



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 119th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 171

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, MAY 8, 2025

No. 77

House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

Reverend Dr. Charles B. Jackson, Sr., Brookland Baptist Church, West Columbia, South Carolina, offered the following prayer:

Eternal God, our Heavenly Father, we acknowledge You as the Lord of all life, the fountain of all goodness, and the source of all truth. Thankful, we are, for our great Nation and the responsibility entrusted to those who serve within these walls. We ask, dear God, that You would impart Your wisdom to guide the deliberations of those who serve in this body.

We pray in the name of Jesus Christ that each Representative is granted clarity of mind, integrity of heart, and courage of conviction to serve not for personal gain but for the well-being of all people. May their service, dear God, reflect who You are as the God of love, justice, mercy, compassion, and the common good. Help our Nation, dear Lord, by showing us the way to unity and diversity and hope in adversity. May all who serve our country do so with humility and a deep sense of duty to their fellow citizens.

Our prayer is to the end that Your will is done.

In the Savior name of Jesus, our Christ.

Amen, and thank God.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. 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. Will the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. GARCIA) come

forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. GARCIA of Texas led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

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

WELCOMING REVEREND DR. CHARLES B. JACKSON, SR.

The SPEAKER. Without objection, Mr. CLYBURN of South Carolina is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today to welcome to these Chambers and to this well a good friend and a personal, I will say, savior to a multitude of South Carolinians.

Reverend Charles B. Jackson has been serving as pastor of Brookland Baptist Church now for 54 years, having been installed at the age of 18.

I first met him about 2 or 3 years into his pastorate when he was still a student at Benedict College in Columbia. He graduated from the Morehouse School of Religion in Atlanta and has served not only as a pastor of their church, but as a great leader in South Carolina.

He serves to make true the words of James when he wrote in his epistle: "Faith without works is dead."

His work is a living monument to the people of South Carolina and these United States of America, and I am pleased to welcome him here today.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

HONORING REBEKAH HOSHIKO

(Mr. WESTERMAN of Arkansas asked and was given permission to ad-

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, this Sunday across America families will gather to honor our mothers. I rise today to honor a mother and a dedicated member of my staff as she closes out her time on Capitol Hill.

Rebekah Hoshiko joined my staff in 2019 and has been a vital member of my team serving in various capacities and currently serves as communications director at the Committee on Natural Resources. We are grateful for her exemplary service, and she will be missed.

Rebekah is departing Capitol Hill to embrace the noble job of full-time mom to her two young boys, Judah and James. Wishing her and her family all the best, I hope to encourage Rebekah and all mothers with the lyrics of a Fourth District Arkansan, Glen Campbell's song:

There ought to be a hall of fame for mamas
Creation's most unique and precious pearls
And Heaven help us always to remember
The hand that rocks the cradle rules the world.

BEING A MOM IN TRUMP'S AMERICA

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

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate Mother's Day this weekend, I am reminded of a visit that Donald Trump had with Howard Stern. They were talking about marriage and having children, and Howard Stern said something like: Why do you need the headache?

He said: "Oh, I won't do anything to take care of them. I will supply funds, and she'll take care of the kids."

That is what he thinks of motherhood. That explains why he is offering a one-time \$5,000 bonus check to encourage women to have babies. Yet,

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what good is that when he is cutting maternal healthcare; trashing Medicaid, which pays for 4 in 10 births in our country; and letting childcare costs force moms out of work?

Let me be clear. Women want to be moms but don't want to go broke having to raise this child, risk their life with a pregnancy, or lose their child to gun violence.

If we are serious about celebrating Mother's Day, let's cut it with the bonus check and bring back the full tax credit and work to expand opportunities and protections for all mothers, not just this Sunday but every day.

Happy Mother's Day to all mothers.

IN RECOGNITION OF BRAYLON MULLINS

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

Mr. SHREVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Hoosier basketball star Braylon Mullins of Greenfield, Indiana.

Braylon has distinguished himself not only as the best high school basketball player in my home State but as one of the best players in the Nation.

This past season, he led his high school, Greenfield Central, to its best season in school history, finishing 23-4. On the court, Braylon averaged an incredible 33 points per game, 7 rebounds, 4 assists, and 4 steals. He shattered school records, setting the highest point total for the season with 887 points and setting a single-game scoring record of 52 points.

For his incredible achievements, Braylon earned the title of Indiana's Gatorade Player of the Year; McDonald's All American; and, most importantly, Indiana's Mr. Basketball.

Although he is leaving the Hoosier State to begin his collegiate career at UConn, we will never forget the great accomplishments of Braylon and that which he has brought to our State. Braylon is one of our own. He has made us proud, and we wish him the very best as he takes this next step in his athletic career.

IMPACT OF VOLATILITY AND POLICY REVERSALS

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

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

Rhode Island's Edesia Nutrition has helped save 25 million lives with this ready-to-use therapeutic food manufactured in North Kingstown, Rhode Island, supported by USAID. Yet, that work is now in jeopardy. Trump is now 3 months into his administration, and funding is still cut off, throwing Edesia's operations into chaos.

Mr. Speaker, I have already spoken on this floor about the gut-wrenching impact to children around the world who are suffering from starvation, but I will talk today about the impact on American lives that this funding freeze is wreaking.

Edesia has had to lay off staff at the factory and is unable to make long-term decisions. American farmers, factory workers, and transportation workers who produce this product have had their lives thrown into disarray. Every day of uncertainty puts more children's lives at risk and costs American workers their livelihoods.

Mr. Speaker, I will speak on this floor every single day until funding for ready-to-use therapeutic food is restored.

GULF OF AMERICA ACT

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 377, I call up the bill (H.R. 276) to rename the Gulf of Mexico as the "Gulf of America", 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, the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Natural Resources, printed in the bill, is adopted and the bill, as amended, is considered read.

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

H.R. 276

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 "Gulf of America Act".

SEC. 2. RENAMING OF GULF OF MEXICO AS "GULF OF AMERICA".

(a) *RENAMING.*—The Gulf of Mexico shall be known as the "Gulf of America".

(b) *REFERENCES.*—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the Gulf of Mexico shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Gulf of America".

(c) *IMPLEMENTATION.*—

(1) *IN GENERAL.*—The Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Chairman of the Board on Geographic Names, shall oversee the implementation of the renaming described in subsection (a) with respect to each Federal document and map.

(2) *REQUIREMENT.*—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this section, the head of each Federal agency shall update each document and map of the Federal agency in accordance with the renaming described in subsection (a).

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 Natural Resources or their respective designees.

The gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) and the gentleman from California (Mr. HUFFMAN) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 276.

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

There was no objection.

□ 0915

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 276, sponsored by Congresswoman GREENE of Georgia.

Throughout the history of the United States, the executive branch has renamed our public lands and waters. This legislation codifies a portion of President Trump's Executive Order No. 14172, which directed the Board on Geographic Names to rename the Gulf of Mexico as the Gulf of America. President Trump signed this executive order on his first day in office.

Enacting this legislation will help make President Trump's historic action permanent and ensure consistency in references to laws, maps, regulations, and records of the United States.

The Gulf of America is critical to the United States because of its energy resources and ecological significance. This renaming symbolizes Republicans' commitment to putting America first, and honors the Gulf of America's important role in unleashing American energy and our Nation's return to greatness.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, when I call this a deeply unserious bill, I think I am probably being charitable. It is unserious, and it comes from a Republican majority that is either unable or unwilling to do the real work of Congress.

In the first disastrous 100 days of President Trump's second term in office, we have seen him sow chaos and distraction in every direction.

This deeply corrupt and unhinged leader has put his biggest campaign donor and the wealthiest man in the world in charge of slashing programs that millions of Americans depend on, from food assistance to nuclear safety to disaster response, all in the name of "efficiency." They have indiscriminately fired thousands of Federal workers, like this is some dystopian reboot of "The Apprentice," except in this episode, they are filling the government with unqualified sycophants, who are running around firing meteorologists, health experts, and emergency responders, people who keep our government running.

Today, in the face of all of that, all of this chaos that our Republican colleagues don't want to talk about, at least we are hearing them engage in some debate over this unserious bill

about renaming the Gulf of Mexico, which I suppose is an improvement because for the past couple of weeks in the markup hearings on their disastrous budget reconciliation bill, they have been unwilling to debate at all. It has just been silence from Republicans as they move through one of the most reckless bills in American history, the same silence as they duck their constituents by canceling townhalls and avoiding media inquiries.

Instead of debating that very important and destructive legislation, they are speaking up today about this deeply unserious bill to rename a body of water. We wish that our Republican colleagues would join us in asking the question that is on more and more Americans' minds: What the heck is going on?

This administration is not draining the swamp. They are torching the country. The global economy is in chaos. We are teetering on the brink of recession. Administration officials are telling us we should perhaps prepare to ration dolls and toys this Christmas. Yet, they want to debate renaming the Gulf of Mexico.

Congress, which more and more appears to just be a joke, is now advancing a bill that literally started off as a joke. That is right. The first person to publicly suggest the name change was not Donald Trump or the author of this bill. It was comedian Stephen Colbert on "Comedy Central." It was a joke back when the Deepwater Horizon oil spill was happening.

Eleven people died in that disaster. Entire ecosystems collapsed. The Louisiana coast was wrecked, along with industries and livelihoods that depend on that Gulf Coast ecosystem. It was all devastated, and Colbert used the fake name "Gulf of America" to satirize the absurdity of oil-soaked nationalism.

Now, here we are, 15 years later, in a Congress that apparently thinks they have no real work to do, turning a late-night punch line into the legislative business of the United States House.

I would love to say this is just a one-off, but it fits a disturbing trend. Again and again, this majority keeps replacing science with slogans, governance with grievance, and policymaking with cheap performance art.

The truth is, this bill won't fix a single problem. It does absolutely nothing to help the Gulf Coast. It won't create a single job. It is not going to fix our climate crisis. It is just dumb.

The only thing this bill will do is waste time and taxpayer dollars to stroke the ego of a guy who Sharpied a hurricane map on live TV.

In committee, I offered an amendment that would actually advance the value of efficiency because if this is all about stroking the ego of one man, if it is all about cultish sycophancy, why do it in a piecemeal way with all these individual bills to put his face on Mount Rushmore and the \$100 bill?

We actually have legislation from folks across the aisle to do all these

things: to rename Dulles Airport, to do national holidays. Why not go all the way? We know that is where this is all heading anyway since everything is in service of one man's fragile ego.

Why not rename the entire planet "planet Trump"? At least that would be efficient. We would hurry up and get to the inevitable outcome of where this Republican Congress is taking us.

If you like this unserious bill, there is another deal for you because Eric and Don Jr. are selling Gulf of America hats on their website for 50 bucks a pop. One hat even says: "Gulf of America, Yet Another Trump Development." The sales pitch for one includes "as seen on President Donald J. Trump," and get your meme coin while you are at it.

Remember, all of these gifts are for a limited time. They won't last much longer.

The American people deserve much better. A recent FOX News poll—yes, FOX—showed that a big majority opposes the name change for the Gulf of Mexico: 67 percent. Americans know a joke when they see one, even if this Republican Congress doesn't.

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

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Georgia (Ms. GREENE), the lead sponsor of this legislation.

Ms. GREENE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to be here today in front of the American people as we debate the merits of the Gulf of America Act. This would rename the body of water formerly known as the Gulf of Mexico to the Gulf of America.

This is such an important thing to do for the American people. The American people deserve pride in their country, and they deserve pride in the waters that we own, that we protect with our military and our Coast Guard, and all the businesses that prosper along these waters, but Democrats today are outraged.

They are outraged because they love the cartels more than any other people in the world, even more than the American people. They spent the past 4 years funding and voting for policies that ripped our borders open and allowed our country to be invaded by millions and millions of people, drugs and fentanyl that murdered over 300 Americans every single day, human trafficking, child sex trafficking, terrorists, and millions of people who we have no idea where they are in the interior of this country.

Democrats are outraged today because they are America last, and they hate anything that would give the American people pride.

The Gulf of America is one of the most important things that we can do this Congress. This is an executive order written by the President of the

United States, which, by the way, is President today because the American people rose up and voted against the Democratic Party that was completely America last.

Section 1 of the executive order lays out the purpose and policy in directives, stating: "It is in the national interest to promote the extraordinary heritage of our Nation and ensure future generations of American citizens celebrate the legacy of our American heroes. The naming of our national treasures, including breathtaking natural wonders and historic works of art, should honor the contributions of visionary and patriotic Americans in our Nation's rich past."

Americans have watched Congress week in and week out rename post offices. Democrats vote for it all the time. Democrats aren't afraid to rename anything. They have been renaming military bases because they hate our history and hate our heritage.

This is also the same Democratic Party that cheered when their ground troops, antifa and radical rioters, went throughout American cities and tore down statues, like Lincoln and Washington.

The Democratic Party doesn't want to preserve America's rich history or promote pride in our country, our lands, our people, our businesses, and, yes, our waters, the Gulf of America.

The Democratic Party wants to remain the best business partner to the cartels that they have ever had. It is the cartels that have been enriched by tens of billions of dollars because of Democratic policies, and they will continue to protect them and fight for them.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, the gentlewoman is right about one thing: Democrats are outraged because as this President is crashing the global economy, careening us into recession, destroying retirement plans and 401(k)'s, driving up costs for American families on everything from cars to eggs to now us being told we may have to ration toys and dolls this Christmas, as all of that is happening, he is using Congress' Article I trade and commerce authority to do it.

What do you hear from Republicans across the aisle about this thing that is wrecking the lives of so many American families? Nothing. Worse than nothing, they have tied their own hands with a gimmicky bill that they passed to create a false legislative day that never ends so that they can't even invoke Congress' Article I trade authority and put some sensible sideboards on this trade and tariff policy.

It is madness, and the gentlewoman is right. We are outraged.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) to talk about it.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, live from Washington, D.C., it is "Saturday Night Live." You can't make this up.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in perplexion. I first will say how much respect I have

for Mr. WESTERMAN. He is my dear friend and one of our best Members. My, my, my, Mr. Speaker, Bruce is doing a lot of work this time.

Is this infantile bill to rename the Gulf of Mexico really this House's top priority? I heard the gentlewoman say it is going to solve all the problems, of course, if we name it the Gulf of America.

Golly day, why didn't we think of that?

The economy is shrinking for the first time since COVID-19. Costs are going up. I think "Saturday Night Live" just called me. They want me on.

Mr. Speaker, costs are going up, and small businesses are going under. American families are worried they won't be able to keep the lights on, keep food on the table, and keep a roof over their head, but they are happy about Gulf of America. That will do it.

Millions of Americans risk losing their health insurance if Republicans' Medicaid cuts go through. Yet, Republicans think this juvenile legislation is the best use of this House's time.

This is the only thing we are doing today, Mr. Speaker. What a sick joke this is.

Republicans worry about 400-year-old words on a map. I worry about families in every community in America who are struggling to get by.

This bill is obviously a distraction, a joke. Where is Trump's one big, beautiful bill that we keep hearing so much about, the one that cuts taxes for the wealthiest among us, threatens healthcare for millions, and pulls the rug out from under working Americans?

□ 0930

The majority still hasn't been able to put it on the floor. That is how divided, dysfunctional, and divisive they are.

My dear friend, the late Elijah Cummings, with whom some of you served, said: "We are better than this."

The American people are counting on us to be better than this. We ought to be debating legislation to bring down costs, to pay our debts, and to fix our broken immigration system.

Instead, MAGA Republicans waste our time with this childish drivel. Not only that, they give it a prime spot on the floor schedule. This is the only thing we are doing for America today, renaming the Gulf of Mexico, as if that is going to solve the problems.

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

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentleman from Maryland.

Mr. HOYER. Very frankly, my confidence in America does not need that. I don't need Canada to be the 51st State. I don't need to invade Greenland, and I don't need the Gulf of America to have confidence in the greatest country on Earth.

Are we so small? Do we feel so belittled by the rest of the world that we have to do this silly, silly, silly step?

Hear me, we are made smaller by this effort. Vote rationally. That would be a "no."

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

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. CASTOR), who represents the Gulf and may have some wisdom to share with us about this subject.

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I thank the ranking member for yielding the time, and I rise in opposition to this farcical bill.

I thought I would share what I am hearing from my neighbors across the Gulf Coast. They want policymakers in Washington, D.C., to tackle the cost of living. During this Republican-led Congress, there has not been one bill brought to the floor of the House—and here we are in May—to lower the cost of living for families along the Gulf Coast and all across America.

In fact, what the Republicans have been focusing on is a massive tax giveaway to billionaires like Elon Musk while they rip away healthcare from millions of Americans.

In Florida, we have about 4.6 million Floridians who rely on the Affordable Care Act for their healthcare and about 3.9 million Floridians who rely on Medicaid. These are the family members we love the most, kids with complex conditions, seniors in skilled nursing, seniors who want to live in dignity in their homes with a home health aide.

However, is their priority to make people's lives easier, to make people's lives better? No. It has been totally focused on how you rip that away and make people's lives more expensive.

It also means for the Gulf Coast we are still reeling from Hurricanes Helene and Milton, just like other parts of the country, in Georgia and North Carolina. We don't need Elon Musk creating turmoil and firing civil servants and public servants who are helping us rebuild. We do not need the Trump administration making people's lives harder to rebuild and harder to afford to stay in their homes.

We are preparing for another hurricane season. Folks along the Gulf Coast need a National Weather Service that is functional that can warn us about the threats ahead. We need the hurricane hunters out in the Gulf telling us how severe the storms are going to be, but the Trump administration and Republicans in Congress seem to be turning away from the people along the Gulf Coast and all across America to understand the threat of a warming climate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WIED). The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentlewoman from Florida.

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. You started this by saying that Gulf of America started as a joke. This is not a joke to the people I represent. They want help. They want help with the cost of living.

It seems like that is the last priority on Republicans' list. Instead, they want to give a massive tax giveaway to the wealthy and the well-connected while people really need help with their pocketbooks. They need help. They want to retain their healthcare. They want to make sure that the ocean waters are free of pollution.

Please vote "no" and focus on what is important.

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

Mr. Speaker, just earlier this week, this very committee spent 14 hours in a markup on our reconciliation plans that are part of the big, beautiful bill; 14 hours to make America energy dominant, 14 hours to unleash American resources and American jobs. Those 14 hours were mainly spent hearing 121 Democratic amendments to undermine that bill. They wanted to undermine America's energy. They wanted to undermine America's ability to mine our own products. They wanted to undermine America's ability to manage our forests and our resources and take care of this country.

Now, there are a lot of bills that come to this floor to rename things. They might not be the most important bills, but usually they go on a suspension vote because both sides agree we can do renaming, but this one got elevated to a much higher level, so here we are under a rule bill debating whether or not we call the current Gulf of Mexico the Gulf of America or if we leave it as it is.

Our friends across the aisle have one objective: to undermine everything we want to do to make America first, and this is no exception.

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

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. RIVAS).

Ms. RIVAS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the ranking member for yielding to me.

Mr. Speaker, there are many issues that we could be talking about today, like lowering the cost of living, protecting Medicaid and Social Security, or protecting immigrant communities. Instead, House Republicans are prioritizing Trump's vanity project, renaming the Gulf of Mexico, like that is going to help Americans with their cost of living.

Millions of Americans are struggling because of Trump's policies that are tanking our economy and raising the cost of living. The Republicans in this Chamber have yet to put forth anything that addresses their issues.

I am disappointed that House Republicans blocked my amendment to this bill that would actually help working families across the country. My amendment would require the official name change to not take effect until the Department of the Interior can prove that this bill would lower food prices, including the price of eggs, spur economic growth, create jobs, and lower

the unemployment rate, but the Republicans voted it down in committee and blocked it from getting to the floor today. That shows where their priorities are.

It was not just the House Republicans who opposed helping working families. The Trump White House also hated this amendment and sent out a statement of opposition. They went to FOX News to complain that we are doing our job to serve the people. Call me crazy, but I believe that the work we do in Congress should improve the lives of the American people.

As the Congresswoman proudly representing the San Fernando Valley in California, I believe that the true test of how we are as a country is how we treat our most vulnerable, and this bill fails that test.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote “no” on this ridiculous bill.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, our friends across the aisle want to talk about being serious, but when we marked up this legislation in committee, here are some of the serious amendments that they put out.

Number one, they wanted to rename it not the Gulf of America, but the gulf of Helene, after a hurricane. That wasn't good enough, so they decided to file an amendment to name it the Gulf of America if we rejoin the Paris climate accord. That is real serious. As my friend already mentioned, they wanted to take this bill, it was obviously not germane, they wanted to rename the planet, planet Trump. That is how serious they are in their debate.

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

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. MAGAZINER).

Mr. MAGAZINER. Mr. Speaker, we are here today debating and wasting time on a ridiculous bill to rename the Gulf of Mexico when the American people want us to be focused on real issues that impact their lives.

Prices are still too high. Donald Trump's tariffs are making it worse. The stock market is tanking. People are losing their savings, and in the midst of all this, the Republican majority isn't focused on trying to solve the problems that everyday people care about. Instead, they are focused on stroking the ego of one man, Donald Trump, the man who they would make king.

We are wasting time today, an entire legislative day where this is the only bill that is being debated, so that our Republican colleagues can get up and show their fealty to Donald Trump instead of the voters who elected us who expect us to be focused on them.

Another reason that Republicans are wasting time on this bill—which, by the way, 70 percent of the American people oppose—is because they want to distract us from what else they are trying to do. They are working on a bill right now that would give trillions of dollars of tax cuts to billionaires like

Elon Musk by cutting healthcare for working people. They don't want to talk about that. That part they only talk about behind closed doors while they distract the media, the American people, and their own Members with this nonsense bill about the Gulf of Mexico.

Mr. Speaker, the American people are smarter than this. They are smarter than our Republican colleagues give them credit for. Seventy percent of the American people reject this nonsense bill, and this Congress should as well.

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

I left out one of the other amendments my colleagues across the aisle filed. They wanted to rename the Gulf the gulf of ignorance. Now, I don't know where they came up with that one. I know they oppose offshore oil and gas production. I know they oppose American energy independence. I know they have a special affinity for fish that aren't in the Gulf and attack recreational fishermen in their endeavor to go out and spend time with their family and catch fish. I don't know what part of the Gulf that they think is so ignorant that they wanted to rename the Gulf the gulf of ignorance, but you can look it up. They filed that amendment. We obviously voted it down.

They had no problem renaming the Cannon Caucus Room the NANCY PELOSI Caucus Room. It is not like this is the first thing that has ever been renamed in this Congress, but we will go ahead and have our debate, and they can vent their frustration on the Republicans and really on our country as they continue.

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

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. CISNEROS).

Mr. CISNEROS. Mr. Speaker, I thank my generous colleague for allowing me to speak today.

As Members of Congress, we are elected to champion the voices of our people and pass legislation to make their lives better. Instead, House Republicans are using their position to introduce a nonsense bill to rename the Gulf of Mexico.

The Gulf has been known as the Gulf of Mexico since the 16th century. Why are they making a big deal out of this now? It is because they want to stroke the ego of Donald Trump.

Back home in California, my constituents are concerned about putting food on the table. They are feeling crushed by high rent and afraid that they won't be able to buy a home one day. They are worried about how they can afford healthcare once these Medicaid cuts take effect. Seniors are scared their Social Security checks are going to dry up, but Republicans want to focus on renaming a body of water thousands of miles away from where we are today.

Instead of addressing the things that actually matter to people back home, House Republicans are trying to distract us from the harmful policies they are forcing on all of us. This does nothing to improve the lives of our constituents. It does nothing to make our country safer, lower costs, help parents feed their kids, or give our seniors the support they deserve.

This is a waste of time, and it is a disgrace to the people who elected us to serve in this body.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Georgia (Ms. GREENE).

Ms. GREENE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is so important for the American people to hear this debate back and forth between what Democrats have to say and what Republicans have to say.

The American people rose up in a historic election in November of 2024, and they told Washington, D.C., they have had enough of the Democratic embrace and love affair with the cartels in Mexico.

□ 0945

Mr. Speaker, Democrats today are fighting to keep the Gulf of America named the Gulf of Mexico because the cartels are their business partners. They fight for the cartels so much that they call an MS-13 gang member, a Maryland man, a man who had two deportation orders, and who was deported to El Salvador, the country of his citizenship, they fight for him so hard that they send Senators and House Members down to fight for him and not for the American people.

The drug crisis in America is the fault of open-border policies and the love affair between Democrats and cartels. Drug trafficking across the Gulf of America is a serious issue. The Gulf serves as the maritime corridor of trafficking operations with drugs like cocaine, marijuana, fentanyl—a poison that murders Americans—methamphetamine, and heroin being transported via fishing boats, private vessels, and commercial maritime routes.

It is our great United States Coast Guard who defend the waters of the Gulf of America. Since January of 2025, the U.S. Coast Guard has seized 101,415 pounds of cocaine and 10,743 pounds of marijuana in operations targeting maritime drug trafficking including in the Gulf of America.

On April 30, 2025, the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Tampa off-loaded pounds of cocaine and marijuana worth an estimated \$12.3 million at Port Everglades, Florida, seized during operations in the Caribbean Sea and the Gulf of America.

It is the cartels that use the Gulf of America to invade our country with drugs, human trafficking, and child sex trafficking. It is our great Coast Guard and our Navy that defend the land, our people's land, our States, our businesses and our country from the cartels.

Mr. Speaker, you would think this is the easiest vote that the United States

House of Representatives could take because, after all, everybody in here swore an oath to defend our Constitution and to defend our laws and our land.

Oh, but, no, the Democrats can't do it because we had 4 years of Democrat control where our borders were wide open. The American people are fed up with it. The American people are tired of being torn down and served by America-last policies and politicians that absolutely hate the American people and love the cartels.

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

Mr. Speaker, the most encouraging thing so far in the debate on this bill is that the only speaker that the Republicans have offered in support of it is the gentlewoman from Georgia. That is it.

I think that is hopeful. It suggests that maybe there is still a little bit of dignity somewhere in the Republican Conference. I guess we will see in a few minutes when we start voting on this bill that is an insult to any serious Member of Congress. It is certainly an insult to the American people and a giant middle finger to the rest of the world.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New York (Mr. JEFFRIES), our fantastic Democratic leader, his magic minute.

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished gentleman, my good friend from the great State of California (Mr. HUFFMAN), for his tremendous leadership and for pushing back against this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I urge a strong "no" against this silly, small-minded, and sycophantic piece of legislation. When the American people woke up this morning, they could reasonably ask the question: What are their elected Representatives on the floor of the House of Representatives going to be debating?

In an environment where the Trump tariffs are costing them thousands of dollars more per year, Republicans are crashing the economy in real time, costs are being raised on hardworking American taxpayers, and Republicans are driving us toward a painful recession, what might Members of Congress under this temporary Republican majority be debating on the floor today?

Would it be legislation about the economy? Would it be something about healthcare? Would it be anything about Social Security? Perhaps it is something on public safety. Maybe it is national security matters. It could be anything to bring the American Dream to life for hardworking American taxpayers. No, what Republicans have decided to spend this entire legislative day doing is to debate a bill to rename the Gulf of Mexico.

In some ways, I guess the American people can be thankful. This week, what Republicans were going to try to do was visit upon the American people the largest Medicaid cut in American

history. Mr. Speaker, because Republicans were on the run, they were forced to take that hearing down. That battle is not over.

In the absence of their ability to actually jam up hardworking American taxpayers, and instead of focusing on things that would make a difference in the lives of the American people, we are here on the House floor, more than 400 years after the fact, debating legislation to rename the Gulf of Mexico.

It turns out there is a lot more foolishness than this particular bill. Apparently, it is not enough simply to try to rename the Gulf of Mexico. Republicans have introduced an act of Congress to express support for the designation of the first-ever Gulf of America Day. That ingenious piece of legislation was introduced by Representative MARK ALFORD of Missouri.

At a time when Americans are struggling to live paycheck to paycheck, and when we are grappling with the high cost of living, don't worry because Republicans have a solution. Congressman BRANDON GILL of Texas has our back with a bill to require the \$100 note to include a portrait of Donald J. Trump. No, thank you.

Not to be outdone, Representative JOE WILSON of South Carolina has the Donald J. Trump \$250 Bill Act. Really? That is a hard pass.

Flight travel has become more dangerous. We have an ongoing air traffic control crisis this week at a major airport in the northeast. It is central to a lot of the commerce and the functioning of the economy, an economy that Republicans are breaking in real time.

What would be the Republican response to the situation in our skies? Representative ADDISON McDOWELL of the great State of North Carolina has a bill to designate Washington Dulles International Airport in Virginia as the Donald J. Trump International Airport. Did Virginia even vote for Donald Trump?

Families are confronting thousands of dollars more per year in higher costs, thanks to Donald Trump's reckless tariffs. Instead of pushing back the President, instead of Congress asserting our constitutional authority as it relates to tariffs and trade in the best interest of the American people, no, Republicans have a different approach.

Here is a gem from Representative ANNA PAULINA LUNA from the great State of Florida. She has introduced legislation to arrange for the carving of the figure of President Donald J. Trump on Mount Rushmore.

Are we living in the times of King Nebuchadnezzar? What are we doing? There are serious issues that the American people want us to confront.

From the very beginning of this Congress, Democrats have said: We will work with anyone to lower the high cost of living, to secure the border, to fix our broken immigration system, to protect communities, to stand up for the healthcare, for the safety, for the

well-being, and for the national security of the American people.

Republicans have no agenda other than the toxic agenda connected to their big, ugly bill that they are trying to jam down the throats of the American people. When they have to run away from that and push it back, this is what we are left with. We are left with renaming the Gulf of Mexico, which 70 percent of the American people reject. That is according to Fox News, that bastion of progressive politics.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge a "no" vote against this small-minded, silly, and sycophantic bill. I can say without hesitation, reservation, or need for clarification that America is not down with MTG.

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

Mr. Speaker, a lot of accusations have been made about serious legislation, about working, about the things that have happened since this new administration has come into office. I would like to recap some of the things that have happened since this new administration has come into office.

Number one, they spent a lot of time reversing a lot of bad executive orders that the previous administration put in place. There were executive orders that did put America last. We have an administration now that is working every day to put America first.

We saw Congress take many actions on Congressional Review Acts to undo bad rules that the previous administration put in place.

Don't believe the accusation that Republicans aren't working. We have 11 committees that have reconciliation instructions, and 8 of those committees have marked up those instructions already. There are instructions on a big, beautiful bill to put America first and to create national security. We will use our resources at home to allow people in America to have a job and a career where they can raise families and grow communities. We are working on policies to avoid a \$4 trillion to \$5 trillion tax increase on every American.

Mr. Speaker, I believe my friends across the aisle are concerned about a piece of legislation that is going to make a huge difference.

It is a piece of legislation that is going to reverse the destructive policies that their party has put in place over many years. It is a piece of legislation that is going to focus on getting our fiscal house in order and letting Americans keep more of their hard-earned income.

We will develop our resources here at home and become less dependent on China, less dependent on Middle Eastern oil, and all those things that over the years have been eroded away from our American economy and from Americans.

Mr. Speaker, if they want to complain about renaming the Gulf the Gulf of America, they can complain about

that all day. It gives them something to do other than to talk to Americans about the real policies that Republicans are looking at putting in place. It gives them something to do other than make up scare tactics, which is their normal playbook, and to take anything that happens and say, oh, they are going to cut Social Security or they are going to cut Medicare.

We can't even touch Social Security in budget reconciliation. Democrats know that can't happen in budget reconciliation. Yet, they still put those scare tactics out. They talk about what bills are going to do before bill text has been released.

It is because Democrats are on the defensive to protect the Big Government that they have created over time, while Republicans want to put government closer to the people, take power out of Washington, D.C., and truly put America first.

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

□ 1000

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. DEXTER).

Ms. DEXTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to this ridiculous bill.

Let's be honest: This bill, along with the executive order it reinforces, is absurd. It is unserious, ineffective, and beneath the dignity of this institution.

Changing the name of the Gulf of Mexico won't change the fact that the world will keep calling it exactly what it is, the Gulf of Mexico.

This isn't just about a name. It is about an administration using the power of the Federal Government to bully the press, going so far as to ban reporters from the Oval Office for refusing to go along with this charade. Let's call that what it is: an assault on free speech.

Our courts have stood up against these attacks, but we can't ignore the chilling message this sends to journalists everywhere: If you don't fall in line, you will be punished.

That, Mr. Speaker, is a page right out of the authoritarian playbook.

Americans didn't ask for this, and they didn't vote for this. They are struggling with real challenges, such as putting food on the table, accessing healthcare, and rebuilding after disasters. Yet, here we are, wasting time on political theater instead of working to actually help them.

In the United States, we are constitutionally guaranteed the right to challenge power, to speak truth to it, and to laugh when our leaders make ridiculous claims. That is not disrespect. It is critical for a healthy democracy.

That is why I offered an amendment to this bill, an amendment Republicans refused to even take up. My amendment would have made it absolutely clear that nothing in this bill could be used to censor the press or authorize retaliation against news organizations

for using accurate names. This administration may have no regard for the Constitution, but Congress must.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to remember this and to vote against this bill.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Georgia (Ms. GREENE).

Ms. GREENE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, names matter, and the Democrats know that.

Parents take a lot of time when they think about what to name a child that they are happy to welcome into the world because they have pride, and they are proud to welcome their new baby into the world. That is why they take pride in the name that they name their child.

As we rename the Gulf the Gulf of America, we are also taking pride in those waters. There are an estimated one-half million businesses operating along the Gulf Coast. The Gulf is a major economic hub, particularly for oil and gas production.

As the people of Spain woke up in darkness for the second time this week because of the climate hoax and the climate agenda, it is the Democrats who pursued those same policies the past 4 years. They hate oil and gas. They want America to be plunged into darkness just like Spain has been because of those lies.

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management reports that the Gulf is the Nation's primary source for oil and gas, generating about 97 percent of all U.S. OCS oil and gas production. Other significant industries include water transportation and leisure hospitality. Offshore drilling also plays a crucial role in that region, contributing to about 14.6 percent of the Nation's crude oil and 2.3 percent of its gas.

It is our great U.S. Coast Guard and Navy that defend these waters.

Mr. Speaker, the American people aren't afraid of renaming the Gulf the Gulf of America because the American people want to take pride in our land and in our waters once again.

As Democrats feign outrage today at the President and his executive order and our great audacity to rename the Gulf the Gulf of America, it was the Democrats who first tried to rename an institution after Donald Trump.

In 2024, Representative CONNOLLY tried to rename a prison after Donald Trump, and that happened while the Democrats were waging lawfare like this country has never seen before and should never see again as they were trying to lock up President Donald Trump and put him in prison for the rest of his life for lies and attacks and purely for politics.

It is the Democrats who are constantly feigning outrage over everything the Republicans are trying to do for the American people, and the American people will no longer tolerate it. They told us that in November of 2024.

It is a great honor to rename the Gulf the Gulf of America. This is an

honor not only here in Congress but for the President of the United States and for the American people.

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

Mr. Speaker, I think it says a lot that as we have wasted the last hour of Congress' time on a deeply unserious bill to rename the Gulf of Mexico, and while Republicans have offered just one speaker in support of this preposterous piece of legislation—this monumental disaster, this insult to the American people, and this giant middle finger to the rest of the world—the only speaker to speak in support of this was the gentlewoman from Georgia. I think that just tells us an awful lot today.

The American people think that Congress should do real work, and there is plenty of real work to be done. Americans are watching their 401(k)'s in free fall from this President's reckless tariff games, tariff chaos that is happening by using Congress' Article I trade and commerce authority.

What is this Congress doing about it? They are doing worse than nothing. They have tied their own hands because, in their government funding bill, they have created the gimmick of a never-ending legislative day to prevent them from using their emergency authorities to put some sensible sideboards on Donald Trump's tariff madness.

In the district right next to mine in Napa County, the Trump administration abruptly canceled a \$50 million wildfire prevention grant just 4 months after one of the deadliest wildfires in California history. That has been the story throughout the West. Critical funding for a critical need for firefighters and for projects that make us safer from wildfire is in total chaos or canceled because of this madness with Elon Musk, DOGE, and an unhinged President.

What do we hear from our colleagues across the aisle? Nothing. We get bills like this to rename the Gulf of Mexico.

Tribal communities are being hammered around the country. Food insecurity programs are being defunded. Education programs are being frozen. Healthcare resources are being slashed. All the while, the administration continues to fire essential agency scientists and public servants en masse as this Republican Congress shrugs.

The majority is wasting time on an ego-driven rebrand, a performative stunt rooted in President Trump's imperial edict absurdly titled: "Restoring Names That Honor American Greatness."

Mr. Speaker, this is so obviously what authoritarians through history have done. They do things like call for parades on their own birthday, or rename things, or do other stunts to distract the American people from the way they are lining their own pockets and taking away fundamental rights.

This Republican Congress appears to be perfectly fine with that.

A new CNN national poll shows that the majority of Americans believe Congress is not doing enough to check this

President's actions. Nearly one-half say that the current administration is weakening our democracy, our economy, and our global standing. This bill really is Exhibit A.

We are not just renaming a gulf. We are drowning public trust in what this institution is supposed to do: serve the people, solve problems, and defend democracy.

Yes, this bill has been called a joke more than once. In committee, I even offered an amendment to rename the entire planet "Trump" just to underscore the absurdity of their sycophantic bootlicking.

Now, after seeing this bill advance not only through committee but all the way through to the House floor for a final vote, it is getting a little bit harder to laugh. That is because it is not a joke anymore. It is a case study in misplaced priorities.

Mr. Speaker, when you start erasing or changing phrases like "climate change," "equity," or "disadvantaged communities" from government websites, when you ban them from scientific reports, then you are not just playing word games. You are dismantling our capacity to even name the problems we face, let alone fix them, but we are renaming bodies of water.

Mr. Speaker, we are about to open the roll, and as we watch the red and green light up on the big board, I think it is going to be a pretty good proxy for which Members of Congress still think that we should be doing serious work, that we should be reclaiming our Article I responsibilities under the Constitution, that we should have a little bit of dignity in the face of a deeply unserious bill that has wasted our time, and to see which Members of Congress are simply bending the knee to Donald Trump and stroking one man's ego in everything they do.

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

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

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

Mr. Speaker, as we wrap up this so-called debate today, I want to remind everyone of something that they are not seeing on the news every day like they were several months ago, and that is hordes coming across our southern border.

I want to remind people of how much the illegal drugs and human trafficking have stopped on our southern border.

I remind people of that because it was just a few weeks ago that President Trump stood in this Chamber. He addressed the joint session of Congress, and he said something that I think was the most important thing he said that night. He said that we have come to find out we didn't really need different laws. We just needed different leadership.

This debate, as my friends will maybe want to call it a debate, has

been really nothing but an attack on President Trump. They are using this piece of legislation to go at President Trump.

I want to remind everybody of something President Trump has said many times. He said: "They are coming after me because I am standing up for you."

That is exactly what is happening today. They are coming after this piece of legislation and equating it to President Trump because he is standing up for the American people.

This legislation before us simply follows through on a day one executive order to rename the Gulf of Mexico as the Gulf of America.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I thank Congresswoman GREENE for advancing it. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TAYLOR). 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.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion to recommit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Huffman of California moves to recommit the bill H.R. 276 to the Committee on Natural Resources.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XIX, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

The question is on the motion to recommit.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 203, nays 213, not voting 16, as follows:

[Roll No. 121]

YEAS—203

Adams	Casten	Dean (PA)
Aguilar	Castor (FL)	DeGette
Amo	Castro (TX)	DeLauro
Ansari	Cherfilus-	DelBene
Auchincloss	McCormick	Deluzio
Balint	Chu	DeSaulnier
Barragán	Cisneros	Dexter
Beatty	Clark (MA)	Dingell
Bell	Clarke (NY)	Doggett
Bera	Cleaver	Elfreth
Beyer	Clyburn	Escobar
Bishop	Cohen	Espallat
Bonamici	Conaway	Evans (PA)
Boyle (PA)	Correa	Fields
Brown	Costa	Figures
Brownley	Courtney	Fletcher
Budzinski	Crockett	Foster
Bynum	Crow	Foushee
Carbajal	Cuellar	Frankel, Lois
Carson	Davidson (KS)	Friedman
Casas	Davis (IL)	Frost
Case	Davis (NC)	Garamendi

Garcia (CA)	McBath	Sánchez
Garcia (IL)	McBride	Scanlon
Garcia (TX)	McClain Delaney	Schakowsky
Gillen	McClellan	Schneider
Golden (ME)	McCollum	Scholten
Goldman (NY)	McDonald Rivet	Schrier
Gomez	McGarvey	Scott (VA)
Gonzalez, V.	McGovern	Scott, David
Goodlander	Meeks	Sewell
Gray	Menendez	Sherman
Green, Al (TX)	Meng	Simon
Harder (CA)	Mfume	Smith (WA)
Hayes	Min	Sorensen
Himes	Moore (WI)	Soto
Horsford	Morelle	Stansbury
Houlahan	Morrison	Stanton
Hoyer	Moskowitz	Stevens
Hoyle (OR)	Moulton	Strickland
Huffman	Mrvan	Subramanyam
Jackson (IL)	Mullin	Suozi
Jacobs	Nadler	Swalwell
Jayapal	Neal	Sykes
Jeffries	Neguse	Takano
Johnson (GA)	Ocasio-Cortez	Thanedar
Johnson (TX)	Olzewski	Thompson (CA)
Kamlager-Dove	Omar	Thompson (MS)
Kaptur	Pallone	Titus
Kelly (IL)	Panetta	Tlaib
Kennedy (NY)	Pappas	Tokuda
Khanna	Pelosi	Tonko
Krishnamoorthi	Perez	Torres (CA)
LaHood	Peters	Torres (NY)
Landsman	Pettersen	Tran
Larsen (WA)	Pingree	Underwood
Larson (CT)	Pocan	Vargas
Latimer	Pou	Vasquez
Lee (NV)	Pressley	Veasey
Lee (PA)	Quigley	Vindman
Leger Fernandez	Ramirez	Wasserman
Levin	Randall	Schultz
Liccardo	Raskin	Waters
Lieu	Riley (NY)	Watson Coleman
Lofgren	Rivas	Whitesides
Lynch	Ross	Williams (GA)
Magaziner	Ruiz	Wilson (FL)
Mannion	Ryan	
Matsui	Salinas	

NAYS—213

Aderholt	Ellzey	Issa
Alford	Emmer	Jack
Allen	Estes	Jackson (TX)
Amodei (NV)	Evans (CO)	James
Arrington	Ezell	Johnson (SD)
Babin	Fallon	Jordan
Bacon	Fedorchak	Joyce (OH)
Baird	Feenstra	Joyce (PA)
Balderson	Fine	Kean
Barr	Finstad	Kelly (MS)
Barrett	Fischbach	Kelly (PA)
Baumgartner	Fitzgerald	Kennedy (UT)
Bean (FL)	Fitzpatrick	Kiggans (VA)
Begich	Fleischmann	Kiley (CA)
Bentz	Flood	Kim
Bergman	Fong	Knott
Bice	Fox	Kustoff
Biggs (AZ)	Franklin, Scott	LaLota
Biggs (SC)	Fry	LaMalfa
Bilirakis	Fulcher	Langworthy
Boebert	Garbarino	Latta
Bost	Gill (TX)	Lawler
Brecheen	Gimenez	Lee (FL)
Bresnahan	Goldman (TX)	Letlow
Buchanan	Gonzales, Tony	Loudermilk
Burchett	Gooden	Lucas
Burlison	Gosar	Luna
Calvert	Graves	Luttrell
Cammack	Green (TN)	Mace
Carey	Greene (GA)	Mackenzie
Carter (GA)	Griffith	Malliotakis
Carter (TX)	Grothman	Maloy
Ciscomani	Guest	Mann
Cline	Guthrie	Mast
Cloud	Hageman	McCaul
Clyde	Hamadeh (AZ)	McClain
Cole	Haridopolos	McClintock
Collins	Harrigan	McCormick
Comer	Harris (MD)	McDowell
Crane	Harris (NC)	McGuire
Crank	Harshbarger	Messmer
Crawford	Hern (OK)	Meuser
Crenshaw	Higgins (LA)	Miller (IL)
Davidson	Hill (AR)	Miller (OH)
De La Cruz	Hinson	Miller (WV)
DesJarlais	Houchin	Miller-Meeks
Diaz-Balart	Hudson	Mills
Donalds	Huizenga	Moolenaar
Downing	Hunt	Moore (AL)
Edwards	Hurd (CO)	Moore (NC)

Moore (UT)	Rulli	Tenney	Gill (TX)	Langworthy	Rogers (AL)	Pettersen	Scott (VA)	Tlaib
Moore (WV)	Salazar	Thompson (PA)	Gimenez	Latta	Rogers (KY)	Pingree	Scott, David	Tokuda
Moran	Scalise	Tiffany	Goldman (TX)	Lawler	Rose	Pocan	Sewell	Tonko
Murphy	Schmidt	Timmons	Gonzales, Tony	Lee (FL)	Rouzer	Pou	Sherman	Torres (CA)
Nehls	Schweikert	Turner (OH)	Gooden	Letlow	Roy	Pressley	Simon	Torres (NY)
Newhouse	Scott, Austin	Valadao	Gosar	Loudermilk	Rulli	Quigley	Smith (WA)	Tran
Nunn (IA)	Self	Van Drew	Graves	Lucas	Ramirez	Sorensen	Stanton	Underwood
Obernolte	Sessions	Van Duyne	Green (TN)	Luna	Randall	Soto	Stansbury	Vargas
Ogles	Shreve	Van Orden	Greene (GA)	Luttrell	Raskin	Stanton	Stanton	Vasquez
Onder	Simpson	Wagner	Griffith	Mace	Riley (NY)	Rivas	Stevens	Veasey
Owens	Smith (MO)	Walberg	Guest	Mackenzie	Ross	Strickland	Thompson (CA)	Velázquez
Palmer	Smith (NE)	Weber (TX)	Guthrie	Malliotakis	Ruiz	Subramanyam	Thompson (MS)	Vindman
Patronis	Smith (NJ)	Webster (FL)	Hageman	Maloy	Ryan	Suoizzi	Titus	Wasserman
Perry	Smucker	Westerman	Hamadeh (AZ)	Mann	Salinas	Swalwell		Schultz
Pfuger	Spartz	Wied	Haridopolos	Mast	Sánchez	Sykes		Waters
Reschenthaler	Stauber	Williams (TX)	Harrigan	McCaul	Scanlon	Takano		Watson Coleman
Rogers (AL)	Steil	Wilson (SC)	Harris (MD)	McClain	Schakowsky	Thanedar		Whitesides
Rogers (KY)	Steube	Wittman	Harris (NC)	McClintock	Smith (NE)	Thompson (CA)		Williams (GA)
Rose	Strong	Womack	Harshbarger	McCormick	Smith (NJ)	Scholten		Wilson (FL)
Rouzer	Stutzman	Yakym	Hern (OK)	McDowell	Smucker	Schrier		
Roy	Taylor	Zinke	Higgins (LA)	McGuire	Spartz			
			Hill (AR)	Messmer	Stauber			
			Hinson	Meuser	Steil			

NOT VOTING—16

Carter (LA)	Keating	Sherrill
Connolly	Massie	Stefanik
Craig	McIver	Trahan
Dunn (FL)	Norcross	Velázquez
Gottheimer	Norman	
Ivey	Rutherford	

□ 1035

Messrs. GROTHMAN, VAN DREW, BRESNAHAN, MCGUIRE, BAIRD, FITZGERALD, COLLINS, KEAN, FULCHER, PALMER, OBERNOLTE, HARIDOPOLOS, Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia, Messrs. JOYCE of Ohio, and LAWLER changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Messrs. GRAY, GOLDMAN of New York, GARCÍA of Illinois, and Mrs. MCCLAIN DELANEY changed their vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So the motion to recommit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

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

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

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 211, noes 206, not voting 16, as follows:

[Roll No. 122]

AYES—211

Aderholt	Buchanan	Downing
Alford	Burchett	Edwards
Allen	Burlison	Ellzey
Amodei (NV)	Calvert	Emmer
Arrington	Cammack	Estes
Babin	Carey	Evans (CO)
Baird	Carter (GA)	Ezell
Balderson	Carter (TX)	Fallon
Barr	Ciscomani	Fedorchak
Barrett	Cline	Feenstra
Baumgartner	Cloud	Fine
Bean (FL)	Clyde	Finstad
Begich	Cole	Fischbach
Bentz	Collins	Fitzgerald
Bergman	Comer	Fitzpatrick
Bice	Crane	Fleischmann
Biggs (AZ)	Crank	Flood
Biggs (SC)	Crawford	Fong
Billirakis	Davidson	Fox
Boebert	De La Cruz	Franklin, Scott
Bost	DesJarlais	Fry
Brecheen	Diaz-Balart	Fulcher
Bresnahan	Donalds	Garbarino

NOES—206

Adams	DelBene	Krishnamoorthi
Agullar	Deluzio	Landsman
Amo	DeSaulnier	Larsen (WA)
Ansari	Dexter	Larson (CT)
Auchincloss	Dingell	Latimer
Bacon	Doggett	Lee (NV)
Balint	Elfreth	Lee (PA)
Barragán	Escobar	Leger Fernandez
Beatty	Espallat	Levin
Bell	Evans (PA)	Liccardo
Bera	Fields	Lieu
Beyer	Figures	Lofgren
Bishop	Fletcher	Lynch
Bonamici	Foster	Magaziner
Boyle (PA)	Foushee	Mannion
Brown	Frankel, Lois	Matsui
Brownley	Friedman	McBath
Budzinski	Frost	McBride
Bynum	Garamendi	McClain Delaney
Carbaljal	Garcia (CA)	McClellan
Carson	Garcia (IL)	McCollum
Casar	Garcia (TX)	McDonald Rivet
Case	Gillen	McGarvey
Casten	Golden (ME)	McGovern
Castor (FL)	Goldman (NY)	McIver
Castro (TX)	Gomez	Meeks
Cherfilus-	Gonzalez, V.	Menendez
McCormick	Goodlander	Meng
Chu	Gray	Mfume
Cisneros	Green, Al (TX)	Min
Clark (MA)	Harder (CA)	Moore (WI)
Clarke (NY)	Hayes	Morelle
Cleaver	Himes	Morrison
Clyburn	Horsford	Moskowitz
Cohen	Houlahan	Moulton
Conaway	Hoyer	Mrvan
Correa	Hoyle (OR)	Mullin
Costa	Huffman	Nadler
Courtney	Jackson (IL)	Neal
Craig	Jacobs	Neguse
Crockett	Jayapal	Ocasio-Cortez
Crow	Jeffries	Olzewski
Cuellar	Johnson (GA)	Omar
Davids (KS)	Johnson (TX)	Pallone
Davis (IL)	Kamlager-Dove	Panetta
Davis (NC)	Kaptur	Pappas
Dean (PA)	Kelly (IL)	Pelosi
DeGette	Kennedy (NY)	Perez
DeLauro	Khanna	Peters

NOT VOTING—16

Carter (LA)	Ivey	Sherrill
Connolly	Joyce (OH)	Stefanik
Crenshaw	Keating	Trahan
Dunn (FL)	Massie	Wagner
Gottheimer	Norcross	
Grothman	Rutherford	

□ 1042

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. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I was detained for 3 minutes by personal phone call and they closed the vote very quickly. Had I been present, I would have voted AYE on Roll Call No. 122.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I was in a meeting. Had I been present, I would have voted AYE on Roll Call No. 122.

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted AYE on Roll Call No. 122.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mrs. TRAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to attend the vote series today due to a personal family matter. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 121 and NO on Roll Call No. 122.

ADJOURNMENT FROM THURSDAY, MAY 8, 2025 TO TUESDAY, MAY 13, 2025

Mr. STEIL. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 1 p.m. tomorrow, and further, when the House adjourns on that day, it adjourn to meet at noon on Tuesday, May 13, 2025, for morning-hour debate and 2 p.m. for legislative business.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGS of South Carolina). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

AUTHORIZING THE USE OF EMANCIPATION HALL IN THE CAPITOL VISITOR CENTER FOR A CEREMONY TO PRESENT THE CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL, COLLECTIVELY, TO THE UNITED STATES ARMY RANGERS VETERANS OF WORLD WAR II

Mr. STEIL. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the

Speaker's table the concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 12) and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

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

There was no objection.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

S. CON. RES. 12

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring),

SECTION 1. USE OF EMANCIPATION HALL FOR CEREMONY TO PRESENT THE CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL TO THE UNITED STATES ARMY RANGERS VETERANS OF WORLD WAR II.

(a) **AUTHORIZATION.**—Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center is authorized to be used on June 26, 2025, for a ceremony to present the Congressional Gold Medal awarded under the United States Army Rangers Veterans of World War II Act (Public Law 117-132; 31 U.S.C. 5111 note).

(b) **PREPARATIONS.**—Physical preparations for the conduct of the ceremony described in subsection (a) shall be carried out in accordance with such conditions as may be prescribed by the Architect of the Capitol.

The concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 1637

Mr. TRAN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to remove the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN) as cosponsor of H.R. 1637.

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

There was no objection.

RECOGNIZING AHSIE CROSSON DURING NATIONAL TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of National Teacher Appreciation Week.

This week, we thank extraordinary educators who shape the next generation. Across America, communities are celebrating teachers not just as instructors but as mentors, leaders, and role models.

Every one of us can recall a teacher who made a lasting impact. For many, it was someone who believed in us before we believed in ourselves. Teachers inspire curiosity, nurture dreams, and help students persevere through challenges, both academic and personal. Their work is vital, and their influence extends beyond the classroom.

This year, Pennsylvania has special reason to celebrate. Ashlie Crosson, an English teacher of Mifflin County High School, has been named the 2025 Na-

tional Teacher of the Year. A first-generation college student, Ms. Crosson earned degrees from Susquehanna University and Penn State and previously taught in Bellefonte, near my hometown.

Her dedication, especially through her journalism program, has shaped students into future writers, editors, and leaders.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate Ms. Crosson and thank all educators for their dedication to helping our students succeed.

CELEBRATING HAYTI HERITAGE CENTER'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

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

Mrs. FOUSHEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Hayti Heritage Center in Durham, which has been at the forefront of advancing the heritage of the historic Hayti and the African-American experience.

Through dance, music, and culture, this center has continued to uplift and enrich the vibrancy and spirit of our city in immeasurable ways. The history of Durham cannot be separated from the history of Durham's Black Wall Street and Hayti, a thriving cultural and business hub for Black Americans.

The Hayti Heritage Center's steadfast commitment to preserving this rich heritage is a profound gift to our community. Now more than ever, as we see efforts to rewrite our Nation's past, the work of centers like these, which promote cultural understanding through community events, are more critical than ever. It is truly an honor to represent a district that is home to such a remarkable institution.

Madam Speaker, the impact that the center has had on generations of our community cannot be understated. I congratulate the center on this tremendous milestone, and I look forward to seeing them all and the meaningful work and achievements that lie ahead.

MILITARY APPRECIATION MONTH

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

Mr. DOWNING. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Military Appreciation Month.

Being an Air Force veteran myself, I understand the sacrifices that are made every day by this Nation's men and women who serve in our Armed Forces. These sacrifices aren't just borne by our servicemembers but also by their families who support them and by their children who are left at home while we send them into harm's way to defend this great country and all that she represents.

To my brothers and sisters in arms in Montana and across this great Nation,

I thank them. I thank them for taking the watch. I thank them for defending this Nation. I thank them for protecting us. They bring honor upon themselves. They bring honor upon their families, their communities, and to these great United States of America.

CELEBRATING TREE OF LIFE'S GRAND OPENING AT ASHBURN

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

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the grand opening of the Tree of Life's new Ashburn location.

This nonprofit provides critical services to our community, including weekly meals and grocery deliveries; ESOL classes and job search assistance; free clothing and transitional housing support; and free health education, vaccine clinics, and activities for seniors and individuals with disabilities.

Their opening, which I believe was this morning, is a combined Ashburn location, which was once the Sterling and Leesburg locations. It will now be centralized in Ashburn, which means the services will be easier to access. It will also be closer to my house, which is great.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate and thank the Tree of Life and nonprofits across our region for the critical work that they do to serve those in need.

RECOGNIZING GARRETT STANFIELD

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

Mr. TAYLOR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Garrett Stanfield.

Garrett is from Manchester, Ohio, and won the Young Cattleman of the Year Award at the Ohio Cattlemen's Association annual meeting and awards banquet this past February. This award recognizes individuals or couples who show leadership and have been successful in the beef operation industry.

Garrett has demonstrated this through his graduation from the Ohio State University's animal science program and his work to effectively use genetic and reproductive science on the farm. Garrett is a lifelong cattleman. He was raised on Stanfield Farms, which has been operated for generations by the Stanfield family in southern Ohio.

America's cattlemen, farmers, and ranchers are the backbone of our country. It is a great honor to advocate for them in Congress, and it is my sincere hope that we can pass a full farm bill on their behalf.

Currently working with Trans Ova Genetics on innovative breeding processes, Garrett will participate in the

upcoming National Cattlemen's Beef Association's Young Cattlemen's Conference as the representative from Ohio Cattlemen's Association.

Madam Speaker, Ohio is so proud of Garrett and thankful for all that he does and that his fellow farmers do for America.

UPHOLDING THE OATH OF OFFICE

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

Ms. BALINT. Madam Speaker, it has been 5 days since President Trump, when asked if he had to uphold the Constitution, told a reporter: "I don't know."

Madam Speaker, it has been 5 days of silence from my Republican colleagues. I keep waiting to see if a single Republican will speak up about this and denounce this horrifying remark.

My Republican colleagues: What has happened to you? You know that, if Obama or Clinton or Biden had said such an outrageous thing, you would be tripping over yourselves to get in front of the cameras. Yet, now, in this moment, you say nothing and you do nothing.

I was at the inauguration. I saw all of you. We sat together and watched the President swear his oath of office to uphold the Constitution.

I am pleading with you to speak up. Your fear is keeping you so small, and it is to the detriment of our country and our constitutional democracy.

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

CONGRATULATING PULLMAN HIGH SCHOOL'S SCIENCE BOWL TEAM

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

Mr. BAUMGARTNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the Pullman High School's science bowl team for their outstanding performance in the U.S. Department of Energy's National Science Bowl held in Washington, D.C., on April 28.

Representing eastern Washington, these exceptional students, Sahil Ganjyal, Jack Carper, Leon Liu, Kevin Chi, and Nathan Kostenko, earned their spot at nationals by winning the Inland Northwest Regional Science Bowl this spring.

At the competition, they joined 63 of their top high school teams from across the country to compete in one of the most prestigious science competitions in the Nation. This team from Pullman not only showcased their talent on the national stage, but they reminded us why it matters to invest in STEM education and to recognize young people who are willing to push themselves, think deeply, and work together in the pursuit of excellence.

They have made their fellow Pullman Greyhounds proud, including myself,

which includes their families and all of eastern Washington. I offer my heartfelt congratulations and encourage them to keep reaching higher. Their future and ours is bright.

□ 1100

COMMENDING LEADERSHIP OF BRYCE GROSSMAN

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

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend students across California's 19th Congressional District who participate in the Day of Silence. This is a day in which we highlight discrimination and harassment of LGBTQ students in our schools all across the country.

This year, I will feature the leadership of Bryce Grossman, an eighth grader from Santa Cruz, who founded and is organizing the We Will Not Be Erased walk on May 13, a demonstration to defend and remind us about the rights of the LGBTQ community.

With encouragement from their parents, Amy and Kevin, Bryce is furthering our democracy by stepping up and speaking up. As Bryce said: "We will be loud. We will be proud—for our rights, for our families, and for our LGBTQ community."

Mr. Speaker, the actions of Bryce and all students and allies on the Day of Silence demonstrate that our youth understand that when we engage, that is how we endure as a community, as a country, and, most importantly, as a democracy based on liberty, justice, and equality for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Matthew Hanley, one of his secretaries.

HONORING DEPUTY LUCAS WATTS

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

Mrs. BIGGS of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, as we approach law enforcement week, I rise today to honor a young man whose story reminds us not only of courage but of God's grace.

Nearly 2 years ago, Deputy Lucas Watts of Oconee County was shot in the line of duty during a traffic stop. At just 27 years old, he came face-to-face with death, and by every account, it is nothing short of a miracle that he survived.

Thanks to the quick action of his fellow deputies, the prayers of an entire community, and the healing hand of the Lord, Deputy Watts is still with us today. He is a devoted husband, a loving father, and a faithful public servant. Last year, he was named Deputy of

the Year by the South Carolina Sheriffs' Association.

Through hardship and healing, Deputy Watts has remained a powerful example of faith, perseverance, and service.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Deputy Watts, his family, and every law enforcement officer who puts their life on the line each day. We thank them, see them, and lift them up in prayer. May God continue to bless Deputy Watts and all who wear the badge.

MEDICAID IS NOT A HANDOUT

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

Ms. DEXTER. Mr. Speaker, House Republicans' all-out attack on Medicaid is morally indefensible.

In my district alone, over 255,000 Oregonians, including 59 percent of our children, rely on Medicaid for life-saving care.

These aren't just numbers. They are the cancer patients fighting for their lives, children with disabilities getting essential support, and seniors reliant on long-term care.

Republicans want to slash hundreds of billions of dollars from the Medicaid committee, gutting healthcare for the most vulnerable, while billionaires and corporations get another payday.

As a critical care physician, I know what this means. Without Medicaid, patients go without preventive care. They get sicker. They defer lifesaving medications. Too often, they don't survive.

Medicaid is not a handout. It is a lifeline. Cutting it to fund tax breaks for the ultrawealthy is unconscionable because healthcare is a human right. It is not a bargaining chip.

Oregon won't stand for these cuts, and neither will I.

CELEBRATING LEADERSHIP OF SUE ADLER

(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. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Sue Adler, whose leadership at the Historic Savannah Foundation has left a permanent mark on our city's preservation efforts.

After 6 years at the helm, we reflect on her unwavering commitment to preserving Savannah's architectural treasures and historical narratives.

Under Ms. Adler's guidance, HSF has flourished. Ms. Adler's work includes repurposing the Historic Kennedy Pharmacy as the Davenport House Museum Shop, ensuring that Savannah's rich past remains alive for future generations.

Ms. Adler's leadership has helped preserve the buildings, stories, and communities that define Savannah. As she

transitions to her new role at the Savannah Historic Initiatives, we thank her for her service. Her legacy will undoubtedly continue to shape our city's preservation journey, and we look forward to the continued success of Historic Savannah Foundation as it moves into the future.

ILLEGAL FIRINGS COULD DEVASTATE OREGON

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

Ms. SALINAS. Madam Speaker, I rise to sound the alarm about the Trump administration's reported plans to fire nearly 7,000 workers in the U.S. Forest Service.

These illegal firings could have devastating consequences for Oregon.

Wildfire season is just around the corner, and there is concern that the Forest Service won't actually have enough staff and resources to fight these deadly blazes, putting countless Oregonians at risk.

Fewer workers also means fewer people to care for our public lands and less money coming into our local economies. It means taxpayer dollars, which go to recruit and train these highly skilled individuals, will lose out on their investment.

That is why my colleagues and I sent a letter to Secretary Rollins and President Trump, demanding the reinstatement of all Forest Service personnel who have been illegally fired. Luckily, our letter resulted in some workers being reinstated, but the threat of more terminations remains.

Our public servants deserve better. The American people deserve better.

Madam Speaker, I won't be silent as the administration continues to wreak havoc on our country, on our forest, and on our people. With or without my Republican colleagues, I will continue to fight for our vulnerable communities.

RECOGNIZING ALEX KELEDJIAN

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

Mrs. KIM. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to recognize and thank my operations director, Alex Keledjian, for his 4 years of service in the House of Representatives, and this is Alex's son, Anthony.

Alex's dedicated work ethic and sharp sense of humor have made him an integral part of our team, keeping me and my office on track, smiling, and teaching us Armenian history along the way.

While he was working around the clock in my office during the past 4 years, he has also been a part-time law school student and devoted husband, father, and dear friend.

Madam Speaker, my team will not be the same without him, but we are ex-

cited for him as he embarks on this next chapter in his career as a lawyer back home in Los Angeles. I know I will continue to see him, so we will be cheering for him every step of the way. "Good luck"; "Shnorhavor."

RECOGNIZING MAMIE HOFFER AND JASON FUTRELL OF HOFFER FLOW CONTROLS

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

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Mamie Hoffer and Jason Futrell of Hoffer Flow Controls in Elizabeth City, North Carolina, the United States Small Business Administration's Small Business Persons of the Year for North Carolina.

During National Small Business Week, we are honored to recognize incredible entrepreneurs such as Mamie and Jason, whose company, Hoffer Flow Controls, exemplifies innovation and resilience, demonstrating positive economic impact in an economically distressed region.

Hoffer Flow Controls, a world-class manufacturer of industrial turbine flow meters for measuring liquids and gases, has been a pillar for northeastern North Carolina for more than 50 years. Their flow control solutions are used in industries like aerospace, defense, power, cryogenics, and more.

Hoffer Flow's success is a testament to what small businesses can achieve with vision, hard work, and a commitment to excellence.

Madam Speaker, Mamie and Jason are commended for their well-deserved honor and for perfecting the art of measurement.

RECOGNIZING HARD WORKERS DRIVING OUR ECONOMY

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

Mrs. HOUCHIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in celebration of National Small Business Week, a time to recognize the hardworking men and women who are the engines of our economy.

As a former small business owner myself, I know the long hours, risks, and deep sense of responsibility that come with signing both sides of a paycheck. Small businesses are more than storefronts. They are job creators, community anchors, and the heart of America.

In Indiana's Ninth District, small businesses like Lincks Clothing and Shoes, Brownstown Electric, and Lischke Motors are strengthening our communities one investment, one hire, and one customer at a time.

That is why I am committed to cutting government red tape, lowering taxes, and fighting for pro-growth policies that empower our entrepreneurs to thrive, not just survive.

Madam Speaker, I thank every small business owner out there for all they do. This week and every week, I am here for them.

CONSTITUENT OF THE WEEK: JOE CLONTZ

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

Mr. VINDMAN. Madam Speaker, during this Small Business Week, it is my honor to recognize Joe Clontz on his receipt of the John L. Stanley Award from the Orange County Chamber of Commerce.

This award is given to those who are committed to going above and beyond to support Orange County's business community.

Through Joe's business of providing critical electrical services to the residents of Orange, he has built a legacy of hard work. What makes him so deserving of this award is not just what he does at work. It is the time and energy he devotes to strengthening our community. He has helped grow local businesses and create new opportunities for the people of Orange County.

During Small Business Week, I am honored to congratulate him on this well-earned award and recognize him as this week's Constituent of the Week.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate Joe and offer my best wishes to him on continued success.

RECOGNIZING BM1 BRADLEY WALKER AND MK1 JAMES LANG

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

Mr. EZELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize two exceptional members of the United States Coast Guard from Port Security Unit 308 in Gulfport, Mississippi.

Boatswain's Mate First Class Bradley Walker has been awarded the Commander Ray Evans Outstanding Coxswain Trophy, one of the highest honors given to a Coast Guard boat operator. His leadership, skill, and commitment to mission excellence represent the very best in service.

Alongside him, Machinery Technician First Class James Lang has earned the Fireman First Class Paul Clark Outstanding Engineer Award, a national recognition of his outstanding technical expertise and dedication to keeping his unit mission-ready.

These two Mississippians embody the core values of the Coast Guard: honor, respect, and devotion to duty. I am incredibly proud to represent them and PSU 308 in Congress. Their service makes our Nation stronger and our Gulf Coast proud.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate and thank BM1 Walker and MK1 Lang for their service.

RECOGNIZING GLADYS AND NELSON GONZALEZ

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

Mr. LEVIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak for my constituents, Gladys and Nelson Gonzalez.

Thirty-five years ago, they came to the United States from Colombia in search of a better life. They tried to file for asylum but received bad legal advice from a now-disbarred attorney.

Nelson and Gladys Gonzalez raised three daughters in Laguna Niguel, California, worked hard, paid taxes, and never got so much as a traffic ticket.

For decades, they checked in with ICE voluntarily and were allowed to stay in the country, but this past February, while at their ICE appointment, they were detained, separated, and deported.

Why was a family with no criminal history, no gang affiliation, three children, and a new grandchild a priority for deportation? We should be using our resources to remove dangerous individuals, not those contributing positively to our society and to our economy, not people like Nelson and Gladys Gonzalez.

I am all for a secure border, but what we are seeing today is not the America that I know.

□ 1115

FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE FOR MILITARY FAMILIES

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

Mr. MOYLAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the MIL-FMLA act, legislation that honors the sacrifices of our military families and veterans by ensuring they receive the family and medical leave protections they deserve. I am honored to co-lead this bipartisan legislation with Congresswoman MCCLAIN DELANEY.

Too often, the loved ones of our servicemembers are left behind without adequate support when duty calls. The MIL-FMLA act fixes this by extending the Family and Medical Leave Act benefits to family members of the National Guard and Reserve troops, recognizing the unique burdens they bear when their loved ones are deployed.

This act also extends these same protections to our veterans and their families, ensuring they can take the time they need to care for their health without fear of losing their jobs. This is not just about fairness, it is about readiness. When families are supported at home, our servicemembers can focus on the mission.

As the proud Representative of Guam, where service to our Nation runs deep, I urge my colleagues to stand with our military families and pass this bill without delay.

MEDICAL DEBTS OF TRIBAL MEMBERS

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

Ms. SCHRIER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to encourage the House to take up and pass my bill, the Purchased and Referred Care Improvement Act.

This bill works to correct an all-too-common occurrence, which is that Tribal members are referred to collection agencies because the Indian Health Service failed to pay its bills.

Sometimes Tribal members utilizing the Indian Health Service will be referred to an outside specialist or another provider, and this is what is known as purchased and referred care. IHS is still responsible for the payment of this care but all too often fails to follow through on that obligation. These unpaid bills often lead to Tribal members paying those themselves and being saddled with medical debt that they should never have incurred in the first place.

Chairman Jarred Erickson and members of the Colville Tribe came and visited my office. We talked about this, and they brought it to my attention. Colville Tribal members have been hounded by debt collection agencies for bills that the Indian Health Service failed to pay.

This bill would ensure that this never happens again and that Tribal members will not be burdened with IHS' debts or saddled with medical debt. I thank Chairman Erickson and the Colville Tribe for their advocacy, and I encourage the House to pass this bill.

HIGH-COST RAIL IN CALIFORNIA

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, in California, we have this high-speed rail project. I call it high-cost rail because it has become a symbol of runaway spending and is, indeed, a complete boondoggle.

Back when the original bond was passed in 2008 by a narrow margin by the voters of California, it was about a \$9 billion bond. The rail was supposed to be a total cost of \$33 billion from San Francisco to L.A. It has ballooned up to \$130 billion in projected costs, and that was 17 years ago. So far there is hardly any infrastructure that has been built.

What do you have? Over 17 years they have managed to raise about \$17 billion from cap-and-trade tax in California and two different disbursements from Democratic Presidencies. In 17 years—check this—they have raised \$17 billion. They are short \$110 billion to complete the project. Not only that, they are at least 25 years behind. It was supposed to have been done by 2020, and now they project, maybe we will have the first segment from Merced to a

town called Shafter, somewhere near Bakersfield, done by maybe 2035 or 2040.

They are going to come back to D.C. for more money. Not a chance. This thing needs to be stopped and put it into infrastructure that people need, like freeways and stuff like that.

CONGRATULATING MATRIX M3 INDOOR PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE

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

Mrs. SYKES. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize the Matrix M3 indoor percussion ensemble as Ohio's 13th Congressional District Champions of the Week.

Last month, the M3 percussion ensemble performed at the WGI World Championships. After their preliminary performance left them just two points in the lead, M3 gave it their all in the finals, securing the first place prize. They are now world champions in the Scholastic Independent division after earning a final and near-perfect score.

The WGI Championship was the final competition in the Matrix M3 percussion ensemble's busy season, after competing in seven different contests across the Midwest. The group is a perfect example of why Ohio's 13th Congressional District is known as the birthplace of champions. I look forward to seeing all that they accomplish in the future.

Once again, I congratulate the Matrix M3 indoor percussion ensemble for bringing home this gold medal. Our community is so very proud of their hard work and incredible talent.

THANKING W. KAMAU BELL FOR HIS GENEROUS DONATION TO OAKLAND SCHOOLS

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

Ms. SIMON. Madam Speaker, today I rise to address the House to celebrate my constituent, W. Kamau Bell, who won "Celebrity Jeopardy!" It is a pretty cool thing. Not only did he win "Celebrity Jeopardy!" but as a constituent who has lived in my district in Oakland, California, since the 1990s, he has consistently given back philanthropically to young people and underserved communities, again for almost 30 years.

After winning "Celebrity Jeopardy!" just recently, he gave a million dollars—the full winnings—back to the community, specifically to the school district in Oakland, California. His donation has supported over 200 projects in Oakland schools, including Castlemont High School.

Just recently, I visited Castlemont High School and met with these amazing students, who are full of potential. These students are not only the future,

they are the now. Many teachers across our school districts, in my district and throughout the country, are going in their own pockets to buy support services for students and their own supplies. Kamau's philanthropic spirit will reduce that reality for our teachers.

I am so proud to call him not only my constituent but a leading voice in the United States. I thank Kamau so much.

NATIONAL AMERICAN BIRDING WEEK

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to highlight a bipartisan resolution introduced alongside my northwest Ohio colleague, BOB LATTA. It proclaims May 9 to May 18, 2025, as National American Birding Week.

Each spring, 3.5 billion birds from over 350 species migrate through the United States to their breeding grounds. They stop along the shores of our Great Lakes flyway before continuing their journey to Canada and beyond. They don't have to pay any tariffs.

Birding in our abundant freshwater kingdom draws environmental stewards from around the globe. Nationwide, 95 million birders generate over \$90 billion annually for our economy.

The biggest week in American birding is sponsored by the Black Swamp Bird Observatory in Oak Harbor, Ohio. This event leverages public-private partnerships to promote conservation of migratory bird populations and promote millions of dollars of economic development through nature tourism, research, education, and outreach.

Ohio is proud to host our guests from near and far. We welcome everyone during America's Birding Week. Let this continue for generations to come.

A FREE PRESS IS VITAL TO DEMOCRACY

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

Ms. STANSBURY. Madam Speaker, in Donald Trump's America, not even Elmo is safe because over the last 100 days, we have seen an unprecedented attack on the media, and especially our public media.

Let me say this: The freedom of the press and freedom of speech are not a privilege. They are enshrined in the United States Constitution, vital to our democracy and to accountability.

However, we have seen attack after attack, threats on the media and communications companies, outlets replaced in the Pentagon, an order attacking PBS and NPR just this very week, and an attempt to throw the AP out of the White House for daring to tell the truth.

These attacks are not just an outrage, they are an attack on our freedom, our democracy, and our rights as Americans, which is why I rise today to stand for and fight for a free and fair press, because it is vital to our democracy.

PROTECTIONS FOR FIREFIGHTERS

(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. Madam Speaker, 2 days ago I got a text from a firefighter in my district saying: Get a rare blood cancer and find out there is no firefighter cancer registry. The cancer registry is hosted by NIOSH, and on April 1 and last week, the agency was gutted.

In Gresham, Oregon, there was an investigation because we had a firefighter who spent months in the hospital after surviving a flash fire, and the investigators were fired in the middle of the investigation.

I come from a family of firefighters, one of whom just got diagnosed with Parkinson's after spending months at the World Trade Center.

The fact of the matter is, on 9/11 my Republican colleagues will fall all over themselves to thank firefighters and say how they will never forget. I will tell you something, we are going to never forget the deafening silence and the inaction as these investigators and protections for firefighters who put their lives on the line, they did nothing and let them die. We will never forget.

CONGRESS MUST PROVIDE CHECKS AND BALANCES

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

Mr. LATIMER. Madam Speaker, allow me to paint a picture of a country: threats to the media to control the flow of information to the citizenry; cutting funds to childhood education, higher education, and the arts to limit free and independent thought; telling families it is time to tighten their wallets for the greater good; a focus on investing in prisons; members of the judiciary jailed for following the law; military parades that celebrate the leader.

When Americans hear this, we associate them with the likes of Lukashenko of Belarus or Kim Jong-Un of North Korea, but these are all examples of our country, the United States of America, in the last 3 months and what is planned.

Fear is the ultimate goal of leaders like this. We need to stand up for freedom and democracy or we may lose them forever. This Congress must stop being a rubberstamp for this President and perform its constitutional duty as a check and a balance.

□ 1130

SUPPORTING CASA

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

Mr. MRVAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my support for the Court-Appointed Special Advocates program, also known as the CASA program, through the Department of Justice.

As a prior township trustee in northwest Indiana, I was involved in a program that went into the schools to assist children who experienced abuse and sexual harm. For survivors, having someone with CASA in their corner became their lifeline through that painful experience.

A family friend became a survivor at just 4 years old. Today, as a college student, she volunteers for CASA, driven by the advocates who once stood by her. She is proof that hope creates change. She asked me to fight.

It is a painful truth that the administration has moved to eliminate funding for this critical program. As a member of the House Appropriations Subcommittee that funds the Department of Justice, I believe that our Nation's values and policies are shown by how we direct funds. Turning our backs on children survivors in order to justify massive tax cuts for the wealthy is both shameful and bad policy.

Madam Speaker, I stand ready to work with all of my colleagues to ensure that children and survivors in northwest Indiana and across our Nation have access to resources and trusted advocates they need to lead their best lives.

SUPPORTING VETERANS AND CAREGIVERS

(Mrs. McCLAIN DELANEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. McCLAIN DELANEY. Madam Speaker, 14.3 million Americans serve as caregivers for our Nation's injured servicemembers and veterans. Unfortunately, the Family and Medical Leave Act does not meet the challenges faced by today's servicemembers, vets, and their families.

The FMLA excludes military caregiver benefits for domestic partners and extended family members. The FMLA does not have a defined benefit for veterans who need to leave to address severe injuries related to their service. In fact, many of our Nation's heroes and their loved ones cannot access basic benefits without risking their job.

During Military Caregiver Month, I am proud to introduce the MIL-FMLA act with Congressman MOYLAN. This bipartisan legislation removes arbitrary restrictions on who can be a military caregiver. It covers domestic deployments when National Guard members respond to natural disasters.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to cosponsor the MIL-FMLA act.

CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO YEMEN—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 119-50)

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

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency declared with respect to Yemen in Executive Order 13611 of May 16, 2012, is to continue in effect beyond May 16, 2025.

The actions and policies of Ansar Allah, also known as the Houthis, continue to threaten Yemen's peace, security, and stability. These actions include obstructing the political process in Yemen and blocking the implementation of the agreement of November 23, 2011, between the Government of Yemen and those in opposition to it, which provided for a peaceful transition of power that meets the legitimate demands and aspirations of the Yemeni people.

Therefore, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13611 with respect to Yemen.

DONALD J. TRUMP.

THE WHITE HOUSE, May 7, 2025.

PROTECTING AMERICANS FROM HARMFUL CRYPTO PRACTICES

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

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to further discuss with our Members and this country the situation that we find ourselves in, the chaotic situation that has so many people confused. It is a chaotic situation that is causing trauma and harm to the people of this country.

I know much of what I am going to say today perhaps has been said by others before, but we need to talk about this situation over and over again and daily so that people can understand what is going on and how our democracy is being challenged.

Madam Speaker, last year, Trump denied knowing anything about Project 2025, the radical rightwing plan to re-

shape the Federal Government. Of Project 2025, Trump said: "I don't know anything about it. I don't want to know anything about it."

Trump, Elon Musk, and his appointees are now following the Project 2025 playbook. They are recklessly gutting Federal agencies and government's capacity. Elon Musk has said that the government "should privatize everything that we possibly can." They are laying off or pushing into retirement tens of thousands of Federal employees. The cruelty is the point.

Russell Vought, Director of the Office of Management and Budget and Project 2025 architect, has said of Federal employees: "We want to put them in trauma."

It has been over 100 days since President Trump was inaugurated. Since then, the President of the United States has questioned his role to uphold the Constitution, an oath he made when he was sworn into office. He has also questioned whether Americans are entitled to due process, a foundational civil protection. He has endlessly flouted the rule of law.

As a matter of fact, the American Civil Liberties Union has called the Trump administration's action: "One of the most abusive and aggressive assaults on human rights in United States Presidential history."

In carrying out their pro-billionaire agenda, Republicans have also gutted programs and agencies that serve as critical lifelines to American families, many of which include their very own constituents.

The international leadership which Americans benefit greatly and built for decades is now destabilized by Trump's trade war against our allies.

In just a few months, Trump has introduced chaos in the stock market and undermined confidence for consumers, investors, and small businesses, many of which have cautioned that they will have to close due to Trump's untenable tariffs which act as a tax on Americans and their businesses.

At the same time, as families struggle, Trump has increased his wealth by billions since taking office, which is a slap in the face to American families struggling to put food on the table.

Just last week, alarming new information came to light regarding foreign governments making business deals using Trump's crypto. A \$2 billion business deal using the Trump firm's stablecoins with a fund backed by Abu Dhabi was announced at a conference in Dubai.

This arrangement represents a significant contribution by a foreign government to President Trump's private crypto business that will abundantly grow the Trump family's wealth.

While Trump and his billionaire insiders' wealth catapults, Americans are bracing themselves for layoffs, shortages, and higher prices in a recession engineered by Trump.

While Trump and his family continue to land billions of dollars in deals and

investments with American companies and foreign entities, Trump has asked Americans to just withstand the "pain." This is from his economic policies.

While Republicans work hard to make room for \$7 trillion in tax cuts for American oligarchs like Elon Musk and Jeff Bezos, Republicans are cutting \$880 billion in funding from Medicaid food stamps for Americans who rely on this help.

Is this how Donald Trump has improved the lives of American families—by damaging their retirement plans, jobs, and social safety nets?

It is clear there is no such thing as business as usual anymore. This is why this week I took a stand against Trump's actions. For several years, I have led the effort in Congress to advance commonsense crypto legislation to protect American investors and consumers from fraud and from scams, while supporting crypto capital formation.

After years of good faith, bipartisan negotiation and collaboration with regulators and stakeholders, former Chair McHENRY and I even drafted payment stablecoin legislation that would create a strong Federal framework and put consumer protection front and center.

My bill would foster innovation, while properly addressing the concerns I have long held about safeguarding our Nation's consumers from scams that inundated the crypto industry. Our bill also addressed national security concerns that adversaries and criminal organizations could use stablecoins for their very harmful purposes.

While we are talking about crypto, I think it is important for me to let the people know that crypto is a digital form of private cash. It is very important that people understand that. We are trying to share the information so people understand about this digital form of private cash.

However, we live in a different world now. Many of these risks have only increased since the inauguration of President Trump. President Trump's actions have drastically altered the crypto landscape in ways that are far more dangerous than what we could ever imagine. He has gutted the financial regulators tasked with protecting Americans.

Ahead of the scheduled joint hearing between the Financial Services Committee and the Agriculture Committee on crypto market structure legislation, I presented a straightforward, acceptable, and basic request to the Republicans.

I told the Chair of the Financial Services Committee that I would only give my consent to this hearing if Republicans would include provisions to block Trump—or any sitting President—and his family, as well as Members of Congress, from further profiting off crypto at the expense of American families in his crypto legislation. That is all I asked for.

Unlike other hearings in Congress, this one was different. It required every Member—Democrat and Republican—to agree to hold this hearing. Well, I had to think whether I could agree to this hearing if there wasn't a commitment to address the corruption I and many across this country recognize.

Whether a Republican or Democrat, any Member of Congress that intends to protect the public from the exploitation of government power should stand by these foundational principles of our democracy.

Regrettably, Republicans rejected my request. In fact, rather than post my legislation to stop corruption, they decided to not even post their legislation.

Then when I asked for a commitment to include a prohibition on owning crypto by the public officials writing the laws and rules governing crypto, that was rejected, as well. Because the joint hearing needed the consent of every Member, I could not in good faith agree to such a hearing.

□ 1145

Madam Speaker, you see, through this legislation, Republicans are legitimizing Trump's and his family's efforts to enrich themselves on the backs of average Americans. Through his crypto businesses, Trump has created a pathway to circumvent our country's national security and anticorruption laws. This approach allows adversaries like China and Russia to curry favor, either blatantly or anonymously, through transfers of money to him and his inner circle.

This week, we saw new reports that insiders made nearly \$100 million on Melania's meme coin.

Public officials being able to sell access using crypto undermine our democracy and free market system.

Let's look at this for what it is. This is how authoritarian regimes do business.

Trump has turned the Office of the Presidency into a personal money-making machine, and we must speak truth to power for the Americans we took an oath to protect.

Let's take a look at the timeline of this, shall we?

As the Republican Presidential nominee, Trump launched his family's crypto venture called World Liberty Financial, a decentralized finance crypto platform. The Trump family now has a claim on 75 percent of net revenues from token sales and 60 percent from World Liberty operations.

Concerning crypto industry data also shows that many investors in World Liberty's crypto are based abroad in countries like Singapore, South Korea, Hong Kong, and the United Arab Emirates. Because this company was launched during Trump's campaign, it gave him an avenue to possibly circumvent Federal laws that make it illegal for foreigners to donate to Presidential campaigns or inaugural funds.

After the election and just before his inauguration, President Trump and the First Lady, Melania Trump, kicked off his Presidency with the launch of their own meme coins, which have reportedly lost the investors, who trusted their President, \$2 billion.

Guess what, Madam Speaker? The President and his family made at least \$350 million.

Then, in March, President Trump's World Liberty Financial announced the launch of its stablecoin, conveniently named USD1, just before our Financial Services Committee was scheduled to vote on legislation regulating the stablecoin market.

Stablecoins are a type of crypto that claim to maintain a constant or "stable" value and are used in most crypto transactions today.

In May, World Liberty Financial announced the firm will be making a \$2 billion business deal with a fund backed by Abu Dhabi, using the Trump firm's stablecoins. This deal also includes Binance, the world's largest crypto exchange.

Recently, Binance's founder has been seeking a pardon from the Trump administration after he pleaded guilty to money laundering and spent 4 months in Federal prison. Nevertheless, Republicans' stablecoin bill did nothing to address Trump's conflict and instead voted to hand Trump the authority to write the rules over his and his competitors' stablecoins.

That is right. Traditionally, our Federal financial regulators were intentionally created by Congress to be independent from the White House in order to put the stability of our financial markets above politics. Trump has undermined that independence by making these independent agencies now clear all rules with the White House.

If stablecoin legislation is passed, then agencies would draft rules that would be sent straight to the Trump White House, and he could directly make edits that would benefit his own stablecoin business. His business could also make adjustments to their operations, knowing the rules before their competitors.

Later, in March, Trump's sons launched their own Bitcoin company called American Bitcoin. President Trump had conveniently already instructed the Treasury to create a Bitcoin reserve and a digital asset strategic reserve, a move that would boost the value of the Bitcoin he and his Cabinet members own, using taxpayer resources.

Leading up to the White House's first crypto summit, World Liberty purchased \$20 million in crypto tokens, some of which include those Trump picked for the strategic cryptocurrency reserve.

I found out recently that, last month, President Trump was venturing deeper into crypto with a new project. This would be his very own video game that uses crypto. The video game is supposed to resemble Monopoly GO! Play-

ers travel around a board and earn money for constructing buildings in a digital city.

Madam Speaker, you heard that right. Trump is producing video games that involve crypto to model his own real estate business, which went bankrupt.

Who do you think is helping him launch this video game? It is the same person who helped launch his meme coin. This is his longtime pal, Bill Zanker.

Other Trump companies, like Trump Media & Technology Group, which is the parent company of Truth Social, are also leveraging the Office of the President by partnering with major crypto platforms like Crypto.com, promising to purchase \$250 million in crypto, initiating plans to launch crypto exchange traded funds, ETFs, and more.

Trump is gearing up to host a May 22 dinner for top Trump meme coin holders. What this means is the more of his crypto that people buy, the higher their chances of getting access to Trump. We don't know everyone who is buying his cryptoassets. It could be foreign governments, individuals, or special interests looking to directly influence Presidential decisions.

Trump ran on a campaign to put more money in the pockets of Americans. It turns out he just meant his pockets and those of his cronies.

The first 100 days of the Trump administration were filled with failures, chaos, and incompetence. The United States' role and reputation globally have been severely damaged, and many Americans are worried they will no longer receive the Social Security checks and Medicaid they need.

Now, congressional Republicans insist on pushing forward crypto market structure legislation, without addressing any of the corruption I have mentioned here today.

Madam Speaker, I ask Members to keep in mind that all of this is occurring against this unprecedented backdrop. Every day that congressional Republicans refuse to stand up for their constituents, they diminish their power and Congress' and damage the country's democratic future.

At the same time, Trump has undone Congress' decades-long ethics rules and enforcement laws. In doing so, he has removed many of the institutions and watchdogs that would serve as a check on his own self-profiteering.

He has gutted the Corporate Transparency Act, frozen enforcement of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, and disbanded the Department of Justice's National Cryptocurrency Enforcement Team.

Trump has also been extremely clear about taking control of independent agencies, even issuing executive orders making sure they are no longer independent from the whims of politics. The Securities and Exchange Commission has suspended several ongoing cases for Trump donors and Trump's crypto investors.

For example, the Securities and Exchange Commission recently suspended its enforcement action against Justin Sun, founder of the TRON Foundation. The SEC's own complaint detailed how Sun sold unregistered crypto asset securities, manipulated trading to artificially inflate the prices of the tokens he issued, and secretly paid celebrities to tout his tokens, all in violation of well-established and widely recognized securities laws. The timing also raises significant concern as it aligns with Sun's \$75 million investment in Trump's World Liberty Financial.

We do not need to repeat the mistakes of the past with a new risky financial product. We can integrate the lessons of the past for a future that spearheads responsible innovation and growth.

Remember the predatory mortgages from the financial crisis? Those were also sold as innovative products without sufficient guardrails. Instead, they caused millions of people to lose their jobs, their homes, their savings, reversing and worsening any gains that had been made in Black and Latino homeownership and wealth. The collapse of the housing market during this time displaced approximately 10 million Americans.

As Trump wreaks chaos on the stock market and broader economy, he is also injecting additional risk to our financial system, ultimately putting the country on track for a recession and financial crisis.

Let's start with Trump's deregulatory agenda. Trump has shuttered the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. Republicans are paving the way for a reality where the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau is dismantled and the economy is no longer guided by independent regulators. Instead, regulators are being manipulated to serve the political and financial interests of the President and his billionaire insiders.

In this context, Trump's light-touch crypto legislation could have real risk for us all.

Trump has undone critical enforcement mechanisms that make our marketplace safer for consumers and hold bad actors accountable.

The Trump administration is also integrating unnecessary risk and volatility into agencies. For example, according to recent reports, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, or HUD, is attempting to experiment with crypto in their operations, including by paying grantees in stablecoin or crypto. One of Trump's executive orders leaves the door wide open for Trump to require the use of his stablecoins and meme coins in order to pay taxes or enter into other arrangements with the government. This would be just another in a string of this administration's egregious conflicts of interest.

During the 2008 financial crisis, we saw how poorly regulated money market funds needed to be bailed out by

the Treasury Secretary using the Exchange Stabilization Fund. We also saw how the Federal Reserve used its emergency lending authority to provide a bailout for American International Group.

When we step back and view all of these factors, it is clear Trump is socializing risk to American families who are not engaging with the crypto ecosystem. I am deeply concerned that, as President, Trump will transfer the risks from his ventures and sponsorship of the crypto industry to the American taxpayer.

As Members of Congress, we must legislate. Every day they try to shutter the CFPB, every day, we are fighting, whether it is at agency headquarters or in the court.

As Members of Congress, we have the serious duty to protect and defend the American public. Since the Republican majority refuses to do its job, I am determined to shed light on these critical issues.

Now, I will move from the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau into the diversity, equality, and inclusion that he has made a top priority in his administration.

□ 1200

There is a continuing legacy of racism, sexism, and discrimination in our society. Bias and discrimination have contributed to the exclusion of qualified women, people of color, LGBT, and persons with disabilities, and veterans.

Diversity, equity, and inclusion policies are not about mandates and quotas. On the contrary. DEI is about eliminating bias, opening doors, and giving everyone, no matter what they look like or who they love a fair opportunity for employment, promotion, and access to capital. DEI is about understanding and knowing what these differences are and doing everything that can be done, both in government and in corporations, to just let those who wish to have a promotion—many of whom have worked for 25 and 30 years—have a chance to interview, to see if their talents are understood, and that they will have the opportunity to move up.

Well, he has made DEI a very, very vocal point. He started out talking about getting rid of that. He sent memos around to all of the nonprofits and agencies telling them if they dare to have anything that looks like DEI, which he doesn't have a definition for, that they are going to be shut down, and that they are going to be penalized.

Trump and Musk are targeting any institution that displays a focus towards diversity, equity, and inclusion.

When I became the first Black and the first woman chair of the House Financial Services Committee back in 2019, I established Congress' first-ever Diversity and Inclusion Subcommittee, chaired by Representative JOYCE BEATTY. The Subcommittee on Diversity and Inclusion held 18 hearings, re-

leased three major reports, and brought long-overdue scrutiny to the ways in which systemic barriers in our financial system disadvantage entire communities. We exposed inequities in hiring and promotion. We shined a light on the racial wealth gap, and we demanded that corporate America take diversity seriously, not as a talking point but as a matter of policy, accountability, and economic justice.

We know the numbers. Women make up more than 50 percent of the population, people of color over 40 percent. And yet, in the financial services industry, representation of these groups drops dramatically, especially for women of color, at every level of leadership.

We are not dealing with a pipeline problem. We are dealing with an access problem; a power problem.

I want to be clear. My commitment to DEI did not start there. Back in 2010, I helped to create the Offices of Minority and Women Inclusion at our Nation's top financial regulators. These offices were designed to embed DEI into the DNA of the financial system, from hiring and contracting to how institutions supervise the banks they regulate.

These offices are now under assault, despite its legal mandate and critical role in promoting equity in hiring, contracting, and oversight across the financial system.

Let me be clear. DEI is about more than just checking a box. It is about upward mobility. It is about making sure women and people of color aren't just in the room but they are also at the head of the table and also serving on boards, making investment decisions, and building wealth that lasts.

That is why I fought to pass the Minority Business Resiliency Act, now law, and secured \$600 billion for community development, financial institutions, and minority depository institutions during the pandemic. That is why I continue to support the Minority Business Development Agency, which has now been defunded and dismantled, even though it has provided critical support to businesses all around the country.

Let me just continue on. You know, it is absolutely disturbing and upsetting to walk through what is happening in our country under President Trump and his entire administration.

Let me be absolutely clear. We are in the midst of a full-blown affordable housing and homelessness crisis with over 771,000 people experiencing homelessness on any given night in this country.

Rents and home prices are surging, and families are being priced out of their communities. Housing supply is not keeping up with demand. As a result, more and more families are pushed out onto the streets or forced to choose between paying rent or buying groceries.

Across the country, renters and homeowners alike are spending well

over 30 and even 50 percent of their income on housing.

That is why I will soon reintroduce my legislative housing package to address the housing and homelessness crisis head-on, which many of you are familiar with, my Housing Crisis Response Act, Ending Homelessness Act, and Downpayment Toward Equity Act. These bills will help increase the supply of housing, bring down costs, and revive the dream of homeownership for all.

While Democrats are fighting to deliver real relief to families across this country, President Trump, along with co-president Elon Musk and Secretary Scott Turner, are working to decimate HUD from the inside out.

Since January, this administration has halted critical agency operations, unlawfully put staff on leave or fired staff; terminated programs that are key to ending housing discrimination, such as Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing and the Equal Access Rules; compromised Americans' sensitive data by granting Elon Musk's so-called DOGE personnel with the agency exposing victims of domestic violence and/or assault; reported plans to launch dangerous blockchain and crypto experiments within HUD; and begun planning to shut down HUD field offices all over the country.

Make no mistake, this agency isn't a luxury. It is a necessity. This agency helps our veterans, our seniors, people with disabilities, and families struggling to stay afloat.

When I saw the harmful impact of this administration, I quickly took action and hand-delivered a letter to Secretary Turner, signed by 122 Democratic colleagues demanding answers. Now, I am talking about Secretary Turner who has been appointed to dismantle HUD by President Trump.

What is equally concerning to me in Congress is that Republican Members continue their push to slash Federal investments in housing, which represent less than 1 percent of all Federal spending. In their latest fiscal year 2025 budget, they slashed housing by more than \$500 million, which will put at least 32 million households at risk of eviction and homelessness.

Just this week, Trump released a heartless fiscal year 2026 budget that cuts 26 billion from rental assistance programs, including public housing, housing choice vouchers, project-based rental assistance, and housing for seniors and people with disabilities.

He is turning these lifeline programs into State block grants and imposing a cruel 2-year cap on aid for able-bodied adults.

It doesn't stop there. His budget also calls for the obliteration of critical community development programs like the Community Development Block Grant, HOME, and fair housing grants. These are the very programs that help create affordable housing, revitalize disadvantaged neighborhoods, and protect families from housing discrimina-

tion. Eliminating these programs will devastate our communities, displace families who are already on the brink of homelessness, and destroy the progress made to ensure every person in our Nation has access to safe, stable, and affordable housing.

Despite all the chaos, I will not give up. I will not stand by. I will continue to fight against Trump's sabotage, defend the agency, and stand up for the families who depend on the agency to keep a roof over their heads.

I have fought too long and too hard to let this administration tear it down, and I will not stop until our Nation's affordable housing and homelessness crisis ends once and for all.

But that is not all. Let's take a look at Social Security. Trump promised repeatedly not to cut Social Security under his administration. He said: "Social Security will not be touched, it will only be strengthened."

But listen carefully to what Trump billionaire appointees are saying: Elon Musk called Social Security "the biggest Ponzi scheme of all time." Let me say it again. The co-president, not elected by anybody, appointed by Trump, Elon Musk called Social Security "the biggest Ponzi scheme of all time."

Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick said only a "fraudster" would complain about a missed Social Security check. He is saying: Seniors, if you didn't get your Social Security check, don't complain because if you complain, you must be about fraud. You must be about something else rather than getting your check.

I don't know who this Lutnick is, but I only know that he is, too, a billionaire. What the heck does he care about Social Security? What does he care about a missed Social Security check? Not a darn thing.

Trump, Musk, and DOGE are undermining the infrastructure of Social Security by planning to cut 7,000 employees at the Social Security Administration. They are planning to take away the option to use the phone to file for benefits, requiring seniors to visit a field office if they do not use the internet. Trump has put these plans on hold for now, but we know this administration will continue to make life harder for seniors.

Now Trump is adding Social Security numbers to the Social Security death list to force immigrants to leave the country. People who have their Social Security numbers placed on the death list by mistake can have their homes foreclosed on or bank accounts closed.

These actions would violate data privacy law. Those who end up on the death list report, those mistakes can take months to fix.

Trump is risking seniors' ability to receive the benefits they have earned. Now, I want to be very clear about this. He said he would not cut Social Security, but he is destroying the infrastructure of Social Security. So people can't have their questions answered,

they can't get into a Social Security office that has been closed down and they can't get any answers by phone.

This is outrageous, and I am so afraid of what is happening to those who depend on Social Security. I am so afraid that seniors with limited amounts of Social Security are going to end up hungry. Of course, they wouldn't be able to pay any rent unless they are getting subsidized by HUD in some way.

Let's go to Medicaid. Just like with Social Security, Trump and the Republicans are playing games with people's lives because now they are coming for Medicaid through this dangerous reconciliation bill.

Congress' nonpartisan scorekeeper, the Congressional Budget Office, just confirmed the truth: 5.5 million people would lose their Medicaid coverage if Republicans cut the Federal match for expansion States; 3.3 million more would lose coverage if they cap Federal Medicaid spending in those same States; 2.3 million people, mostly low income seniors and people with disabilities, would lose coverage if Republicans repeal Biden's enrollment rule; and a staggering 8.6 million Americans would be pushed off Medicaid if Republicans limit States' ability to fund the program through provider taxes.

□ 1215

Here is what that means in real life: seniors losing nursing home care, children losing access to basic checkups, cancer patients cut off in the middle of treatment, and families forced to choose between a doctor's visit and rent.

Republicans say these cuts are about cutting waste, fraud, and abuse, but Americans know what this really is. It is an attack on the most vulnerable to pay for the wealthy and the well-connected.

These cuts would not just shrink the deficit. They would shrink the life expectancy of millions. They would drive up hospital costs, emergency room visits, and medical bankruptcies. These proposals would lead entire communities, especially communities of color, Black, Latino, and rural populations, without a healthcare safety net.

Republicans don't care as long as their billionaire boys' club can pad their pockets. It is a stark reminder of whose interests they are really serving.

This is from a Washington Post article:

"One month into a sweeping new tariff regime that President Donald Trump vowed would bring jobs and factories 'roaring back,' a Pennsylvania manufacturing hub is full of skepticism.

"Trump once told supporters here in the Lehigh Valley that they know 'better than almost any place in this country' how global trade has 'outsourced your industries' and 'wiped out your steel mills.' Now, even in one of the communities the President suggested would benefit most from his tariffs, his

economic overhaul is disrupting lives and testing some voters' patience in an election-deciding swing State.

"New hires at a local truck-making plant had just started on the shop floor last month when their company announced an abrupt change: layoffs that could hit more than 10 percent of the workforce and that the company blamed on tariffs and other economic uncertainty. Even Trump's fans sometimes grimace at his plans to remake the world economy, worried about higher costs in a politically competitive area still scattered with lawn signs that read: 'Trump Low Prices Kamala High Prices.'"

He had these signs all over America, promising low prices.

"Almost two-thirds of Americans disapprove of Trump's handling of tariffs, and a lasting backlash could be especially consequential for Republicans in areas such as the Lehigh Valley, a perennial Rust Belt battleground where Trump's campaign pitch resonated with many voters."

They believed him.

"Trump's tariffs have put pressure on some of the GOP's most vulnerable incumbents in Congress, including the local Congressman, freshman RYAN MACKENZIE, as they try to defend Trump's agenda while also acknowledging their constituents' concerns."

"Officials here are doubtful that any tariffs, no matter how drastic, can recreate the economy of the past, when one steel company's facilities in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, alone employed 30,000 people. Manufacturing is still the biggest industry in the Lehigh Valley, with investment booming in recent years. At the same time, leaders are proud that they managed to diversify their economy after Bethlehem Steel collapsed decades ago."

"Brian Higgins, a longtime Republican commissioner in Lower Macungie Township, home to the truck plant, said it is hard to imagine manufacturing rebounding to where it was decades ago. 'I don't think anybody thinks that you could bring the Lehigh Valley back to what it was,' Higgins said. 'Could we bring some manufacturing back there? Probably, but not to the extent that people believe.'"

"I just think it is going to cost more money, and then it is going to hurt us with retaliatory tariffs," said Higgins, a self-described 'Reagan Republican' who could not bring himself to vote for Trump.

"Trump argues that levying tariffs on imports will give him leverage for trade deals and ultimately compel companies to ramp up production in the United States. Critics say the strategy will raise costs for consumers and destabilize the economy while leaving businesses too uncertain about the future to make plans."

Here, let me just share with you what was on an article from The Washington Post: Trump's tariffs are causing untold harm to America.

Let me read another story. This story is from The Wall Street Journal,

"The Dumbest Trade War in History." The Wall Street Journal said that.

"President Trump will fire his first tariff salvo on Saturday against those notorious American adversaries, Mexico and Canada. They will get hit with a 25 percent border tax, while China, a real adversary, will endure 10 percent. This reminds us of the old Bernard Lewis joke that it is risky to be America's enemy, but it can be fatal to be its friend."

"Leaving China aside, Mr. Trump's justification for this economic assault on the neighbors makes no sense. While House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt said they have 'enabled illegal drugs to pour into America,' but drugs have flowed into the U.S. for decades and will continue to do so as long as Americans keep using them. Neither country can stop it."

"Drugs may be an excuse since Mr. Trump has made clear he likes tariffs for their own sake. 'We don't need the products they have,' Mr. Trump said on Thursday. 'We have all the oil you need. We have all the trees you need, meaning the lumber.'"

"Mr. Trump sometimes sounds as if the U.S. shouldn't import anything at all, that America can be a perfectly closed economy making everything at home. This is called autarky, and it isn't the world we live in or one that we should want to live in, as Mr. Trump may soon find out."

"Take the U.S. auto industry, which is really a North American industry because supply chains in the three countries are highly integrated. In 2024, Canada supplied almost 13 percent of U.S. imports of auto parts and Mexico nearly 42 percent. Industry experts say a vehicle made on the continent goes back and forth across borders a half dozen times or more, as companies source components and add value in the most cost-effective ways, and everyone benefits."

"The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative says that in 2023 the industry added more than \$809 billion to the U.S. economy, or about 11.2 percent of total U.S. manufacturing output, supporting '9.7 million direct and indirect jobs.' In 2022, the U.S. exported \$75.4 billion in vehicles and parts to Canada and Mexico. That number jumped 14 percent in 2023 to \$86.2 billion, according to the American Automotive Policy Council."

"American carmakers would be much less competitive without this trade. Regional integration is now an industrywide manufacturing strategy—also employed in Japan, Korea, and Europe—aimed at using a variety of high-skilled and low-cost labor markets to source components, software, and assembly."

"The result has been that U.S. industrial capacity in autos has grown alongside an increase in imported motor vehicles, engines, and parts. From 1995 to 2019, imports of autos, engines, and parts rose 169 percent while U.S. industrial capacity in autos, engines, and parts rose 71 percent."

"As the Cato Institute's Scott Lincicome puts it, the data shows that 'as imports go up, U.S. production goes up.' Thousands of good-paying auto jobs in Texas, Ohio, Illinois, and Michigan owe their competitiveness to this ecosystem, relying heavily on suppliers in Mexico and Canada."

"Tariffs will also cause mayhem in the cross-border trade in farm goods. In fiscal 2024, Mexican food exports made up about 23 percent of total U.S. agricultural imports, while Canada supplied some 20 percent. Many top U.S. growers have moved to Mexico because limits on legal immigration have made it hard to find workers in the U.S. Mexico now supplies 90 percent of avocados sold in the U.S. Is Mr. Trump now an avocado nationalist?"

"Then, there is the prospect of retaliation, which Canada and Mexico have shown they know how to do for maximum political impact. In 2009, the Obama administration and congressional Democrats ended a pilot program that allowed Mexican long-haul truckers into the U.S. as stipulated in NAFTA. Mexico responded with targeted retaliation on 90 U.S. goods to pressure industries in key congressional districts."

"These included California grapes and wine, Oregon Christmas trees and cherries, jams and jellies from Ohio, and North Dakota soy. When Mr. Trump imposed steel and aluminum tariffs in 2018, Mexico got results using the same tactic, putting tariffs on steel, pork products, fresh cheese, and bourbon."

"Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has promised to respond to U.S. tariffs on a dollar-for-dollar basis. Canada could suffer a larger GDP hit since its economy is so much smaller, but American consumers will feel the bite of higher costs for some goods."

"None of this is supposed to happen under the U.S.-Mexico-Canada trade agreement that Mr. Trump negotiated and signed in his first term. The U.S. willingness to ignore its treaty obligations, even with friends, won't make other countries eager to do deals. Maybe Mr. Trump will claim victory and pull back if he wins some token concessions, but if a North American trade war persists, it will qualify as one of the dumbest in history."

Continuing with The Washington Post article:

"The Trump administration's policies are delivering much-needed economic relief for everyday Americans while laying the groundwork for a long-term restoration of American greatness,' White House spokesman Kush Desai said in a statement, noting that inflation cooled in March and that gross private domestic investment increased by 22 percent in the first quarter of 2025."

"Employers added 177,000 jobs last month, a strong showing, despite the upheaval from Trump's tariffs announced April 2. In interviews, Lehigh Valley voters who had heard about the

Mack layoffs often brushed them off as routine—the company has downsized before—or said they weren't sure they believed the firm's explanation.

"But many, including Trump voters, also said they are bracing for economic pain in the valley, which spans two counties: Lehigh, which Democrat Kamala Harris won by less than 3 percentage points in the fall, and Northampton, a bellwether that frequently backs the winners of Presidential elections and went narrowly for Trump.

"Adrienne Rinehimer, 51, said she is building a house and might push back her timeline if prices get too high. Retiree Rick Janko was mostly"—he was at one time—"mostly supportive of the President's agenda but rolled his eyes at claims that tariffs will bring manufacturing back. Like Rinehimer, he cast his ballot for Trump last year."

□ 1230

Mr. Speaker, with the short time left, I say that I came to the floor to talk about the harm being caused by the Trump administration, the corruption in crypto, and the harm to people just trying to live their lives.

Trump's regime is going after the supports that government provides to help Americans live in safe homes, put food on the table, and take care of the health of their kids. His tariffs are leading to a recession and raising costs of food, cars, and housing.

The consistent and cruel policies are not just harming our pocketbooks, but they are going after our democracy.

Mr. Speaker, this concludes the time that I have been afforded on the floor today to give light to and transparency to what is happening in this administration. I know that it is hard to believe. I know that people could not believe that the President of the United States is undermining our democracy, but this is a President who has no care, no concern, and no respect. This is a President who dresses himself up like the Pope and invites photographers to come and take a look. When I talk about disrespect, this President disrespects everybody but his money.

This is a democracy that is under fire. This is a democracy that is at risk. This is a democracy that Democrats and Republicans alike should be concerned about, that we would be willing to fight for. It was at one point in time that we thought those on the opposite side of the aisle were so patriotic.

Where is their patriotism now? Where will they stand up when the democracy is at stake? This is a time when we thought that they were so concerned about law and order. They have the biggest crook in the history of this country, having been convicted 34 times. They cannot say one word about what is wrong and about what he is doing and how he has no respect for the law.

Mr. Speaker, I call on the Republicans: Why don't you prove who you say you are instead of being afraid of

the President of the United States, who you think will primary you? Why is it you keep your mouths shut because you don't stand up for the people in your districts because you are afraid that President Trump will be angry with you?

Enough said. I thank you all so very much for affording me this opportunity.

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

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

CALIFORNIA'S DISASTROUS POLICIES

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

Mr. KILEY of California. Mr. Speaker, Californians could soon be paying over \$8 a gallon for gasoline. That is the result of the disastrous policies that have been imposed by Gavin Newsom and the California Legislature's supermajority.

The most recent news is that there are two refineries that are closing operations in California: the Phillips 66 refinery in L.A. by the end of 2025, and the Valero refinery by April 2026.

According to a letter from Senate Minority Leader Brian Jones in California, these two facilities produce about 20 percent of California's in-State gasoline supply.

According to a recent study by USC Professor Michael Mische, the effect of this is going to be an increase in gas prices in California of up to 75 percent by April of 2026. The projections estimate a 33.6 percent increase just by April of 2025. By next year, 2026, we could see prices rising as high as \$8.43 per gallon by the end of 2026.

This is because we are going to see a severe decline in in-State production. Indeed, it could fall from over 34 million gallons per day in 2023 to just 27 million gallons by the end of 2026. Then you factor in the higher transportation costs. You are going to see Californians not only paying these astronomical prices at the gas station, but it is going to increase the cost of goods and services throughout the economy.

That is not to mention that it is going to lead to the loss of hundreds of jobs for the folks who were working at these refineries. The gas that we are now going to have to import from other States or other countries is not only going to cost a lot more, but it is going to be way worse for the environment, releasing way more emissions.

The fact is California already has, by far, the highest gas prices in the country. We pay over 30 cents more than second-place Hawaii, which is an island State. This is because of nonsensical regulations, including the new fuel standard that was just recently im-

posed by the Air Resources Board, as well as a slew of other regulations relating to the fuel mix and other factors, as well as having the highest gas tax of any State in the country.

By the way, you would think that, since we have the highest tax, we must have great roads as a result. No, that is not the case either. We have just about the worst roads of any State in the country.

How does that work: highest taxes, deepest potholes? It is a stark illustration of our State government's utter inability to provide effective services to our citizens.

Mr. Speaker, I am calling on Governor Newsom and the State legislature to take immediate action to prevent Californians from having to pay over \$8 a gallon for gas by the end of next year. We need immediate action to overturn regulations and to restore common sense in our State.

FRAUD IN CALIFORNIA

Mr. KILEY of California. Mr. Speaker, I have sent a letter along with several of my colleagues in the California delegation to Secretary of Education Linda McMahon and Attorney General Pam Bondi asking them to investigate a simple question: Why is it so stunningly easy to commit fraud against the State of California?

During the COVID era, we saw fraud unlike we had ever seen when \$32 billion in unemployment benefits were purloined from fraudsters, international criminal syndicates, who were easily able to just defraud Gavin Newsom's Unemployment Department.

Mr. Speaker, the latest example that we have learned is that over a third of community college applications in the State were fraudulent. These were not real people, not real students actually seeking a spot at one of our community colleges.

What they were instead were scams, individuals who were trying and succeeding in committing financial aid fraud, siphoning more than \$10 million in Federal funds and millions more in State aid, according to the California community chancellor's own office.

We have asked the Attorney General and the Secretary of Education to look into this matter and see why California has not been able to stop this from happening.

We know that, with respect to the EDD fraud in the COVID era, the Governor's office failed to take the basic commonsense steps that other States took that the Federal Government had advised. For example, cross-checking applications for unemployment against the prison rolls, something that almost every other State did, and California didn't do. I would not be surprised to learn that there were similar oversights here with respect to the community college fraud.

We look forward to getting back the results of this investigation, and urge the State to take immediate action to make sure that millions more in taxpayer dollars aren't lost.

INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR RULE

Mr. KILEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend the Trump administration and, specifically, Secretary of Labor Lori Chavez-DeRemer for its decision to not enforce the independent contractor rule propounded by the Biden administration.

This rule was based upon one of the worst laws ever to pass in the State of California, AB5, which effectively banned freelancing, independent contracting, self-employment, and being your own boss for many, many people.

After this law went into effect, we saw thousands upon thousands of Californians lose their livelihoods and lose their rights to earn a living because of this edict issued by the government.

It received bipartisan criticism, and no other State followed California's lead in enacting such a law. Yet, that did not stop the Biden administration from deciding that this law would be its inspiration for national labor policy.

The Biden administration, using the regulatory process because it couldn't get it through Congress, enacted an independent contractor rule modeled on California's AB5 law. Not only that, but the administration brought in the very person who was the architect of AB5 in California and its chief enforcer, Gavin Newsom's Secretary of Labor Julie Su, to be his Secretary of Labor and to enforce it just as aggressively and ruthlessly as she had in California.

The problem was this track record was so disastrous that Ms. Su's nomination stalled in the Senate. She received bipartisan opposition and was never confirmed. Somehow the Biden administration, President Biden, decided to keep her there anyway. It was a very novel theory that Senate confirmation was now optional for Cabinet-level officials, and she shattered all records for the longest-acting Secretary in the history of our country.

Yet, at the end of the day, that rule, which, by the way, was tied up in court because there was a lot of reasons why it did not pass legal muster, is no longer being enforced. The right to earn a living of millions of independent contractors across our country is no longer threatened.

I particularly applaud Secretary Chavez-DeRemer when she met with a number of truckers recently, the American Trucking Association, for saying that we have their backs because it is the independent owner-operators, tens of thousands of truckers across the country, who were one of the many groups who were threatened by this regulation for consequences for the entire U.S. economy.

While this regulatory relief is extremely positive and important, we need to get the definition of independent contracting and protections for freelancers into statute so that we don't have the standard continue to change from one administration to the next.

That is why I have introduced the Modern Worker Empowerment Act that will put into statute the standard, common law definition of what it means to be an independent contractor, and I am hopeful that we can get that passed with bipartisan support this Congress.

□ 1245

MEDI-CAL FACING UNPRECEDENTED THREAT

Mr. KILEY of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to let folks in California and across the country know that Medi-Cal, our version of Medicaid, is facing an unprecedented threat. Its very solvency, its sustainability, and its ability to provide coverage for Californians are being threatened by a completely reckless policy enacted by Governor Gavin Newsom that does not exist in any of the other 49 States in our country.

Because of this reckless policy, Newsom has just had to ask the legislature for a bailout of Medicaid, \$2.8 billion, which the legislature provided. Now, of course, what I am referring to is the policy of providing free, full-scope, comprehensive Medi-Cal coverage to all illegal immigrants in the State who meet the income eligibility requirements.

This, again, is a policy that is singular to California. No other State has it. It was initially estimated to cost \$3.1 billion. Since that time, the cost, just for the first year of coverage, has exploded to \$9.5 billion.

As a result, Governor Newsom, number one, took out a \$3.44 billion loan from the State's general fund. That is the maximum allowed by law. Of course, that wasn't enough to close the gap, so then, he had to go and ask for a bailout of the program to stave off insolvency.

Now, you would think that this would compel Newsom and the legislature to immediately roll back this disastrous experiment, yet when Governor Newsom was asked, he said that rolling back this policy was "not on my docket." Let's be very clear: Saving Medicaid in California is not on Governor Newsom's docket.

Fortunately, we are fighting back and looking to take measures here that will ensure that tax dollars of Californians are reserved to provide Medi-Cal coverage for people who are in our State legally.

When you think about this cost, \$9.5 billion just in the first year, is a cost that is basically triple what was originally projected. Think what that is going to look like over the next 10 years. We are talking about potentially hundreds of billions of dollars that could be going toward Medi-Cal for our own residents that is instead going toward a reckless policy that exists nowhere else in the country, which is only going to entice more people who are here illegally to come to California, thereby, increasing the cost even more.

By the way, because we are adding all of these additional people to the

Medi-Cal rolls, that is making it more difficult for Californians who rely on the program to actually get access to healthcare. It is extremely difficult to get a doctor's appointment if you are on Medi-Cal in California. It is actually very difficult, in some cases, if you are on private insurance to get a doctor's appointment in California. The Governor's reckless policy is a big reason why.

We are going to do everything we possibly can here to fight for Californians and fight for Medicaid in California. I will do everything I can to protect this program against the Governor and the legislature's reckless policy.

SUPPORTING TEACH FOR AMERICA

Mr. KILEY of California. Mr. Speaker, I will take a few moments today to share with folks here in D.C. and across the country a little bit about a program that I am an alumnus of called Teach For America and to share why I think this is an extremely important program for us to protect and to support right now and in the years ahead.

Right now, we see our schools across this country in a state of crisis. The nation's report card that recently came out revealed truly shocking declines in student achievement, but one bright spot in this otherwise very troubling picture has been Teach For America, otherwise known as TFA.

What TFA does is recruit recent college graduates to go teach in the toughest schools, schools in low-income communities. It is a very selective program. In some years, the acceptance rate for those who apply to be TFA teachers is as low as 11 percent. That is as selective as many of the most elite colleges in the country.

I was a teacher through TFA in Los Angeles. I taught 10th grade English. I had students who were, on average, at a fourth or fifth grade reading level when they came to my classroom, but I had a tremendous experience. My students achieved significant academic gains as part of my classes. I chaired the English Department while I was there. I even started an award-winning speech and debate program that provided opportunities to compete for students who otherwise wouldn't have had that experience or had that opportunity.

I will first, in underlining the importance of this program, speak to my Republican colleagues here in the House. If you need any one reason why you should support Teach For America, it is that the radical Democratic supermajority in California actually tried to ban the program from our State. That is not an exaggeration.

This is from a 2019 Politico article: "Backed by powerful teachers unions, Democrats are pushing to ban Teach For America from California amid a wave of teacher strikes and a heated debate over charter schools in the Nation's most populous State."

The article goes on to say that "the national nonprofit and its recruits,

promising college grads eager to teach in poor communities, in the crosshairs of the State's supermajority Democratic legislature."

Why in the world would the Democratic supermajority in California target TFA? I was there in the legislature at the time, and I helped to kill that bill on the State assembly floor, but it did pass the California State Assembly Education Committee, unbelievably enough.

What could possibly have motivated this attack? After all, TFA's mission, its entire purpose, is to close the achievement gaps that exist in this country so that every child, no matter where they are born or no matter what their ZIP Code is, will have access to an excellent education.

Mr. Speaker, the issue is that, in California, the governing majority and education establishment there have a model of keeping kids trapped in failing schools, and that has been the effect of the policies that have governed the State year after year.

Organizations like TFA that, for example, provide alternative pathways to get promising teachers into the classroom or, worst of all, from the perspective of those who ran the legislature, place almost half of their teachers in charter schools simply couldn't be tolerated.

Indeed, at the time, in 2019, Gavin Newsom, who had just taken office, had declared a war on charter schools. Charters, which are public schools that have a high level of flexibility as to how they run their school but, in turn, are held to a greater standard of accountability, have gotten tremendous results. Studies consistently show that they outperform traditional public schools, and they have a lot of students who are on their wait list. However, the teachers at those schools are not automatically unionized as a matter of default.

That is what inspired Gavin Newsom and his enablers to try to enact and, indeed, succeed in enacting an anti-charter school agenda. Because TFA placed almost 50 percent of its teachers in charter schools, they got caught up in it.

Fortunately, that bill did not pass. TFA has continued to serve thousands of kids in California. Indeed, throughout its history, TFA has placed some 65,000 teachers into classrooms.

This attack in California was truly an aberration. It really speaks to the character of the supermajority in our State, specifically, that it is out of step even with many reasonable Democrats, especially on the issue of education.

There are a couple of things that I will emphasize about the program. Number one is that TFA places teachers in areas that need teachers. It helps to combat the teacher shortage that is particularly acute in particular districts and particular subjects.

TFA partners with school districts facing persistent vacancies, especially in low-income, urban, and rural areas.

The districts request TFA core members for hard-to-staff subjects like STEM, special education, and bilingual education. In fact, in this last school year, over 75 percent of TFA teachers served in title I schools.

The organization is recruiting motivated and talented young people to go teach in areas where they have a hard time getting teachers, but how do they do once they are there? The second thing I will emphasize is that TFA teachers have an outstanding track record.

Last year, there was a comprehensive study that the American Institutes for Research published. It was a meta-analysis that actually looked at 23 pre-existing studies of TFA's impact across 24 years. Included in that were 63,134 teachers who taught 5 million students.

What did this comprehensive meta-analysis find? TFA teachers have had a consistent and significant impact on students' academic achievements. On average, students of TFA teachers perform better in math, science, and reading. Some studies have found that having a TFA teacher adds up to 50 additional days of learning.

Beyond that, by the way, many TFA alums go on to found schools. For example, the founders of tremendous charter school networks KIPP, IDEA, and YES Prep are TFA alums.

Personally, one of the main reasons I decided to run for public office, first in the legislature and then for Congress, was my experience as a classroom teacher. It motivated me to become the vice chair of the California State Assembly Education Committee and now, here in the House, the chair of the Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education Subcommittee.

TFA is an AmeriCorps program. It is one of the professional core programs for AmeriCorps. What that means is that the teachers who are part of TFA are employees of a particular school district or of a charter school.

For example, I was an employee of the Los Angeles Unified School District, but they also receive a Segal AmeriCorps Education Award. The reason that that is vital is because TFA is providing an alternative pathway into the classroom where you can start teaching soon after graduating college. They have an intensive summer program where students teach summer school and receive training. They continue to receive support from TFA as an organization throughout their time teaching, and then they are also simultaneously pursuing a teaching credential. Sometimes that takes the form of a master's of education, which is what I received.

For example, when I was teaching 10th grade English, 1 day a week, after spending the whole day teaching, I would then drive across town to a local college or grad school where I sat in class for 5 or 6 hours on that particular day, working toward my credential.

The education award helps students or the TFA teachers to pay for that de-

gree or for that credential, and it would be very hard for many of them to actually be part of the program without this award.

I have heard reports recently that there have been some of these grants that are in jeopardy or maybe have been lost already, putting several thousand current teachers and several thousand more future teachers in a state of uncertainty.

While I have personal experience with this particular AmeriCorps program, I know that there are many others that fill similarly critical needs in different sectors of society. In fact, AmeriCorps' own definition of a professional core program recognizes that the placements are a strategic response to longstanding workforce gaps. It is not simply service programs. They are workforce solutions.

That is why I have respectfully requested in a letter that I am sending today that the Appropriations Committee and its Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies provide robust funding for AmeriCorps in the coming fiscal year.

Mr. Speaker, I am urging my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to come together in support of TFA and these other critical programs.

□ 1300

OUR PUBLIC EDUCATION SYSTEM IS FAILING

Mr. KILEY of California. Mr. Speaker, at this moment, we have an opportunity to catalyze a school choice revolution across America, and one has never been more desperately needed.

The Nation's report card recently came out, and the verdict was clear: Our public education system is failing. The National Assessment of Educational Progress showed one-third of students are unable to read at the basic level for their age group, and math scores are down 9 percent since 2018.

Now, the Biden administration's response was to continue to shovel more money into a failing system. They threw 200 billion in tax dollars into the same failed system with absolutely nothing to show for it. In fact, things got worse. You can put this on a graph: The level of funding has gone up; student achievement has gone down. It has been a negative return on investment.

However, right now we can change that with reforms that will actually work in expanding opportunity, giving choices to millions of families, and providing a healthy sense of drive toward improvement in our public education system generally. That is through two pieces of legislation that I am sponsoring and that can also be included as part of the budget reconciliation process.

The first is the Educational Choice for Children Act, which will provide a tax credit for charitable contributions that enable scholarships to attend private, parochial, and independent schools. This could potentially expand

private school choice to millions of families in this country.

Secondly, along with Representative CLAUDIA TENNEY and others, I have introduced the High-Quality Charter Schools Act, which will significantly expand access to charter schools across the country. It uses a similar mechanism, leveraging the tax code through an innovative Federal tax credit that will allow the Nation's most effective charter networks to create new high-quality seats.

In particular, it will provide a tax credit to cover startup costs for expanding charter schools that already have a track record of success. This is very important because you have a lot of families who are on waiting lists for charters. We estimate that this measure could potentially triple the number of students across the country who receive this particular form of school choice of charter schools which have a tremendous track record in advancing student achievement.

I will give you one example. Success Academy, which was founded in New York City, manages 57 schools, serving 22,000 inner-city children. They are 93 percent non-White, 72 percent low-income, with phenomenal results at an impressive scale.

For 8 years in a row, Success has a 100 percent 4-year college acceptance rate. Its students routinely outperform more affluent school districts, and 14 of New York City's top 25 schools in math are Success Academies.

Think about that. Over half of the top schools in New York City in math are Success Academy campuses. That is why there is so much demand to attend these schools. The number of families that apply is 10 times the number of available seats, so they have to lottery them out. There is so much demand, you have to enter the lottery and you have a 10 percent chance of winning that lottery. This bill would allow them and other successful charter schools across the country to expand their campuses.

Between these two measures, the Educational Choice for Children Act, and the High-Quality Charter School Act, we could expand meaningful school choice, meaningful options to millions and millions of families in every community across the country, which would benefit those families, and it would also reach the critical mass of school choice in many areas that would compel improvements in traditional school districts as well.

This is really a moment when we need to ask ourselves what our priorities are because in general—this isn't true of all of them—the Biden administration and Democratic majorities have moved our education system in the wrong direction. They have had the wrong policies.

I believe Republicans have generally had the right policies, but the questions are: What kind of priority are we going to place on those policies? What kind of priority are we going to give

education? What kind of priority and sense of urgency are we going to bring to the fact that our schools across this country are failing far too many of our kids?

Now is the time to show that our commitment to educational reform and school choice goes beyond just slogans, goes beyond political arguments, but it is a real commitment to advancing the education and the life prospects for kids all across America. We have a chance to do that right now by assuring these measures are enacted into law.

SACRAMENTO CAPITOL-TO-CAPITOL PROGRAM

Mr. KILEY of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend the Sacramento Metro Chamber of Commerce and the well over 450 people who joined the chamber's Cap-to-Cap program to visit Washington, D.C., this week. This was the 53rd annual Capitol-to-Capitol, or Cap-to-Cap, program where people, community leaders from the Sacramento region come here to D.C. to participate in programming and to advocate for our region to lawmakers.

I had the chance to be a part of this in many different ways. We had a bipartisan discussion that I was part of with Representative AMI BERA, and I met with well over 100, probably closer to 200, Cap-to-Cap leaders throughout the week to discuss issues of importance to them and to the communities, the industries, and the sectors that they lead.

I had very productive discussions about a number of actionable items concerning public safety, wildfire prevention, natural resources, transportation infrastructure, and California water, issues that are so important to our region and our communities. I am so grateful that so many leaders in the Sacramento area came here to discuss these matters.

I wanted to say thank you to everyone who took the time out of their busy schedule to come here. This program has in the past, I think, allowed our region to punch above its weight. Indeed, this is the biggest chamber trip, I understand, to D.C. that exists anywhere in the country.

It really underscores the tremendous spirit of collaboration that exists in our region, that we have so many people—it crosses party lines, it crosses different communities, different ZIP Codes—who are working together, who are all rowing in the same direction for the benefit of our region. We have been able to achieve tremendous things because of that. We have been able to maintain a quality of life for the folks that we represent so that our region remains a great place to live, to work, to raise a family, and to retire. The Cap-to-Cap program has been a very big part of allowing that to continue, of giving our region a cohesive identity, and I look forward to the 54th annual trip next year.

HONORING 2025 GRADUATING CLASS OF LEADERSHIP ROCKLIN

Mr. KILEY of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize

the 2025 graduating class of Leadership Rocklin. This prestigious program is run by the Rocklin Area Chamber of Commerce and provides an opportunity for participants to build upon their leadership skills while developing meaningful relationships with community and local business leaders.

The areas of learning for this program include leadership skills in theory, education, volunteerism and community service, Rocklin civics, public safety, transportation, health and human services, economic development, the history of Rocklin, and much more.

Leadership Rocklin holds high esteem in the community and is recognized by leaders as an important way to prepare those who wish to further serve and learn about their community. I commend the participants for their dedication to civic engagement and their commitment to leadership development.

Therefore, on behalf of California's Third Congressional District and the United States House of Representatives, I am proud to congratulate this year's Leadership Rocklin graduating class.

CONGRATULATING HEBARD INSURANCE SOLUTIONS

Mr. KILEY of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Hebard Insurance Solutions for their 75-year anniversary. Hebard Insurance Solutions is a family-owned, independent insurance agency in Loomis, California, a town located in Placer County.

Christine Hebard-Summers, who began working for the family business at an early age, is the third-generation owner. Her grandfather, Roy, started the business back in 1950. Roy would take Christine to the office back when she was in kindergarten. At the time, she would help around the office in exchange for a toy and some candy at the Main Drug Store. Christine's father, Roy, Jr., managed the business until 2003, when Christine officially purchased the business from him.

For more than seven decades, the Hebard Insurance team has been committed to working closely with their clients to help them make important and informed decisions relating to their protection and future. They prioritize customer service and are committed to treating their customers like family.

Hebard Insurance continues to be a staple in Placer County and surrounding communities. In addition to providing exceptional services, they are tremendously involved in their community. They are often seen volunteering with local organizations, such as the Soroptimist International Loomis Basin, taking leadership roles at the local chamber of commerce, serving at the senior center, and contributing to multiple youth programs.

It is an honor to represent exemplary businesses such as Hebard Insurance Solutions in Congress. Therefore, on

behalf of California's Third Congressional District and the United States House of Representatives, it is my honor and privilege to congratulate them on their 75-year anniversary. Congratulations.

EXTENDING GRATITUDE TO TEACHERS

Mr. KILEY of California. Mr. Speaker, in recognition of National Teacher Appreciation Week, I wanted to take an opportunity to highlight the service of some of the truly amazing educators in California's Third Congressional District.

In his 1988 proclamation, Ronald Reagan said: "Our country's great teachers often make many sacrifices as they fulfill their countless responsibilities. They have earned, and truly deserve, the utmost gratitude and esteem of students, parents, and community members."

It is in that spirit that I rise today and recognize 15 individual teachers from throughout California's Third Congressional District for their exceptional dedication to their roles, students, schools, and communities.

While representing almost 70 school districts and close to 300 K-12 schools, these teachers stand out among their colleagues and have made an indelible mark on their students and communities.

As a former educator myself, I understand the unique challenges our educators face and the passion and dedication it takes to enable our students to succeed. A great teacher can help shape and transform the trajectory of a student's life and their perspective on learning.

As such, we are quite fortunate to have truly exceptional schoolteachers and administrators educating and supporting the next generation in California's Third Congressional District. Therefore, I would like to extend my gratitude to all of our communities' teachers this week and to thank them for their tireless devotion to promoting academic achievement, student success, and educational opportunities.

If you are an educator, I encourage you to reach out to my office or visit Kiley.house.gov for Federal resources and services available to local teachers and students.

□ 1315

RECOGNIZING JANICE ROWE FOR TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

Mr. KILEY of California. Mr. Speaker, in honor of National Teacher Appreciation Week, I would like to take a moment to recognize Mrs. Janice Rowe, a kindergarten teacher in the Pleasant Ridge School District at Cottage Hill Elementary School.

For 40 years, Mrs. Rowe has taught at the kindergarten grade level. Her commitment to her students, colleagues, and district is unmatched. Mrs. Rowe not only instills a strong literary and mathematical foundation for young learners but also creates a safe and caring environment where students can thrive and their love for learning is ignited.

She is instrumental toward establishing new academic programs, standards, and expectations for all kindergarten students, leading the continued development of the district's kindergarten programs.

She is often known for enrolling in classes, programs, and workshops to further develop her professional skills and for working late to prepare a special and hands-on learning experience for her students.

Not only does Mrs. Rowe demonstrate care and commitment to her students but she is also relied upon by her colleagues to provide help, mentorship, and collaboration. Mrs. Rowe has shaped the high standards of excellence that the community has come to expect of the school and school district.

Mrs. Rowe's four decades of commitment to teaching kindergarten students has provided a lasting benefit for students' introduction to public schools and foundational growth. It is a true honor to represent exemplary teachers such as Mrs. Rowe in the United States House of Representatives.

Therefore, in honor of her passion, dedication, her belief in the transformative power of education, and her commitment to her students' success, it is my privilege to recognize Mrs. Janice Rowe in celebration of National Teacher Appreciation Week.

RECOGNIZING DOMINIC ALBANO FOR TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

Mr. KILEY of California. Mr. Speaker, in honor of National Teacher Appreciation Week, I would like to take a moment to recognize Mr. Dominic Albano, a fourth grade teacher with 30 years in the profession at Union Hill Elementary School.

Since 1996, Mr. Albano has been an extraordinary educator, coach, and mentor whose legacy has touched thousands of lives. His commitment to bringing history alive for his fourth grade students is unparalleled, blending rigorous academics with immersive and unforgettable experiences.

His passion for California's Gold Country, the 49er Gold Rush, and Wild West history has created traditions that are now woven into the very fabric of Union Hill's culture. Students of Mr. Albano receive a living, breathing understanding of history and our Nation's story.

Beyond his dynamic and innovative teaching style, Mr. Albano is a beloved coach who has grown Union Hill's cross-country and track-and-field programs into teams of nearly 90 students in a school of just 700. It is a tribute to the magnetism of his leadership.

He inspires students not only to learn but to believe in themselves, which is instrumental in shaping their future. Not only does Mr. Albano make a meaningful difference in his students' lives but he plays an instrumental role in mentoring student teachers and collaborating with his colleagues.

Mr. Albano is known by others for being a Union Hill legend, a builder of

traditions, and a cultivator of character. He is treasured by his school and community for his reliability, kindness, positivity, and generosity.

I am confident the impact of his contribution will be felt for generations to come. It is a true honor to represent exemplary teachers like Mr. Albano in the United States House of Representatives.

Therefore, in honor of his dedication to serving his students and community with passion, humility, and excellence, it is my privilege to recognize Mr. Dominic Albano in celebration of National Teacher Appreciation Week.

RECOGNIZING MIRANDA PRAKASH FOR TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

Mr. KILEY of California. Mr. Speaker, in honor of National Teacher Appreciation Week, I would like to take a moment to recognize Mrs. Miranda Prakash, a special education teacher in the Sierra-Plumas Joint Unified School District at Loyalton Elementary School.

Mrs. Prakash is an exceptional educator whose unwavering commitment to student success has made a profound impact within the Sierra-Plumas Joint Unified School District.

As a leader in special education with a decade of experience, Mrs. Prakash has continuously developed and refined her program to meet the diverse needs of her students, demonstrating innovation, adaptability, and a deep sense of care.

Serving in a rural community where educational challenges are often magnified, she has gone above and beyond to ensure that every student receives personalized support and opportunities to thrive.

She is a tireless champion for her students, ensuring their needs are represented and addressed with compassion and integrity. Her collaborative spirit and willingness to work alongside general education colleagues fosters an inclusive and equitable learning environment.

Mrs. Prakash's creativity, professionalism, and genuine devotion to her students make her a role model for other educators. It is a true honor to represent exemplary teachers, such as Mrs. Prakash in the United States House of Representatives.

Therefore, in honor of the outstanding contributions to her school and the difference she continues to make in students' lives every day, it is my privilege to recognize Mrs. Miranda Prakash in celebration of National Teacher Appreciation Week.

RECOGNIZING STEVE HOLLAND FOR TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

Mr. KILEY of California. Mr. Speaker, in the spirit of National Teacher Appreciation Week, I wish to highlight Mr. Steve Holland whose 29 years of dedicated service in education exceeds standards throughout the Bishop Unified School District.

Mr. Holland began teaching in the Bishop Unified School District in 1996 as a middle school teacher and, more

recently, has been teaching the fourth grade.

Known for his kindness, calm demeanor, and unwavering dedication, Mr. Holland has consistently gone above and beyond to support learning, both academically and emotionally. Through his innovative teaching methods, he continues to keep students engaged and inspired.

In addition to his deep commitment to student achievement, he has also served as a coach and grade-level leader, providing mentorship to his fellow educators and leaving a legacy of integrity and inspiration. Mr. Holland has left an indelible mark on countless students, colleagues, and families within his community.

Therefore, on behalf of the United States House of Representatives, I am pleased to recognize Mr. Steve Holland for his substantial contributions to the Bishop Unified School District and the students of the Bishop community.

RECOGNIZING BRANDY ROST FOR TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

Mr. KILEY of California. Mr. Speaker, in the spirit of National Teacher Appreciation Week, I wish to take a moment to recognize Mrs. Brandy Rost, an outstanding middle school math educator in California's Third Congressional District.

During her 29 years of dedicated service to the Lone Pine Unified School District, she has taught thousands of students, transforming their view of math from an intimidating subject to one that is exciting and achievable.

Mrs. Rost is known for her creative instructional style, integrating hands-on activities, technologies, and real-world applications, instilling engagement from students and empowering every student to succeed.

Perhaps most remarkable is the academic transformation Mrs. Rost has led since the COVID pandemic. In the wake of prolonged school closures, Lo-Inyo Elementary School saw its math scores drop to new lows with just 20 percent of students meeting or exceeding standards.

Recognizing this challenge, Mrs. Rost spearheaded an extraordinary resolve. She retooled her instruction, built targeted interventions, and created a classroom culture where growth in math became not just a goal but an expectation.

Each year since the pandemic, her students' performance climbed significantly. In the most recent testing, over 70 percent of her students met or exceeded the math standard; a score that doesn't just surpass local benchmarks but also substantially outperforms the State average.

The story of Mrs. Brandy Rost is one of resilience, excellence, and impact. Her dedicated efforts not only recovered learning loss but also illustrated what success in rural education can look like.

Alongside these momentous achievements and beyond her classroom, Mrs. Rost is a mentor to new teachers, a

trusted colleague, and a favorite among families. Her impact spans generations in the Lone Pine community, where former students now bring their own children to her class with pride and gratitude.

On behalf of the United States House of Representatives, I am honored to recognize educator Mrs. Brandy Rost as an example of what it means to teach with passion, purpose, and heart.

RECOGNIZING BRANDON DELL'ORTO FOR TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

Mr. KILEY of California. Mr. Speaker, in the spirit of National Teacher Appreciation Week, I wish to recognize an outstanding and prominent educator in California's Third Congressional District. I would like to highlight, in particular, a teacher from the Roseville Joint Union High School District, Brandon Dell'Orto, who has dedicated 35 years of his career to educating the students of our community.

Mr. Dell'Orto is a passionate historian and a mentor. He spent most of his career teaching AP U.S. History, IB History of the Americas, Military History, and World History at Granite Bay High School.

Not only does Mr. Dell'Orto have a deep understanding of these subjects but he also knows how to bring historical events to life. His integrated and engaging teaching style fosters student success, while inspiring a lasting passion for history.

Beyond the classroom, he has been recognized by the Daughters of the American Revolution and Founding Forward for his excellence in teaching and ability to foster a deep appreciation of American history and civic responsibility among his students.

Mr. Dell'Orto is an exceptional educator, and he continues to make a strong impact in the educational journey of his students. It is a true honor to represent exemplary teachers like him in Congress, and I commend Mr. Dell'Orto for his more than three decades of unwavering dedication to education and to promoting student success and academic achievement.

As a former student of Mr. Dell'Orto myself, he is one of the truly best teachers that I ever had. That goes for high school, college, and law school. He is truly one of a kind, and you will rarely see someone who has such a palpable passion for the subject matter he is teaching and the ability to inspire that same love of learning in his students. I really credit his class in many ways for inspiring my own love for American history.

On behalf of the United States House of Representatives, it is really an honor to recognize Mr. Brandon Dell'Orto for his significant contributions to Roseville Joint Union High School District and to the students of the Roseville community.

RECOGNIZING ANNE JONES FOR TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

Mr. KILEY of California. Mr. Speaker, in the spirit of National Teacher Appreciation Week, I wish to take a

moment to recognize a teacher from the Foresthill Union School District, Anne Jones, who has dedicated 35 years of her career to educating the students of her community.

Mrs. Jones has been a devoted and passionate first grade teacher, and she has inspired generations of the community's young scholars with her warmth, patience, and with her clear passion for education.

She goes beyond teaching her students the fundamentals of reading and math and also instills values in them that are invaluable for the learning community—the values of kindness, gratitude, and creativity.

She brings joy and cheer to the classroom and creates an environment in which students feel emboldened to explore their ideas and express themselves, which helps facilitate their academic and personal growth.

It is a true honor to represent exemplary teachers in Congress, and I commend Mrs. Anne Jones for her more than three decades of dedication to education and to promoting student success and academic achievement.

Therefore, on behalf of the United States House of Representatives, I am pleased to recognize Mrs. Anne Jones for her significant contributions to Foresthill Union School District and to the students of the Foresthill community.

RECOGNIZING SAMANTHA HARVEY FOR TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

Mr. KILEY of California. Mr. Speaker, in the spirit of National Teacher Appreciation Week, I wish to take a moment to highlight Samantha Harvey, a teacher from the Dry Creek Joint Elementary School District, who has dedicated 9 years of her career to educating the students of her community.

Mrs. Harvey serves as a fifth grade level leader. In her role, she demonstrates traits of a natural leader such as the ability to lead by example, motivate colleagues, facilitate collaboration, and so much more.

She has built an educational environment to ensure that students and teachers alike feel valued, supported, and heard. As a positive behavioral intervention and supports lead, Mrs. Harvey's efforts in providing a variety of differentiated strategies and ensuring students have the necessary tools for success, while maintaining a positive environment, have been instrumental in shaping school culture.

Mrs. Harvey also develops student athletes through her role as a cross-country coach and helps young athletes to learn the importance of life-long skills of perseverance, teamwork, and resilience, while leading them to excel in competition.

Furthermore, as check-in and check-out coordinator, Mrs. Harvey ensures the students have the structure and support they need to thrive at school. She mentors students and provides accountability to help them stay on track, both academically and socially.

Behind the scenes, Mrs. Harvey is valued by her colleagues as she displays a commitment to teamwork, collaboration, and a continual willingness to lend a helping hand.

It is a true honor to represent exemplary teachers like her in Congress, and I commend Mrs. Samantha Harvey for her tireless devotion to education and to promoting student success and academic achievements.

Therefore, on behalf of the House of Representatives, I am pleased to represent Mrs. Samantha Harvey for her significant contributions to Dry Creek Joint Elementary School District and to the students of the Roseville community.

□ 1330

RECOGNIZING SAMANTHA MASHINCHI FOR
TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

Mr. KILEY of California. Mr. Speaker, in the spirit of National Teacher Appreciation Week, I wish to take a moment to recognize a teacher from the Loomis Union School District, Samantha Mashinchi, who has dedicated 15 years of her career to educating the students of her community.

Currently, Mrs. Mashinchi teaches fifth grade at an international baccalaureate school and has consistently demonstrated an unwavering devotion to fostering growth and excellence of her students.

Mrs. Mashinchi nurtures the natural curiosity of her students with a global perspective. In doing so, she helps equip them with the skills needed to thrive in an interconnected world. Mrs. Mashinchi has consistently demonstrated leadership and a passion for her role, working tirelessly to help each student reach their full potential.

It is a true honor to represent exemplary teachers like her in Congress, and I commend her for her tireless devotion to education and dedication to promoting student success and academic achievement.

Therefore, on behalf of the United States House of Representatives, I am pleased to recognize Mrs. Samantha Mashinchi for her significant contributions to Loomis Union Community School District and to the students of the Loomis community.

RECOGNIZING TINA ANGELL FOR TEACHER
APPRECIATION WEEK

Mr. KILEY of California. Mr. Speaker, in the spirit of National Teacher Appreciation Week, I wish to highlight a teacher from Placer County, Tina Angell, who has dedicated the past 8 years of her career to educating the students of her community.

Miss Angel owned and operated her own business before going to work for the Placer County Office of Education. She then obtained her Career Technical Education credential, focusing on business and information and communication technology pathways.

Miss Angell taught in this capacity for a few years and then, once again, decided to obtain an additional credential in special education so she could

support students with mild to moderate learning disabilities.

Miss Angell also provides students with a special opportunity by being qualified to teach dual enrollment classes through a partnership with a local college in my district, Sierra College.

Miss Angell is known for being an exceptional teacher and a lifelong learner. She provides real-life applications in her classroom and strives to prepare high school students for college and future career opportunities.

Her engaging and integrated teaching style, which is accompanied by her passion for teaching and for her students, inspires those in her class to reach their full potential.

It is a true honor to represent exemplary teachers like her in Congress, and I commend Miss Angell for her dedication to education and to promoting student success and academic achievement.

Therefore, on behalf of the United States House of Representatives, I am pleased to recognize Miss Tina Angell for her significant contributions to the students of Placer County.

RECOGNIZING HOLLY GOTWALS FOR TEACHER
APPRECIATION WEEK

Mr. KILEY of California. Mr. Speaker, in the spirit of National Teacher Appreciation Week, I wish to take a moment to recognize a teacher from Rocklin Unified School District, Holly Gotwals, who has dedicated 24 years of her career to educating the students of her community.

Mrs. Gotwals, a graduate of Sacramento State, showcases innovation, compassion, and dedication in her classroom. She teaches a special education adult transition class for students who are 18 to 22 years old with moderate to severe needs and did not receive a high school diploma.

Mrs. Gotwals focuses her class on teaching her students functional English and math, current events, independent living and vocational skills, cooking, fitness and nutrition, how to be involved in their community, mobility training, social skills, self-advocacy, and career awareness.

In a remarkable manner, Mrs. Gotwals tailors each lesson to each individual student. She goes as far as to work closely with local community businesses to secure job training opportunities for her students that match their interests and skills. She looks to the futures of her students, and some go on to other educational institutions, such as the UC-Davis SEED program, while others are able to secure jobs locally in our community.

Mrs. Gotwals fosters a sense of independence and confidence in the classroom. She is not just an educator, as she has proven to be a strong advocate and a role model to her students. Her tireless devotion to her students brings out their unique potential and prepares them for opportunities to fulfill their dreams.

It is an honor to represent exemplary educators like her in Congress, and I

commend Mrs. Holly Gotwals for her exceptional dedication to education and to promoting student successes and academic achievement.

Therefore, on behalf of the United States House of Representatives, I am pleased to recognize Mrs. Holly Gotwals for her significant contributions to Rocklin Unified School District and to the students of the Rocklin community.

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

AND STILL I RISE: IMPEACHING
PRESIDENT TRUMP

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

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, and still I rise, a liberated Democrat, unbought, unbossed, unafraid, and most feared by President Donald John Trump.

I am most feared because the President recently tweeted that he would have me removed from Congress because I have indicated that I would bring Articles of Impeachment.

This is a President who has caused us to understand that the norms of society mean very little to him. This is a President who seems to think that he can rule by executive order. However, Mr. Speaker, I would have you and all who can hear this and see what I am saying to know that the day of decision is near.

I believe that, as a person who is armed with the ax of truth and not afraid to slam it into the tree of circumstance and let the chips fall wherever they may, I believe that as such a person, I am duty-bound to bring Articles of Impeachment to the floor of the House of Representatives.

I will do so because I believe what I said before he was elected this time. I believe what I said then, and I believe it now. This President is a threat to our democracy. He has done things that would cause us to conclude, those of us who have observed closely, that he disrespects the Constitution. He took an oath to preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution. He disrespects the Constitution.

He disrespects the notion that a person should have the right to say: You have the wrong person; and to say to the authorities by way of The Great Writ: You have the wrong person; to say to the authorities by way of the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution: No person shall be deprived of life, liberty, or property without due process of law.

He has not honored that Constitution and those words.

This President does not honor *Marbury v. Madison*, judicial review, time-honored. He dishonors it because he dishonors the decisions of the court. He believes that judges who would rule against him should be impeached. He does not respect the fact that there is a separation of powers. He believes that he is the power; but he is not.

He must be brought before this House. He must be brought before this House because he disrespects the court, and he refuses to honor the April 10 order requiring him to facilitate the return or the release of a person who was taken from this country to another country, a Supreme Court mandate. He has said that he can do it; but he hasn't.

If he refuses to honor the Supreme Court and Federal courts and demeans the judges and calls for their impeachment, if my colleagues across the aisle decline to bring him into some sense of order as it relates to obeying the orders of courts, if they decline to do so, then what is left?

It is the impeachment.

Whether anyone else agrees with me or not, I want my record to show that at a time when democracy was at risk, I brought impeachment to the attention of the Congress.

Mr. Speaker, you can do it for two reasons at least, there may be others, but two that I will call to your attention. One, to remove a President—to remove a President. I don't know if that will happen this time. I plan to bring impeachment more than once. I did it before, and it led to the impeachment of the President, and he lost an election as a result of that, I believe. I plan to bring these Articles of Impeachment. Removal is a possibility.

There is always a deterrent effect of Articles of Impeachment. They can be used to say to a President: If you don't behave, if you don't cease and desist with what you are doing, then you can be removed from office.

I trust that this will become the message that the President will receive. However, knowing what I know about him, I doubt that he will receive the message as intended. I think that it will cause him to become a greater bully and to do more and say more things that are unacceptable to try to normalize his dictatorial behavior.

It is dictatorial in that he believes that the law should be followed when he sees the law on his side and that it should be somehow avoided when it is not.

Mr. Speaker, dictatorial behavior is the kind of behavior that you see emanating from dictators. I believe that this dictatorial behavior has to be put in check because we have a President who preaches law and order, but he doesn't mean law and order. He means order and law. He means allow me to do whatever I choose and then you find some law to justify my behavior. That is not law and order. That is order and law, and that is what he believes.

I believe that we have to do what I am about to do, and I trust that there will be others who will join in. However, if no one else does, then I want you to know, Mr. Speaker, that while I am censured, I am not silenced and that this is only the genesis of this process.

The revelations are yet to come, and in the revelations, I assure you, Mr.

Speaker, we will come to conclusions that will cause this President to be removed.

We are now into the countdown for impeachment. This countdown will manifest itself in articles being brought to the floor of the House of Representatives next week. I fully intend to do so. For edification purposes, that means that I will first notify my colleagues by way of written word that these are my intentions. Thereafter, I will come to the House, and I will read the Articles of Impeachment. After they have been read, some time will pass before they will come back to the floor for a second reading, two legislative days.

At that time, the articles will be read again. I will call for a vote on the Articles of Impeachment. Those who will vote for it will be known as persons who have supported what I believe to be the last effort that we have to prevent this President from becoming a full-blown dictator. He is right now a de facto dictator. He has the potential to becoming full-blown.

What do I mean by de facto?

It is because we are in the nascency of his dictatorship. Someone, someday, will write about the first 100 days of his dictatorship. We are into the nascency of it.

He is testing to see if there are people who have the courage to put him in check. If he doesn't see that, then we will go on to another stage of it.

I am going to come to the floor and read these articles. Then they will be read again a second time. I will ask for the vote.

There will be probably be a motion to table. The motion to table means that if it prevails, then the articles will not go forward and have the debate and proceed to the possibility of a vote on the actual articles. A motion to table is what has happened in the past.

Those who vote for the motion to table will oppose the Articles of Impeachment. Those who vote against the motion to table will be sending a message to the world that they want this to proceed and that these articles ought to be given a fair hearing before this House of Representatives.

The motion to table will ultimately bring us to a decision that we will have to consider. It will be a moment of truth and an hour of decision.

I believe we have to do this. I believe we have to do it because if we are going to wait until there are tanks rolling into major cities, at the capitals of cities, it will be too late.

□ 1345

If we are going to wait until you read and hear about it in some major newspaper that the President has metamorphosed into a dictator, it will be too late. We have to stop him as soon as possible. As soon as possible is the means of doing it by way of impeachment. I believe that he will be impeached again.

I also know this. If we don't, and if he continues in the vein, in the method-

ology that he has been proceeding with, if he does this, then there is one other last word and that will be: We the people. We the people, with our voices, with our movement, with our peaceful protest, we the people will make that change.

This country will not tolerate a de facto dictator, and it surely will not tolerate, and you should not tolerate, a full-blown dictator. I say a de facto dictator because, in fact, he is a dictator; not announced but that is what he is, ruling by executive order.

This country was not designed by the Framers of the Constitution to be ruled by executive order such that the President would just ignore those orders, let things go all the way to the Supreme Court knowing that he has lawyers with unlimited resources, and those who would challenge him are limited in resources.

So his dictatorial character says to him you can let that go on to the Supreme Court, and you can ignore the court. Flout the orders of the court. You don't have to worry about that. You have got the Treasury of the United States of America backing you. You have got an attorney general who knows nothing but yes. No way to say to you, Mr. President, reconsider.

Your Secretary of State is going to do a similar thing. No one around you is going to challenge you and say to you that this is not the appropriate thing to do. So, yes, he has the characteristics of a de facto dictator with dictatorial behavior being exhibited.

As a result, the moment of truth is upon us. Next week we shall have the opportunity to stand on the principles that I believe were exhibited when we were campaigning, when we were saying this President would harm our democracy, that he was a threat. This will be our opportunity.

I pray that every person will vote their conscience. I am not asking anybody to vote a certain way. I am telling you how I will vote. I speak for no one but myself and those who agree with me, but I assure you that there will be at least one vote to impeach Donald John Trump, President of the United States.

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

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

BIG, BEAUTIFUL BILL

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

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, we are heading into what many people hope is the finishing stretch of our legislature, putting through what Donald Trump calls the big, beautiful bill.

There are a lot of issues yet to be decided, and I would like to address some of those issues today.

The first issue I have talked about once already, but it seems to be a major holdup, the rumors are, in negotiation.

There are clearly going to be some tax cuts in this budget. Our goal will be to continue with tax cuts that were put in place in 2017 but add some others.

As we hear rumors of what tax cuts will be added, we have to remember that taxes in the United States are so high that every tax provision affects our behavior.

Some people want taxes, and I am one of them, to be lower on manufacturers because manufacturers have to compete with other countries. A good way to make sure we have good manufacturing jobs, as well as to make sure we get more research on manufacturing in this country, is to aim our tax cuts at manufacturers.

Some of them specifically aim at research and development. They feel the most important thing in manufacturing is research and development.

Others are made to encourage savings. In the past year, we have passed tax cuts to encourage people to put more money in their IRAs or 401(k)s.

We have a problem in this country that not enough people are having children, and that is not only a problem for the country; it is a problem for individuals who, I think—I am told, many of which regret when they are 35 or 40, not having children when they were younger.

People want to use the tax code to incentivize people to have more children. There are a variety of ways you can do that. President Trump floated a balloon just to give people a large check. I think that is a big mistake because we do not want to have people having children just to get a large check.

If you want to make it easier to raise children, maybe raising the personal exemption to \$5,000 would be a good way to favor parents.

One thing that concerns me. Unlike people who want to encourage more manufacturing, encourage more work, encourage more overtime, encourage more children, there are people who want to change the tax code to encourage local governments and State governments to raise taxes.

There is a provision called the SALT provision in which they want to make tax deductible State and local taxes. They are already, to a degree, tax deductible, but there are people who want to help the wealthier people deduct their State and local income taxes as well.

I have talked to both my State legislators, and last weekend I talked to a county executive, and they both gave me the same story. They are both conservative people. They said they were shocked that there were Republicans who want to increase the tax deduction for State and local taxes because what does that incentivize? It doesn't incentivize more children. It doesn't

incentivize more research and development. It doesn't incentivize more manufacturing.

What it does is it incentivizes State and local governments to raise taxes and spend more money. I had to explain to my State legislators these were Republicans who wanted it. They found it hard to believe. It sounds like a tax provision that you would be more likely to hear Democrat legislators want.

In any event, I think we have to follow the negotiations that are going on, and we have to see whether within the Republican Party we wind up with a product to encourage more work, encourage families, or whether we wind up with a bill designed to encourage State governments to raise the income tax or sales tax, or encourage local governments to raise their property tax.

I am going to be very disappointed. It would certainly be a defeat for, I guess what I will call, traditional Republicans, such as myself, but that is one of the negotiations going on behind closed doors.

There is another provision that they are going to use the IRS code in—which concerns me a little because there are rumors that this may be out there as well. Quite frankly, I have a suggestion how we could cut taxes and put ourselves in a stronger position.

Right now there is a provision in the tax code called low-income housing tax credits, and what it means is that if a developer wants to build a new development, they would get a credit equal to 10 percent of the cost of the building over 9 years, which, right off the bat, sounds like the government is paying for 90 percent of the value of the building.

That is not quite right because there is a time value to money, and if you are getting a building that you paid \$10 million for, if you get a credit worth \$1 million 10 years out, you have got to wait for that credit, and there is a time value to money.

Nevertheless, even taking into account the time value of money, a potential developer has the government, through tax credits, pay for 70 percent of the cost of a building.

Now, this is not open-ended. Usually these credits go to politically well-connected developers picked by State agencies or State organizations.

I think, personally, of all the tax cuts particularly, people complain about tax cuts for the rich. Of all the provisions in the Internal Revenue Code, I can think of no provision more questionable than having the Internal Revenue Service reduce somebody's taxes so that you get 70 percent of the value of your project paid for.

Now, people do not earn enough income to use, say, in the case of \$100 million, a building, they don't have enough credits to offset \$70 million in taxes. So they have to sell the credits to somebody else. This means getting lawyers and experts from LIHTC in-

volved so that these credits can be transferred.

A significant number of these credits go to some of the largest banks in the country. And, of course, the largest banks in the country, I am sure, would love to have Congress change the provisions so that they were able to use still more tax credits.

Why at a time when we can do so many other good things would we do that? I don't know, but they have been very active in this building, and they are looking to get more tax credits.

The next thing to remember about this is there are some units, but not all units, which have restrictions on the amount of rent that can be charged. Quite frankly, there is no guarantee that any of these rents will be below market rate. In fact, some of the people who live in these projects will be able to use vouchers, what we call Section 8 vouchers.

So the government, first of all, sets aside money for somebody to get free rent, and then the vouchers are given to a property developer or a syndicate that is going to wind up owning the building, and they wind up with a voucher as well. It is kind of hard to believe it is developed that way, but it has developed that way.

I had always wondered before hearing about these things why sometimes low-income housing developments look nicer or more elaborate than regular old apartments. Part of that is they are newer, and, of course, newer buildings are usually nicer. A lot of it is we are paying these developers 70 percent of the cost of their building.

And just like if you at home were building a new house and the government said we will give you 70 percent of the cost of that new house, if a developer is building something new and the government says we will pay for 70 percent of the cost of your apartment building, of course the building becomes more lavish, which, of course, makes the property developer wealthy as well.

And you can begin to see, as we work our way through here, that the developer is the big beneficiary here.

Then what happens is the building is sold to a syndicate of a variety of wealthy people who get the tax benefits of depreciation for about 15 years, and then eventually it is returned to the original developer.

So there are many people making money here. Certainly the banks are making money. Above all, the developers are making money. The lawyers are making money, as they have to constantly draft documents between the banks and the syndicate and the developer. And, like I said, the syndicate itself, which is made up of a variety of wealthy individuals or wealthy limited partnerships, is able to get money here as well.

When I think of all the things we can—well, I digress. Again, the developer who gets this is determined by a

State agency. It is naive to think anything other than these developers are politically well-connected people.

I do not know why, if we think it is the Federal Government's business to provide housing to people—which, of course, it is not—we would set up a system in which a private developer gets such a large chunk of money that the Federal Government is laying out.

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Right now, as a matter of fact, the money is so great, even though new projects are spread out or the tax credits are spread over nine years, we are spending over \$13 billion a year on this method of so-called creating workforce housing or low-income housing.

I will also point out that there are some people who would say this is necessary because nobody builds any housing anymore. Well, I am from Wisconsin, which is not what you normally consider a booming State. It is not like Florida. It is not like Texas. As I go around my district, everywhere I look there is new housing. There is single family housing and new apartments.

For a variety of reasons, it is grotesquely expensive. We can deal with that by working our way towards more of a balanced budget, so interest rates are not so high. As the cost of energy goes down, it will lower the cost of anything and lower inflation on other goods as well. Anybody who remotely believes in the free market believes there will always be a market for new housing.

There are apparently some places around the country where it is hard to build new housing, but that, in general, is because there are State governments and local governments which are hostile to business in general and hostile to developers in particular. People then don't want to do more building in this city or that city.

In any event, as we work our way through the process, I hope the negotiators who are meeting in unknown rooms in this building, if they need to balance the budget, think about getting rid of the low-income housing tax credits and use the \$13 billion a year that is primarily benefiting some well-connected and wealthy property developers and use it somewhere else. I think that is one of the things that we have to look at carefully.

There was another topic I wanted to take up. I have been talking to some people who wonder why we have demonstrations in this country hostile to Israel, and even more bizarre, demonstrations favorable to Hamas and people who live in the Gaza Strip.

It has been my belief—and I give this conversation privately to people, but I should make my case more public—that when people take bizarre positions, in other words, when they see Hamas invade Israel and kill over a million people with pride, not even embarrassingly and hiding it, but taking pictures of it, and their sympathy goes towards the people killing the thou-

sand people, including young children, one has to wonder if something psychological is going on here.

My belief is that anybody who is hostile to Israel in this conflict and is demonstrating in favor of Hamas has some sort of psychological problem. I will refer to this psychological problem as—we will name it after the young girl who was obsessed with global warming in Sweden.

We will call it Thunberg syndrome. You all remember the little girl whose father said she was depressed and unhappy, but then she read about global warming and decided to obsess over it. She, all of a sudden, became happy because she could run around and had a purpose in life. Prior to that time, like a lot of wealthy people in the West, she really didn't have a good purpose, but it gave her a purpose. Like I said, she could run around, she would give speeches and feel she was saving the world.

Of course, eventually, Greta Thunberg also wound up siding with the Palestinians, who had killed the Israelis, against the Israelis. I think it was for the same reason. She wanted to adopt a cause to feel she had a purpose in life.

When one particularly has kind of a spoiled life, the people you want to help are people who are kind of opposed to the successful society we have here in the West, be it America, be it Europe.

There is a certain hierarchy of needs that everybody has, right? We need food, we want safety. Once you take care of food and safety, you also need a purpose in life. There are sadly many, many people in America and Western Europe who don't have that purpose.

I think this is particularly a problem for people who may not have a family to devote time to. They may not have children to devote time to. They may be financially well enough off.

You very rarely see Thunberg syndrome on somebody who has three jobs. They are busy with their life. They are going from job to job and working all the time. You would rarely see Thunberg syndrome in, say, somebody with four kids, because four kids is very time-consuming. You have to earn money to take care of the kids, spend time with the kids. That is a purpose in life.

I think, as we have more and more young, single people not having children in the West, you have more and more people looking for a purpose in life. For whatever psychological reason, they want that purpose to be hostile to the West in general.

If they are in the United States, they frequently want that purpose to be anti-American. Of course, when Greta Thunberg wants to get involved in foreign affairs, it is not surprising that she picks global warming because then her enemy is the West and the factories and the cars.

It is interesting that when people have Thunberg syndrome, they do not

get mad at things done by what used to be called Third World countries, right? People who have Thunberg syndrome, well, they may object to a new, clean power plant in the United States. They never worry about the plethora of new coal plants going up in Red China or going up in India, and that is because those aren't Western countries. There, miraculously, they don't care.

When it comes to the attacks on the Jews in Israel put out there by the Palestinians, they will purport to care about the Palestinians who lose their life when the Israeli Army inevitably had to go back into Gaza, but they don't care about Muslims who are dying in other wars. They don't care that many, many Muslims are dying in Syria.

That is because those people are being killed by other Syrians, and it doesn't fit the narrative of, I want to hate the West. They don't care about a civil war going on in Ethiopia, they don't care about the conflicts currently going on in Iraq.

They don't care at all about all the suffering of the Muslims in Western China, the Uyghurs. Why doesn't the left or why don't these demonstrators care about all the Uyghurs being killed or persecuted in the western part of China? It doesn't solve their psychological need to hate the West.

I think more research should be done on Thunberg syndrome to see how we can prevent it from growing because inevitably the United States and the West will fall if a significant number of their populous winds up for some psychological reason adopting causes that are hostile to the West.

That is what is going on right now, be it in global warming, be it in the Palestinian situation, be it the bizarre opinions that President Biden had about the United States being such a racist community.

I mean, here you have a country, the wealthiest people are Indian Americans, the second wealthiest are Filipino Americans. People come here from Cuba and do fantastically well.

Another cause adopted by these people with Thunberg syndrome, despite the fact that anybody could open their eyes and see the wild success of people from all around the world coming to the United States, these people have decided to adopt an ideology in which they have to fight this imaginary racism in the United States with people like Joe Biden or other opportunistic politicians egging them on.

I strongly encourage this body, or if not this body, some universities to look at people who have these bizarre opinions that will inevitably destroy this country. They hate wealth production, they certainly hate energy production even when it is new energy that is fantastically clean, so much cleaner than it was when I was a child.

They hate it when Western countries wind up in armed conflict with horrific opponents like Hamas, but for psychological reasons they side with Hamas.

Those are some of the issues that I think we ought to be paying attention to over the weekend. I think I have used up enough of my time.

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

ENROLLED JOINT RESOLUTION SIGNED

Kevin F. McCumber, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly an enrolled joint resolution of the House of the following title, which was thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.J. Res. 61. Joint Resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to "National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants: Rubber Tire Manufacturing".

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 12 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Friday, May 9, 2025, at 1 p.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

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

EC-918. A letter from the Senior Bureau Official, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 25-029, Report of Proposed Exports, pursuant to Sec. 40(g)(2) of the Arms Export Control Act; ; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-919. A letter from the Chair, Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission, transmitting the Commission's FY 2024 No FEAR Act Report, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 2301 note; Public Law 107-174, Sec. 203(a) (as amended by Public Law 109-435, Sec. 604(f)); (120 Stat. 3241); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

EC-920. A letter from the Chairman, National Labor Relations Board, transmitting the Board's Semiannual Report of the Office of the Inspector General, for the period October 1, 2024 — March 31, 2025; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

EC-921. A letter from the Chair, United States Sentencing Commission, transmitting amendments to the federal sentencing guidelines, policy statements, and official commentary, together with the reasons for the amendments, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 994(p); Public Law 98-473, Sec. 217(a) (as amended by Public Law 100-690, Sec. 7109); (102 Stat. 4419); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

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

By Ms. BONAMICI (for herself, Mrs. MCBATH, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. BEYER, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. SOTO, Ms.

McCLELLAN, Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. KEATING, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. LYNCH, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. POCAN, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. JAYAPAL, and Ms. TOKUDA):

H.R. 3265. A bill to prohibit the use of corporal punishment in schools, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. McCLELLAN (for herself and Mr. BACON):

H.R. 3266. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to make loans and loan guarantees for planning, constructing, or renovating pediatric or adult mental health treatment facilities and pediatric or adult substance use disorder treatment facilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. HOULAHAN (for herself and Mr. FITZPATRICK):

H.R. 3267. A bill to ensure that borrowers who have performed qualifying public service are eligible for Public Service Loan Forgiveness; to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

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

H.R. 3268. A bill to amend title 40, United States Code, to direct the Administrator of General Services to incorporate practices and strategies to reduce bird fatality resulting from collisions with certain public buildings, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. ARRINGTON (for himself, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. ISSA, Ms. JAYAPAL, and Mr. PFLUGER):

H.R. 3269. A bill to address patent thickets; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BEGICH (for himself, Mr. STANTON, Ms. GOODLANDER, Mr. MANN, Ms. SCHOLTEN, Mr. TAYLOR, Ms. TITUS, Mr. STAUBER, Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, Ms. KING-HINDS, Mr. MOULTON, Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia, Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. BACON, Ms. GILLEN, and Ms. FEDORCHAK):

H.R. 3270. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to provide for air traffic control training improvements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 3271. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase funding for Social Security and Medicare; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. BROWNLEY (for herself and Ms. PINGREE):

H.R. 3272. A bill to require the designation of composting as a conservation practice and activity, and to provide grants and loan guarantees for composting facilities and programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts (for herself, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. GOMEZ, Ms. McCLELLAN, Ms. PETERSEN, and Ms. TOKUDA):

H.R. 3273. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to carry out an early childhood educator loan assistance program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

By Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts (for herself, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. GOMEZ, Ms. McCLELLAN, Ms. PETERSEN, and Ms. TOKUDA):

H.R. 3274. A bill to provide assistance with respect to child care infrastructure; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. CRAIG:

H.R. 3275. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to lower the corporate tax rate for small businesses and close the carried interest loophole, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. DINGELL (for herself and Mr. CLINE):

H.R. 3276. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to establish the Urban Bird Treaty Program; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. DUNN of Florida (for himself, Ms. SCHRIER, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. BABIN, Ms. SALAZAR, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. NEHLS, Mr. YAKYM, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. NORTON, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. LANDSMAN, Mr. FIELDS, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. MRVAN, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. MANNION, Mr. LYNCH, Ms. OMAR, Ms. HOULAHAN, Ms. TOKUDA, and Mr. NEGUSE):

H.R. 3277. A bill to provide health insurance benefits for outpatient and inpatient items and services related to the diagnosis and treatment of a congenital anomaly or birth defect; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Education and Workforce, and Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. FALLON (for himself, Mr. MOSKOWITZ, Mrs. LUNA, and Mr. MOYLAN):

H.R. 3278. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to increase penalties for certain computer fraud and related offenses that involve critical infrastructure, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, 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. FALLON (for himself, Mr. COMER, and Ms. FOX):

H.R. 3279. A bill to require the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to establish a limit for the total amount of additional unfunded regulatory costs that may be imposed in a fiscal year, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. FEENSTRA (for himself, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Mr. BOST, and Ms. STANSBURY):

H.R. 3280. A bill to increase access to broadband telecommunications services in rural areas, to increase minimum broadband speeds in rural areas, and to provide grants, loans, and loan guarantees to finance the costs of the construction, improvement, and acquisition of facilities and equipment for broadband service in rural areas, and other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. FIGURES (for himself, Ms. McCLELLAN, Ms. SEWELL, Mrs.

FOUSHEE, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. IVEY, Mr. FIELDS, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, and Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE):

H.R. 3281. A bill to prohibit the reduction, elimination, or suspension of funding for land-grant colleges and universities; to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committee on Education and Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. FINE:

H.R. 3282. A bill to amend title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to prohibit discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance on the ground of religion, to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for rigorous enforcement of prohibitions against discrimination by institutions of higher education on the basis of antisemitism, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Education and Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. FINSTAD (for himself, Mrs. FISCHBACH, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. VAN ORDEN, Mr. BACON, Mr. NEWHOUSE, and Mr. JACKSON of Texas):

H.R. 3283. A bill to amend the Federal Crop Insurance Act to provide premium support for certain plans of crop insurance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. GILL of Texas:

H.R. 3284. A bill to require audits of institutions with respect to disclosures of foreign gifts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Education and Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GROTHMAN (for himself, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. CLYDE, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. MCCORMICK, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. ROUZER, and Mr. RULLI):

H.R. 3285. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow married couples to apply the student loan interest deduction limitation separately to each spouse, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GUTHRIE:

H.R. 3286. A bill to modify the boundary of the Mammoth Cave National Park in the State of Kentucky, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mrs. HARSHBARGER (for herself, Mr. BABIN, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. MCCORMICK, Mrs. BIGGS of South Carolina, Mr. FITZGERALD, Mr. BILIRAKIS, and Mr. ROSE):

H.R. 3287. A bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish a clearinghouse of ZIP-Code based information to expecting mothers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. HERN of Oklahoma (for himself and Mr. THOMPSON of California):

H.R. 3288. A bill to amend titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage of prescription digital therapeutics under the Medicare and Medicaid programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a pe-

riod 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. HUIZENGA (for himself, Mr. PETERS, Mr. TIMMONS, Mr. CASE, Mr. MILLS, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. BERGMAN, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. MOORE of Utah, Ms. PEREZ, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. GOLDEN of Maine, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. GRAY, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. LANDSMAN, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. MOSKOWITZ, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Ms. SCHOLTEN, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mrs. HOUCHIN, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. PANETTA, and Mr. BARR):

H.R. 3289. A bill to establish a commission on fiscal responsibility and reform; to the Committee on the Budget, and in addition to the Committee on Rules, 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. JAYAPAL (for herself, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. BAUMGARTNER, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Ms. RANDALL, Ms. SCHRIER, Mr. SMITH of Washington, and Ms. STRICKLAND):

H.R. 3290. A bill to designate the Museum of Pop Culture in Seattle, Washington, as the "National Museum of Pop Culture"; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia (for herself, Mr. GARBARINO, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. NEWHOUSE, and Mr. AMODEI of Nevada):

H.R. 3291. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to terminate the clean electricity production credit and clean electricity investment credit with respect to certain technologies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. KIM (for herself and Mr. HURD of Colorado):

H.R. 3292. A bill to require the publication of a detailed justification with respect to certain tariff modifications, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ (for herself, Mr. VALADAO, and Ms. PINGREE):

H.R. 3293. A bill to amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to increase payments for drought-resilient or water-saving practices and to provide additional payments for perennial production systems, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. LUTTRELL (for himself, Mr. PFLUGER, Mr. NEHLS, Mr. COLLINS, Mr. BABIN, Mr. STUTZMAN, Mr. EZELL, Mr. BERGMAN, and Mr. STRONG):

H.R. 3294. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to assert jurisdiction over murders committed by certain inadmissible or deportable aliens; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. MALLIOTAKIS (for herself, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia, Ms. TITUS, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Mr. CARSON):

H.R. 3295. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to improve the accuracy and transparency of animal use data collected by the National Institutes of Health from entities that conduct biomedical and behavioral research with funds provided under such Act; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. MCCLAIN DELANEY (for herself, Mr. MOYLAN, Mr. BACON, Ms. BUDZINSKI, Mr. CARSON, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mr. CISNEROS, Mr. FIELDS, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Ms. HOULAHAN, Mr.

HOYER, Mr. LANDSMAN, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Mr. LICCARDO, Ms. MCBRIDE, Mr. NEGUSE, Mr. OLSZEWSKI, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. THANEDAR, Ms. TLAI, and Mr. CARBAJAL):

H.R. 3296. A bill to improve family and medical leave for military families, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Workforce, and in addition to the Committees on Oversight and Government Reform, and House Administration, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. MILLER of Illinois:

H.R. 3297. A bill to define "obscenity" for purposes of the Communications Act of 1934, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS:

H.R. 3298. A bill to revise counseling requirements for certain borrowers of student loans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 3299. A bill to provide an individual with an eligible medical condition access to employee restroom facilities of a retail establishment under certain conditions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. LAMALFA (for himself, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. HURD of Colorado, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. COSTA, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. FONG, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. ISSA, Mrs. KIM, and Mr. GRAY):

H.R. 3300. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to clarify that a permit is not required under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System for a discharge resulting from the aerial application of certain products used for fire control and suppression, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

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

H.R. 3301. A bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to specify certain registration statement contents for emerging growth companies, to permit issuers to file draft registration statements with the Securities and Exchange Commission for confidential review, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ (for herself and Ms. MALLIOTAKIS):

H.R. 3302. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the Healthy Start Initiative; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. OGLES:

H.R. 3303. A bill to require an exception to the license requirements for the exportation of certain advanced integrated circuits to Israel, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. HARDER of California, and Mr. ISSA):

H.R. 3304. A bill to establish a grant pilot program to provide child care services for the minor children of law enforcement officers to accommodate the shift work and non-traditional work hours of such officers, and to enhance recruitment and retention of such officers; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Education and Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. POU (for herself, Mr. BACON, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Mr. CONNOLLY):

H.R. 3305. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide that for purposes of

computing the annuity of certain law enforcement officers, any hours worked in excess of the limitation applicable to law enforcement premium pay shall be included in such computation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, 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. RASKIN (for himself, Mr. FIELDS, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. SIMON, Mrs. FLETCHER, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. GARCIA of California, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Ms. STANSBURY, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. CASAR, and Ms. GARCIA of Texas):

H.R. 3306. A bill to ensure transparency with respect to the impact of certain tariffs on the prices of goods, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. SCHNEIDER (for himself, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Ms. TITUS, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, and Mr. PAPPAS):

H.R. 3307. A bill to increase cooperation with countries in the Eastern Mediterranean region in order to strengthen energy security and defense capabilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. SCHNEIDER (for himself and Ms. STEVENS):

H.R. 3308. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to address the teacher and school leader shortage in early childhood, elementary, and secondary education, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Education and Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SORESENSEN (for himself, Mr. TAKANO, and Ms. MALLIOTAKIS):

H.R. 3309. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to increase the amount paid by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to veterans for improvements and structural alterations furnished as part of home health services; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. SOTO (for himself, Ms. SALAZAR, and Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ):

H.R. 3310. A bill to designate Venezuela under section 244 of the Immigration and Nationality Act to permit nationals of Venezuela to be eligible for temporary protected status under such section, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. STEUBE:

H.R. 3311. A bill to reduce Federal spending and the deficit by terminating taxpayer financing of Presidential election campaigns; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. STRONG (for himself, Mr. CORREA, Ms. SALAZAR, Mr. IVEY, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. TRAN, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, and Ms. GOODLANDER):

H.R. 3312. A bill to authorize the Attorney General to make grants for the creation and operation of veterans response teams within law enforcement agencies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. TAYLOR (for himself, Mr. DAVIDSON, and Ms. HAGEMAN):

H.R. 3313. A bill to prohibit the head of a Federal agency from using Federal funds for

certain solar energy projects that would result in the conversion of farmland, to exclude from certain tax credits relating to clean energy facilities placed in service on prime farmland, 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. TORRES of New York:

H.R. 3314. A bill to prohibit the issuance, promotion, or sale of digital assets that use the name, likeness, or identifiable traits of certain federal officials or their immediate family for financial gain, and to establish regulatory oversight under the Securities and Exchange Commission; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. WILSON of South Carolina (for himself and Mr. PANETTA):

H.R. 3315. A bill to counter efforts by Hezbollah to conduct terrorist activities in Latin America, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, 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. BAUMGARTNER:

H. Res. 398. A resolution condemning Iran's failure to comply with its international nuclear obligations; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas:

H. Res. 399. A resolution congratulating Gregg Popovich, former Head Coach of the San Antonio Spurs and the winningest head coach in National Basketball Association history, on his retirement; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Ms. MENG (for herself, Ms. ANSARI, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. BERA, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. CASE, Ms. CHU, Mrs. DINGELL, Mrs. FLETCHER, Mrs. FOUSHEE, Mr. GARCIA of California, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. KING-HINDS, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Ms. LEE of Nevada, Mr. LIEU, Mrs. MCCLAIN DELANEY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MIN, Mr. MULLIN, Ms. PRESSLEY, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. SIMON, Ms. STRICKLAND, Mr. SUBRAMANYAM, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. THANEDAR, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. TOKUDA, Mr. TONKO, Mrs. TORRES of California, Mr. TRAN, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, and Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN):

H. Res. 400. A resolution recognizing the significance of Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month as an important time to celebrate the significant contributions of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders to the history of the United States; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania (for himself, Ms. STEVENS, Mrs. MCBATH, and Ms. BONAMICI):

H. Res. 401. A resolution recognizing the 60th anniversary of SkillsUSA; to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

By Mr. WEBER of Texas (for himself, Ms. DE LA CRUZ, Mrs. HOCHIN, Mr. NEHLS, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. BACON, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. RULLI, Mr. MOORE of West Virginia, Mr. ELLZEY, Mr. GILL of Texas, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. OWENS, Mr. EZELL, Mr.

SELF, Mr. BABIN, Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas, Mrs. HINSON, and Mrs. LUNA):

H. Res. 402. A resolution honoring mothers, and recognizing the significance of motherhood and the impact mothers have on raising the next generation, on the occasion of Mother's Day; to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Ms. BONAMICI:

H.R. 3265.

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

Article I Section 8

By Ms. MCCLELLAN:

H.R. 3266.

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

Article 1, Section 8, U.S. Constitution

By Ms. HOULAHAN:

H.R. 3267.

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

Article 1, Section 8.

By Mr. GRIFFITH:

H.R. 3268.

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

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

By Mr. ARRINGTON:

H.R. 3269.

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

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. BEGICH:

H.R. 3270.

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

Article 1 Section 8

By Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 3271.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution under the General Welfare Clause.

By Ms. BROWNLEY:

H.R. 3272.

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

Article I, Section 8

By Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts:

H.R. 3273.

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. CLARK of Massachusetts:

H.R. 3274.

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. CRAIG:

H.R. 3275.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mrs. DINGELL:

H.R. 3276.

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

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

By Mr. DUNN of Florida:
H.R. 3277.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Clause 3 of Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution

By Mr. FALLON:
H.R. 3278.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. FALLON:
H.R. 3279.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. FEENSTRA:
H.R. 3280.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. FIGURES:
H.R. 3281.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8

By Mr. FINE:
H.R. 3282.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Spending Clause: Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

Necessary and Proper Clause: Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. FINSTAD:
H.R. 3283.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. GILL of Texas:
H.R. 3284.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. GROTHMAN:
H.R. 3285.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 and Amendment XVI

By Mr. GUTHRIE:
H.R. 3286.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mrs. HARSHBARGER:
H.R. 3287.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1; Sec. 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. HERN of Oklahoma:
H.R. 3288.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I Section 8

By Mr. HUIZENGA:
H.R. 3289.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Ms. JAYAPAL:
H.R. 3290.
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 of the United States Constitution and its subsequent amendments, and further clarified and interpreted by the Supreme Court of the United States.

By Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia:
H.R. 3291.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article one, section 8

By Mrs. KIM:
H.R. 3292.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8

By Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ:
H.R. 3293.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8

By Mr. LUTTRELL:
H.R. 3294.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8. To make 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. MALLIOTAKIS:
H.R. 3295.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1 Section 8

By Mrs. MCCLAIN DELANEY:
H.R. 3296.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 (relating to the power of Congress to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.)

By Mrs. MILLER of Illinois:
H.R. 3297.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I

By Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS:
H.R. 3298.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Ms. NORTON:
H.R. 3299.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
clause 18 of section 8 of article 1 of the Constitution

By Mr. LAMALFA:
H.R. 3300.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 14

By Mr. NUNN of Iowa:
H.R. 3301.
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 should be necessary and proper for carrying into execution in 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. OCASIO-CORTEZ:
H.R. 3302.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution

By Mr. OGLES:
H.R. 3303.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. PETERS:
H.R. 3304.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, section 8

By Ms. POU:
H.R. 3305.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8: To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. RASKIN:
H.R. 3306.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
clause 3 of section 8 of article 1

By Mr. SCHNEIDER:
H.R. 3307.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1 Section 8

By Mr. SCHNEIDER:
H.R. 3308.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8

By Mr. SORENSEN:
H.R. 3309.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I

By Mr. SOTO:
H.R. 3310.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. STEUBE:
H.R. 3311.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I Section 8

By Mr. STRONG:
H.R. 3312.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States

By Mr. TAYLOR:
H.R. 3313.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. TORRES of New York:
H.R. 3314.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8.

By Mr. WILSON of South Carolina:
H.R. 3315.
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. 116: Mr. COLLINS.
H.R. 212: Mr. MIN.
H.R. 217: Mr. VINDMAN.
H.R. 251: Mr. COLLINS.
H.R. 307: Mrs. FOUSHEE.
H.R. 309: Mr. FALLON and Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia.
H.R. 333: Ms. BROWNLEY.
H.R. 347: Mr. FRY.
H.R. 377: Mr. MOORE of North Carolina.
H.R. 436: Mr. BACON and Mr. TURNER of Ohio.
H.R. 516: Ms. SEWELL and Ms. TITUS.
H.R. 621: Mr. VASQUEZ and Ms. GILLEN.
H.R. 649: Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS.
H.R. 740: Mr. TIMMONS.
H.R. 793: Ms. PLASKETT, Mrs. FOUSHEE, Mr. SMITH of Washington, and Mrs. BEATTY.
H.R. 795: Mr. MCGUIRE.
H.R. 810: Mr. MCCORMICK.
H.R. 923: Mrs. HAYES.

H.R. 941: Mrs. HINSON.
 H.R. 955: Mr. PFLUGER and Mr. CARBAJAL.
 H.R. 989: Ms. MORRISON, Ms. SIMON, and Ms. SCANLON.
 H.R. 1007: Ms. WILSON of Florida and Ms. CRAIG.
 H.R. 1104: Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin.
 H.R. 1107: Mr. VINDMAN.
 H.R. 1151: Mr. BEAN of Florida, Mr. BARR, Mrs. FOUSHEE, Mr. CARSON, Mrs. MCIVER, and Mr. EDWARDS.
 H.R. 1177: Mr. MILLER of Ohio.
 H.R. 1236: Ms. BUDZINSKI.
 H.R. 1269: Ms. McDONALD RIVET and Mr. LARSEN of Washington.
 H.R. 1303: Mr. GOLDEN of Maine.
 H.R. 1314: Mr. BISHOP and Ms. CLARKE of New York.
 H.R. 1364: Mr. VINDMAN.
 H.R. 1378: Ms. SANCHEZ.
 H.R. 1422: Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. BALDERSON, Ms. MACE, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. KILEY of California, Ms. STEFANIK, Ms. GOODLANDER, Mrs. MCBATH, and Mr. CLYDE.
 H.R. 1477: Mr. MAGAZINER and Mr. GIMENEZ.
 H.R. 1492: Mr. FRY.
 H.R. 1520: Mr. WITTMAN.
 H.R. 1521: Mr. LATIMER.
 H.R. 1522: Mr. MFUME.
 H.R. 1551: Mr. KEAN.
 H.R. 1564: Mr. LARSEN of Washington and Mr. CONAWAY.
 H.R. 1725: Mr. MFUME.
 H.R. 1882: Mr. MCGUIRE.
 H.R. 1900: Mr. MEUSER.
 H.R. 1906: Ms. STANSBURY.
 H.R. 1939: Ms. MCBRIDE.
 H.R. 1966: Mr. BELL.
 H.R. 1987: Mr. AMO.
 H.R. 1989: Ms. STANSBURY.
 H.R. 2033: Mr. MANN.
 H.R. 2042: Mr. MILLER of Ohio and Mr. NEGUSE.

H.R. 2094: Mr. KEAN, Mr. LATIMER, and Ms. McDONALD RIVET.
 H.R. 2102: Mr. BERGMAN and Ms. MALOY.
 H.R. 2117: Ms. McDONALD RIVET.
 H.R. 2175: Ms. FRIEDMAN.
 H.R. 2199: Mr. CONAWAY.
 H.R. 2201: Mr. VINDMAN.
 H.R. 2219: Ms. TLAIB.
 H.R. 2272: Mr. GOLDMAN of Texas.
 H.R. 2273: Mr. GOLDMAN of Texas.
 H.R. 2315: Mr. COLLINS.
 H.R. 2322: Mr. FINSTAD.
 H.R. 2369: Mr. NUNN of Iowa.
 H.R. 2387: Mr. CLYDE.
 H.R. 2414: Mr. MCCORMICK.
 H.R. 2462: Mr. MILLER of Ohio.
 H.R. 2550: Mr. HIMES.
 H.R. 2627: Ms. MCBRIDE.
 H.R. 2632: Ms. VELÁZQUEZ.
 H.R. 2665: Mrs. KIM and Ms. FRIEDMAN.
 H.R. 2683: Ms. MCBRIDE.
 H.R. 2687: Ms. TOKUDA.
 H.R. 2711: Ms. McDONALD RIVET and Ms. GOODLANDER.
 H.R. 2736: Mr. MFUME and Ms. GARCIA of Texas.
 H.R. 2753: Mr. SMITH of Washington.
 H.R. 2766: Ms. BONAMICI.
 H.R. 2777: Mr. BARR.
 H.R. 2808: Mr. MANN.
 H.R. 2842: Mr. COSTA.
 H.R. 2853: Mr. BACON, Ms. SCHRIER, Ms. SCHOLTEN, Mr. FINSTAD, Ms. McDONALD RIVET, Mr. ONDER, Mr. FIGURES, Mr. VINDMAN, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. MANN, and Mr. MCGUIRE.
 H.R. 2872: Ms. SÁNCHEZ and Ms. HOULAHAN.
 H.R. 2948: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.
 H.R. 3033: Mr. FITZGERALD.
 H.R. 3039: Mr. BELL.
 H.R. 3042: Mr. QUIGLEY and Mr. HERNÁNDEZ.
 H.R. 3049: Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.R. 3073: Mr. KENNEDY of Utah and Mr. OWENS.
 H.R. 3112: Mr. LAWLER and Mr. LALOTA.
 H.R. 3128: Mr. CASTEN.
 H.R. 3131: Mr. DESAULNIER.
 H.R. 3137: Mr. CARBAJAL.
 H.R. 3139: Mrs. RAMIREZ, Mrs. HAYES, and Ms. TOKUDA.
 H.R. 3171: Mrs. HAYES.
 H.R. 3226: Mr. KEAN.
 H.R. 3246: Mr. LAWLER and Mr. SOTO.
 H.J. Res. 80: Mr. MFUME and Ms. McDONALD RIVET.
 H.J. Res. 83: Ms. TOKUDA.
 H.J. Res. 85: Ms. TOKUDA.
 H. Con. Res. 27: Mr. GARBARINO.
 H. Con. Res. 30: Mrs. HOUCHIN, Mr. MOORE of North Carolina, Mr. KUSTOFF, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. STAUBER, Mr. COLLINS, Mr. WALBERG, Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia, Mr. RILEY of New York, and Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas.
 H. Res. 148: Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. LIEU, and Mr. BELL.
 H. Res. 166: Mr. KUSTOFF and Ms. MCBRIDE.
 H. Res. 317: Mr. POCAN.
 H. Res. 358: Ms. KING-HINDS.
 H. Res. 364: Mr. MANN, Mr. MOORE of North Carolina, Mr. LAWLER, Mr. BACON, and Mr. NEHLS.

DELETIONS OF SPONSORS FROM PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

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

H.R. 1637: Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida.



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 119th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 171

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, MAY 8, 2025

No. 77

Senate

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

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Almighty God, make us instruments of Your love. Use our lawmakers today as ambassadors of reconciliation. Lord, direct them in their work and surround them with Your gracious presence that all their plans and purposes be in accordance with Your holy will. May their primary aim be to serve You and country with faithfulness. Enlighten them by Your Holy Spirit so they will find solutions to the problems and challenges our Nation and world are grappling with. Make them good stewards of their calling, guiding them to use their influence for Your glory. Inspire their minds; assist their wills; and strengthen their hands that they may not falter or fail.

We pray in Your glorious Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

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

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MULLIN). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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"—Resumed

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of S.J. Res. 7, which the clerk will report.

The assistant bill clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (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".

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

VETERANS HISTORY PROJECT

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I want to report to my colleagues what I am doing today: delivering some history to the Library of Congress.

I will tell you about that project in the Library of Congress. This is something that I have done around Veterans Day each year for the last 8 years. In the past and including today, it has added up to the histories of about 95 veterans who have told their stories to me and my staff. Veterans are an important part of our communities. The sacrifices of the brave men and women who have served our country should never be forgotten.

My office recently interviewed 12 of these 95 veterans—this time from the Cedar Rapids, IA, area—for what the Library of Congress calls the Veterans History Project. Stories of our veterans help us to better understand the sacrifices that have granted us security and prosperity and have allowed us to

live in freedom and with the liberties of this great Nation, the United States of America. Today, these stories of the latest 12 veterans will be delivered to the Library of Congress, preserving these firsthand accounts for future generations to appreciate the role of the people who defend our freedoms.

For the project that we had in Cedar Rapids, I want to give a special thank-you to Teri Van Dorston, at the Veterans Memorial Building in Cedar Rapids, for hosting the event that we held last November there and to Randy Langel from Kirkwood Community College for coordinating the students to perform and record these interviews.

I look forward to hosting another Veterans History Project event in November of this year in the Western Iowa city of Council Bluffs.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The majority leader is recognized.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 1668

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill from Senator MERKLEY at the desk that is due for a second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the second time.

The assistant bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1668) 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

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



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endorsing certain financial instruments, and for other purposes.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, in order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I would object to further proceeding.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bill will be placed on the calendar.

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"

GENIUS ACT

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, it has been well over a decade since the term "cryptocurrency" entered our lexicon. Like many innovations, cryptocurrencies were at first seen as a novelty—something used by few and understood by even fewer.

But that changed quickly. More people began using and purchasing digital assets, innovation took place, and crypto demonstrated its staying power.

Stablecoins are an important part of the crypto ecosystem. Many digital asset advocates believe in holding Bitcoin, given its price fluctuations and growth in value over the last several years.

Stablecoins, however, have a value that is pegged to an asset, usually the U.S. dollar. They offer the speed and security of the blockchain with the stability and usability of a dollar bill, and they are a business and consumer friendly way of making payments.

Hundreds of billions of dollars of stablecoins are in circulation today. The vast majority are dollar denominated. But in the United States, stablecoins have operated in a legal gray zone. Stablecoin issuers trying to follow the rules can't be sure what rules to follow.

The Biden administration chose to regulate crypto companies by arbitrary enforcement measures. Regulators filed numerous lawsuits against crypto firms. These hostile actions led a number of U.S.-based companies to consider moving out of the United States altogether.

I think we all agree the United States should be the world's leader in financial innovation. Stablecoins should be "Made in the U.S.A." But we can't lead in innovation if there is no clarity for the innovators.

The GENIUS Act provides that clarity. It is the first step in bringing digital assets into our financial system by setting a clear framework for stablecoins. To be clear, Americans are already using stablecoins and will continue to use them with or without this legislation. What this bill does is establish a framework that protects consumers and safeguards national security while promoting that innovation right here in the United States.

The GENIUS Act would implement light-touch and tailored standards for stablecoin issuers so consumers can trust whom they are doing business with. Reserve requirements would give consumers confidence in the value of the stablecoins that they hold, and the bill's enforcement provisions would provide companies with clarity on what the rules are and ensure accountability for any violations.

The GENIUS Act would also protect against national security threats and money laundering. Stablecoin issuers would be held to the same standards as other financial institutions subject to the Bank Secrecy Act. They would need to monitor and report suspicious activity. They would have to comply with U.S. sanctions, and they would have to block transactions that violate State and Federal laws.

Stablecoins are operating today without any of these requirements, and not passing this bill means allowing the status quo to continue—no consumer protections, no national security safeguards, and the risk of arbitrary enforcement actions from financial regulators.

Passing this bill is also about American strength. It would create demand for the U.S. dollar and for Treasuries. That is a good thing both for our national security and for our fiscal house.

This bill is the product of bipartisan consensus building. I am proud of the process that this has gone through, and I am grateful to Senators LUMMIS, HAGERTY, GILLIBRAND, and ALSOBROOKS for their leadership on this issue and their work on the bill. Chairman TIM SCOTT has also been a critical member of the team.

The Banking Committee held a 3-hour markup during which the committee considered 40 amendments to the bill. That bill was reported out by a vote of 18 to 6, with 5 Democrats supporting it.

But the work didn't end there. Bill sponsors have been meeting for weeks—including nights and weekends—since the markup to address changes that made this bill better.

Today, we are voting on the sixth—sixth—version of the GENIUS Act, drafted with input from both Republicans and Democrats. And if Senators would like the opportunity to make further modifications to the bill, I encourage them to vote for cloture. Once we are on the bill, we can discuss changes here on the floor. We have had an open process on this bill so far. So why stop now?

The GENIUS Act is by no means the last word on digital assets. I expect the Senate will continue to work in this space, including work toward market structure legislation to address features of the crypto market that are not captured solely by stablecoins.

But the GENIUS Act is a first step toward bringing digital assets into our financial system and promoting American leadership and financial innovation. We have the opportunity to move

the ball forward today. I encourage my colleagues to take it.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Democratic leader is recognized.

TARIFFS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, Donald Trump's trade war is a gut punch to the American people. It is the biggest tax hike on families in half a century.

If Donald Trump is going to tax the American people, they have a right to know precisely how much. So, today, I am introducing legislation with Representative RASKIN requiring retailers to show consumers precisely how much tariffs are increasing the prices of their products. It is no different than when your utility bill shows fees or a receipt shows if a service charge is included or not.

Specifically, the legislation that Representative RASKIN has introduced in the House and I am introducing in the Senate requires large retailers to display in a "clear and conspicuous" way the amount that tariffs contribute to a good's final price tag.

Our bill is about transparency. It is about being straight with consumers. It is about informing the consumers how Donald Trump's tariffs will impact the family budget. And retailers should like it because these increases in prices are not their fault; it is Trump's fault, with his tariffs.

So let the public know. And that is a secondary benefit that will make the public even more angry, and they may call their Republican Senators and Congressmen and say join with Democrats and pass some of our legislation that would repeal some of these tariffs.

The White House growls that companies with the audacity, they said—audacity—to be honest with consumers about the cost of tariffs are being hostile and political. But this is not hostile or political at all; it is simply being honest with consumers. It is clarity. It is transparency.

It is a smart policy, so of course the White House opposes it because they don't want people to know how much these tariffs are damaging them. It is estimated that if the present tariffs go into effect, the average family will pay \$4,000 more. Well, we want to let them know how much the price is increased for food, for housing, for gasoline, for groceries, for prescription drugs.

Last week, for instance, Ford announced they are increasing the price of at least three models by as much as \$2,000, in part because of Trump's tariffs. Under our bill, that \$2,000 price hike should be spelled out to consumers as in reality what it is—a tariff tax.

Americans deserve to know who is picking their pockets. Our bill will make clear to the American people that Donald Trump's tariffs are a painful tax eating away at their hard-earned money. It will make clear to the American people that Donald Trump's promise to "lower costs starting on day one" is a mirage, a fiction—a cruel fiction—all for a chaotic tariff policy that is sending our economy into a tailspin.

On those tariffs themselves, today, Donald Trump is set to announce a new supposed trade deal between the United States and the UK, the United Kingdom. We are still waiting to get the details, but this much is clear: Whatever Donald Trump's announcement with the UK looks like, it isn't a triumph of strategy; rather, it is a product of chaos. And with this President, if past is prologue, who knows if this deal will actually stick.

This is the Trump administration's credo: government by chaos. Just look at how Donald Trump is dealing with Canada, and it tells you everything you need to know about how untrustworthy his UK announcement is. First, Donald Trump says yes on tariffs with Canada; then he says no. Then he insults Canada, calls it the "51st State." Moments later, he meets with Prime Minister Carney and says "Canada loves us and we love Canada."

No one knows what Donald Trump will say next. If this were a roller coaster, the whiplash would paralyze everybody involved. So American businesses and American consumers have no faith that the President has a design. Whatever is in front of his face that day, whatever pressure there might be on him, he reacts. And it doesn't matter if he said the complete opposite thing a day or a week earlier.

Early this morning, members of the President's own Cabinet are already lowering expectations of the deal, saying it is only "an agreement in concept"; "there's a lot of details to be worked out." And we know what happens when that happens, particularly in a Trump administration.

Donald Trump's new trade deal with the UK seems to be built entirely on quicksand. It is likely to be built on quicksand. He blows with the political winds. When people say he is too reckless, he backs off. When there is criticism of him backing off, he reintroduces the bill. So it would be hard to take anything the President says about this deal seriously because, in all likelihood, he will change his mind again.

ANTI-SEMITISM

Mr. President, on anti-Semitism, this morning, the Anti-Defamation League issued a new report illustrating a disturbing trend I have been warning about: the rise of anti-Semitism in America. Specifically, this report looked at anti-Semitism toward Jewish Members of Congress, which has dramatically risen—something I can attest to firsthand.

Social media has become a breeding ground for anti-Semitism. But it is not

just elected officials. Social media has become an easy way for hate groups to organize and proliferate their message against all sorts of communities and individuals. They go after Jewish-owned businesses. They go after synagogues. They go after families. They direct anti-Semitic slurs even against individuals who might not be Jewish.

We must not allow anti-Semitism to grow unabated in America like wild weeds. As the great poet Conor Cruise O'Brien said, anti-Semitism is a light sleeper. When there is trouble, somehow anti-Semitism always pops its head up—the Jewish people being made scapegoats, as we have been for centuries. It must be confronted at every instance. It must be rooted out.

We all play a part in fighting back against the forces of intolerance. People of all backgrounds, faiths, beliefs, and opinions have a duty to stand up and speak out against hate, no matter where it comes from.

FEDERAL BUDGET

Mr. President, now, on the Trump budget, if you asked AI to come up with a Federal budget that utterly screws over average Americans, do you know what the AI would come up with? Donald Trump's latest budget proposal. So, today, let's look at Trump's so-called skinny budget a little more closely. It is hard to believe that this is a serious proposal.

If enacted, the Trump budget would completely gut public safety, something they say they want to strengthen. Trump's own FBI Director, Kash Patel, one of the most loyal Trumpites, testified in the House yesterday that the FBI can't meet its mission to keep Americans safe with the cuts in Trump's budget.

If Kash Patel, one of Donald Trump's most loyal acolytes, says this budget won't work, who else is going to come out against it? How can we take this budget seriously? If Patel is against it, so will be many other Cabinet officers, publicly or privately. How carefully was it even done? Did the people who put it out know they are slashing the FBI? The budget has sloppy and reckless written all over it, and even Kash Patel agrees.

That is not all. The Trump budget would also strangle American families. It is an all-out assault on American healthcare. Under Donald Trump's budget, America's housing crisis would go from bad to worse.

Hell will freeze over before Democrats entertain anything remotely close to Trump's budget. This budget proposal is dead on arrival in the Senate, and anything close to it will go nowhere as well.

MEDICAID

Mr. President, on Medicaid and the CBO, the Republicans right now are struggling with a very basic idea that the truth sometimes hurts. In their case, the truth is that Republican policies are so deeply unpopular with the American people. Republicans are realizing that, and it has left them paralyzed.

Now that Republicans actually have to produce a bill, reality is catching up with them. No more bland words. No more: Don't worry; we will protect you. The budget shows what they are actually up to.

Yesterday, the CBO reported that no matter which scheme of Medicaid cuts Republicans are likely to choose, the result will be that millions will become uninsured. Republicans can try any which way to make their bill work, but their numbers just don't add up. There is no way for Republicans to accomplish their massive tax giveaways without devastating millions of working and middle-class people.

Even if the Republicans pass a fraction of their proposed Medicaid cuts, it still means millions will lose their healthcare. And for what? So that billionaires can get another tax break that they don't need at a time of high inflation and a possible recession? That is the definition of cruelty.

This is the fundamental problem Republicans are facing right now as their infighting continues—that their policies are deeply, deeply unpopular with the American people—not just blue State Republicans but purple and red State Republicans too. Telling the American people that you want to ax their healthcare so that extremely rich people can pay less in taxes is a horrible message that virtually hardly anyone in America agrees with, but that is precisely what Republicans are trying to do. So it is no surprise they are eating their own tails trying to figure out how to proceed.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican whip.

WYOMING VETERANS

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, this week, I had an opportunity, as part of Veterans Appreciation Week, to speak with incredible Wyoming veterans from all across our State. I thanked them for their service and also took the opportunity to listen closely to their concerns.

On Tuesday, Senator CYNTHIA LUMMIS and I hosted a telephone townhall meeting with Veterans Affairs Secretary Doug Collins. Also, Col. Tim Sheppard, who is executive director of the Wyoming Veterans Commission, joined us on the call.

The call was very productive and informative. Wyoming veterans shared their experience directly with Secretary Collins. They shared with us what works with the VA and how improvements can still be made. We heard many ideas for improvement. Suggestions ranged from changes to online scheduling to more flexibility for out-of-State appointments.

Secretary Collins took this feedback seriously. He himself is a veteran. He knows that the VA is too bureaucratic. He is committed to fixing it. So I am proud to partner with him to deliver the care that our veterans deserve.

On Wednesday, here in Washington, I met with 16 Wyoming Vietnam veterans. They came to town to visit their

memorial. These 16 veteran heroes come from across the State: Guernsey, Thermopolis, Powell, Casper, Cheyenne, Mountain View, Douglas, Newcastle, and Green River. Their stories of service and sacrifice are moving.

This weekend in Wyoming, we will be holding “Welcome Home” events across the State in Afton, Riverton, Sheridan, and Wheatland. It is a welcome home many veterans from Vietnam never really received. It is sad to report but true. This weekend, we honor all of our Wyoming veterans.

Wyoming has one of the highest per-capita rates of veterans in America. The pride in those individuals runs deep.

It is an honor to represent them here in the Senate, and I am going to continue to listen to the concerns of our veterans and work to improve the care they need and continue to honor their sacrifices.

ELECTRIC VEHICLE MANDATE

Mr. President, on another matter, in 2024, in November, on election day, voters demanded more economic freedom and less government overreach. President Trump and Republicans in Congress heard them. The State of California did not.

California wants to export its radical and impractical electric vehicle mandate to all 50 States. California’s mandates are a progressive power grab. They dictate what cars and what trucks Americans can buy and can drive. These mandates aren’t limited to California; they are calculated to control the policy of the entire Nation.

Congress must now act to protect the rights of the American people to drive the gas-powered vehicles they want to drive. Last week, House Republicans—with 35 House Democrats joining all of the Republicans—voted to defend that freedom and to defeat this California mandate, and it is now up to the Senate to finish the job.

California mandates spread far and wide. They affect 133 million Americans—nearly 40 percent of the population of this country. Here is why: Twelve States copy the California mandate to ban gas-powered cars by 2036. Ten States copy the California mandate to ban gas-powered trucks by 2036. These include large-population States, like New York.

Even the junior Senator from California admits that California’s liberal mandates affect the entire country, and he says he is very proud of it. The American people think differently.

The Washington Post reported last month that “Americans are losing interest in EVs.” That is the quote. The Washington Post: “Americans are losing interest in EVs.” Interest in owning an EV has dropped 8 percent since 2023.

The message is clear: Americans don’t want these EVs even when the government tries to bribe them—bribe them—into buying them and using them. People want to buy the car and truck that works best for them and where they live and the life they lead.

The average price of an electric vehicle is \$62,000, which is \$16,000 more than comparable gas-powered vehicles. The California mandates that the Democrats are pushing would raise prices even more. It would also limit options.

This isn’t progress. This is a policy that punishes working families, punishes farmers, punishes truckers, punishes the people that live in rural areas.

Worse, EV batteries rely on China. Eighty percent of EV battery components come from China. Republicans here in the Senate are fighting to end America’s dependence on China. The California mandate supported by the Democrats makes that dependence even more dangerous. It risks our safety, it risks our security, and it risks our strategic independence.

The Biden administration used its final days in office to grant California permission to export its EV mandate across the country. They did this just 1 month before President Trump took office. They had already lost the election. They already knew the American people rejected what they stood for. Yet they still tried to push this onto the American people, and are trying to push it today.

This is midnight meddling. Senate Republicans are ready to use the Congressional Review Act to stop it. We will protect Americans’ rights—the rights to purchase a gas-powered vehicle. That is what we are fighting for, and we have every right to do so.

California’s mandates have already taken root in a dozen States. They affect 40 percent of all the new light-duty vehicle registrations and a quarter of the new heavy-duty vehicle registrations nationwide. They clearly affect the kinds of vehicles which will be manufactured and sold in America. These California mandates affect the cost and the availability of gas-powered cars and trucks all across the country, even in the States that do not adopt the mandates.

To my Democrat colleagues who will tolerate California controlling what Americans can drive: Do you think the American people really support what you are trying to shove down their throats? No, they don’t.

No wonder the Democrats lost the election.

Are the Democrats willing to strip consumers and small businesses of their right to choose the vehicles that work for their needs and for their budgets? Do Democrats want to continue to protect the failures and the fallacies of the Green New Deal? Or for once, will the Democrats join Republicans who are trying to protect working families?

It is no surprise, then, that Republicans have become the party supporting and protecting the rights of working families. People have rejected the Democrats.

The Senate also needs to reject the cheerleading by these climate extremists for more regulations by unelected bureaucrats, but that is what the

Democrats are here supporting. The Senate should use the Congressional Review Act to reject this Joe Biden midnight madness. By doing so, we would be protecting consumer choice, protecting affordability, and protecting congressional authority.

It is time to put Americans, Mr. President, back in the driver’s seat.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic whip.

NOMINATION OF ED MARTIN

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, the U.S. Department of Justice is a powerful Agency. The Attorney General heads it. Throughout the United States, there are over 90 U.S. attorneys who are the Federal prosecutors—a powerful position, a position that can make or break an individual or a corporation. Two of the most important and the most powerful are the Southern District of New York and the District of Columbia.

I come to the floor today to speak in opposition to the nomination of Ed Martin to be U.S. attorney for the District of Columbia. I urge my colleagues, Democrats and Republicans: Closely examine this nominee’s record.

Ed Martin’s commentary and affiliations leave no doubt that he is unqualified to serve as the top Federal law enforcement individual for our Nation’s Capital City. Nearly every day, new, disqualifying information surfaces.

Recently, ProPublica published a troubling report detailing Mr. Martin’s conduct in multiple cases involving Eagle Forum, a conservative organization which has its roots in my home State of Illinois, formally led by well-known activist Phyllis Schlafly.

Within a year—within a year—of Mr. Martin becoming the head of the Eagle Forum, the board of directors of that organization fired him, in 2016, and they stated the reason: mismanagement and poor leadership.

A majority of the board also filed a lawsuit to bar him from any association with the organization. Instead of arguing his case in court, according to the ProPublica publication, Mr. Martin secretly orchestrated a social media campaign attacking the presiding Illinois judge.

Ironically, that judge, John Barberis from Madison County, IL—directly across the river from St. Louis—was the only Republican judge sitting in that county at the time.

Mr. Martin went so far as to buy a laptop computer for a former colleague so that she could attack the judge on Facebook and ghostwrote posts for her.

Mr. Martin, who seeks to be the top Federal prosecutor in the District of Columbia, urged her to “turn up the heat with others” on the Facebook page of this judge and to “[c]all what [the judge] did unfair and rigged over and over” again—Mr. Martin’s instruction to his colleague.

This outrageous effort to intimidate a judge is a clear violation of ethical

norms and professional rules of conduct. It led to more than \$600,000 in legal settlements or judgments against Mr. Martin or his employers.

In the Eagle Forum lawsuit, a judge held Mr. Martin in contempt of court, citing his “willful disregard” of a court order that barred him from interfering with the organization.

Remember, this is the President’s choice to be the head U.S. attorney for the District of Columbia, and he is being held in contempt of court for willful disregard of a court order that barred him from interfering.

A jury found Mr. Martin liable for defamation of Phyllis Schlafly’s daughter, Anne Schlafly Cori—a jury decision finding him liable for defamation—for, among other things—he shared a post on Facebook falsely claiming—listen to this—Mr. Martin shared a Facebook post falsely claiming that Anne Schlafly Cori should be charged with manslaughter in her mother’s death.

Mr. Martin also has a disturbing history of downplaying the January 6 insurrection in the U.S. Capitol. He has made it a habit to attack the law enforcement officers who protected the Vice President, who sat before this Chamber, Members of the Senate, Members of the House, thousands of staffers, and visitors.

Those law enforcement individuals put their lives on the line for me and for all of us, but Mr. Martin doesn’t see it that way.

He was at the U.S. Capitol on January 6 when he posted on social media, and I quote word for word what he said on January 6 about what was going on in this insurrection in the Capitol. Here is what he said:

Like Mardi Gras in DC today; love, faith, and joy. Ignore #FakeNews.

In August 2023, he excused violence by January 6 rioters, saying:

We have to have less judgment on somebody who hits a cop.

Ed Martin, seeking the U.S. attorney’s post for the District of Columbia, said of the January 6 rioters:

We have to have less judgment on somebody who hits a cop.

He continued:

I’ve seen people hit a cop and that doesn’t make it the end of the world.

Ed Martin, the top law enforcement officer in the District of Columbia—that is his quote.

He had the audacity to call Michael Fanone, a 20-year veteran of the Metropolitan Police Department who was nearly killed on January 6, “a fake cop.”

“[A] fake cop.”

This disgusting and dangerous rhetoric puts at greater risk officers who already put their lives on the line every day to protect you and me and our families. This lack of respect for law enforcement is inconsistent with his goal to be the presiding U.S. attorney for the District of Columbia.

According to Mr. Martin, January 6 rioters who beat the cops are “patri-

ots”—his word; “victims”—his word. He has also attacked prosecutors who were assigned to work on January 6 cases.

Incidentally, until he was selected for this position, he had never been a prosecutor. The top position in the U.S. Department of Justice in terms of U.S. attorneys—the District of Columbia—the man for the job never had any experience as a prosecutor.

He has also attacked the prosecutors who were assigned to work on January 6 cases. What does he call those prosecutors? “Terrorists.” His word. He said:

I shun them. I ostracize them. . . . These are despicable people.

Ed Martin.

Just as alarming, Mr. Martin has close ties to Timothy Hale-Cusanelli, a January 6 rioter and Nazi sympathizer.

Look at this picture. In 2024 alone, Mr. Martin interviewed Mr. Hale-Cusanelli at least five times. In one of these interviews, Mr. Martin said:

Tim Hale is an extraordinary guy. I have gotten to know him really well. I’d say we’re friends.

Friends with a Nazi sympathizer. This is who the President believes should be the U.S. attorney for the District of Columbia.

Ed Martin now claims that despite these five interviews that we know of, he was not aware of Mr. Hale-Cusanelli’s anti-Semitic commentary or penchant for donning a Hitler mustache until after he had presented him personally with an award last July.

But Mr. Martin’s own words demonstrate the opposite. Just weeks before this award ceremony, where Martin gives this man who dresses up as Hitler an award, Mr. Martin excused his dressing up as “goofing around” and claimed he is being “smeared and slurred” by allegations of anti-Semitism.

Documents filed in Mr. Hale-Cusanelli’s criminal trial, he was a January 6 rioter, show that he has a long history of saying horrifying things. Let me give you one of Mr. Hale-Cusanelli’s quotes, this man who was referred to as an “extraordinary leader” by Ed Martin.

Here is what he said:

Hitler should have finished the job.

Hale-Cusanelli. He also claimed that he “would kill”—this is so disgusting. I hate to put it in the RECORD, but it has to be. He also claimed he “would kill all the Jews and eat them for breakfast, lunch, and dinner, and he wouldn’t need to season them because the salt from their tears would make it flavorful enough.”

This is the person that Ed Martin, the would-be prosecuting attorney for the District of Columbia, called “an extraordinary man, an extraordinary leader.”

In a letter sent to the Judiciary Committee opposing Mr. Martin’s nomination, 11 separate national Jewish organizations, representing more than 1 million people, wrote that Mr. Martin’s

associations are “not only dangerous—they reveal a pattern of behavior incompatible with the responsibilities of a US Attorney, a role meant to uphold justice and [to] protect all communities, including Jewish Americans, from hate and extremism.”

On top of all of this, Mr. Ed Martin has failed to disclose to the Senate an unprecedented number of required requests for information. Of approximately 2,200 writings and remarks that he was required to submit to the Senate Judiciary Committee, he omitted at least 700—over 30 percent of his known record.

This includes his failure to disclose that he made nearly 150 appearances on networks funded and directed by the Russian Government, and interviews on Infowars—do you remember the term “Infowars”?—hosted by a man named Alex Jones, the rightwing conspiracy monger who falsely claimed that the Sandy Hook massacre of those little kids was false.

Just yesterday, my Judiciary Committee discovered more than 300 additional items that Mr. Martin failed to provide to the committee. This is the fifth time that Mr. Martin will be required to update his disclosures to the committee. This nominee is treating the Senate’s constitutional obligation to provide advice and consent on his nomination with utter contempt.

Just to put this in context, omitting over 700 items, we discovered 300 more that he failed to disclose, in the previous history of the committee—all the staff have looked closely—when it comes to omissions, Mr. Martin wins the trophy permanently. Why? Because the most in any previous case before was fewer than 10, his is over 700 failures to disclose before the committee.

Mr. Ed Martin has his own history of making his own discriminatory comments. He baselessly called his fellow panelists on CNN “black racists,” and he later claimed, with no evidence, Mr. Martin said, “[I] got fired because of the crazy Black ladies on CNN that demanded I be fired because I didn’t take their nonsense.”

The fact that Ed Martin feels the need to note the race and gender of the people who cross him speaks volumes about his character. And in a speech that Martin did not disclose to the Judiciary Committee, we discovered he made the following statement:

You’re not racist if you don’t like Mexicans.

Just last year he said in an interview:

You show me a Jewish American—

Ed Martin said—

who feels good about the Democrat Administration, and I’ll show you someone who is not really Jewish.”

How dare Ed Martin pass judgment on someone else’s religious faith?

The serious concerns about Ed Martin’s nomination have only been heightened by his conduct as an interim U.S. attorney. One of his first official acts after his appointment was to

fire numerous prosecutors simply for handling the January 6 cases that were assigned to them.

He has also baselessly threatened to investigate numerous nonprofit organizations, educational institutions, lawmakers, and others simply because he disagrees with them politically.

The top prosecutor in the Nation's Capital should be focused on fighting violent crime and terrorism, not threatening our First Amendment rights.

Mr. Martin's record makes it clear that he does not have the temperament, the judgment, or the experience to be entrusted with the power and responsibility of being U.S. attorney for the District of Columbia.

I urge my Democratic and Republican colleagues to oppose his nomination.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MORENO). The Senator from Iowa.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—EXECUTIVE
CALENDAR

Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, I rise today to seek unanimous consent to confirm Casey Mulligan, the President's nominee to be the chief counsel of the Office of Advocacy at the Small Business Administration.

I will make that motion in just a moment, but first, let me explain why I am doing this. This week is National Small Business Week, a week to recognize the achievements of our Nation's entrepreneurs.

As chair of the Small Business Committee, I have a front row seat to the successes and challenges of our small business owners, and I have the privilege of being a champion for Iowa entrepreneurs.

Our small businesses are more vulnerable to burdensome government regulations. Over the past few years, the cost of regulations for small businesses has been out of control. The previous administration created more than 1,100 final rules costing \$1.8 trillion. The Biden administration's regulatory costs were 600 times higher than that of the first Trump administration and 3.7 times higher than that of the Obama administration.

I have been encouraged by President Trump's efforts to freeze and roll back regulations. SBA Administrator Loeffler and the White House are working hard to eliminate burdensome and unnecessary regulations, but to be truly effective, small businesses need a Senate-confirmed chief counsel to continue this mission.

The Office of Chief Counsel for Advocacy has been vacant, without a Senate-confirmed occupant for nearly a decade. This key role ensures small business interests are protected.

Having served as the top Republican on the Small Business Committee for years now, I truly understand the need for this position to be filled immediately, and we are fortunate that President Trump nominated a highly qualified individual for this role.

Dr. Casey Mulligan's unique mix of academic success and real-world small business experience makes him the best candidate for the job. A Harvard graduate, Dr. Mulligan received his Ph.D. in economics from the University of Chicago where he currently serves as an economics professor.

In addition to his academic role, Dr. Mulligan also owns two small consulting and economic research businesses. He has also conducted extensive research on the economic effects of regulation on small businesses.

At the SBA Office of Advocacy, Dr. Mulligan would serve as a champion for small businesses nationwide as the Agency undergoes much needed changes to policy and direction.

Advocacy's role remains true regardless of party, to ensure that a strong chief counsel stands up for the little guy and warns regulators when small firms will be harmed.

Dr. Mulligan understands Main Street and the importance of examining all costs imposed on America's entrepreneurs.

I urge my colleagues to consent to the confirmation of Dr. Mulligan as chief counsel of the Office of Advocacy at the SBA.

I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nomination, Calendar No. 59; that the Senate vote on the nomination without intervening action or debate; that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. MARKEY. Reserving the right to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, I would like to speak on this motion to confirm Casey Mulligan to be chief counsel of the Office of Advocacy.

In the last 3½ months, we have seen an unprecedented assault by the Trump administration on America's small businesses.

Elon Musk and DOGE have taken a chain saw to SBA. They have done away with 43 percent of its staff and an estimated 2,700 people, and I say "estimated" because SBA won't share who has been fired and who has been retained with the public or with the U.S. Senate. We don't know.

We requested a meeting with DOGE in February and have yet to hear back. The little we do know about what DOGE is doing at SBA is gleaned through media reports rather than through their responses to our congressional requests.

Because of this administration's utter contempt for accountability and its shameless lack of transparency, we don't know if SBA has sufficient staff on hand to carry out its day-to-day operations.

We don't know which congressionally authorized and funded programs have been illegally shut down. We don't know which SBA field offices will remain open to serve small business owners where they live and work. And yet, the Senate Republicans want us to rubberstamp their slash-and-burn tactics and confirm this SBA nominee by unanimous consent with a total disregard from the Trump administration to tell the U.S. Senate what is going on inside of the SBA.

They have the SBA inside one big "witness protection program." We can't get them to tell us anything about anything.

And they want us to come out here by unanimous consent and to start to confirm appointees to the SBA to further dismantle programs that are essential to small businesses all across our country?

And let me say this: My Republicans do not see how the Trump administration is turning Main Street into "Pain Street," and it is in their home States. Small businesses are being forced to absorb skyrocketing costs because of President Trump's destructive tariffs. They are terrified of losing customers, as consumer confidence levels take a historic nosedive. They are listening with shock and disbelief.

Small businessmen and women across the country have to have their bottle of Pepto Bismol right next to them every single day, not knowing what the impact is going to be of the Trump tariffs on their small businesses across the country.

And by the way, there are 34 million of those small businesses right now, and we have got a Small Business Administration that won't even talk to the U.S. Senate, much less to those small business people who are terrified right now.

They, right now, are terrified. They are shocked, as President Trump tells American consumers that they are going to pay luxury prices to shop at mom-and-pop shops in the United States.

Does anyone in this administration understand the harm they are causing to small businesses?

I can tell you at least one entity that does: the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

Last week, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce called on the Trump administration to develop a tariff exclusion process to prevent irreparable harm to small businesses and to stop the country from falling into a recession. The U.S. Chamber is speaking on behalf of chambers of commerce all across this country—every city and town. They are speaking for them. They are saying: Protect small businesses from the Trump tariffs.

That is the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. That is what we should be debating out here on the floor right now—a bill to protect all small businesses from the Trump tariffs.

Instead, we are talking about confirming someone who absolutely should

not be debated on the Senate floor at this time, because those little businesses don't have the protections that big companies with big margins have. They are very, very vulnerable, and Casey Mulligan, the nominee for Chief Counsel for Advocacy, has actually questioned the value of longstanding and widely expected worker protections, including sick leave and paid healthcare and the right to unionize. And, not surprisingly, not a single Democrat on the Small Business Committee voted to advance his nomination.

So this is not the right time, and he is not the right person to have this job. Confirming Dr. Mulligan will only further President Trump's radical, damaging attack on small businesses and their workers.

And with that, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

S.J. RES. 7

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I rise in strong opposition to today's resolution to overturn an FCC rule that provides greater flexibility to ensure that every student has the access to the internet that they need.

We have known for a long time that internet access is critical for education. Students need Wi-Fi to connect with classmates and teachers, work on group projects, do research, and even just hit the "submit" button on some assignments. Yet too many Americans can't access reliable internet at home. It is called the "homework gap," and it is leaving thousands of kids behind.

This disparity only worsened during the pandemic, when the homework gap became a full learning gap for thousands of students. Many kids without internet at home had to sit in McDonald's parking lots so they could Zoom into class. As part of the American Rescue Plan, I worked with my colleague from Massachusetts Senator ED MARKEY and former FCC Chairwoman Rosenworcel to launch the Emergency Educational Connectivity Fund, or ECF. This \$7 billion program provided nearly 18 million students at over 10,000 schools and libraries with hotspots, routers, and other equipment for students and educators to connect to the internet at home. Maryland schools and libraries received over \$145 million through this program to help bridge the homework gap in my State.

Even as we worked to provide support for students on an emergency basis, we worked with the FCC on modernization of the E-Rate program to ensure it meets student needs. The new FCC rule allows schools and libraries to loan out Wi-Fi hotspots to students and educators at home so we can continue to address the homework gap. But now, the Republicans want to repeal this commonsense reform and take away hotspots from low-income and rural families.

This is a backwards step at a time when access to the internet is more important than ever. And because the

new rule simply allowed the use of existing E-Rate funds more flexibly, the repeal of this rule does not save a dime. A vote to repeal this rule is a vote to limit the FCC's ability to address a critical need for students and to put a stop to good work being done by schools and libraries to support learning. This was an issue before the pandemic and remains an issue today.

We all know that access to the internet is essential. We have worked on a bipartisan basis to expand broadband access, but we have a long way to go. The FCC modernized E-Rate to ensure that students are not disadvantaged by lack of access to broadband at home, whether that is because they are in a rural area with no connection or because it is unaffordable for their parents. This is a commonsense measure, and I urge my colleagues to vote against its repeal today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. 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. 7

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The joint resolution having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the joint resolution pass?

Ms. HASSAN. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO), the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. GALLEGGO), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY), the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN), and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) are necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 50, nays 38, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 238 Leg.]

YEAS—50

Banks	Cruz	Justice
Barrasso	Curtis	Kennedy
Blackburn	Daines	Lankford
Boozman	Ernst	Lee
Britt	Fischer	Marshall
Budd	Graham	McConnell
Capito	Grassley	McCormick
Cassidy	Hagerty	Moody
Collins	Hawley	Moran
Cornyn	Hoeven	Moreno
Cotton	Husted	Mullin
Cramer	Hyde-Smith	Murkowski
Crapo	Johnson	Paul

Ricketts	Scott (SC)
Rounds	Sheehy
Schmitt	Sullivan
Scott (FL)	Thune

Tillis
Tuberville
Young

NAYS—38

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

NOT VOTING—12

Cortez Masto	Klobuchar	Risch
Duckworth	Lummis	Shaheen
Fetterman	Murphy	Smith
Gallego	Padilla	Wicker

The joint resolution (S.J. Res. 7) was passed as follows:

S.J. RES. 7

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 Federal Communications Commission relating to "Addressing the Homework Gap Through the E-Rate Program" (89 Fed. Reg. 67303 (August 20, 2024)), and such rule shall have no force or effect.

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"—Resumed

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of H.J. Res. 60, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (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".

The joint resolution was ordered to a third reading and was read the third time.

VOTE ON H.J. RES. 60

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The joint resolution having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the joint resolution pass?

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, 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 Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BANKS), the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST), and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER),

the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK), and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) are necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 50, nays 43, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 239 Leg.]

YEAS—50

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

NAYS—43

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

NOT VOTING—7

Banks	Smith	Wicker
Booker	Warnock	
Ernst	Whitehouse	

The joint resolution (H.J. Res. 60) was passed.

GUIDING AND ESTABLISHING NATIONAL INNOVATION FOR U.S. STABLECOINS ACT—Motion to Proceed

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HAGERTY). Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 1582, which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 66, S. 1582, a bill to provide for the regulation of payment stablecoins, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

SOUTHERN BORDER

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, I spent last weekend along our southern border, again, as I have done many weekends, to be able to get down to the border in different areas. Last weekend, I went down to the San Diego-Tijuana border area.

In that area, there are 1.3 million people living in San Diego. That city bumps right up against our border with Tijuana. Tijuana, Mexico, has over 2 million people living in that town.

There is a 30-foot fence that actually separates the two there. That is a double-section fence. It is incredibly important to be able to manage that border, not only for the crossing of traffic

illegally but also for the crossing of legal traffic. One of the largest ports and traffic movement of people and cargo in the world is right there, and it is an incredibly important location for us.

I went there to be able to see the implementation of the new authorities and the things that the President is actually implementing there that have so precipitously dropped the movement of illegal immigration and have dramatically increased the number of interdiction of drugs that are moving through that area. That literally benefits the entire country.

What I found when I visited with the folks from CBP was that morale was up and the chaos is down. I found folks who are there that are law enforcement professionals actually doing law enforcement. When I visited with some of those same folks before, during the Biden administration, they were being treated like hotel check-in staff that were being asked to actually just move people into the country as fast as possible. Now, they are actually able to do their jobs, to actually enforce the law, and to do what they signed up to do. And they are eager to be able to protect the Nation and know full well the threats that we are facing.

In that area in San Diego, we have had more of what are called special-interest aliens move through that area of our border than any other area of our entire 2,000-mile-long border with Mexico. People from Russia, China, from Central Africa, from Uzbekistan, and from multiple other places fly into Tijuana and then literally drive up to the gap in the fence and walk across, right into the United States.

At least, that is how it used to be. That is not what is happening anymore.

So I wanted to be able to talk through with this body a few of the things that I saw there and the work that is still undone.

One, that section of the gap in the fence is right there at Tijuana, on the eastern side of San Diego. That gap is still there, but something has changed. Construction is beginning to be able to close that gap, and it is incredibly important. It is one of the first places that CBP and Border Patrol took me to and pointed out to say: We need this gap closed. It is very important that we actually get this gap secured because it is in a very remote area, difficult to traverse, and it is dangerous for our Border Patrol folks to have to be able to chase someone through that area.

In fact, while I was in that area, around that gap, I literally watched one of the Lakota helicopters come in and to be able to identify someone who was literally cutting through that area and smuggling right through that zone. The good news is things are different now, and that person was caught because we have the manpower in place to be able to catch them.

And that person will be deported immediately. That is also a big change that has actually occurred.

So things are different in what is actually happening there, and I am grateful to be able to see the chaos going down and the morale and the enforcement going significantly up. That gap in the fence will be closed in the days ahead. And as one of many requests the Border Patrol has: just help us have a deterrent in this area so that we can better patrol and be able to chase folks down that are violating American law.

They need additional personnel as well. I will talk a little bit about that in a moment. They need additional resources to be able to do their tasks, and they need additional authorities to be able to make sure they can fully execute the law that is put in front of them.

Something that was interesting—the multiple times I have been to the border the last several years—often the Border Patrol would tell me they can't put checkpoints up anymore. They used to have checkpoints on the major highways as they were headed north away from the border, and they would check vehicles for people being smuggled and drugs being smuggled into the country and other contraband. They weren't able to do that because they were asked to actually go to the border to facilitate people coming in, and so they could no longer do those checkpoints.

Guess what. Those checkpoints are back up again. They are actually stopping people on the highways now to be able to check and see if there are drugs there that have found their way across the border and are moving north, and they are interdicting narcotics again there.

They are able to actually process a lot faster turning people around, to have the people at the checkpoints, and to be able to do the enforcement because the numbers are so precipitously lower than what they used to be.

What does that mean side by side? A year ago, we had some days we had 12,000 people a day illegally crossing our southern border—12,000 people a day.

Last week, most days were around 200. In fact, for the first time that I can remember in a very long time, when I checked in at the Border Patrol station and was talking with them about where things were going and how things were going and what has changed, as we walked past the area they would typically check in unaccompanied minors, that room was empty. I can't remember the last time I walked past, and there were zero unaccompanied minors that were there.

The border is being enforced. It is bringing some sanity to our southern border. It is an enormous help and change. But there are a couple areas for cartels that are obviously money-making organizations—they are very focused on what they are going to do next.

Literally, right there at the port of entry, they discovered a tunnel being dug directly under the port of entry to be able to smuggle drugs and people in.

Now, our teams were able to find it, identify it, and they are going to shut it down, but the cartels continue to be able to move and to be able to find other ways. We should make no mistake, just across the border from San Diego, there are three active criminal cartels that are ruthlessly killing each other. They are ruthlessly killing anyone that would try to cross the border without paying their fee, and they are determined to bring violence to Northern Mexico and chaos to the Southern United States and push as much drugs as they possibly can into our country. We should make no mistake about that.

They are determined to be able to do that, and we should do whatever we can to be able to stop that violence and that chaos.

The other thing that came up over and over again was now that the southern border—the land border—is being shut down, the cartels are not only drilling tunnels now, but they are also putting folks on jet skis and in Panga boats, taking them out into the Pacific and trying to be able to come around the maritime barrier and be able to drop off somewhere around the California coast.

Just this week, we had a smuggler that was smuggling folks in a Panga boat just on that exact route that captioned in the Pacific, and multiple people died. Our Coast Guard went and responded and rescued multiple people as well. Those folks will be processed, and they will be returned right back to Mexico again.

But that is the kind of danger these folks face to be able to come across. The cartels don't care about the people that they are moving. They just care about the dollars. They don't care about America. They just care about pushing drugs on us so that they can make more and more money.

I had the opportunity to be able to do a ride-along with some of the Coast Guard and be able to see firsthand some of the things that they are doing. They need additional resources. This body should pay more attention to the Coast Guard. They are not only important for our national security or foreign threats coming at us but for our port security and rescues that are off coast, but they are also being pushed really hard right now by the cartels trying to be able to smuggle drugs and people into the United States. The Coast Guard needs this body to be able to stand alongside of them so they can do their job.

They are remarkable people that are literally out there every single day, working to be able to help our country, and I was exceptionally grateful to get time with them to be able to see what their day looks like, how things are going, and the important work that they are doing.

As the Border Patrol is seeing fewer coming across the land border, the Coast Guard is seeing more. So we have got to pay attention to all areas of our border.

I did note a couple things that I have read. That was interesting for me to actually go down and to be able to see because I have seen all these media reports, all these different pieces of fake news that are coming up or all these different challenges about what the Trump administration is doing at our border.

I could highlight a bunch of them, but let me highlight a couple of them that came up. I have heard over and over again that the Trump administration is not honoring due process. They are not honoring due process. They are ignoring the Constitution to be able to do that.

Interestingly enough, just last week, President Trump's DHS released an extensive release that they called 100 days of fighting fake news.

One of the items that they listed as the fake news that they are fighting is that aliens don't go through a process. Their statement: They do, according to the Constitution.

Secretary Rubio also made that same statement on "Meet the Press" as well, saying everybody goes through due process—everyone has a process.

Illegal aliens do not have rights like American citizens. No one is denying that. That is a fact. But there is a process they are being taken through. The law is being followed. I watched it personally.

When people come across our border illegally, here is what is actually happening along our border. They are arrested. They are being instructed by law enforcement that they violated American law, that they are not legally present, and they are being immediately turned around and sent back to their country. That is the legal process.

For individuals that were coming in from China—and I saw several that were actually being processed through that—they are being detained. Then they are being put on the next plane out.

Special interest aliens aren't being released into the country anymore like they were under the Biden administration by the thousands. They are now being sent back to their countries, as they exactly should be, following the exact legal process that should be done.

And I saw for the first time in a very long time a legal process being done that if you cross our southern border and you have been deported before—which is why we don't just grab them at the border and turn them around. We actually get fingerprints, get information from people in the processing. If you are coming a second or a third time, I watched the prosecution by U.S. attorneys actually prosecuting individuals there through that process, getting them a felony and then putting them on a bus back to Mexico again.

They are following the law. They are going through exactly what the process is doing. They are doing the legal process.

I also heard over and over again this fake news about our military going down and our military taking over our border. I actually got a chance to be able to meet some of our military down there. They are doing pretty remarkable work along our border.

We have got engineering groups that are there that are helping beef up that border wall, finding areas where folks are finding ways to be able to scale a 30-foot wall, finding ways to be able to strengthen that wall to make sure that never happens again.

That is some of our military engineering groups doing that.

I watched that Lakota helicopter that I mentioned before. That Lakota helicopter is actually a military helicopter. Their job is not to arrest. That is Federal law enforcement on the ground who is doing it, but they are able to be an extra set of eyes in the air to be able to identify folks that are getting around those gaps in the wall, smuggling in people and smuggling in drugs so our Border Patrol can focus in on those areas.

I watched members of our military sitting at a workstation with the Coast Guard at the port area, helping monitor the different cameras that are in our port area, looking for those jet skis and those Panga boats that are smuggling in people and drugs.

They are doing a great job. I am grateful those folks are there. But this body needs to have a further conversation about how do we move more Coast Guard folks there so that they can take on that job, allowing our military to go back to doing their first job. How we can actually reinforce some of the resources that are needed so that our military can do their first task, and our DHS folks can do their first task?

So, yes, it is more fake news that our military is there actually being law enforcement. They are not being law enforcement, but they are helping our law enforcement to make our law enforcement even more effective.

I am grateful to be able to see the numbers drop so much, allowing our law enforcement to go back.

If I can just make this one last statement: I won't ever forget standing at that port, which is incredibly busy—lots of trucks coming through, lots of Customs screenings and everything, all the things that are happening—and I asked the Customs folks there: What has changed?

They said: We are able to catch a lot more drugs now than we were able to catch because we have got more time to focus in on catching those drugs.

This is going to make a huge difference in America for us to be able to focus on illegal activity coming across our border. When those numbers drop, we are able to go more after what is the worst of the worst coming into our country.

I am grateful to see the work that is happening on our southern border. We all should go see it.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

CLEAN AIR ACT WAIVERS

Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, colleagues, when Donald Trump returned to the White House a few months ago, there were a whole lot of people throughout California and beyond that knew that California had a target on its back.

For more than half a century, we have been trailblazers in a number of policy areas but especially in the fight for environmental protections and public health protections.

And for the last decade, we have been proud to—shouldn't have to—but proud to stand up to each and every one of Donald Trump's attacks on our clean air and clean water, not just through his rhetoric but through his actions.

So while the particular procedural battle that we find ourselves in today over the Clean Air Act waivers may be new, the larger war on California's climate leadership and progress is not new.

Thanks to the Clean Air Act, for 50 years, California has had the legal authority to set its own emissions standards to protect the health of our residents and our natural resources. This authority was granted by Congress on a bipartisan basis in recognition of California's unique air quality challenges but also its capabilities as policy leaders.

But today, Republicans are threatening to distort the Congressional Review Act and the CRA process in an effort to slow down our progress.

Now, one of the most outlandish things I have heard from my Republican colleagues these past few weeks—as it pertains to these Clean Air Act waivers—is that they are concerned that these waivers and other regulations would stifle the California economy, that “the market is not ready,” or I have heard some say that they are concerned this could raise prices on consumers.

Really? These are the same Republican Members who have stayed silent on Donald Trump's imposed universal tariffs that are actually already increasing prices. So now you are worried about increased costs for American families. Where have you been these last several weeks?

But I have some good news for you: In case you haven't heard, California has proven this argument wrong already. In recent years, you have heard me reference, time and again, that California was the fifth largest economy in the world.

Well, as of a couple weeks ago, California is now the fourth largest economy in the world. Imagine that. Policy leadership, climate leadership, and economic growth, they don't have to be mutually exclusive. We can and must focus on doing both.

Now, California didn't get there by just holding on to technologies of the past. We did so by innovation and investments in clean technologies. So we are proving that you can be for clean air and for business and economic growth.

But I want to be clear in this discussion that it is not just why Republicans are trying to undermine California's climate leadership, it is worth emphasizing the concerns of how they are going about it.

This session, Colleagues, I have the honor of serving as the ranking member of the Rules Committee. I want to make sure that everyone understands what this proposal, this proposed abuse of the CRA process, would actually do here, because, you see, the Clean Air Act was passed under regular order.

So if Republicans want to amend the Clean Air Act to address California's legal authority, bring it up for a vote. But Republicans aren't bringing it up for a vote because they don't have the votes to do so under regular order.

So, instead, they have to try to figure out a back door to avoid the legislative filibuster. They want to kill California's Clean Air Act authority with a lower 51-vote threshold. In plain English, they are trying to change the rules of the Senate in order to please Donald Trump and the Big Oil lobby.

So let me share another bit of news for you in case you have not heard it: The Senate Parliamentarian has already decided that this is not allowed by Senate rules. The Parliamentarian's determination—which I am happy to share with anybody who is interested and has not seen it. The Senate Parliamentarian's determination came after the independent and nonpartisan Government Accountability Office said that the EPA and Republicans were twisting the rules in their efforts to target California twice.

There was a bill introduced around the time of the GAO's findings and before the Parliamentarian's findings, a Republican bill sponsored by the now chair of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee and the Environment and Public Works Committee, the fact sheet for this bill says—and I quote:

California's power to influence national emissions standards . . . is not subject to Congressional review.

Republican bill, Republican fact sheet, that is the purpose of the bill because they know that you can't do this through the CRA process as some are now proposing to do. And yet there are others in the Republican conference that are insisting on moving forward.

So let me remind all of us on both sides of the aisle, the Senate has never overruled the GAO or the Parliamentarian on a CRA question. So it is clear to me that this is about more than just California's climate policies and leadership. This would set a major new precedent that blows way past the bounds of the Congressional Review Act.

It is not an insignificant change to the rules. It is not an insignificant precedent that you would be setting. If successful, it would open the door to ignoring the Parliamentarian on any ruling that you don't like.

And if Republicans can ignore the Parliamentarian on the CRA, then why not the tax rule that they are working so hard on, or healthcare, or anything else?

But luckily, I am holding out some hope because I have come across some remarks by several Senate Republicans with respect to the impact on the rules.

You see, earlier this year, the majority leader said that ignoring the Senate Parliamentarian would be “totally akin to killing the filibuster. We can't go there.”

This is on the public record.

The junior Senator from Utah said that “a red line for” him “is overruling the Parliamentarian.”

The senior Senator from Maine said she would “never vote to overturn the Parliamentarian.”

So for other Members who have not taken a position on whether or not they would overrule the Parliamentarian or not, the recognition of it being akin to eliminating the filibuster, that is a redline that maybe you don't want to cross, maybe you do want to cross, but I will call attention to the fact that the redline is here now, and each Member of this body has a decision to make.

The Parliamentarian has ruled that this effort cannot be done on a 51-vote threshold. And if you choose to go forward and overrule the Parliamentarian, just know, there is no going back. All bets are off.

With that, I would like to yield to the ranking member of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, my colleague and friend from Rhode Island.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I am actually happy to yield to Senator SCHIFF from the California delegation. OK. He is happy with me going, so I will go.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, first, both of my colleagues from California are here, and I want to thank them for coming to the floor today to talk about this important matter in which Republicans want to appease their donors, and they want to break basically two Senate rules in order to get there—not just one, but two.

The underlying matter here is about a law, the Clean Air Act, which falls in the jurisdiction of the Environment and Public Works Committee. So that is why I am here.

A different law, the Congressional Review Act, creates a fast-track procedure in the Senate to disapprove Agency rules.

For the most part, that Congressional Review Act, the CRA, is focused on rules during a short period immediately after they are made final and

before they go into effect. We get a window where we can disapprove a rule from Congress.

As soon as an Agency finalizes the rule, it submits the rule to the Government Accountability Office and to both Houses of Congress. That starts a 60-day review clock. That CRA also provides a lookback period where a Congress can reach back into the final 60 days of a previous Congress and review rules from a prior administration.

The waivers go way back before the CRA period. Generally, there is no question what constitutes a rule under the CRA. There are different acts that the government can do. There are decisions; there are rules; there are laws.

A rule is a specific thing under the CRA. Sometimes there are problems. Sometimes Agencies don't submit actions to Congress that have typically been deemed rules, and sometimes, as here, they submit as rules actions that have never previously been considered rules.

GAO polices whether the submitted action was, in fact, a rule. That is the law. That is a GAO legal responsibility. GAO has weighed in about 60 times in the history of the Congressional Review Act. When GAO determined that the action involved was a rule, the action was then deemed submitted and the review clock started.

When GAO determined the action was not a rule, that was the end of it. Congress stood down. No one—no one—moved a CRA resolution of disapproval following a negative finding by the GAO. Never.

Which brings us to this first oddity. In 2023, Members asked GAO whether an EPA Clean Air Act waiver decision for California was a Federal rule for purposes of the CRA. GAO said, no, correctly, because it wasn't.

Like every other time, that settled that. And GAO's "no" comported with the text of the CRA and the waiver provision originally in the Clean Air Act that created the California exception and 50 years of Agency precedent treating waivers as decisions, a different type of adjudication which the Administrator Procedure Act distinguishes from rules.

EPA itself, across multiple administrations, Republican and Democrat, never, never called waivers rules under the CRA, not even under the first Trump administration.

Then, in February, after much lobbying by the oil industry, the Trump EPA submitted notices of three waiver decisions, one from more than 2 years ago, far beyond that 60-day lookback period. Upon a request from the three of us, the two Senators from California and myself as ranking member, GAO confirmed its previous 2023 opinion not long ago—this is not ancient history—and found that notwithstanding EPA's politically motivated submissions to try to get into that CRA window, the California waivers simply are not rules. So the CRA does not apply.

GAO pointed out to EPA that the waiver notices, on their face, indicate

that they are decisions rather than rules. But that wasn't enough, so we had to go to the Parliamentarian, who heard arguments and debate from both sides, and the Parliamentarian affirmed GAO's decision.

I will offer the opinion that it was not even a close call because the unblemished record has always been that this is not a rule over decades.

The Parliamentarian ruled that Clean Air Act waivers do not qualify for expedited consideration under the Congressional Review Act. Every other time the Senate has reached this point, every other time, Members have respected the decision of the Parliamentarian and that ended the matter. Not this time.

This time, a faction in the Republican Party wants to overturn decades of precedent, ignore the GAO and the Parliamentarian, who are the lawful guardians of this process, and steamroll forward in violation of the plain text of the Congressional Review Act by deploying the nuclear option.

Once there is precedent that anything an Agency does can be considered a rule, the time and scope limits of the Congressional Review Act have no meaning. Any Agency action ever could be swallowed up in the new Congressional Review Act definition.

Think about how the Trump administration might abuse this. At least one Member of this body previously asked GAO if FDA's decision to allow pharmacies to dispense mifepristone qualified as a rule for the purposes of the CRA. GAO said no, and it ended there. If we overrule GAO and the Parliamentarian on the waivers, nothing stops the Trump FDA from submitting the decision as a rule and Members from introducing a disapproval resolution and proceeding through this new loophole.

Everyone knows by now that President Trump has a beef with a whole host of media outlets, some of which are licensed by the Federal Communications Commission. What is to stop the FCC from submitting, say, CBS's license as a rule? And Members from introducing a disapproval resolution? Is this really the path we want the Senate to go down?

A future Democratic administration could submit every oil and gas lease issued since 1996 as a rule and pursue disapproval of them under the Congressional Review Act.

Colleagues, we have already given away too many article I powers to the executive branch, do we really want to give the executive branch this power to submit anything and everything as a rule and allow Members to hijack the floor with CRA resolutions? That would be a new way for this Senate to work.

Then there is the question of overruling the Parliamentarian, the nuclear option. The import of overruling the Parliamentarian extends way beyond Congressional Review Act resolutions. Once you have overruled the

Parliamentarian on a legislative matter, there is no going back. All bets are off.

Any future majority would have precedent to overrule the Parliamentarian on any legislative matter. There is no cabining such a decision. It is tantamount to eliminating the filibuster. Once "you give a mouse a cookie," it never ends.

Pretend all you want that these waivers are exceptional or that any precedent overruling the Parliamentarian would be limited. That is not the way it works. Soon, some Members will think their thing is exceptional and push to use this precedent, and on and on it will go, if you give the mouse the cookie.

You would be upending 50 years of treating preemption waivers as Agency decisions and not rules, 30 years of deferring to the GAO and the Parliamentarian on what constitutes a rule for purposes of the Congressional Review Act, and centuries of Senate precedent and procedure—all that while there is actually another path.

In 2019, the first Trump EPA used the administrative process, the Administrative Procedures Act, to withdraw a previously granted Clean Air Act waiver that permitted California to set car standards.

So I ask my Republican colleagues: Is this worth it? Is it worth going nuclear in the Senate to accomplish something that the EPA could try to accomplish under the Administrative Procedures Act on its own? Is it worth going nuclear, knowing full well the Pandora's box this will open?

I will close with the advice my colleague from California shared from the majority leader, the senior Senator from South Dakota. He said earlier this year that overruling the Parliamentarian would be—and I quote him—"totally akin to killing the filibuster. We can't go there. People need to understand that."

So, please, do understand that, and don't go there.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. President, I thank Senator WHITEHOUSE for his remarks. He has been our environmental champion in the Congress for many years, and he led the effort to insist that the Senate follow the rules when it comes to protecting our environment and when it comes to preserving the power of the Parliamentarian.

Mr. President, this is downtown Los Angeles in 1955. It was the postwar era, with the rise of the personal automobile, the baby boom, and the rapid expansion of American cities and suburbs in the West. Suddenly, millions of families were experiencing firsthand, and for the first time, the most serious environmental impacts of unchecked industrial and manufacturing activity. Many could not walk through the streets of our cities without handkerchiefs to their face.

The iconic Ford and Chevy automobiles of the 1950s and 1960s kept their roofs shut. And, in some cases, the smog was so bad that people mistook it for a chemical weapons attack. And here is the thing: It got worse, not better, over the coming decades.

President Trump often speaks of restoring America, of making America great again, taking us back to that postwar period, with the rapid economic expansion and runaway prosperity of the wonder years. Well, his tariff wars have ended any hopes of an economic boom, and he now has the country headed in exactly the wrong direction, toward an economic bust instead.

And if he and Republicans get their way in the coming days, our Nation and our air will be on a trajectory back to 1955, all right. We will make an America where our spacious skies will be clogged and smoggy and our purple mountains' majesty will be hidden behind a haze that comes with letting oil companies call all the shots in Washington.

Back then, in reaction to these horrific air conditions, as well as devastating oil spills and other environmental hazards, California helped launch the modern environmental movement. In 1966, California became the first State to regulate tailpipe emissions to tackle this smog head-on. In fact, some of our biggest achievements and biggest actions took place under Republican Governors.

And wouldn't you take action? I mean, look at this. If this was your city, if this was your State, wouldn't you take action to deal with air pollution this bad, where you can barely make out the skyline, the skyscrapers? Where a body of lawmakers, many of whom, like me, served in State legislatures before coming to Congress, if you saw your State schoolchildren being choked by smog like this, wouldn't you see it as your job to step up, regardless of party politics? That is the fundamental right of any State and its legislature. In the face of threats against your kids and your own families, you do something.

And that is what California did and has continued to do, so often setting the standard for the rest of the country.

We in California are 1 out of every 10 Americans. We have a right to protect our citizens, our environment, our ability to live. After all, life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness are all impossible if we can't breathe.

In the 1960s, through the Clean Air Act, Congress granted California the ability to set standards for itself when it comes to air pollution. Under Republican President Richard Nixon, we even formed the Environmental Protection Agency. Through Democratic and Republican administrations and Congresses, that authority and promise has been upheld. Nearly 60 years of environmental protection has made the Golden State the gold standard for protecting our planet.

But now Republicans in Congress and Donald Trump are willing to ignore their own promises to punish California and to reward Big Oil. They are trying to break the Senate rules to make California's air dirtier, to make it harder and less safe for Californians to breathe, all to please the oil industry.

That is just wrong. And don't take it from me. "We can't go there." That is what the Senate majority leader said about the prospect of overruling the Parliamentarian merely 5 months ago, as did his Republican predecessor, who said:

Abiding by the ruling of the Parliamentarian is central to the function of the Senate.

The Senate Parliamentarian, he said, is the "final" word.

And, please, if they try to tell you this is not overturning the Parliamentarian, you must not believe them. The Parliamentarian has ruled that this device—this mechanism—cannot be used to overturn California's waiver and its ability to set its own air standards. This ruling from the Senate's independent referee has been explicit and direct, and it should be respected.

I realize I am a newcomer to the Senate, and I will not ask my colleagues to stand on the long traditions of this institution, which I barely know, but they must stand by their commitments. They must stand by a State's right to make its own laws to protect its own citizens.

If the Senate goes nuclear overruling the Parliamentarian, there is no telling where the Congressional Review Act will be used in the future, by Republicans or Democrats.

Could the Senate merely vote to wipe out an entire 4 years of actions taken by a previous President? Will your State's regulations be next? What about your State's funding, your State's ability to administer programs like the Clean Water Act?

Precedent can be a hard thing to make tangible, but this is our history. This is what awaits us if we go down this dangerous road: air like this.

We will not stand idly by as this administration fights to make California's air unhealthy again. We will fight this. We must.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 76.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Monica Crowley, of New York, to be Chief of Protocol, and to have the rank of Ambassador during her tenure of service.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

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

The assistant bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 76, Monica Crowley, of New York, to be Chief of Protocol, and to have the rank of Ambassador during her tenure of service.

John Thune, James C. Justice, Ted Cruz, Bernie Moreno, Jon Husted, Steve Daines, John R. Curtis, Tommy Tuberville, Tim Sheehy, Pete Ricketts, Joni Ernst, James E. Risch, Mike Rounds, Tim Scott of South Carolina, Eric Schmitt, Katie Boyd Britt, John Barrasso.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 69.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Reed Rubinstein, of Maryland, to be Legal Adviser of the Department of State.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

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

The assistant bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 69, Reed Rubinstein, of Maryland, to be Legal Adviser of the Department of State.

John Thune, John Barrasso, Cindy Hyde-Smith, John R. Curtis, Rick Scott of Florida, Bernie Moreno, Pete Ricketts, Eric Schmitt, Jon A. Husted, Roger Marshall, Jim Justice, Tommy Tuberville, Bill Hagerty, Joni Ernst, James E. Risch, Marsha Blackburn, Tim Sheehy.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 71.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Troy Meink, of Virginia, to be Secretary of the Air Force.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

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

The assistant bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 71, Troy Meink, of Virginia, to be Secretary of the Air Force.

John Thune, Mike Crapo, Thom Tillis, Cynthia M. Lummis, Mike Rounds, Rick Scott of Florida, Roger F. Wicker, Katie Boyd Britt, Steve Daines, John Boozman, John R. Curtis, James E. Risch, John Barrasso, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Dan Sullivan, Bernie Moreno, James C. Justice.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

WAIVING QUORUM CALL

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call with respect to Calendar No. 66, S. 1582, be waived.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island is recognized.

BORDER SECURITY

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I rise to address President Trump's dangerous and inappropriate use of the U.S. military to carry out his immigration enforcement campaign.

Before I discuss the Trump administration's spending nearly half a billion dollars and sending tens of thousands of troops, ships, combat vehicles, and aircraft away from their real missions, I want to make clear that border security is a priority. I do not support open borders, and I believe that those who enter the United States and break our laws should be subject to deportation in accordance with the law and due process. I voted time and time again for billions of dollars of increased support for border agents, detection technology, and physical barriers where it made sense.

Mr. President, it is no secret that our borders have been under pressure for more than a decade because of a broken immigration system that congressional Republicans have consistently refused to help fix. We have considered bipartisan immigration reform bills in 2006, in 2007, in 2013, and in 2024, all of which were shut down by Republicans. The mess that we have today rests largely on their decision to put political advantage above real progress.

Now President Trump is ignoring Congress, ignoring the law, ignoring the courts, and ignoring the Constitution in order to implement an immigration policy that fails to respect due process, adversely impacts our innovation economy, and, to the point of my remarks, degrades our military.

In the name of his anti-immigrant efforts, President Trump is using the U.S. military to conduct operations on American soil that it has neither the training nor the authority to carry out. Our troops, who are already stretched thin for time and resources, are now burning time, assets, morale, and readiness for these overblown operations.

The President has declared an emergency at the border to justify using the military for civilian law enforcement—this despite border encounters currently at the lowest level since August of 2020. Over the past 12 months since President Biden's Executive actions last June, there has been a continued, significant decrease in unlawful border crossings, including a more than 60-percent decrease in encounters from May 2024 to December 2024.

In short, all along the southern border, we have seen a dramatic drop in illegal crossings and migrant encounters well before President Trump took office. A national emergency? It does not seem so.

We already have an entire Federal Agency to protect our borders and address illegal immigration: the Department of Homeland Security. DHS includes Customs and Border Protection, Immigrations and Customs Enforcement, and other law enforcement groups. I have voted consistently to give these Agencies additional resources to carry out their missions. But immigration enforcement is not and must not become a function of the Department of Defense.

Our military has long provided technical and logistical support to DHS at

the border but always and exclusively in a supporting role, drawing a clear line between military law enforcement authorities. Indeed, since the Reconstruction era, U.S. Presidents have been prohibited from using the military in civilian law enforcement by a law known as the Posse Comitatus Act. This law has kept the Commander in Chief from wielding the military as a domestic political weapon, and it continues to be concerned by the President's ability to use the military domestically against American citizens.

I understand American citizens asking if it matters which Department enforces immigration as long as the job gets done. Well, there are plenty of reasons to be concerned by the President's current approach even if one agrees with him politically.

Most alarmingly, President Trump is taking real steps to militarize immigration enforcement. Once he uses the military for this reason, it will be easier for him to use it for other purposes. And given the tenor of his public statements, it is a reasonable fear that he may someday order the use of the Armed Forces in American cities and against American citizens.

Indeed, the Brennan Center—a law and public policy institution—recently analyzed President Trump's military actions at the border and concluded:

Using the military for border enforcement is a slippery slope. If soldiers are allowed to take on domestic policing roles at the border, it may become easier to justify uses of the military in the U.S. interior in the future. Our nation's founders warned against the dangers of an army turned inward, which can all too easily be turned into an instrument of tyranny.

Beyond these concerns, there are real, immediate consequences for our troops, which we are seeing right now.

One of the military's top priorities is readiness. America faces real, growing threats from China, Russia, Iran, and other adversaries, and the Department of Defense needs to be laser-focused on preparing troops to defend our interests abroad. It is difficult to explain the border missions as anything but a distraction from readiness.

We should acknowledge the jobs that our troops are actually doing there. In the past, up to 2,000 National Guard and Reserve troops would rotate to the border each year to assist DHS and Customs and Border Patrol with basic monitoring, logistics, and warehousing activities—non-law enforcement activities. These missions were designed to be “behind the scenes” to free up Border Patrol agents from administrative duties and return them back to the field to conduct their core mission of immigration enforcement.

Today, however, President Trump has surged more than 12,000 Active-Duty troops to the border to carry out a variety of expanded missions that do not look anything like “behind the scenes.” For example, one Marine battalion has been stringing miles and

miles of barbed wire across the California mountains. Multiple Army infantry companies are patrolling the Rio Grande riverbank on foot with loaded rifles. Navy aircrews are flying P-8 Poseidons—the most advanced submarine-hunting planes in the world, and they are flying them over the desert. Two Navy destroyers are loitering off our east and west coasts, looking for migrant boats in the water. At least one Army transportation unit is changing the oil and tires on Border Patrol trucks all day and every day.

In addition, the administration has wasted massive amounts of defense dollars by flying migrants out of the country using military aircraft. Often, they have had to return them to the U.S. mainland just a few days later. According to U.S. Transportation Command, it costs at least \$20,000 per flight hour to use a C-130 and \$28,500 per hour to use a C-17. In comparison, contracted ICE flights that regularly transport migrants inside of the United States cost only \$8,500 per flight hour.

President Trump's decision to use military aircraft instead of ICE aircraft to shuttle migrants across the globe to as far away as India is a gross misuse of taxpayers' dollars and servicemembers' time.

Just yesterday, we learned that the White House wanted to fly migrants on military aircraft to Libya, which is one of the most dangerous, hostile locations on Earth. Human rights groups have called the conditions in Libya's network of migrant detention centers "horrific" and "deplorable." The plan has been canceled for now, but it is unconscionable for the Trump administration to consider sending migrants to Libya and endangering our troops in the process.

Further, the Department of Defense has informed Congress that the current surge in border missions, including troop deployment and military flights, could cost as much as \$2 billion by the end of this fiscal year.

Secretary Hegseth has claimed that the border mission is so overwhelming that we will have to withdraw massive numbers of troops from Europe in order to meet the demand. Incredibly, he has also claimed that the border mission will have "no impact" on our military readiness.

However, we know that these border missions are harming military readiness. Last month, when the NORTHCOM commander testified before the Armed Services Committee, I asked how his forces on the border mission are maintaining their required military readiness and required training. He testified that his troops are spending 5 days a week supporting Customs and Border Patrol and other Agencies and only 1 day a week training. In other words, 20 percent—at most—of our servicemembers' time is being spent training on their critical military tasks.

In my personal engagements with commanders at all levels, they have

made clear that readying their formations requires extensive time and training as well as stability for families. Border missions will not build these warfighting requirements. Border missions will distract from training, drain resources, and undermine readiness.

The Government Accountability Office, or GAO, has assessed previous support missions to DHS and found them to be detrimental to unit readiness. Specifically, in its 2021 report, GAO found that "separating units in order to assign a portion of them to the southwest border mission was a consistent trend in degrading readiness ratings."

In February, President Trump issued an unprecedented order to the Defense Department to begin transporting and detaining migrants at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. For decades, the U.S. Naval Station at Guantanamo Bay has housed a facility called the Migrant Operations Center that is used to temporarily house migrants who are saved at sea while traveling in unsafe vessels from Cuba, Haiti, or other nearby nations. The facility is typically unoccupied and is kept in a low-level operational readiness until needed—that is, until February.

The intended use of the center was never to house migrants flown from the United States to Guantanamo Bay. Nevertheless, President Trump ordered the military to expand the Migrant Operations Center to accommodate up to 30,000 migrants who would be brought there from the United States.

Within weeks, approximately 1,000 Active-Duty troops were sent to Guantanamo to build tents for this massive number of migrants. However, once built, the tents were found not to meet ICE standards, and to date, they have never been used and are now being dismantled. The hundreds of troops sent down for the mission have had very little to do in the meantime.

Since February, around 500 individuals identified by the administration as illegal migrants have been flown to Guantanamo Bay, and most have been detained for no more than 2 weeks. Rather than being taken to the Migrant Operations Center, about half of these migrants have been held on the other side of the island at the detention facility that was built and used for law of war detainees, such as 9/11 terrorist Khalid Shaikh Mohammed.

There are currently 15 law of war detainees remaining on Guantanamo Bay. The facilities housing these detainees have deteriorated significantly in the 20 years since they were built. The military personnel who guard these individuals also endure the same tough conditions in these dilapidated facilities. Needless to say, these servicemembers have been stretched thin.

Last fall, it was a significant morale boost for them when the remaining law of war detainees were moved to a "newer" facility. Naturally, it was a blow, then, to their morale when, just

1 month later, they were ordered back to the older, more decrepit facility to make way for migrants at the newer facility.

While it is crystal clear the military is in charge of the law of war detention center at Guantanamo Bay, it is not clear who is legally responsible for the migrants being held there. Long-standing law dictates that U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement maintain "custody and control" of migrants, but in the detention center, the military maintains control.

This leads to questions about who is in charge and who is accountable. When I have asked those questions, the answers have often been contradictory, and that is disturbing.

To investigate these issues, I traveled to Guantanamo Bay in March with several colleagues, including Senators SHAHEEN, PETERS, KING, and PADILLA. We conducted a firsthand examination of the missions underway there and met with military servicemembers, ICE officers, and DHS officials to fully understand the costs and military readiness impacts of these missions. The trip raised many new questions and concerns.

I have grave doubts about the legality of removing migrants from the United States to Cuba, a foreign nation, and detaining them there. There are at least a dozen open cases and court orders impacting the Guantanamo mission. The detention center has only been used for law of war detainees, and it is reckless to equate migrants with international war criminals. I was also outraged by the scale of wastefulness we found there.

It is obvious Guantanamo Bay is an illogical location to detain migrants. The staggering financial cost to fly these migrants out of the United States and detain them at Guantanamo Bay—a mission costing tens of millions of dollars a month—is an insult to American taxpayers. President Trump could implement his immigration policies for a fraction of the cost by using existing ICE facilities in the United States, but he is obsessed with the image of using Guantanamo no matter the cost.

I am also frustrated that my Senate colleagues and I had to fly to Cuba to get answers to the questions that Secretary Hegseth and Homeland Security Secretary Noem have been ducking for months. By avoiding questions, they are putting servicemembers and officers on the ground in the position of trying to make sense of contradictory and political orders without any guidance or support from the Pentagon or DHS headquarters.

Since coming into office, the Trump administration has expanded the role of the military in immigration enforcement in other troubling ways. The movement of migrants from the U.S. to Guantanamo Bay is unprecedented, and the buildup of 12,000 Active-Duty troops at the southern border, including the Army's 10th Mountain Division

and 100 armored Stryker combat vehicles, has a huge impact on our military posture. This is a larger force than we deployed to Afghanistan in 2002 and 2003. This administration has purposely placed many of our military forces into the immigration debate in this country, and I fear it will also place them in legal and ethical risk.

For example, on March 30—shown in the photograph here—a military flight traveled from Guantanamo Bay to El Salvador with foreign nationals on board, including seven Venezuelans. To my understanding, not a single DHS official or civilian was on the flight, meaning that military personnel maintained both custody and control of the migrants, contrary to longstanding DOD policy and practice.

Here, as I said, is an image of that plane unloading in El Salvador. As you can see, the crew does not appear to include any DHS officials or civilian law enforcement personnel—only uniformed troops, who are physically handing migrants to the Salvadoran police.

This flight would clearly have been in violation of various immigration laws and policies, recent judicial orders, and the Posse Comitatus Act, as the military carried out a core law enforcement function of deportation without any DHS official present. After the fact, the administration tried to explain itself by saying it used “counterterrorism” authorities rather than law enforcement authorities. I am not aware of any counterterrorism authorities that would authorize such a flight.

Accordingly, last month, I sent a letter to the Department of Defense Office of Inspector General, asking that office to conduct an inquiry into the incident and any laws or Defense Department policies that may have been violated. I expect the IG to exercise his independence in carrying out this inquiry, and I am disturbed that the administration continues to put servicemembers in legal and physical jeopardy through these reckless orders.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that this letter be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

U.S. SENATE,
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES,
Washington, DC, April 23, 2025.

DEAR MR. STEBBINS: Recent public reporting raises issues about the propriety and legality of a March 30th military flight from Guantanamo Bay to El Salvador transporting 17 foreign nationals, including seven Venezuelan nationals to El Salvador. In particular, the transport of the Venezuelan nationals raises enforcement concerns under various immigration laws and policy, including the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA), 8 U.S.C. §1101 et seq., the regulations implementing the INA, Federal law and policy concerning the transport of migrants to third countries under the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act (IIRIRA), and compliance with recent judicial orders concerning deportations under that Act. Most concerning, however, from

the perspective of the Department of Defense (DOD) and the proper use of DOD personnel, we understand that there were no personnel from the Department of Homeland Security on this flight, meaning that military personnel maintained both custody and control of the migrants, contrary to longstanding DOD policy and practice.

According to government information, the Administration relied on “counterterrorism” authorities rather than law enforcement authorities to conduct this deportation. We are unaware of which counterterrorism authorities, if any, would authorize these flights.

Accordingly, we ask that you conduct an inquiry into, and provide us an assessment of, the following:

1. The facts and circumstances surrounding the above referenced flight(s), including:

a. The approval authority for this flight, and any subsequent approvals through the military chain of command authorizing the flight(s), including, but not limited to, members of the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD), and the Commanders and staff of U.S. Northern Command, U.S. Southern Command, U.S. Transportation Command, Joint Task Force Southern Guard, Joint Task Force Guantanamo Bay.

b. A copy of the legal review conducted by any party identified in section 1.a. opining on the legal authority to execute the flight(s), including, but not limited to, the OSD Office of General Counsel, and the Staff Judge Advocates of U.S. Northern Command, U.S. Southern Command, U.S. Transportation Command, Joint Task Force Southern Guard, Joint Task Force Guantanamo Bay.

c. Identification of the legal authorities under which the flight(s) were executed.

d. Identification of which parties identified in sections 1.a. and 1.b. had knowledge of the flight(s) prior to them transpiring.

e. Identification of which DOD elements, aircraft, and personnel participated in those flights.

2. Whether this flight complied with Federal law and policy, including but not limited to, the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA), 8 U.S.C. §1101 et seq., the regulations implementing the INA, and Federal law and policy concerning the transport of migrants to third countries under the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act (IIRIRA).

3. DOD’s adherence to law and policies concerning DOD support to civil authorities and conduct of law enforcement activities, including, but not limited to:

a. Section 1385 of Title 18, U.S. Code (Posse Comitatus Act)

b. Section 275 of Title 10, U.S. Code (Restriction on direct participation by military personnel)

c. DOD Directive 3025.18 (defense support of civil authorities)

d. DOD Instruction 3025.21 (defense support of civilian law enforcement agencies)

4. DOD’s reliance on “counterterrorism” authorities to unilaterally conduct this flight, an enumeration of those policies, and an assessment of whether DOD’s reliance on those authorities is appropriate and consistent with law and policy.

5. Any other matter you determine in the course of your review to be relevant to the proper application of law and policy to these circumstances.

Sincerely,

JACK REED,
Ranking Member.

Mr. REED. I am also concerned about the Trump administration’s dubious creation of “National Defense Areas” along the southern border in the last several weeks. These National Defense

Areas, first designated in New Mexico and later expanded into Texas, were created when the Department of the Interior transferred land, including the Roosevelt Reservation—a 60-foot-wide strip along the border—to the Department of Defense. So now, large swaths of the border are considered military installations.

The administration has created these zones so that, when a migrant crosses the border in those areas, prosecutors can charge them with both entering the United States illegally and trespassing on a military installation. In effect, the National Defense Zones evade the longstanding protections of the Posse Comitatus Act by allowing military forces to act as de facto border police, detaining migrants until they can be transferred to Customs and Border Protection. In the administration’s telling, this approach permits military involvement in immigration control without invoking the Insurrection Act of 1807.

This is both unprecedented and, indeed, a legal fiction. Again, as the Brennan Center report found:

No matter how the Trump administration frames these activities . . . they are civilian law enforcement functions. He cannot turn them into military operations by misusing the language of war. These civilian law enforcement activities are not “incidental”—they are the reason for creating the installation.

The administration is also considering using military bases to detain thousands of migrants inside the United States. Unlike in past emergencies, when military bases near the border were used to hold migrants during large surges, this administration is seeking to use installations deep within the country, including in New Jersey, Indiana, Delaware, California, and Virginia. One could be forgiven for extrapolating that these bases are being selected to hold round-ups of migrants in major cities.

The President is not taking these military actions out of necessity; he is testing the boundaries of our legal system and, in my view, violating them. If left unchecked and unchallenged, he will go much, much further in employing the Armed Forces in to enforce domestic immigration laws, traditionally a civilian law enforcement function.

For years, Mr. Trump has publicly expressed his desire to use U.S. military personnel for domestic law enforcement. During the last campaign, he repeatedly claimed that, if elected, he would order the National Guard and Active-Duty military to carry out mass deportations of undocumented migrants. He even said that he would deploy the military to conduct local law enforcement in cities and that troops could shoot shoplifters leaving the scene of a crime.

The President’s defenders often say that he is joking or exaggerating when he makes such claims, but we know these are not idle threats. In his first 100 days in office, he has declared multiple national emergencies and has invoked the Alien Enemies Act of 1798 to

deport migrants without due process. Indeed, he has even unapologetically deported U.S. citizens in violation of the Constitution. We have all seen the chilling videos of masked and hooded ICE agents arresting civilians on the street—scenes we are accustomed to seeing on the nightly news, not here but in countries run by dictators.

The administration is expanding its operation one step at a time, and President Trump's deployment of forces to the border, the military deportation flights, and the establishment of National Defense Areas can be interpreted as setting the stage to invoke the Insurrection Act and order the military to carry out domestic law enforcement inside the country.

In fact, we have seen the situation before. In June of 2020, then-President Trump, infuriated by protesters in front of the White House and across the country, ordered his staff to prepare to invoke the Insurrection Act to allow him to deploy Active-Duty military forces to patrol the streets of DC and other cities. Then-Defense Secretary Mark Esper and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Mark Milley talked him out of it, but the President clearly views this as a serious option.

Beyond the immorality of Trump's desire to deploy military domestically, to do so would simply be illegal. As I mentioned, the doctrine of posse comitatus is sacred in our Nation to separate the military from direct law enforcement responsibilities.

The use of National Guard or Active-Duty troops should be reserved only to those rare circumstances where civilian law enforcement has collapsed and State leaders have specifically asked for Presidential assistance. Their deployment should never be at the sole discretion of a President, as President Trump has demonstrated that such power begs abuse.

Ultimately, U.S. military members are trained to engage the enemies of the United States abroad with deadly force, not to arrest migrants on the southern border or to deport them from U.S. cities. The military has a sacred role in our country, but the public's trust is easily lost, and a pillar of our society is cracked when the Commander in Chief uses the military recklessly.

Our constitutional system is fundamentally designed to separate military and civilian roles, reserving police powers for law enforcement agencies and endowing the military with the superior weaponry and firepower necessary to fight and win the Nation's wars. When we allow the military to be used in the routine exercise of the police power, the Nation teeters on the brink of autocracy and military rule. One need not be a student of history to see how easily this backsliding can occur. It is all around us in the world today.

Trump's clear intent to use the military in potentially illegal and certainly inappropriate ways for his own

political benefit is antithetical to the spirit of our American democracy. Such power is the hallmark of authoritarians around the world.

President Trump and Secretary Hegseth must use common sense, follow the law, and immediately cease the military border deployments and deportation flights.

And, my colleagues, particularly my colleagues in the majority, should demand the same and hold the administration accountable for its actions.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MORENO). The Senator from Wyoming.

Ms. LUMMIS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to complete my remarks and ask that Senator HAGERTY have 7 minutes to complete his remarks before the vote.

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

S. 1582

Ms. LUMMIS. Mr. President, I rise today because the United States is behind when it comes to digital assets.

American digital asset innovation has faced a challenging environment, with talent, investment, and development often relocating to more welcoming international jurisdictions like Singapore, Switzerland, and the UAE. These countries have created clear frameworks, specifically designed to attract blockchain ventures while the United States has generally maintained a less defined regulatory landscape that has inadvertently encouraged this exodus of opportunity and expertise.

This week, we have the opportunity to start to change that, and we must grab the reins and ensure that all Americans are able to take charge of their financial futures.

The last White House blocked us, but now we have a President who not only sees the immeasurable value digital assets have but is willing to firmly secure America's leadership in this space.

Before he even took office, President Trump announced he had tapped David Sacks to serve as the White House AI and Crypto Czar, ensuring we maintain America's competitive edge, and issued a blitz of Executive actions targeting heavy-handed SEC tactics slowing down progress.

Under President Trump, we have seen a significant shift in the executive branch's attitude toward digital assets. It is night and day what we experienced under the Biden administration. President Trump's promise to make America the digital asset capital of the world wasn't just lip service; it was a strategic vision—recognizing that dollar-backed stablecoins represent a critical opportunity to extend American financial influence in an increasingly digital world—and a call to action. Decades from now, students will read about the foresight of the President and the 119th Congress in moving this issue to the forefront.

I want to make clear that this is not a partisan issue. I have spent years—

years—working with Senator GILLIBRAND of New York to ensure that we have crafted a bipartisan proposal that can get across the finish line—a lot of late nights, early morning phone calls, thousands of hours of our staffs going back and forth on policy.

I want to thank Senator GILLIBRAND and her team for all their hard work, for working with my team in good faith, and for always pushing to make this legislation stronger.

We have incorporated feedback from both Democrats and Republicans—many, many, many, many Democrat amendments. We have been working for days—recently, days—to bring this bill to the floor and to satisfy our colleagues across the aisle. I truly appreciate everyone who has engaged on this issue. We have the opportunity now to be in the driver's seat and install commonsense regulations that are tailor-made for American-based digital asset companies. The digital future is something to embrace. We are witnessing the dawn of a modern 21st century economy that can benefit all Americans through technical innovation.

This Congress, I joined with Senator BILL HAGERTY of Tennessee to cosponsor his Guiding and Establishing National Innovation for U.S. Stablecoins Act, or the GENIUS Act—legislation which provides robust consumer protections without sacrificing innovation. And now, thanks to Leader THUNE's leadership, the hard work of Senator HAGERTY, Chairman SCOTT, Senator GILLIBRAND, and our shared commitment to maintaining U.S. leadership in this space, we can begin the bipartisan proposal and move it one step closer to becoming law.

At its core, the GENIUS Act protects consumers through mandatory 100-percent reserve backing with U.S. dollars and short-term Treasuries, the monthly public disclosure of reserve composition, and strict prohibitions against misleading marketing.

Put simply, this isn't just another bill. It is a comprehensive framework, ensuring America leads the next generation of financial technology in stablecoins.

Just minutes ago, an American was elected Pope. His name will be Leo XIV—an American leading one of the strongest religious organizations in the world. We should also be leading in financial innovation.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. HAGERTY. Mr. President, I want to compliment my colleague from Wyoming for the wonderful introduction that she gave. That means that I don't need to give the many, many pages of speech that I had planned. But I would like to come to one final point, and that is for the benefit of my colleagues today.

I want to take a broader view of what we are actually voting on. What we are voting on is "cloture." That is a term

that is used to get on the bill, to actually have the debate that we are supposed to conduct here in the U.S. Senate. It is the beginning of debate for a bill that fundamentally supports crypto technology and innovation here in America at the most basic level.

My Democratic colleagues supported this, coming through a committee on a bipartisan basis. In fact, we had a vote of 18 to 6, a very strong movement out of committee.

Since that time, we have made a number of changes at their request. They have come back again with more requests. We are considering those changes as well. But for us to even begin to implement these changes, we are going to have to get on this bill in order to debate it and in order to incorporate the changes that have been negotiated.

I look forward to working with my colleagues should they choose to move forward on this bill. And if they don't, I want the American public and I want everybody watching today to understand that this is a vote to kill the crypto industry here in America, and it is a shame.

This is our first opportunity to deliver groundbreaking legislation to America that puts America squarely in the most competitive place we possibly could be, to lead in the area of innovation where we need to be leading. Otherwise, this would be a vote to push all of that offshore. It is a vote for our strength.

I want to thank the Senators who have helped so much: Senator SCOTT and Senator LUMMIS from our side. And I want to thank Senators GILLIBRAND and ALSOBROOKS from the Democrat side. I want to thank everybody who has worked so hard on this. And I hope that we will be able to move forward, actually get on this bill, and complete our work.

I yield the floor.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 66, S. 1582, a bill to provide for the regulation of payment stablecoins, and for other purposes.

John Thune, Ted Budd, Katie Boyd Britt, John Cornyn, Deb Fischer, Roger Marshall, Jim Justice, Tim Scott of South Carolina, Mike Crapo, Tommy Tuberville, Bill Hagerty, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Markwayne Mullin, Mike Rounds, Steve Daines, Cynthia M. Lummis, Rick Scott of Florida.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. GALLEGO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 2 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. KENNEDY. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. KENNEDY. I withdraw my objection.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is recognized for 2 minutes.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 1582

Mr. GALLEGO. Mr. President, we made some great progress this past week. I greatly—greatly—appreciate the work that we have done in a bipartisan manner.

I want to thank my fellow colleagues across the aisle: Senator WARNER, Senators LUMMIS, HAGERTY, Chairman SCOTT, Senators ALSOBROOKS and LISA BLUNT ROCHESTER. They really have been working hard to get a good product, and it was done in good faith. And I really want to thank my Republican colleagues for doing this.

The reason you are hearing some hesitancy is the legislation of this scope and importance really just cannot be rushed, and we need time both to educate our colleagues and people.

We are not shutting down. We don't want to shut this down to the point where we are ending all this work that we have put into it. We want to bring this economy and this innovation to the United States, and I am asking for that time.

I want to be clear that you do have enough Members across the aisle who want to see this passed in a good manner. So what I am going to be asking for is that we collapse today's vote and Monday's vote into a single vote on Monday.

I believe there is a pathway for us to actually get this done, get good language, and have a bipartisan win for this country.

All this agreement is asking for is simply to combine today's and Monday's vote. It would not add or reduce any floor time compared to just taking this vote today. So I ask for unanimous consent to do that.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. KENNEDY. Objection.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the motion to proceed to S. 1582, a bill to provide for the regulation of payment stablecoins, and for other purposes, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) is necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 48, nays 49, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 240 Leg.]

YEAS—48

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

NAYS—49

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

NOT VOTING—3

Moran	Smith	Wicker
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The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I change my vote to no.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On the motion, the yeas are 48, the nays are 49.

On this vote, three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn not having voted in the affirmative, the motion is not agreed to.

The motion was rejected.

The majority leader.

MOTION TO RECONSIDER

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I enter a motion to reconsider the vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The motion is entered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. THUNE. 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.

GENIUS ACT

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, let me just say that the Democrats have just used the filibuster for the fourth time this year. Why? Well, in this case, no one really knows.

This is a bipartisan issue. It is a bipartisan bill, and it had a bipartisan process from the very beginning. And if Democrats were interested in further changes, as they claim, they would have had the chance to make those changes on the floor. All they had to do was vote for cloture.

Not every bill that comes to the floor is a final bill. Now, that may be how it

worked when they were in control, but Republicans are doing it differently. We are determined to restore the Senate to what it was meant to be.

The floor is where every Senator gets a chance to give his or her input on legislation. That is what would have happened today if cloture had been invoked, the motion the Democrats just voted against. It would have meant open debate, further deliberations, further modifications. But the Democrats refused to even begin that debate.

I don't know what Democrats would change about the process this bill has gone through. It had a 3-hour markup in the Banking Committee that considered 40 amendments. That is what we used to call regular order around here.

It was reported out of the Banking Committee by a vote of 18 to 6, with 5 Democrats supporting the bill. And since the markup, Senators have been meeting nonstop to modify the bill on both sides of the aisle, Democrats and Republicans—countless meetings.

In fact, there have been fully six versions of this bill and numerous modifications made, many of them to satisfy the Democrats' demands—six versions of this bill based on feedback and input from Members on both sides and, in many cases, modifications made that were done in response to demands made by Democrats in the bill—six versions.

I don't know how you can have any more process than that. Democrats have been accommodated every step of the way, up to and including long sessions yesterday and late into the night last night.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I just have to say, frankly, I just don't get it. I don't know what more they want. I don't know why you vote against proceeding to a bill on the floor after you voted to refer that same bill to the floor, as a number of Democrats, as I just said, did coming out of the Banking Committee, which, of course, makes you wonder if this is about the bill at all or if it is simply Democrats obstructing because they want to deny Republicans or President Trump a bipartisan win. Given the fact that the Democrats keep moving the goalposts, it is hard not to suspect that is the case, and I have to say that is deeply disappointing.

I strongly support this bill, but I have now changed my vote to no today so that we can bring this legislation up again if and when Democrats are ready to get serious. Clearly, today, they are not.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 83.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of James Danly, of Tennessee, to be Deputy Secretary of Energy.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 83, James Danly, of Tennessee, to be Deputy Secretary of Energy.

John Thune, Mike Crapo, Thom Tillis, Cynthia M. Lummis, Mike Rounds, Rick Scott of Florida, Roger F. Wicker, Katie Boyd Britt, Steve Daines, John Boozman, John R. Curtis, James E. Risch, John Barrasso, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Dan Sullivan, Bernie Moreno, Jim Justice.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 84.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Katharine MacGregor, of Florida, to be Deputy Secretary of the Interior.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 84, Katharine MacGregor, of Florida, to be Deputy Secretary of the Interior.

John Thune, Mike Crapo, Thom Tillis, Cynthia M. Lummis, Mike Rounds, Rick Scott of Florida, Roger F. Wicker, Katie Boyd Britt, Steve Daines, John Boozman, John R. Curtis, James E. Risch, John Barrasso, Cindy Hyde-

Smith, Dan Sullivan, Bernie Moreno, Jim Justice.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 42.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Michael Rigas, of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary of State for Management and Resources.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 42, Michael Rigas, of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary of State for Management and Resources.

John Thune, Tim Scott of South Carolina, Mike Crapo, Lindsey Graham, Tim Sheehy, John Kennedy, John Barrasso, Markwayne Mullin, Roger Marshall, Rick Scott of Florida, Mike Rounds, Tommy Tuberville, Steve Daines, Bernie Moreno, Eric Schmitt, Jon A. Husted, Roger F. Wicker.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Carolina.

GENIUS ACT

Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina. Mr. President, today should have been—it should have been—a historic day for Americans, a historic day for working-class Americans, blue-collar Americans, to see their financial system democratized. Well, what does that mean? What it means is a day where single mothers like the one that raised me—the day becomes a little cheaper, things become a little more affordable.

Why? Because we were on the verge of doing something that would have made our markets safer and cheaper for everyday, working Americans across this remarkable land. But, instead, we witnessed a disappointing display of political gamesmanship that puts partisan politics above policy and obstruction above innovation.

We could have come together as Republicans and Democrats, not in a bipartisan way but in an American way, to deliver real change for the American people, real change embedded in the passing of the GENIUS Act. But not this day.

I know that this day was supposed to be special. It was supposed to be the day that America as a nation would rise to the occasion of innovation over regulation. It was supposed to be the day where we would come together in a nonpartisan way, Republicans working with Democrats, to make this Nation work better for the blue-collar comeback. It was supposed to be that day. But not this day.

I know what those on the other side would say. Let's be brutally honest about it, though. The GENIUS Act was a bipartisan achievement at the Banking Committee. It was a bipartisan achievement because we took the time, hours upon hours. The Presiding Officer was there. We debated day in and day out for weeks and months before we ever had the hearing. We offered almost 80 amendments during the session in the Banking Committee. We voted on 40 amendments in the Banking Committee. We made the decision to make America's economy safer and cheaper for the American people.

But when the lights came on and the cameras were watching, what did we see? We saw those same Democrat colleagues who recognized the urgent need to bring stablecoins into the clear, responsible, regulatory framework—we watched them take a step back and vote against the very bill they voted for, the bill they shaped. What changed? What changed? What changed? Not the substance. They got more of what they wanted than the last five iterations of the legislation. What changed was politics. Not policy, not the legislation, not the substance—politics.

Let's be honest. What we saw today wasn't a vote against the legislation. Several iterations—the Presiding Officer's staff, my staff, and Democrats' staff spent thousands of hours working on improving the bill; up until 2 a.m. last night, staff getting phone calls from Democrats about what they needed for the bill to pass.

It was a vote against President Trump and President Trump's legislative agenda. It was a vote to stop President Trump from having a victory in the digital asset space. It was a vote against common sense—that simple.

Trump derangement syndrome has once again hijacked responsible governance in this Chamber, but unfortunately, unfortunately, it is the Amer-

ican people—they are the ones who lose. It is blue-collar, red-blooded Americans who pay the ultimate price of inaction in this Chamber brought about because of politics, not policy.

It frustrates me. It frustrates me to sit through hours of meetings. It frustrates me to watch people look me in my eyes and tell me: We are almost there; I just need one more thing. It frustrates me when my colleagues seem so sincere that they want the revolution of innovation to happen in America. It frustrates me to watch them turn their backs on the very people they say they represent. It frustrates me that the modern financial tools that make our economy not just faster but safer—safer because the blockchain technology makes it safer and more inclusive.

Entrepreneurs and developers want clarity so they can build here in the United States of America, not be pushed offshore into a regulatory environment that is confusing.

Let me close with this. The bill delivered on exactly what we all want: safety, consumer protections, AML, BSA. All the things that the Presiding Officer would want, that I would want, that they would want—we did it. We did it together. But there is something putrid.

It is hard to understand how my good friends could walk away from our priorities, that my colleagues on the other side of the aisle decided to chicken out on safety, on inclusion, and on democratization.

When the cameras were rolling and the stakes were high, we were left high and dry—not because of the policy but because the political landscape dictated, demanded that they deny the average American access on this day. This is exactly the kind of cynical Washington maneuvering that makes people sick to their stomach.

But I am proud of the work we have done. I am, frankly, proud of the work that my Democrat colleagues on the committee offered to make the bill better. I am proud of the fact that for a couple of hours in America's Capital, we put partisanship to the side. We decided we would just do the right thing. I am proud that the Republican Party stood up and stood firm on innovation, stood strong on consumer protection, and we were there for national security.

I am not finished fighting. I am frustrated, but we are not defeated. We are simply delayed. We are not finished fighting. We will continue to work on the digital asset revolution that the American people voted for, that they deserve. The need hasn't disappeared, and neither has our commitment to American leadership in the digital asset space.

To those who chose politics over progress today, the American people are watching.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

GAZA

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I want to say a few words about an issue that people all over the world are thinking about, are appalled by but, for some strange reason, gets very little discussion here in the Nation's Capital or in the halls of Congress, and that is the horrific humanitarian disaster that is unfolding in Gaza.

Today marks 68 days and counting since any humanitarian aid was allowed into Gaza. For more than 9 weeks, Israel has blocked all supplies: no food, no water, no medicine, and no fuel. Hundreds of truckloads of lifesaving supplies are waiting to enter Gaza, sitting just across the border, but are denied entry by Israeli authorities.

There is no ambiguity here. Netanyahu's extremist government talks openly about using humanitarian aid as a weapon. Defense Minister Israel Katz said:

Israel's policy is clear: No humanitarian aid will enter Gaza, and blocking this aid is one of the main pressure levers.

Starving children to death is a weapon of war, is a clear violation of the Geneva Convention, the Foreign Assistance Act, and basic human decency. Civilized people do not starve children to death. What is going on right now in Gaza is a war crime committed openly and in broad daylight and continuing every single day.

There are 2.2 million people who live in Gaza. Today, these people are trapped. The borders are sealed, and Israel has pushed the population into an ever smaller area. With Israel having cut off all aid, what we are seeing now is a slow, brutal process of mass starvation and death by the denial of basic necessities.

This is methodical; it is intentional; it is the stated policy of the Netanyahu government.

Without fuel, there is no ability to pump fresh water, leaving people increasingly desperate, unable to find clean water to drink or to wash with or to cook properly. Disease is once again spreading in Gaza. Most of the bakeries in Gaza have now shut down, having run out of fuel and flour. The few remaining community kitchens are also shutting down.

Most people are now surviving on scarce canned goods, often a single can of beans or some lentils shared between a family once a day.

The United Nations reports that more than 2 million people out of a population of 2.2 million face severe food shortages. The starvation hits children the hardest. At least 65,000 children now show symptoms of malnutrition and dozens have already starved to death. Malnutrition rates increased 80 percent in March, the last month for which data is available after Netanyahu began the siege, but the situation has severely deteriorated since then.

UNICEF reported yesterday that "the situation is getting worse every

day” and that they are treating about 10,000 children for severe malnutrition. And severe malnutrition is not something that is cured overnight. This will have a permanent impact on the health and well-being of those kids for the rest of their lives.

Without adequate nutrition or access to clean water, many children will die of easily preventable diseases, killed by something as simple as diarrhea. For the tens of thousands of injured people in Gaza, particularly the countless burn victims from Israeli bombings, their wounds cannot heal without adequate food and clean water. Left to fester, infections will kill many who should have survived.

With no infant formula and with malnourished mothers unable to breastfeed, many infants are also at severe risk of death. Those who survive will bear the scars of what they are going through now for the rest of their lives.

And with little medicine available, easily treatable illnesses and chronic diseases like diabetes or heart disease is now a death sentence in Gaza.

What is going on there is not some terrible earthquake; it is not a hurricane; it is not a storm. What is going on in Gaza today is a man-made nightmare, and nothing in my view can justify this.

What is happening in Gaza will be a permanent stain on the world’s collective conscience. History will never forget that we allowed this to happen and, for us here in the United States, that we, in fact, enabled this ongoing atrocity.

There is no doubt that Hamas, a terrorist organization, began this terrible war with its barbaric October 7, 2023, attack on Israel, which killed 1,200 innocent people and took 250 hostages. The International Criminal Court was right to indict Yahya Sinwar and other leaders of Hamas as war criminals for those atrocities.

Clearly, Israel, as any other country that was so attacked, had the right to defend itself against Hamas. But Netanyahu’s extremist government has not just waged war against Hamas. Instead, they have waged an all-out barbaric war of annihilation against the Palestinian people. They have intentionally made life unlivable in Gaza.

Israel, up to now, has killed more than 52,000 people and injured more than 118,000—60 percent of whom are women, children, and the elderly. More than 15,000 children in Gaza have been killed.

Israel’s indiscriminate bombardment has damaged or destroyed two-thirds of all of the structures in Gaza, including 92 percent of the housing units—92 percent of housing in Gaza has been damaged or destroyed. Most of the population now is living in tents or other makeshift structures.

The healthcare system in Gaza has been, essentially, destroyed. Most of the territory’s hospitals and primary healthcare facilities have been bombed.

Gaza’s civilian infrastructure has been totally devastated, including almost 90 percent of water and sanitation facilities. Most of the roads have been destroyed.

Gaza’s educational system has been obliterated. Hundreds of schools have been bombed—schools have been bombed—as has every single one of Gaza’s 12 universities.

And there has been no electricity in Gaza for 18 months—no electricity.

Given this reality, nobody should have any doubts that Netanyahu is a war criminal. Just like his counterparts in Hamas, he has a massive amount of innocent blood on his hands.

And now, Netanyahu and his extremist ministers have a new plan—on top of everything else that has been done, they have a new plan—and that is to indefinitely reoccupy all of Gaza, flatten the few buildings that are still standing, and force the entire population of 2.2 million people into a single tiny area where hired U.S. security contractors will distribute rations to the survivors.

Israeli officials are quite open about the goal here: to force Palestinians to leave for other countries “in line with President Trump’s vision for Gaza,” as one Israeli official said this week.

Israeli Finance Minister Smotrich said this week that “Gaza will be entirely destroyed” and that its population will “leave in great numbers.”

For many in Netanyahu’s extremist government, this has been the plan all along. It is called ethnic cleansing.

This would be a terrible tragedy no matter where in the world it was happening or why it was happening, whatever the causes of it might be. But what makes this tragedy so much worse for us in America is that it is our government, the U.S. Government, that is absolutely complicit in creating and sustaining this humanitarian disaster. It didn’t just happen; we are a significant part of creating this humanitarian disaster.

Last year alone, the United States provided 18 billion in military aid to Israel. This year, the Trump administration has approved 12 billion more in bombs and weapons. And for months, Trump has offered blanket support for Netanyahu. More than that, he has repeatedly said that the United States will actually take over Gaza after the war, that the Palestinian people will be driven, forcibly expelled, from their homeland, and the United States will redevelop it into what Trump calls “the riviera of the Middle East,” a playground for billionaires.

Think about it: 2.2 million desperate people who have been bombed and starved and driven from their homes are now about to be forcibly expelled from their territory into God knows where so that Trump and his friends can build a riviera for the billionaire class.

This war has killed or injured more than 170,000 people in Gaza. It has cost American taxpayers well over \$20 bil-

lion in the last year. And right now, as we speak, thousands of children are starving to death. And a U.S. President is actively encouraging the ethnic cleansing of over 2 million people.

Now, given that reality, one might think that there would be a vigorous discussion right here in the Senate. Do we really want to spend billions of taxpayer dollars starving children in Gaza? A real vigorous debate. I want to hear why that is a good use. We have people sleeping out on the streets of America two blocks from the Nation’s Capital. You tell me why spending billions of dollars to support Netanyahu’s war and starving children is a good idea. I would love to hear it.

We are not having that debate. Let me suggest to you why I think we are not having that debate and that is because we have a corrupt campaign finance system that allows organizations like AIPAC to set the agenda here in Washington with regard to what happens in the Middle East.

In the last election cycle, AIPAC’s PAC and super PAC spent nearly \$127 million combined on campaign contributions. And the fact is that if you are a Member of Congress and you vote against Netanyahu’s war in Gaza, AIPAC is there to punish you with millions of dollars in advertisements to see that you get defeated.

One might think that in a democracy there would be a vigorous debate on an issue of such consequence. But because of our corrupt campaign finance system, which impacts us in so many ways on this issue, people are literally afraid to stand up because if they do, suddenly, you are going to have all kinds of ads coming into your district to defeat you.

Sadly, I must confess that this political corruption works. Many of my colleagues will privately express their horror at Netanyahu’s war crimes but will do or say very little publicly about it. History will not forgive our complicity in this nightmare. The time is long overdue for us to end our support for Netanyahu’s destruction of the Palestinian people.

We must not put another nickel into Netanyahu’s war machine. We must demand an immediate cease-fire, a surge in humanitarian aid, the release of the hostages, and the rebuilding of Gaza—not for billionaires to enjoy their Riviera there but rebuilding Gaza for the Palestinian people.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BUDD). The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. MORENO. Mr. President, I have been in the U.S. Senate now for a total of 125 days. I have seen some outrageous comments over the last 125 days. My colleague has been here exactly 12,000 days more than I have. Let me just set the record straight.

On October 7, 2023, families, mothers, fathers were sitting at home, enjoying a peaceful existence in one of the most difficult places on Earth to live. They had a day planned of joy at a festival.

What happened? People came over and savagely—savagely—murdered children, raped women, took hundreds of hostages, killed more Jews than at any time since the Holocaust.

What you just heard for the last 15 minutes could be summarized as the absolute propaganda of Hamas. Let me just be clear. This war was started by Hamas. It could end today by Hamas if they released every last hostage, including an American citizen.

We are sitting here in the U.S. Senate and not even saying a word of the fact that there is a U.S. citizen being held hostage by a terrorist group in the Middle East. That is outrageous. That should be at the top of the agenda. Why have civilians been killed in Gaza? Because they hide weapons in hospitals, in schools, in homes.

Hamas is the enemy, not our greatest ally, which is Israel. I was just there 2 weeks ago. Two weeks ago, I was there. There is almost no Israeli that hasn't seen a mom, a dad, a son, a grandson, granddaughter that hasn't been either injured or killed to protect their country. The fact that we are disparaging our greatest ally at this level is completely outrageous.

I had plans to go home, see my wife and kids, but I rose today because I cannot stay silent after listening to that kind of nonsense spewed here in the U.S. Senate. It is a disgrace, and we should not ever forget that Israel is just fighting the war that we would otherwise fight.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, if the Senator had heard my remarks, I talked about the need to release the hostages and I talked about who started the war, which is the terrorist organization called Hamas, led by war criminals. There is no debate about that.

But what the Senator did not tell us is whether or not he thinks it is a good idea for U.S. taxpayers to be spending billions of billions of dollars on an extremist government in Israel whose stated policy is to starve children; whether or not he thinks it is a good idea to cut off all humanitarian aid getting into Gaza right now—no medicine, no clean water, no healthcare facilities open.

So the issue is not who started the war. Everyone knows who started the war. The issue is whether you commit war atrocities, criminal war acts by punishing an entire people for the acts of a terrorist organization.

Did Israel have the right to defend itself? Yes, nobody denies that.

Did it have a right to kill over 50,000 people—60 percent of whom are women, children, and the elderly? No.

Did it have a right to injure 112,000 people, to destroy almost every housing unit in Gaza, to bomb hundreds of schools at every university in Gaza? No.

Israel had a right to defend itself, but it does not have the right to engage in ethnic cleansing and to starve children.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Hawaii.

TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, I rise in recognition of educators in Hawaii as well as across the Nation who are dedicating—have dedicated—their lives to the benefit of the children of our country.

This week is Teacher Appreciation Week. And as this administration attacks education and educators, it is more important than ever that we recognize our educators and thank them for all that they do on behalf of our children.

I have spoken before on the floor of this body on the fundamental importance of public education in my own life, having come here as an immigrant speaking no English from very humble beginnings.

I thank my teachers at Kaahumanu Elementary School, Koko Head Elementary School, and especially the librarian at Koko Head Elementary School who awakened my love of reading. They helped me to learn English and helped set me on a course that ultimately led to the U.S. Senate.

Today, teachers like Chayanee Brooks, an English teacher at Ka'u High School and Pahala Elementary on Hawaii Island, continue to educate and inspire Hawaii's youth. Chayanee, a Thai immigrant, is a nationally board-certified teacher. And, believe me, to become a nationally board-certified teacher, one must go through a lot of steps. But this certification indicates what an exceptional teacher she is.

She has been recognized as her complex area's Teacher of the Year, as Hawaii State teacher fellow, and as a Pulitzer Center teacher fellow. Just last month, she was recognized by the Hawaii State Teachers Association for her work to engage with and uplift the work of the voices of her students in her rural community.

Chayanee has said that her philosophy as an educator is simple:

Empower students to connect with their community and their own potential through storytelling.

Chayanee has created a welcoming space for her students to express themselves and share their stories through creative avenues like journalism and documentary storytelling, where they highlight topics such as family separation and mental health. You know that these are areas that the students not only care about but have experienced in their own lives.

In addition to supporting her own students, Chayanee helps train other teachers to use storytelling as a tool to engage students in their own classrooms.

She is just one of the many teachers in our country who go above and beyond for their students and their communities. Teachers like Chayanee do more than educate students. They are role models and mentors, providing a

safe, nurturing space for our children to learn and to grow. That is why it is so important that we support teachers and the vital—often underappreciated work—that they do.

We all remember during the COVID times that suddenly all our kids were at home. Believe me, there were a lot of people appreciating teachers particularly during that time. But it shouldn't just be at a time such as COVID. It should be all the time that we appreciate the exceptional work and commitment that so many of our teachers have to our students' education.

But Trump and his administration are hell-bent on doing everything they can to eliminate the U.S. Department of Education and undermine public education in our country. He and his Republican buddies want to take away Federal support for local schools, hundreds of millions of dollars—in fact, billions of dollars—money that provides services for students and parents, supports students with disabilities, and helps keep our children fed.

Trump is also threatening to cut funding from schools that won't comply with his draconian Executive orders—his obsession to stamp out diversity, equity, and inclusion in our public schools; Executive orders that direct our schools to stop teaching entire chapters of our Nation's history like the Civil War, African-American history, and the history of immigrants in our country.

That is just a part of the obsession that this administration has to stamp out diversity, equity, and inclusion in every arena.

We heard from teachers, parents, and students in Hawaii and across the country about the consequences of Trump's actions—the firing of people, what they are trying to get our schools to not teach—and they have told us in two words: "It's chaos." Much like everything else Trump touches and does, chaos follows.

Just this week, Homeland Security agents terrorized a group of teachers from the Philippines living and working on Maui. They were invited to come to Maui to teach in our schools for a period of time. And despite these teachers being here legally in our country, the teachers were detained by Homeland Security and targeted before being allowed to go about their business. That is called terrorizing people, plain and simple. So instead of supporting teachers, Trump is making it even harder for them to do their jobs, and our children will be the ones stuck paying the price.

A strong education system is fundamental to building a strong democracy, a strong economy, and a strong middle class. At the heart of our education system is, of course, our educators. That is why I and my Democratic colleagues are committed to supporting our educators, strengthening our schools, and ensuring every child—every child—has the opportunity to

learn and grow regardless of where they come from, their income, their disability—whatever their background. Every child should have that opportunity to grow and, you know, really seek their dreams.

Teachers can make a lasting impression in the lives of their students. In fact, I just had lunch with some of my interns in my office, and one of them said that she will never forget the encouragement from one of her college professors when she expressed some doubts about her success at her school, which happened to be Berkeley. This teacher said: You have a lot of years ahead of you. You know, believe in yourself. You can take risks, but go forward. She had a lot of years ahead of her to determine what she wanted to do with her life. So this intern in my office found this to be very encouraging.

That is what I mean about teachers having a profound impact on the life choices that their students make and how they think about themselves in this world. So I extend my gratitude to every teacher in Hawaii and across the country who continues to provide the kind of teaching experience that enables our students to have faith in themselves, to learn, and to understand that, you know, life has a lot in store for them.

I hope that a lot of these students will become teachers themselves, will become educators, and will be the kinds of teachers who will provide the kind of support that every student needs and deserves.

So “mahalo” to all of our educators across our country for all that you do both in and out of your classrooms and for the commitment that you have to our Nation’s children, our families, and our communities.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

GUN VIOLENCE

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I want to come to the floor today to talk about a success story but, potentially, a success story interrupted.

Back in 2022, we all were shocked to watch news playing out during an afternoon that we were here, working in the Senate, of another mass shooting—this one of just unthinkable size and scope—in Uvalde, TX. I was actually sitting in the Presiding Officer’s chair when I saw word of the shooting scroll across my smartphone screen.

Gratefully, in the wake of that shooting, a group of us—Republicans and Democrats—were able to come together and set aside the differences that we had and still have on the issue of gun violence in this country. We decided not to argue about an assault weapons ban, for instance. Instead, we decided to work on finding the least common denominator, as we called it, and tried to find a set of commonsense changes to our gun laws and common-

sense investments in our communities that would, hopefully, together, try to put a downward pressure on what, up until then, had been annual spiking rates of homicides and mass shootings.

It is just true that, in this country, you are 10 times more likely to be shot in your school, in your neighborhood, at a movie theater than you are in any other high-income, developed nation. That is a choice. That is not bad luck. That is not happenstance. That is because, in America, we decide to have a ton of weapons in the hands of very dangerous people. We also don’t spend enough time trying to unwind some of the reasons young people, in particular, get into lives of really risky and potentially violent behavior.

So we came together in 2022, and we passed the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act. It was a big bipartisan vote. It wasn’t close. The final tally was 65 to 33, with nearly two-thirds of the Senate voting in favor of this commonsense gun safety measure. It wasn’t anything close to what I see as being necessary in order to tackle this epidemic in this country, but it was significant. It was five changes in gun laws: supporting State red flag laws; stopping domestic abusers from getting their hands on guns; putting in a short but meaningful waiting period when young people are hastily buying an assault weapon; making it easier for law enforcement to go after drug trafficking rings. It was five meaningful changes, but it was also a big investment, a big investment in the kind of services that can help interrupt violence.

A lot of my Republican friends said: You know, we don’t believe it is the guns. We think it is mental illness.

Well, I don’t agree, but this is how you put together a compromise. So we passed the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, which included a landmark \$14 billion investment, most of it in mental health, most of it directed toward kids’ school-based mental health, but there were also significant investments in school safety—just hardening schools to make it harder for a shooter to get inside and community anti-gun violence initiatives, which is the work that local community groups are doing in North Carolina and Connecticut and all across the country to just try to wrap services around people who might be at risk of gun violence or to stop that cycle of violence once the first shooting happens.

So we passed this legislation, and we crossed our fingers. We said: Let’s hope that we are right and that these changes in gun laws and these investments we are making in our communities will make a difference.

Well, what happened after we passed that law was absolutely stunning: the biggest 2-year decline in gun violence in the history of recorded statistics in the United States of America. That is extraordinary. That is extraordinary. I am not going to sit here and claim that the entire reason was the Bipartisan

Safer Communities Act, but it was a big part of the reason because we did make it harder for bad people to get their hands on guns. We did deliver the kinds of services that are necessary. You are seeing this downward trajectory, but let me just put the numbers on it.

In 2023, there were 659 mass shootings in America. In 2024, there were 500. That is a 24-percent, 1-year decline in mass shootings. That means that there were 160 mass shootings that didn’t happen and 160 communities that were not terrorized in 2024. And this bill had a lot to do with it. Overall gun deaths went down from 2023 to 2024 from 19,000 to 16,700. That was a 12-percent reduction. We have never in this country’s history seen 1-year declines in gun homicides in the neighborhood of 12 percent. Certain cities saw astronomical declines. In Hartford, we saw a 39-percent drop in homicides from 2023 to 2024. This year—this year, 2025—Hartford is on track to have the lowest recorded instances of gun violence—those are homicides and nonfatal shootings—since 2006. New Haven saw a 39-percent drop in homicides. As I think I said, overall, in Connecticut, we had 167 homicides in 2023. In 2024, we had 63. It is wild.

This happened in Baltimore, and this happened in Chicago. In most of the major cities in this country and in rural areas as well, we saw this dramatic, dramatic decline. So it is just something to celebrate because it is not easy to get that kind of consensus. It is not easy to get that kind of consensus, and we should celebrate the fact that there are literally thousands of people—largely young men—who are alive today because of the bill that we passed.

But this progress is in threat of being interrupted, and the reason is that the Trump administration has reversed course. I want to talk specifically about how they are undoing the progress of this bill, but their attempt to try to reverse the broader progress that we have made on reducing gun violence is pretty comprehensive. Let me just give you a handful of the ways in which the Trump administration is trying to make our communities less safe.

First, they closed the Office of Gun Violence Prevention. This was something the Biden administration set up to try to better implement the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act. This wasn’t a terribly political office. It was just trying to coordinate all the work being done across Agencies to reduce violence in our communities. Trump would have taken this office in a different direction, but he didn’t. He just shuttered it. There is no Office of Gun Violence Prevention anymore in the Federal Government.

On March 20, the administration announced that they are going to start a process of restoring firearms rights to individuals who have had them taken away because they had serious criminal records. This is likely illegal.

There is an appropriations bill rider that says the ATF can't do this, but the message was sent: We actually think that dangerous people should be able to get their gun rights back.

That same day, Trump's Department of Justice filed a motion in Federal court, trying to overturn a decision to say that silencers are not protected by the Second Amendment, trying to say that no State legislature could ban or regulate the use of silencers, and silencers are broadly used by killers, by criminals who are trying to hide the fact that they are engaged in criminal, lethal conduct.

On April 7, the DOJ announced that it was repealing a policy from the Biden administration that said simply this: If you are a gun dealer and you are engaged in illegal conduct, we are going to pull your license, and we are not going to give you two or three or four shots. We are going to have a zero tolerance policy for gun dealers who are selling guns on to the black market. That is a policy most Americans would see as common sense, but the DOJ announced that it was going to let off the hook gun dealers who are violating the laws.

Now, throughout the last 100 days, the Trump administration has been sending all sorts of signals that they are deprioritizing the work of the ATF. Most recently, on April 9, they announced that the Army Secretary would now be the acting head of ATF. This was basically telling ATF agents: We don't care about your work. We are not going to have a full-time ATF head. We are putting somebody with a big, other important job in charge of the ATF. You are not going to have any real supervision or direction.

It was just a signal of the deprioritization of the enforcement of our gun laws that caused, the next day, the second highest ranking official at the ATF, who had served admirably for 35 years, to resign in protest.

Then, maybe most unconscionably and most cruelly, just a few days ago, the ATF took down the memorial wall dedicated to victims of gun violence. I mean, there were names up there, tributes to moms and dads, brothers and sisters who had been killed in episodes of gun violence. That was really important to hundreds of families out there who knew that their loved ones' names were part of that wall. Now the wall comes down. For what? Just to send another signal that the administration doesn't care about attacking gun violence.

But I really wanted to come to the floor today to talk about the two most important assaults that the Trump administration has made on our work to try to keep our communities safe. Those are the twin announcements that the administration made that they were going to end two of the key streams of funding for community groups in the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act.

First, the administration announced it was ending \$1 billion in grants under

the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act to invest in school mental health and then that they were ending \$800 million of DOJ grants to try to drive down violence through supporting community efforts to do that work.

This makes no sense. I understand we have a difference. The President and I have a difference on what our gun laws should be. But there is consensus—I thought there was consensus—that we should support investment in mental health. I thought there was a consensus that we all believed that there were good community groups that were doing totally apolitical work, not related at all to gun laws, to try to interrupt cycles of violence.

The reason that these numbers have been going down is not just the changes in gun laws. The reason that our communities are safer all across the country is that we are finally putting real money into school-based mental health, into children's mental health, and into the groups in our communities that are keeping kids alive.

In Oakland, they have seen a stunning 32-percent drop in homicides, and it is a result of groups like Youth Alive!. This is a nonprofit that is working to prevent and disrupt the cycle of gun violence. So you go into a community, you go into a place where a shooting has happened, and you do work with the victim of that incident to make sure that it doesn't become a cycle of violence.

These are often called hospital-based violence intervention programs. When there is a shooting, you have a social worker or a community anti-gun violence worker that goes to the hospital. That is often when the communities are the most angry, the friends of that victim may be planning for revenge, and you do the work to stop that cycle of violence.

It was working in Oakland. Youth Alive! was preventing gun violence. Last year, of the 113 clients they served, only 1 of them was injured a second time. Yet, in the middle of a 3-year \$2 million grant that Youth Alive! was getting, it was suspended, terminated. They are going to have to lay off their staff. That program is being shut down in Oakland. And I will just tell you, I would bet you homicides are going to start going back up in Oakland.

Baltimore has seen a similar massive decline in gun violence, a 43-percent reduction since 2010—what a success story in Baltimore, one of the most violent communities in terms of rates of gun violence in the country, a 43-percent decline.

Center for Hope is a group in Baltimore that provides prevention and healing services for children who have been the witnesses or victims of gun violence. They were getting, again, a \$2 million grant to work with the victims of gun violence to try to heal those communities and, again, stop that cycle of retributive violence that often happens in places like Baltimore.

Donald Trump cut their grant. So in the middle of the grant, they are losing \$1.2 million, and they are going to have to lay off 7 employees.

Center for Hope runs 6 of the city's 10 Safe Streets sites. These operate in the pockets of Baltimore where you see the most shootings. Because of these Center for Hope sites—these Safe Streets sites—between 2023 and 2024, four of the sites run by the Center for Hope saw zero homicides. Now they are having to lay off people. Guess what is going to happen. Those shootings are going to go up again.

We had to work really hard to find this consensus on a very difficult issue. It is illegal, what the President has done. He is not allowed, under the Constitution, to decide unilaterally to cancel spending that has been authorized and appropriated by Congress. So maybe the first and most important thing to say about what the President has done to cancel mental health grants and anti-violence grants is that it is illegal. He can't do it, and it is likely that a court will turn these grants back on.

But it is also such bad policy. It is cruel and inhumane, but it is also illogical. We literally are seeing the fruits of the labor of these groups, and not just in saving a life or two. You are talking about a 30- and 40-percent reduction in violence in these cities. And what will happen is unmistakable. You stop funding these groups that are doing the mental health work in the schools, that are doing the anti-gun violence work, and these rates will start to go back up again.

That is illogical, but it is cruel as well because what the President is doing, for instance, in cutting off the school mental health grants is that he is cutting off existing grants. It is not that he is announcing: I am not giving any new grants.

There are schools all across this country that have set up new mental health clinics because of the grants they got. They were 5-year grants, and 1 or 2 or 3 years into those grants, Donald Trump is shutting those programs down. So there are literally going to be thousands of children—traumatized children, children with serious mental illness, with cycles and histories of abuse in their households—who have created this relationship with an adult—this adult who is helping them address their potential tendency to act out in violent ways due to their mental illness, their trauma. And one day, these kids are going to show up at school, and that adult is going to be gone. That trusted adult that had created that bond, that relationship that is helping that child, that is keeping that school safe—that relationship, that bond is destroyed because in cutting these grants off with no warning, there is no way, in the middle of a school year, for a school mental health clinic to find the money under the mattress.

It is illogical. It is going to drive up gun violence rates. And it is cruel to

our poorest and most at-risk communities and to the kids—and to the kids—the traumatized kids, the kids with serious mental illness, the kids that we should think first about when we wake up in the morning.

I guess the final thing to say is this: We are putting ourselves out of business. We are putting ourselves out of business. What is the point of passing a law by a 65-to-33 vote if the President of the United States can just ignore it? As I said, that is illegal, and the courts will likely tell him: You can't shut off the funding that we appropriated and authorized.

This should matter to Republicans and Democrats. Every single one of my Republican colleagues worked really hard to get this job, worked really hard to become a U.S. Senator. Those of us who worked on these bipartisan pieces of legislation worked really hard to pass them. What is the point of running for the U.S. Senate, what is the point of working to forge this compromise if the President can just ignore it?

By the way, if Donald Trump gets away with it, mark my words, a Democratic President will do the same thing. If this becomes standard practice, if our laws just become advisory, then there is no reason for any of us to show up any longer. Why do you work so hard, why do you care so much about getting to this place if you don't care when the President just ignores the laws that we pass?

It is very hard to find consensus here, especially on an issue as important and as politically sensitive as gun violence. So when we do find that consensus, on behalf of the kids and the families out there who are begging us to work together to save lives, we should protect that consensus.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

GENIUS ACT

Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, I rise today to talk about the vote we just had on the motion to proceed on the GENIUS Act.

Despite promises that the GENIUS Act's fundamental flaws would be fixed ahead of any vote, we still don't have the new bill text.

Now, many of my colleagues have made clear that they want to improve this bill and that it is important for Republicans not to jam us. Well, the Republicans decided to jam us anyway. But the Democrats have power to say no, and that is exactly what we just did.

The GENIUS Act would establish a new regulatory framework for stablecoins, a type of cryptocurrency whose value is pegged to the value of another asset, often, the U.S. dollar. This is a \$100 billion market.

A stablecoin is very similar to a bank deposit. Its value, like the value of your deposits in a bank account, is sup-

posed to maintain a stable value. That is why they call it a stablecoin.

But as we have learned throughout history, banking can be a really risky activity. It requires a robust regulatory and supervisory framework that protects consumers, that protects our national security, and that protects the stability of the financial system.

Democrats in the Banking Committee worked hard to improve the GENIUS Act before, during, and after we had a vote in committee on the bill. We want to strengthen the guardrails on this new financial product to make sure that it is safe and reliable.

Democrats—even Democrats who voted for the bill in committee—made it clear: The bill needs to improve significantly to win their support on the floor. But this new bill that was introduced last week and rushed to the floor this week, and that we voted on just today, lacked those guardrails.

So far, Republicans have refused to adopt changes that would apply basic consumer protection rules, like the ones the banks and other financial institutions have to follow so that their customers don't get cheated; have refused to adopt changes that would make it more difficult for cartels, terrorists, sanctions evaders, and human traffickers to use stablecoins to finance illegal activity; have refused to adopt changes that ensure that stablecoins do not destabilize our financial system and require taxpayers to bail out crypto companies when they crash; have refused to adopt changes that would prevent Big Tech billionaires from using this bill to issue their own private currencies; have refused to adopt changes that would stop Donald Trump and his family from corruptly profiting off their new stablecoin, USD1, which is already the fifth largest stablecoin in the world and has already been used to cut them in on shady, multibillion-dollar deals with foreign governments.

So what happened when the Democrats saw the new version of the bill last week? We stood together, we held firm, and we made clear that we were not giving them enough votes to get to 60 and move the bill forward. That brought Republicans back to the negotiation table over the last several days.

The lead negotiators made clear: Republicans need our votes. We will not be rushed. We will not be jammed. We will not vote on something that we haven't even seen. This issue is simply too important.

And that brings us to today. We were asked by the Republicans to take this vote without ever seeing the text of the new bill. There is no way for any Senator to know whether the final bill sufficiently protects consumers, no way to know whether the final bill prevents terrorists in rogue nations and cartels from using stablecoins to move dirty money around, no way to know whether the final bill stops Big Tech billionaires from taking over our money supply, and no way to know whether the

final bill stops President Trump from making billions off his stablecoin and accepting bribes from foreign nations.

These purported fixes were negotiated behind closed doors, in the dead of night, and we don't even know for sure what they are. We need time to evaluate them carefully. This is what it looks like when Republicans try to jam the Democrats.

But the opportunity for bribery and corruption through a Trump stablecoin is not hypothetical. It is not like, well, here is something that might happen. Trump has already shown us right out in public exactly how to run the corruption play.

It was reported last week that an Abu Dhabi investment firm, MGX, is using Trump's USD1's stablecoin to finance a \$2 billion investment in Binance, essentially giving Trump a cut of the deal. The firm is chaired by someone who is referred to in the industry as the "spy sheikh" of the United Arab Emirates and co-owned by G42, a firm with extensive ties to the Chinese Government.

I do not think that some of my colleagues fully comprehend the scale of this corruption. Donald Trump and his family have essentially started their own bank, and money from foreign governments and large corporations is already pouring in. This is not one of Trump's standard failed side hustles, like steaks or vodka or his licensing deals. His stablecoin, USD1, is the fifth largest in the world, and it is only 3 weeks old. He is set to make hundreds of millions of dollars, potentially billions of dollars, on this undertaking.

If you are seeking pardons, if you want tariff exemptions, if you want other special favors, you don't need a briefcase of cash pushed under the table; you can do it conveniently online with Donald Trump's stablecoin. How can any Senator—Democrat, Republican, or Independent—endorse that kind of corruption? How can any Senator—Democrat, Republican, or Independent—facilitate that kind of corruption?

Over the past few months, we as Democrats have too often forgotten we still have some power, and this is our opportunity to use it. We did not vote for this bill today. We stood firm, and we demanded improvements.

I have heard from some of my colleagues that this bill will happen with or without us, and that is simply not true. We proved it today. I urge Democrats to continue to use their power and make sure that we don't sign off on a weak deal, on a bad deal, on a deal that, months from now or years from now, we say: Oh, that turned out to be a bad idea.

We can only vote for the GENIUS Act when we have a bill that protects consumers, that promotes financial stability, that protects our national defense, and that fights back against Donald Trump's aggressive and public corruption. We need to stand strong as Democrats, and if we do, we can get a

better bill and better serve the people of the United States of America.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arkansas.

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—H.R. 276

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill at the desk, and I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the first time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 276) to rename the Gulf of Mexico as the "Gulf of America".

Mr. BOOZMAN. 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 is heard. The bill will receive its second reading on the next legislative day.

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following resolutions, which are at the desk: S. Res. 209 and S. Res. 210.

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

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

Mr. BOOZMAN. I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to, the preambles be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, all en bloc.

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

The resolutions were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

(The resolutions, with their preambles, are printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

WORLD MIGRATORY BIRD DAY

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 211, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 211) designating May 10, 2025, as "World Migratory Bird Day".

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. BOOZMAN. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 211) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

MORNING BUSINESS

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I was necessarily absent, but I had been present, I would have voted on rollcall vote No. 238 on passage of Calendar No. 24, S.J. Res. 7, disapproving the rule submitted by the Federal Communications Commission relating to "Addressing the Homework Gap Through the E-Rate Program".

REMEMBERING STEVEN HOECKER

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the life and legacy of Steven W. Hoecker, who served as the director of the David R. Obey Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center in Ashland, WI, for many years.

Steve was a passionate public servant who made a difference in the lives of those who were lucky enough to know him. Born in 1949 in Parma, OH, Steve was a natural adventurer, seeking every opportunity to share the wonder of the outdoors with his loved ones. He spent many days with his best friends and siblings, fishing and enjoying our Nation's natural resources.

His love for the outdoors continued to strengthen as time went on. Steve was no stranger to rehabilitating birds of prey and raising stranded baby animals. He studied wildlife biology at Virginia Tech, where he met his beloved wife and adventure partner Elizabeth.

Steve was also a dedicated father. He and Elizabeth helped raise 38 children, including their daughter Jenna and 37 foster children. He enjoyed sharing his love of the outdoors, leaving a lasting impression on each child. In his free time, Steve volunteered in the classrooms of his wife and daughter and with events like Kid's Fishing Day and Fishing Has No Boundaries. He was a proud uncle and grandfather as well.

Steve was instrumental in the establishment of the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center. Before officially becoming the center director in 1998, he spent 6 years planning for the site while he worked for the U.S. Forest Service. He then served as the center director for 12 years until he retired in 2010. He understood the intense beauty of the region of Wisconsin he called home and dedicated his life to educating others on its importance.

Steve found many more ways to give back to his community, including volunteering his time with the Alliance for Sustainability, Habitat for Humanity, and many community activities, including Bayfield's Apple Festival and Lake Superior Big Top Chautauqua. He

was tireless in his service to others, a true testament to his passion for helping others.

Through his life's work, Steve Hoecker made an immeasurable impact on the State of Wisconsin. He cared deeply about the Great Lakes, the Northern Great Lakes Visitors Center, his family, and his community. His passing is a great loss to all who knew him and worked alongside him, but his legacy and the life he lived will be felt for generations to come.

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL KRISTIN A. BEITZ

Ms. ROSEN. Mr. President, today I rise to honor a great American and an exceptional member of the U.S. Air Force, Col. Kristin "Norris" Beitz.

As deputy chief of the Department of the Air Force's Senate Liaison Division from June 2022 to July 2023, Colonel Beitz performed her duties well and without reservation, supporting the 117th and 118th U.S. Congresses. Hailing from Reno, NV, Colonel Beitz is a distinguished graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy and has served in the Air Force for over 20 years, including 12 in our shared home State of Nevada. Throughout her career, she has demonstrated exceptional and unrivaled officership. Colonel Beitz is a command pilot with over 3,000 hours of flight time in the A-10, MQ-1B, and MQ-9 aircraft. She is a graduate of the prestigious U.S. Air Force Weapons School at Nellis Air Force Base, NV, where she also served as an instructor.

Colonel Beitz distinguished herself through her professional character and dedication to serving our Nation in uniform, leading five action officers in the Senate Air Force Liaison Office. In this role, she advised Department of the Air Force senior leaders and helped develop strategic engagement opportunities to advance U.S. Air Force and U.S. Space Force priorities. Her leadership facilitated seamless collaboration on behalf of the Department of the Air Force across 62 congressional offices, supporting over 30 delegations for 150 Senators, Representatives, and staffers to showcase Department equities in the United States and abroad. Most notably, under her leadership, she drove preconfirmation engagements for the second-ever Chief of Space Operations and worked with the Senate Space Force Caucus to coordinate three events critical to educating Members and their staff on the Department of Defense's newest service. Her efforts helped solidify the establishment of the U.S. Space Force and ensured the Department of the Air Force's support of the National Defense Strategy in its Reoptimization for Great Power Competition.

Additionally, Colonel Beitz co-authored the Department of the Air Force's Distinguished Public Service Award for the then-retiring ranking member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, the late-Senator Jim

Inhofe, and served as a direct liaison for the joint military presentation ceremony as the Secretary of the Air Force honored Senator Inhofe's 56 years of public service. She led the congressional delegation to the Air Force's B-21 bomber unveiling and the bicameral 2022 Reagan National Defense Forum. Colonel Beitz's significant efforts led to over 200 successful engagements between this governing body and senior Department of Defense officials, including the Secretary of the Air Force. All of these engagements helped Senators and their staffs understand defense equities and their impact on national security. Due to her direct involvement and stewardship, Members of Congress were able to make informed decisions and ensured the Department of the Air Force was properly resourced and funded. After serving in this crucial role and becoming a fixture on Capitol Hill, Colonel Beitz moved on to serve as the director of the U.S. Air Force Academy's Washington, DC, office.

Colonel Beitz's contributions extend far beyond operational excellence. She played a pivotal role in working with my office on the unique challenges faced by remotely piloted aircraft crews, such as those at Nevada's Creech Air Force Base, where Colonel Beitz served for many years. Her insight and advocacy helped shape my National Defense Authorization Act priorities to address these gaps and oversights. Colonel Beitz's dedication to supporting those in uniform, even beyond her formal liaison duties, has been invaluable. She has continued to serve as a resource to my office on these and other issues.

I would be remiss not to mention the personal connections Colonel Beitz has fostered during her time here. I have personally enjoyed meeting her parents and children at our constituent coffees—the Battle Born Breakfast—and her son outside of the Senate Chamber as he interviewed me for his elementary school project. Colonel Beitz's thoughtfulness and capacity to connect with others on a personal level while performing her duties at the highest echelon of professionalism is a true testament to her work ethic and care for those around her.

Colonel Beitz and her husband, Col. Andy Beitz, who is also a command pilot and recently retired from the U.S. Air Force, have together flown over 6,000 hours as Air Force aviators and have instilled a legacy of service for their children Ezekiel and Eloise. They have sacrificed much as a family in service to our Nation. I am thankful for Col. Kristin Beitz's service in the Air Force, in the Senate, and with my office on issues of vital importance to the defense of the United States. I salute this American patriot whose selfless service has kept our country safe and strong. She is "Battle Born."

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Mr. Hanley, one of his secretaries.

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

REPORT ON THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY THAT WAS ORIGINALLY DECLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 13611 OF MAY 16, 2012, WITH RESPECT TO YEMEN—PM 26

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency declared with respect to Yemen in Executive Order 13611 of May 16, 2012, is to continue in effect beyond May 16, 2025.

The actions and policies of Ansar Allah, also known as the Houthis, continue to threaten Yemen's peace, security, and stability. These actions include obstructing the political process in Yemen and blocking the implementation of the agreement of November 23, 2011, between the Government of Yemen and those in opposition to it, which provided for a peaceful transition of power that meets the legitimate demands and aspirations of the Yemeni people.

Therefore, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13611 with respect to Yemen.

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

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED JOINT RESOLUTION SIGNED

At 10:03 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled joint resolution:

H.J. Res. 61. Joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to "National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants: Rubber Tire Manufacturing".

The enrolled joint resolution was subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY)

At 11:35 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 276. An act to rename the Gulf of Mexico as the "Gulf of America".

H.R. 881. An act to establish Department of Homeland Security funding restrictions on institutions of higher education that have a relationship with Confucius Institutes, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1503. An act to combat forced organ harvesting and trafficking in persons for purposes of the removal of organs, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, without amendment:

S. Con. Res. 12. Concurrent resolution authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for a ceremony to present the Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the United States Army Rangers Veterans of World War II.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 881. An act to establish Department of Homeland Security funding restrictions on institutions of higher education that have a relationship with Confucius Institutes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 1503. An act to combat forced organ harvesting and trafficking in persons for purposes of the removal of organs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

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.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

H.R. 276. An act to rename the Gulf of Mexico as the "Gulf of America".

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Ms. MURKOWSKI, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, without amendment:

S. 612. A bill to amend the Native American Tourism and Improving Visitor Experience Act to authorize grants to Indian tribes, tribal organizations, and Native Hawaiian organizations, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 119–20).

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. RISCH for the Committee on Foreign Relations.

*Charles Kushner, of New York, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the French Republic, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Principality of Monaco.

Nominee: Charles Kushner.

Post: French Republic and Principality of Monaco.

(As instructed, I have provided contributions by my spouse and me. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, Amount, Date, and Donee:

Charles Kushner, \$50,000.00, 10/17/2024, RJC Victory Fund; \$41,300.00; 08/19/2024, NRCC; \$3,300.00, 08/19/2024, Mike Johnson for Louisiana; \$1,700.00, 08/19/2024, American Revival PAC; \$3,300.00, 08/19/2024, American Revival PAC; \$50,000.00, 08/19/2024, Grow the Majority; \$400.00, 08/19/2024, Congressional Leadership Fund; \$10,000.00, 06/28/2024, South Dakota Republican Party; \$10,000.00, 06/27/2024, Republican Party of Kentucky; \$10,000.00, 06/27/2024, Republican Campaign Committee of New Mexico; \$155,400.00, 06/05/2024, Make America Great Again Inc.; \$10,000.00, 06/03/2024, South Carolina Republican Party; \$10,000.00, 06/03/2024, Republican Party of Florida; \$3,300.00, 06/03/2024, Never Surrender, Inc.; \$3,300.00, 06/03/2024, Never Surrender, Inc.; \$10,000.00, 06/03/2024, Republican Party of Wisconsin; \$10,000.00, 06/03/2024, West Virginia Republican Party, Inc.; \$10,000.00, 06/03/2024, Utah Republican Party; \$10,000.00, 06/03/2024, Republican Party of Arizona, LLC; \$5,000.00, 06/03/2024, Save America; \$10,000.00, 06/03/2024, Alaska Republican Party; \$10,000.00, 06/03/2024, Ohio Republican Party State Central & Executive Committee; \$10,000.00, 06/03/2024, Montana Republican State Central Committee; \$10,000.00, 06/03/2024, Georgia Republican Party Inc.; \$10,000.00, 06/03/2024, Republican Party Of Virginia Inc.; \$844,600.00, 06/03/2024, Trump 47 Committee, Inc.; \$10,000.00, 06/03/2024, Washington State Republican Party; \$10,000.00, 06/03/2024, Nevada Republican Central Committee; \$10,000.00, 06/03/2024, NY Republican Federal Campaign Committee; \$10,000.00, 06/03/2024, California Republican Party Federal Acct.; \$10,000.00, 06/03/2024, Republican Federal Committee of Pennsylvania; \$10,000.00, 06/03/2024, North Carolina Republican Party; \$10,000.00, 06/03/2024, New Jersey Republican State Committee; \$10,000.00, 06/03/2024, New Hampshire Republican State Committee; \$10,000.00, 06/03/2024, Indiana Republican State Committee, Inc.; \$10,000.00, 06/03/2024, Tennessee Republican Party Federal Election Account; \$10,000.00, 06/03/2024, Oregon Republican Party; \$10,000.00, 06/03/2024, Massachusetts Republican Party; \$10,000.00, 06/03/2024, Republican Party of Guam; \$10,000.00, 06/03/2024, Republican Party of Louisiana; \$10,000.00, 06/03/2024, Missouri Republican State Committee—Federal; \$10,000.00, 06/03/2024, Mississippi Republican Party; \$10,000.00, 06/03/2024, Maine Republican Party; \$10,000.00, 06/03/2024, Oklahoma Leadership Council; \$123,900.00, 06/03/2024, Republican National Committee; \$123,900.00, 06/03/2024, Republican National Committee; \$123,900.00, 06/03/2024, Republican National Committee; \$41,300.00, 06/03/2024, Republican National Committee; \$10,000.00, 06/03/2024, DC Republican Party Federal Account; \$10,000.00, 06/03/2024, Republican Party of Iowa; \$10,000.00, 06/03/2024, Republican State Committee of Delaware; \$10,000.00, 06/03/2024, Michigan Republican Party; \$10,000.00, 06/03/2024, Maryland Republican State Central Committee; \$10,000.00, 06/03/2024, Kansas Republican Party; \$10,000.00, 06/03/2024, Illinois Republican Party—Federal;

\$10,000.00, 05/31/2024, Connecticut Republican State Central Committee, Inc.; \$1,000,000.00, 06/05/2023, Make America Great Again Inc. Seryl Kushner: None.

*Leah Campos, of Virginia, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Dominican Republic.

Nominee: Leah Francis Campos.

Post: Dominican Republic.

(The following is a list of members of my immediate family. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

Christian Schandlbauer \$0, N/A, N/A.

Isabela Schandlbauer \$0, N/A, N/A.

Soledad Schandlbauer \$0, N/A, N/A.

Xavier Schandlbauer \$0, N/A, N/A.

*Brandon Judd, of Idaho, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Chile.

Nominee: Brandon Judd.

Post: Ambassador to the Republic of Chile.

(The following is a list of members of my immediate family. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, Amount, Date, and Donee:

AnnaMarie Judd: \$25, 12/09/2023, Winred Nikki Haley.

Christa Judd: None.

Brianna Nukya: None.

Dominick Judd: None.

Adessa Judd: None.

Ezra Judd: None.

Zachary Judd: None.

*Joseph Popolo, of Texas, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

Nominee: Joseph Popolo.

Post: Ambassador to the Netherlands.

(The following is a list of members of my immediate family. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Name, organization, date, and amount:

Popolo, Joseph, Troy Nehls for Congress, 2/3/25, \$1,000.00; AFV Victory Fund, 12/21/23, \$50,000.00; Alabama Republican Party, 3/26/24, \$10,000.00; Alamo PAC, 6/10/21, \$5,000.00; Alamo PAC, 8/11/22, \$1,450.00; Alamo PAC, 10/1/24, \$5,000.00; Alaska Republican Party, 6/24/24, \$10,000.00; Alaskans for Nick Begich, 9/19/24, \$3,300.00; Alek for Oregon, 8/15/21, \$5,800.00; American Excellence PAC, 10/23/24, \$5,000.00; Americans for Prosperity Action, Inc. (AFP Action), DBA CVA Action and DBA Libre Action, 8/30/22, \$100,000.00; Americans for Prosperity Action, Inc. (AFP Action) DBA CVA Action and DBA Libre Action, 12/29/23, \$150,000.00; Andy Barr for Congress, Inc., 10/24/24, \$1,000.00; Andy Barr Victory Committee, 10/24/24, \$1,000.00; Anna Paulina Luna for Congress, 5/16/23, \$3,300.00; APL Victory Fund, 5/16/23, \$3,300.00; Arrington Victory Committee, 4/11/23, \$6,600.00; Ashley Hinson for Congress, 3/29/21, \$653.84; Ashley Hinson for Congress, 6/23/21, \$1,000.00; Ashley Hinson for Congress, 8/29/23, \$1,000.00; Ashley Hinson for Congress, 4/25/24, \$2,300.00; Ashley Hinson for Congress, 4/25/24, \$3,300.00; Ashley Hinson Victory Committee, 4/25/24, \$5,600.00; Banks for Senate, 6/19/23, \$3,300.00; Banks for Senate, 10/12/23, \$3,300.00; Barrasso Victory, 9/21/23, \$2,000.00; Be Victorious Over Democrats PAC, 7/30/21, \$5,000.00; Be Victorious Over

Democrats PAC, 2/28/22, \$5,000.00; Be Victorious Over Democrats PAC, 10/6/23, \$5,000.00; Ben Sasse for U.S. Senate, Inc., 4/16/21, \$2,900.00; Bernie Moreno for Senate, 4/8/24, \$3,300.00; Beth Van Duyne for Congress, 5/4/21, \$2,800.00; Beth Van Duyne for Congress, 5/4/21, \$2,800.00; Beth Van Duyne for Congress, 5/24/21, \$100.00; Beth Van Duyne for Congress, 6/1/21, \$100.00; Beth Van Duyne for Congress, 1/10/23, \$2,900.00; Beth Van Duyne for Congress, 5/5/23, \$2,900.00; Beth Van Duyne for Congress, 5/5/23, \$400.00; Beth Victory Fund, 2/28/22, \$5,000.00; Beth Victory Fund, 1/10/23, \$2,900.00; Beth Victory Fund, 5/5/23, \$3,300.00; Beth Victory Fund, 10/6/23, \$25,000.00; Better Path Forward PAC, Inc., 11/1/24, \$5,000.00; Bice for Congress, 6/23/21, \$1,000.00; Bice for Congress, 6/30/21, \$653.85; Bill Cassidy for U.S. Senate, 10/10/22, \$2,900.00; Blackburn Tennessee Victory Fund, 6/22/23, \$6,600.00; Blackburn Tennessee Victory Fund, 9/3/24, \$5,000.00; Blake Masters for Congress, 12/13/23, \$3,300.00; Blake Masters for Senate, 6/8/22, \$2,900.00; Blake Masters for Senate, 6/8/22, \$2,900.00; Bo Hines for Congress, 9/26/22, \$2,900.00; BOLDUC 2022, Inc., 4/11/21, \$5,800.00; Boozman for Arkansas, 6/1/21, \$192.31; Boozman for Arkansas, 3/22/22, \$5,800.00; Brandon for Congress NY22, 3/30/22, \$2,900.00; Brandon for Congress NY22, 8/29/23, \$1,000.00; Brandon for Congress NY22, 4/24/24, \$2,300.00; Brandon for Congress NY22, 9/19/24, \$3,125.00; Brandon for Congress NY22, 10/15/24, \$175.00; Brian Fitzpatrick for All of Us, 8/29/23, \$1,000.00; Brian Fitzpatrick for All of Us, 3/12/24, \$3,300.00; Brian Fitzpatrick for All of Us, 3/12/24, \$2,300.00; Brian Jack for Congress, 6/4/24, \$3,300.00; Britt for Alabama Inc, 3/9/22, \$2,900.00; Britt for Alabama Inc, 3/10/22, \$2,900.00; Budd NC Victory Fund 2028, 5/10/23, \$3,300.00; Burgess 4 Utah, 4/1/21, \$653.85; California Republican Party Federal Acct., 8/15/23, \$454.54; California Republican Party Federal Acct., 3/26/24, \$10,000.00; Cassidy Leadership Fund, 10/10/22, \$2,900.00; Cassy for Congress, 6/15/22, \$2,900.00; Cassy for Congress, 9/30/22, \$2,500.00; Catherine Templeton for Congress, 4/11/24, \$3,300.00; Celeste for Congress, 10/12/23, \$3,300.00; Champion American Values, 4/11/22, \$5,000.00; Chuck Edwards for Congress, 8/15/23, \$454.55; Chuck Edwards for Congress, 8/29/23, \$1,000.00; Ciscomani for Congress, 8/16/22, \$2,900.00; Ciscomani for Congress, 8/15/23, \$454.55; Ciscomani for Congress, 8/29/23, \$1,000.00; Ciscomani for Congress, 10/10/23, \$1,845.45; Ciscomani for Congress, 10/10/23, \$3,300.00; Ciscomani Victory Fund, 10/10/23, \$6,600.00; Citizens for Josh Mandel, Inc., 7/1/21, \$2,600.00; Claudia Tenney for Congress, 6/30/21, \$2,900.00; Claudia Tenney for Congress, 6/30/21, \$2,900.00; Claudia Tenney for Congress, 10/30/23, \$1,700.00; Claudia Tenney for Congress, 10/30/23, \$3,300.00; Claudia Tenney for Congress Victory Fund, 10/30/23, \$5,000.00; Colorado Republican Committee, 8/15/23, \$454.54; Colorado Republican Committee, 3/26/24, \$10,000.00; Committee to Elect Christian Castelli, 2/21/22, \$1,000.00; Committee to Elect Christian Castelli, 11/6/22, \$2,900.00; Committee to Elect Christian Castelli/Castelli for Congress, 12/21/23, \$6,600.00; Committee to Elect Jennifer-Ruth Green, 6/27/22, \$2,900.00; Congressional Leadership Fund, 3/29/21, \$45,000.00; Congressional Leadership Fund, 3/29/21, \$5,000.00; Congressional Leadership Fund, 12/21/21, \$200,000.00; Congressional Leadership Fund, 3/31/22, \$5,000.00; Congressional Leadership Fund, 10/13/22, \$100,000.00; Congressional Leadership Fund, 8/15/23, \$454.55; Congressional Leadership Fund, 12/6/23, \$250,000.00; Congressional Leadership Fund, 6/28/24, \$250,000.00; Cornyn Victory Committee, 5/21/21, \$2,500.00; Cornyn Victory Committee, 8/26/22, \$25,000.00; Cornyn Victory Committee, 3/27/23, \$25,000.00; Cornyn Victory Committee, 10/1/24, \$50,000.00; Cotton for Senate, Inc., 3/25/21, \$5,000.00; Cotton for Senate, Inc., 5/4/23, \$1,200.00; Cotton for Senate, Inc.,

5/4/23, \$400.00; Cotton Victory, 5/4/23, \$6,600.00; Coughlin for Congress, 8/12/24, \$3,300.00; Craig Goldman for Congress, 2/20/24, \$3,300.00; Craig Goldman for Congress, 3/28/24, \$3,300.00; Craig Riedel for Ohio, 12/15/23, \$3,300.00; Cramer for Senate, 3/29/23, \$3,300.00; Cramer for Senate, 6/22/23, \$3,300.00; Dallas Entrepreneur Political Action Committee, 4/15/24, \$5,000.00; Dan Crenshaw for Congress, 3/29/21, \$653.85; Dan Crenshaw for Congress, 7/30/21, \$653.85; Dan Crenshaw for Congress, 7/30/21, \$2,246.15; Dan Crenshaw for Congress, 9/3/24, \$1,000.00; Dan Crenshaw Victory Committee, 7/30/21, \$2,900.00; Darrell Issa for Congress, 3/29/21, \$653.84; Dave McCormick for U.S. Senate, 1/28/22, \$5,800.00; DC Republican Party Federal Account, 6/24/24, \$10,000.00; Deb Fischer for U.S. Senate, 3/29/23, \$122.22; Deb Fischer for U.S. Senate, 3/29/23, \$3,300.00; Deb Fischer for U.S. Senate, 10/10/24, \$3,177.78; Derrick Anderson for VA, Inc., 4/11/24, \$3,300.00; Derrick Anderson for VA, Inc., 10/10/24, \$1,650.00; Desposito for New York, 8/15/23, \$454.55; Desposito for New York, 8/29/23, \$1,000.00; Desposito for New York, 9/3/24, \$3,300.00; Devin Nunes Campaign Committee, 6/30/21, \$653.84; Devolder-Santos for Congress, 11/2/22, \$2,900.00; Doctor Oz for Senate, 6/10/22, \$5,800.00; Don Bacon for Congress, 8/29/23, \$1,000.00; Don Bacon for Congress, 9/3/24, \$3,300.00; electgabevans.com, 8/12/24, \$3,300.00; Electing Majority Making Effective Republicans PAC, 6/26/23, \$5,000.00; Electing Majority Making Effective Republicans PAC, 3/12/24, \$5,000.00; Eli Crane for Congress, 7/25/22, \$1,000.00; Eli for Colorado, 10/21/21, \$2,900.00; Elise for Congress, 8/10/21, \$2,900.00; Elise for Congress, 3/9/23, \$2,700.00; Elise for Congress, 3/9/23, \$3,300.00; Elise for Congress, 2/27/24, \$600.00; Elise Victory Fund, 3/9/23, \$6,000.00; Elise Victory Fund, 2/27/24, \$600.00; Emmer for Congress, 6/26/23, \$3,300.00; Emmer for Congress, 6/26/23, \$3,300.00; Emmer Majority Builders, 3/12/24, \$25,000.00; Emmer Victory Committee DBA Republican Congressional Victory Committee, 6/16/23, \$25,000.00; Emmer Victory Committee DBA Republican Congressional Victory Committee, 11/13/23, \$20,000.00; Esposito for Congress, 2/20/24, \$3,300.00; Esposito for Congress, 9/19/24, \$3,125.00; Esposito for Congress, 9/19/24, \$175.00; Esther for Congress, 6/16/21, \$2,900.00; Esther for Congress, 8/15/21, \$2,900.00; Families for James Lankford, 6/1/21, \$192.31; Families for James Lankford, 8/26/22, \$1,848.68; Fischbach for Congress, 3/29/21, \$653.84; Fischbach for Congress, 6/30/22, \$2,900.00; Fischbach for Congress, 5/5/23, \$1,666.67; Fischbach for Congress, 8/3/23, \$433.34; Fischbach for Congress, 8/3/23, \$1,633.33; Fischbach for Congress, 9/18/23, \$497.35; Freedom Force PAC, 7/18/24, \$3,300.00; French Hill for Arkansas, 3/16/24, \$1,000.00; Friends of Dave McCormick, 10/12/23, \$6,600.00; Friends of David Schweikert, 8/15/23, \$454.55; Friends of David Schweikert, 8/29/23, \$1,000.00; Friends of David Schweikert, 9/3/24, \$3,300.00; Friends of Jeremy Shaffer, 9/22/22, \$2,900.00; Friends of John Barrasso, 3/29/23, \$122.22; Friends of John Barrasso, 3/29/23, \$3,300.00; Friends of John Barrasso, 9/21/23, \$2,000.00; Friends of John Thune, 8/26/22, \$2,040.99; Friends of Kennedy, 7/5/23, \$6,600.00; Friends of McCormick, 3/12/24, \$3,300.00; Friends of McCormick, 10/14/24, \$3,300.00; Friends of Mike Lee Inc, 3/16/21, \$5,800.00; Friends of Todd Young, Inc., 6/2/21, \$2,900.00; Friends of Todd Young, Inc., 8/26/22, \$1,848.68; Friends of Todd Young, Inc., 12/21/23, \$3,300.00; Friends of Todd Young, Inc., 12/21/23, \$3,300.00; Garbarino for Congress, 9/19/24, \$3,125.00; Garbarino for Congress, 9/19/24, \$175.00; George Logan for Congress, 10/16/24, \$3,300.00; Georgia Republican Party Inc., 6/24/24, \$10,000.00; Gerald Malloy for U.S. Senate, Limited, 10/17/22, \$1,000.00; Go with Chuck Goodrich, Inc., 10/12/23, \$3,300.00; GOP Winning Women, 6/23/21, \$6,000.00; GOP Winning Women-Texas, 9/26/22, \$10,000.00; Grassley

Committee, Inc., 8/2/21, \$2,900.00; Grassley Committee, Inc., 8/2/21, \$2,900.00; Great American Comeback, 7/25/23, \$5,000.00; Great American Comeback, 1/2/24, \$5,000.00; Green Victory Fund, 5/22/24, \$3,300.00; Growing the Majority through NY, 9/19/24, \$25,000.00; Hardworking Americans Inc., 8/30/24, \$10,000.00; Hellfire PAC, 3/29/22, \$2,500.00; Hispanic Leadership Trust, 4/23/24, \$2,500.00; Hoeven for Senate, 6/30/21, \$178.57; Hoeven for Senate, 8/26/22, \$1,848.68; Hogan for Maryland Inc., 3/26/24, \$6,600.00; Hogan Victory Fund, 11/1/24, \$25,000.00; Hovde for Wisconsin, 3/19/24, \$6,600.00; Hunt for Congress, 9/21/21, \$5,800.00; Hunt for Congress, 3/27/23, \$1,700.00; Hunt for Congress, 3/27/23, \$3,300.00; Idaho Republican Party, 3/26/24, \$3,900.00; Idaho Republican Party, 9/19/24, \$6,100.00; Illinois Republican Party—Federal, 8/15/23, \$454.54; Illinois Republican Party—Federal, 9/19/24, \$10,000.00; Indiana Republican State Committee, Inc., 9/19/24, \$10,000.00; Iowans for Zach Nunn, 8/29/23, \$1,000.00; Iowans for Zach Nunn, 4/11/24, \$3,300.00; Iron Ladies PAC, 6/15/22, \$10,000.00; Iron Ladies PAC, 5/5/23, \$5,000.00; Iron Ladies PAC, 8/3/23, \$6,600.00; Iron Ladies PAC, 9/18/23, \$994.71; Jaime for Congress, 6/23/21, \$1,000.00; Jake Ellzey Victory Fund, 12/3/21, \$5,800.00; Jan for Congress, 5/23/22, \$1,000.00; Jane Timken for Ohio, 11/17/21, \$2,900.00; Jane Timken for Ohio, 2/18/22, \$2,900.00; Jason Smith for Congress, 8/16/23, \$6,600.00; JD Vance for Senate Inc., 9/13/21, \$2,900.00; JD Vance for Senate Inc., 8/11/22, \$2,900.00; Jeff Hurd for Congress, 7/7/24, \$3,300.00; Jeff Hurd for Congress, 10/16/24, \$3,300.00; Jeremy Shaffer Victory Fund, 9/22/22, \$2,900.00; Jim Jordan for Congress, 8/10/23, \$3,300.00; Jim Jordan for Congress, 8/10/23, \$3,300.00; Jim Justice for U.S. Senate, 6/30/23, \$3,300.00; JKLC Victory Fund, 3/12/24, \$5,000.00; JKLC Victory Fund, 3/12/24, \$5,000.00; Jobs, Freedom, and Security PAC, 8/11/22, \$1,450.00; Jobs, Freedom, and Security PAC, 4/25/23, \$4,400.00; Jobs, Freedom, and Security PAC, 12/14/23, \$600.00; Jobs, Freedom, and Security PAC, 3/6/24, \$5,000.00; Joe O'Dea for Senate, 9/22/22, \$2,900.00; John Duarte for Congress, 8/15/23, \$454.55; John Duarte for Congress, 8/28/23, \$1,000.00; John Duarte for Congress, 5/31/24, \$3,300.00; John James for Congress, Inc., 2/1/22, \$5,800.00; John James for Congress, Inc., 7/19/23, \$3,300.00; John James for Congress, Inc., 7/19/23, \$3,300.00; John James for Michigan, 7/19/23, \$6,600.00; John Kennedy for US, 9/19/22, \$2,900.00; John Kennedy for US, 9/19/22, \$2,900.00; John Kennedy for US, 6/29/23, \$3,300.00; John Kennedy for US, 6/29/23, \$3,300.00; Joni Ernst for Senate, 12/23/24, \$13,200.00; Ernst Victory Iowa, 12/30/24, \$11,800.00; Josh Hawley for Senate, 3/29/23, \$122.22; Josh Hawley for Senate, 3/29/23, \$3,300.00; Josh Hawley for Senate, 10/1/24, \$3,177.76; Julia Letlow for Congress, 3/4/21, \$1,160.00; Julia Letlow for Congress, 3/17/21, \$1,160.00; Julia Letlow for Congress, 3/17/21, \$1,740.00; Kansas Republican Party, 9/19/24, \$10,000.00; Kari Lake for Senate, 3/28/24, \$3,300.00; Kari Lake Victory Fund, 3/28/24, \$3,300.00; Kay Granger Campaign Fund, 10/21/21, \$2,900.00; Kay Granger Campaign Fund, 10/21/21, \$2,900.00; Kean for Congress Inc, 1/24/22, \$2,900.00; Kean for Congress Inc, 6/30/23, \$1,000.00; Kean for Congress Inc, 8/15/23, \$454.54; Kean for Congress Inc, 9/30/23, \$1,000.00; Keeping Republican Ideas Strong Timely & Inventive, 10/22/22, \$1,000.00; Keeping Republican Ideas Strong Timely & Inventive, 10/22/22, \$1,000.00; Kennedy Victory Fund 2024, 10/17/24, \$20,000.00; Kevin Kiley for Congress, 8/15/23, \$454.55; Kevin Kiley for Congress, 8/29/23, \$1,000.00; Kevin Lincoln for Congress, 10/16/24, \$3,300.00; Kevin McCarthy for Congress, 3/4/21, \$2,900.00; Kevin McCarthy for Congress, 3/15/23, \$3,300.00; Kevin McCarthy for Congress, 3/15/23, \$3,300.00; Kiggans for Congress, 12/31/21, \$2,900.00; Kiggans for Congress, 6/30/22, \$2,900.00; Kiggans for Congress, 2/17/23, \$1,666.67; Kiggans for Congress, 8/3/23, \$433.34; Kiggans for Congress, 8/25/23, \$1,633.33; Kiggans for Congress, 8/29/23, \$1,000.00; Kiggans for Congress, 3/12/24, \$1,866.66; Lalota for Congress, 9/19/24, \$3,125.00; Lalota for Congress, 10/2/24, \$175.00; Lalota for Congress, 10/10/24, \$3,300.00; Lance Gooden for Congress Committee, 2/1/21, \$2,800.00; Lance Gooden for Congress Committee, 6/7/23, \$3,300.00; Larose for Senate, 12/11/23, \$6,600.00; Lauren Boebert for Congress, 3/8/21, \$1,740.00; Laurie Buckhout for Congress, 5/15/24, \$3,300.00; Lawler for Congress, Inc., 8/14/23, \$3,300.00; Lawler for Congress, Inc., 8/29/23, \$1,000.00; Lawler for Congress, Inc., 3/12/24, \$2,300.00; Laxalt for Senate, 2/16/22, \$5,800.00; Leslie for Washington, 9/28/23, \$3,300.00; Lets Get To Work PAC, 6/1/23, \$3,422.22; Libertarian National Committee, Inc., 10/22/24, \$13,400.00; Lisa Murkowski for U.S. Senate, 8/26/22, \$2,040.99; Lori Chavez-Deremer for Congress, 8/15/23, \$454.55; Lori Chavez-Deremer for Congress, 8/29/23, \$1,000.00; Lori Chavez-Deremer Victory, 8/15/23, \$454.55; Luisa for Texas, 11/21/23, \$6,600.00; Mackenzie for Congress Committee, 8/12/24, \$3,300.00; Maine Republican Party, 3/26/24, \$10,000.00; Majority Committee PAC—MC PAC, 3/29/21, \$5,000.00; Majority Committee PAC—MC PAC, 3/8/22, \$5,000.00; Majority Committee PAC—MC PAC, 3/15/23, \$5,000.00; Majority Committee PAC—MC PAC, 8/15/23, \$454.55; Making a Responsible Stand for Households in America PAC, 6/22/23, \$5,000.00; Making a Responsible Stand for Households in America PAC, 9/3/24, \$5,000.00; Marc for Us Inc., 8/29/23, \$1,000.00; Marc for Us Inc., 9/3/24, \$3,300.00; Marco Rubio for Senate, 3/30/21, \$2,900.00; Marco Rubio for Senate, 3/30/21, \$2,900.00; Mark Green for Congress, 5/22/24, \$3,300.00; Marsha for Senate, 12/16/21, \$5,800.00; Marsha for Senate, 3/29/23, \$400.00; Marsha for Senate, 3/29/23, \$122.22; Marsha for Senate, 6/22/23, \$277.78; Maryland Republican State Central Committee, 9/19/24, \$10,000.00; Maryland's Future, 9/4/24, \$3,437.86; Maryland's Future, 9/5/24, \$10,000.00; Massachusetts Republican Party, 3/26/24, \$10,000.00; Masters Victory Committee, 12/13/23, \$6,600.00; Matt Rosendale for Montana, 3/29/21, \$653.85; Matt Rosendale for Montana, 5/6/21, \$2,900.00; Max Miller for Congress, 9/14/23, \$2,000.00; Max Miller Victory, 9/14/23, \$2,000.00; Mayra Flores for Congress, 11/1/21, \$2,900.00; Mayra Flores for Congress, 11/1/21, \$2,900.00; Mayra Flores for Congress, 7/11/23, \$6,600.00; Mazi for Congress, 1/19/24, \$6,600.00; McCormick Victory Fund, 10/14/24, \$3,300.00; McGuire for Virginia, 3/22/24, \$3,300.00; McGuire Victory Fund, 3/22/24, \$3,300.00; McHenry for Congress, 10/18/22, \$2,900.00; McHenry for Congress, 8/10/23, \$6,600.00; McKay for Senate Inc., 2/8/24, \$1,000.00; Merrin for Congress, 8/12/24, \$3,300.00; Michael Waltz for Congress, 6/19/23, \$3,300.00; Michael Waltz for Congress, 9/18/23, \$1,000.00; Michael Waltz for Congress, 7/15/24, \$2,300.00; Michelle Steel for Congress, 6/23/21, \$1,000.00; Michelle Steel for Congress, 8/29/23, \$1,000.00; Michelle Steel for Congress, 9/3/24, \$3,300.00; Michigan Republican Party, 8/15/23, \$454.54; Michigan Republican Party, 3/26/24, \$10,000.00; Mike Crapo for US Senate, 3/25/21, \$2,900.00; Mike Crapo for US Senate, 3/25/21, \$2,900.00; Mike Garcia for Congress, 8/29/23, \$1,000.00; Mike Garcia for Congress, 9/3/24, \$3,300.00; Mike Johnson for Louisiana, 10/26/23, \$6,600.00; Miller-Meeks for Congress, 5/20/21, \$5,800.00; Miller-Meeks for Congress, 6/13/23, \$3,300.00; Miller-Meeks for Congress, 4/11/24, \$3,300.00; Mission First People Always Pac, 7/19/23, \$1,000.00; Mississippi Republican Party, 6/24/24, \$10,000.00; Missouri Republican State Committee-Federal, 6/24/24, \$10,000.00; Monica for Congress, 8/15/21, \$2,900.00; Monica for Congress, 3/7/22, \$2,900.00; Monica for Congress, 2/27/23, \$3,300.00; Monica for Congress,

5/5/23, \$1,666.67; Monica for Congress, 8/3/23, \$1,633.33; Montana Red, 10/23/24, \$5,000.00; Montana Republican State Central Committee, 9/19/24, \$10,000.00; Mooney for Senate, Inc., 6/30/23, \$1,000.00; Mooney for Senate, Inc., 12/21/23, \$2,300.00; Moran for Kansas, 8/26/22, \$1,848.68; Mullin for America, 8/8/22, \$1,000.00; Mullin for America, 8/26/22, \$1,849.11; Nancy Dahlstrom for Alaska, 1/26/24, \$3,300.00; Nancy Mace for Congress, 3/29/21, \$653.85; Nancy Mace for Congress, 6/23/21, \$1,000.00; Nebraska Republican Party, 9/19/24, \$10,000.00; Nehls for Congress, 8/12/24, \$3,300.00; Nella for Senate, 10/1/24, \$3,300.00; Nevada Republican Central Committee, 8/15/23, \$454.54; Nevada Republican Central Committee, 9/19/24, \$10,000.00; Never Back Down Inc., 5/30/23, \$100,000.00; Never Back Down Inc., 11/6/23, \$100,000.00; Never Surrender, Inc., 2/8/24, \$3,300.00; Never Surrender, Inc., 9/19/24, \$3,300.00; New Hampshire Republican State Committee, 9/19/24, \$10,000.00; New Jersey Republican State Committee, 8/18/23, \$454.54; New Jersey Republican State Committee, 9/19/24, \$10,000.00; Noem Victory Fund, 4/14/22, \$4,000.00; Noem Victory Fund, 10/22/22, \$5,000.00; North Carolina Republican Party, 8/15/23, \$454.54; North Carolina Republican Party, 9/19/24, \$10,000.00; North Dakota Republican Party, 9/19/24, \$10,000.00; NRCC, 3/29/21, \$36,500.00; NRCC, 3/8/22, \$5,000.00; NRCC, 3/31/22, \$31,500.00; NRCC, 3/31/22, \$13,500.00; NRCC, 3/15/23, \$38,400.00; NRCC, 6/26/23, \$2,900.00; NRCC, 6/26/23, \$10,500.00; NRCC, 8/15/23, \$454.55; NRCC, 10/6/23, \$10,000.00; NRCC, 10/6/23, \$10,000.00; NRCC, 11/20/23, \$20,000.00; NRCC, 3/12/24, \$5,500.00; NRCC, 9/19/24, \$11,800.00; NRSC, 6/7/21, \$25,000.00; NRSC, 3/8/22, \$36,500.00; NRSC, 3/8/22, \$13,500.00; NRSC, 6/13/23, \$8,700.00; NRSC, 6/13/23, \$41,300.00; NRSC, 12/15/23, \$10,000.00; NRSC, 3/27/24, \$41,300.00; NRSC, 6/4/24, \$8,700.00; NRSC, 10/1/24, \$32,166.72; NRSC, 11/1/24, \$20,000.00; NRSC Victory, 10/23/24, \$50,000.00; NY Republican Federal Campaign Committee, 7/12/24, \$300.00; NY Republican Federal Campaign Committee, 9/19/24, \$9,700.00; O'Dea Victory Committee, 9/22/22, \$2,900.00; Ohio Republican Party State Central & Executive Committee, 8/15/23, \$454.54; Ohio Republican Party State Central & Executive Committee, 9/19/24, \$10,000.00; Ohioans for JD, 9/13/21, \$2,900.00; Oklahoma Leadership Council, 6/24/24, \$10,000.00; One Georgia Pac, 9/1/20, \$2,800.00; Oregon Republican Party, 8/15/23, \$454.54; Oregon Republican Party, 3/26/24, \$10,000.00; Patriots for Perry, 8/15/23, \$454.54; Paul Junge for Congress, 10/28/24, \$3,300.00; Perdue for Senate, 9/6/20, \$2,700.00; Perdue for Senate, 11/6/25, \$2,800.00; Perdue for Senate, 3/20/20, \$2,900.00; Pete Ricketts for Senate, 6/2/23, \$3,300.00; Pete Ricketts for Senate, 6/2/23, \$3,300.00; Project Rescue America, 3/27/24, \$5,000.00; Protect the House 2024, 3/15/23, \$50,000.00; Protect the House 2024, 8/15/23, \$454.55; Protect the House 2024, 8/29/23, \$25,000.00; Rand Paul for US Senate, 1/16/21, \$5,600.00; Rand Paul for US Senate, 6/30/21, \$192.31; Rand Paul for US Senate, 8/26/22, \$7.69; Republican Campaign Committee of New Mexico, 8/18/23, \$454.54; Republican Campaign Committee of New Mexico, 10/8/24, \$10,000.00; Republican Federal Committee of Pennsylvania, 8/15/23, \$454.54; Republican Federal Committee of Pennsylvania, 9/19/24, \$10,000.00; Republican Majority Fund, 5/4/23, \$5,000.00; Republican National Committee, 3/29/21, \$36,500.00; Republican National Committee, 3/29/21, \$63,500.00; Republican National Committee, 1/18/22, \$36,500.00; Republican National Committee, 1/18/22, \$13,500.00; Republican National Committee, 3/15/23, \$41,300.00; Republican National Committee, 3/15/23, \$8,700.00; Republican National Committee, 2/29/24, \$41,300.00; Republican National Committee, 2/29/24, \$8,700.00; Republican National Committee, 3/28/24, \$65,200.00;

Republican National Committee, 3/28/24, \$85,900.00; Republican National Committee, 3/28/24, \$123,900.00; Republican National Committee, 6/24/24, \$29,300.00; Republican National Committee, 6/24/24, \$58,700.00; Republican National Committee, 9/19/24, \$83,900.00; Republican Party of Arizona, LLC, 8/15/23, \$454.54; Republican Party of Arizona, LLC, 3/26/24, \$10,000.00; Republican Party of Arkansas, 3/26/24, \$10,000.00; Republican Party of Florida, 3/26/24, \$10,000.00; Republican Party of Guam, 6/24/24, \$10,000.00; Republican Party of Iowa, 8/15/23, \$454.54; Republican Party of Iowa, 3/26/24, \$10,000.00; Republican Party of Kentucky, 10/2/23, \$10,000.00; Republican Party of Kentucky, 8/27/24, \$10,000.00; Republican Party of Louisiana, 6/24/24, \$10,000.00; Republican Party of Minnesota-Federal, 8/18/23, \$454.54; Republican Party of Minnesota-Federal, 9/19/24, \$10,000.00; Republican Party of Texas, 12/15/23, \$10,000.00; Republican Party of Texas, 9/19/24, \$10,000.00; Republican Party of Virginia Inc., 9/19/24, \$10,000.00; Republican Party of Wisconsin, 9/19/24, \$10,000.00; Republican State Committee of Delaware, 6/24/24, \$10,000.00; Restore our Nation (RON Pac), 5/24/23, \$6,600.00; Rhode Island Republican State Central Committee, 9/19/24, \$10,000.00; Rick Scott for Florida, 3/29/23, \$122.22; Rick Scott for Florida 3/29/23, \$3,300.00; Rick Scott for Florida, 6/1/23, \$3,177.78; Right Arizona, 12/13/23, \$3,300.00; Rob for PA, 8/12/24, \$3,300.00; Rogers for Senate, 2/5/24, \$3,300.00; Rogers for Senate, 8/22/24, \$3,300.00; Romney for Utah, Inc., 3/29/23, \$122.22; Romney for Utah, Inc., 3/29/23, \$3,300.00; Ron Johnson for Senate, Inc., 1/24/22, \$5,800.00; Rubio Victory Committee, 3/30/21, \$5,800.00; Salazar for Congress, 6/23/21, \$1,000.00; Salazar for Congress, 3/12/24, \$3,300.00; Salazar for Congress, 3/12/24, \$3,300.00; Salazar Victory Committee, 7/15/24, \$3,300.00; Sam Brown for Nevada, 12/18/23, \$6,600.00; Sarah for Alaska, 5/19/22, \$1,000.00; Sasse Leadership Committee, 4/16/21, \$2,900.00; Save America, 2/8/24, \$5,000.00; Scallise for Congress, 2/4/22, \$5,800.00; Scheller for Congress, Inc., 7/6/22, \$2,900.00; Schmitt for Senate, 7/21/22, \$5,800.00; Schmitt for Senate, 6/7/24, \$6,600.00; Schmitt for Senate, 12/23/24, \$6,600.00; School Freedom Fund, 2/2/24, \$100,000.00; Senate Eagle PAC, 4/5/24, \$5,000.00; Senate Leadership Fund, 5/9/22, \$100,000.00; Senate Leadership Fund, 10/18/22, \$25,000.00; Send in the Seal PAC, 10/23/24, \$5,000.00; Servant Leadership Fund, 6/13/23, \$3,300.00; Servant Leadership Fund, 9/12/23, \$1,000.00; Smiley for Washington Inc., 9/19/22, \$2,900.00; South Carolina Republican Party, 6/24/24, \$10,000.00; South Dakota Republican Party, 8/27/24, \$10,000.00; Stand for America PAC, 4/16/21, \$2,500.00; Steil for Wisconsin, Inc., 8/29/23, \$1,000.00; Take Back The House 2022, 3/29/21, \$50,000.00; Take Back The House 2022, 3/8/22, \$10,000.00; Take Back The House 2022, 3/31/22, \$50,000.00; Tanya for Arizona, 7/25/22, \$2,900.00; Tanya for Arizona, 7/29/22, \$2,900.00; Team Brian Jack, 5/8/24, \$3,300.00; Team Brian Jack, 6/4/24, \$3,300.00; Team Desantis 2024, 7/25/23, \$5,000.00; Team Desantis 2024, 1/2/24, \$5,000.00; Team Hagerty, 7/15/22, \$5,800.00; Team Hagerty, 4/5/24, \$400.00; Team Hagerty, 4/5/24, \$400.00; Team Hagerty Victory, 4/2/24, \$6,600.00; Team Herschel, Inc, 5/18/22, \$5,800.00; Team Herschel, Inc, 11/11/22, \$2,900.00; Team Josh, 5/21/21, \$2,600.00; Team Kennedy, 10/20/24, \$3,300.00; Team Kennedy, 10/20/24, \$3,300.00; Team McCormick, 10/4/24, \$5,000.00; Team McHenry, 10/18/22, \$2,900.00; Team Monica Victory, 2/27/23, \$3,300.00; Team Mooney, 12/21/23, \$2,300.00; Team Moreno, 4/3/24, \$3,300.00; Team Rick Scott, 6/1/23, \$6,600.00; Team Ronny, 4/12/24, \$3,300.00; Ted Budd for Senate, 5/11/22, \$2,900.00; Ted Budd for Senate, 5/11/22, \$2,900.00; Ted Budd for Senate, 5/12/23, \$3,300.00; Ted Cruz for Senate, 6/2/21, \$1,000.00; Ted Cruz for Senate, 4/25/23, \$3,300.00; Ted Cruz for Senate, 4/25/23, \$2,300.00; Ted Cruz Victory Committee, 4/25/23, \$10,000.00; Ted

Cruz Victory Fund, 12/14/23, \$600.00; Ted Cruz Victory Fund, 12/15/23, \$20,000.00; Ted Cruz Victory Fund, 3/6/24, \$5,000.00; Ted Cruz Victory Fund, 3/27/24, \$41,300.00; Tennessee Republican Party Federal Election Account, 6/22/23, \$1,322.22; Tennessee Republican Party Federal Election Account, 6/24/24, \$7,000.00; Tennessee Republican Party Federal Election Account, 7/10/24, \$3,000.00; Tenney Van Dwyne Victory Fund, 6/21/21, \$5,800.00; Texans for Jodey Arrington, 6/3/21, \$2,900.00; Texans for Jodey Arrington, 4/11/23, \$3,300.00; Texans for Jodey Arrington, 4/11/23, \$3,300.00; Texans for Morgan Luttrell, 12/7/21, \$5,800.00; Texans for Morgan Luttrell, 12/13/21, \$2,900.00; Texans for Ronny Jackson, 6/22/22, \$2,900.00; Texans for Ronny Jackson, 4/12/24, \$3,300.00; Texans for Senator John Cornyn Inc., 8/26/22, \$2,707.72; Texans for Senator John Cornyn Inc., 3/29/23, \$122.24, Texans for Senator John Cornyn Inc., 3/29/23, \$400.00; Texas Republican Voter Engagement PAC, 11/22/21, \$5,000.00; Texas Republican Voter Engagement PAC, 1/4/22, \$5,000.00; Texas Republican Voter Engagement PAC, 1/19/24, \$5,000.00; The Sentinel Action Fund, 4/3/24, \$10,000.00; Theriault for Congress, 8/12/24, \$3,300.00; Tim Scott for America, 4/13/23, \$6,600.00; Tim Scott for Senate, 4/19/21, \$5,800.00; Tim Sheehy for Montana, 6/28/23, \$6,600.00; Tom Barrett for Congress, 8/5/24, \$6,600.00; Tony Gonzales for Congress, 2/8/21, \$5,600.00; Tony Gonzales for Congress, 10/21/24, \$3,300.00; Trump 47 Committee, Inc., 3/26/24, \$275,000.00; Trump 47 Committee, Inc., 6/24/24, \$215,000.00; Trump 47 Committee, Inc., 7/10/24, \$3,300.00; Trump 47 Committee, Inc., 7/12/24, \$10,000.00; Trump 47 Committee, Inc., 9/19/24, \$313,000.00; Trump Save America Joint Fundraising Committee, 2/8/24, \$11,600.00; Utah Republican Party, 8/27/24, \$9,700.00; Utah Republican Party, 8/27/24, \$300.00; Valadao for Congress, 8/15/23, \$454.55; Valadao for Congress, 8/29/23, \$1,000.00; Valadao for Congress, 2/7/24, \$1,846.00; Valadao for Congress, 10/10/24, \$3,299.00; Valor PAC, 10/10/24, \$1,650.00; Van Dwyne Kim Victory Fund, 6/5/21, \$2,900.00; Van Orden for Congress, 8/16/21, \$2,900.00; Van Orden for Congress, 9/9/21, \$2,900.00; Van Orden for Congress, 6/29/23, \$3,300.00; Van Orden for Congress, 6/29/23, \$3,300.00; Van Orden Victory Fund, 6/29/23, \$6,600.00; Van Taylor Campaign, 3/8/21, \$2,900.00; Van Taylor Campaign, 1/8/22, \$2,900.00; Vermont Republican Federal Elections Committee, 10/23/24, \$3,073.94; Villaverde for Congress, 8/4/23, \$1,000.00; Washington State Republican Party, 8/15/23, \$454.54; Washington State Republican Party, 9/19/24, \$10,000.00; Wendy Davis for Congress, 10/12/23, \$3,300.00; Wesley Hunt Victory Fund, 3/27/23, \$5,000.00; West Virginia Republican Party, Inc., 9/19/24, \$10,000.00; WFW Action Fund, Inc., 5/19/22, \$25,000.00; WFW Action Fund, Inc., 9/12/24, \$25,000.00; Wicker for Senate, 3/29/23, \$3,300.00; Wicker for Senate, 3/29/23, \$122.22; Wicker for Senate, 10/1/24, \$3,177.76; Win The Senate 2022, 8/4/22, \$11,600.00; Winning Women Victory Committee 2022, 12/14/21, \$2,900.00; Wyoming Republican Party, Inc., 3/26/24, \$10,000.00; Young Kim for Congress, 4/1/21, \$653.84; Young Kim for Congress, 6/25/21, \$2,900.00; Young Kim for Congress, 10/10/24, \$3,300.00; Young Victory Committee, 12/21/23, \$6,600.00; Yvette4Congress, 8/15/24, \$3,300.00; Zeldin for Congress, 4/1/21, \$653.85; Zinke for Congress, 8/29/23, \$1,000.00; Citizens for Scharf—Missouri Attorney General, 3/20/23, \$2,825.00; Daniel Cameron for Governor (KY), 6/6/23, \$2,100.00; Glenn Youngkin for Governor (VA), 4/27/23, \$11,600.00; Jeff Landry for Governor (LA), 5/10/23, \$2,500.00; Kim Reynolds for Governor (IA), 11/15/23, \$10,000.00; Republican Party Of Kentucky, 9/26/23, \$15,000.00; Winsome Sears PAC (VA Lt. Gov), 3/16/23, \$5,000.00; Glenn Youngkin for Governor (VA), 9/18/21, \$5,000.00; Winsome Sears for Lt Governor (VA), 11/28/

21, \$1,000.00; Kristi Noem for Governor, 4/8/22, \$5,000.00; Noem Victory Fund, 10/22/22, \$5,000.00; Brian Kemp for Governor (GA), 9/30/22, \$7,600.00; Sarah Huckabee Sanders for Governor (AR), 2/2/21, \$5,600.00; Winsome PAC, 6/6/24, \$25,000.00; Lt. Gov Winsome Sears of VA), 8/6/24, \$25,000.00; Jennifer Stoddard Hajdu, 1/30/24, \$10,000.00; Morgan Meyer, 2/22/24, \$25,000.00; Morgan Meyer, 1/9/24, \$1,000.00; Marc Andrew LaHood, 2/22/24, \$10,000.00; Alan Schoolcraft, 4/11/24, \$6,600.00; Helen Kerwin, 4/11/24, \$6,600.00; Jamie Kohlmann, 4/3/24, \$2,500.00; Jamie Kohlmann, 1/22/24, \$2,500.00; Nathaniel Parker, 9/12/24, \$2,500.00; David M. Middleton, 2/5/24, \$5,000.00; Adan Hinojosa, 8/30/24, \$5,000.00; Katrina Pierson, 4/8/24, \$6,600.00; Texans for Greg Abbot, 6/5/24, \$5,000.00; Hillary Hickland, 2/16/24, \$25,000.00; Texans for Lawsuit Reform PAC, 10/2/24, \$100,000.00; Judicial Fairness PAC, 8/13/24, \$125,000.00; Judicial Fairness PAC, 10/1/24, \$125,000.00; Chris Spencer, 4/8/24, \$6,600.00; Christi Craddick, 3/29/24, \$15,000.00; Family Empowerment Coalition PAC, 4/29/24, \$10,000.00; Family Empowerment Coalition PAC, 9/24/24, \$100,000.00; Family Empowerment Coalition PAC, 4/26/24, \$13,200.00; Family Empowerment Coalition PAC, 2/5/24, \$50,000.00; Texans for Dan Patrick 11/20/24, \$25,000.00; Texans for Dan Patrick, 6/28/24, \$50,000.00; Morgan Meyer, 11/29/23, \$5,000.00; Morgan Meyer, 6/23/23, \$5,000.00; Nathaniel Parker, 11/10/23, \$5,000.00; Matthew Phelan, 9/20/23, \$25,000.00; Angela Paxton, 6/30/23, \$1,000.00; Friends of Brandon Creighton, 8/21/23, \$7,500.00; Nathaniel Parker, 6/30/23, \$2,500.00; Drew Alan Springer, 6/30/23, \$2,500.00; Helen Kerwin, 12/22/23, \$10,410.16; David M. Middleton, 6/30/23, \$2,500.00; Texans for Lawsuit Reform PAC, 8/1/23, \$100,000.00; Bradley Buckley, 7/4/23, \$2,602.54 Coalition POR for Texas PAC, 5/1/24, \$100,000.00; Coalition POR for Texas PAC, 4/3/23, \$100,000.00; Chris Spencer, 12/28/23, \$6,600.00; Chris Spencer, 12/28/23, \$3,300.00; AFC Victory Fund, 12/21/23, \$50,000.00; Richard Pena Raymond, 6/30/23, \$2,500.00; Family Empowerment Coalition PAC, 12/6/23, \$25,000.00; Family Empowerment Coalition PAC, 11/9/23, \$50,000.00; Family Empowerment Coalition PAC, 7/18/23, \$50,000.00; Texans for Dan Patrick, 6/29/23, \$25,000.00; Michael Olcott, 12/6/23, \$25,000.00; Nathaniel Parker, 12/8/22, \$2,034.21; Nathaniel Parker, 6/16/22, \$5,000.00; Kevin Sparks, 2/4/22, \$2,500.00; Melisa Denis, 6/9/22, \$2,500.00; Glenn Hegar, 4/15/22, \$1,000.00; Morgan Meyer, 6/3/22, \$2,500.00; Ryan Guillen, 2/24/22, \$5,000.00; Texans for Greg Abbott, 5/25/22, \$30,000.00; George P Bush, 4/6/22, \$25,000.00; Angelia Duke Orr, 12/7/22, \$2,500.00; Travis Clardy, 12/21/22, \$2,500.00; Texans for Greg Abbott, 10/18/22, \$25,000.00; Texans for Greg Abbott, 8/29/22, \$25,000.00; Charles Anderson, 12/5/22, \$2,500.00; Texans for Lawsuit Reform PAC, 2/23/22, \$100,000.00; Morgan Meyer, 12/6/22, \$5,000.00; Coalition POR for Texas PAC, 3/28/22, \$50,000.00; Texans for Dan Patrick, 10/11/22, \$25,000.00; Eric Harless, 12/5/22, \$2,500.00; Trenton Ashby, 12/7/22, \$2,500.00; David Spiller, 12/5/22, \$2,500.00; Craig Goldman, 12/9/22, \$2,500.00; John Smithee, 12/8/22, \$2,500.00; Shelby Slawson, 12/9/22, \$2,500.00; Justin Holland, 12/10/22, \$2,602.54; Associated Republicans of Texas Campaign Fund, 10/18/22, \$10,000.00; Cecil Bell, 12/16/22, \$2,500.00; Harold Dutton, 12/10/22, \$2,500.00; Texans for Eva Guzman, 2/14/22, \$85,000.00; Matthew Phelan, 12/5/22, \$10,000.00; John Kuempel, 12/20/22, \$2,500.00; Geanie Morrison, 12/15/22, \$2,500.00; Morgan Meyer, 6/28/21, \$1,000.00; Associated Republicans of Texas Campaign Fund, 8/24/21, \$10,000.00; Texans for Greg Abbott, 6/30/21, \$25,000.00; Texans for Greg Abbott, 11/29/21, \$25,000.00; Texans for Eva Guzman, 6/30/21, \$7,500.00; Texans for Eva Guzman, 6/26/21, \$2,500.00; Texans for Lawsuit Reform PAC, 10/11/21, \$10,000.00; Christi Craddick, 10/20/21, \$1,000.00.

Note: While checking my responses against public databases, I discovered a contribution of \$2500 made in my name to ActBlue Texas in July 2023. I did not make that contribution and have no knowledge of it.

Name, organization, date, and amount:
Alaskans for Nick Begich, 9/19/24, \$3,300.00; Amanda Adkins for Congress, 9/19/22, \$2,900.00; Banks for Senate, 12/7/23, \$3,300.00; Be Victorious Over Democrats PAC, 10/6/23, \$5,000.00; Bernie Moreno for Senate, 4/8/24, \$3,300.00; Bernie Moreno for Senate, 10/3/24, \$3,300.00; Beth Van Duyne for Congress, 5/4/21, \$2,900.00; Beth Van Duyne for Congress, 5/4/21, \$2,900.00; Beth Van Duyne for Congress, 1/10/23, \$2,900.00; Beth Van Duyne for Congress, 10/6/23, \$3,300.00; Beth Van Duyne for Congress, 10/6/23, \$400.00; Beth Victory Fund, 5/4/21, \$5,800.00; Beth Victory Fund, 1/10/23, \$2,900.00; Beth Victory Fund, 10/6/23, \$25,000.00; Bo Hines for Congress, 9/26/22, \$2,900.00; Bolduc 2022, Inc., 11/1/22, \$2,900.00; Bolduc 2022, Inc., 4/22/21, \$2,800.00; Brandon for Congress NY22, 3/30/22, \$2,900.00; Brandon for Congress NY22, 8/16/22, \$2,900.00; Brandon for Congress NY22, 3/30/23, \$5,000.00; Budd NC Victory Fund 2028, 5/10/23, \$3,300.00; Ciscomani for Congress, 8/16/22, \$2,900.00; Claudia Tenney for Congress, 7/23/21, \$653.85; Committee to Elect Christian Castelli, 8/26/22, \$2,900.00; Committee to Elect Christian Castelli, 8/26/22, \$2,900.00; Committee to Elect Christian Castelli/Castelli for Congress, 2/21/24, \$2,000.00; Committee to Elect Jennifer-Ruth Green, 6/27/22, \$2,900.00; Cotton Victory Fund, 1/6/25, \$6,600.00; Cramer for Senate, 6/30/23, \$122.22; Dave McCormick for US Senate, 1/28/22, \$2,900.00; Dave McCormick for US Senate, 1/28/22, \$5,800.00; Doctor Oz for Senate, 10/7/22, \$2,900.00; Doctor Oz for Senate, 10/7/22, \$2,900.00; Esther for Congress, 9/28/21, \$2,900.00; Friends of Dave McCormick, 11/27/23, \$6,600.00; Friends of Jeremy Shaffer, 9/22/22, \$2,900.00; Grassley Committee, Inc., 9/27/21, \$2,900.00; Grassley Committee, Inc., 9/27/21, \$2,900.00; Great American Comeback, 7/25/23, \$5,000.00; Hawkeye Fund, 9/27/21, \$5,800.00; Hogan for Maryland Inc., 10/4/24, \$3,300.00; Howde for Wisconsin, 10/3/24, \$3,300.00; Hunt for Congress, 9/21/21, \$5,800.00; Iowans for Zach Nunn, 8/16/24, \$3,300.00; Jane Timken for Ohio, 11/17/21, \$2,900.00; Jane Timken for Ohio, 2/18/22, \$2,900.00; Jeff Hurd for Congress, 7/7/21, \$2,900.00; Jeremy Shaffer Victory Fund, 9/22/22, \$2,900.00; Jobs, Freedom, and Security PAC, 6/12/23, \$5,000.00; Joe O'Dea for Senate, 9/22/22, \$2,900.00; John James for Congress, Inc., 2/1/22, \$2,900.00; John James for Congress, Inc., 8/23/24, \$3,300.00; John James for Michigan 8/23/24, \$3,300.00; Kean for Congress Inc, 8/16/24, \$3,300.00; Kevin McCarthy for Congress, 3/8/21, \$2,900.00; Kevin McCarthy for Congress, 8/2/22, \$2,900.00; LaLota for Congress 10/10/24, \$3,300.00; Larose for Senate, 12/11/23, \$6,600.00; Lawler for Congress, Inc., 6/24/24, \$3,133.34; Lawler for Congress, Inc., 8/16/24, \$3,300.00; Laxalt for Senate, 3/28/22, \$5,800.00; Make America Great Again PAC, 10/22/19 \$2,800.00; Make America Great Again PAC, 10/22/19, \$2,800.00; Mayra Flores for Congress, 11/1/21, \$2,900.00; Mayra Flores for Congress, 11/1/21, \$2,900.00; Mayra Flores for Congress, 3/29/22, \$5,800.00; Michael Waltz for Congress, 7/15/24, \$6,600.00; Mike Johnson for Louisiana, 10/26/23, \$6,600.00; Monica for Congress, 9/12/23, \$3,300.00; Nancy Dahlstrom for Alaska, 1/26/24, \$3,300.00; NRCC, 10/6/23, \$16,300.00; O'Dea Victory Committee, 9/22/22, \$2,900.00; Oz Victory Fund, 10/5/22, \$5,800.00; Republican National Committee, 1/18/22, \$13,500.00; Republican National Committee 1/18/22, \$36,500.00; Republican National Committee, 2/29/24, \$41,300.00; Republican National Committee, 3/15/23, \$41,300.00; Republican National Committee, 3/15/23, \$8,700.00; Republican National Committee, 2/29/24, \$8,700.00; Restore Our Nation (RON PAC), 5/25/23, \$6,600.00; Rick Scott for Florida, 6/1/23, \$3,300.00; Rick Scott for

Florida, 6/1/23, \$3,300.00; Rogers for Senate, 2/5/24, \$3,300.00; Rogers for Senate, 8/22/24, \$3,300.00; Ron Johnson for Senate, Inc., 3/10/22, \$2,900.00; Ron Johnson for Senate, Inc., 3/10/22, \$2,900.00; Ron Johnson Victory, 3/7/22, \$5,800.00; Sam Brown for Nevada, 12/18/23, \$6,600.00; Senate Leadership Fund, 10/8/24, \$100,000.00; Smiley for Washington Inc., 9/19/22, \$2,900.00; Smiley for Washington Inc., 9/19/22, \$2,000.00; Team Brandon Victory Committee, 3/30/23, \$5,000.00; Team DeSantis 2024, 7/25/23, \$5,000.00; Team Hagerty, 9/8/22, \$2,900.00; Team Herschel, Inc., 11/11/22, \$2,900.00; Team Moreno, 4/3/24, \$3,300.00; Team Rick Scott, 6/1/23, \$6,600.00; Ted Budd for Senate, 5/12/23, \$400.00; Ted Budd for Senate, 5/12/23, \$2,900.00; Ted Cruz for Senate, 5/19/23, \$3,300.00; Ted Cruz for Senate, 5/19/23, \$3,300.00; Ted Cruz Victory Committee, 5/19/23, \$6,600.00; Ted Cruz Victory Committee, 6/12/23, \$5,000.00; Texas Republican Voter Engagement PAC, 11/22/21, \$5,000.00; Texas Republican Voter Engagement PAC, 1/4/22, \$5,000.00; Texas Republican Voter Engagement PAC, 1/19/24, \$5,000.00; Tim Scott for America, 5/23/23, \$3,200.00; Tim Scott for America, 4/13/23, \$3,400.00; Tim Sheehy for Montana, 6/28/23, \$3,300.00; Tim Sheehy for Montana, 10/4/24, \$3,300.00; Van Taylor Campaign, 1/17/22, \$2,900.00; Wicker for Senate, 10/2/24, \$3,300.00; Daniel Cameron for Governor (KY), 9/25/23, \$2,100.00; Bluegrass Freedom Action—AG Daniel Cameron for Governor, 9/25/23, \$2,100.00; Bluegrass Freedom Action—AG Daniel Cameron for Governor, 11/3/23, \$2,100.00.

*Edward Walsh, of New Jersey, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Ireland.

Nominee: Edward Walsh.

Post: Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America.

(The following is a list of members of my immediate family. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

Edward Walsh: \$364.34, 11/28/2024, Team Kennedy; \$330.00, 1/29/2024, Save America; \$2,970.00, 1/29/2024, Never Surrender, Inc.; \$3,300.00, 1/29/2024, Trump Save America Joint Fundraising; \$2,900.00, 9/27/2022, Doctor Oz for Senate; \$2,900.00, 8/22/2022, Team Ronny; \$2,900.00, 8/22/2022, Texans for Ronny Jackson; \$2,900.00, 8/9/2022, South Jersey First; \$2,900.00, 8/9/2022, Van Drew for Congress; \$2,000.00, 8/1/2022, Vance Victory; \$2,000.00, 8/1/2022, JD Vance for Senate Inc.; \$2,900.00, 7/29/2022, Beth Victory Fund; \$500.00, 7/29/2022, Be Victorious Over Democrats Pac; \$2,400.00, 7/29/2022, Beth Van Duyne for Congress; \$1,000.00, 6/6/2022, Sarah for Alaska; \$1,000.00, 6/6/2022, Sarah for Alaska; \$500.00, 5/5/2022, Beth Victory Fund; \$500.00, 5/5/2022, Beth Van Duyne for Congress; \$1,000.00, 3/3/2022, Kean for Congress Inc.; \$2,900.00, 2/18/2021, Kean for Congress Inc.; \$2,900.00, 12/13/2021, South Jersey First; \$2,900.00, 12/13/2021, Van Drew for Congress; \$333.34 12/8/2021, Claudia Tenney for Congress; \$1,000.00, 10/28/2021, Iron Ladies Pac; \$333.33 10/28/2021, Fischbach for Congress; \$333.33, 10/28/2021, Beth Van Duyne for Congress; \$1,200.00, 6/30/2021, Claudia Tenney for Congress; \$2,400.00, 6/22/2021, Tenney Van Duyne Victory Fund; \$1,200.00, 6/22/2021, Beth Van Duyne for Congress; \$1,000.00, 6/8/2021, Elise Victory Fund; \$1,000.00, 6/8/2021, Elise for Congress.

By Mr. LEE for the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

*Tristan Abbey, of Florida, to be Administrator of the Energy Information Administration.

*Leslie Beyer, of Texas, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Interior.

*Theodore J. Garrish, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of Energy (Nuclear Energy).

*Andrea Travnicek, of North Dakota, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Interior.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself, Mr. DAINES, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. HAGERTY, and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. 1670. A bill to amend the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 to require investment advisers for passively managed funds to arrange for pass-through voting of proxies for certain securities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. LEE:

S. 1671. A bill to define "obscenity" for purposes of the Communications Act of 1934, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. LUMMIS (for herself, Mr. RISCH, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DAINES, Mr. SHEEHY, and Mr. BARRASSO):

S. 1672. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to clarify that a permit is not required under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System for a discharge resulting from the aerial application of certain products used for fire control and suppression, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself and Mrs. HYDE-SMITH):

S. 1673. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to make loans and loan guarantees for planning, constructing, or renovating pediatric or adult mental health treatment facilities and pediatric or adult substance use disorder treatment facilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MCCONNELL:

S. 1674. A bill to modify the boundary of the Mammoth Cave National Park in the State of Kentucky, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. BANKS, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DAINES, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. RISCH, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. JUSTICE, Mr. TILLIS, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Mr. HAGERTY):

S. 1675. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, by adding an additional aggravating factor to be considered in determining whether a sentence of death is warranted; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Ms. SMITH):

S. 1676. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to address the teacher and school leader shortage in early childhood, elementary, and secondary education, and for

other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. BALDWIN (for herself, Ms. ERNST, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. KING, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. REED, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 1677. A bill to provide health insurance benefits for outpatient and inpatient items and services related to the diagnosis and treatment of a congenital anomaly or birth defect; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 1678. A bill to increase the number of U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers and support staff and to require reports that identify staffing, infrastructure, and equipment needed to enhance security at ports of entry; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida:

S. 1679. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to require passenger notification related to delayed flights, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. KAINE (for himself and Mr. WARNER):

S. 1680. A bill to designate additions to the Rough Mountain Wilderness and the Rich Hole Wilderness of the George Washington National Forest, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. KAINE (for himself and Mr. WARNER):

S. 1681. A bill to establish the Shenandoah Mountain National Scenic Area in the State of Virginia, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. CURTIS (for himself and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 1682. A bill to direct the Consumer Product Safety Commission to promulgate a consumer product safety standard for certain gates, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. BUDD (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. MCCORMICK, and Mr. JUSTICE):

S. 1683. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for Workforce Pell Grants; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CRUZ:

S. 1684. A bill to require audits of institutions with respect to disclosures of foreign gifts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 1685. A bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to instruct the United States Executive Directors at the international financial institutions to advocate for opposition to projects that make use of forced labor; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. YOUNG (for himself, Mr. WARNER, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. KAINE, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, and Mr. COONS):

S. 1686. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish a tax credit for neighborhood revitalization, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. YOUNG:

S. 1687. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide an exception to percentage of completion method of accounting for certain residential construction contracts; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BARRASSO (for himself, Mrs. CAPITO, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr.

LANKFORD, Mr. DAINES, Mr. YOUNG, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. SHEEHY, Mr. HOEVEN, and Mr. CRUZ):

S. 1688. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the allowance for depreciation, amortization, or depletion for purposes of determining the income limitation on the deduction for business interest and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself and Ms. CORTEZ MASTO):

S. 1689. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for a national outreach and education strategy and reach to improve behavioral health among the Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander population, while addressing stigma against behavioral health treatment amongst such population; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. 1690. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase funding for Social Security and Medicare; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. DAINES):

S. 1691. A bill to limit the use of facial recognition technology in airports, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself and Ms. CORTEZ MASTO):

S. 1692. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to modify data collection requirements for appropriate use criteria for applicable imaging services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HOEVEN (for himself, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. MCCONNELL, Ms. ERNST, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. JUSTICE, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mrs. FISCHER, and Mr. MORAN):

S. 1693. A bill to amend the Federal Crop Insurance Act to provide premium support for certain plans of insurance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself, Mr. BUDD, and Mr. CRUZ):

S. 1694. A bill to establish the Department of Homeland Security funding restrictions on institutions of higher education that have a relationship with Confucius Institutes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. MCCORMICK (for himself and Mr. GALLEGO):

S. 1695. A bill to require the Secretaries of Housing and Urban Development, Agriculture, and Veterans Affairs to submit to Congress a report on improving collaboration in housing programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. DAINES (for himself, Ms. ERNST, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. SHEEHY, Mr. LEE, Mr. BUDD, Mr. RISCH, and Mr. CRAPO):

S. 1696. A bill to prohibit the Administrator of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration from issuing a rule or promulgating a regulation requiring certain commercial motor vehicles to be equipped with speed limiting devices, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. ROSEN, and Ms. ALSOBROOKS):

S. 1697. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a refundable tax credit for certain teachers as a supplement to State efforts to provide teachers with a livable wage, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. RISCH (for himself, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. BENNET, and Mr. PETERS):

S. 1698. A bill to amend the Small Business Disaster Response and Loan Improvements Act of 2008 to require the Small Business Administration to coordinate with resource partners with respect to disaster planning activities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. YOUNG (for himself, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. ROUNDS, and Mr. KELLY):

S. 1699. A bill to require the Secretary of Commerce to conduct a public awareness and education campaign to provide information regarding the benefits of, risks relating to, and the prevalence of artificial intelligence in the daily lives of individuals in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. KELLY (for himself and Mr. GALLEGO):

S. 1700. A bill to amend the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Act of 1981 to improve the formula for allotments to States; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BUDD:

S. 1701. A bill to permit the use of health care workforce platforms during declared emergencies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mrs. CAPITO (for herself and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. 1702. A bill to amend titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage of prescription digital therapeutics under such titles, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. SHEEHY):

S. 1703. A bill to require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to improve access to disaster assistance for individuals located in rural areas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. CASSIDY):

S. 1704. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to conform to the intent of the Internal Revenue Service Restructuring and Reform Act of 1998, as set forth in the joint explanatory statement of the committee of conference accompanying Conference Report 105-599, that the National Taxpayer Advocate be able to hire and consult counsel as appropriate; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. COTTON:

S. 1705. A bill to require the Secretary of Commerce to issue standards with respect to chip security mechanisms for integrated circuit products, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. MORAN:

S. 1706. A bill to require aircraft operating in Class B airspace in the national airspace system to install and operate ADS-B In and ADS-B Out equipment, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. SCHATZ, and Ms. WARREN):

S. Res. 208. A resolution supporting the designation of May 10, 2025, as "National Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Mental Health Day"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself and Mr. CASSIDY):

S. Res. 209. A resolution commending Southeastern Louisiana University on the occasion of its Centennial and its years of service to the State of Louisiana and the United States; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. MORAN (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOZMAN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. WARNOCK, and Mr. CORNYN):

S. Res. 210. A resolution honoring and commending the 80th anniversary of the Blinded Veterans Association; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. HEINRICH (for himself and Mr. BOOZMAN):

S. Res. 211. A resolution designating May 10, 2025, as "World Migratory Bird Day"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Mr. COTTON, and Mrs. BRITT):

S. Res. 212. A resolution affirming the acceptable outcome of any nuclear deal between the United States and the Islamic Republic of Iran, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. TUBERVILLE:

S. Res. 213. A resolution expressing support for the designation of May 2025 as "Fallen Heroes Memorial Month"; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. KIM, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. COONS, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. KAINE, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MARKEY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. REED, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. SMITH, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WARNER, Mr. WARNOCK, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. Res. 214. A resolution recognizing the significance of Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month as an important time to celebrate the significant contributions of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders to the history of the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 107

At the request of Mr. TILLIS, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) and the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 107, a bill to amend the Lumbee Act of 1956.

S. 128

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. JUSTICE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 128, a bill to amend the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 to require proof of United States citizenship to register an individual to vote in elections for Federal office, and for other purposes.

S. 180

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr.

DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 180, a bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to authorize the use of grant amounts for providing training and resources for first responders on the use of containment devices to prevent secondary exposure to fentanyl and other potentially lethal substances, and purchasing such containment devices for use by first responders.

S. 199

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. JUSTICE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 199, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide special rules for the taxation of certain residents of Taiwan with income from sources within the United States.

S. 237

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 237, a bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to provide public safety officer benefits for exposure-related cancers, and for other purposes.

S. 401

At the request of Mr. CRAMER, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 401, a bill to amend the Federal Reserve Act to prohibit certain financial service providers who deny fair access to financial services from using taxpayer funded discount window lending programs, and for other purposes.

S. 502

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 502, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to restore State authority to waive for certain facilities the 35-mile rule for designating critical access hospitals under the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

S. 522

At the request of Mr. HAGERTY, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. JUSTICE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 522, a bill to amend the Federal Credit Union Act to modify the frequency of board of directors meetings, and for other purposes.

S. 556

At the request of Mr. SULLIVAN, the names of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 556, a bill to impose sanctions with respect to persons engaged in logistical transactions and sanctions evasion relating to oil, gas, liquefied natural gas, and related petrochemical products from the Islamic Republic of Iran, and for other purposes.

S. 899

At the request of Mr. HOEVEN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. SLOTKIN) was added as a cosponsor

of S. 899, a bill to amend the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to modify limitations on amounts of farm ownership loans and operating loans, and for other purposes.

S. 925

At the request of Mrs. CAPITO, the names of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. JUSTICE) were added as cosponsors of S. 925, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a tax credit for working family caregivers.

S. 1043

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1043, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the energy credit for qualified fuel cell property.

S. 1101

At the request of Mr. WELCH, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1101, a bill to authorize the use of Federal Bureau of Investigation criminal history record information for administration of certain licenses.

S. 1130

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1130, a bill to require the Secretary of Energy to provide technology grants to strengthen domestic mining education, and for other purposes.

S. 1172

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1172, a bill to unfreeze funding for contracts of the Department of Agriculture, to prohibit Farm Service Agency and Natural Resources Conservation Service office closures, and for other purposes.

S. 1182

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1182, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to prohibit institutions of higher education that authorize antisemitic events on campus from participating in the student loan and grant programs under title IV of such Act.

S. 1302

At the request of Ms. HASSAN, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1302, a bill to provide for increased transparency in generic drug applications.

S. 1335

At the request of Mr. TILLIS, the names of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) were added as cosponsors of S. 1335, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude debt held by certain insurance companies from capital assets and to

extend capital loss carryovers for such companies from 5 years to 10 years.

S. 1408

At the request of Mr. VAN HOLLEN, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. JUSTICE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1408, a bill to establish the Chesapeake National Recreation Area as a unit of the National Park System, and for other purposes.

S. 1459

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1459, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve the historic rehabilitation tax credit, and for other purposes.

S. 1515

At the request of Mr. YOUNG, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. HUSTED) and the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) 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. 1532

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) 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. 1549

At the request of Mr. GALLEG0, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. JUSTICE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1549, a bill to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to provide grants under the Drinking Water Infrastructure Risk and Resilience Program for training programs relating to protecting public water systems from and responding to cyberattacks, and for other purposes.

S. 1561

At the request of Mr. CRAMER, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) were added as cosponsors of S. 1561, a bill to authorize notaries public to perform, and to establish minimum standards for, electronic notarizations and remote notarizations that occur in or affect interstate commerce, to require any Federal court to recognize notarizations performed by a notarial officer of any State, to require any State to recognize notarizations performed by a notarial officer of any other State when the notarization was performed under or relates to a public Act, record, or judicial proceeding of the notarial officer's State or when the notarization occurs in or affects interstate commerce, and for other purposes.

S. 1563

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1563, a bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to establish a grant program to

help law enforcement agencies with civilian law enforcement tasks, and for other purposes.

S. 1581

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. JUSTICE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1581, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to create Universal Savings Accounts.

S. 1593

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the names of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER) were added as cosponsors of S. 1593, a bill to exempt small business concerns from duties imposed pursuant to the national emergency declared on April 2, 2025, by the President.

S. 1668

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of 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.

S. RES. 81

At the request of Mr. RICKETTS, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 81, a resolution calling on the United Kingdom, France, and Germany (E3) to initiate the snapback of sanctions on Iran under United Nations Security Council Resolution 2231 (2015).

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Ms. SMITH):

S. 1676. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to address the teacher and school leader shortage in early childhood, elementary, and secondary education, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 1676

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 "Retaining Educators Takes Added Investment Now Act" or the "RETAIN Act".

SEC. 2. PURPOSE.

The purpose of this Act is to create a refundable tax credit for early childhood educators, teachers, early childhood education program directors, school leaders, and school-based mental health services providers in early childhood, elementary, and secondary education settings that rewards retention based on the time spent serving high-need students.

SEC. 3. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The shortage of experienced, qualified early childhood educators and elementary school and secondary school teachers is a national problem that compromises the academic outcomes and long-term success of students.

(2) The shortage is the result of many factors including low pay, frequent turnover in school leadership, poor teaching conditions, and inadequate teacher supports.

(3) The shortage is worse in high-poverty areas where the factors contributing to the shortage are particularly acute and have an increased negative impact on teachers of color remaining in the field.

(4) A child's access to high-quality early childhood education is critical to supporting positive outcomes, and early childhood educators—

(A) play an important role in setting the foundation for future learning, and

(B) promote the development of vital skills, habits, and mindsets that children need to be successful in school and in life.

(5) In 2024, the national median pay of early childhood educators was a mere \$37,120, with many early childhood educators relying on government assistance programs such as Medicaid, the supplemental nutrition assistance program established under the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.), or the temporary assistance for needy families program established under part A of title IV of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 601 et seq.), and struggling to provide for their own families.

(6) Studies have demonstrated that well-qualified, experienced teachers are the single most important school-based element contributing to a child's academic achievement and success.

(7) In the 2023–2024 academic year, the average teacher salary in public elementary schools and secondary schools was only \$72,030. When adjusted for inflation, the average teacher salary has declined by 5 percent over the past decade.

(8) On average, public elementary school and secondary school teachers were paid 23.5 percent less than other college graduates working in non-teaching fields, and many teachers struggle with large amounts of student loan debt.

(9) In the 2023–2024 academic year, the average teacher salary for a first-year teacher in a public elementary school or secondary school was \$46,526.

(10) An experienced, well-qualified education workforce must also be reflective of the diversity of the student body across race, ethnicity, and disability.

(11) Higher pay for teachers can result in a more diverse teacher workforce, and minority students often perform better on standardized tests, have improved attendance, and are suspended less frequently when they have at least one same-race teacher.

(12) Experienced, well-qualified school leaders and school-based mental health service providers are essential for providing strong educational opportunities and services for students and promoting teacher retention through improved professional supports and teaching conditions.

(13) In 2024, the teaching profession experienced the lowest levels of employment in 50 years.

SEC. 4. REFUNDABLE TAX CREDIT FOR TEACHER AND SCHOOL LEADER RETENTION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subpart C of part IV of subchapter A of chapter 1 of subtitle A of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by inserting after section 36B the following new section:

“SEC. 36C. TEACHER AND SCHOOL LEADER RETENTION CREDIT.

“(a) ALLOWANCE OF CREDIT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—In the case of an individual who is employed in a position described in paragraph (2) during a school year ending with or within the taxable year, there shall be allowed as a credit against the tax imposed by this subtitle for the taxable year an amount equal to the applicable amount (as determined under subsection (b)).

“(2) ELIGIBLE POSITIONS.—The positions described in this paragraph shall consist of the following:

“(A) An eligible early childhood educator.

“(B) An eligible early childhood education program director.

“(C) An eligible early childhood education provider.

“(D) An eligible teacher.

“(E) An eligible paraprofessional.

“(F) An eligible school-based mental health services provider.

“(G) An eligible school leader.

“(b) APPLICABLE AMOUNT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this section, the applicable amount shall be an amount determined based on the number of school years for which the individual has been continuously employed in any position described in subsection (a)(2), as follows:

“(A) Subject to paragraph (2), for the first year of employment, \$5,800.

“(B) For the second continuous year of employment, \$5,800.

“(C) For the third and fourth continuous year of employment, \$7,000.

“(D) For the fifth, sixth, seventh, eighth, and ninth continuous year of employment, \$8,700.

“(E) For the tenth continuous year of employment, \$11,600.

“(F) For the eleventh, twelfth, thirteenth, fourteenth, and fifteenth continuous year of employment, \$8,700.

“(G) For the sixteenth continuous year of employment, \$7,000.

“(H) For the seventeenth, eighteenth, nineteenth, and twentieth continuous year of employment, \$5,800.

“(2) FIRST YEAR.—For purposes of the first year of employment ending with or within a taxable year, an individual must have been so employed for a period of not less than 4 months before the first day of such taxable year.

“(3) LIMITATION BASED ON TOTAL NUMBER OF SCHOOL YEARS.—In the case of any individual who has been employed in any position described in subsection (a)(2) for a total of more than 20 school years, the applicable amount shall be reduced to zero.

“(c) INFLATION ADJUSTMENT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—In the case of any taxable year beginning after 2026, each of the dollar amounts in subsection (b)(1) shall be increased by an amount equal to—

“(A) such dollar amount, multiplied by

“(B) the cost-of-living adjustment determined under section 1(f)(3) for such calendar year by substituting ‘calendar year 2025’ for ‘calendar year 2016’ in subparagraph (A)(ii) thereof.

“(2) ROUNDING.—If any increase determined under paragraph (1) is not a multiple of \$100, such increase shall be rounded to the nearest multiple of \$100.

“(d) SUPPLEMENTING, NOT SUPPLANTING, STATE AND LOCAL EDUCATION FUNDS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—A State educational agency or local educational agency shall not reduce or adjust any compensation, or any assistance provided through a loan forgiveness program, to an employee of the State educational agency or local educational agency who serves in any position described in subsection (a)(2) due to the individual's eligibility for the credit under this section.

“(2) METHODOLOGY.—Upon request by the Secretary of Education, a State educational agency or local educational agency shall reasonably demonstrate that the methodology used to allocate amounts for compensation and for loan forgiveness to the employees described in paragraph (1) at qualifying schools or qualifying early childhood education programs ensures that employees at each qualifying school or qualifying early childhood education program in the State or served by the local educational agency, respectively, receive the same amount of State or local funds for compensation and loan forgiveness that the qualifying school or qualifying early childhood education program would receive if the credit under this section had not been enacted.

“(e) INFORMATION SHARING.—The Secretary of Education and the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall provide the Secretary with such information as is necessary for purposes of determining whether an early childhood education program or an elementary school or secondary school satisfies the requirements for a qualifying early childhood education program or a qualifying school, respectively.

“(f) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section—

“(1) ESEA DEFINITIONS.—The terms ‘elementary school’, ‘local educational agency’, ‘secondary school’, ‘State educational agency’, and ‘educational service agency’ have the meanings given the terms in section 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

“(2) ELIGIBLE EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROGRAM DIRECTOR.—The term ‘eligible early childhood education program director’ means an employee or officer of a qualifying early childhood education program who is responsible for the daily instructional leadership and managerial operations of such program.

“(3) ELIGIBLE EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROVIDER.—The term ‘eligible early childhood education provider’ means an individual—

“(A) who—

“(i) has an associate's degree or higher degree in early childhood education or a related field, or

“(ii) is enrolled during the taxable year in a program leading to such an associate's or higher degree and is making satisfactory progress toward such degree, and

“(B) who is responsible for the daily instructional leadership and managerial operations of a qualifying early childhood education program in a home-based setting.

“(4) ELIGIBLE EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATOR.—The term ‘eligible early childhood educator’ means an individual—

“(A) who—

“(i) has an associate's degree or higher degree in early childhood education or a related field, or

“(ii) is enrolled during the taxable year in a program leading to such an associate's or higher degree and is making satisfactory progress toward such degree,

“(B) who has credentials or a license under State law for early childhood education, as applicable, and

“(C) whose primary responsibility is for the learning and development of children in a qualifying early childhood education program during the taxable year.

“(5) ELIGIBLE PARAPROFESSIONAL.—The term ‘eligible paraprofessional’ means an individual—

“(A) who is a paraprofessional, as defined in section 3201 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7011),

“(B) who meets the applicable State professional standards and qualifications pursuant to section 1111(g)(2)(M) of such Act (20 U.S.C. 6311(g)(2)(M)),

“(C) whose primary responsibilities involve working or assisting in a classroom setting, and

“(D) who is employed in a qualifying school or a qualifying early childhood education program.

“(6) ELIGIBLE SCHOOL-BASED MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES PROVIDER.—The term ‘eligible school-based mental health services provider’ means an individual—

“(A) described in section 4102(6) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7112(6)), and

“(B) who is employed in a qualifying school or a qualifying early childhood education program.

“(7) ELIGIBLE SCHOOL LEADER.—The term ‘eligible school leader’ means a principal, assistant principal, or other individual who is—

“(A) an employee or officer of a qualifying school, and

“(B) responsible for the daily instructional leadership and managerial operations in the qualifying school.

“(8) ELIGIBLE TEACHER.—The term ‘eligible teacher’ means an individual who—

“(A) is an elementary school or secondary school teacher who, as determined by the State or local educational agency, is a teacher of record who provides direct classroom teaching (or classroom-type teaching in a nonclassroom setting) to students in a qualifying school, and

“(B)(i) meets applicable State certification and licensure requirements, including any requirements for certification obtained through alternative routes to certification, in the State in which such school is located and in the subject area in which the individual is the teacher of record, or

“(ii) is enrolled during the taxable year in a program leading to State certification and licensure as described in clause (i) and is making satisfactory progress toward such certification and licensure requirements.

“(9) QUALIFYING EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROGRAM.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘qualifying early childhood education program’ means an early childhood education program, as defined in section 103 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1003), that, regardless of setting—

“(i) serves children who receive services for which financial assistance is provided in accordance with the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9857 et seq.), the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9831 et seq.), or the child and adult care food program established under section 17 of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1766), and

“(ii) participates in a State tiered and transparent system for measuring program quality.

“(B) SPECIAL RULE.—Notwithstanding subparagraph (A), an early childhood education program that does not satisfy the requirements of subparagraph (A)(ii) shall be deemed to be a qualifying early childhood education program until September 30, 2025, if the program—

“(i) satisfies all requirements of subparagraph (A) except for clause (ii) of such subparagraph, and

“(ii)(I) meets the Head Start program performance standards described in section 641A(a) of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9836a(a)), if applicable, or

“(II) is accredited by a national accreditor of early learning programs as of the date of enactment of the Retaining Educators Takes Added Investment Now Act.

“(10) QUALIFYING SCHOOL.—The term ‘qualifying school’ means—

“(A) a public elementary school or secondary school that—

“(i) is in the school district of a local educational agency that is eligible for assistance under part A of title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6311 et seq.), or

“(ii) is served or operated by an educational service agency that is eligible for such assistance, or

“(B) an elementary school or secondary school that is funded by the Bureau of Indian Education and that is in the school district of a local educational agency that is eligible for such assistance.”

(b) W-2 REPORTING OF CONTINUOUS EMPLOYMENT FOR CERTAIN POSITIONS AT QUALIFYING EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROGRAMS OR QUALIFYING SCHOOLS.—Section 6051(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking “and” at the end of paragraph (16), by striking the period at the end of paragraph (17) and inserting “, and”, and by inserting after paragraph (17) the following new paragraph:

“(18) in the case of an employee who is employed in a position described in subsection (a)(2) of section 36C, the number of school years for which such employee has been continuously employed in any such position.”

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) The table of sections for subpart C of part IV of subchapter A of chapter 1 of subtitle A of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 36B the following:

“Sec. 36C. Teacher and school leader retention credit.”

(2) Section 6211(b)(4)(A) of such Code is amended by inserting “36C,” after “36B.”

(3) Paragraph (2) of section 1324(b) of title 31, United States Code, is amended by inserting “36C,” after “36B.”

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2025.

SEC. 5. DEVELOPING INTERAGENCY DATA SERIES.

The Secretary of Labor, in coordination with the Secretary of Treasury, the Secretary of Education, and the Secretary of Health and Human Services, shall—

(1) develop and publish on the internet website of the Bureau of Labor Statistics a data series that captures—

(A) the average base salary of teachers in elementary schools and secondary schools, disaggregated by—

(i) employment in public elementary schools and secondary schools that receive assistance under part A of title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6311 et seq.),

(ii) employment in public elementary schools and secondary schools that do not receive such assistance, and

(iii) geographic region, and

(B) the average base salary of early childhood educators, disaggregated by highest level of degree attained, and

(2) update the data series under paragraph (1) on an annual basis.

By Mr. BARRASSO (for himself, Mrs. CAPITO, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. DAINES, Mr. YOUNG, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. SHEEHY, Mr. HOEVEN, and Mr. CRUZ):

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 1688. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the allowance for depreciation, amortization, or depletion for purposes of determining the income limitation on the deduction for business interest and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

S. 1688

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 “Growing America’s Small Businesses and Manufacturing Act”.

SEC. 2. PERMANENT EXTENSION OF ALLOWANCE FOR DEPRECIATION, AMORTIZATION, OR DEPLETION IN DETERMINING THE LIMITATION ON BUSINESS INTEREST.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 163(j)(8)(A)(v) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking “in the case of taxable years beginning before January 1, 2022,”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2024.

SEC. 3. INCREASE IN LIMITATIONS ON EXPENSES OF DEPRECIABLE BUSINESS ASSETS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 179(b) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

(1) by striking “\$1,000,000” in paragraph (1) and inserting “\$2,500,000”, and

(2) by striking “\$2,500,000” in paragraph (2) and inserting “\$4,000,000”.

(b) INFLATION ADJUSTMENT.—Section 179(b)(6)(A) of such Code is amended—

(1) by striking “2018” and inserting “2025 (2018 in the case of the dollar amount in paragraph (5)(A))”, and

(2) by striking “calendar year 2017” in clause (ii) thereof and inserting “calendar year 2024” (“calendar year 2017” in the case of the dollar amount in paragraph (5)(A))”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to property placed in service in taxable years beginning after December 31, 2024.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 208—SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF MAY 10, 2025, AS “NATIONAL ASIAN AMERICAN, NATIVE HAWAIIAN, AND PACIFIC ISLANDER MENTAL HEALTH DAY”

Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. SCHATZ, and Ms. WARREN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 208

Whereas the Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (referred to in this preamble as “AANHPI”) community is among the fastest growing population groups in the United States and has made significant economic, cultural, and social contributions;

Whereas the AANHPI community is extremely diverse in terms of socioeconomic background, education level, types of employment, languages spoken, cultures of origin, acculturation, and migration and colonization status;

Whereas AANHPIs have among the lowest rates of utilization of mental health services, and 65.3 percent of the estimated 2,900,000 AANHPIs who meet criteria for a mental health problem do not receive treatment;

Whereas, from 2018 to 2023, AANHPI youth ages 10 to 24 years old in the United States were the only racial or ethnic population in this age category whose leading cause of death was suicide;

Whereas it is imperative to disaggregate AANHPI population data to get an accurate representation of the depth and breadth of the mental health issues for each subpopulation, so that specific culturally and linguistically appropriate solutions can be developed;

Whereas language access continues to be a critical issue, whether due to the limited number of providers with the necessary language skills to provide in-language services or the significant language loss faced by Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander communities due to colonization;

Whereas there is a need to significantly increase the number of providers, including paraprofessionals, representing AANHPI communities and provide them with necessary training and ongoing support;

Whereas historical discrimination and current racial violence toward AANHPIs increase trauma and stress, underlying precursors to mental health problems;

Whereas there is a critical need to raise awareness about, and improve mental health literacy among, the AANHPI community to reduce the stigma associated with mental health issues; and

Whereas May is both National Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, an opportunity to celebrate the vast contributions of this population to the society of the United States, and National Mental Health Awareness Month, recognizing the importance of mental health to the well-being and health of families and communities and connecting the importance of one's cultural heritage to good mental health: Now, therefore be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of May 10, 2025, as “National Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Mental Health Day”;

(2) recognizes the importance of mental health to the well-being and health of families and communities;

(3) acknowledges the importance of raising awareness about mental health and improving the quality of care for Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander communities;

(4) recognizes that celebrating one's cultural and linguistic heritage is beneficial to mental health; and

(5) encourages Federal, State, and local health agencies to adopt laws, policies, and guidance to improve help-seeking rates for mental health services for the Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander community and other communities of color.

SENATE RESOLUTION 209—COMMENDING SOUTHEASTERN LOUISIANA UNIVERSITY ON THE OCCASION OF ITS CENTENNIAL AND ITS YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE STATE OF LOUISIANA AND THE UNITED STATES

Mr. KENNEDY (for himself and Mr. CASSIDY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 209

Whereas, on July 7, 1925, the voters of Tangipahoa Parish approved a bond issue that led to the creation of Hammond Junior College;

Whereas President Linus A. Sims opened the college to 40 students, taught by 5 faculty members, establishing the foundation for an institution committed to academic excellence and community service;

Whereas, in 1927, the voters of Tangipahoa Parish supported the purchase of the 15-acre Hunter Leake estate for the purpose of expanding the college's campus and allowing for future growth;

Whereas, in 1928, Hammond Junior College became Southeastern Louisiana College and was adopted into the Louisiana State educational system under the State Board of Education, solidifying its place as a vital institution for higher education in Louisiana;

Whereas, in 1934, a State bond issue provided for the construction of McGehee Hall, which became a historic centerpiece of the university and was placed on the National Register of Historic Places on January 18, 1985;

Whereas, in 1970, Southeastern Louisiana College became Southeastern Louisiana University, reflecting its growth in academic offerings, student population, and regional impact;

Whereas, as of the date of adoption of this resolution, Southeastern Louisiana University serves more than 15,000 students annually, offering a multitude of undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs through its 5 colleges and schools, fostering innovation, research, and career readiness;

Whereas Southeastern Louisiana University has academically distinguished itself in education, business, nursing and health sciences, the arts, sciences, and other fields while remaining dedicated to public service;

Whereas Southeastern Louisiana University has a strong tradition of intercollegiate athletics as a member of the Southland Conference, supporting student-athletes in their academic and athletic pursuits; and

Whereas Southeastern Louisiana University has produced notable alumni who have made significant contributions in business, public service, education, health care, and the arts, strengthening the economy and cultural heritage of Louisiana: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commends Southeastern Louisiana University on the occasion of its Centennial and its years of service to the State of Louisiana and the United States;

(2) recognizes Southeastern Louisiana University for its dedication to higher education, research, and community service; and

(3) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to—

(A) the President of Southeastern Louisiana University, the Honorable Dr. William S. Wainwright;

(B) the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs of Southeastern Louisiana University, the Honorable Dr. Tena L. Golding; and

(C) the Vice President for University Advancement of Southeastern Louisiana University, the Honorable Ms. Wendy Lauderdale.

SENATE RESOLUTION 210—HONORING AND COMMENDING THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BLINDED VETERANS ASSOCIATION

Mr. MORAN (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOZMAN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. WARNOCK, and Mr. CORNYN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 210

Whereas the Blinded Veterans Association (in this preamble referred to as “BVA”) was founded in 1945 by World War II veterans who were blinded in service to the United States, with the goal of providing support and advocacy for veterans who had lost their sight;

Whereas BVA is congressionally chartered as the official advocate and representative for all blinded veterans before the executive and legislative branches of the Federal Government;

Whereas, since its inception, BVA has been at the forefront of efforts to ensure that blind and low-vision veterans receive the services, recognition, and respect they deserve, advocating for improved access to health care, rehabilitation, and employment opportunities;

Whereas, over the past 80 years, BVA has continuously worked to advance the rights and welfare of blind and low-vision veterans by working alongside Congress, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and other governmental agencies, advocating for critical legislative and policy changes and providing a strong voice for those who have served in uniform;

Whereas the first comprehensive residential Blind Rehabilitation Center program opened on July 4, 1948, in Hines, Illinois, and operates still at the Edward Hines, Jr., Veterans Administration Hospital as one of 13 comprehensive residential Blind Rehabilitation Centers across the Department of Veterans Affairs health care system;

Whereas the Blind Rehabilitation Centers offer a variety of skill courses designed to help blind and low-vision veterans achieve greater levels of independence through skill areas including orientation and mobility, computer access training, communication skills, manual skills, and visual skills, as well as social and recreational activities;

Whereas BVA has played a key role in fostering a better understanding of the challenges faced by blind and low-vision veterans, while also contributing to the development and implementation of programs designed to improve the quality of life of blind and low-vision veterans, including the Visual Impairment Service Team Program, which is responsible for the coordination of services for severely disabled visually impaired veterans;

Whereas, through BVA's tireless advocacy efforts, major strides have been made in improving the care and services provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs for blind and low-vision veterans, such as enhanced access to outpatient blind rehabilitation services that allow those veterans to live independently and with dignity;

Whereas the Blind Rehabilitation Services of the Department of Veterans Affairs work to rehabilitate veterans by focusing on five core areas of living skills, orientation and mobility, visual skills, manual skills, and technology access;

Whereas BVA has championed efforts to expand benefits and services available to blind and low-vision veterans, including improving the disability rating schedule as it relates to visual impairment and blindness,

the specially adapted housing grant, provision of guide dog benefits, and cutting-edge adaptive vision technology;

Whereas BVA has played a crucial role in advocating for policies that ensure safe and accessible environments for veterans who use guide dogs, promoting the safe access of guide dogs in public spaces, facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and other areas inherent to the well-being and independence of veterans with visual impairments;

Whereas the Department of Veterans Affairs has made significant improvements to its care for blind and low-vision veterans, ensuring that programs such as the Blind Rehabilitation Centers continue to evolve to meet the needs of an aging veteran population, offering specialized training and services to help those veterans adapt to their vision loss;

Whereas there is still work to be done in ensuring that blind and low-vision veterans have consistent and equitable access to health care and benefits, mobility services, and job training opportunities, as well as the safety and accessibility of guide dogs in public spaces;

Whereas the rapid advancement of artificial intelligence and telehealth technologies presents both opportunities and challenges for the rehabilitation and accessibility of blind and low-vision veterans, requiring ongoing evaluation and adaptation of programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs;

Whereas rural veterans often face unique challenges in accessing specialized rehabilitation and support services for visual impairments, necessitating targeted outreach and telehealth solutions;

Whereas the increasing prevalence of age-related macular degeneration and other vision-related conditions among veterans requires the Department of Veterans Affairs to prioritize research and development of innovative treatments and rehabilitative strategies;

Whereas the growing number of aging veterans with multiple comorbidities necessitates integrated care models that address both visual impairments and other health conditions; and

Whereas the needs of female blinded veterans are unique and require specific attention, including specialized prosthetics and mental health support: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) honors and commends the Blinded Veterans Association for its 80 years of dedicated service, advocacy, and support for blind and low-vision veterans;

(2) acknowledges the successes of the Blinded Veterans Association in improving the lives of veterans with visual impairments and expresses gratitude for its advocacy efforts on behalf of the entire veterans community;

(3) urges the Department of Veterans Affairs to guarantee safe access for guide dogs and guide dog users at Department facilities, and calls upon the Department to ensure that each medical center of the Department has a trained and capable Service Dog Champion on site;

(4) commends the Blinded Veterans Association for its continued charitable, educational, patriotic, and civic work to make certain that blind and low-vision veterans can live and thrive;

(5) wishes members of the Blinded Veterans Association continued success in their ongoing efforts to live out their motto, “Blinded veterans helping blinded veterans”, by preserving and strengthening a spirit of fellowship among blinded veterans so that they may give mutual aid and assistance to one another; and

(6) reaffirms the commitment of the Senate to supporting and improving the services and opportunities available to all veterans, including those with disabilities, ensuring they receive the respect and care they deserve.

SENATE RESOLUTION 211—DESIGNATING MAY 10, 2025, AS “WORLD MIGRATORY BIRD DAY”

Mr. HEINRICH (for himself and Mr. BOOZMAN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 211

Whereas migratory birds are an essential part of ecosystems, providing ecological services such as pest control, pollination, and seed dispersal;

Whereas over 350 species of birds migrate each spring through North America, connecting ecosystems, cultures, and economies;

Whereas migratory birds face increasing threats from habitat loss, drought, invasive species, light pollution, collisions, and urban expansion;

Whereas North America has seen a net loss of 3,000,000,000 birds in the past 50 years;

Whereas World Migratory Bird Day is an annual global campaign dedicated to raising awareness for migratory birds and the need for international cooperation to conserve them;

Whereas birdwatching and bird-related recreation contribute significantly to the United States economy, with nearly 100,000,000 Americans participating and generating \$279,000,000,000 in total economic output;

Whereas the 2025 theme of World Migratory Bird Day, “Shared Spaces: Creating Bird-Friendly Cities and Communities”, highlights the importance of thoughtful city planning and adopting bird-friendly practices for the well-being of migratory birds;

Whereas public education and community engagement are central to bird conservation efforts, with wildlife refuges, parks, zoos, aquariums, and community organizations hosting World Migratory Bird Day events across the United States each year;

Whereas the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 4401 et seq.) has promoted significant investments in wetland habitat conservation and restoration, which serve migratory birds; and

Whereas the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 (16 U.S.C. 703 et seq.) remains a cornerstone of United States bird conservation policy, reflecting a century-long commitment to protecting migratory bird species: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates May 10, 2025, as “World Migratory Bird Day”; and

(2) encourages the people of the United States to celebrate and support the conservation of migratory birds and their habitats through education, stewardship, community engagement, and bird watching.

SENATE RESOLUTION 212—AFFIRMING THE ACCEPTABLE OUTCOME OF ANY NUCLEAR DEAL BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Mr. COTTON, and Mrs. BRITT) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 212

Whereas the acceptable outcome of any negotiations between the United States and the Islamic Republic of Iran related to Iran's nuclear program is—

(1) the complete dismantlement and destruction of its entire nuclear program; and then

(2) an Agreement for Peaceful Nuclear Cooperation (commonly known as a “123 Agreement”) between the United States and the Islamic Republic of Iran, pursuant to section 123 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2153) that also requires the Islamic Republic of Iran to adopt the International Atomic Energy Agency's (referred to in this preamble as the “IAEA”) additional protocols for the verification of nuclear safeguards and forgo domestic uranium enrichment, the reprocessing of spent fuel, and the development or possession of any enrichment or reprocessing infrastructure or capacity;

Whereas the complete dismantlement and destruction of the Islamic Republic of Iran's nuclear program should include, at a minimum—

(1) disclosing and dismantling all of the Islamic Republic of Iran's nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons programs, including the removal of any previously enriched uranium;

(2) allowing international inspectors unconditional access to monitor and verify compliance, including allowing short-notice inspections of all buildings in all of its nuclear sites by the IAEA;

(3) providing information to the IAEA about all parts of its nuclear fuel-cycle;

(4) allowing the IAEA to freely collect environmental samples at locations beyond the stated sites whenever the IAEA deems such collection is necessary;

(5) providing the IAEA the right to monitor communications by receiving unimpeded access to all satellite systems and other forms of telecommunications;

(6) providing designated IAEA inspectors of all nationalities valid visas and unimpeded entry into the Islamic Republic of Iran;

(7) providing information on any research and development activities relating to the Islamic Republic of Iran's nuclear program;

(8) providing the IAEA with information about the manufacturing and export of sensitive nuclear-related technologies;

(9) permitting the establishment of IAEA verification mechanisms at manufacturing and export-import locations; and

(10) signing and ratifying an Additional Protocol as part of its Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement;

Whereas more than 20 countries have a peaceful nuclear power capability without the ability to domestically enrich uranium or reprocess spent fuel;

Whereas in August 2002, the Islamic Republic of Iran's secret nuclear program was revealed, including the existence of a fuel enrichment plant in Natanz, Iran and the heavy-water plant in Arak, Iran;

Whereas on April 11, 2006, the Islamic Republic of Iran announced that it had enriched uranium for the first time to a level close to 3.5 percent at the Pilot Fuel Enrichment Plant in Natanz, Iran;

Whereas on May 31, 2021, it was reported that the Islamic Republic of Iran failed to provide any explanation for the uranium remnants found at undeclared sites in Iran, and such an explanation had not been provided as of the date of the enactment of this Resolution;

Whereas on May 30, 2022, the IAEA reported that the Islamic Republic of Iran had achieved a stockpile of 43.3 kilograms (95.5 pounds) of 60 percent highly enriched uranium, which is roughly enough material to construct a nuclear weapon;

Whereas on February 27, 2023, the IAEA reported that the Islamic Republic of Iran had enriched uranium to 83.7 percent, which is just short of the 90 percent threshold for weapons-grade fissile material;

Whereas on September 16, 2023, the IAEA reported that the Islamic Republic of Iran banned the activities of nearly 1/3 of the IAEA's most experienced nuclear inspectors in Iran, a decision that, according to IAEA Director-General Rafael Grossi, harmed the IAEA's ability to monitor Iran's nuclear program;

Whereas, on December 28, 2023, the Governments of the United States, France, Germany, and the United Kingdom jointly declared, "The production of high-enriched uranium by Iran has no credible civilian justification";

Whereas, on July 23, 2024, the Office of the Director of National Intelligence published an assessment, in accordance with the Iran Nuclear Weapons Capability and Terrorism Monitoring Act of 2022 (22 U.S.C. 8701 note; Public Law 117-263), which stated, the Islamic Republic of Iran has "undertaken activities that better position it to produce a nuclear device, if it chooses to do so";

Whereas, on November 15, 2024, the IAEA reported that the Islamic Republic of Iran has continued to expand its enrichment facilities and install additional advanced centrifuges, including at the Natanz Nuclear Facility, where there are 15 cascades of advanced centrifuges, and the Fordow Fuel Enrichment Plant, where there are advanced preparations for the expansion of the facility;

Whereas, on February 26, 2025, the IAEA reported that the Islamic Republic of Iran has between 5 and 7 metric tons of enriched uranium, and had increased its total stockpile of 60 percent highly enriched uranium to 274.8 kilograms (605.83 pounds), which, if further enriched, could be sufficient to produce 6 nuclear weapons;

Whereas, on April 7, 2025, the Prime Minister of Israel, Benjamin Netanyahu, stated that the United States and Israel are "both united in the goal that Iran does not ever get nuclear weapons. If it can be done diplomatically, ... I think that would be a good thing. But whatever happens, we have to make sure that Iran does not have nuclear weapons";

Whereas, on April 7, 2025, President of the United States Donald Trump echoed that position, stating, "You know, it's not a complicated formula. Iran cannot have a nuclear weapon. That's all there is.";

Whereas, on April 8, 2025, the Islamic Republic of Iran rejected the dismantlement of its nuclear program, stating, "Trump wants a new deal: end Iran's regional influence, dismantle its nuclear program, and halt its missile work. These are unacceptable to Tehran. Our nuclear program cannot be dismantled"; and

Whereas the United States must never allow the Islamic Republic of Iran to obtain a nuclear weapons capability that threatens the United States or its allies or partners; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commends the Trump administration for engaging in direct talks with the Islamic Republic of Iran regarding its nuclear program;

(2) recognizes the Islamic Republic of Iran's decades of cheating, the regime's barbaric nature, and its open commitment to destroying the State of Israel must be addressed in any negotiations; and

(3) affirms support for—

(A) the complete dismantlement and destruction of the Islamic Republic of Iran's entire nuclear program; and then

(B) an Agreement for Peaceful Nuclear Cooperation (commonly known as a "123 Agree-

ment") between the United States and the Islamic Republic of Iran, pursuant to section 123 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2153) that also requires the Islamic Republic of Iran—

(i) to adopt the IAEA additional protocols for verification of nuclear safeguards; and

(ii) to forgo domestic uranium enrichment, the reprocessing of spent fuel, and the development or possession of any enrichment or reprocessing infrastructure or capacity.

SENATE RESOLUTION 213—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF MAY 2025 AS "FALLEN HEROES MEMORIAL MONTH"

Mr. TUBERVILLE submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs:

S. RES. 213

Whereas, since the signing of the Declaration of Independence and the founding of the United States, more than 1,300,000 members of the Armed Forces have given their lives for the cause of liberty, both in the United States and around the world;

Whereas the people of the United States owe a profound debt to those who served the United States in uniform and made the ultimate sacrifice so that their countrymen could live freely;

Whereas the people of the United States have an obligation to honor the memories of the fallen and to commemorate those brave men and women who gave their lives to the cause of freedom;

Whereas President Abraham Lincoln said, "[A]ll that a man hath will he give for his life; and while all contribute of their substance the soldier puts his life at stake, and often yields it up in his country's cause. The highest merit, then is due to the soldier.";

Whereas, in an address to the Armed Forces in 1945, President Harry S. Truman said, "Our debt to the heroic men and valiant women in the service of our country can never be repaid. They have earned our undying gratitude.";

Whereas the history of Memorial Day began 3 years after the American Civil War, with the Grand Army of the Republic establishing Decoration Day as a day for honoring the Civil War dead by decorating their graves with flowers, with the State of New York being the first to adopt it as a State holiday in 1873, and with all the Union States having adopted it by 1890;

Whereas, in the aftermath of World War I and World War II, Memorial Day became a day to remember and honor all members of the Armed Forces who fought and died on behalf of the United States;

Whereas Congress made the observance of Memorial Day, at the time still often called Decoration Day, a Federal holiday in 1971; and

Whereas the over 1,300,000 members of the Armed Forces who over the centuries gave their lives in service to the people of the United States have earned the enduring respect and gratitude of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) honors the more than 1,300,000 veterans who gave their lives in service to the United States;

(2) recognizes the families and loved ones of the fallen heroes of the United States and lifts them up in prayer;

(3) urges the people of the United States to reflect on the contributions of those heroes and to honor the memory of those who paid the ultimate sacrifice in securing the blessings of liberty for the United States; and

(4) requests that the President issue a proclamation—

(A) designating May 2025 as "Fallen Heroes Memorial Month";

(B) affirming the everlasting gratitude of the United States for members of the Armed Forces who made the ultimate sacrifice; and

(C) calling on the people of the United States to remember and honor the fallen heroes of the United States and to pay tribute to them through volunteering and supporting veteran service organizations.

SENATE RESOLUTION 214—RECOGNIZING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF ASIAN AMERICAN, NATIVE HAWAIIAN, AND PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH AS AN IMPORTANT TIME TO CELEBRATE THE SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS OF ASIAN AMERICANS, NATIVE HAWAIIANS, AND PACIFIC ISLANDERS TO THE HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES

Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. KIM, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. COONS, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. KAINE, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MARKEY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. REED, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. SMITH, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WARNER, Mr. WARNOCK, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. WYDEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 214

Whereas the people of the United States join together each May to pay tribute to the contributions of generations of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders who have enriched the history of the United States;

Whereas the history of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders in the United States is inextricably tied to the story of the United States;

Whereas the Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander community is an inherently diverse population, composed of more than 70 distinct ethnicities and speaking more than 100 language dialects;

Whereas, according to the Bureau of the Census, the Asian American population grew faster than any other racial or ethnic group over the last decade, growing by nearly 55.5 percent between 2010 and 2020, and during that same time period, the Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander population grew by 30.8 percent;

Whereas there are more than 25,000,000 residents of the United States who identify as Asian and approximately 1,800,000 residents of the United States who identify as Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander, making up more than 10 percent of the total population of the United States;

Whereas the month of May was selected for Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month because the first Japanese immigrants arrived in the United States on May 7, 1843, and the first transcontinental railroad was completed on May 10, 1869, with substantial contributions from Chinese immigrants;

Whereas section 102 of title 36, United States Code, officially designates May as Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month and requests the President to issue an annual

proclamation calling on the people of the United States to observe the month with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities;

Whereas 2025 marks several anniversaries, including—

(1) the 40th anniversary of the Space Shuttle *Discovery* Mission STS-51C, crewed by Ellison Sjoji Onizuka, the first Asian American in space;

(2) the 50th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War and the beginning of the Southeast Asian diaspora in communities across the United States;

(3) the 50th anniversary of the completion of the double-hulled voyaging canoe, *Hokulea*, marking the first traditional Polynesian voyaging canoe built in Hawaii in more than 600 years;

(4) the 60th anniversary of the enactment of the Act entitled “An Act to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act, and for other purposes”, approved October 3, 1965 (79 Stat. 911), landmark legislation that reversed restrictive immigration policies against immigrants from Asia; and

(5) the 115th anniversary of the establishment of Angel Island Immigration Station in San Francisco Bay, California, which served as a major port of entry for immigrants coming to the United States from Asia and the Pacific;

Whereas Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders have made significant contributions to the United States at all levels of the Federal Government and in the Armed Forces, including—

(1) Dalip Singh Sandhu, the first Asian American elected to Congress;

(2) Daniel K. Inouye, a Medal of Honor and Presidential Medal of Freedom recipient who, as President pro tempore of the Senate, was the then-highest-ranking Asian American government official in the history of the United States;

(3) Hiram L. Fong, the first Asian American Senator;

(4) Patsy T. Mink, the first woman of color and Asian American woman elected to Congress;

(5) Herbert Y.C. Choy, the first Asian American to serve as a Federal judge;

(6) Daniel K. Akaka, the first Senator of Native Hawaiian ancestry; and

(7) Norman Y. Mineta, the first Asian American member of a Presidential cabinet;

Whereas the 119th Congress includes 25 Members of Asian and Pacific Islander descent;

Whereas, in 2025, the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus is composed of 82 Members, and other congressional caucuses work on Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander issues also;

Whereas, in 2025, Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders are serving in State and Territorial legislatures across the United States in record numbers, including in—

(1) the States of Alaska, Arizona, California, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming; and

(2) the Territories of American Samoa, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands;

Whereas Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders represent more than 8 percent of Federal judges and hundreds of thousands of Federal employees, including hundreds of staffers of Asian, Native

Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander descent who serve as staff in the Senate and the House of Representatives;

Whereas the incidence of hate crimes against Asian Americans continues to be above levels observed before the COVID-19 pandemic;

Whereas discrimination against Asian Americans, especially in moments of crisis, is not a new phenomenon, and violence against Asian Americans has occurred throughout United States history, including—

(1) the enactment of the Act entitled “An Act supplementary to the Acts in relation to Immigration”, approved March 3, 1875 (commonly referred to as the “Page Act of 1875”) (18 Stat. 477, chapter 141), which restricted entry of Chinese, Japanese, and other Asian women to the United States and effectively prohibited the immigration of Chinese women, preventing the formation of Chinese families in the United States and limiting the number of native-born Chinese citizens;

(2) the enactment of the Act entitled “An Act to execute certain treaty stipulations relating to Chinese”, approved May 6, 1882 (commonly known as the “Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882”) (22 Stat. 58, chapter 126), which was the first law to explicitly exclude an entire ethnic group from immigrating to the United States;

(3) the issuance of Executive Order 9066 (7 Fed. Reg. 1407; relating to authorizing the Secretary of War to prescribe military areas) on February 19, 1942, which authorized the forced relocation and incarceration of approximately 125,000 individuals of Japanese ancestry during World War II, the majority of whom were citizens of the United States;

(4) on June 23, 1982, the murder of Vincent Chin;

(5) on January 17, 1989, the Cleveland Elementary School shooting in which a gunman used an AK-47 to kill 5 children, 4 of whom were of Southeast Asian descent;

(6) the rise in discrimination and violence against Muslim, Sikh, Arab, Middle Eastern, and South Asian Americans following the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon on September 11, 2001;

(7) on August 5, 2012, the mass shooting at a Sikh temple in Oak Creek, Wisconsin, in which a white supremacist fatally shot 6 people and wounded 4 others; and

(8) on March 16, 2021, the murder of 8 people, including 6 Asian women, at 3 separate Asian-owned businesses in the Atlanta, Georgia, region;

Whereas, in response to the uptick in anti-Asian hate crimes throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Congress passed the COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act (Public Law 117-13; 135 Stat. 265), which was signed into law on May 20, 2021;

Whereas, in celebration of the contributions of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders in the United States, Congress passed the Commission To Study the Potential Creation of a National Museum of Asian Pacific American History and Culture Act (Public Law 117-140; 136 Stat. 1259) to establish a commission to study the creation of a National Museum of Asian Pacific American History and Culture, which was signed into law on June 13, 2022;

Whereas, as part of the American Women Quarters Program, the United States Mint has issued commemorative quarters honoring the contributions of—

(1) Chinese American film star Anna May Wong;

(2) Native Hawaiian composer and cultural advocate Edith Kanaka'ole;

(3) Japanese American Congresswoman Patsy Mink; and

(4) Korean American disability justice advocate Stacey Park Milbern;

Whereas, as part of the Native American \$1 Coin Program, the United States Mint has issued a commemorative \$1 coin honoring the contributions of Mary Kawena Pukui, a renowned Native Hawaiian scholar, anthropologist, ethnographer, author, composer, dancer, and educator whose work ensured the preservation and perpetuation of the Native Hawaiian language, history, and culture;

Whereas there remains much to be done to ensure that Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders have access to resources and a voice in the Federal Government and continue to advance in the political landscape of the United States; and

Whereas celebrating Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month provides the people of the United States with an opportunity to recognize the achievements, contributions, and history of, and to understand the challenges faced by, Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the significance of Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month as an important time to celebrate the significant contributions of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders to the history of the United States; and

(2) recognizes that Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander communities enhance the rich diversity of and strengthen the United States.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2224. Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. HEINRICH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1582, to provide for the regulation of payment stablecoins, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2225. Mr. REED submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1582, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2226. Mr. REED submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1582, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 2224. Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. HEINRICH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1582, to provide for the regulation of payment stablecoins, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . PROHIBITION ON CHANGES TO MEDICARE AND MEDICAID IN RECONCILIATION.

Section 310(g) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 641(g)) is amended—

(1) in the subsection heading, by striking “THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT” and inserting “SOCIAL SECURITY, MEDICARE, AND MEDICAID”;

(2) by striking “recommendations with respect to the old-age” and inserting the following: “recommendations with respect to—

“(1) the old-age”;

(3) by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) the Medicare program under title XVIII of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq.); or

“(3) the Medicaid program under title XIX of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396 et seq.).”.

SA 2225. Mr. REED submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1582, to provide for the regulation of payment stablecoins, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In section 3, strike subsection (b) and insert the following:

(b) **PROHIBITION ON OFFERS OR SALES.**—It shall be unlawful for any person to offer or sell a payment stablecoin through the use of any medium or by any means of access in interstate commerce in the United States or to offer or sell a payment stablecoin to a United States person living in the United States unless such payment stablecoin is issued by a permitted payment stablecoin issuer.

In section 3, strike subsection (c) and insert the following:

(c) **SAFE HARBORS.**—

(1) **BY THE BOARD.**—The Board shall issue regulations to safe harbor the offer or sale of payment stablecoins that were issued by a foreign payment stablecoin issuer that is subject to requirements in the issuer's home country that are determined by the Board to be comparable with the requirements applicable to permitted payment stablecoin issuers under this Act and regulations thereunder.

(2) **BY THE PRIMARY FEDERAL PAYMENT STABLECOIN REGULATORS.**—The primary Federal payment stablecoin regulators may jointly issue regulations providing safe harbors from the prohibition under subsection (b) that are consistent with the purposes of this Act.

In section 3(f)(1), insert “or (b)” after “knowingly participates in a violation of subsection (a)”.

In section 3(f)(2), insert “or (b)” after “knowingly violated subsection (a)”.

In section 3(h)(1), insert “or” after the semicolon.

In section 3(h)(2), strike “; or” and insert a period.

In section 3(h), strike paragraph (3).

Strike section 18 and insert the following:

SEC. 18. USE OF SANCTIONS AUTHORITIES UNDER THE INTERNATIONAL EMERGENCY ECONOMIC POWERS ACT WITH RESPECT TO BLOCKCHAIN-ENABLED SMART CONTRACTS.

Section 203 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1702) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by adding at the end the following:

“(4) The President may exercise the authorities granted by this subsection with respect to blockchain-enabled smart contracts, or other similar technology, without regard to whether such contracts operate autonomously, can be modified, or are owned.”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(d) In this section:

“(1) The term ‘interest’ includes any interest of any nature whatsoever, direct or indirect, present, future, or contingent, and legal, equitable, or beneficial, or otherwise,

without regard to whether such interest is legally cognizable.

“(2) The terms ‘person’ and ‘national’ include—

“(A) any individual;

“(B) any entity, association, group, or other organization; and

“(C) any body of persons joined by common purpose or interest.

“(3) The term ‘property’ includes—

“(A) property of any nature whatsoever, real, personal, or mixed, tangible or intangible, even if such property is abandoned or ownerless;

“(B) services of any nature whatsoever; and

“(C) contracts of any nature whatsoever.”.

SA 2226. Mr. REED submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1582, to provide for the regulation of payment stablecoins, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____. **PRIVATE RIGHT OF ACTION AGAINST PERMITTED PAYMENT STABLECOIN ISSUERS AND DIGITAL ASSET SERVICE PROVIDERS.**

Any person who purchases, sells, trades, exchanges, transfers, or lends a payment stablecoin in, or in a manner affecting, interstate or foreign commerce may bring an action in the United States district court for the judicial district in which the person conducts such transaction, against a permitted payment stablecoin issuer or a digital asset service provider if such permitted payment stablecoin issuer or digital asset service provider deployed any fraudulent, manipulative, or deceptive device or contrivance of such rules and regulations as the primary Federal payment stablecoin issuers shall prescribe as necessary or appropriate in the public interest or for the protection of any person who transacts in a payment stablecoin.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, I have six requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 8, 2025, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is author-

ized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 8, 2025, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 8, 2025, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 8, 2025, at 10:30 a.m., to conduct a business meeting.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 8, 2025, at 10:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

The Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 8, 2025, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on a nomination.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, MAY 12, 2025

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 3 p.m. on Monday, May 12; 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, and the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each; further, that notwithstanding rule XXII, the cloture motions filed on May 8 ripen at 5:30 p.m., and the Senate vote on the motion to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 76, Monica Crowley.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, MAY 12, 2025, AT 3 P.M.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 3:52 p.m., adjourned until Monday, May 12, 2025, at 3 p.m.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING ALVIN STIMAGE

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a dedicated leader and community servant, Mr. Alvin Stimage, for his 34 years of outstanding service at the Vicksburg YMCA.

Mr. Stimage has been a pillar of the Vicksburg community, promoting fitness, well-being, and mentorship through his work at the YMCA. When the facility first acquired exercise equipment, Mr. Stimage became instrumental in training members on how to use the machines effectively, demonstrating his commitment to health and wellness.

Throughout his career, Mr. Stimage has worn many hats, from helping run the YMCA's childcare program and working in maintenance to serving as one of the organization's first personal trainers at the Vicksburg location. He currently serves as a personal trainer and the facility's night supervisor, roles through which he continues to positively impact countless lives.

Mr. Stimage's contributions extend far beyond physical fitness. He has been a mentor to young people, offering guidance and instilling values of respect and resilience. One example of his impactful mentorship involved a young man who was able to calmly and effectively handle a tense situation, crediting Mr. Stimage's influence for his ability to de-escalate the incident.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Mr. Alvin Stimage for his exemplary dedication to the Vicksburg YMCA and his unwavering commitment to bettering his community. His legacy of leadership and service will inspire generations to come.

CONGRATULATING MELISSA TAPANES

HON. CARLOS A. GIMENEZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2025

Mr. GIMENEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Melissa Tapanes on being named President of the Builders Association of South Florida.

Ms. Tapanes is an accomplished attorney who specializes in complex legislative and quasi-judicial matters. She has demonstrated a strong commitment to public service, holding leadership roles with the Miami Downtown Development Authority and numerous civic and legal organizations.

Her dedication to education and public policy began early, with an appointment by Governor Jeb Bush and her successful advocacy for the establishment of a public law school at Florida International University.

Throughout her career, Ms. Tapanes has earned prestigious honors, including the South Florida Business Journal's "40 Under 40" and Ford's "Mujeres Legendarias." She has been consistently recognized by The Legal 500, ranked in Chambers USA, and acknowledged by Super Lawyers and Florida Trend.

I look forward to working with Ms. Tapanes in her new role as President of the Builders Association of South Florida.

RECOGNIZING RHIENNA MCCLAIN FOR RECEIVING THE ATHENA INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP AWARD

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2025

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Rhienna McClain for receiving the ATHENA International Leadership Award. This award celebrates the leadership of women who create opportunities for other women. Ms. McClain exemplifies these qualities through her entrepreneurial vision and commitment to her community.

As the owner of the 1776 Restaurant in Crystal Lake, Ms. McClain has established a fine dining experience that prioritizes high-quality, gluten-free, and allergy-safe cuisine. Through her leadership, she has strengthened the local economy by fostering partnerships with local businesses and sourcing ingredients from Illinois farms. Her restaurant not only offers an upscale dining experience but also serves as a community space that brings people together.

In addition to her entrepreneurial accomplishments, Ms. McClain is deeply committed to her community. She previously served as the chairperson of Big Brothers Big Sisters of McHenry County, an organization that provides critical mentorship services to children, helping them develop the confidence they need to succeed. Since 2018, she has been a passionate advocate for the organization, opening doors of opportunity for countless young people. Furthermore, Ms. McClain has dedicated her time and expertise to various community development efforts, including serving on the Economic Development Committee of Crystal Lake, the McHenry County Department of Health, and the Gavers Community Cancer Foundation.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent Rhienna McClain, whose exceptional contributions have made a lasting impact on McHenry County. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating her on receiving the ATHENA International Leadership Award, a recognition that is truly well-deserved.

INTRODUCTION OF THE RESTROOM ACCESS ACT OF 2025

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2025

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the Restroom Access Act of 2025, which would require a retail establishment to provide an individual who has a medical condition requiring immediate use of a restroom, such as Crohn's disease or ulcerative colitis, access to an employee-only restroom when such an establishment does not have a public restroom. Individuals would be required to present a Department of Labor-issued identification card certifying that they have an eligible medical condition.

Individuals who have certain medical conditions need immediate access to a restroom. When public restrooms are not available, these individuals may experience uncomfortable or embarrassing situations. As long as there are no safety concerns, which this bill addresses, these individuals should be able to use an employee-only restroom.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

CHANGE OF COMMAND DANIEL RUSSELL

HON. AARON BEAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2025

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, rain or shine, turbulence or calm, the Red Lancer's Commanding Officer is always steady at the helm—because leadership doesn't come with an 'abort mission' button.

I rise today to congratulate Commander Daniel Russell on his promotion to Commanding Officer of Patrol Squadron VP-10 of the United States Navy, also known as the Red Lancers.

When it comes to leadership in the Navy, it's more than just a title. It is a calling, a duty, and a profound responsibility. It requires vision, dedication, and commitment to those who serve. Commander Russell has already demonstrated these qualities in abundance, serving with distinction as Executive Officer, guiding this squadron with a steady hand and an unwavering focus on operational excellence.

A native of Troy, North Carolina, Commander Russell is a graduate of East Carolina University, where he earned a degree in the science of biology. He began his military career by enlisting in the United States Navy in 2005 and has since held numerous assignments, including on the USS *Maryland* (SSBN-738), USS *John C. Stennis* (CVN 74), and successfully completed two deployments.

Throughout his service, he has not only accumulated over 2,000 flight hours in various

• 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.

aircraft, but numerous military decorations, including the CAPT Tim Tibbets Leadership Award, six Navy Commendation Medals, as well as the Navy/Marine Corps Achievement Medal.

As he steps into the role of Commanding Officer, I know that Commander Russell will continue to execute vital maritime patrol and reconnaissance missions with precision and uphold the highest traditions of Naval Aviation.

Mr. Speaker, Commander Russell is a true patriot and distinguished American who has devoted himself to the service of our Nation. It is appropriate that we honor him today by expressing our gratitude for his dedication and wishing him well on his new command.

And while he may not be able to push the "abort mission" button, I know that when the pressure rises, Commander Russell will rise higher.

CELEBRATING THE 2024 HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

HON. MAXWELL FROST

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2025

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Florida's 10th Congressional District, I want to recognize the exceptional Hispanic leaders of Florida's 10th congressional district who have shown outstanding dedication to the Hispanic community.

These individuals have worked tirelessly to uplift and empower our communities, contributing to the preservation and advancement of Hispanic culture, values, and traditions.

Their commitment to service and advocacy has had a profound impact on our community and beyond, their names are:

Yesica Ramirez
General Coordinator, The Farmworker Association of Florida
Tatiana Quiroga
Executive Director, Come Out With Pride, Inc.
Stephanie Loraine Piñero, MSW
Executive Director, Florida Access Network
Sonia Ledger
Former Local Group Lead, Moms Demand Action
Nancy Rosado, MSW
Community Advocate, UCF RESTORES and Alianza Center
Melissa Marantes, Esq.
Executive Director, Attorney, Orlando Center for Justice
Karla Radka
President and CEO, Senior Resource Alliance
Cyndia Morales Muñoz, Ed.D.
Senior Director, Hispanic Serving Institution Initiatives, University of Central Florida
Andrea Guzmán, Ed.D.
Vice President for Access and Community Engagement, University of Central Florida
Laudi Campo
Florida State Director, Hispanic Federation
William J. Diaz
Founder, Casa de Venezuela Orlando & Made in Venezuela Business Club
Marco Antonio Quiroga
Founder and Executive Director, Contigo Fund
Juan Pablo Santa Luna
Director of Strategic Business Development, Mills Gallery Arts and Multicultural Foundation

Juan Marcos Vilar
President and CEO, Alianza Center
Fernando I. Rivera, Ph.D.
Professor of Sociology and Director, Puerto Rico Research Hub, University of Central Florida
Felipe Sousa-Lazaballet
Executive Director, Hope Community Center
Eric Camarillo
President & Founder, SALT Outreach Inc.
Rev. Dr. David Maldonado
Bishop of Christ International Church and Co-Founder for Hablamos Español
Chief Charlie Salazar
Fire Chief, Orlando Fire Department
Rev. Dr. Jose Rodriguez
Rector, The Episcopal Churches of Christ the King and Jesus de Nazareth

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF BERNARD J. MCCULLOUGH

HON. JONATHAN L. JACKSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2025

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Bernard J. McCullough, better known as "Bernie Mac" by his fans. Born on the south side of Chicago on October 5, 1957, Bernie would go on to become a singular comedic talent who spent his entire career in show business, bringing laughter and joy to his audiences.

To his fans and a world that adored him, he was comedian Bernie Mac. But his real name was Bernard Jeffery McCullough born October 5, 1957 as the second child of Mary McCullough and Jeffery Harrison, who had already made their life transition. Bernard, or "Bernie", as he was affectionately named, grew up in the gang-ridden Englewood Community of Chicago. Always a leader and not a follower, he gained the respect of most of the gang members without ever joining. He was forever the clown and always known for making people laugh. He accepted Jesus Christ at a young age and attended Burning Bush Missionary Baptist Church.

His big break came in 1990 when he won first place with a remarkable performance in the Miller Lite Comedy Search. From that point, his popularity spread, and he garnered attention prompting Russell Simmons to give him a spot on his groundbreaking show Def Comedy Jam. Bernard's first stage appearance was so well received that he was invited back to perform a second time. From that moment on, the Mac Man was a phenomenon. He would soon go on tour as the opening act for Chaka Khan, Barry White, the Whispers and many other performers.

Bernie made his film debut with the release of *Mo' Money* in 1992. His breakthrough performance, however, came in his role as Pastor Cleaver in Ice Cube's hit movie, *Friday* (1995).

Bernie Mac's comedy was raw, honest, and fearless. His stand-up often revolved around his personal experiences, delivered with his signature raspy voice and bold stage presence. He gained widespread recognition as one of the four comedians in the 2000 stand-up film *The Original Kings of Comedy*, where his set stole the show with its hilarious takes on family and discipline. The Bernie Mac Show, his self-titled sitcom, was a groundbreaking hit, blending humor with heart-

felt moments as he played a fictionalized version of himself raising his sister's kids. The show earned multiple awards and cemented his place in TV history. Bernie transitioned seamlessly into acting, appearing in films like *Ocean's Eleven*, *Mr. 3000*, and *Guess Who*. His charisma made him stand out in every role he took on.

Even after his passing in 2008, Bernie Mac remains a beloved figure in comedy. His fearless approach and unique comedic style continue to influence comedians today, impacting hundreds of lives still. Bernie launched The Bernie Mac Foundation in Chicago, Illinois in 2005 as Founder and Chairman of the Board to bring awareness to sarcoidosis and build a bridge between awareness and a cure. He dedicated his mission to informing the community on the impact of sarcoidosis to patients and transform the opinions of treatment. Bernie used his celebrity to support the Bernie Mac Sarcoidosis Translational Advanced Research (STAR) Center at the University of Illinois Health Sciences System to provide patients with outstanding care. He was also passionate about patients receiving evaluations in a timely, compassionate and courteous manner for all forms of sarcoidosis.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring the life and legacy of Bernard J. McCullough.

COMMEMORATING ARMED FORCES DAY AND THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO SERVE IN THE UNITED STATES MILITARY

HON. NICHOLAS A. LANGWORTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2025

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the service of our brave men and women for Armed Forces Day, May 17, 2025. Armed Forces Day is a 75-year tradition to thank all of those who are currently serving, as well as those who have served and sacrificed to defend our freedom. It is because of their duty, honor, and courage that the United States of America remains free today.

This Saturday, the Western New York Armed Forces Committee will honor eleven service men and women to be honored at its 62nd Military Ball, and it is my honor to include in the RECORD their names as a tribute to their service, and the service of their brothers and sisters in arms:

RP2 Amber N. Cardillo—United States Navy.
LS1 Anthony Taylor—United States Navy Reserve.
SSG Jacob Hinds—United States Army.
SSG Andrew Sulski—United States Army Reserve.
SSG Kaleb Acosta—New York Army National Guard.
SSG Bradley A. Bray—New York Guard Honoree.
BMI Brett Lawrence—United States Coast Guard.
MST2 Krishnan Muthaiah—United States Coast Guard Reserve.
SSgt Favan G. Perez—United States Marine Corps.
Sgt Codey Aboff—United States Marine Corps Reserve Honoree.
SrA Tess E. Barone—United States Air Force.

Western New York and the Southern Tier are home to many proud service members and veterans, and our community has a long and proud tradition of military service. It is my honor to recognize their bravery. On behalf of the United States Congress and the constituents of New York's 23rd Congressional District, I thank these men and women for their service and all those who continue to serve with them.

RECOGNIZING THE CRYSTAL LAKE STRIKERS FOR RECEIVING THE CARL E. WEHDE AWARD

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2025

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Crystal Lake Strikers for receiving the Carl E. Wehde Award. This award honors the late Carl E. Wehde and celebrates outstanding contributions that enhance the quality of life for the people of Crystal Lake.

The Crystal Lake Strikers are a drumline that seamlessly integrates the arts and education. They perform year-round and offer a wide range of programs in percussion, color guard, and other performing arts disciplines. Their mission is twofold: to provide high-quality entertainment to the community and to build confidence in students. By expanding upon lessons taught in local schools, the Strikers meet the educational needs of Crystal Lake, offering percussion experiences for children at all grade levels through six distinct groups.

In recognition of their impact, the Strikers were previously honored with the Illinois Park and Recreation Association's Outstanding Program and Special Event Award for the creation of the Kingpins drumline, an educational program designed specifically for children with special needs.

The Strikers' commitment to serving the Crystal Lake community extends beyond the classroom. They actively support aspiring performers through college scholarships, fundraisers, and by providing a platform for young talent in the performing arts.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent the Crystal Lake Strikers, whose contributions to the arts and education have had a profound and lasting impact on the city. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Strikers on receiving this well-deserved award and for continuing to inspire the next generation of performers.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF MR. PAUL ROGER DIONNE

HON. JARED F. GOLDEN

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2025

Mr. GOLDEN of Maine. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the life of Paul Roger Dionne, who passed away on April 17, 2025. A pillar of the Lewiston community, Paul spent his life in service to others.

As a First Lieutenant in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War, Paul earned two Bronze

Stars and two Vietnamese Crosses of Gallantry. After returning home, Paul met his best friend and soulmate, Diane (LeBlanc), and they married in 1970. Together, they built a home and raised two daughters, Melodie and Michelle, and later welcomed five grandchildren.

In addition to Paul's service to his country, he also served the people of Maine. Leading his community as Assistant District Attorney and as Mayor of Lewiston, Paul was instrumental in bringing the University of Maine system to Lewiston (UMLA). Later in his career, Paul was appointed Maine's first Executive Director of the Workers' Compensation Board, serving under Governors King and Baldacci. In this role Paul fought for workers' rights and is remembered for his compassion and tact.

However, Paul's greatest impact was on his beloved community of Lewiston. A staple at every community event, Paul was a member of the Chamber of Commerce, led the Central Maine Medical Center Board of Trustees, and earned recognition as one of Lewiston's Citizens of the Year. Additionally, Paul coached hundreds of students on the Lewiston High School Mock Trial Team, which he did proudly alongside his daughter.

Remembered by many for his big smile, and his love for one another, he lifted up his community. Mr. Speaker, for these reasons, I am honored to pay tribute to Paul Dionne.

RECOGNIZING HANNAH DICKINSON, GOLD AWARD

HON. W. GREGORY STEUBE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2025

Mr. STEUBE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Hannah Dickinson. Hannah is a member of Sandy Beaches Service Unit within Girl Scouts of Southeast Florida, and has exemplified extraordinary leadership, innovative problem-solving, and a demonstrated commitment to making a lasting, positive impact, by earning the most prestigious award in Girl Scouting, the Gold Award.

Gold Award Girl Scouts are recognized as trailblazers who are willing to tackle the most pressing challenges facing their communities and the world with measurable, sustainable, and far-reaching results. To earn the Girl Scout Gold Award, high school-age Girl Scouts must identify and investigate an issue they care about, devise a plan, and then lead a team of experts and community members to implement a project that produces lasting change. Over the course of 1–2 years, Gold Award Girl Scouts demonstrate significant initiative, commitment, and leadership, distinguishing them from their peers. Through their resourcefulness and perseverance, they embody the Girl Scout Law to truly make the world a better place.

Hannah's project, Kindness Counts, in partnership with Port Charlotte High School and the National Honor Society and Key Club, was an excellent endeavor to address mental health and bullying in our community. Hannah took action by coordinating with school administrators, educating community members about the harmful effects of bullying, and creating a motivational mural to be displayed at her

school, which will have a positive impact on our community for years to come.

On behalf of the 17th Congressional District of Florida, congratulations to Hannah for achieving the highest distinction in Girl Scouts, the Gold Award. We thank Hannah for her leadership and making such a positive, lasting change in our community.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT AND SERVICE OF GARY JOHNSON

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2025

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate Gary Johnson on his retirement following a distinguished career spanning more than four decades in engineering, construction, and public service. His legacy of leadership and service will continue to inspire us for years to come.

As Vice President of Government Affairs and Industry Relations for Granite Construction Company, Mr. Johnson has been a tireless advocate for infrastructure investment, sound regulatory policy, and industry collaboration. His leadership has helped shape national conversations around transportation, construction materials, and sustainable development. Before assuming this role, Mr. Johnson led strategic planning and aggregate resource development at Granite, applying his deep technical expertise to ensure responsible resource management.

Prior to joining Granite in 2002, Mr. Johnson held senior leadership roles with a nationwide engineering consulting firm, Mine Reclamation LLC, and the Santa Rosa Group Corporation. His diverse experience across public and private sectors underscores his commitment to advancing engineering innovation and environmental stewardship.

Mr. Johnson earned both his Bachelor of Science and Master of Science in Civil Engineering from the University of Texas at Austin and is a Registered Professional Engineer in the state of Texas. Beyond his professional accomplishments, Gary holds an impressive record of public service, including his tenure as Chair of the Colorado River Region of the California Regional Water Quality Control Board from 2000 to 2006.

Throughout his career, Mr. Johnson has been known not only for his technical acumen and policy insight, but for his integrity, collaborative spirit, and unwavering dedication to building a better, more connected America.

On behalf of California's 8th Congressional District, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to Gary Johnson on his well-deserved retirement. We wish him the very best in the years ahead.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2025

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 119; and YEA on Roll Call No. 120.

CELEBRATING OUR 2025 SPRING INTERN CLASS FOR THEIR SERVICE TO CALIFORNIA'S 20TH DISTRICT

HON. VINCE FONG

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2025

Mr. FONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding group of interns who have supported the work of the 20th District of California this spring. These bright and driven young people—serving in my Washington, D.C. office and my Bakersfield, California office—have brought a spirit of dedication and enthusiasm that enriched our team. At a time when many young Americans are questioning the role of public service, their eagerness to engage with the federal government on behalf of their communities offers real encouragement for the future of our Nation.

With their time in Congress reaching its close, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to Jonathan Clark, Justin Gibbins, and Jack Putrino for their work in my Washington, D.C. office, and Ava Dykes for her service in my Bakersfield, California office. Their hard work and dedication have been invaluable, and I hope that the experiences gained here will serve them well in their future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING NANCY MERKLING FOR RECEIVING THE ROBERT O. COVEY BUSINESS OF THE YEAR AWARD

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2025

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Nancy Merklings for receiving the Robert O. Covey Business of the Year Award. This award pays tribute to the late Robert O. Covey and celebrates businesses in the Crystal Lake area that have demonstrated outstanding success and community involvement.

As the owner and producer of Nancy Merklings Productions, Ms. Merklings offers professional photography and mentorship services, inspiring and guiding others who are pursuing careers in the field. Her vision and artistry distinguish her work in family portraits, headshots, and commercial photography.

Ms. Merklings has long demonstrated a deep commitment to the arts. She previously served as the Co-Executive Director of the Lakeside Legacy Foundation, an organization dedicated to preserving The Dole, a historic mansion in Crystal Lake, for the community to enjoy.

Since 2011, Ms. Merklings has been the driving force behind the 4th Fridays Art Event at The Dole, which brings together photography, art, and music to enrich the local cultural landscape. Held ten times a year, this program fosters collaboration among a diverse range of artists and provides a vibrant social space that celebrates creative expression. Through her vision, Ms. Merklings has significantly contributed to the cultural vitality of Crystal Lake, creating valuable opportunities for artists to share their work with the community.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent Nancy Merklings, whose dedication as both an artist

and a mentor has made a lasting impact on our community. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Ms. Merklings on receiving this well-deserved recognition.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JASON CROW

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2025

Mr. CROW. Mr. Speaker, on May 5, 2025, I was unable to be present to cast my vote on the MEGOBARI Act (H.R. 36) and the ACES Act (H.R. 530). Had I been present for Roll Call No. 115 and Roll Call No. 116, I would have voted "AYE" for both measures.

CELEBRATING 2025 BLACK HISTORY MONTH LUMINARIES

HON. MAXWELL FROST

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2025

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, Black History is American History.

The annual observance of Black History Month is more than a chronological account of our past, it is that of our present and our future.

It's about the joy, the culture, the resistance, the fight, and how far Black Americans have come in this country.

Celebrating our Black communities and Black history is so important, especially now, in times like this where values of diversity, equity and inclusion are under attack.

But despite that we move forward in the steps of our ancestors and in the steps of joy and resistance. That is why it is my honor to recognize the 2025 Black Luminaries of Florida's 10th Congressional District who have transformed lives and inspired generations, these luminaries are:

Dr. Laine Powell—Founder and Executive Director of Tech Sassy Girlz.

Ms. Eloise Abraham—Executive Director of Guardian Care Nursing and Rehabilitation Center.

Lashea C. Reaves—Executive Director of 8 cent in a Jar.

Inez Long (posthumously)—Long-time President and CEO of the Black Business Investment Fund (BBIF) Florida, and co-founder of the African American Alliance of CDFI CEOs.

Dr. Jeffrey Redding—2019 winner of the prestigious Grammy award, The Music Educator Award and a UCF Director of Choral Activities.

Mr. Omari Jones—Boxing Bronze medalist from the 2024 Olympics.

Alvin Cowans—President/CEO at McCoy Federal Credit Union.

Gene Martin—Founder & Executive Director—Route 7.

Retired Elder/Reverend Henry L. Postell, II.—Owner of Postell Mortuary.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CITY OF OCOEE

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2025

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to recognize and celebrate the 100 Year Anniversary of the City of Ocoee, Florida. Ocoee officially became a municipality in 1923 and was incorporated as a city in May 1925. The City of Ocoee will host their Centennial Celebration on Friday, May 9, 2025.

Ocoee was first settled in the mid-1800s, near Starke Lake, southeast of Lake Apopka. In 1886, Dr. H.K. Clarke, Charles J. Chunn, and R.B.F. Roper developed the Town of Ocoee subdivision, naming it after the Ocoee River in Tennessee. The name "Ocoee" comes from the Cherokee word for "apricot vine," which is what inspired the city's logo now referred to as the passion flower.

Over the past century, the City of Ocoee has become steeped in rich history made up of significant moments and milestones. Generations have come and gone, each adding their own story to the fabric of Ocoee. Today, with a growing population, over 50,000 people currently call Ocoee home. The City of Ocoee prides itself on the quality of life it provides its citizens. Ocoee's unique location in the heart of Central Florida makes it a wonderful place to live, work and play.

The City of Ocoee will host their Centennial Celebration on Friday, May 9, 2025. I join our community in celebrating this momentous occasion. Happy Centennial, Ocoee.

CELEBRATING THE 74TH BIRTHDAY OF ERIC L. THOMPSON, SR.

HON. JONATHAN L. JACKSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2025

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 74th birthday of Eric L. Thompson, Sr. Born on April 3, 1951 in Chicago, Illinois. Eric has been a lifelong resident of Chicago and a beloved member of our community.

As a young man, Eric was inspired by the civil rights advocacy of his parents, who frequently worked with my father, Reverend Jesse L. Jackson, Sr. to advance civil rights through Operation Rainbow PUSH.

Eric attended Augustana College and later went on to start his own businesses, T&T Food Service, and Eridor Food Service, Inc., named in honor of his sons, Eric and Dorian. Through his hard work and keen business skills, Eric has grown his businesses into the preeminent food service providers in the Chicago area.

In addition to being an accomplished businessman, Eric is also known for his friendly spirit and kindness. To know Eric is to know a friend. As Eric looks back on 74 wonderful years, I hope he is able to rest on his laurels and enjoy celebrating his accomplishments with his family and friends. I wish him many more years of good health.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating this momentous occasion.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HENRY C. “HANK” JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2025

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker,
during the May 7, 2025 evening vote series on

H.R. 881, DHS Restrictions on Confucius Institutes and Chinese Entities of Concern Act, I unintentionally voted YEA on final passage. Had I been able to correct my vote, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 120.

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S2807–S2846

Measures Introduced: Thirty-seven bills and seven resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 1670–1706, and S. Res. 208–214. **Pages S2837–38**

Measures Reported:

S. 612, to amend the Native American Tourism and Improving Visitor Experience Act to authorize grants to Indian tribes, tribal organizations, and Native Hawaiian organizations. (S. Rept. No. 119–20) **Page S2832**

Measures Passed:

Addressing the Homework Gap Through the E-Rate Program: By 50 yeas to 38 nays (Vote No. 238), Senate passed 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”. **Pages S2807, S2808–13**

Glen Canyon National Recreation Area: By 50 yeas to 43 nays (Vote No. 239), Senate passed 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”. **Pages S2813–14**

Southeastern Louisiana University’s Centennial: Senate agreed to S. Res. 209, commending Southeastern Louisiana University on the occasion of its Centennial and its years of service to the State of Louisiana and the United States. **Page S2831**

Blinded Veterans Association’s 80th Anniversary: Senate agreed to S. Res. 210, honoring and commending the 80th anniversary of the Blinded Veterans Association. **Page S2831**

World Migratory Bird Day: Senate agreed to S. Res. 211, designating May 10, 2025, as “World Migratory Bird Day”. **Page S2831**

Measures Considered:

Genius Act: Senate resumed consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 1582, to provide for the regulation of payment stablecoins. **Pages S2814–18**

During consideration of this measure today, Senate also took the following action:

By 48 yeas to 49 nays (Vote No. 240), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn, not having voted in the affirmative, Senate rejected the motion to close further debate on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill. **Page S2823**

Senator Thune entered a motion to reconsider the vote by which cloture was not invoked on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill. **Page S2823**

Message from the President: Senate received the following message 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 13611 of May 16, 2012, with respect to Yemen; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs. (PM–26) **Page S2832**

Crowley Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Monica Crowley, of New York, to be Chief of Protocol, and to have the rank of Ambassador during her tenure of service, Department of State. **Page S2818**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, and pursuant to the unanimous-consent agreement of Thursday, May 8, 2025, a vote on cloture will occur at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, May 12, 2025. **Page S2846**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S2818**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that notwithstanding Rule XXII, the motions to invoke cloture filed on Thursday, May 8, 2025, ripen at 5:30 p.m., and Senate vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination. **Page S2846**

Rubinstein Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Reed Rubinstein, of Maryland, to be Legal Adviser of the Department of State. **Pages S2818–19**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Monica Crowley, of New York, to be Chief of Protocol, and to have the rank of Ambassador during her tenure of service, Department of State. **Pages S2818–19**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S2818**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S2818**

Meink Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Troy Meink, of Virginia, to be Secretary of the Air Force, Department of Defense. **Page S2819**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Reed Rubinstein, of Maryland, to be Legal Adviser of the Department of State. **Page S2819**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S2819**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S2819**

Danly Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of James Danly, of Tennessee, to be Deputy Secretary of Energy. **Page S2824**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Troy Meink, of Virginia, to be Secretary of the Air Force, Department of Defense. **Page S2824**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S2824**

MacGregor Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Katharine MacGregor, of Florida, to be Deputy Secretary of the Interior. **Page S2824**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the

Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of James Danly, of Tennessee, to be Deputy Secretary of Energy. **Page S2824**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S2824**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S2824**

Rigas Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Michael Rigas, of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary of State for Management and Resources. **Page S2824**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Katharine MacGregor, of Florida, to be Deputy Secretary of the Interior. **Page S2824**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S2824**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S2824**

Messages from the House: **Page S2832**

Measures Referred: **Page S2832**

Measures Placed on the Calendar: **Pages S2807, S2832**

Measures Read the First Time: **Pages S2831, S2832**

Executive Reports of Committees: **Pages S2832–37**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S2838–39**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S2839–45**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S2845–46**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S2846**

Record Votes: Three record votes were taken today. (Total—240) **Pages S2813–14, S2823**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 3:52 p.m., until 3 p.m. on Monday, May 12, 2025. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S2846.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

APPROPRIATIONS: FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2026 for the Federal Bureau of Investigation, after receiving testimony from Kash Patel, Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Department of Justice.

APPROPRIATIONS: DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Department of Homeland Security concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2026 for the Department of Homeland Security, after receiving testimony from Kristi Noem, Secretary of Homeland Security.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Armed Services: Committee concluded a hearing 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, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

AI RACE

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Committee concluded a hearing to examine winning the AI race, focusing on strengthening United States capabilities in computing and innovation, after receiving testimony from Sam Altman, OpenAI, San Francisco, California; Lisa Su, Advanced Micro Devices Inc., Austin, Texas; Michael Intrator, CoreWeave, Livingston, New Jersey; and Brad Smith, Microsoft Corporation, Redmond, Washington.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Committee ordered favorably reported 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.

NOMINATION

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Committee concluded a hearing 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, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee ordered favorably reported the nominations of Brandon Judd, of Idaho, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Chile, Leah Campos, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Dominican Republic, Charles Kushner, of New York, to be Ambassador to the French Republic, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador to the Principality of Monaco, Edward Walsh, of New Jersey, to be Ambassador to Ireland, and Joseph Popolo, of Texas, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of the Netherlands, all of the Department of State.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Caleb Orr, of Texas, to be an Assistant Secretary (Economic and Business Affairs), who was introduced by Senator Collins, Kenneth Howery, of Texas, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Denmark, who was introduced by Senators Cornyn and Cruz, 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, and Somers Farkas, of New York, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Malta, who were both introduced by Senator Scott (FL), 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, who was introduced by Senator Lee, all of the Department of State, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

NOMINATION

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nomination of James O'Neill, of California, to be Deputy Secretary of Health and Human Services, after the nominee testified and answered questions in his own behalf.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 51 public bills, H.R. 3265–3315; and 5 resolutions, H. Res. 398–402, were introduced. **Pages H1942–44**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H1945–46**

Reports Filed: There were no reports filed today.

Guest Chaplain: The prayer was offered by the Guest Chaplain, Rev. Dr. Charles B. Jackson, Sr., Brookland Baptist Church, West Columbia, South Carolina. **Page H1913**

Gulf of America Act: The House passed H.R. 276, to rename the Gulf of Mexico as the “Gulf of America”, by a recorded vote of 211 ayes to 206 noes, Roll No. 122. **Pages H1914–21**

Rejected the Huffman motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Natural Resources by a yea-and-nay vote of 203 yeas to 213 nays, Roll No. 121. **Page H1921**

Pursuant to the Rule, the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Natural Resources now printed in the bill shall be considered as adopted. **Page H1914**

H. Res. 377, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 276) and (H.R. 881) was agreed to Tuesday, May 6th.

Meeting Hour: Agreed by unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 1 p.m. tomorrow, May 9th, and further when the House adjourns on that day, it adjourn to meet at noon on Tuesday, May 13th for Morning Hour debate. **Page H1921**

Authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for a ceremony to present the Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the United States Army Rangers Veterans of World War II: The House agreed by unanimous consent to take from the Speaker’s table and agree to S. Con. Res. 12, authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for a ceremony to present the Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the United States Army Rangers Veterans of World War II. **Pages H1921–22**

Presidential Message: Received a message from the President transmitting a notification stating that the national emergency with respect to Yemen in Executive Order 13611 of May 16, 2012, is to continue in effect beyond May 16, 2025—referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed (H. Doc. 119–50). **Page H1927**

Quorum Calls—Votes: One yea-and-nay vote and one recorded vote developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H1920–21 and H1921.

Adjournment: The House met at 9 a.m. and adjourned at 2:12 p.m.

Committee Meetings

CYBERSECURITY AND INFRASTRUCTURE SECURITY AGENCY

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Homeland Security held an oversight hearing on the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency. Testimony was heard from Bridget Bean, Acting Director, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, Department of Homeland Security.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE POSTURE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Cyber, Information Technologies, and Innovation held a hearing entitled “Information Technology and Artificial Intelligence Posture of the Department of Defense”. Testimony was heard from Douglas Matty, Chief Digital and Artificial Intelligence Officer, Department of Defense; and Katie Arrington, Performing the Duties of Chief Information Officer, Department of Defense.

SPREAD FREEDOM, NOT WOKE VALUES: AN AMERICAN AGENDA FOR DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Western Hemisphere Subcommittee held a hearing entitled “Spread Freedom, Not Woke Values: An American Agenda for Democracy and Human Rights”. Testimony was heard from former Member Tom Malinowski; and public witnesses.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR FRIDAY, MAY 9, 2025

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

House

No hearings are scheduled.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

3 p.m., Monday, May 12

Senate Chamber

Program for Monday: After the transaction of any morning business (not to extend beyond 5:30 p.m.), Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of Monica Crowley, of New York, to be Chief of Protocol, and to have the rank of Ambassador during her tenure of service, Department of State, with a vote on the motion to invoke cloture thereon at approximately 5:30 p.m.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

1 p.m., Friday, May 9

House Chamber

Program for Friday: House will meet in Pro Forma session at 1 p.m.

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