hearings to examine trade in critical supply chains.

SD-215

10:30 a.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Department of Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2026 for the Environmental Protection Agency.

SD-124

Committee on Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Sean McMaster, of Virginia, to be Administrator of the Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation, John Busterud, of California, to be Assistant Administrator, Office of Solid Waste, Environmental Protection Agency, and Adam Telle, of Mississippi, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Army, Department of Defense.

SD-562

1:30 p.m.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2026 for the Department of Health and Human Services.

SD-430

2:30 p.m.

Committee on the Judiciary

Subcommittee on Intellectual Property

To hold hearings to examine foreign threats to American innovation and economic leadership.

SD-226

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship
To hold hearings to examine financing America’s manufacturing and industrial boom.
SR-428A
3 p.m.
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Legislative Branch
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2026 for the Senate Sergeant at Arms and United States Capitol Police.
SD-192

3:30 p.m.
Committee on Indian Affairs
To hold oversight hearings to examine delivering essential public health and social services to Native Americans, focusing on Federal programs serving Native Americans across the operating divisions at the Department of Health and Human Services.
SD-628
Special Committee on Aging
To hold hearings to examine preparing for disasters, focusing on unique challenges facing older Americans.
SD-106

MAY 15
10 a.m.
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Subcommittee on Surface Transportation, Freight, Pipelines, and Safety
To hold hearings to examine pipeline safety reauthorization, focusing on ensuring the safe and efficient movement of American energy.
SR-253

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S2789–S2805

Measures Introduced: Thirty-eight bills and one resolution were introduced, as follows: S. 1632–1669, and S. Res. 207. **Pages S2798–S2800**

Measures Passed:

Bank Merger Act Applications: By 52 yeas to 47 nays (Vote No. 237), Senate passed S.J. Res. 13, 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.

Pages S2789–92, S2793–96

Grand Ole Opry 100th Anniversary: Senate agreed to S. Res. 207, celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Grand Ole Opry. **Page S2793**

Addressing the Homework Gap Through the E-Rate Program, Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, and Genius Act—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that at approximately 10 a.m., on Thursday, May 8, 2025, Senate resume consideration of S.J. Res. 7, providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Federal Communications Commission relating to “Addressing the Homework Gap Through the E-Rate Program”, that at 11:15 a.m., Senate vote on passage of the joint resolution; that following disposition of S.J. Res. 7, Senate resume consideration of H.J. Res. 60, providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the National Park Service relating to “Glen Canyon National Recreation Area: Motor Vehicles”, and Senate vote on passage of the joint resolution; and that upon disposition of H.J. Res. 60, Senate resume consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 1582, to provide for the regulation of payment stablecoins, and at 1:45 p.m., Senate vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill. **Page S2805**

Message from the President: Senate received the following messages from the President of the United States:

Transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the continuation of the national emergency that was originally declared in Executive Order 13667 of May 12, 2014, with respect to the Central African Republic; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs. (PM–24)

Page S2798

Transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the continuation of the national emergency that was originally declared in Executive Order 13338 of May 11, 2004, with respect to the actions of the Government of Syria; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs. (PM–25)

Page S2798

Nomination Withdrawn: Senate received notification of withdrawal of the following nomination:

Janette Nesheiwat, of New York, to be Medical Director in the Regular Corps of the Public Health Service, subject to qualifications therefor as provided by law and regulations, and to be Surgeon General of the Public Health Service for a term of four years, which was sent to the Senate on January 20, 2025.

Page S2805

Measures Read the First Time:

Pages S2798, S2804–05

Petitions and Memorials:

Additional Cosponsors:

Page S2800

Additional Statements:

Pages S2796–98

Record Votes: One record vote was taken today. (Total—237)

Page S2796

Adjournment: Senate convened at 2:30 p.m. and adjourned at 6:57 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Thursday, May 8, 2025. (For Senate’s program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today’s Record on page S2805.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

No committee meetings were held.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 40 public bills, H.R. 3225–3264; and 3 resolutions, H. Res. 395–397, were introduced. **Pages H1908–10**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H1911–12**

Reports Filed: There were no reports filed today.

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Williams (TX) to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H1883**

Recess: The House recessed at 10:59 a.m. and reconvened at 12 p.m. **Page H1889**

Recess: The House recessed at 12:15 p.m. and reconvened at 2:03 p.m. **Pages H1890–91**

Recess: The House recessed at 2:28 p.m. and reconvened at 5 p.m. **Page H1894**

Suspension—Proceedings Resumed: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measure. Consideration began Monday, May 5th.

Stop Forced Organ Harvesting Act of 2025: H.R. 1503, to combat forced organ harvesting and trafficking in persons for purposes of the removal of organs, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yeas-and-nays vote of 406 yeas to 1 nay, Roll No. 119. **Pages H1894–95**

DHS Restrictions on Confucius Institutes and Chinese Entities of Concern Act: The House passed H.R. 881, to establish Department of Homeland Security funding restrictions on institutions of higher education that have a relationship with Confucius Institutes, by a yeas-and-nays vote of 266 yeas to 153 nays, Roll No. 120. **Pages H1891–94, H1895–96**

Pursuant to the Rule, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 119–2 shall be considered as adopted, in lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Homeland Security now printed in the bill.

Page H1891

H. Res. 377, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 276) and (H.R. 881) was agreed to yesterday, May 6th.

Meeting Hour: Agreed by unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 9 a.m. tomorrow, May 8th. **Page H1896**

Presidential Messages: Received a message from the President transmitting a notification stating that the national emergency with respect to the Central African Republic declared in Executive Order 13667 of May 12, 2014, is to continue in effect beyond May 12, 2025—referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed (H. Doc. 119–48). **Page H1900**

Received a message from the President transmitting a notification stating that the national emergency with respect to the actions of the Government of Syria declared in Executive Order 13338 of May 11, 2004—as modified in scope and relied upon for additional steps taken in Executive Order 13399 of April 25, 2006, Executive Order 13460 of February 13, 2008, Executive Order 13572 of April 29, 2011, Executive Order 13573 of May 18, 2011, Executive Order 13582 of August 17, 2011, Executive Order 13606 of April 22, 2012, and Executive Order 13608 of May 1, 2012 is to continue in effect beyond May 11, 2025—referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed (H. Doc. 119–49). **Pages H1900–01**

Senate Referrals: S. Con. Res. 12 was held at the desk. **Page H1890**

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appears on page H1890.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Two yeas-and-nays votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H1894–95 and H1895.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Committee Meetings

APPROPRIATIONS—DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies held a budget hearing on the Department of Agriculture. Testimony was heard from Brooke Rollins, Secretary, Department of Agriculture.

APPROPRIATIONS—U.S. ARMY

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Defense held an oversight hearing on the U.S. Army. Testimony was heard from Daniel Driscoll, Secretary, Department of the Army; and General Randy George, Chief of Staff, U.S. Army.

APPROPRIATIONS—DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies held a budget hearing on the Department of Energy. Testimony was heard from Chris Wright, Secretary, Department of Energy.

APPROPRIATIONS—FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies held a budget hearing on the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Testimony was heard from Kash Patel, Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Department of Justice.

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Homeland Security held an oversight hearing on the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Testimony was heard from Cam Hamilton, Acting Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency.

NUCLEAR FORCES AND ATOMIC ENERGY DEFENSE ACTIVITIES PROGRAMMATIC UPDATES

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Strategic Forces held a hearing entitled “Nuclear Forces and Atomic Energy Defense Activities Programmatic Updates”. Testimony was heard from Teresa Robbins, Acting Administrator, National Nuclear Security Administration, Department of Energy; Brandi C. Vann, Performing the Duties of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Nuclear, Chemical, and Biological Defense Programs, Department of Defense; Andrea Yaffe, Performing the Duties of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Space Policy, Department of

Defense; Lieutenant General Andrew J. Gebara, U.S. Air Force, Deputy Chief of Staff, Strategic Deterrence and Nuclear Integration; and Vice Admiral Johnny Wolfe, U.S. Navy, Director, Strategic Systems Programs.

UPDATE ON AIR FORCE PROJECTION FORCES AVIATION PROGRAMS AND CAPABILITIES

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Seapower and Projection Forces held a hearing entitled “Update on Air Force Projection Forces Aviation Programs and Capabilities”. Testimony was heard from Lieutenant General David H. Tabor, Deputy Chief of Staff for Plans and Programs, U.S. Air Force; and Darlene J. Costello, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics, Department of the Air Force.

THE FISCAL STATE OF THE NATION

Committee on the Budget: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “The Fiscal State of the Nation”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

BEYOND THE IVY LEAGUE: STOPPING THE SPREAD OF ANTISEMITISM ON AMERICAN CAMPUSES

Committee on Education and Workforce: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Beyond the Ivy League: Stopping the Spread of Antisemitism on American Campuses”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

THE ANNUAL TESTIMONY OF THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY ON THE STATE OF THE INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL SYSTEM

Committee on Financial Services: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “The Annual Testimony of the Secretary of the Treasury on the State of the International Financial System”. Testimony was heard from Scott Bessent, Secretary, Department of the Treasury.

PROTECTING OUR EDGE: TRADE SECRETS AND THE GLOBAL ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE ARMS RACE

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property, Artificial Intelligence, and the Internet held a hearing entitled “Protecting Our Edge: Trade Secrets and the Global AI Arms Race”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

CRIMINALIZING AMERICA: THE GROWTH OF FEDERAL OFFENSES AND REGULATORY OVERREACH

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Crime and Federal Government Surveillance held a hearing entitled “Criminalizing America: The Growth of Federal Offenses and Regulatory Overreach”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

EXAMINING THE GROWTH OF THE WELFARE STATE, PART II

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform: Subcommittee on Health Care and Financial Services held a hearing entitled “Examining the Growth of the Welfare State, Part II”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

UNFAIR PLAY: KEEPING MEN OUT OF WOMEN’S SPORTS

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform: Subcommittee on Delivering on Government Efficiency held a hearing entitled “Unfair Play: Keeping Men Out of Women’s Sports”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

FROM POLICY TO PROGRESS: HOW THE NATIONAL QUANTUM INITIATIVE SHAPES U.S. QUANTUM TECHNOLOGY LEADERSHIP

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “From Policy to Progress: How the National Quantum Initiative Shapes U.S. Quantum Technology Leadership”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

CLEANING UP THE PAST, BUILDING THE FUTURE: THE BROWNFIELDS PROGRAM

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment held a hearing entitled “Cleaning Up the Past, Building the Future: The Brownfields Program”. Testimony was heard from Lisa Shook, Assistant Chief, Division of Environmental Response and Remediation, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency; Lance Larson, Analyst in Environmental Policy, Resources, Science, and Industry Division, Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress; and public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs: On May 6, 2025, Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 217, the “CHIP IN for Veterans Act”; H.R. 1969, the “No Wrong Door for Veterans Act”; H.R. 1823, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Comptroller General of the United States to report on certain funding shortfalls in the Department of Veterans Affairs; H.R. 1336, the “Veterans National Traumatic

Brain Injury Treatment Act”; H.R. 980, the “Modernizing the Veterans On-Campus Experience Act of 2025”; H.R. 1364, the “ASSIST Act of 2025”; H.R.1458, the “VETS Opportunity Act of 2025”; H.R. 1815, the “VA Home Loan Program Reform Act”; H.R. 647, the “Ensuring Veterans’ Final Resting Place Act of 2025”; H.R. 1286, the “Simplifying Forms for Veterans Claims Act”; H.R. 1041, the “Veterans 2nd Amendment Protection Act”; H.R. 1860, the “Women Veterans Cancer Care Coordination Act”; H.R. 1578, the “Veterans Claim Education Act of 2025”; H.R. 2201, the “Improving VA Training for Military Sexual Trauma Claims Act”; H.R. 3132, the “CHOICE for Veterans Act of 2025”; H.R. 1107, the “Protecting Veteran Access to Telemedicine Services Act”; H.R. 2625, the “VERY Act of 2025”; and H.R. 658, to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish qualifications for the appointment of a person as a marriage and family therapist, qualified to provide clinical supervision, in the Veterans Health Administration. H.R. 217, H.R. 1969, H.R. 1823, H.R. 1336, H.R. 980, H.R. 1364, H.R.1458, H.R. 1815, H.R. 647, H.R. 1286, H.R. 1041, H.R. 1860 H.R. 1578, and H.R. 2201 were ordered reported, as amended. H.R. 3132, H.R. 1107, H.R. 2625, and H.R. 658 were ordered reported, without amendment.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THURSDAY, MAY 8, 2025

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2026 for the Federal Bureau of Investigation, 9 a.m., SD–138.

Subcommittee on Department of Homeland Security, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2026 for the Department of Homeland Security, 10 a.m., SD–124.

Committee on Armed Services: to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Michael Obadal, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of the Army, and Sean O’Keefe, of Virginia, to be a Deputy Under Secretary, both of the Department of Defense, 9:30 a.m., SD–G50.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: to hold hearings to examine winning the AI race, focusing on strengthening United States capabilities in computing and innovation, 10 a.m., SH–216.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: business meeting to consider the nominations of Andrea

Travnicek, of North Dakota, and Leslie Beyer, of Texas, both to be an Assistant Secretary of the Interior, and Theodore J. Garrish, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary (Nuclear Energy), and Tristan Abbey, of Florida, to be Administrator of the Energy Information Administration, both of the Department of Energy; to be immediately followed by hearings to examine the nominations of William L. Doffermyre, of Texas, to be Solicitor of the Department of the Interior, and Catherine Jereza, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary (Electricity), and Kyle Haustveit, of Oklahoma, to be an Assistant Secretary (Fossil Energy), both of the Department of Energy, 9:30 a.m., SD-366.

Committee on Foreign Relations: business meeting to consider the nomination of Brandon Judd, of Idaho, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Chile; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine the nominations of Caleb Orr, of Texas, to be an Assistant Secretary (Economic and Business Affairs), Kenneth Howery, of Texas, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Denmark, Callista Gingrich, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Swiss Confederation, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador to the Principality of Liechtenstein, Somers Farkas, of New York, to be Ambas-

sador to the Republic of Malta, and Leandro Rizzuto, of Florida, to be Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the Organization of American States, with the rank of Ambassador, all of the Department of State, 10:30 a.m., SD-419.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: to hold hearings to examine the nomination of James O'Neill, of California, to be Deputy Secretary of Health and Human Services, 10 a.m., SD-430.

House

Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Homeland Security, oversight hearing on the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, 9 a.m., 2008 Rayburn.

Committee on Armed Services, Subcommittee on Cyber, Information Technologies, and Innovation, hearing entitled "Information Technology and Artificial Intelligence Posture of the Department of Defense", 9 a.m., 2212 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, Western Hemisphere Subcommittee, hearing entitled "Spread Freedom, Not Woke Values: An American Agenda for Democracy and Human Rights", 11 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10 a.m., Thursday, May 8

Senate Chamber

Program for Thursday: Senate will resume consideration of S.J. Res. 7, Addressing the Homework Gap Through the E-Rate Program, and vote on passage of the joint resolution at 11:15 a.m. Following disposition of S.J. Res. 7, Senate will vote on passage of H.J. Res. 60, Glen Canyon National Recreation Area. Following disposition of H.J. Res. 60, Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 1582, Genius Act, and vote on the motion to invoke cloture thereon at 1:45 p.m.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

9 a.m., Thursday, May 8

House Chamber

Program for Thursday: Consideration of H.R. 276—Gulf of America Act.

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