



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 119<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 171

WASHINGTON, MONDAY, MAY 19, 2025

No. 84

## House of Representatives

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

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,  
May 19, 2025.

I hereby appoint the Honorable YOUNG KIM to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

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

### MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

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

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

### SUPPORTING ONE BIG, BEAUTIFUL BILL

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

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, last week, House committees moved the last sections of President Trump's one big, beautiful bill out of their respective committees.

In the Energy and Commerce Committee, I was proud to support our legislation to unleash American energy, foster innovation in our telecommunications industry, and strengthen Medicaid programs by ensuring that it

works best for the intended groups: children, pregnant women, seniors, and those with disabilities.

This legislation also fulfills President Trump's campaign promises of ending taxes on tips, overtime, and Social Security, and permanently extends President Trump's 2017 tax cuts, which ushered in unprecedented growth.

This one big, beautiful bill also further backs President Trump's incredible progress securing our southern border by funding 700 miles of new border wall construction, nearly 1,000 miles of new river barriers, and additional frontline personnel at our southern border.

President Trump's historic victory in November came with a mandate from the American people. Now, it is our time in Congress to fulfill these promises, and I look forward to doing just that on the House floor this week by passing the one big, beautiful bill.

### INDICTING THE SINALOA CARTEL

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, just 1 month into President Trump's term in office, he signed a historic executive order to designate the Sinaloa Cartel as a foreign terrorist organization.

This action allows for further collaboration among law enforcement agencies and additional resources from the Federal Government to track down and punish these criminals.

President Trump also started a narcoterrorism unit within the Department of Justice. Its sole focus is tracking down and capturing the cartel leaders who have ravaged our Nation with their poisons.

Just last week, the Trump administration formally indicted the leaders of the Sinaloa Cartel on charges of narcoterrorism, drug trafficking, and money laundering.

While this might be the first action taken by the unit, it sends a clear message to the cartel leaders who have waged war on the citizens of this great

country by trafficking deadly poisons that have taken the lives of millions of Americans.

This ends now, and I fully support President Trump's actions to hold these terrorists to account.

### CONGRATULATING BEDFORD HIGH SCHOOL BATTLE ROBOTICS TEAMS

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Kowen Long, Bryce Wentz, Gavin Glass, Greg Covert, and Sean Cessna with the Bedford High School battle robotics team on winning the national championship at the National Robotics League Tournament in Springfield, Ohio.

Participants in the competition design, build, and then compete with their robotic creations. Through this experience, students learn how to work on a team while also gaining practical, hands-on experience in science and technology, engineering, and math.

Two additional teams representing Bedford High School also had impressive showings, finishing in the top 15 at the event.

I commend the Bedford High School students on all three robotics teams and the teams' advisers, Cody Buterbaugh and Wes Tritt, for their achievements that show their skills in mechanical and electrical engineering. Their teamwork and successful application of critical thinking, project management, and communication skills showcase the value of hands-on technical education.

### THANKING NANCY BULL

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the incredible career of almost two decades of my district director, Nancy Bull, who tirelessly advocates for the people of Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District.

Nancy started her career with Representative Bill Shuster in 2008 as a constituent services representative before becoming deputy district director

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper.

H2109

in 2016. In 2019, I was honored when Nancy joined my team as director of constituent services before later becoming the district director in 2023.

Nancy has truly elevated my ability to connect with and serve my constituents. During the time she has spent with Pennsylvania-13, she has developed strong relationships with my constituents, meaning she has that wealth of understanding and knowledge that allows her to connect with so many individuals in southwestern and south central PA.

As I travel throughout Pennsylvania-13, one thing remains a constant: Everyone knows and respects Nancy Bull. They do this because she cares and listens to the constituents.

After her stellar career of serving fellow Pennsylvanians, Nancy is retiring at the end of this week to spend more time with her family and with her fiancé, Eric. I thank Nancy. I thank her for her years of hard work and dedication, and I thank her for helping so many constituents in Pennsylvania-13. We will miss her, but we will never be far away.

#### HONORING SERVICE AND SACRIFICE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

(Mr. SUBRAMANYAM of Virginia was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize National Police Week, which was this past week. We celebrated it by supporting and honoring the brave law enforcement officers who serve our communities across the country and the great work that organizations do to support them.

That includes Federal law enforcement, like the U.S. Capitol Police, who keep the entire Capitol Hill complex safe, and law enforcement personnel in my community, including the Fauquier County Sheriff's Office, the Fairfax County Police Department and Sheriff's Office, the Loudoun County Sheriff's Office, the Prince William County Police Department, the Rappahannock County Sheriff's Office, the Manassas and Manassas Park Police Departments, and the Haymarket, Leesburg, Middleburg, Purcellville, and Warrenton Police Departments. In addition, there are the airport, Metro, university, and State law enforcement officers, who help protect our community.

It takes all of them to keep us safe. I thank all of those departments for all they do.

This is also a time to honor law enforcement that we have lost, officers who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty.

Earlier this year, the Commonwealth of Virginia mourned the loss of Officers Girvin and Reese. Their courage and sacrifice will never be forgotten.

Every year, an average of 57 police officers are killed by suspects. Far too many—at least 184 public safety officers—die by suicide each year.

As we honor and remember the servicemembers we have lost, we must continue our commitment to support law enforcement officers and their families.

This month, I visited the Boulder Crest Foundation's headquarters in my district. They do critical work to support the post-traumatic growth of law enforcement officers, ensuring that those who protect us have access to help. I am proud to support Boulder Crest with a budget request to help them further develop their peer-led mental wellness training program tailored to support law enforcement officers.

As we recognize National Police Week, let's honor the service and sacrifice of law enforcement officers. Together, let's continue the work of building a safer, stronger, and more prosperous community with them.

#### CONGRATULATING WINNERS OF 2025 LEESBURG BUSINESS AWARDS

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Madam Speaker, I also rise to congratulate the winners of the 2025 Leesburg Business Awards. These businesses have gone above and beyond to serve and benefit our community.

The winner of the Arts and Cultural Award was BENEFIT, a nonprofit of musicians and community leaders who donate the proceeds of their events to local charities.

Pawsitivity Pet Services received the Community Ambassador Award for volunteering their time and resources to cultivate a positive image of Leesburg.

The George C. Marshall Award was given to the owners of Cowbell Kitchen for their dedication to community service and partnership with Love, KK to reduce food insecurity. The food there is great, as well.

Wonder Childhood Discovery received both the New Business Award as well as the People's Choice Award for promoting early childhood development. My kids are big fans of them, as well.

Finally, the Nonprofit Award went to the Community Foundation for Loudoun and Northern Fauquier Counties for their grants and partnerships that help improve the quality of life in our community. We were actually honored to visit them both this past year as well as the year before.

I congratulate the Leesburg Business Award nominees and winners. I thank them for all they do for our community.

#### HONORING NAVAL SUBMARINE BASE KINGS BAY FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

(Mr. CARTER of Georgia was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the outstanding service of the Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay Fire and Emergency Services.

This exceptional team was named the 2024 Department of Defense Small Category Fire Department of the Year.

They heroically responded to a major housing fire, rescuing three people and preventing \$3 million in property damage.

Their commitment to readiness is unmatched. They led 130 sub-fire events, 16 validation drills, and 32 command exchanges. In one lifesaving mission, they executed a submarine confined-space rescue with an 18-inch gap extraction and a three-story high-angle lift.

The department's work doesn't stop at the base. They are key partners in community outreach and regional emergency coordination, reinforcing safety throughout the district.

These actions reflect their courage, precision, and deep dedication to our safety and national security.

Georgia is proud to be home to a team that exemplifies what it means to serve—quietly, professionally, and always ready.

#### CONGRATULATING VISIT SAVANNAH AND VISIT TYBEE ISLAND

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Visit Savannah and Visit Tybee Island for receiving national recognition for their exceptional tourism marketing.

Visit Savannah's AI Chat Unit offers a first-of-its-kind interactive display that allows users to chat with Savannah for real-time travel ideas. This innovation was crowned the Best Travel Interactive Application at the 2025 Internet Advertising Competition Awards. This advertising platform achieved a 14 percent increase in engagement and placed Savannah alongside previous winners, such as Amazon and Marriott.

Visit Tybee Island received a Bronze Adrian Award from Hospitality Sales and Marketing Association International for its redesigned destination website.

These Adrian Awards honor exceptional travel marketing across all platforms, and I take pride in the innovation that has established the Georgia coast as a vacation destination for everyone.

Savannah and Tybee Island are role models for Georgia and other States across the Nation for their creativity and innovation in driving tourism.

#### HONORING DEPUTY SHERIFF JOHN HAZELTON

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Deputy Sheriff John Arthur Hazelton for being enshrined on the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial wall in Washington, D.C.

Before becoming deputy sheriff, Mr. Hazelton served bravely in the United States Navy during World War II. After returning home, he began doing what he knew best, serving his local community. Deputy Sheriff Hazelton dedicated 6 honorable years to the Camden County Sheriff's Department.

Tragically, on March 5, 1964, Deputy Sheriff Hazelton passed away in a motor vehicle accident.

In 2021, while reviewing the Officer Down Memorial Page, Sergeant Andrew Reed of the Camden County Sheriff's Department discovered an oversight. Following his tragic death, Deputy Sheriff Hazelton's name failed to be added to the national memorial in Washington, D.C.

Through 3 years of extensive government documentation, Sergeant Reed's efforts have finally put Deputy Sheriff Hazelton's name alongside that of other officers who made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty.

I thank Deputy Sheriff Hazelton for his heroic service to his country and community.

□ 1215

#### SAVANNAH SENIORS

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor three remarkable individuals recognized by Senior Citizen, Inc., of Savannah for their unwavering commitment to our community.

Dr. Otis Johnson is a trailblazing leader, educator, and former mayor of Savannah. He has dedicated his life to civil rights and uplifting communities everywhere.

Camille O'Neill, a devoted educator and pillar of the community, has nurtured countless students and built a legacy of love and service in Savannah.

Finally, John White, Sr., is a World War II veteran who served in the Marines. Mr. White is a recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor and one of the Original Nine, the first African-American police officers in Savannah. His courage, leadership, and service continue to inspire others.

Their collective efforts exemplify the spirit of civic engagement and demonstrate the profound impact one can have through service. Let us draw inspiration from their achievements and strive to follow their examples.

#### SUPPORTING RECONCILIATION

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the reconciliation measure favorably reported by the House Committee on Agriculture.

This legislation is critical. It prevents the largest tax increase in American history from hitting our families, farmers, and small businesses. It also provides essential funding for the Trump administration to continue its work to keep our Nation safe.

This bill addresses two major responsibilities: Restoring integrity to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, also known as SNAP, and making meaningful investments in American agriculture.

SNAP is a vital safety net, but it must function as Congress intended, which is as a temporary bridge for those in need, not a permanent system of dependency.

Since 2019, SNAP spending has jumped from \$60 billion to \$110 billion a year, while enrollment has grown from 36 million to 42 million. Yet despite low unemployment and over 7 million job openings in our Nation, fewer than one-third of able-bodied adults required to work under SNAP are earning income.

Work requirements, once a bipartisan standard, have been sidestepped by executive actions and State waivers. Nearly 40 percent of recipients subject to work rules now live under waivers. That is not how the program was designed to function.

States are mismanaging the program to the tune of nearly \$13 billion annually in erroneous payments. That is up nearly 100 percent since 2019. Worse yet, most States are out of compliance with basic application timelines, forcing vulnerable families to wait months for help.

Our measures correct course. It aligns SNAP with other State-administered benefit programs, requiring States to share in a minimal portion of program costs, encouraging better stewardship, fewer errors, and more timely service. Most importantly, it reinstates work as a pathway to independence and opportunity.

Madam Speaker, success should be measured by outcomes, not outlays. An efficiently delivered benefit that encourages work is a win for both the taxpayer and the recipient.

Since the 2018 farm bill, agriculture producers have faced soaring input costs, declining prices, and mounting debt. By the end of last year, the farm debt hit its highest level in over 50 years. The Agriculture and Food Policy Center at Texas A&M says the outlook for farm profitability is the worst in its 42-year history of analysis.

Our producers, from livestock to specialty crops, struggle with volatile markets, labor shortages, and growing regulatory burdens. If Congress fails to act, we risk a full-blown crisis in our food and agriculture economy.

This bill delivers targeted, meaningful investment in farm safety nets and rural development. It supports research, trade promotion, and critical infrastructure. It reflects bipartisan priorities from every corner of this Chamber.

This bill restores the integrity of SNAP, strengthens every link in the agricultural chain, and puts rural America back at the center of our policy agenda where it belongs.

Madam Speaker, I am proud of this legislation, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

#### RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 20 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 2 p.m.

#### PRAYER

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

Holy Lord, You make it sound so simple. We need only love You and our neighbor. In our daily reality, it is really hard sometimes and almost always impossible to do so with our whole heart, our soul, and our mind.

Forgive us for the countless ways we make the simple complex. Keep us from allowing the cares of this world to complicate our lives. Warn us when we allow our dislike of a person's differing opinion to get in the way of our obligation to be loving or at least respectful.

On this day and throughout this week, when the democratic process is at its messiest and decisions prove most contentious, bring Your peace into our presence and show us how You would have us live and love.

And may we respond with all that we are and all that we do, simple and firstly, by loving You. And at the end of this day, may we be blessed, knowing that the way we loved You is what mattered most.

In Your loving name we pray.

Amen.

#### 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 gentleman from Missouri (Mr. BELL) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BELL 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.

#### CATERPILLAR CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the centennial celebration of Caterpillar, one of America's greatest companies.

For 100 years, Caterpillar has produced impeccable pieces of machinery that include construction and mining equipment, off-highway diesel and natural gas engines, industrial gas turbines, and diesel-electric locomotives.

This is a company that continues to lead the way in innovation, not only here in America but also within continents across the entire world.

Congratulations to Caterpillar and its many dedicated employees on reaching this historic and admirable milestone. Here is to another century of excellence and innovation in manufacturing.

#### EDESIA NUTRITION

(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, this is the eleventh time that I have risen to call for Federal funding for malnourished children to be restored by the Trump administration. Today, I rise with a glimmer of hope.

After months of advocacy, Edesia Nutrition in North Kingstown, Rhode Island, has received notice that an order to ship their lifesaving, ready-to-use therapeutic food, Plumpy'Nut, to children in Sudan was finally approved. The food will be moved in the next 2 weeks.

This is a huge win for Edesia, for our country, and, most importantly, for the children whose lives will be saved by this miracle cure.

Let me be clear. This fight is not over. This is just the first step. The order was paid for with fiscal year 2024 funding. Edesia still has another 185,000 boxes of this ready-to-use food sitting in their warehouse, awaiting shipment. Despite money being appropriated for FY25, no new orders are being placed.

I once again call on the Trump administration for a full restoration of funding for ready-to-use therapeutic food that will save the lives of children across the world. We have done it before. We should continue to do it. That is our commitment.

#### CELEBRATING CENTRE FOUNDATION

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Centre Gives 2025.

Now in its 14th year, in a 36-hour online fundraising event, Centre Gives raised a record-breaking \$2.84 million.

This giving event organized by the Centre Foundation raises money to benefit over 230 nonprofit organizations across Centre County, Pennsylvania.

This achievement reflects the unwavering commitment of Centre County residents for supporting services in the arts, education, healthcare, animal welfare, and social services.

Notably, Centre Volunteers in Medicine received the highest donations at \$108,374, while Centre County PAWS garnered the most unique donors, totaling 681.

The success of Centre Gives 2025 underscores the power of community-driven philanthropy and serves as an inspiring model for other regions.

Mr. Speaker, I express my heartfelt congratulations to the Centre Foundation, all participating nonprofits, and the generous donors who made this possible. Together, they have strengthened the fabric of their community and set a shining example for all of us.

#### TORNADO IN ST. LOUIS

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

Mr. BELL. Mr. Speaker, this weekend, a catastrophic tornado struck the heart of St. Louis, killing five of our neighbors, injuring dozens more, and causing more than \$1.6 billion in projected damage.

Over 5,000 buildings were hit, power lines are down, critical infrastructure remains unstable, and entire neighborhoods are waking up to devastation.

Even in the middle of all that loss, St. Louis showed out. St. Louis showed up and showed what it is made of. Neighbors checked on neighbors. Teachers sheltered students. First responders put themselves in harm's way to keep others safe, and I thank them all.

This is not just a Democratic or a Republican issue. This is an all-of-the-above issue. From the Governor, the mayor, municipal mayors, the county executives, State representatives and senators, city alderpersons, county leaders, and especially regular citizens who have been working so hard for their community, I acknowledge these leaders.

Right now, thousands are still without power. Schools are closed, and families are grieving. Faith without works is dead, and we need the prayers of our constituents.

It will take a lot of work. I urge FEMA and the administration to work quickly. St. Louis can and will rebuild, but we cannot be left to do it alone. We have been through a lot. Working together, we are going to get through this, too.

#### TRUMP RECOVERS JOBS

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, for too long American workers have shouldered the burden of trade policies that reward the Chinese Communist Party billionaires, destroying American jobs.

Mr. Speaker, 3.8 million American jobs were lost to China from 2001 through early 2023, including 60,000 jobs in South Carolina.

Reliance on the Chinese Communist Party jeopardizes American national security.

Overall, China is the largest source for the manufacture of cell phones, toys, computers, and other products. President Donald Trump has long recognized this problem. Last week, one-on-one discussions between America and China produced agreements to dramatically reduce tariffs, while establishing a path forward to manage the China challenge.

In conclusion, God bless our troops as the global war on terrorism continues. Trump is reinstituting existing laws to protect American families with peace through strength, revealing war criminal Putin's lies, violating NATO airspace and insulting Trump last Tuesday with a Russian jet over the Gulf of Finland escorting a shadow ship, threatening Estonia, our NATO ally.

#### HONORING WILLING WARRIORS

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

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Willing Warriors and the upcoming 10-year anniversary of the Warrior Retreat.

Willing Warriors is an organization in Haymarket, Virginia, that supports wounded, ill, and injured servicemembers. They provide cost-free, nonmedical respite stays in a supportive environment.

Since opening in 2015, they have hosted over 2,800 Warriors and family members, where they can escape hospital settings to relax, rejuvenate, and reconnect with their families and support networks.

Through vital partnerships with Walter Reed, Fort Belvoir, and countless community organizations, their impact stretches far beyond the retreat's 37 peaceful acres.

Their newest addition, the PenFed Grand Lodge, offers group stays, resiliency training, and PTSD counseling.

I commend the Willing Warriors for their dedication to those who have sacrificed for our Nation. Congratulations on 10 years of the Warrior Retreat.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF ROGER GOFORTH

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

Mr. MOORE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Roger Eugene Goforth from my hometown of Kings Mountain, North Carolina.

For over 30 years, Roger served with the Kings Mountain Police Department. He took pride in that role, using it as an opportunity to keep the community safe and to help his neighbors in any way he could.

Roger was the kind of person who showed up wherever he was needed. He drove a schoolbus for the Kings Mountain schools, worked for decades at

Foote Mineral and FMC Lithium, and even ran his own business at Battle-ground Petroleum.

No matter what job he held, he brought a strong work ethic and a big heart. He was incredibly active in his community and his faith as a part of the Dixon Presbyterian Church and Victory Baptist. He was also a member of the Shriners, a Mason, and a member of the Progressive Club.

When he had free time, he could be found fishing, competing in tractor pulls, or spending time with his family.

Roger was a good man who cared deeply about the people around him, especially his family. He certainly left Kings Mountain a better place, and he will be missed by all those who knew him.

#### INVESTMENT OF PROLEC GE WAUKESHA

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

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, there is a lot of energy and excitement in Wayne County, North Carolina, as we celebrate a significant economic investment. Prolec GE Waukesha, Incorporated, announced a \$140 million investment which will strengthen eastern North Carolina's economy and enhance our national energy infrastructure.

The investment aims to double the production of medium power transformers and address the urgent needs of our country's electric grid. The construction of a new state-of-the-art facility will create over 330 new jobs in various fields, from engineering to production.

Young people and professionals are craving these opportunities in the East and good-paying jobs. These jobs will average nearly \$72,000 a year.

Congratulations to Prolec GE Waukesha, Incorporated. I am so excited about our energy future.

#### RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 13 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1523

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BRESNAHAN) at 3 o'clock and 23 minutes p.m.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings

today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or votes objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

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

#### ACCELERATING NETWORKING, CYBERINFRASTRUCTURE, AND HARDWARE FOR OCEANIC RE- SEARCH ACT

Mr. FONG. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1223) to require a plan to improve the cybersecurity and telecommunications of the U.S. Academic Research Fleet, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1223

*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 "Accelerating Networking, Cyberinfrastructure, and Hardware for Oceanic Research Act" or the "ANCHOR Act".

#### SEC. 2. PLAN TO IMPROVE CYBERSECURITY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS OF U.S. ACADEMIC RESEARCH FLEET.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director, in consultation with other Federal agency owners and the head of any university or laboratory that owns or operates a vessel of the U.S. Academic Research Fleet, shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives a plan to improve the cybersecurity and telecommunications of the U.S. Academic Research Fleet.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The plan required by subsection (a) shall include—

(1) an assessment of the telecommunications and networking needs of the U.S. Academic Research Fleet, consistent with the typical scientific mission of each vessel;

(2) in accordance with guidance issued by the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency and the National Institute for Standards and Technology, an assessment of cybersecurity needs appropriate for—

(A) the operation of vessels within the U.S. Academic Research Fleet; and

(B) the specific research functions and activities of such vessels;

(3) an assessment of the costs necessary to meet the needs described in paragraphs (1) and (2), including—

(A) any necessary equipment costs in excess of current expenditures, such as satellite communications equipment, software, high-performance computing infrastructure shipboard and shoreside, or enterprise hardware;

(B) estimated personnel costs in excess of current expenditures, including any necessary training, support, or logistics; and

(C) the estimated impact on daily charter rates associated with the costs described in subparagraphs (A) and (B);

(4) an assessment of the time required to implement any upgrades required to meet the needs described in paragraphs (1) and (2) under varying budgets and funding scenarios;

(5) an assessment of opportunities for the adoption of common solutions or consortial licensing agreements, or for the centralization of elements of fleet cybersecurity, telecommunications, or data management at a single facility; and

(6) in consultation with any non-Federal owners of a vessel of the U.S. Academic Research Fleet, a spending plan for the National Science Foundation, the Office of Naval Research, non-Federal owners of vessels of the U.S. Academic Research Fleet, users of the U.S. Academic Research Fleet, or any combination thereof, to provide funding to cover the costs described in paragraph (3).

(c) CONSIDERATIONS.—The Director in preparing the plan required by subsection (a), shall, as appropriate, consider the following:

(1) The network capabilities, including speed and bandwidth targets, necessary to meet the scientific mission needs of each class of vessel within the U.S. Academic Research Fleet for such purposes as—

(A) executing the critical functions and communications of each vessel;

(B) providing network access for the health and well-being of deployed personnel, including communications to conduct telemedicine (including mental health care), counseling, interviews with crisis response providers, and other remote individual care and services;

(C) as necessary to meet operations, uploading any scientific data to a cloud-based server or shoreside server, including the copying of data off ship for disaster recovery or risk mitigation purposes;

(D) conducting real-time streaming to enable shore-based observers to participate in ship-based maintenance or research activities;

(E) scientific instrumentation so that it is possible to conduct scientific surveys and seafloor mapping with fully remote subject matter experts;

(F) critical operational technology by manufacturers and vendors so that it is possible to carry out maintenance and repairs to systems with limited expertise on each vessel, with fully remote subject matter experts advising; and

(G) enabling video communications to allow improved outreach to, and other educational services for, K-12 students, including occasional remote classroom teaching for instructors at sea to improve oceanographic access for students.

(2) In consultation with the Director of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, the Director of the National Institute for Standards and Technology, and the heads of other Federal agencies, as appropriate—

(A) the cybersecurity recommendations in the report of the private scientific advisory group known as JASON entitled "Cybersecurity at NSF Major Facilities" (JSR-21-10E) and dated October 2021 as applied to the U.S. Academic Research Fleet;

(B) aligning with international standards and guidance for information security, including the use of encryption for sensitive information, the detection and handling of security incidents, and other areas determined relevant by the Director;

(C) facilitating access to cybersecurity personnel and training of research and support personnel; and

(D) the requirements for controlled unclassified or classified information.

(d) IMPLEMENTATION OF AND REPORT ON PLAN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director, in coordination with the Office of Naval Research, non-Federal owners of vessels of the Academic Research Fleet, users of the U.S. Academic Research Fleet, or any combination thereof, may support upgrades to the cyberinfrastructure and cybersecurity of the U.S. Academic Research Fleet consistent with the plan required by subsection (a).

(2) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than two years after the submission of the plan required by subsection (a), the Director shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives a report describing the progress made in implementing the plan.

(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

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

(2) OCEANOGRAPHIC RESEARCH VESSEL.—The term “oceanographic research vessel” has the meaning given the term in section 2101 of title 46, United States Code.

(3) U.S. ACADEMIC RESEARCH FLEET.—The term “U.S. Academic Research Fleet” means the United States-flagged vessels that—

(A) are operated as oceanographic research vessels by research universities and laboratories;

(B) have achieved designation as a member vessel of the U.S. Academic Research Fleet through the standard U.S. Academic Research Fleet evaluation process; and

(C) have been accepted into, and are active participants within, the University-National Oceanographic Laboratory System.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. FONG) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SUBRAMANYAM) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FONG. 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. 1223, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of my bill, H.R. 1223, the Accelerating Networking, Cyberinfrastructure, and Hardware for Oceanic Research Act, also known as the ANCHOR Act.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill because it addresses a critical and urgent need: safeguarding the integrity of our Nation’s academic research fleet and ensuring that the valuable data collected at sea remains secure from emerging threats. This is about protecting the future of American science, innovation, and national security.

Our research fleet is a cornerstone of America’s scientific advancement. Since the 1960s, these vessels have supported federally sponsored missions that impact everything from human health and energy development to ocean hazards and national security. They are laboratories at sea, collecting data that fuels critical decisionmaking here on land.

However, these ships face modern challenges. Right now, they lack the secure cyberinfrastructure needed to protect sensitive data and communicate reliably across global networks.

That leaves them vulnerable to cyber threats from foreign adversaries, which have been on the rise and will continue to evolve with emerging technology.

Data is the heartbeat of scientific progress. It informs policy. It drives discovery. It strengthens our ability to respond to crises. We need it to compete and win on the world stage. We must ensure that this data is protected, that our researchers have the tools they need, and that the outcomes of their work remain in secure hands.

The ANCHOR Act directs the National Science Foundation to create a comprehensive plan to upgrade the cybersecurity and communication systems on these vessels to add another layer of protection where it is desperately needed.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my cosponsor, Representative HALEY STEVENS, for supporting our bipartisan effort to protect our Nation’s scientific edge and security.

Today, let’s take a critical step to safeguard our research fleet, protect our data, and secure the future of American innovation by voting in support of the ANCHOR Act.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the ANCHOR Act. The U.S. Academic Research Fleet, the ARF, is made up of an impressive array of marine research assets and even more impressive than this fleet is the invaluable research that it conducts.

This diverse fleet is managed and operated by a diverse group that includes the NSF, the Office of Naval Research, Federal research laboratories, and U.S. universities.

These fleets have unique cyberinfrastructure and networking challenges and vulnerabilities. This bill would require assessment of equipment and personnel costs and time requirements needed to upgrade the fleet and develop a proposal for funding these upgrades.

The House already passed this bill by a voice vote last Congress, and I hope it will do so again. This technological struggle has been a real detriment and had a real impact on these fleets.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the sponsor of this bill as well as Ms. STEVENS, and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting it.

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

Mr. FONG. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BABIN), the chair of the Science, Space, and Technology Committee.

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be here to support H.R. 1223, the ANCHOR Act, sponsored by my colleagues, Representatives Fong and Stevens.

The ANCHOR Act tackles the critical need for improved cybersecurity across

the U.S. Academic Research Fleet. This fleet of 17 vessels carries out vital research in diverse marine environments, from the Great Lakes to the polar regions.

The groundbreaking research conducted aboard these vessels has largely shaped our understanding of the ocean. Scientists study ecosystems and food webs, offshore energy resources, wave dynamics, natural hazard forecasting and response, and the deep ocean floor.

These scientists and technical experts operate a wide range of specialized equipment, including deep-towing systems, underwater cameras, and state-of-the-art acoustic sensors, often sailing to some of the world’s most remote locations.

Ensuring secure and reliable communication and data transmission systems, regardless of location, presents a unique challenge. Each vessel needs tailored cybersecurity infrastructure to safeguard its scientific equipment and protect data, both on board and during transmission to shore.

Unfortunately, the fleet currently lacks the necessary infrastructure. This bill would change that. The ANCHOR Act directs the National Science Foundation to develop a plan for much-needed upgrades to the Academic Research Fleet, including cybersecurity enhancements and modernization of telecommunications equipment.

This plan must consider the type of research conducted on each vessel, the location, any specialized equipment, and network bandwidth needs. It is essential to protect taxpayer-funded research conducted by the fleet from nefarious actors.

We have made significant strides securing research at our agencies and university campuses. Now we must ensure the research being done off of our coasts is fully protected.

Mr. Speaker, I commend my colleagues for their efforts on this issue, and I urge my fellow Members to support this bill.

□ 1530

Mr. FONG. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BABIN) control the remainder of my time.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a letter dated January 30, 2024, titled: “Institutional Support for U.S. Academic Research Fleet Cyber Infrastructure.”

JANUARY 30, 2024.

#### INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT FOR U.S. ACADEMIC RESEARCH FLEET CYBER INFRASTRUCTURE

The U.S. Academic Research Fleet (ARF) is critical in the exploration and understanding of our planet. The ARF consists of 17 oceangoing research vessels that serve multiple federal agencies, coordinated under



the auspices of the University-National Oceanographic Laboratory System (UNOLS). These ships are fundamentally important to America's global research objectives, and conduct federally-sponsored basic research addressing urgent societal issues involving human health and safety, offshore energy and resources, national security, ocean hazards, biological and physical ocean processes, and all scientific endeavors requiring observations at sea.

As directors, deans, and presidents of academic institutions with students, faculty, and staff that use ARF oceanographic research vessels we urge Congress to ensure the ARF has ongoing support to enable satellite communications, shoreside and shipboard digital infrastructure, and technical support for the safe, secure, and effective operation of our research vessels.

As globally-ranging laboratories that operate in the most remote areas of the world, research vessels face unique challenges in providing capable networking and require specialized infrastructure. Scientists and their sensors must communicate in real-time with others on board, as well as with scientists, services and devices in the cloud or on shoreside networks. 21st century oceanographic science and vessel operations require mission-critical cyberinfrastructure to meet operational objectives and enable scientific innovation in seagoing research.

Additionally, as U.S. strategic assets increasingly become targets for cyberattacks (including the ARF), robust cyber-infrastructure is critical. The sensitive research conducted on these ships ensures the nation remains a world leader in innovation and national security, and foreign competitors, such as China, are seeking opportunities to acquire it via offensive cyber operations.

Our analysis indicates that ARF funding must be increased \$53M annually (roughly 50% over existing levels) to support capabilities required for robust, performant and secure networking. Our assessment is rooted in findings by the JASON advisory group study (2021), which was commissioned by NSF to evaluate and make recommendations regarding the ability of NSF's major facilities to provide high-quality data to the research community while mitigating cybersecurity threats. The ARF is unique among large facilities because of its geographical diversity, mobility, global reach, and distributed administration. These factors all contribute to the scope of resources required to meet research needs.

Sincerely,

Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences  
College of Earth, Ocean, and Atmospheric Sciences/Oregon State University  
College of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences/  
University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF)  
Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory of Columbia University  
Large Lakes Observatory, University of Minnesota Duluth  
Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium  
Rosenstiel School of Marine, Atmospheric, and Earth Science/University of Miami  
School of Ocean, Earth, Science and Technology/University of Hawai'i  
Scripps Institution of Oceanography/UC San Diego  
University of Rhode Island—Graduate School of Oceanography  
University of Washington—School of Oceanography  
Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, again, I thank Mr. FONG and Ms. STEVENS for their leadership on this bill. I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on H.R. 1223, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The U.S. Academic Research Fleet enables us to use state-of-the-art equipment worldwide to conduct cutting-edge science that cannot be performed on land. This fleet is a key factor in making the U.S. research enterprise a global leader.

However, our leadership is currently at risk, as it is widely recognized that our adversaries are willing to compromise, undermine, or steal our research. They aim to exploit our discoveries and surpass us as leaders in global technology. We cannot afford to let that happen.

To continue making groundbreaking discoveries, we must equip our research vessels with the cybersecurity infrastructure necessary to maintain the integrity of their data and equipment.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. FONG) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1223.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

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

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

#### CLEAN ENERGY DEMONSTRATION TRANSPARENCY ACT OF 2025

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1453) to amend the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act to require reporting regarding clean energy demonstration projects, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1453

*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 "Clean Energy Demonstration Transparency Act of 2025".

#### SEC. 2. PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND OVERSIGHT REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.

Subsection (h) of section 41201 of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (42 U.S.C. 18861) is amended by adding at the end following new paragraph:

"(3) FURTHER REPORTS.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than six months after the date of the enactment of this paragraph and at least semiannually thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate a report, and make publicly available in digital online format, that contains, for the period covered by each such report, for each covered project or other demonstration project administered or supported by the program, the following:

"(i) A copy of any initial contracts or financial assistance agreements executed between the Department and an award recipient, including any related documentation, as the Secretary determines appropriate.

"(ii) A list of any material, technical, or financial milestones that have or have not been met.

"(iii) Any material modifications to the scope, schedule, funding profile (including cost-share requirements), project partners or participating entities, or budget of the project.

"(B) STREAMLINING.—To the extent practicable, the Secretary may synchronize the reports required under subparagraph (A) with other required reports, such as those required under—

"(i) paragraph (1); and

"(ii) section 9005(e) of the Energy Act of 2020 (42 U.S.C. 7256c(e); enacted as division Z of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021)."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BABIN) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SUBRAMANYAM) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 1453, the bill which is now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1453, the Clean Energy Demonstration Transparency Act of 2025, sponsored by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CAREY).

This sensible legislation will provide Congress with the necessary tools to effectively oversee the Department of Energy's growing number of large demonstration projects. DOE established the Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations, or OCED, to carry out the technology demonstration projects authorized in the Energy Act of 2020 and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. These projects include bipartisan initiatives like the Advanced Reactor Demonstration Program and the Long-Duration Energy Storage Demonstration Initiative.

This bill requires the Secretary of Energy to submit semiannual reports to Congress on all demonstration projects managed by OCED. These reports must include details on contracts, milestones, schedules, funding profiles, and cost-share agreements.

Historically, DOE's applied energy offices have managed these programs, ensuring a seamless transition from

basic laboratory research to applied field work. However, with the creation of OCED, these activities were placed in a new office, separating critical expertise and adding an unnecessary layer of bureaucracy.

At the same time, the infrastructure bill and the Inflation Reduction Act appropriated over \$27 billion to OCED to fund these projects.

This combination of organizational restructuring and a large influx of funding should raise concerns for every lawmaker of this institution, considering DOE's past mismanagement of demonstration projects.

Since its inception, OCED has been slow to award funding and has struggled to identify unique capabilities not already addressed by the applied energy offices. Congress lacks adequate safeguards and the capacity to conduct rigorous oversight over OCED and its demonstration projects.

For example, when the Science, Space, and Technology Committee sought more information on DOE's decision to waive the cost-share requirement for a multimillion-dollar project, the Department was not obliged to document or justify its rationale. Requiring DOE to submit semiannual reports will provide Congress with crucial tools to protect taxpayer dollars, hold OCED accountable, and ensure that projects are based on merit rather than crony favoritism.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative CAREY for his continued leadership on this issue despite no longer even sitting on the Science, Space, and Technology Committee. I also thank Representative RILEY for his work in advancing this bill forward.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Clean Energy Demonstration Transparency Act, as well.

The bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, as mentioned, established a first-of-its-kind Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations, and this new office was tasked with coordinating the Department of Energy's large-scale clean energy technology development. This office is now managing more than \$25 billion in funding to help scale emerging energy technologies that will help us tackle our most pressing climate challenges and achieve net-zero emissions as quickly as possible.

Last October, one of the initiatives supported by the office awarded \$1.1 million to a Virginia company, Roanoke Cement Company. They are working on a project for the use of clays to minimize the use of carbon-intensive components in cement production. This project has the potential to decrease carbon intensity of cement production by around 83 percent. Cement production is responsible for 2 percent of en-

ergy-related CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the United States, so an 83 percent reduction in cement carbon intensity is very valuable.

This bipartisan bill authorizes simple and streamlined reporting requirements on the activities of the office, and it is a great transparency bill.

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

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

Mr. CAREY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1453, the Clean Energy Demonstration Transparency Act of 2025.

I introduced this commonsense, bipartisan legislation last Congress, which passed the House by voice vote. With more than \$25 billion in Federal funding from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, the Inflation Reduction Act, and annual appropriations, the Department of Energy's Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations aims to support first-of-a-kind commercial-scale demonstrations and deploy them at viable and market-ready levels.

My bill requires semiannual reports to Congress on the status of these clean energy demonstration activities. With these reports, Congress can oversee these projects and ensure that taxpayer money is spent wisely and effectively.

Amid unprecedented Federal spending and soaring national debt, it is essential that we pass this legislation to avoid more Federal Government waste.

Overall, H.R. 1453 is a good government bill that improves accountability and transparency for the benefit of the American taxpayers. I thank Representative RILEY for being a great partner on this legislation, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

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

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CAREY) as well as the gentleman from New York (Mr. RILEY) for their work on this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on H.R. 1453, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, one of our key responsibilities in Congress is to manage taxpayer dollars wisely. I don't take that job lightly. I want to see DOE and all of our vital Federal research agencies succeed in developing revolutionary next-generation technologies.

At the same time, we need to monitor the progress of these projects well before their costs balloon to multibillions of dollars and strain research budgets.

H.R. 1453 allows us to do precisely that. It enhances transparency between DOE and Congress, giving both parties the necessary information and insights into the successes of Federal dem-

onstration projects to foster further achievements.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CAREY) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. RILEY), his cosponsor, for leading this bill.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BABIN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1453.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

## STRATEGIC PORTS REPORTING ACT

Mr. HUIZENGA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1701) to require the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of State to monitor efforts by the People's Republic of China to build or buy strategic foreign ports, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1701

*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 "Strategic Ports Reporting Act".

### SEC. 2. MAPPING AND STRATEGY REQUIRED.

(a) MAPPING OF GLOBAL PORTS.—The Secretary of State, in coordination with the Secretary of Defense, shall—

(1) develop an updated, global mapping of foreign and domestic ports identified to be of importance to the United States, because of a capability to provide military, diplomatic, economic, or resource exploration superiority; and

(2) identify any efforts by the Government of the People's Republic of China (PRC) or other PRC entities to build, buy, or otherwise control, directly or indirectly, such ports.

(b) SUBMISSION OF MAP.—The Secretary of State, in coordination with the Secretary of Defense, shall submit the mapping developed pursuant to subsection (a) to the appropriate congressional committees. Such submission shall be in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

### SEC. 3. DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE STUDY AND REPORT ON STRATEGIC PORTS.

(a) STUDY REQUIRED.—The Secretary of State, in coordination with the Secretary of Defense, shall conduct a study of—

(1) strategic ports;

(2) the reasons such ports are of interest to the United States;

(3) the activities and plans of the Government of the People's Republic of China (PRC) to expand its control over strategic ports outside of the People's Republic of China;

(4) the public and private actors, such as China Ocean Shipping Company, that are executing and supporting the activities and plans of the Government of the PRC to expand its control over strategic ports outside of the PRC;

(5) the activities and plans of the Government of the PRC to expand its control over



maritime logistics by promoting products, such as LOGINK, and setting industry standards outside the PRC;

(6) how the control by the Government of the PRC over strategic ports outside of the PRC could harm the national security or economic interests of the United States and allies and partners of the United States; and

(7) measures the United States Government could take to ensure open access and security for strategic ports and offer alternatives to PRC investments or stakes in strategic ports.

(b) CONDUCT OF STUDY.—The Secretary of State and the Secretary of Defense may enter into an arrangement with a federally funded research and development center under which the center shall conduct the study required under subsection (a).

(c) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in coordination with the Secretary of Defense, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the findings of the study conducted under subsection (a).

(2) ELEMENTS.—The report required by paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) a detailed list of all known strategic ports operated, controlled, or owned, directly or indirectly, by the PRC or by a foreign person of the PRC, and an assessment of the national security and economic interests relevant to each such port;

(B) a detailed list of all known strategic ports operated, controlled, or owned, directly or indirectly, by the United States or United States persons and an assessment of the national security and economic interests relevant to each such port;

(C) an assessment of vulnerabilities of—

(i) ports operated, controlled, or owned, directly or indirectly, by the United States; and

(ii) strategic ports;

(D) an analysis of the activities and actions of the Government of the PRC to gain control or ownership over strategic ports, including promoting products, such as LOGINK, and setting industry standards;

(E) an assessment of how the Government of the PRC plans to expand its control over strategic ports outside of the PRC;

(F) a suggested strategy, developed in consultation with the heads of the relevant United States Government offices, that suggests courses of action to secure trusted investment and ownership of strategic ports and maritime infrastructure, protect such ports and infrastructure from PRC control, and ensure open access and security for such ports, that includes—

(i) a list of relevant existing authorities that can be used to carry out the strategy;

(ii) a list of any additional authorities necessary to carry out the strategy;

(iii) an assessment of products owned by the Government of the PRC or by an entity headquartered in the PRC that are used in connection with strategic ports or maritime infrastructure;

(iv) an assessment of the costs to—

(I) secure such trusted investment and ownership;

(II) replace products owned by the Government of the PRC or an entity headquartered in the PRC that are used in connection with such ports; and

(III) enhance transparency around the negative impacts of PRC control over strategic ports; and

(v) a list of funding sources to secure trusted investment and ownership of strategic ports, which shall include—

(I) an identification of private funding sources; and

(II) an identification of public funding sources, including loans, loan guarantees, and tax incentives; and

(G) a suggested strategy for Federal agencies to maintain an up-to-date list of strategic ports.

(H) an assessment of any national security threat posed by such investments or activities to United States diplomatic and defense personnel and facilities in the vicinity of such ports, including through cyber threats, electronically enabled espionage, or other means.

(3) FORM OF REPORT.—The report required by paragraph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

#### SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) The term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, the Committee on Energy and Commerce, the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives; and

(B) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Foreign Relations, and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate.

(2) The term “relevant United States Government offices” means—

(A) the Unified Combatant Commands;

(B) the Office of the Secretary of Defense;

(C) the Office of the Secretary of State;

(D) the United States International Development Finance Corporation;

(E) the Office of the Director of National Intelligence; and

(F) the Maritime Administration of the Department of Transportation.

(3) The term “strategic port” means an international port or waterway that the heads of the relevant United States Government offices determine is critical to the national security or economic prosperity of the United States.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TAYLOR). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. HUIZENGA) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of my bill, H.R. 1701, the Strategic Ports Reporting Act, introduced alongside Representatives ROB WITTMAN, JAKE AUCHINCLOSS, and JOHNNY OLSZEWSKI, and cosponsored by a bipartisan group of colleagues.

□ 1545

Mr. Speaker, this bill is simple, yet it is very necessary to expose the risks, the threats, and the vulnerabilities presented by overt Chinese-controlled global ports.

Specifically, the Strategic Ports Reporting Act requires the State Department, in coordination with the Defense Department, to develop a global mapping of foreign and domestic ports of strategic importance to the United States due to their capacity of providing military, diplomatic, economic, or resource exploration superiority. In other words, these are ports that are most important to the interests of the United States, both domestically and abroad.

Additionally, this bill requires a study analyzing the activities and plans of the PRC to expand its web of control over global strategic ports, while recognizing the U.S. national security and economic implications for such ownership.

China's malign influence abroad continues to reach new corners of the global economy. Emerging from the Belt and Road Initiative, Chinese President Xi Jinping's companion initiative, known as the Maritime Silk Road, ratifies a dominating stake in various countries by making critical investment in their strategic ports, some of which exist right here in the United States.

Something that should resonate with all of our constituencies, as we saw during the COVID-19 pandemic, is that vulnerabilities in supply chains have a significant, real-world effect on our supply, on pricing, and access to essential goods.

Moreover, the likelihood of the PRC leveraging its port infrastructure to exert economic leverage in the future remains a significant challenge to the United States and our allies.

While many of these investments and port projects are portrayed as commercial relationships, the PRC's global reach is cause for concern, given that many of these ports pose significant dual-use military risks. The fact remains that Chinese investments in strategic ports offer the CCP a launchpad to engage in a campaign of modern-day espionage.

Let's look at a couple of examples, Mr. Speaker. In the Western Hemisphere, the PRC opened its crown jewel, a gateway connecting South America to Asia in Chancay, Peru. This multibillion-dollar, deepwater megaport is owned by a Chinese state-owned entity, COSCO Shipping, which has ties to the People's Liberation Army.

Additionally, Chinese-tied entities manage ports at both ends of the Panama Canal. Here, the CCP coordinates private companies in pursuit of its communist agendas and wields the power to garner more political influence in a volatile region.

I commend President Trump and his administration for its leadership and persistence to work with the Panamanians and BlackRock to change this reality.

In the United States, two Chinese-owned entities, COSCO Shipping and China Merchants Group, a major participant and proponent in China BRI,

controls significant portions of the Ports of Long Beach, Seattle, Los Angeles, Houston, and Miami.

The opportunity we created, exposing our critical infrastructure to cybersecurity risks, foreign intelligence threats, and supply chain vulnerabilities, cannot be understated in my opinion.

Outside of our hemisphere, China casts a wide geostrategic footprint of malign influence at other critical chokepoints, including a multitude of Chinese-financed, developed, or managed ports across Africa. These ambitions provide access to critical minerals, naval launchpads, and consequential state power projections.

Additionally, the deep-sea port in the city of Anaklia on Georgia's Black Sea coast recently granted the tender for construction to a Chinese consortium sanctioned by the U.S. in 2020 for promoting militarization in the South China Sea. The strategic location of this port in the Middle Corridor, the trade route between China and Europe, would make this a crucial project for President Xi.

Unfortunately, I believe many of these projects are just another example of emerging economies lured in by China's debt-trap diplomacy.

To combat these efforts, the heads of relevant U.S. Government agencies must work collaboratively and creatively to ensure open access and security for strategic ports and offer alternatives to PRC investments in these ports. The Strategic Ports Reporting Act helps accomplish that goal.

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

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES,  
Washington, DC, May 19, 2025.

Hon. BRIAN MAST,  
Committee on Foreign Affairs,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN MAST: I write concerning H.R. 1701, the Strategic Ports Reporting Act, introduced by Representative Huizenga. As a result of your having consulted with us on provisions within H.R. 1701 that fall within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on Armed Services, I agree to forego any further consideration of this resolution so that it may proceed expeditiously to the House floor for consideration.

The Committee on Armed Services takes this action with our mutual understanding that by foregoing consideration of H.R. 1701 at this time, we do not waive any jurisdiction over subject matter contained in this or similar legislation and that our committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as this resolution or similar legislation moves forward so that we may address any remaining issues in our jurisdiction.

Finally, I ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included by House Committee on Foreign Affairs in the *Congressional Record* during floor consideration, to memorialize our understanding. Thank you for the cooperative spirit in which you have worked regarding this matter and others between our respective committees.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL D. ROGERS,  
Chairman, House Committee on Armed  
Services.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,  
Washington, DC, May 19, 2025.

Hon. MIKE ROGERS,

Chairman, Committee on Armed Services,  
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN ROGERS: Thank you for consulting with the Committee on Foreign Affairs and agreeing to be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 1701, Strategic Ports Reporting Act, so that the measure may proceed expeditiously to the House floor.

I agree that your forgoing farther action on this measure does not in any way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of your committee or prejudice its jurisdictional prerogatives on this measure or similar legislation in the future. I would support your effort to seek appointments of any appropriate number of conferees from your committee to any House-Senate conference of this legislation.

I will submit the exchange of letters to be published in the *Congressional Record*. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation and look forward to continuing to work together on matters of shared jurisdiction during this Congress.

Sincerely,

BRIAN J. MAST,

Chairman, House Foreign Affairs Committee.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1701. When President Xi started the Belt and Road Initiative and the Maritime Silk Road Initiative, Beijing embarked on a coordinated state mandate to finance, acquire, access, enhance, and build ports around the world.

Today, the PRC is actively engaged in 115 port projects in at least 68 countries with more than \$65 billion invested or promised. At least 89 port projects have characteristics that could support military applications. With the largest Navy in the world, the PRC's ambitions are clear. It seeks global basing locations for an aspirational blue water Navy.

Representative HUIZENG's Strategic Ports Reporting Act will allow us to better track Beijing's attempts to grow its global maritime influence through its investments in foreign ports.

The United States Government needs ready access to all available information about the nature, extent, and intent of the PRC's involvement in port projects and maritime infrastructure around the world. We need a strategy to drive diplomatic, development, and defense engagements to mitigate threats from the PRC's activities at critical ports.

While several think tanks and research groups already map and report on PRC port activities, this bill's reporting requirements can shed light on the impact of these ports on U.S. interests and national security.

It is critical that the United States Government continue to monitor the nature, the extent, and the intent of the PRC's involvement in port projects and maritime infrastructure around the world and analyze the impact on U.S. strategic interests and on our partners and allies.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all of my colleagues to join in supporting this measure.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. OLSZEWSKI).

Mr. OLSZEWSKI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the ranking member, and I thank my colleague, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. HUIZENG), for his leadership on this bipartisan and bicameral bill. I am proud to join his efforts and co-lead on legislation that will help safeguard our ports and boost our economy.

I have seen firsthand how critical our ports are to our national security, to our economic strength, and to the resilience of our supply chains. In my home State of Maryland, the Port of Baltimore is an anchor. It provides more than 15,000 direct jobs, supports another 140,000 connected jobs and services, and it is a critical gateway for commerce.

It is one of the largest ports in the country for automobiles and ranks in the top 10 nationally for total cargo. The Port of Baltimore, like so many ports across the country, is an economic lifeline for our communities.

Today, however, these lifelines face a growing challenge. Namely, China is aggressively expanding its influence over strategic ports around the world. China is building, buying, and controlling maritime infrastructure critical to U.S. interests.

They now control or have stakes in critical ports across Europe, Asia, the Middle East, Africa, and the Americas, providing Beijing with unprecedented leverage over key maritime chokepoints and global trade routes.

In the Western Hemisphere alone, Chinese companies have established ownership or operational control in ports spanning seven countries, including major terminals here in the U.S.

Last year, the House select committee on China and the House Homeland Security Committee conducted a joint investigation into the operation of ZPMC at U.S. ports. ZPMC is a Chinese state-owned company and the world's largest manufacturer of cranes.

At the Port of Baltimore, the FBI discovered intelligence-gathering equipment on board a vessel delivering ZPMC cranes to the Port of Baltimore. This allows China not only to advance its own economic interests but also to potentially disrupt shipping access and gather intelligence on U.S. military movements.

The Strategic Ports Reporting Act is a necessary and timely response to this threat. It is not just about commercial competition. It is about transparency, preparedness, and safeguarding our national security so we can continue to project power, protect our economy, and secure our supply chains.

This is a bipartisan and common-sense step to protect the American people. I urge my colleagues to support this bill and send a clear message. The U.S. will not cede control of our critical infrastructure to our adversaries.

Mr. HUIZENG. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the bipartisan involvement of

the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. OLSZEWSKI).

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

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

Mr. Speaker, the United States needs a strategy to effectively mitigate threats from the PRC's growing maritime influence through its investments in foreign ports.

The report required under this bill will shine a light on the nature, the extent, and the intent of Beijing's involvement in port projects and maritime infrastructure around the world and will inform efforts by the United States Government to analyze the impact of these ports on U.S. interests and our national security.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague, Mr. WITTMAN, on my side of the aisle. I especially thank those on the other side of the aisle, Mr. OLSZEWSKI and Mr. AUCHINCLOSS, and my good friend, the ranking member, Mr. MEEKS, for working through this.

Mr. Speaker, peace through strength is a theme of the United States that we have had for a long time, and it is something that is imperative right now. Without stalwart diplomacy from the United States and its allies and economic partners, Communist China's global reach will only mature, sowing instability and insecurity and, frankly, as I talked about, some economic challenges abroad.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the fact that the gentleman was talking a little bit about the private sector. I welcome and appreciate their involvement and their attempts to track and to analyze what is going on.

These other attempts at offering that strategy and the mapping of the critical assets oftentimes lack up-to-date information and do not take into account the warfighter perspectives that President Trump's DOD brings nor do they really use the lens of the U.S. national priorities.

Mr. Speaker, that is why I believe that this legislation is so important. The Strategic Ports Reporting Act was deliberated and negotiated within the House Foreign Affairs Committee, and a bipartisan consensus on the text was reached. That is where we are today.

It remains imperative that the U.S. use all of its tools available to thwart malign Chinese influence and protect America's national security, our economic interests, and even our warfighters. That time is now, and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. HUIZENGA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1701.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. HUIZENGA. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

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

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

□ 1600

## STRENGTHENING THE QUAD ACT

Mr. HUIZENGA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1263) to require a strategy for bolstering engagement and cooperation between the United States, Australia, India, and Japan and to seek to establish a Quad Inter-Parliamentary Working Group to facilitate closer cooperation on shared interests and values.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1263

*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 "Strengthening the Quad Act".

### SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) as a Pacific power, the United States should continue to strengthen joint cooperation between the United States, Australia, India, and Japan (commonly referred to as the "Quadrilateral Dialogue" or "Quad" and referred to as such in this Act) to enhance and implement a shared vision to meet regional challenges and to promote a free, open, inclusive, resilient, and healthy Indo-Pacific, that is characterized by respect for democratic norms, rule of law, and market-driven economic growth, and is free from undue influence and coercion;

(2) the United States should expand dialogue and cooperation through the Quad with a range of partners to support peace and prosperity, the rule of law, freedom of navigation and overflight, the peaceful resolution of disputes, and democratic resilience in the Indo-Pacific;

(3) the pledge from the first-ever Quad leaders meeting on March 12, 2021, to address shared challenges, including in public health, cyberspace, critical technologies, counterterrorism, quality infrastructure investment, and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, as well as maritime domains, laid the foundation for critical cooperation among Quad countries;

(4) the Quad countries, working through institutions, including the United States International Development Finance Corporation, the Japan International Cooperation Agency, and the Japan Bank for International Cooperation, and through partnerships with multilateral development banks such as the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank, should finance development and infrastructure projects in the Indo-Pacific region that are competitive, transparent, and sustainable;

(5) President Biden's decision to elevate the Quad to the leader level was critical to

bolstering cooperation, and all 4 countries should work to ensure that the Quad Leaders' Summit continues to take place regularly;

(6) the ambitious framework for ongoing cooperation laid out by the 4 leaders at the fifth convening of the Quad Leaders' Summit in Hiroshima on May 20, 2023, should continue;

(7) Secretary of State Marco Rubio hosted the Quad Foreign Ministers in Washington, DC on January 21, 2025—his first day in office—underscoring the continued importance of cooperation between the 4 democracies; and

(8) the formation of a Quad Inter-Parliamentary Working Group will—

(A) sustain and deepen engagement between senior officials of the Quad countries on a full spectrum of issues; and

(B) be modeled on the successful and longstanding bilateral inter-parliamentary groups between the United States and Mexico, Canada, and the United Kingdom, as well as other formal and informal parliamentary exchanges.

### SEC. 3. STRATEGY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a strategy for bolstering engagement and cooperation with the Quad.

(b) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—The strategy required by subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) A description of how the United States intends to demonstrate democratic leadership in the Indo-Pacific through quadrilateral engagement with Australia, India, and Japan on shared interests and common challenges.

(2) A summary of—

(A) current and past Quad initiatives across the whole of the United States Government, including to promote broad based and inclusive economic growth and investment, and to advance technology cooperation, energy innovation, climate mitigation and adaptation, physical and digital infrastructure development, education, disaster management, resilient supply chains including in critical minerals, and global health security;

(B) proposals agreed to by all Quad countries since January 2021 to deepen existing security cooperation, intelligence sharing, economic partnerships, and multilateral coordination; and

(C) initiatives and agreements undertaken jointly with Quad countries, in addition to other like-minded partners in the Indo-Pacific, on areas of shared interest since January 2021.

(3) A description of the diplomatic and bureaucratic barriers and obstacles to implementing and expanding existing streams of Quad cooperation.

(4) A list of recommendations on how Congress could assist in addressing the barriers described in paragraph (3), as well as—

(A) any new authorities needed to strengthen United States leadership in and contribution to existing and proposed Quad initiatives and programs; and

(B) additional resources needed to scale up and expand successful Quad initiatives and programs.

(c) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this section, the term "appropriate congressional committees" means—

(1) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives; and

(2) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate.

#### SEC. 4. ESTABLISHMENT OF QUAD INTER-PARLIAMENTARY WORKING GROUP.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall seek to enter into negotiations with the Governments of Australia, India, and Japan (collectively, with the United States, known as the “Quad”) with the goal of reaching a written agreement to establish a Quad Inter-Parliamentary Working Group to facilitate closer cooperation on shared interests and values.

(b) **UNITED STATES GROUP.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—At such time as the governments of the Quad countries enter into a written agreement described in subsection (a) to establish a Quad Inter-Parliamentary Working Group, there shall be established a United States Group, which shall represent the United States at the Quad Inter-Parliamentary Working Group.

(2) **MEMBERSHIP.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The United States Group shall be comprised of not more than 24 Members of Congress.

(B) **APPOINTMENT.**—Of the Members of Congress appointed to the United States Group under subparagraph (A)—

(i) half shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, based on recommendations from the minority leader, from among Members of the House, not fewer than 4 of whom shall be members of the Committee on Foreign Affairs; and

(ii) half shall be appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, based on recommendations of the majority leader and minority leader of the Senate, from among Members of the Senate, not fewer than 4 of whom shall be members of the Committee on Foreign Relations (unless the majority leader and minority leader determine otherwise).

(3) **MEETINGS.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The United States Group shall seek to meet not less frequently than annually with representatives and appropriate staff of the legislatures of Australia, India, and Japan, and any other country invited by mutual agreement of the Quad countries.

(B) **LIMITATION.**—A meeting described in subparagraph (A) may be held—

(i) in the United States;

(ii) in another Quad country during periods when Congress is not in session; or

(iii) virtually.

(4) **CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIRPERSON.**—

(A) **HOUSE DELEGATION.**—The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall designate the chairperson or vice chairperson of the delegation of the United States Group from the House from among members of the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

(B) **SENATE DELEGATION.**—The President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall designate the chairperson or vice chairperson of the delegation of the United States Group from the Senate from among members of the Committee on Foreign Relations.

(5) **PRIVATE SOURCES.**—The United States Group may accept gifts or donations of services or property, subject to the review and approval, as appropriate, of the Committee on Ethics of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Ethics of the Senate.

(6) **CERTIFICATION OF EXPENDITURES.**—The certificate of the chairperson of the delegation from the House of Representatives or the delegation of the Senate of the United States Group shall be final and conclusive upon the accounting officers in the auditing of the accounts of the United States Group.

(7) **ANNUAL REPORT.**—The United States Group shall submit to the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate a report at the end of

each year that outlines the group's activities that year, including a description of its expenditures, and its recommendations for enhancing the Quad.

(8) **ENGAGEMENT WITH U.S. OFFICIALS ON THE QUAD.**—Senior United States officials shall provide regular updates and briefings to the United States Group, including leading up to and after major Quadrilateral dialogues, to ensure close coordination with Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. HUIZENGA) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HUIZENGA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on this matter.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1263, the Strengthening the Quad Act, introduced by my friend, Ranking Member MEEKS, and the chairwoman of the East Asia and the Pacific Subcommittee, Congresswoman YOUNG KIM.

This legislation is a strategic, forward-thinking step that reinforces Congress' unwavering commitment to a free, open, and secure Indo-Pacific.

At a time when the Chinese Communist Party is aggressively asserting its influence, militarizing the South China Sea, threatening Taiwan, coercing regional partners, and promoting authoritarianism, it is more critical than ever for the United States to deepen cooperation with like-minded democratic nations.

The Quad, comprising the United States, India, Japan, and Australia, is not just another diplomatic forum. It is a powerful, strategic alliance built on unyielding values: respect for sovereignty, unwavering commitment to the rule of law, promotion of fair trade, and a relentless defense of democratic governance. This partnership is a force for stability and accountability in an increasingly turbulent world.

The Strengthening the Quad Act takes this partnership to the next level. It empowers this relationship by ensuring regular, high-level engagement between the United States Congress and the legislatures of the Quad nations, fostering deeper collaboration and mutual understanding.

We have seen the power of early engagement. On day one of President Trump's administration, Secretary Rubio convened the first-ever Quad foreign ministers meeting, demonstrating our dedication to confronting evolving geopolitical challenges alongside our democratic allies.

By strengthening our partnership with the Quad, we are not just reinforcing alliances in the Indo-Pacific,

we are drawing a clear line in the sand, or maybe the ocean as, Mr. Speaker, democratic values and the rule of law will, not might, shape the future of global power, not authoritarian coercion.

Mr. Speaker, as chairman of the South and Central and Asia Subcommittee, I support this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1263.

I am the proud sponsor of this bill, the Strengthening the Quad Act, and I am grateful to Representative YOUNG KIM for introducing it with me alongside Representatives BERA, HUIZENGA, and KAMLAGER-DOVE.

The Quad is a diplomatic dialogue the United States has established with the Governments of Japan, Australia, and India. It is a timely initiative with strong support in all four capitals and the support of three successive U.S. administrations. President Trump helped relaunch the Quad during his first term. President Biden elevated the Quad to the leaders' level and operationalized it. In addition, the second Trump administration has embraced the Quad, as well. In fact, as Mr. HUIZENGA has said, Secretary of State Marco Rubio's first diplomatic meeting was with the Quad foreign ministers.

The reason the Quad is so important today is very simple. Freedom and democracy in the Indo-Pacific region and around the world are currently under attack.

According to Freedom House, the world has experienced 19 consecutive years of decline in global freedom. Given this global crisis, America must lead with our values and harness regional diplomacy to bring democracies together like never before to foster cooperation and find solutions to complex challenges. In particular, in the Indo-Pacific, one of the best tools we have to do that is the Quad.

The Quad allows us to work with three leading Indo-Pacific democracies to showcase the heft of open markets and open societies. In the face of the PRC's authoritarian model, we must demonstrate to the region that democracies can and will deliver results.

On this, Republicans and Democrats agree that the Quad is integral for a free and open Indo-Pacific. However, to ensure the Quad's success and longevity, we need to identify and pursue clear objectives and deepen political and institutional support in all four of the capitals.

This is why H.R. 1263 calls on the State Department to develop a long-term strategy for the Quad. The strategy and report to Congress will allow successive administrations to set ambitious benchmarks and to partner with Congress to meet them.

My bill also establishes a Quad Intra-Parliamentary Working Group to facilitate engagement and cooperation among the legislatures of the four democracies. Inter-Parliamentary engagement will expand diplomatic ties

and strengthen oversight of our respective governments in order to enhance the Quad's effectiveness.

It will also help to sustain political support and resources for the Quad in all four nations. It is simply a very important bill to further democracy in the Indo-Pacific.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to join in supporting this measure, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HUIZENGA. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. KIM), who is the chair of the Subcommittee on East Asia and the Pacific.

Mrs. KIM. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative HUIZENGA for yielding, and I thank our ranking member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, Representative MEEKS, also for managing this on the House floor.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1263, the Strengthening the Quad Act.

As you have heard, Mr. Speaker, the Quad comprises four nations: the United States, Japan, India, and Australia. It is the cornerstone of our strategy to promote a free and open Indo-Pacific, counter the Chinese Communist Party, or CCP, and maintain stability and U.S. interests in what the Department of Defense has deemed the priority theater.

Against the backdrop of the CCP's militarization of the South China Sea, coercive economic practices, and territorial disputes, the Quad amplifies our four democracies' deterrence and economic, defense, and technological cooperation.

The Strengthening the Quad Act takes our alliance a step further by creating a comprehensive Quad strategy and establishing a Quad Inter-Parliamentary Working Group that reinforces America's commitment to our allies in the region.

I have seen the benefit of inter-parliamentary working groups coming together, having worked on one of those in the past, and I think this is going to really bring all of our interested parties together to really work on finding solutions to keep our strategic security partnerships stronger.

Now is the time to ramp up the Quad's collaboration on maritime security, cybersecurity, and efforts to counter disinformation to protect our allies and friends, especially the Pacific Island nations. They are counting on us to show up.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to co-lead this important legislation with Representative MEEKS, and I urge all my colleagues to support the Strengthening the Quad Act.

Mr. HUIZENGA. Mr. Speaker, at this point, I have no further speakers, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, this is a bipartisan bill. I thank Representative YOUNG KIM for

her work on this bill along with Mr. BERA, Mr. HUIZENGA, and Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE.

This bill passed the House in the last Congress and also the one before that. With authoritarianism on the rise and our Indo-Pacific allies and partners increasingly worried about the United States' commitment to their region, passing this bill now and getting it signed into law will reassure our allies that the United States will remain engaged at the highest of levels.

This will help ensure that democracies in the region can continue to deliver and that we stay committed and find success in our collective endeavor to maintain a free and open Indo-Pacific.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the ranking member's work on this legislation, as well as the work of Chairwoman KIM, Mr. BERA, and Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. This is what can happen when we come together and have our common interests as a nation be projected out to our allies.

I have been involved in a number of other inter-parliamentary groups, IPGs, that really have allowed this body to build and foster relationships with others. It is those critical relationships, not just at the administrative level, but also at that legislative level, that can work through some of the challenges that occur at times with our allies.

Mr. Speaker, let's pass this bill, Strengthening the Quad Act, and send an unmistakable message that the United States stands firm with our allies, committed to peace through strength, prosperity through unity, and an unbreakable defense of democracy against authoritarian threats.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. HUIZENGA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1263.

The question was taken.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

#### 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.

#### COMMUNITIES HELPING INVEST THROUGH PROPERTY AND IMPROVEMENTS NEEDED FOR VETERANS ACT OF 2025

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 217) to amend title 38, United States Code, to make permanent the pilot program authorized by the Communities Helping Invest through Property and Improvements Needed for Veterans Act of 2016, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 217

*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 "Communities Helping Invest through Property and Improvements Needed for Veterans Act of 2025" or the "CHIP IN for Veterans Act of 2025".*

#### SEC. 2. EXPANDING AND EXTENDING A PILOT PROGRAM ON ACCEPTANCE BY THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS OF DONATED FACILITIES AND RELATED IMPROVEMENTS.

##### (a) EXPANSION.—

(1) *IN GENERAL.*—Section 2 of the Communities Helping Invest through Property and Improvements Needed for Veterans Act of 2016 (Public Law 114–294; 38 U.S.C. 8103 note) is amended, in subsection (a)(1)—

(A) *in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking "property"; and*

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

“(C) A minor construction, or nonrecurring maintenance, project of the Department.”.

(2) *CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.*—Such section is further amended—

(A) *in subsection (b)—*

(i) *in the heading, by striking "OF PROPERTY";*

(ii) *in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking "the donation of a property" and inserting "a donation";*

(iii) *in paragraph (1), by inserting "or project" after "property" each place it appears; and*

(iv) *in paragraph (2), by inserting "project," after "improvements,";*

(B) *in subsection (c)—*

(i) *in paragraph (1)—*

(I) *in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking "real property and improvements donated under the pilot program" and inserting "a donation";*

(II) *in subparagraph (A), by striking "or" and inserting a semicolon;*

(III) *in subparagraph (B), by striking the period at the end and inserting "or"; and*

(IV) *by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:*

“(C) the performance of a minor construction, or nonrecurring maintenance, project of the Department.”;

(ii) *in paragraph (2)—*

(I) *in subparagraph (A), by striking "construction of the facility" and inserting "donation";*

(II) *in subparagraph (B), by inserting "maintaining," after "altering,";*

(III) *in subparagraph (C), by striking "construction of the facility" and inserting "donation";*

(C) *in subsection (e)(1)—*

(i) *by inserting "alter, maintain," after "design," both places it appears;*

(ii) *in subparagraph (A)—*

(I) *by striking "real property and improvements donated" and inserting "a donation"; and*

(II) by striking “of the real property and improvements”; and

(iii) in subparagraph (B)(ii)(I), by striking “construction and donation of the real property and improvements” and inserting “donation”; and

(D) in subsection (g)(1), by striking “real property and improvements donated” and inserting “donations”.

(b) *EXTENSION.*—Such section is further amended, in subsection (i), by striking “December 16, 2026” and inserting “December 16, 2031”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) and the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 217, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

□ 1615

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 217, as amended. This bill was introduced by the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BACON), my good friend and colleague.

This bill would reauthorize the CHIP IN pilot program for another 5 years while expanding it nationwide. This pilot program has enabled public-private partnerships with VA to help fund the construction of projects for healthcare facilities. It is set to expire next year.

In Omaha, Nebraska, VA and local partners used this authority to build an outpatient clinic 1 year ahead of schedule and \$35 million under budget. They delivered to veterans in Nebraska a modern state-of-the-art facility. With this bill, we would move VA to pursue even more public-private partnerships across the country to build new facilities in communities where veterans need them the most.

I thank my friend, Representative BACON, for his work to bring the CHIP IN program to communities nationwide.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support H.R. 217, as amended, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 217, the CHIP IN for Veterans Act, as amended.

Now more than ever, VA needs flexibility and creative methods to address its infrastructure needs. This legislation extends through 2031 a pilot program that allows VA to accept donations of properties to meet its strategic capital investment project needs. It also expands the types of donations that VA can accept, to include minor

construction and nonrecurring maintenance projects.

VA's infrastructure needs are estimated to be over \$150 billion, and those needs are growing every day. The average age of VA medical centers is over 60 years old, and many have retrofitting and maintenance needs that are not addressed under VA's existing budget requests.

This pilot program presents an opportunity to find creative solutions, where possible, to address VA's infrastructure needs. Non-Federal entities may donate either real property that already includes a constructed facility or that can be used as a site of a new facility constructed by the donor, or entities may donate a facility to be constructed on property VA already owns.

Under the CHIP IN for Veterans Act, donors must independently donate the real property, improvements, goods, or services for the project in an amount acceptable to VA and at no additional cost to the government.

So far, VA has received donations resulting in two medical facilities, an ambulatory care center in Omaha, Nebraska, which began seeing patients in 2020, and an inpatient medical center in Tulsa, Oklahoma, which is expected to open next year.

Under the existing CHIP IN for Veterans Act authority, VA has only been able to accept donations that result in major construction projects, which are projects for which Congress has appropriated at least \$20 million.

H.R. 217, as amended, would expand the CHIP IN program to include minor construction and nonrecurring maintenance projects. This would allow VA to accept donations of smaller outpatient clinics or to make improvements or build additions to existing facilities. Hopefully, with this expanded authority, VA will be able to attract even more donations.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 217, the CHIP IN for Veterans Act of 2025, as amended, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BACON), the sponsor of this bill, who has lived and seen what it has done.

Mr. BACON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chair and ranking member for this opportunity. This is a win for veterans from coast to coast, all 50 States, Puerto Rico, you name it. This is a win for veterans.

I rise today in support of H.R. 217, Communities Helping Invest through Property and Improvements Needed for Veterans Act of 2025, or the CHIP IN for Veterans Act, a bipartisan bill that strengthens and expands a proven program to deliver modern healthcare facilities for our Nation's veterans more efficiently and at a lower cost to taxpayers.

H.R. 217 leverages the success of the CHIP IN for Veterans Act of 2016. We

have extended it twice, and it is going to expire in 2026 if we don't get this bill done today.

H.R. 217, as amended, would reauthorize the pilot program and clarify the original intent of the program to allow the Department of Veterans Affairs to accept donations of real property from non-Federal partners for the construction, improvement, or renovation of VA medical facilities.

The bill changes current law to designate that eligible projects may include minor construction and non-recurring maintenance, in addition to the major construction projects. These revisions are intended to expand participation in the CHIP IN program and accelerate the delivery of modernized VA infrastructure for veterans across the country.

I want to stress something that the chairman mentioned earlier in his comments. The first example of this use was completed in 2020. The VA programmed a total of \$135 million to build a new ambulatory clinic in Omaha. We built that facility at the cost of \$80 million at a higher specification and at better requirements, better across the board than what the VA would have done by itself, a \$55 million savings. On top of that, we took \$30 million in philanthropic money and offset that \$85 million down to \$55 million.

In all, we saved the taxpayers \$80 million on this one project, and we are looking to do it again with the inpatient facility, where we think we can save a half-billion dollars for the VA and provide a better clinic for inpatient care for our veterans.

This trailblazing partnership delivered a 157,000-square-foot outpatient facility that serves hundreds of veterans each day using eight primary care clinics, a first-of-its-kind women's healthcare clinic, and one specialty care clinic, a surgical suite with five operating rooms, including pre- and post-op space, radiology, and an onsite lab. The facility offers a satellite pharmacy with retail services.

This has become a national model for how a non-Federal investment can supplement VA's investment while reducing the cost for the Federal Government. The success of this project inspired a second facility in Tulsa, Oklahoma, as the ranking member said. The GAO has even recommended that the VA share lessons learned from the Omaha project to replicate its efficiency and innovation.

I cannot emphasize enough the critical role of public-private partnerships in expanding access to high-quality healthcare for our Nation's veterans. The Omaha facility is a testament to what is possible when the public and private sectors come together.

There are so many people in our country who have done well, and they want to invest in our veterans.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support for the CHIP IN for Veterans Act.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in passing



H.R. 217, the CHIP IN for Veterans Act, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, once again, I encourage all of our Members to support H.R. 217, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 217, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

## VETERANS ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT OF 2025

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1147) to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish the Veterans Advisory Committee on Equal Access, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1147

*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 “Veterans Accessibility Advisory Committee Act of 2025”.

### SEC. 2. VETERANS ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON EQUAL ACCESS.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Subchapter III of chapter 5 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

#### “§ 549. Advisory Committee on Equal Access

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—(1) The Secretary shall establish an advisory committee on matters relating to accessibility of the Department for individuals with disabilities.

“(2) The advisory committee established under paragraph (1) shall be known as the ‘Veterans Advisory Committee on Equal Access’ (in this section referred to as the ‘Advisory Committee’).

“(b) MEMBERSHIP.—(1) The Advisory Committee shall be composed of 15 voting members, appointed by the Secretary. In appointing such members, the Secretary shall ensure the following:

“(A) Four are veterans with disabilities, including mobility impairment, hearing, visual, and mental or cognitive disabilities.

“(B) Four are experts on issues described in subsection (f)(1)(A) or the provisions of law set forth under subsection (f)(1)(B).

“(C) Two are employees of the Department, one from the Section 508 Office and one from the Architectural Accessibility Program, who oversee the compliance of the Department with Federal accessibility laws.

“(D) Five are representatives nominated by veterans service organizations, recognized under section 5902 of this title, that advocate for veterans with physical, sensory, mental, or cognitive disabilities.

“(2) The Advisory Committee shall also include four ex officio members (or their designees):

“(A) The Under Secretary for Health.

“(B) The Under Secretary for Benefits.

“(C) The Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs.

“(D) The chairperson of the Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board established by section 502 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Public Law 93-112; 29 U.S.C. 792).

“(c) TERMS; VACANCIES.—(1) A member of the Advisory Committee shall be appointed for a term of two years. The Secretary may reappoint members to the Advisory Committee for such additional two-year terms as the Secretary determines appropriate.

“(2) The Secretary shall fill a vacancy in the Advisory Committee in the same manner as the original appointment not later than 180 days after such vacancy occurs.

“(d) MEETINGS; SUBCOMMITTEES; QUORUM.—(1) The Advisory Committee shall meet not less frequently than twice each year.

“(2) The Advisory Committee may form subcommittees, which shall meet as often as required.

“(3) A majority of the members of the Advisory Committee shall constitute a quorum.

“(e) CHAIRPERSON.—(1) Members of the Advisory Committee shall select a Chairperson from among the members of the Advisory Committee.

“(2) If the position of Chairperson becomes vacant, the members of the Advisory Committee shall select a new Chairperson not later than 30 days after the date on which the position became vacant.

“(f) DUTIES.—(1) On a regular basis, the Secretary shall consult with and seek the advice of the Advisory Committee on the following:

“(A) Improving the accessibility of the Department for individuals with disabilities, including improving—

“(i) the accessibility of information of the Department, including electronic information;

“(ii) the accessibility of the services and benefits furnished by the Department;

“(iii) the accessibility of the facilities of the Department;

“(iv) the accessibility of facilities of health care providers furnishing care or services under the Veterans Community Care Program under section 1703 of this title; and

“(v) the acquisition process of the Department to ensure that products and services, including information technology and information and communication technology (as defined in the standards issued by the Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board pursuant to section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Public Law 93-112; 29 U.S.C. 794d)), are accessible when purchased.

“(B) Ensuring the compliance of the Department with provisions of law that ensure equal access to Federal facilities, benefits, or services, for individuals with disabilities, including the following:

“(i) The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-336; 42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.).

“(ii) Sections 501, 504, and 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Public Law 93-112; 29 U.S.C. 791, 794, and 794d).

“(iii) The Plain Writing Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-274; 5 U.S.C. 301 note).

“(iv) The 21st Century Integrated Digital Experience Act (Public Law 115-336; 44 U.S.C. 3501 note).

“(v) The Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 (Public Law 90-480; 42 U.S.C. 4151 et seq.).

“(2) In advising to the Secretary, the Advisory Committee shall, focusing on the areas of greatest need for the Department—

“(A) assess the disability access needs of veterans, the public, and Department employees, for full access to the Department’s information, services, and benefits, by reviewing relevant information, such as filed complaints by people with disabilities or physical assessments of the Department’s facilities;

“(B) provide assessments of accessibility at the Department and the compliance of the Department with applicable provisions of law relating to disability and accessibility; and

“(C) provide advice on improving accessibility at the Department, including the accessibility of all—

“(i) communications, including internal and public-facing;

“(ii) services and benefits; and

“(iii) facilities.

“(3) REPORTS.—(A) Not later than two years after the date of the first meeting of the Advisory Committee, and not less frequently than once every two years thereafter, the Advisory Committee shall submit to the Secretary a report that, focusing on areas of greatest need for the Department—

“(i) identifies and assesses access barriers affecting veterans, the public, and employees of the Department;

“(ii) determines the extent to which the programs and activities of the Department address the barriers identified in clause (i), including compliance of the Department with provisions of law relating to accessibility law and reporting;

“(iii) provides recommendations and access priorities to improve the accessibility of the Department’s services, benefits, information, technology, and facilities;

“(iv) provides a description of access improvements and assesses the Department’s implementation of recommendations from previous reports of the Advisory Committee, including any unmet recommendations that remain necessary for improving accessibility for the Department; and

“(v) provides any recommendations for legislation, administrative action, or other actions that the Advisory Committee determines appropriate.

“(B)(i) Not later than 90 days after the receipt of a report required under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a copy of such report and any comments and recommendations of the Secretary concerning such report that the Secretary determines appropriate.

“(ii) The Secretary shall publish on a publicly accessible website of the Department such report and such comments and recommendations as may have been submitted along with such report.

“(iii) In this subparagraph, the term ‘appropriate congressional committee’ means—

“(I) the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the House of Representatives;

“(II) the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate;

“(III) the Committee on Education and Workforce of the House of Representatives; or

“(IV) the Special Committee on Aging of the Senate.

“(g) ADVISORY COMMITTEE PERSONNEL AND RESOURCE MATTERS.—(1) A member of the Commission who is not an officer or employee of the Federal Government shall not be compensated for the performance of the duties of the Advisory Committee.

“(2) A member of the Advisory Committee shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for employees of agencies under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, while away from their homes or regular places of business in the performance of services for the Advisory Committee.

“(3) The Secretary shall ensure that such personnel, funding, and other resources are made available to the Advisory Committee as the Secretary determines appropriate to carry out the duties of the Advisory Committee.

“(4) The Secretary shall furnish to the Advisory Committee such information as the

Advisory Committee may request from the Secretary, subject to applicable provisions of law.

“(h) **TERMINATION OF ADVISORY COMMITTEE.**—The Advisory Committee shall terminate on the date that is seven years after the date of the enactment of the Veterans Accessibility Advisory Committee Act of 2025.”.

(b) **TABLE OF SECTIONS.**—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by adding, after the item relating to section 548, the following new item:

“549. Advisory Committee on Equal Access.”.

(c) **IMPLEMENTATION; ABOLITION OF INACTIVE ADVISORY COMMITTEE.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and before establishing the Veterans Advisory Committee on Equal Access under section 549 of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall—

(1) abolish an advisory committee of the Department of Veterans Affairs that—

(A) was not established by an Act of Congress; and

(B) is inactive;

(2) consolidate two advisory committees described in paragraph (1); or

(3) submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives a recommendation to abolish an advisory committee of the Department that—

(A) was established by an Act of Congress; and

(B) is inactive.

### SEC. 3. EXTENSION ON LIMITATION OF CERTAIN PENSION PAYMENTS TO VETERANS ADMITTED TO NURSING FACILITIES.

Section 5503(d)(7) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking “November 30, 2031” and inserting “January 31, 2032”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) and the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1147 offered by my colleague, Representative DAVID VALADAO of California. The bill would direct the Department of Veterans Affairs to establish a veterans advisory committee on equal access.

The committee would advise the VA Secretary on how the Department can improve access to VA benefits, services, information, and facilities for individuals with disabilities. The committee would bring together veterans with disabilities, subject matter experts, VA employees, and representatives of veterans service organizations to make sure that the Secretary is getting the best advice from the right people.

Mr. Speaker, it goes without saying that this is long overdue. Americans

with disabilities are entitled to equal access to healthcare and benefits nationwide. That includes the VA. Congress made it clear, through the Americans with Disabilities Act and other laws, that this is the case.

While VA has made progress in recent years, the promise of equal access for individuals with disabilities has not been fully achieved.

We know these accessibility gaps still exist, and I thank the VSO community for their work to shine a spotlight on these issues. The goal of this legislation is to eliminate accessibility gaps and achieve universal access for veterans living with disabilities, as they are entitled to by law.

This is an important goal, and I believe the advisory committee is well justified.

I also share many of my colleagues' concerns about the growth of advisory committees in the Federal Government. There are simply too many. That is why this legislation would direct VA to eliminate or consolidate an inactive advisory committee.

I thank Representative VALADAO for his commitment to resolving this issue. This bill passed the House unanimously last Congress, and there is no reason why it should not receive the same bipartisan support this Congress and be signed into law.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support H.R. 1147, as amended, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1147, the Veterans Accessibility Advisory Committee Act of 2025, as amended. This bill establishes an advisory committee that brings disabled veterans' voices into the fold and provides a seat at the table with top decisionmakers at VA.

Access is an issue I have sought to champion during my time in Congress and particularly during my time with the Veterans' Affairs Committee.

Disabled veterans still face many barriers in accessing the care and services they have rightfully earned. Those barriers deserve the time and attention of a VA advisory committee so that experts can come together to improve how veterans with disabilities access their care and benefits.

Advocates like the Blinded Veterans Association, Paralyzed Veterans of America, and Disabled American Veterans have been tireless voices in our communities, raising awareness of these issues. Establishing a veterans accessibility advisory committee will provide a direct line for these voices to be heard and for change to be made at VA so that all veterans can access their care and benefits with ease.

In a time of drastic change at the Department, while President Trump and Secretary Collins are at the helm, ensuring disabled veterans have a voice at the table is more important than ever.

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

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. VALADAO), who is the sponsor of this bill.

□ 1630

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for the time.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the Veterans Accessibility Advisory Committee Act, which would make the Department of Veterans Affairs more accessible for our disabled veterans.

Our veterans have sacrificed so much for our country, and we have a responsibility to make sure they receive the benefits and services they have earned.

Sadly, too many disabled veterans face unnecessary obstacles in accessing care because of avoidable barriers at the VA.

This bipartisan bill would create a permanent advisory committee within the VA, made up of disabled veterans, experts, and advocates who understand these challenges firsthand.

This committee will give our veterans a direct line to the Secretary of the VA, ensuring that their voices are heard and their needs are prioritized.

This is a commonsense, bipartisan step to improve oversight, enhance accessibility, and uphold our Nation's commitment to the men and women who have sacrificed so much defending our freedoms.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman BOST and his staff at the Committee on Veterans' Affairs for their work on this important bill which makes the VA more accessible for our disabled veterans that it serves.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I have no more speakers, and I am ready to close. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in passing H.R. 1147, the Veterans Accessibility Advisory Committee Act of 2025, as amended.

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

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, once again, I encourage all Members to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1147, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### SIMPLIFYING FORMS FOR VETERANS CLAIMS ACT

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill

(H.R. 1286) to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to seek to enter into an agreement with a federally funded research and development center for an assessment of forms that the Secretary sends to claimants for benefits under laws administered by the Secretary, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1286

*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 "Simplifying Forms for Veterans Claims Act".*

#### SEC. 2. INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT OF FORMS THAT THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS SENDS TO CLAIMANTS.

(a) **AGREEMENT.**—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall seek to enter into an agreement with an FFRDC for an assessment of forms that the Secretary sends to claimants.

(b) **ASSESSMENT.**—An FFRDC that enters to an agreement under subsection (a) shall submit to the Secretary a written assessment, made in consultation with covered entities, of such forms. The assessment shall include the recommendations of the FFRDC regarding how the Secretary may make such forms clearer to claimants and better organized.

(c) **REPORT; IMPLEMENTATION.**—Not later than 90 days after the Secretary receives the assessment under subsection (b), the Secretary shall—

(1) submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives a copy of such assessment; and

(2) implement the recommendations in the assessment that are in compliance with the laws administered by the Secretary.

(d) **DEADLINE FOR IMPLEMENTATION.**—The Secretary shall complete the implementation of such recommendations pursuant to subsection (c)(2) by not later than two years after the date on which the Secretary commences such implementation.

(e) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) The term "FFRDC" means a federally funded research and development center.

(2) The term "covered entities" includes—

(A) the Secretary of Veterans Affairs;

(B) an expert in laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs;

(C) a veterans service organization recognized under section 5902 of title 38, United States Code;

(D) an entity that advocates for veterans; and

(E) an entity that advocates for survivors of veterans.

(3) The term "claimant" has the meaning given such term in section 5100 of title 38, United States Code.

#### SEC. 3. EXTENSION OF CERTAIN LIMITS ON PAYMENTS OF PENSION.

Section 5503(d)(7) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking "November 30, 2031" and inserting "December 31, 2031".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) and the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 1286, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1286, as amended. The bill was introduced by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BRESNAHAN), my friend and colleague.

This bill would require VA to contract with research entities to improve the forms that VA requires veterans and their families to fill out throughout the VA claims process.

Incorrectly filling out these forms can force veterans to wait longer for a decision on their claim and cause veterans to receive wrongful denials of their claim.

Veterans and their advocates have told Congress time and time again how disorganized and difficult these forms can be. As a veteran myself, it has been a challenge for me to complete these forms for my own disability claims.

We must make VA's standard forms more understandable for veterans so they can more easily access their earned VA benefits. This bill would do just that.

Representative BRESNAHAN's commonsense bill would ensure that Congress continues to push VA forward to better serve veterans, and I am proud to co-lead it.

I urge all of my colleagues to support H.R. 1286, as amended, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1286, Simplifying Forms for Veterans Claims Act, as amended.

Time and time again we hear from veterans that they cannot make heads or tails out of some of the forms necessary to access veterans' benefits. Not only have we heard it from veterans, but we have also heard it from accredited experts who assist in preparing disability claims.

This must be corrected. We cannot have veterans leaving earned benefits on the table because they put a piece of information on a line below where it should have been because the form was hard to understand.

It is not a stretch to think of a veteran attempting to file for a claim in their later years when their eyes don't see as well or they can't remember all the minute details from service long ago.

That can be a frustrating experience, and H.R. 1286 proposes that the VA enter into an agreement with a federally-funded research and development center to assess the forms VA is currently using.

Sometimes, when you are so close to a problem, it is hard to see what the core of the issue is. This bill will allow fresh eyes to review and study the forms VA uses in order to find areas for improvement. These could be small fixes that lead to positive improvement in a veteran's life.

As we work to better the veterans' experience, we should be looking at making large programs better. We should be looking at building new state-of-the-art facilities with technology that integrates seamlessly between agencies, doctors, and departments. We should be making big changes which make big impacts, but we should also commit to small changes that can also improve the veteran experience.

That is what this bill does. It starts to move in the direction of making forms easier for our veterans to review, complete, and ultimately get their earned benefits.

I support this bill and the agreement to enter into a study to see where there is room for improvement as veterans seek better access to their earned benefits.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this bill and to continue to advocate for a better veteran experience, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BRESNAHAN), the sponsor of this bill and the Representative from Pennsylvania's Eighth District.

Mr. BRESNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman BOST for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored today to speak on H.R. 1286, the Simplifying Forms for Veterans Claims Act.

I am proud to lead this bipartisan bill with the support of Chairman BOST and the Veterans' Affairs Committee.

When our veterans return home from serving our country, they are often tasked with filling out dozens of pages of paperwork just to receive the benefits they rightfully earned.

These forms are often confusing, difficult to navigate, and duplicative. It is crucial that our veterans and survivors understand how to fill out each form completely and accurately because failure to do so can result in delays in processing their claim, delays in receiving a decision on their claim, or even a denial of their claim.

Veterans and survivors are often forced to rely on Veteran Service Organizations, VSOs, to assist them with completing forms because these VA standard forms, including their attached instructions, can be disorganized and confusing to navigate. These VSOs have highlighted the need to improve VA's standard forms so that they are more straightforward and user friendly.

That is why I introduced the Simplifying Forms for Veterans Claims Act. It would require the VA to contract with a nonpartisan, federally-funded research entity to conduct a study on and provide recommendations for revising VA forms to be more understandable for veterans and their survivors.

Our military members dedicated their lives to serving our Nation. The last thing they need when they come

home are mountains of daunting paperwork. Veterans and their families have the best chance of accessing their earned VA benefits and should not be subjected to a VA claims process that is more difficult and stressful than necessary.

Pennsylvania's Eighth Congressional District is home to 40,000 veterans. I am proud to spearhead this legislation for each and every one of them and their families.

I urge all of my colleagues to support H.R. 1286 because we owe our veterans a system that works efficiently and effectively on their behalf.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in passing H.R. 1286, Simplifying Forms for Veterans Claims Act, as amended, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, once again, I encourage all Members to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1286, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

## VA HOME LOAN PROGRAM REFORM ACT

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1815) to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to take certain actions in the case of a default on a home loan guaranteed by the Secretary, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1815

*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 "VA Home Loan Program Reform Act".

### SEC. 2. AUTHORITY OF THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO TAKE CERTAIN ACTIONS IN THE CASE OF A DEFAULT ON A HOME LOAN GUARANTEED BY THE SECRETARY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3732 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking "obligation" each place it appears and inserting "loan";

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by amending subparagraph (A) to read as follows:

"(A) The Secretary may, under terms and conditions determined by the Secretary—

"(i) pay the holder of a loan guaranteed under this chapter an amount necessary to avoid the foreclosure of such loan;

"(ii) require the holder of the loan and the veteran obligated on the loan to execute all documents necessary to ensure the Secretary obtains a secured interest in the property covered by the loan; and

"(iii) require the holder of the loan to take any actions necessary to carry out this paragraph, including preparing, executing, transmitting, receiving, and recording documents, and requiring the holder of the loan to place the loan in forbearance.";

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking "obligation" each place it appears and inserting "housing loan"; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following new subparagraphs:

"(C)(i) Any decision by the Secretary under this paragraph is final and is not subject to judicial review.

"(ii) For purposes of section 511 of this title, any decision under this paragraph shall not be treated as a decision under a law that affects the provision of benefits.

"(D)(i) The Secretary may establish standards for processing payments under this paragraph based on a certification by a holder of a loan guaranteed under this chapter that the holder has complied with all applicable requirements established by the Secretary.

"(ii) The Secretary shall carry out, on a random-sampling basis, post-payment audits to ensure compliance with all requirements described in clause (i)."; and

(C) in paragraph (5), by striking "obligation" and inserting "loan";

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (1), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking "subsection—" and inserting "subsection:"; and

(B) in paragraph (10)(B)(i), by striking "forebearance" each place it appears and inserting "forbearance"; and

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

"(d) The Secretary shall prescribe loss mitigation procedures, including a mandatory sequence in which the holder of a loan guaranteed under this chapter shall offer loss mitigation options (including an option to enter into a partial claim agreement under the VA Home Loan Program Reform Act) to a veteran, to help prevent the foreclosure of such loan. The Secretary may not purchase an entire such loan until the veteran has completed such sequence."

(b) RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER POWERS OF SECRETARY.—Section 3720 of such title is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking "Notwithstanding" and inserting "Except as provided in subsection (h), notwithstanding";

(2) by redesignating subsections (f) through (h) as subsections (e) through (g), respectively; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new subsection (h):

"(h) The Secretary may not take any action under paragraph (2), (3), (4), or (5) of subsection (a) with respect to a loan guaranteed under this chapter before the completion of the sequence of mitigation options offered to the veteran to whom the loan is made under section 3732(d) of this title."

### SEC. 3. PARTIAL CLAIM PROGRAM OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter III of chapter 37 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

#### "§3737. Partial Claim Program

"(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall carry out a program, to be known as the 'Partial Claim Program', under which the Secretary may make a partial claim, described in subsection (b), with respect to a loan—

"(1) guaranteed under this chapter;

"(2) regarding the primary residence of the borrower; and

"(3) that the Secretary determines is in default or at imminent risk of default.

"(b) PARTIAL CLAIM DESCRIBED.—A partial claim described in this subsection, with respect to a loan described in subsection (a), is the purchase by the Secretary of a portion of indebtedness under the loan, through a transaction under which the Secretary—

"(1) pays to the holder of the loan the amount of indebtedness, subject to subsection (c), that the Secretary determines necessary to help prevent or resolve a default; and

"(2) receives a secured interest in the property that serves as collateral for the guaranteed loan, which is subordinate to the first lien guaranteed loan for such property.

"(c) ADMINISTRATION OF PARTIAL CLAIM.—

(1)(A) Subject to subparagraph (B), the amount of a partial claim under this section with respect to a loan guaranteed described in subsection (a) may not exceed 25 percent of the unpaid principal balance of the loan on the date on which the partial claim is made.

"(B) In the case of an individual who failed to make a payment on a loan guaranteed under this chapter during the period beginning on March 1, 2020 and ending on May 1, 2025, the amount of a partial claim under this section may not exceed 30 percent of the unpaid principal balance of the guaranteed loan as of the date that the initial partial claim is made.

"(2)(A) Subject to subparagraph (B), the Secretary may make only one partial claim per loan.

"(B) The Secretary may make an additional partial claim on a loan guaranteed under this chapter in the case of an individual who failed to make a payment on such loan during—

"(i) a major disaster declared by the President under section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170); or

"(ii) the period of 120 days following such a major disaster.

"(3) An amount paid to the holder of a loan as a partial claim—

"(A) shall not count against the amount of a loan that may otherwise be guaranteed under this chapter; and

"(B) may not be applied to the portion of the loan that is guaranteed under this chapter.

"(4) A holder of a loan guaranteed under such chapter for which the Secretary makes a partial claim under this section shall apply the amount paid by the Secretary for the partial claim first to arrearages, if any, on the guaranteed loan. Such arrearages may include any additional costs (such as taxes, insurance premiums, or homeowner's dues) the Secretary determines necessary to prevent or resolve a default.

"(5) The Secretary may enter into a contract with an appropriate entity for the service of a partial claim made by the Secretary under this section. Any such contract shall provide that such entity shall provide quarterly statements to the holder of the loan for which the Secretary makes the partial claim.

"(d) REQUIREMENTS OF LOAN HOLDER.—(1) The Secretary may require the holder of a loan for which the Secretary makes a partial claim under this section to take any actions necessary to establish the partial claim, including preparing, executing, transmitting, receiving, and recording loan documents.

"(2) The Secretary shall compensate the holder of such a loan appropriately, as determined by the Secretary, for the services required of such holder under this subsection.

“(3) The Secretary may exercise the authority of the Secretary under this subsection without regard to any other provision of law not enacted expressly in limitation of this section that would otherwise govern the expenditure of public funds.

“(e) **DEFAULT AND FORECLOSURE.**—(1)(A) Notwithstanding section 3703(e) of this title, an individual who defaults on a loan for which the Secretary makes a partial claim made under this section shall be liable to the Secretary for any loss suffered by the Secretary resulting from such default. Such a loss may be recovered in the same manner as any other debt due the United States.

“(B) In the event of default by an individual on a loan for which the Secretary makes a partial claim made under this section, the Secretary may reduce the aggregate amount of guaranty or insurance housing loan entitlement available to the individual under this chapter.

“(2) Notwithstanding section 2410(c) of title 28, an action to foreclose a lien held by the United States arising under a partial claim made under this section shall follow foreclosure procedures in accordance with State or local law where the property involved is located.

“(f) **DECISIONS BY THE SECRETARY.**—(1) Any partial claim made under this section shall be made in the sole discretion of the Secretary and on terms and conditions acceptable to the Secretary that are consistent with this section.

“(2) Any decision by the Secretary under this section is final and conclusive and is not subject to judicial review.

“(3) For purposes of section 511 of this title, any decision under this section shall not be treated as a decision under a law that affects the provision of benefits.

“(g) **COMPLIANCE.**—(1) The Secretary may establish standards for processing payments under this section based on a certification by a holder of a loan guaranteed under such chapter that the holder has complied with all applicable requirements established by the Secretary.

“(2) The Secretary shall carry out, on a random-sampling basis, post-payment audits to ensure compliance with all requirements under paragraph (1).

“(h) **GUIDANCE WITH RESPECT TO CERTAIN LOANS.**—(1) With respect to a loan described in paragraph (2), the Secretary may—

“(A) before prescribing regulations, issue administrative guidance regarding the making of a partial claim relating to such loan; and

“(B) establish, through such guidance, additional requirements applicable to such a partial claim.

“(2) A loan described in this paragraph is a loan that the Secretary determines was in default on the date of the enactment of this section.

“(i) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the authority of the Secretary under subsections (a) and (d) of section 3732 of this title.

“(j) **TERMINATION.**—The Secretary may not make a partial claim under this section after the date that is five years after the date of the enactment of this section.”

(b) **CLERICAL AMENDMENT.**—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 3736 the following new item: “3737. Partial Claim Program.”

#### **SEC. 4. STRATEGY OF THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS REGARDING THE EFFECT OF CERTAIN LITIGATION.**

Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives a report on the strategy

of the Secretary to ensure that a veteran who seeks to purchase a home with a loan guaranteed under chapter 37 of title 38, United States Code, is not at a disadvantage when attempting to secure representation by a real estate agent or broker. Such strategy may include amendments to section 36.4313 of title 38, Code of Federal Regulations.

#### **SEC. 5. INCREASE OF AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR COMPREHENSIVE SERVICE PROGRAMS FOR HOMELESS VETERANS.**

Section 2016 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (7), by striking “fiscal year 2015 and each subsequent fiscal year” and inserting “each of fiscal years 2015 through 2024”; and

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

“(8) \$344,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 and 2026.

“(9) \$257,700,000 for each fiscal year thereafter through fiscal year 2030.”

The **SPEAKER** pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) and the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

#### **GENERAL LEAVE**

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 1815, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1815, as amended, offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. VAN ORDEN), my friend and colleague.

For the last year, House Republicans have raised concerns about the Biden administration's creation of a VA Servicing Purchase program, or the VASP program.

Mr. Speaker, this Biden program was estimated to cost over \$15 billion in tax dollars. It also puts the VA home loan program at risk for today and tomorrow's veterans.

It was a bad program, and the Trump administration was right to stop it. However, I recognize that sometimes veterans and their families fall on hard times and veterans need a safety net.

Mr. VAN ORDEN's bill, H.R. 1815, as amended, is a fiscally responsible solution to enhance the VA home loan program and give veterans the assistance they might need if they are in home loan debt.

The bill is the result of over a year of discussions between VSOs, veterans, the lenders, and Members to properly establish a partial claim program for veteran homeowners should they need it.

The bill is the only fiscally responsible solution to a problem that Mr. VAN ORDEN and I have been sounding the alarm on for over a year.

Instead of the VA running rampant and creating a program without Con-

gress' intent, establishing a partial claim program where elected officials have made changes to improve a government program is how the democracy should work.

This bill would also require the VA to implement a strategic plan to ensure that veterans remain competitive in their home loan process.

Finally, this bill includes the proper funding for the grant and per diem provisions we passed in the Dole Act last year to fix the Biden administration's mistake.

Under my leadership, my committee will continue to honor its commitment to all veterans, including ensuring proper funding is provided to the GPD providers working to lift veterans out of homelessness.

I thank everybody who has come together to get this bill to this place.

I give special thanks to the Mortgage Bankers Association, Rocket Mortgage, the National Association of REALTORS, and the National Association of Mortgage Brokers for supporting this legislation and helping us get it to the finish line on behalf of our veterans and their families.

I appreciate my Democrat colleagues for their bipartisan support of this legislation. With their support, I hope we can get a good bill passed to the Senate quickly and then to the President's desk very soon.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support H.R. 1815, as amended, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1815, the VA Home Loan Program Reform Act, as amended.

We are, unfortunately, here to solve a crisis of the Trump administration's own making. Due to the unilateral actions of President Trump and Secretary Collins, over 80,000 veterans, servicemembers, and their families are now facing foreclosures on their homes.

Let's review how we got here. Our Nation faced an unprecedented crisis with COVID-19. That required action from VA to prevent the loss of hundreds of thousands of homes when our economy ground to a halt.

President Biden, with the support of Congress, took action. First, the President used existing authorities to pause foreclosures. Then with the authorities granted by the national disaster declaration, the VA was able to implement a partial claims program, very similar to this very legislation we are considering today, saving tens of thousands of veterans from losing their homes.

□ 1645

Mr. Speaker, Republicans, including Chairman BOST, urged President Biden to end the U.S. national emergency for COVID-19, which occurred on April 11, 2023.

Mr. Speaker, this resulted in VA losing authorities to carry out a partial claims program, again, not unlike the legislation we are considering now.

At that moment, action was still critically needed. Our veterans would have lost their homes. The VA could no longer offer a partial claims program because, of course, the national emergency was ended, so President Biden instituted a second foreclosure moratorium to give VA more time to offer a solution.

Mr. Speaker, President Biden and Secretary Denis McDonough began to work in 2023 and launched the Veterans Affairs Servicing Purchase program, or VASP, on May 31, 2024. During that year, most lenders cooperated, and very few veteran foreclosures occurred.

This new program, VASP, used explicit existing authorities granted by Congress to offer veteran homeowners a last resort before losing their homes. However, last month, Secretary Collins, President Trump, and Elon Musk's DOGE abruptly ended the VASP program, giving veterans no notice that a critical lifeline for borrowers was being taken away.

This decision was pushed for and celebrated by Chairman BOST and Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity Chairman VAN ORDEN. If the Speaker listens to them, they will argue that the program meant that VA would incur too much risk or that VA was not properly prepared to handle holding the loans of these veterans.

Just so we are all clear, VA already holds the risks for loans in the home loan program. The program is called the Home Loan Guaranty Program. VA is guaranteeing that lenders are made whole if a veteran is foreclosed on. The lenders collect the interest, profit from the loan, and if a foreclosure happens, the lenders are paid first.

Mr. Speaker, I will read from the VA's own website:

"A VA home loan guaranty means that a purchaser obtains a loan through a private lender, such as a bank, credit union, or mortgage company. VA then works with the lender to guarantee the loan. If the homeowner defaults on the loan, VA will pay the debt to the lender."

Second, the claim that VA doesn't know how to manage property or hold loans is just plain wrong. VA has an extensive property management portfolio. VA testified before our committee earlier this year on its ability to hold the loans. VA already has enhanced-use leases on nearly 40 of its campuses, meaning VA is acting as a landlord that is managing property being used by lessees.

Further, President Trump recently announced his intentions to own a massive housing property at the West L.A. campus. I look forward to working with the administration to make this happen, and this absolutely is evidence of VA's ability to manage land and properties.

Mr. Speaker, today, I and Members of Congress continue to field calls from veterans who learned from a press release that they are likely to lose their homes. These are veterans who saw the

Secretary's April 25 notice that the program was ending. These are the very same veterans who tried to apply for the program and who found out that the program had already closed.

Mr. Speaker, the May 1 closing date was deceptive. In reality, these veterans would have had to have submitted their paperwork much earlier in April. This is outrageous and cruel. In the chairman's State of Illinois, over 2,000 borrowers face foreclosure. In the bill sponsor's State of Wisconsin, over 600 borrowers face foreclosure. In my State of California, over 4,000 borrowers face foreclosure. I could go on and on, but these borrowers had options to avoid foreclosure. Yet, these options are now severely limited.

Many of these veterans are now afraid of speaking out against the VA in fear of retribution. They are disabled veterans, Vietnam war-era veterans, Gulf war veterans, and Active-Duty military members. These veterans and these soldiers had our backs. Where is the Trump-Collins VA? It is unnecessarily pushing them into risk of foreclosure.

As mortgage rates on the open market remain high compared to recent years and with the closure of the VASP program, the only options available to these borrowers are either selling their home or being foreclosed upon. As VASP was the program of last resort, ending VASP has accelerated the risk to these borrowers.

Mr. Speaker, that brings us to the legislation we are considering today. This legislation attempts to offer a lifeline to those the Trump administration has unnecessarily put at risk. It is not a perfect or a complete fix, and it is likely to be too late for many of the 80,000 who are wondering today if they will still have a home in a month. Yet, it is necessary legislation that I urge the Department to implement quickly.

In the minority views filed for this legislation, I continue to urge the Secretary to reinstate some kind of assistance for veteran borrowers until this legislation is signed into law and implemented. That will take some time. Every veteran who loses their home will have no one to blame but President Trump and Secretary Collins.

Mr. Speaker, it is not too late for Secretary Collins to act, and I hope veterans, VSOs, and housing groups continue to call on him to do so. I also call on my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to join those efforts instead of celebrating the end of VASP.

Mr. Speaker, I plan to support H.R. 1815, as amended, and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting it. This legislation should be expanding existing options for veterans to make veteran home foreclosures extremely rare and occurring only in the most extreme cases. Instead, this is a Band-Aid that likely will arrive too late for many.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the other side of the aisle highlighting the problem that veterans are facing today. Thank goodness we are working on a solution right here with H.R. 1815, and we are going to be voting on it today.

Mr. Speaker, the VA's decision to phase out the Veterans Affairs Servicing Purchase program, or VASP program, was an important step by the Trump administration. This decision added billions of dollars to the VA budget without any assurance to the taxpayers that this was a good decision. Just last week, my office received information that, on top of paying \$6.3 billion to purchase VA loans, VA also spent an additional \$1.5 billion just to support their financing.

The average amount that a veteran had to pay back of their mortgage was actually less than \$25,000. Instead of solving the problem, VA chose to purchase the entire loan, costing an average of \$321,000. In no way does it make sense to solve a \$25,000 problem with a \$321,000 solution. Only in government would you do that.

The Congressional Budget Office estimates that this bill would have saved money by keeping the veterans out of foreclosure. They estimated earlier this Congress that the continuing of VASP would cost the taxpayers over half a billion dollars in the next decade. That is why, under my leadership, House Republicans have sounded the alarm on the Biden administration program and the risk it could bring to VA home loans.

Mr. Speaker, I continue to urge support of H.R. 1815. It is a sensible bill. Representative VAN ORDEN and I will continue working on a cure to this problem.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. VAN ORDEN).

Mr. VAN ORDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of my bill, H.R. 1815, the VA Home Loan Program Reform Act. This legislation establishes a permanent partial claims program within the VA Home Loan Program, bringing VA in line with all of the other Federal agencies that lend monies for homes.

As the chairman of the House Economic Opportunity Subcommittee, I am responsible for the two most successful programs the history of the United States Government has ever administered, the GI home loan program and the GI VA home loan guaranty.

Mr. Speaker, it is my responsibility to make sure that every Active-Duty servicemember, every veteran, and every American who chooses to join the military in the future has the opportunity to use this program to borrow money to fulfill the American Dream, which is homeownership.

As stated previously, when an unelected series of bureaucrats invented a program that has not existed



since someone first lent someone seashells to buy a cave, they greatly endangered that. I am incredibly proud of the Trump administration for standing up to stop this.

As Chairman BOST noted, there was a \$25,000 problem, and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs threw a \$320,000 wrench at it, and that had the potential to collapse this program over time.

I will not allow that on my watch.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman, Secretary Collins, and President Donald J. Trump for helping to ensure that every American who has served, is serving, and will serve the United States of America to protect our freedoms has the ability to fulfill the American Dream, which is homeownership.

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

Mr. Speaker, I point out that the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST), the chairman, is making a mountain out of nothing. The greater risk either way to the government, the home loan program, the VA is on the hook for these loans whether they hold them, or whether lenders hold the note.

What we are talking about here is 80,000 veterans with highly distressed loans being unnecessarily put at risk, and the Biden administration did what it could given changing circumstances from an expiring emergency authority, to having to put a second pause on any foreclosures on these veterans, to finding a solution in VASP.

I am supportive of a replacement to VASP, but it is inexplicable why the Secretary would suddenly, without notice, end the program for veterans who very much right at this very moment would have liked to have applied for VASP before it had been terminated. Yet, as we speak, there is no solution. Regardless of how quickly we move in this Chamber or in the Senate, it is going to take time to stand up this replacement program in time. Meanwhile, we will see veterans lose their homes, all for a very flimsy reason.

Mr. Speaker, I support this legislation, but context is important. This legislation is now critically important because of recent actions by this administration.

This legislation also includes funding for the homelessness programs passed as part of the Elizabeth Dole Act last Congress. The Trump-Collins VA continues to drag their feet on sections of the Dole Act that increase our ability to get homeless veterans housed and off of the streets.

Mr. Speaker, I will address Chairman BOST's remarks that the reason portions of the Dole Act were not implemented, regarding the grant and per diem sections for the homeless, were due to the Biden administration's failure.

□ 1700

This is not true. The Biden administration clearly articulated the policy

needed in the Dole Act. The chairman failed to include those in the bill before passage last Congress.

Now, the Trump veteran housing crisis first cuts off foreclosure assistance, driving veterans into homelessness, then blocks aid to homelessness providers. My colleagues want to claim today that we are fixing the Trump veteran housing crisis, but if they are serious, they need to join our calls for immediate action by Secretary Collins.

First, we need to implement the Dole Act, including the section on augmentations to the grant and per diem program for getting homeless off the streets. We need to stop the firing of veterans working at VA. We need to halt veteran foreclosures until, at the very least, the legislation we are considering today has been implemented. We need to bring back VASP to offer borrowers more avenues to keep their homes; otherwise, President Trump may see the number of homeless veterans double in a single year.

I will close by saying, again, that I support H.R. 1815, the VA Home Loan Program Reform Act, as amended, but action is truly needed before it is too late.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I do think a response is necessary to clear up what was spoken of from the other side of the aisle. One is that the Veterans Home Loan program does not assume the entire loss of the existing program during VASP, but what it did is, because it is a loan guarantee, it was 25 percent. I think that needs to be clear for the record.

This bill is the cure, I believe, for the problems that we are having right now. At least it gives off-step to secure these loans to make sure that as few as possible face foreclosure. It is a good bill. It is a good bill that will receive support from both sides of the aisle. The argument before was just that. It was an argument before.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MOORE of North Carolina). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1815, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### VA BUDGET SHORTFALL ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1823) to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Comptroller General of the United States to report on certain funding shortfalls in the De-

partment of Veterans Affairs, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1823

*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 "VA Budget Shortfall Accountability Act".*

#### SECTION 2. FUNDING SHORTFALLS IN CERTAIN ADMINISTRATIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: REVIEWS; REPORTS.

(a) FIRST GAO REVIEW.—

(1) REVIEW REQUIRED.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall begin a review regarding the circumstances surrounding, and the causes of—

(A) the shortfall in the funding of the Veterans Benefits Administration for fiscal year 2024; and

(B) the expected shortfall in the funding of the Veterans Health Administration in fiscal year 2025.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The review under this subsection shall include the following elements:

(A) A comparison of monthly obligations and expenditures in relevant accounts against the spending plan of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(B) Any transfers between accounts described in subparagraph (A).

(C) The reasons for any significant diversions of obligations or expenditures from such spending plan.

(D) An analysis of the accuracy of any projections or estimates relevant to diversions described in subparagraph (C).

(E) Remedial actions the Secretary of Veterans Affairs may take—

(i) to improve the accuracy of supporting information submitted under section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, with respect to the Department; and

(ii) to prevent funding shortfalls for the Department.

(3) REPORT.—Not later than 30 days after completing such review, the Comptroller General shall submit to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs a written report containing the results and findings of such review.

(b) SUBSEQUENT GAO REVIEWS.—In each of the five calendar years following the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall conduct a review including the elements described in subsection (a)(2), and submit a report described in subsection (a)(3), regarding the funding of the Department of Veterans Affairs for the most recent fiscal year to end before the date of such review.

(c) REPORTS OF THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.—Not later than 30 days after the Secretary of Veterans Affairs receives a report of the Comptroller General under subsection (a) or (b), the Secretary shall submit such report to—

(1) the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Senate; and

(2) the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) and the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 1823, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1823, as amended.

This bill was introduced by my friend and colleague, Representative JACK BERGMAN. This bill will create good government accounting and reporting practices in handling of VA's multibillion-dollar budget.

General BERGMAN introduced this bill in response to a disastrous miscalculation during the Biden administration, which led to a fake budget shortfall.

Last July, VA informed Congress about a potential \$15 billion shortfall. VA said it needed the money for unprecedented increases in benefits claims and healthcare services. This notice came after the Biden administration had already submitted its VA budget request.

Mr. Speaker, it should go without saying that VA should have known its financial situation much earlier than the time they told us about the shortfall that ended up never existing.

Now, according to VA Office of Inspector General, the miscalculations stem from a lack of oversight, accuracy, and communication. It is time to change that. If there is anything that we have learned, it is that we need our eyes on the VA budget and their reviews. I am proud to support General BERGMAN's bill to do exactly that.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1823, as amended, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak in hesitant support of H.R. 1823, the VA Budget Shortfall Accountability Act of 2025, as amended.

This bill requires the U.S. Government Accountability Office to conduct a review of the circumstances surrounding the budget shortfalls at the Veterans Benefit Administration in fiscal year 2024 and at the Veterans Health Administration in fiscal year 2025.

Upon completion, GAO will submit the report to VA, which must transmit it to the House and Senate Veterans Affairs Appropriations Committees.

GAO is then required to complete five subsequent annual reviews of VHA's and VBA's budget execution for the preceding fiscal year.

I am concerned that this legislation is duplicative of reports that have already been published by VA's Office of Inspector General, and of work GAO is currently conducting that was initiated under the Comptroller General's authority.

It is especially concerning that we are considering H.R. 1823 today, given the context of the letter Chairman BOST recently sent to the Department of Justice, urging the Attorney General to investigate three former Biden

administration officials for criminal wrongdoing in handling last year's budget shortfall.

This bill should be viewed as political retaliation. It is not serious oversight. Give me a break.

The reports recently issued by OIG have already determined that VA's existing accounting and budget technological infrastructure is a primary cause of the shortcomings in VA's monitoring of budget execution that led to the VBA and VHA shortfalls in fiscal years 2024 and 2025, respectively.

This bill does nothing to address that and other underlying causes, and instead seems to be designed to reopen investigation of previous errors.

GAO's resources could be put to better use on more meaningful oversight of VA's budget formulation and execution process to include the role of the Office of Management and Budget in determining VA's annual budget requests. This legislation will not accomplish that.

While I find the intent of the bill to be retaliatory in nature in terms of the time it will waste looking back on the Biden administration budget, I do agree with my majority colleagues that the Trump administration budget formulation and execution process warrants scrutiny.

For that reason, I am pleased that the majority added a provision to the bill before markup that requires GAO to review VA's budget each year of the Trump administration. Secretary Collins has already broken the law by redirecting funds without congressional approval, and I worry that trend will continue over the next 4 years. I hope my colleagues will join me in rigorous oversight of the Trump administration's approach to VA's budget. I will not stand in the way of this bill's passage today.

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

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BERGMAN), the chief sponsor of this legislation.

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman and the ranking member for supporting this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of my legislation, the VA Budget Shortfall Accountability Act, a bill that puts veterans first by ensuring the systems meant to serve them are working as intended.

Last July, the VA came to Congress with a dire warning: the agency was facing major funding shortfalls, nearly \$3 billion for veterans' benefits and additional \$12 billion for healthcare.

The message was urgent: Without immediate action, benefits could be delayed for millions of veterans. Congress acted quickly and responsibly to approve supplemental funding because when it comes to our veterans and their families, there can be no margin for error.

Their peace of mind, their financial security, and their access to care are not negotiable.

Just weeks later, we learned that there were, in fact, no shortfalls. Revised financial estimates from the VA showed billions of dollars left unspent. While the shortfall didn't actually exist, the panic, confusion, and sleepless nights for the veterans wondering whether they would receive care was very real, and it was avoidable.

Mr. Speaker, the goal of H.R. 1823 is not to assign blame. It is to strengthen trust. Our veterans should never have to worry that an accounting error might prevent them from receiving their earned care and benefits. This bill simply ensures that the Comptroller General will audit the VA's budgeting and accounting systems, identify where things went wrong, and help make sure it never happens again.

Let's be clear: The VA serves millions of veterans with dedication and compassion every day, but we can always do better and our veterans deserve nothing less. They have earned the peace of mind that comes from knowing their government is not only committed to them but equipped to serve them reliably.

The VA Budget Shortfall Accountability Act is about reinforcing that commitment. This is not a partisan issue. It is about making sure we get it right for those who have served our Nation every time.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in supporting this bill, which will help ensure that our veterans never have to question whether their benefits and care will be there when they need them.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to share my position on this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I encourage all Members to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1823, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### IMPROVING VA TRAINING FOR MILITARY SEXUAL TRAUMA CLAIMS ACT

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2201) to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve claims, made under laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, regarding military sexual trauma, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2201

*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 “Improving VA Training for Military Sexual Trauma Claims Act”.

**SEC. 2. IMPROVEMENT OF CLAIMS BASED ON MILITARY SEXUAL TRAUMA UNDER LAWS ADMINISTERED BY THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

(a) TRAINING FOR EMPLOYEES WHO PROCESS SUCH CLAIMS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (c) of section 1166 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “members of teams established under subsection (a) are trained” and inserting “each employee of the Department who processes such a claim, communicates with a claimant regarding evidence supporting such a claim, or decides such a claim, receives annual sensitivity training and training”; and

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

“(4) The Secretary shall ensure that training received by an employee under this subsection is appropriate for how much experience the employee has with such claims.

“(5) The Secretary shall update training under this subsection not less than once annually.”

(2) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committees on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives a report regarding—

(A) training provided under such subsection before such date; and

(B) plans of the Secretary to carry out the amendments made by paragraph (1).

(b) EXPANSION OF DUTY TO ASSIST IN OBTAINING RECORDS FOR A COMPENSATION CLAIM.—Section 5103A(c) of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraph (2) as paragraph (3); and

(2) by inserting, after paragraph (1), the following new paragraph (2):

“(2) In the case of a claim under section 1166 of this title, the assistance provided by the Secretary under this section shall include obtaining—

“(A) the service personnel record of the claimant; and

“(B) the service medical record of the claimant.”

(c) SENSITIVITY TRAINING FOR CERTAIN CONTRACTED HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS: REPORT; IMPROVEMENTS.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committees on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives a report on—

(1) sensitivity training required for health care professionals and individuals who communicate with veterans to schedule examinations, contracted under section 504 of the Veterans’ Benefits Improvements Act of 1996 (Public Law 104–275; 38 U.S.C. 5101 note), to perform examinations of veterans who make claims under section 1166 of title 38, United States Code; and

(2) the plan of the Secretary to—

(A) improve such sensitivity training; and

(B) ensure that a veteran who makes such a claim is not retraumatized during such an examination by such a contracted health care professional.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) and the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

## GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to re-

visé and extend their remarks on H.R. 2201, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, today, I rise in support of H.R. 2201, as amended. This bill was introduced by my friend and colleague, Representative YOUNG KIM.

This bill would require that VA claims processors and contracted disability compensation examiners undergo annual sensitivity training to prevent retraumatizing survivors of military sexual trauma who are pursuing claims for VA benefits.

The bill would also ensure that VA employees receive better training and obtain all relevant military service records so veterans can receive more accurate decisions on their military sexual trauma claims.

□ 1715

Because military sexual trauma often goes unreported, a veteran’s military service records rarely prove that they experienced an MST. This bill would ensure that VA claims processors review and understand the types of evidence that can prove an MST claim.

Further, veterans relive what they suffered through during service when they file a claim based on military sexual trauma. We must ensure that every interaction VA has with them is trauma-informed.

Representative KIM’s bill would decrease the risk of retraumatizing veterans who have endured MST. Her bill would also streamline the MST claims process for them so that these veterans can more easily access their disability benefits.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2201, as amended, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2201, the Improving VA Training for Military Sexual Trauma Claims Act, as amended.

I think we can all agree that no one should ever, ever be subject to sexual violence while serving in the military. It is truly a tragedy that it happens at all, but sadly, it does.

Unfortunately, it occurs to many men and women in our military ranks at a rate likely greater than that of the general public. That means that among some of the best people our country has, there are far too many who have been violated in the most personal of ways.

Far too often, sexual assault in the military is perpetrated by those in positions of power, and far too often, these assaults are swept under the rug by the chain of command with the poor excuse that this is being done to avoid disrupting unit cohesion. This means that the victims of sexual assault are

left to serve with and under their assailants, watching them go unpunished for their crimes. This is a double indignity that no one should ever have to suffer.

Sexual trauma is unlike any other trauma. It has the ability to separate someone from their own body. It can make someone feel like they are a stranger in that body. It can make them feel unsafe in their own skin.

The effects of this trauma are heart-breaking and can be lasting. Asking victims of sexual violence to speak about it or provide physical evidence relating to it can be retraumatizing.

Currently, the Department of Veterans Affairs requires that personnel managing claims of this type receive training on the subject every 5 years. That seems like a long time between training for such a sensitive subject and a unique type of concern, especially as the study and treatment of these issues evolves rapidly and new best practices are developed and implemented.

When it comes to the treatment of military sexual trauma compensation claims, I think it is worth revisiting training annually to ensure that we are giving these veterans proper care and treatment.

H.R. 2201 is an effort to add a little more care and compassion to the process of disability claims of this nature. We routinely advocate for veterans and their well-being in our committee, and this bill does just that.

By mandating that providers have more frequent and updated training, we can ensure better outcomes for the veteran. It is something we must keep pushing for. Every day, we must work to build a better veterans’ experience, and providing training more frequently can help us accomplish that goal.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2201 and to continue to press for better care for veterans.

Mr. Speaker, for the victims of sexual assault out there who may be listening right now, they should know that they are seen and heard. I will continue to push for accountability for those who perpetrated the assaults, and I will push even harder to ensure these veterans get the compassionate care that they have earned and deserve.

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

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. KIM), the chief sponsor of this bill.

Mrs. KIM. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman BOST for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of my bill, H.R. 2201, the Improving VA Training for Military Sexual Trauma Claims Act.

Mr. Speaker, 1 in 3 women and 1 in 50 men experience military sexual trauma, or MST, as a servicemember. As many of my colleagues have already stated, a claim based on MST can be difficult to prove because MST often

goes unreported during military service.

Furthermore, evidence indicating that MST occurred is difficult to evaluate, and VA claims processors and examiners do not have sufficient training to recognize indirect evidence of MST. They are also not required to undergo annual sensitivity training to reduce the risk of retraumatizing survivors of MST.

Further, the law requires VA to help veterans filing disability benefits claims based on MST to gather evidence for their claims. However, VA does not always obtain a veteran's complete service personnel and medical records, which can provide crucial evidence to prove an MST claim.

This bipartisan bill works to improve the MST claim process by requiring VA employees working on these cases to complete annual training to better identify evidence and to ensure that veterans are not retraumatized during the examination process.

Additionally, the VA would be required to automatically obtain all service personnel and medical records for veterans filing an MST claim to ensure their cases are processed in an accurate and timely manner.

Streamlining the MST claim process and improving VA training will ensure veterans who endured MST can more easily access their earned benefits and ensure they are treated with compassion during the claims process.

I thank Representatives NIKKI BUDZINSKI, DON BACON, and CRISSY HOULAHAN for their collaboration on this commonsense, bipartisan measure that provides survivors of MST with the support and protection they deserve.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the Improving VA Training for Military Sexual Trauma Claims Act.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. BUDZINSKI), the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Technology Modernization and my good friend.

Ms. BUDZINSKI. Mr. Speaker, just a few weeks ago, I was speaking in committee to celebrate the bipartisanship of this important legislation and the urgent need to pass it out of the House. Today, we are one step closer to making that a reality.

First, I thank Representative YOUNG KIM for her leadership and collaboration on this bill, and I thank our veterans for their service and bravery.

This bill is needed for so many of those veterans who have endured sexual trauma while in service. When these veterans go to file military sexual trauma claims, navigating the VA system should never add to the pain they have already endured. That is why I introduced this bipartisan legislation to ensure the VA's claims process supports rather than retraumatizes survivors of MST.

Right now, contracted disability compensation examiners are only re-

quired to complete outdated online sensitivity training before handling these deeply sensitive claims. This insufficient preparation can make the claims process retraumatizing for those who have already suffered.

MST affects veterans of all genders. While it is more common among women, many male veterans are also impacted. We must ensure that all of our survivors are treated with dignity and care.

The Improving VA Training for Military Sexual Trauma Claims Act would modernize and strengthen the training required for VA staff and contractors who work on MST claims and help cut through the red tape that too often delays justice and support.

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

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional speakers, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in passing H.R. 2201, the Improving VA Training for Military Sexual Trauma Claims Act of 2025, as amended.

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

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, once again, I encourage all Members to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2201, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### AUTOMOTIVE SUPPORT SERVICES TO IMPROVE SAFE TRANSPORTATION ACT OF 2025

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1364) to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide clarification regarding the inclusion of medically necessary automobile adaptations in Department of Veterans Affairs definition of "medical services", as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1364

*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 "Automotive Support Services to Improve Safe Transportation Act of 2025" or the "ASSIST Act of 2025".*

#### SEC. 2. CLARIFICATION REGARDING INCLUSION OF MEDICALLY NECESSARY AUTOMOBILE ADAPTATIONS IN DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS DEFINITION OF "MEDICAL SERVICES".

*Section 1701(6)(1) of title 38, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:*

*"(1) The provision of any medically necessary automobile adaptations for driver or passenger use, including—*

*"(i) ramp and kneeling systems;*  
*"(ii) raised doors or lowered floors;*  
*"(iii) raised roofs;*  
*"(iv) air conditioning;*  
*"(v) occupied and unoccupied mobility lifts;*  
*"(vi) ingress or egress accessibility modifications;*  
*"(vii) wheelchair tie-downs; and*  
*"(viii) adapted seating."*

#### SEC. 3. EXTENSION OF CERTAIN LIMITS ON PAYMENTS OF PENSION.

*Section 5503(d)(7) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking "November 30, 2031" and inserting "September 30, 2032".*

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) and the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 1364, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1364, as amended. The bill was introduced by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BARRETT), my friend and a fellow veteran.

H.R. 1364, as amended, would allow eligible disabled veterans to receive adaptive automobile equipment that they may need to safely operate their vehicles. Right now, there are too many restrictions on eligible items that veterans could use under this program.

Mr. BARRETT's bill would close that loophole and give disabled veterans the flexibility that they need to live independent lives. Additionally, the bill would include adaptations for driver and passenger use to get veterans where they need to be.

This Congress, the Trump administration has committed to making VA work for veterans again. This bill would cut the bureaucracy nonsense from the last administration and do just that.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the VFW, the WWP, and PVA for supporting this bill. I also thank Representative BARRETT for introducing this bill and for his work on behalf of disabled veterans across the country.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1364, as amended, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1364, the Automotive Support Services to Improve Safe Transportation Act, or ASSIST Act, of 2025, as amended.

For disabled veterans, attending a medical appointment is often not a routine drive but, rather, can be a logistical and physical challenge. That is why Representatives LEVIN and

FLETCHER led the passage of the Veterans Auto and Education Improvement Act of 2022 into law.

This law allowed veterans to upgrade their vehicles every 10 years and authorized the Department of Veterans Affairs to offer mobility improvements to vehicles for the purposes of attending medical appointments. However, now that this landmark law has been implemented, oversight has led to the identification of some gaps in the types of mobility services currently authorized by law.

This is where the ASSIST Act comes in. This legislation, led by Representative BARRETT and co-led by Representatives MAGGIE GOODLANDER, SUSIE LEE, JASON CROW, and EUGENE VINDMAN, expands the types of equipment and services that VA is authorized to provide.

These are benefits and services these veterans have earned, and it is our duty in Congress to ensure veterans don't have to worry about how they will access the care they have earned through their service to our Nation.

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

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BARRETT), the key sponsor of this bill.

□ 1730

Mr. BARRETT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman and the ranking member for their support of my bill, H.R. 1364, the ASSIST Act.

During my 22 years in the United States Army, I was fortunate to return home without the need for assistive devices. For too many who serve or have served, that isn't the case. Too many are returning home with wounds that can't be healed, leaving them permanently disabled and in need of assistive technology.

Not only does a service-connected disability negatively impact a veteran's quality of life but it can cause barriers as they attempt to transition back to civilian life.

My bipartisan bill ensures that disabled veterans, with help from the Department of Veterans Affairs, are empowered to make the vehicle modifications they need to safely and efficiently travel. Right now, the VA is restricted to funding only a limited number of adaptive equipment devices such as wheelchair tie-downs, van lifts, and raised roofs.

Unfortunately and unintentionally, this limits and in many cases prevents altogether some veterans from being able to make necessary modifications to their vehicles such as ramp and kneeling systems, mobility device lifts, and ingress and egress accessibility modifications.

The ASSIST Act fixes this gap in assistance and would make sure that disabled veterans can continue traveling safely and freely when they return home. Specifically, this will give the VA greater flexibility to offer financial

assistance for a wider range of medically necessary vehicle adaptations.

This is a commonsense solution that removes bureaucratic red tape and gives veterans the resources they deserve to live life fully after they serve.

The bottom line is that our veterans put their bodies on the line for the very freedoms that we cherish and often take for granted. In return, they deserve to be taken care of when they take off the uniform. By passing this bill today, we can ensure that no veteran is denied essential mobility assistance because of an outdated government list that leaves many things left off.

Mr. Speaker, I specifically thank my colleague, Congresswoman MAGGIE GOODLANDER, for leading this effort with me. I look forward to working with Senator TUBERVILLE to get this to the Senate and onto the President's desk for signature.

It is time to give America's heroes the resources they need to live their lives to the fullest, and I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on this bill.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from New Hampshire (Ms. GOODLANDER), my good friend and cosponsor of H.R. 1364.

She currently serves on the House Committee on Armed Services and the Small Business Committee.

Ms. GOODLANDER. Mr. Speaker, I thank Ranking Member TAKANO and the chairman for their work today on this bill and on the other bills that I hope will soon pass the House of Representatives.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of a bipartisan bill that I am very proud to be leading with my colleague and friend, Congressman BARRETT. It does two important things that I came to Congress to do.

Number one, it cuts some senseless red tape and updates outdated laws so that our government can work better for hardworking people. It also in equal measure delivers on what I believe is a sacred obligation that we owe to the women and men who serve our country in uniform, especially those who sustain life-changing injuries during their service to our country.

Our bipartisan bill is called the ASSIST Act. It makes commonsense changes. It is going to really cut red tape that is limiting and, as Congressman BARRETT said, preventing far too many disabled veterans in our country from accessing the medically necessary and basic equipment that they need to travel safely and freely.

The freedom to travel is just one of the many basic freedoms that our veterans fought for while they served our country in uniform. We can and must do better.

My home State of New Hampshire is home to tens of thousands of veterans who live with service-connected disabilities, including a man I am very proud to represent, Gary Gordan, from Concord, New Hampshire. He is a Vietnam veteran and a fellow Navy veteran

who today relies on a power chair to live his life.

Gary Gordon has truly dedicated his life to our country in uniform as an EMT, and as a mental health worker at our State hospital for more than two decades. He reached out to our office for help with navigating the process of getting the basic adaptive equipment that he needs to live his life and to get his power chair into his car. It is a brand new power chair.

Under current law, the VA is limited to providing the basic type of equipment that Gary Gordon needs to get his power chair into his vehicle. This is a problem that this Congress can and must solve, and we can do that by passing the ASSIST Act.

It really is a commonsense, straightforward bill that is going to make it easier and possible for the VA to cover the basic equipment that our veterans need to live their lives. It is going to help us meet the moment and provide the best possible care that our veterans deserve.

As we approach Memorial Day, I encourage my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to come together and to support this commonsense, bipartisan legislation that is really going to change the lives of veterans all across our country.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I support H.R. 1364, the ASSIST Act of 2025, as amended.

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

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I encourage all Members to support this legislation.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1364, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### VETERANS CLAIMS EDUCATION ACT OF 2025

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1578) to amend title 38, United States Code, to promote assistance from persons recognized by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for individuals who file certain claims under laws administered by the Secretary, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1578

*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 "Veterans Claims Education Act of 2025".*

**SEC. 2. PROMOTION OF ASSISTANCE FROM PERSONS RECOGNIZED BY THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS FOR INDIVIDUALS WHO FILE CERTAIN CLAIMS UNDER LAWS ADMINISTERED BY THE SECRETARY.**

(a) NOTICE TO CLAIMANTS OF AVAILABLE ASSISTANCE FROM RECOGNIZED PERSONS.—Section 5103A of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (g) through (i) as subsections (i) through (k), respectively;

(2) by inserting after subsection (f) the following new subsections:

“(g) Upon receipt of an initial claim by a claimant not represented by an accredited person, the Secretary shall provide notice to the claimant that—

“(1) an accredited person may be able to represent the claimant;

“(2) a veterans service organization recognized under section 5902 of this title may represent the claimant at no charge to the claimant;

“(3) provides the web address of the online tool maintained under subsection (h); and

“(4) provides the web address of an appropriate and publicly accessible website of the Department through which a claimant may report—

“(A) a person, who is not an accredited person, who represented the claimant; and

“(B) any fee charged by such person for such representation.

“(h)(1) The Secretary shall maintain an online tool that allows a claimant to search a list of accredited persons who represent claimants.

“(2) The Secretary shall ensure that such list is current at least once each calendar quarter.

“(3) The Secretary shall ensure that such tool is easily accessible to a claimant.”; and

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

“(l) In this section:

“(1) The term ‘accredited person’ means—

“(A) a veterans service organization recognized under section 5902 of this title; or

“(B) an attorney, agent, or other person recognized under section 5904 of this title.

“(2) The term ‘represent’ means to prepare, present, or prosecute a claim under a law administered by the Secretary on behalf of a claimant.”.

(b) ONLINE INFORMATION REGARDING PERSONS THAT ASSIST CLAIMANTS.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall include, in each web portal of the Department of Veterans Affairs, through which an individual may file a claim for a benefit administered by the Under Secretary for Benefits or the Under Secretary for Health, a warning regarding fees an agent or attorney may charge such individual for assistance in filing such claim. Such warning shall include the following:

(1) A link to the online tool maintained under subsection (h) of section 5103A of such title, as amended by subsection (a).

(2) A link to the website of the Department described in subparagraph (D) of section 5103A(f)(1) of such title, as amended by subsection (a).

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall—

(1) complete a review the regulations, processes, and procedures of the Department of Veterans Affairs that pertain to recognition under section 5904 of title 38, United States Code;

(2) develop recommendations for legislative or administrative action to improve such regulations, processes, and procedures; and

(3) submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives a report containing the findings of the Secretary with respect to the review completed under paragraph (1) and the recommendations developed under paragraph (2).

**SEC. 3. EXTENSION OF CERTAIN LIMITS ON PAYMENTS OF PENSION.**

Section 5503(d)(7) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking “November 30, 2031” and inserting “March 31, 2032”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) and the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

**GENERAL LEAVE**

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 1578, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1578, as amended, introduced by my colleague from California (Mr. PETERS).

This bill would ensure veterans know about the availability of accredited representatives, including those who help with filing initial VA benefit claims at no cost. It would also give veterans the information and online resources they need to find an accredited representative who is right for them and to report any unaccredited bad actors who wrongfully charge a fee for their services.

This bill would also require the VA to review its accreditation process and give Congress recommendations for improvement. Veterans and their families deserve all the information they need to decide who will provide the best assistance with their claim. This bill ensures just that.

I thank Representative PETERS for his work on this bill, and I urge all of my colleagues to support H.R. 1578, as amended.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1578, the Veterans Claims Education Act of 2025, as amended.

Obtaining veterans benefits can be confusing. The process can be cumbersome. Because of the complexity and scope of the VA and its programs, some veterans take to an internet search to figure out how to get their claims approved.

It seems certain actors have figured out that in the confusion of the process, they can make a profit or, with claims specifically, hundreds of millions of dollars in profits.

Oftentimes, when veterans log on and search how to get their claims submitted, they are greeted by a clickbait ad for claim sharks. These are the people who charge exorbitant fees, while assisting veterans in the preparation of their claims.

Current law mandates that VA has a duty to assist in the initial claims

preparation process. This duty exists to ensure that there are no financial barriers to veterans in having their claims prepared and adjudicated and that veterans experience a nonadversarial process.

Moreover, there are thousands of veterans service organizations around the country who are willing and able to assist veterans for free. Those service officers have been vetted by VA, both for their character and competence.

In the spirit of ensuring that veterans are made aware that they are entitled to this preparation assistance, the Veterans Claims Education Act mandates that VA websites prominently give veterans notice that they are entitled to free assistance from an accredited representative and how to find that assistance.

Not only does it alert the veteran that they are entitled to assistance in their claims preparation at no cost but it also provides guidance on reporting bad actors like unaccredited claim sharks.

The VA's accreditation process serves to protect our Nation's veterans from financial exploitation so that veterans are less likely to be at risk of incurring outrageous debts, as well as losing out on months of their benefits.

Mr. Speaker, few people would think there is value in letting someone take 5 months of our paychecks just for reviewing our resume, right? Then why would we ever, ever be even remotely comfortable with someone taking 5 months of earned benefits away from our veterans?

I strongly support this bipartisan bill as it would promote those actors who are doing claims preparation and processing the right way, not the ones who pay to be the first result on an internet search.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative PETERS for introducing this legislation. This bill allows us to direct veterans to representatives who have the skills, knowledge, and accreditation to help them, not to take advantage of them during the initial claims process.

Mr. Speaker, today, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1578 and not just to stop there. I also urge them to continue to push back against claim sharks and to support legislation that reinstates the penalties that were in place to hold accountable bad actors who took advantage of veterans for years.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. PETERS), the author of H.R. 1578.

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill, H.R. 1578, the Veterans Claims Education Act.

I wrote this bill after a veteran in my district alerted my office about a challenge he faced accessing his hard-earned VA benefits. This veteran contracted with a for-profit company that promised to increase the veteran's disability benefits in exchange for a cut of the veteran's disability payment from the VA.



It is unconscionable that for-profit entities, known as claim sharks, prey on the trust and good will of our veterans to line their own pockets.

My bill takes a big step to correct this and will protect veterans in San Diego and throughout the country from similar scams in the future. The Veterans Claims Education Act provides educational resources to steer veterans toward veterans service organizations, qualified lawyers, and accredited entities who can provide not-for-profit assistance to veterans.

My bill also provides vets filing a disability claim with an online search tool to help veterans find accredited entities that can assist with claims. It creates an online portal to report claim sharks targeting veterans, which charge a fee for their services.

Republicans and Democrats may have sincere policy disagreements about how to provide world-class care to our Nation's veterans and their families, but I know we all agree that no one should be able to profit from the service and sacrifice of our veterans.

I thank the chairman and the ranking member and the entire House Veterans' Affairs Committee for advancing this legislation out of the House. I thank the numerous veterans organizations for their advocacy, including the American Legion, the Paralyzed Veterans of America, the VFW, and other great organizations.

I look forward to working with these groups to make this law the law of the land, and I urge my colleagues to support the bill and our veterans.

□ 1745

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join me in passing H.R. 1578, the Veterans Claims Education Act of 2025, as amended, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, once again, I encourage all Members to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1578, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### MODIFYING RECIPROCAL TARIFF RATES TO REFLECT DISCUSSIONS WITH THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 119-54)

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

and Ways and Means and ordered to be printed:

#### To the Congress of the United States:

Consistent with applicable law, including the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 *et seq.*) the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1601 *et seq.*), section 604 of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (19 U.S.C. 2483), and section 301 of title 3, United States Code, I hereby report that I have issued an Executive Order on Modifying Reciprocal Tariff Rates to Reflect Discussions with the People's Republic of China.

In Executive Order 14257 of April 2, 2025 (Regulating Imports With a Reciprocal Tariff to Rectify Trade Practices that Contribute to Large and Persistent Annual United States Goods Trade Deficits), I declared a national emergency arising from conditions reflected in large and persistent annual U.S. goods trade deficits, and imposed additional *ad valorem* duties that I deemed necessary and appropriate to deal with that unusual and extraordinary threat, which has its source in whole or substantial part outside the United States, to the national security and economy of the United States. Section 4(b) of Executive Order 14257 provided that “[s]hould any trading partner retaliate against the United States in response to this action through import duties on U.S. exports or other measures, I may further modify the [Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States] to increase or expand in scope the duties imposed under this order to ensure the efficacy of this action.”

Since I signed Executive Order 14266 of April 9, 2025 (Modifying Reciprocal Tariff Rates To Reflect Trading Partner Retaliation and Alignment), the United States has entered into discussions with the People's Republic of China (PRC) to address the lack of trade reciprocity in our economic relationship and our resulting national and economic security concerns. Conducting these discussions is a significant step by the PRC toward remedying non-reciprocal trade arrangements and addressing the concerns of the United States relating to economic and national security matters.

As a result of this significant step, pursuant to section 4(c) of Executive Order 14257, this order modifies the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States to suspend for a period of 90 days application of the additional *ad valorem* duties imposed on the PRC listed in Annex I to Executive Order 14257, as amended by Executive Order 14259 of April 8, 2025 (Amendment to Reciprocal Tariffs and Updated Duties as Applied to Low-Value Imports From the People's Republic of China), and Executive Order 14266, and clarified in the Presidential Memorandum of April 11, 2025 (Clarification of Exceptions Under Executive Order 14257 of April 2, 2025, as Amended), and to instead impose on articles of the PRC an additional *ad valorem* rate of duty as set forth in the

order, pursuant to the terms of, and except as otherwise provided in, Executive Order 14257, as modified by this order.

My Administration will continue to consult with the Congress on our efforts to address extraordinary and persistent annual U.S. goods trade deficits.

I am enclosing a copy of the Executive Order I have issued.

DONALD J. TRUMP.  
THE WHITE HOUSE, May 19, 2025.

#### RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 49 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1830

#### AFTER RECESS

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

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

Votes will be taken in the following order:

Motions to suspend the rules and pass:

H.R. 1263; and  
H.R. 1286.

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

#### STRENGTHENING THE QUAD ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1263) to require a strategy for bolstering engagement and cooperation between the United States, Australia, India, and Japan and to seek to establish a Quad Inter-Parliamentary Working Group to facilitate closer cooperation on shared interests and values, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 334, nays 51, not voting 47, as follows:

[Roll No. 132]

YEAS—334

Adams	Alford	Amo
Aderholt	Allen	Amodei (NV)

Ansari  
Arrington  
Auchincloss  
Babin  
Bacon  
Baird  
Balderson  
Balint  
Barr  
Barrett  
Baumgartner  
Beatty  
Bell  
Bentz  
Bera  
Bergman  
Beyer  
Bishop  
Bonamici  
Bost  
Boyle (PA)  
Bresnahan  
Brown  
Brownley  
Budzinski  
Bynum  
Calvert  
Carbajal  
Carey  
Carson  
Carter (GA)  
Carter (LA)  
Carter (TX)  
Case  
Casten  
Castor (FL)  
Castro (TX)  
Cherfilus-  
McCormick  
Chu  
Ciscomani  
Cisneros  
Clark (MA)  
Clarke (NY)  
Clyburn  
Cohen  
Cole  
Conaway  
Correa  
Costa  
Craig  
Crawford  
Crenshaw  
Crockett  
Crow  
Cuellar  
Davids (KS)  
Davis (NC)  
De La Cruz  
DeGette  
DelBene  
Deluzio  
DeSaulnier  
DesJarlais  
Dexter  
Diaz-Balart  
Dingell  
Doggett  
Dunn (FL)  
Ellfreth  
Ellzey  
Emmer  
Escobar  
Espaillat  
Estes  
Evans (CO)  
Evans (PA)  
Fallon  
Fedorchak  
Feenstra  
Fields  
Figures  
Finstad  
Fitzgerald  
Fitzpatrick  
Fleischmann  
Fletcher  
Flood  
Fong  
Foster  
Foushee  
Foxx  
Frankel, Lois  
Franklin, Scott  
Friedman  
Frost  
Fulcher  
Garamendi  
Garcia (IL)

Garcia (TX)  
Gillen  
Gimenez  
Golden (ME)  
Gomez  
Gonzales, Tony  
Gonzalez, V.  
Gooden  
Goodlander  
Graves  
Gray  
Green (TN)  
Green, Al (TX)  
Griffith  
Grothman  
Guest  
Guthrie  
Harder (CA)  
Haridopolos  
Hayes  
Hern (OK)  
Himes  
Hinson  
Horsford  
Houchin  
Houlahan  
Hoyer  
Hoyle (OR)  
Hudson  
Huizenga  
Issa  
Ivey  
Jack  
Jackson (IL)  
Jacobs  
James  
Jayapal  
Jeffries  
Johnson (GA)  
Johnson (SD)  
Johnson (TX)  
Jordan  
Joyce (OH)  
Joyce (PA)  
Kamlager-Dove  
Kaptur  
Kean  
Keating  
Kelly (IL)  
Kelly (MS)  
Kennedy (NY)  
Khanna  
Kiley (CA)  
Kim  
Krishnamoorthi  
Kustoff  
LaHood  
LaLota  
LaMalfa  
Landsman  
Langworthy  
Larsen (WA)  
Larson (CT)  
Latimer  
Latta  
Lawler  
Lee (FL)  
Lee (NV)  
Lee (PA)  
Leger Fernandez  
Levin  
Liccardo  
Lieu  
Lofgren  
Loudermilk  
Lucas  
Lynch  
Moran  
Morelle  
Morrison  
Moskowitz  
Moulton  
Mrvan  
Mullin  
Murphy  
Nadler  
Neal  
Neguse  
Newhouse  
Oberholte  
Ocasio-Cortez  
Olszewski  
Onder  
Owens  
Pallone  
Palmer  
Panetta  
Pappas  
Perez  
Peters  
Pettersen  
Pfluger  
Pingree  
Pocan  
Pou  
Pressley  
Quigley  
Ramirez  
Randall  
Raskin  
Reschenthaler  
Riley (NY)  
Rivas  
Rogers (AL)  
Rogers (KY)  
Rose  
Ross  
Rouzer  
Ruiz  
Rulli  
Rutherford  
Ryan  
Salazar  
Salinas  
Sánchez  
Scanlon  
Schakowsky  
Schmidt  
Schneider  
Scholten  
Schrier  
Schweikert  
Scott (VA)  
Scott, Austin  
Scott, David  
Sessions  
Sewell  
Sherman  
Shreve  
Simon  
Simpson  
Smith (MO)  
Smith (NJ)  
Smith (WA)  
Smucker  
Sorensen  
Soto  
Stansbury  
Stauber  
Stefanik  
Steil  
Stevens  
Strickland  
Strong  
Subramanyam  
Suozi  
Swalwell  
Sykes  
Takano  
Taylor  
Tenney  
Thanedar  
Thompson (CA)  
Thompson (MS)  
Thompson (PA)  
Timmons  
Titus  
Tokuda  
Tonko

Torres (CA)  
Torres (NY)  
Trahan  
Tran  
Turner (OH)  
Underwood  
Valadao  
Van Drew  
Van Duyne  
Van Orden  
Vargas

Bean (FL)  
Begich  
Biggs (AZ)  
Biggs (SC)  
Boebert  
Brecheen  
Burchett  
Burlison  
Cammack  
Cline  
Cloud  
Clyde  
Collins  
Crane  
Crank  
Davidson  
Donalds

Aguilar  
Barragán  
Bice  
Bilirakis  
Buchanan  
Casar  
Cleaver  
Comer  
Connolly  
Courtney  
Davis (IL)  
Dean (PA)  
DeLauro  
Ezell  
Fischbach  
Garbarino

Vasquez  
Veasey  
Velázquez  
Vindman  
Walberg  
Wasserman  
Schultz  
Waters  
Watson Coleman  
Weber (TX)  
Webster (FL)

## NAYS—51

## NOT VOTING—47

Downing  
Edwards  
Fine  
Fry  
Gill (TX)  
Goldman (TX)  
Gosar  
Greene (GA)  
Hageman  
Hamadeh (AZ)  
Harrigan  
Harris (MD)  
Harris (NC)  
Harshbarger  
Higgins (LA)  
Jackson (TX)  
Kennedy (UT)

Westerman  
Whitesides  
Wied  
Williams (GA)  
Williams (TX)  
Wilson (FL)  
Wilson (SC)  
Wittman  
Womack  
Yakym  
Zinke

Knott  
Luttrell  
McClintock  
McGuire  
Miller (IL)  
Moore (AL)  
Moore (WV)  
Norman  
Ogles  
Patronis  
Perry  
Roy  
Self  
Steube  
Stutzman  
Tiffany  
Tlaib

Meng  
Meuser  
Mfume  
Miller-Meeks  
Nehls  
Norcross  
Nunn (IA)  
Omar  
Pelosi  
Scalise  
Sherrill  
Smith (NE)  
Spartz  
Stanton  
Wagner

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 386, nays 1, not voting 45, as follows:

[Roll No. 133]

## YEAS—386

Adams  
Aderholt  
Alford  
Allen  
Amo  
Amodei (NV)  
Ansari  
Arrington  
Auchincloss  
Babin  
Bacon  
Baird  
Balderson  
Balint  
Barr  
Barrett  
Baumgartner  
Bean (FL)  
Beatty  
Begich  
Bell  
Bentz  
Bera  
Bergman  
Beyer  
Biggs (AZ)  
Biggs (SC)  
Bishop  
Boebert  
Bonamici  
Bost  
Boyle (PA)  
Brecheen  
Bresnahan  
Brown  
Brownley  
Budzinski  
Burchett  
Burlison  
Bynum  
Calvert  
Cammack  
Carbajal  
Carey  
Carson  
Carter (GA)  
Carter (LA)  
Carter (TX)  
Case  
Casten  
Castor (FL)  
Castro (TX)  
Cherfilus-  
McCormick  
Chu  
Ciscomani  
Cisneros  
Clark (MA)  
Clarke (NY)  
Cline  
Cloud  
Clyburn  
Clyde  
Cohen  
Cole  
Collins  
Conaway  
Correa  
Costa  
Craig  
Crawford  
Crenshaw  
Crockett  
Crow  
Cuellar  
Davids (KS)  
Davis (NC)  
De La Cruz  
DeGette  
DelBene  
Deluzio  
DeSaulnier  
DesJarlais  
Dexter  
Diaz-Balart  
Dingell  
Doggett  
Donalds  
Downing  
Dunn (FL)

Edwards  
Ellfreth  
Ellzey  
Emmer  
Escobar  
Espaillat  
Estes  
Evans (CO)  
Evans (PA)  
Fallon  
Fedorchak  
Feenstra  
Fields  
Figures  
Finstad  
Fitzgerald  
Fitzpatrick  
Fleischmann  
Fletcher  
Flood  
Fong  
Foster  
Foushee  
Foxx  
Frankel, Lois  
Franklin, Scott  
Friedman  
Frost  
Fulcher  
Garamendi  
Garcia (IL)  
Garcia (TX)  
Gosar  
Graves  
Gray  
Green (TN)  
Green, Al (TX)  
Greene (GA)  
Griffith  
Grothman  
Guest  
Guthrie  
Hageman  
Hamadeh (AZ)  
Harder (CA)  
Haridopolos  
Harrigan  
Harris (MD)  
Harris (NC)  
Harshbarger  
Hayes  
Hern (OK)  
Higgins (LA)  
Himes  
Hinson  
Horsford  
Houchin  
Houlahan  
Hoyer  
Hoyle (OR)  
Hudson  
Huizenga  
Issa  
Ivey  
Jack  
Jackson (IL)  
Jackson (TX)  
Jacobs  
James  
Jayapal  
Jeffries  
Johnson (GA)  
Johnson (SD)  
Johnson (TX)  
Jordan  
Joyce (OH)  
Joyce (PA)  
Kamlager-Dove  
Kaptur  
Kean

Keating  
Kelly (IL)  
Kelly (MS)  
Kennedy (NY)  
Kennedy (UT)  
Khanna  
Kiley (CA)  
Kim  
Knott  
Krishnamoorthi  
Kustoff  
LaHood  
LaLota  
LaMalfa  
Landsman  
Langworthy  
Larsen (WA)  
Larson (CT)  
Latimer  
Latta  
Lawler  
Lee (FL)  
Lee (NV)  
Lee (PA)  
Leger Fernandez  
Levin  
Liccardo  
Lieu  
Lofgren  
Loudermilk  
Lucas  
Luttrell  
Lynch  
Mace  
Mackenzie  
Magaziner  
Maloy  
Mann  
Massie  
Mast  
Matsui  
McBath  
McBride  
McClain  
McClain Delaney  
McClellan  
McClintock  
McCollum  
McCormick  
McDonald Rivet  
McDowell  
McGarvey  
McGovern  
McGuire  
McIver  
Meeks  
Menendez  
Messmer  
Miller (IL)  
Miller (OH)  
Miller (WV)  
Mills  
Min  
Moolenaar  
Moore (AL)  
Moore (NC)  
Moore (UT)  
Moore (WI)  
Moore (WV)  
Moran  
Morelle  
Morrison  
Moskowitz  
Moulton  
Mrvan  
Mullin  
Murphy  
Nadler  
Neal  
Neguse  
Newhouse  
Nunn (IA)  
Oberholte  
Ocasio-Cortez  
Ogles  
Olszewski  
Onder  
Owens  
Pallone  
Palmer  
Panetta  
Pappas

□ 1853

Messrs. DOWNING, CLYDE, BEGICH, and KNOTT changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Mr. TAKANO and Ms. PRESSLEY changed their vote from “nay” to “yea.”

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SIMPLIFYING FORMS FOR  
VETERANS CLAIMS ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1286) to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to seek to enter into an agreement with a federally funded research and development center for an assessment of forms that the Secretary sends to claimants for benefits under laws administered by the Secretary, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

This is a 5-minute vote.

Patronis	Scott, Austin	Tlaib
Perez	Scott, David	Tokuda
Perry	Self	Tonko
Peters	Sessions	Torres (CA)
Pettersen	Sewell	Torres (NY)
Pfuger	Sherman	Trahan
Plingree	Shreve	Tran
Pocan	Simon	Turner (OH)
Pou	Simpson	Underwood
Pressley	Smith (MO)	Valadao
Quigley	Smith (NJ)	Van Drew
Ramirez	Smith (WA)	Van Dуйne
Randall	Smucker	Van Orden
Raskin	Sorensen	Vargas
Reschenthaler	Soto	Vasquez
Riley (NY)	Stansbury	Veasey
Rivas	Stauber	Velázquez
Rogers (AL)	Stefanik	Vindman
Rogers (KY)	Steil	Walberg
Rose	Steube	Wasserman
Ross	Stevens	Schultz
Rouzer	Strickland	Waters
Roy	Strong	Watson Coleman
Ruiz	Stutzman	Weber (TX)
Rulli	Subramanyam	Webster (FL)
Rutherford	Suozzi	Westerman
Ryan	Swalwell	Whitesides
Salazar	Sykes	Wied
Salinas	Takano	Williams (GA)
Sánchez	Taylor	Williams (TX)
Scanlon	Tenney	Wilson (FL)
Schakowsky	Thanedar	Wilson (SC)
Schmidt	Thompson (CA)	Wittman
Schneider	Thompson (MS)	Womack
Scholten	Thompson (PA)	Yakym
Schrier	Tiffany	Zinke
Schweikert	Timmons	
Scott (VA)	Titus	

## NAYS—1

Norman

## NOT VOTING—45

Aguilar	Fischbach	McCaull
Barragán	Garbarino	Meng
Bice	Garcia (CA)	Meuser
Bilirakis	Goldman (NY)	Mfume
Buchanan	Gottheimer	Miller-Meeke
Casas	Hill (AR)	Nehls
Cleaver	Huffman	Norcross
Comer	Hunt	Omar
Connolly	Hurd (CO)	Pelosi
Courtney	Kelly (PA)	Scalise
Davidson	Kiggans (VA)	Sherrill
Davis (IL)	Letlow	Smith (NE)
Dean (PA)	Luna	Spartz
DeLauro	Malliotakis	Stanton
Ezell	Mannion	Wagner

□ 1900

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 132 and YEA on Roll Call No. 133.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. GOLDMAN of New York. Mr. Speaker, I missed votes because of an important family matter. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 132 of the 119th Congress and YEA on Roll Call No. 133 of the 119th Congress.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. STANTON. Mr. Speaker, I was necessarily absent and missed two votes on the House Floor. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 132, H.R. 1263, and YEA on Roll Call No. 133, H.R. 1286.

## MOMENT OF SILENCE HONORING THOSE SUFFERING IN THE WAKE OF DEADLY TORNADOES

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

Mr. BELL. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, May 16, deadly tornadoes ripped across the heart of our country, leaving a path of destruction through Missouri, Kentucky, Illinois, Indiana, and Virginia. Dozens of lives were lost. Families were shattered, and entire neighborhoods were reduced to debris.

In Missouri, we are grieving. We know families in Kentucky, Illinois, Indiana, and Virginia are, as well, facing unimaginable loss and the hard days ahead. Families who just days ago were living their everyday lives are now grieving loved ones, searching for the missing, and trying to put the pieces back together.

In times like these, we must set aside our divisions. We remember our shared humanity, and we stand with our neighbors, no matter the distance between us.

Mr. Speaker, for those we have lost, those still fighting to recover, and the families forever changed by this tragedy, I ask my colleagues to join me in a moment of silence.

## MEDICAID FOR CITIZENS AND LEGAL RESIDENTS ONLY

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, California's budget could be a bellwether for the rest of the country if we pay attention.

Governor Newsom is planning to spend \$11.4 billion in the 2025–26 budget to give free healthcare to illegal immigrants, which virtually matches the State's \$12 billion deficit that it is running. He could balance the books by ending that program. Instead, they will be cutting services for seniors, foster youth, and people with disabilities just to keep this giveaway going to illegal immigrants. That is exactly why we need Medicaid reform.

States shouldn't be allowed to game the system by expanding benefits to those who are here illegally while sticking taxpayers with the bill or cutting others. Hardworking Americans are paying more and getting less, while illegal immigrants cruise in and get more coverage. That is really, really backward.

At the Federal level, we must draw a line. Medicaid should be for citizens and legal residents only. If we don't act, California's disaster could become a pattern and a national disaster for the rest of us.

## MEDICAID CUTS HURT EVERYDAY AMERICANS

(Ms. BYNUM asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. BYNUM. Mr. Speaker, this is Rose. She is 7 years old and in the first grade, and she makes friends everywhere she goes.

Rose was diagnosed with an ultra-rare genetic syndrome when she was just 3½. She now uses a feeding tube and a wheelchair. Medicaid allows Rose to receive physical therapy. Thanks to this therapy, she is starting to take steps.

Mr. Speaker, my Republican colleagues are working overtime to take Rose's healthcare away. It might be easy for people to strike through one number and write in another, take a little bit from here and there, but each of those numbers represents a person, a child like Rose, who will lose critical care so billionaires can have more money in their pockets.

We cannot let them steal from our kids and our families. We will not.

## GROUNDBREAKING OF SENECA COMMERCE PARK

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

Mr. MCGUIRE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the groundbreaking of Seneca Commerce Park in Campbell County, Virginia, which I attended on Wednesday, April 15.

This is the largest project the Economic Development Authority of Campbell County has taken on in over a decade. The \$11 million project will yield a 100,000-square-foot industrial spec building to be completed by spring 2027.

The greatest force for change is a job. A project like Seneca Commerce Park ensures just that.

Mr. Speaker, I thank everyone who contributed to this business-forward project in the Lynchburg metro area.

People wishing to grow or expand their industry on the Eastern seaboard, this is a great opportunity to do so in Virginia's Fifth Congressional District.

□ 1910

## HONORING K.W. LEE

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

Mr. MIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of a true trailblazer, a man that many see as the godfather of Asian-American journalism, K.W. Lee.

Mr. Lee immigrated to the United States from Korea in the 1950s. He began his career in journalism by exposing poverty and corruption. In the 1970s, Mr. Lee's tireless pursuit of the truth saved the life of Chul Soo Lee, a wrongly convicted Korean-American immigrant on death row.

Later on, Mr. Lee founded Koreatown Weekly, the first national English language Korean-American newspaper.

As tensions were rising in Los Angeles in the 1990s, he launched The Korea Times English Edition to give Korean Americans a place where their stories could be told on their own terms in the media.

K.W. Lee's life is defined by his tireless pursuit of the truth and paving the way for Asian Americans to have a place in journalism and have their voices be heard. After 96 years of fearless journalism, he will be deeply missed.

#### RECOGNIZING EMMITT NOLAN

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and to thank a dedicated public servant and also a dear friend, Emmitt Nolan, for his 10 years of honorable service to the people of Georgia's First Congressional District.

Emmitt has been a vital part of our team in the Golden Isles. He has served as a trusted representative of our office, building strong relationships and faithfully carrying out the concerns of our constituents.

Throughout his time in public service, from serving on the Brunswick City Commission, to attending countless civic and cultural events, Emmitt has proven himself to be deeply committed to our community. He is often found not in the spotlight but quietly supporting the causes and people that matter most.

I have known Emmitt since he managed my opponent's campaign for Congress. I had to get that in. Even then, his character, kindness, and grasp of the issues stood out. It is no surprise that he has become a mentor and a role model to others following in his footsteps.

As he transitions to the private sector, I have no doubt Emmitt will continue making a difference.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking Emmitt Nolan for his decade of service to the First Congressional District of Georgia and wishing him every success in the next chapter of his life.

#### HONORING CINDY RAMOS-DAVIDSON

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

Ms. ESCOBAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the extraordinary career of Cindy Ramos-Davidson, who retired after nearly 27 years of remarkable leadership as the chief executive officer of the El Paso Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

Under her leadership, the El Paso Hispanic Chamber became a powerful voice for small businesses, especially those owned by minorities, veterans, and women.

Cindy's vision was transformative. During her time the Chamber was repeatedly recognized as a leader in the national Hispanic business community, winning numerous awards from both the Texas Association of Mexican American Chamber of Commerce and the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

Cindy's commitment to entrepreneurship and business development has created opportunities for countless individuals and businesses. As she steps away from her role, her advocacy for the entrepreneurial spirit and dedication to the El Paso region will continue to leave an impactful legacy on the small business community.

#### IMPACT OF REPUBLICAN BUDGET

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

Mr. LATIMER. Mr. Speaker, America's worst budget ever is what we are voting on this week. It is essentially a tax scam that will benefit the wealthiest of Americans.

Mr. Speaker, 196,000 people in my district will have their healthcare taken away, including 73,000 children and 27,000 seniors. Continuing a cap on the State and local tax and SALT deduction, instead of full restoration means New Yorkers will keep paying more in Federal taxes. It is all for tax breaks and giveaways to those who don't need it.

Mr. Speaker, 74,000 people in my district will lose their SNAP benefits, which will make it difficult or impossible to put food on the table. These are the deepest cuts to food assistance ever. The result is more hungry children.

Last week, our country's bond rating was dropped one grade down from AAA. We need to change the direction of our country's economic future. This bill doesn't do that, no matter what my colleagues hear on the floor this week. In fact, it will add \$5 trillion to the national debt.

Mr. Speaker, spin it any way you want. Everyday Americans will suffer from this budget.

#### PALM SPRINGS IVF FACILITY EXPLOSION

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

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, despite the deliberate and targeted domestic terrorist bomb attack at the American Reproductive Centers IVF facility in Palm Springs, Dr. Abdullah, his staff, and all eggs and embryos are safe, thank God.

Palm Springs is strong. The people are beautiful, resilient, inclusive, accepting, and cherish their community. All law enforcement and first responders acted with courage, professionalism, and excellence.

I and all the people in the surrounding communities and in Palm Springs thank Police Chief Andy Mills, Fire Chief Paul Alvarado, FBI Assistant Director Akil Davis, and all law enforcement officers, first responders, and healthcare professionals who responded swiftly and effectively.

Thanks to their rapid response, all those injured in the bombing have been released from the hospital, and Palm Springs is safe.

To the people of Palm Springs, my heart is with them, and I stand by them.

#### FREMONT RAIL ACCIDENT

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise with a heavy heart after the deadly rail accident that occurred last night in my district in Fremont, Ohio.

The incident took place near the Miles Newton Bridge above the Sandusky River around 7 p.m. This is a popular fishing spot during white bass season, and anglers come from around the country.

Tragically, a family from Fort Wayne, Indiana, was walking along the rail bridge when the train began signaling its approach. We now know that three lives have been lost, with a fourth hospitalized in critical condition.

While names have not been released, we know that a 58-year-old mother; her daughter, who was 38 years old; and a 5-year-old child were among the casualties. A 14-month-old child was saved from the water by a 16-year-old bystander who dove into the water to save the infant's life.

I will continue to urge the National Transportation Safety Board to fully investigate this tragic accident.

I thank Fremont Mayor Danny Sanchez and rail union leaders for their full engagement. We all hope to provide more information in the near future.

Mr. Speaker, our thoughts and prayers remain with the families of those lost and injured, the brave first responders, the medical personnel, locomotive engineers, and, obviously, Mayor Sanchez and the entire city council of Fremont.

#### ATTACKS ON NONPROFITS

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

Ms. SIMON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to oppose our administration's attacks on our Nation's nonprofit sector.

Since January, our President has launched an all-out assault on our Nation's nonprofits, threatening to pull funding and proposing executive orders that target our groups serving the good people of the United States.

With Republicans pushing a reconciliation bill that would kick millions off from their medical care, the administration has also created an unprecedented attack with power to revoke nonprofit status.

The reconciliation bill would allow the executive branch to revoke status from nonprofits that they believe are terrorist-supporting organizations without requiring evidence, meaning no due process.

This vague provision is Trump's way of targeting organizations that he opposes or that just don't align with his agenda. Those are organizations that are doing right in our communities, and we have to say no.

□ 1920

#### BABY BONDS

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

Ms. PRESSLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of investing in every child's future.

Six years ago, I joined Senator BOOKER to introduce baby bonds legislation to disrupt the cycle of intergenerational poverty, close the racial wealth gap, and ensure every 18-year-old has the financial opportunity to go to college, buy a home, or start a business.

Now, Republicans are stealing a good idea and twisting it. The so-called MAGA accounts in their reconciliation bill are intentionally designed to help the rich get richer while poor children are left further and further behind.

Their proposal would weaponize the tax code to exacerbate wealth inequality, ignore the expertise of economists, and penalize States and non-profits that try to help low-income families.

In America, a child born into poverty is likely to stay there through their adult lives. That is a policy choice, and a violent one.

Our babies deserve better. Our babies deserve opportunity.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to reject this regressive proposal and support true baby bonds.

#### WESTERN MARYLAND FLOODS

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

Mrs. McCLAIN DELANEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank the first responders and local leaders who have been working tirelessly to address the fallout from last week's major flooding in Allegany and Garrett Counties.

Stormwater rushed through Westernport and Lonaconing in western Maryland last Tuesday, washing out gas lines, damaging roads and bridges, and flooding businesses, homes, and even the local firehouse and library.

When students and faculty were trapped in Westernport and George's

Creek Elementary Schools, swift water rescue teams answered the call, bringing more than 200 students to safety while waters rose.

This flood only underscores how important it is to fully fund FEMA and to make sure that FEMA continues to help those who are most struck by disaster. Severe weather events are hurting communities across this country at rates we have never seen before.

While we are still assessing the damage, we know that Federal assistance will be necessary for a full recovery. Although the road ahead will be challenging, western Maryland will remain stronger because of the storm.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to keep my constituents in their prayers and also all those impacted by storms during the past week.

#### HONORING SARA SCHALLER, CARNEGIE MEDAL RECIPIENT

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

Mr. MRVAN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect and sincere admiration that I rise to honor Ms. Sara Schaller from Hammond, Indiana, who was a recent recipient of the Carnegie Medal.

Northwest Indiana is home to over 40 miles of incredible shoreline on Lake Michigan, which is a tremendous attraction for tourism and our economy, but also can at times pose great dangers with its currents and riptides.

In 2023, Ms. Schaller observed a 14-year-old girl who had been caught in a dangerous current, and without hesitation, she courageously swam over 300 feet to rescue her. Where many hesitated, Sara stepped up and took life-saving action.

The Carnegie Medal is awarded to civilians who enter extreme danger, risk death or serious injury while saving or attempting to save the lives of others, and it was recently my honor to present Sara with this prestigious award.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and all my colleagues join me in honoring Ms. Sara Schaller for her quick and courageous action and congratulate her on her deserved recognition.

#### WHAT IS THE RECONCILIATION BILL HIDING?

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

Ms. STANSBURY. Mr. Speaker, the American people deserve to know what is happening in this body this week as the GOP is intentionally making moves in the dark of night.

Last night at 10 p.m., the Budget Committee passed the reconciliation bill by one vote while four Republicans sat it out, and tomorrow night they will move this shame-filled bill at 1 a.m. in the Rules Committee.

What don't they want the American people to know?

Is it that their bill will take away healthcare from 13.7 million people? Is it that it will take food out of the mouths of children? Is it that it will gut environmental programs? Is it that it gives giveaways to tech companies and their buddies, or that it increases taxes on working Americans who are struggling to put food on the table?

Mr. Speaker, let me be clear: When you convene in the dark of night or whether you do it or not, we will be there fighting for our communities. We will be fighting for our elders. We will be fighting for our veterans. We will be fighting for our kids, and fighting for the future and the dignity of this country and our communities.

#### DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION: ERASING BLACK HISTORY

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

##### GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. BROWN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include any extraneous materials on the subject of this special order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HARRIGAN). Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

Ms. BROWN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise today to co-anchor this CBC Special Order hour along with my distinguished colleague, Representative KAMLAGER-DOVE.

For the next 60 minutes, members of the CBC have an opportunity to speak directly to the American people on erasing Black history, an issue of great importance to the Congressional Black Caucus, Congress, the constituents we represent, as well as all Americans.

It is with great honor that I rise today to lead this CBC Special Order hour. For the next hour, members of the CBC will speak directly to the American people on the topic of Black history and ongoing efforts to erase that history.

Mr. Speaker, this is a time of fear, worry, and anxiety for millions of Americans. President Trump said that he was going to usher in a golden age. However, after 119 long, long days of this Presidency, it hasn't felt like a golden age. It has felt like a dark age, especially for Black Americans.

President Trump and his administration have attacked diversity, equity, and inclusion programs in the government, in schools, and in the private sector.

President Trump has rolled back anti-discrimination laws, and Trump has tried to freeze Federal funds that benefit Black communities, including in my district in my hometown of Cleveland, Ohio.

It is not just about his actions. It is also about his words, his rhetoric, and what he values.

President Trump and his allies have blamed diversity, which is just code for Black people, for the January plane crash at Ronald Reagan Airport; for the South Carolina wildfires; for the Francis Scott Key Memorial Bridge collapse in Baltimore; and even the East Palestine, Ohio, train derailment; and on and on and on.

If something goes wrong somewhere, anywhere, in their mind, diversity, equity, and inclusion is to blame. In President Trump's vision, every Black American on the job, every woman, and every immigrant is a DEI hire, a DEI hire who is blocking more qualified White men from the jobs and the positions of power that are rightfully theirs.

Moreover, President Trump has the audacity to talk about his agenda being about restoring meritocracy. They use that word over and over and over again in their executive orders.

Meritocracy: The meritocracy of his Secretary of Defense, Pete Hegseth, who is an unqualified TV host and who texted war plans to people by accident; the meritocracy of his Health and Human Services Secretary, Mr. Robert Kennedy, Jr., who is a conspiracy theorist and whose primary experience in healthcare and science is using Google; the meritocracy of Elon Musk's unvetted, unqualified, and unaccountable minions at DOGE.

The spoken and unspoken message behind all of this is that Black Americans and other minorities don't deserve a seat at the table and that we don't have merit.

□ 1930

The impact is real. Last month, in my district, a man checked out 100 books on Black, Jewish, and LGBTQ topics from the Beachwood Public Library. He didn't check out those books to read them. He checked them out to burn them, and he didn't do it in secret. No, he didn't hide behind shame. He posted this on social media because he wanted people to see.

See, this kind of hate doesn't happen in a vacuum. It is part of a disturbing wave we are seeing across the country, a wave fueled—sometimes with a wink and a nod, sometimes with a bullhorn—by leaders who should know better than to fan the flames of division for political gain, a wave normalized by the Secretary of Defense banning books about diversity and deleting Pentagon websites highlighting the service of women, LGBTQ people, and minority servicemembers, including Major League Baseball legend Jackie Robinson.

Mr. Speaker, what happened in my district isn't just censorship. It is an act of hate, plain and simple.

I join leaders from across northeast Ohio in condemning this act. These attempts to erase the voices of marginalized communities are an attack on the values of inclusion, empathy, and understanding.

Mr. Speaker, you can only truly have a community with understanding, and

to understand your neighbor, you have to understand history.

That is our topic tonight: history. I am deeply concerned about the ongoing effort to erase Black history from our museums, schools, and American life.

Last month, President Trump issued an executive order on "restoring truth and sanity to American history." Of course, there are all kinds of debates when it comes to history. That is how we advance knowledge.

Is that what Trump cares about when he talks about truth? Of course not.

His executive order directed Vice President VANCE and the Secretary of the Interior, two individuals who are not historians, to remove objects, exhibits, and funding from the Smithsonian museums and national parks that don't fit Trump's agenda or Trump's incorrect version of history. That bears repeating: Trump's incorrect version of history.

Think about all the Smithsonian museums, all the national parks, and all the historical exhibits around the country. Where do you think they directed most of their attention? That is right. Their main focus has been on the National Museum of African American History and Culture, right down the street on The National Mall.

Are you surprised? You shouldn't be. Trump's executive order mentioned that museum by name out of hundreds across America and laid the foundation for denying future Federal funds.

One thing we have seen from this administration is that they mean what they say. This is such a radical shift, and it has happened in just a short time. Trump's takeover of the Republican Party seems like it has been forever, but it hasn't always been like this.

When the National Museum of African American History and Culture opened in 2016, it was a bipartisan celebration. Joining President Obama that day were President Bush and Republican Speaker of the House Paul Ryan. These aren't woke individuals by any means, but they understood the importance of that museum being on The National Mall. In a perverse way, Trump does, too. That is why he is attacking it.

Black America is not taking this sitting down. In the last month, Black churches from across the country have organized trips to the museum and fundraisers to support it.

Black America raised their voices when Pete Hegseth tried to erase the history of Jackie Robinson because our history matters.

Black excellence should be celebrated. The role we have played in shaping our country should be recognized, and the pain and legacy of slavery and discrimination should be understood. If we don't reckon with our past, we will never understand the present, and we will never build a better future.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I know it is not just the President who wants to erase

Black history, and I know the backlash didn't start just this year.

In 2023, the State of Florida, our Nation's third most populous State, released education guidelines that included that slavery provided benefits because slaves were able to learn skills. They now require that as part of their curriculum, that slavery was beneficial, some type of workforce training program.

Florida also launched a comprehensive effort to ban advanced placement courses on Black history, while local school districts were newly empowered to ban books on Black history.

This is a nationwide problem. In fact, there are now more States where teaching Black history has been restricted than there are States where it is required. That is right, only 12 States out of 50 require Black history to be taught, while there are now 18 States that have passed legislation restricting Black history education.

Here is why this matters. We know there is inequality in this country. No one would deny that. We know who overwhelmingly has the wealth, power, and influence and who doesn't. In America, for every \$100 in wealth owned by White households, Black households own \$15. You can find statistics like that, no matter how you slice it, on housing, health, savings, you name it.

Last week, we were debating nutrition benefits and food stamps in this body. In my district, one in three Black households relies on food stamps. For the White households, it is 1 in 10.

This is the heart of the issue. Do you recognize, like I do, like my CBC colleagues do, that this discrepancy did not happen by accident? It didn't happen by accident. It happened by design. Do you deny that and think that all the racial inequality in this country is really the fault of Black people?

That is really the argument. The only way you can make that case is to erase history, whitewash history, and rewrite history.

That is why history matters. That is why our museums matter. That is why our books, literature, and experiences matter. That is why we are going to keep fighting back.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to lead this Special Order hour tonight. I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE), my friend from the 37th District.

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. BROWN) and the Congressional Black Caucus for organizing this Special Order hour.

Tonight, I, along with my colleagues, rise to talk about something that should terrify every freedom-loving American: the coordinated, relentless Republican campaign to erase Black history, erase American history, whitewash the truth, and silence our stories.

Donald Trump called for patriotic education instead of honest education.



This is a dangerous euphemism for censoring Black pain, Black resilience, and Black excellence from the classroom.

Since then, over 1,500 books have been banned in public schools and libraries across this country. More than 40 percent of them feature Black authors or Black characters.

What kinds of books, you ask? I have some for you, books like “Their Eyes Were Watching God” by Zora Neale Hurston, like “Go Tell It on the Mountain” by James Baldwin, and, oh, my God, even a children’s book, “I Am Rosa Parks.”

□ 1940

Why are Republicans trying to erase a book written for babies to help them learn their history? Why are they so scared of little babies and books that we have all read in school, books that we have all checked out in libraries, books we have all discussed in book clubs, books we have all shared with the little ones in our lives? Why this ban?

When our history is erased, it is easier to erase our progress. Trump and his MAGA allies want our children to grow up ignorant of the truth and of who they are. They are trying to scrub Federal websites. They are scrubbing Federal websites of any mention of Black contributions to science, literature, politics, or innovation.

Let me say the list is long because we have been in this thing for hundreds of years, bringing innovation and progress to this country.

All I have to say to that is, wow, Mr. Speaker, just wow.

Yes, they want to alter the Smithsonian’s National Museum of African American History and Culture, a museum that millions have visited from around the globe, including students and families, to learn about our Nation’s true story and all because they don’t agree with how their ancestors and themselves have been portrayed.

Don’t be mad at me because you don’t like you. Let me say that again. This President is trying to erase institutions, literally. Mr. Speaker, that is just a weak move. That is a punk, weak move.

The President has said he wants to get rid of every policy, every agency, every grant, and every effort related to DEI, diversity, equity, and inclusion. It sounds to me like somebody who is scared of the truth. That means rolling back protections against discrimination, removing mentorship and workforce programs aimed at closing opportunity gaps, and wiping clean any official recognition that America ever wronged Black people in the first place.

Guess what? We ain’t going to be that afraid. We are still here. We ain’t going nowhere. This isn’t just about politics.

While Trump and House Republicans are busy erasing our past, they are also

working overtime in the dead of night to erase and destroy our future.

Mr. Speaker, we know this White House is serving the billionaires in this country. But the House, this body, is supposed to directly serve the people. Instead, the majority party has decided to serve Donald Trump, and that is the problem.

How are Speaker JOHNSON and House Republicans serving the President? I am glad you asked that, Mr. Speaker. Even though you didn’t, you know you want to.

This is when I am going to pivot to the so-called big, beautiful bill, or how about the billionaires’ backstabbing bill, a nearly 400-page monstrosity. Here it is again in small font, in fine print, and designed with one goal in mind, to enrich billionaires and punish working families, especially Black families.

Let’s start with the numbers. There are \$880 billion in cuts to Medicaid, a rollback of SNAP and nutrition assistance, which hit the Black and Brown communities the hardest. In 2023, over 25 percent of Black households relied on SNAP benefits, and a whole bunch of other groups relied on SNAP benefits, too.

There is no meaningful investment in housing. While over 40 percent of Black renters are cost-burdened, this bill offers nothing, nada, zip, to ease the affordable housing crisis.

There is a plan to unravel Social Security as we know it, directly harming the nearly 5 million Black Americans who rely on those benefits in retirement.

To top it off, there is a permanent tax break for billionaires like Elon Musk and the President. That’s right, while they strip away healthcare and housing, they are cutting taxes for billionaires with private jets and yachts and \$400 million planes.

To be clear, less than 15 percent of constituents in every single congressional district, yo, red and blue, less than 15 percent of constituents in every single district support cuts to Medicaid.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure you read this: Moody’s just downgraded the U.S. credit outlook. What does that mean? Higher interest rates, more expensive loans, deeper household debt, more expensive money. This hurts families already stretched thin and it disproportionately hurts Black families who already face a median wealth that is just one-tenth that of White families according to a 2022 study.

When this President and MAGA Republicans say they want to help the American family, we have to ask, which American families?

The regular families I represent in south Los Angeles, Culver City, Ladera Heights, and all across the 37th Congressional District in California are not being helped by this bill. They are being targeted.

Just to reiterate, I have 700,000 constituents in my district. Like every

other Representative, I have 470,000 constituents that will be kicked off Medicaid if this bill is passed. My constituents are being told they don’t deserve to learn their history, they don’t deserve access to healthcare, they don’t deserve decent housing, and they definitely don’t deserve a tax system that is going to treat them fairly.

Mr. Speaker, the American Dream should not be reserved for those with a trust fund or a Mar-a-Lago membership. The American story should include all of us, our ancestors, our struggles, our achievements.

We cannot build a just future on a foundation of lies and fear and erasure.

The real question is why are Republicans so afraid of us? People certainly try to get our hair, our men, our body types, our culture, our food. They want us as friends and validators. Quite frankly, it is exhausting having to navigate all of the insecurities of those trying to erase us.

Democrats here in this Black Caucus are not going to forget but are going to fight against policies that punish the poor and reward the powerful. Democrats are going to fight for a country where Black history is American history and Black futures are American futures.

As the saying goes in our country: If you don’t tell your story, someone else will. You best believe they will get it wrong. We are telling our story tonight, and we are telling the real truth.

Ms. BROWN. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. TROY CARTER).

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank our outstanding leaders tonight for this Special Order hour.

Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of our museums, our cultural institutions. We know that African-American history is, in fact, American history, and it must be recognized as such.

The Musk-Trump administration’s executive orders targeting museums are disgraceful. It is a disgraceful attempt to erase Black Americans’ contributions from our Nation’s history.

I am especially disgusted by the administration’s attack on the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture.

For so many years, under the leadership of the late John Lewis, who played a key role in the efforts to secure funding and legislation for this museum. Our community fought for the creation of this museum. Our community fought many times for it when Republicans fought against it. Finally, it was signed into law in a bipartisan way. It was signed by George W. Bush in 2003.

□ 1950

Mr. Speaker, it was a bipartisan effort—this museum that tells the story of the struggles of African Americans and the contributions of African Americans, which, by the way, is American history, history that everyone should know—the good, the bad, and the ugly. It is history, just that. It happened.

You can't untouch or touch up what has already happened.

When it was finally signed, many stood together hand-in-hand—Black and White, Republican and Democrat—recognizing the significance and the importance of this monumental legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask: Why was it okay then for Republicans, Black and White, Democrats, and Independents to stand together hailing the importance of this international museum of history that recognizes the contributions of African Americans and the pain and suffering of the African-American community?

Why was it okay for us to be lockstep then and not now? Why is this Republican administration so threatened by this museum that it would seek to defund, defame, and deface?

This museum today is a testament of the legacy of generations who sacrificed everything for justice, progress, and equality. We will not stand by as our history is dismissed, diminished, or defunded.

The National Museum of African-American History and Culture is not divisive; it is essential. It tells the truth of a people who built this Nation, endured its greatest injustices, and still rise to shape its future with brilliance, faith, and resilience in the face of great obstacles, even in 2025. Yet, we rise.

When the administration chooses to target museums that honor Black history, it is engaging in a deliberate attempt to silence the truth and to erase the past.

I demand, we demand, and we all should demand full support for every museum and institution that honors dignity, struggles, and the contributions of African Americans, Asian Americans, Hispanic Americans, and all Americans because our history is important.

African-American history is, in fact, American history. You cannot separate the two. Our history is a history that everyone should know.

The Congressional Black Caucus earned the name, the "Conscience of the Congress." We are here tonight to say:

Hands off of the National Museum of African-American History and Culture.

Hands off of our hard-fought gains.

Hands off of the efforts to remind people that a history that is forgotten is a history that is repeated.

History and culture will stand, and all other similar institutions across our Nation should likewise be protected. Let's end this foolish, foolish Musk-Trump notion that our Constitution doesn't matter, that our rule of law doesn't matter, and that our ability to work together somehow is a bad thing. We know it isn't.

I implore my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to wake up and not let anyone divide us any further than we have already been divided. We are one country. We have a responsibility to the people to do the right thing.

We will continue to use all of the tools in our toolbox. You have heard me speak of the three Cs—the Congress, the courts, and the community—and we will use every one of them, and we will continue to fight until victory is won.

Ms. BROWN. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. CARTER), a place with rich culture.

Mr. Speaker, it is my distinguished privilege to yield to the gentlewoman from Virginia (Ms. McCLELLAN), my good friend who represents the Fourth District.

Ms. McCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, I am a proud Virginian.

Virginia is the birthplace of American democracy. It is also the birthplace of American slavery.

From the beginning of this country, we have been on the right side of history and the wrong side of history. I am proud to stand here as a history maker in my own right, elected in 2023 as the first African-American woman to represent the Commonwealth of Virginia.

How did I get here? My interest in government was sparked by a love of history. My love of history was sparked by my parents.

My father, who was born in 1925 in Nashville, Tennessee, spent his summers in Alabama at a school that his grandfather, my great-grandfather, founded because Tennessee did not think Black children were worthy of a high-quality public education.

I am the daughter of Lois McClellan, born in the Gulf Coast of Mississippi in 1932, who had to leave her town to become the first member of her family to go beyond the eighth grade because the State of Mississippi did not deem Black children worthy of a quality public education. The Catholic church did, but only to the eighth grade.

Listening to my parents' stories as a child, they saw the best of government through the New Deal. They saw the worst of government through Jim Crow. Yet, it wasn't just what I learned in a textbook because their stories—my grandparents' stories and my great-grandparents' stories—weren't in the Virginia textbooks. I learned them at my parents' feet. I learned them because my great-grandfather happened to write a book about his experiences.

This history helped me to understand how this country was actually founded. By going to historic sites, the names and dates came alive, but my family's history wasn't told. When I would go to Monticello, I was fascinated by the idea written by Thomas Jefferson that "... all men are created equal and endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

Yet, I learned nothing about the hundreds of Black people, including the mother of his children, who lived at Monticello and served him but weren't free. I didn't learn those stories while visiting Monticello. I learned them later as an adult.

My study of history has shown that, in Virginia, this beautiful idea of a government derived from the people, rather than divine right through kings, was created in Virginia, the first representative democracy in the Western Hemisphere, less than an hour away from where I live, in Jamestown. Yet, those settlers came on a business venture to take land that was already settled by Algonquian-speaking people for over centuries, and that land was exploited to make money for the crown of England.

Yet, they created a government in July 1619. A month later, the first recorded Africans were brought to our shores at Point Comfort, who were stolen from their home in Angola, stolen again from a slave ship by pirates, and traded to those settlers for goods and victuals. Their names weren't even recorded. They were listed as 20-some-odd Africans. That is how this country was founded. It is uncomfortable, but it is true.

I will spare you the full 400-year history, but there is a pattern to it. History may not repeat itself, but it rhymes. The history of our country has been: How do we reconcile the ideal upon which we were founded by the reality upon which we were founded? How do we reconcile that every time we make progress toward that ideal—and we have made progress. I wouldn't be standing here today in a body that was not built for people like me but may have been built by people like me. We have made progress, but every time we make progress, there is a backlash. That backlash has included three things: propaganda, violence, and voter suppression.

□ 2000

My great-grandfather experienced the first backlash. Born on a plantation in Alabama, he got the right to vote after he took a literacy test and after he had to answer two sets of questions because he was on a list of people not to register because he was a teacher teaching other Black people in his community how to get a better life.

He experienced the terror of lynchings, being afraid that if you looked at someone the wrong way, you could be hung. If you disrespected someone, you could be shot by a mob that was never brought to justice. That was the backlash that came in response to Reconstruction, which was never fully taught in my history books. We went from the end of the Civil War to the civil rights movement.

The second wave of progress and in response to that progress was the backlash of our leaders being assassinated. I heard these stories from my parents and my grandparents, but they are not here anymore. My father passed away over a decade ago. My mother passed away last year. As more and more people who lived under the terror of Jim Crow are moving on from this mortal plane, it is important we keep that history alive.

Not all of them shared that history because it was painful and it was uncomfortable. They didn't like talking about it and many of them did, but their stories are fading. That is why our museums and history and books that can continue this legacy on are important because I can't quite explain to my now 10 and 15-year-old children in quite the same eloquence that my parents did. I can't explain what they went through the same way. When they were here for spring break earlier this year, we went to the African American History Museum. Watching that history come alive through my children again, I felt my parents with me. I felt my grandparents with me. I felt my great-grandparents with me.

As I stood in the exhibit on the Middle Passage thinking about what somebody in my family lived through so that I could be here in this moment and fight this latest backlash to erase our history, somebody survived being chained in the bottom of a slave ship with hundreds of other people from Africa to Virginia, but I don't know who they are. I don't know who their children are. I don't know who their grandchildren are. In my father's family, we can only trace back to his grandparents because before that, no one deemed it important to write down the names of the people they enslaved.

That is why not only is this personal for members of the Congressional Black Caucus but is also important to our country to heal because the American people are family and like every family, we have suffered trauma. Like every family, if you ignore the trauma, if you bury the trauma, it doesn't heal. The only way it heals is when you acknowledge what happened and you learn from it. That is why every time there is a backlash and it involves propaganda to erase what happened and the truth, it doesn't erase it, it buries it and the trauma flares up.

Why do you think the Russians in 2016 decided to choose race as the scab to pick at? That is because in this country we have never truly healed. Until we talk about all of our history, we will never heal as a country and we will never live up to the ideals upon which we were founded.

The Congressional Black Caucus will fight every day to make sure that our stories are told, that all American stories are told, whether they are uncomfortable or not. They happened and they made us who we are as a people. It made us who we are as a Nation, and we cannot run from it.

Ms. BROWN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for her personal and powerful story about the benefits of history, as well as healing.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Maryland, the Honorable GLENN IVEY.

Mr. IVEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues from Ohio and California for hosting this event today.

My colleague from Virginia who just spoke, which I hadn't actually planned

on talking much about that, but after my family moved from North Carolina, we moved to Virginia and one of the things I recall was Virginia history.

We had our history book. Interestingly enough, it started with Jamestown and Williamsburg obviously, then it kind of skipped ahead to the Civil War and the focus of the Civil War. There is no mention of slavery in between the two, by the way, or barely any.

The focus of the Civil War was what they called the great Confederate generals: Robert E. Lee, Stonewall Jackson, and the others. It talked about how great they were as generals, and the fact that if they only had an equal amount of supplies as the Union generals, they would have been able to win the war. They called it the war between the States.

In some instances, the war of northern aggression, which is a little hard to imagine these days, but that was the schoolbook I learned from in my public school in Prince William County.

The interesting thing about that, we have seen what the effort was with respect to the attempt to change history, we became the United States after the Civil War, after the African-American community was liberated from slavery and there was a chance to have the opportunity to vote, to participate fully in the community, in the Nation. That was overturned essentially by a deal that was cut between the North and the South after President Lincoln was assassinated and it led to the segregation of African Americans across the country.

What went side by side with that was the obliteration of the actual history of what had led up to that point and the twisting of history to argue that, essentially, African Americans couldn't be trusted to be voting people in the democracy; that, in some instances, they even claimed that African Americans belonged in chains, belonged in slavery. As you heard earlier, the suggestion—I think that was from the Florida State government, not 150 years ago but recently—that African Americans actually benefited from being enslaved.

Now, we all know how silly that is or, I guess, our colleagues, maybe not necessarily in Florida, but it is a ridiculous statement. It is the kind of erasure and twisting of history that I think is critical to make sure that we fight against.

My mother was a librarian. My mother-in-law ended up being a librarian, so we had a heavy concentration of focus on books in my family during that stretch and the importance of history. I thought I would give a couple of examples of some of the issues that had popped up with respect to what the Trump administration has done.

This is the executive order by President Trump that was issued in March. It was titled: "Restoring Truth and Sanity to American History." The reality is it wasn't about restoring truth

and sanity to American history, it was really about hiding and deleting and whitewashing American history.

One of the things they did in their first steps was to go to the Naval Academy. I guess an executive order was issued and the Department of Defense focused on this, in part. The Naval Academy, in response to that executive order and those directions from the White House and the Pentagon, pulled the book called "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings" from the bookshelves at the Naval Academy. That was by Maya Angelou, who was one of the most respected writers in American history.

If I recall correctly, she was one of the poet laureates and spoke at one of the inaugurations, as well.

□ 2010

What I thought was interesting about that was that even though they pulled Maya Angelou's book from the shelves—the book, by the way, was an autobiography. It talked about her rise, her growth as she was raised in the South, and the terrible things that she went through, including sexual assault and racial discrimination issues, and how she rose above it. In fact, a later book that she wrote based on one of her poems is called "And Still I Rise," and it is the type of inspiring literature that I think not only should we not be hiding from Americans, but we should be encouraging all Americans to see.

The Naval Academy pulled that book, but they left two copies of another book, "Mein Kampf" by Adolf Hitler, still on the shelves. In addition to that, there was another book that they left called "The Bell Curve." You might not recall "The Bell Curve," but I distinctly remember when it was published. "The Bell Curve" argued that Black men and women are genetically less intelligent than White people. That is still on the shelves at the Naval Academy, but the book that critiqued "The Bell Curve" was pulled. This is what we are getting from the Trump administration.

Of the books that they called for them to review, I think it was approximately 900 books. They reviewed those books, based on the request from the Trump administration, based on the executive order. Ultimately, it resulted in nearly 400 books being selected for removal from the Naval Academy's library.

What I thought was interesting about that was the person the library is named after, Admiral Nimitz, actually held a totally different conception about what should happen with respect to the sharing of information in books. In fact, he founded the library for this 179-year-old institution in Annapolis, Maryland.

I represent Maryland. I am proud of the Naval Academy in Annapolis, but this is a low moment in the history of the academy, I must say.

In response to this decision, one of its alums, Admiral James Stavridis,

said: "The Pentagon might have an argument if midshipmen were being forced to read these 400 books."

By the way, he is an author, an academy alumnus, and a former Commander of all U.S. forces in Europe.

"As I understand it, they were just among the hundreds of thousands of books in the Nimitz Library which a student might opt to check out. What are we afraid of keeping from them in the library?"

I couldn't agree more with this question.

"Book banning can be a canary in a coal mine and could predict a stifling of free speech and thought," he continued. "Books that challenge us make us stronger. We need officers who are educated, not indoctrinated."

General Mark Milley is not a fan of the Trump administration. Certainly, the feeling seems to be mutual. You may recall, back in June 2021, this issue came up where they were challenging him with respect to something that was called critical race theory. We won't go into all of that, but keep in mind that K-12 schools never taught critical race theory. In any event, they brought it up with General Milley. He said: "I have read Mao Zedong. I have read Karl Marx. I have read Lenin. That doesn't make me a Communist."

He then offered an argument for expanding political studies in the service of defending the Constitution after the January 6 attack on the Capitol. He said: "I want to understand White rage, and I am White and I want to understand it. What is it that caused thousands of people to assault this building and try to overturn the Constitution of the United States of America?"

Just a little aside on that point, there is a plaque that has been requested to be posted here in the Capitol that represents the brave men and women of the Capitol Police who fought to protect the people who were trapped here by the attacking mob. The Republican leadership refuses to post that plaque, but you can't change history.

As another example, they wanted to eliminate information about Jackie Robinson, the celebrated baseball player, a Hall of Fame star, who was a great baseball player for sure but also celebrated because he integrated Major League Baseball. Prior to his arrival, African Americans were basically not allowed to play in the major leagues. They wanted to strip out this information about Jackie Robinson.

This is an article that talks about Robinson's military service during World War II, when he served in the 761st Tank Battalion, the Black Panthers. It noted that he was court-martialed, but eventually acquitted, after refusing to move to the back of an Army bus in 1944. He received an honorable discharge later that year.

This touches me a bit because my father-in-law served in World War II and was a decorated soldier, as well. In fact, after World War II, he reenlisted

for ground combat in Korea. They made him wait a few days to make sure that he really knew what he was doing, and of course, he did. He is buried at Arlington now. He had a Silver Star and two Bronze Stars, outstanding service, and rose to the level of captain.

When he came back from Italy, where he had been serving, to the United States, he was in an all-Black battalion. There were German prisoners who actually had a chance to ride in the front of the train, while he and his other Black colleagues still had to ride in the back because segregation continued. Even though the war against Hitler was supposed to be a war to end racism and fight Nazi discrimination, when he got back here, it was still the same old story.

They also tried to strip out information about Medgar Evers, a World War II veteran and Mississippi civil rights activist who was assassinated in 1963. He had been a leader with the local NAACP and was assassinated because he was fighting for the right to vote for African Americans. They erased that information from the Arlington National Cemetery website.

The Army removed, but subsequently reinstated, a website dedicated to the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, the most decorated unit in military history. That unit was made up of Japanese-American soldiers who fought despite the internment of their families. Those were the concentration camps that held Japanese Americans, largely in California but also in other parts of the country.

Despite that, Japanese-American soldiers volunteered to fight in World War II. One of those soldiers, Daniel Inouye, later became a long-serving United States Senator from Hawaii. I remember Senator Inouye primarily from his leadership in the Watergate hearings. He was an outstanding public servant, a great American, and a great soldier, but they tried to eliminate his history from the history books here.

We have this most recent incident, too. President Trump fired the Librarian of Congress. This one kind of came out of the blue, it seemed to me. She had served in that position for nearly 10 years, including during his first administration. She had been celebrated as a great Librarian, and she had done a great job in the position.

Normally, you get long terms for your service, and there was no indication that she had done anything wrong until Trump two came back, Trump 47, and they decided to fire her. They gave her a two-sentence letter that said, after all of your years in service, you are still terminated.

It kicked up such a controversy, the White House Press Secretary, Karoline Leavitt, said there were quite concerning things that she had done at the Library of Congress in the pursuit of DEI and putting inappropriate books in the Library for children.

Keep in mind a couple of things. One is that the Library of Congress is not a

lending library for the public, so there was no risk that any kids would be taking these books or any books from the Library of Congress.

Secondly, the Library of Congress has over 178 million items. It is the repository for the United States Congress. The department that deals with copyright for books is under that, and the Congressional Research Service is under her authority, as well.

□ 2020

Mr. Speaker, that is why they have so many books, including books that you or I might not want to read or we might not agree with. The point is all of the books need to be there because we need that repository.

By the way, it is the Library of Congress. Those of us here in Congress know this is a resource for us. There is absolutely no reason that the President of the United States should be meddling with our repository. It is really inappropriate and wrong. That is why it hadn't happened prior to that.

Congressman GERRY CONNOLLY made this observation about the firing of Ms. Hayden, the librarian. With this decision, Donald Trump continues his attempts to censor our history, bend our culture to his will, and interfere with the free flow of information among the American people. It is a national disgrace.

I couldn't agree more. The reality is that, despite the executive order, this administration is actually making it more difficult for children and adults to learn about American history. They are slashing museum budgets by gutting the Institute of Museum and Library Services. They are defunding public broadcasting and public television.

The President does not decide what is worthy of being in a museum, and he shouldn't decide what is worthy of being in a library. He should not be deciding what our children learn in school, and he should not be afraid of American history.

Knowing our history makes us stronger because knowledge is power. That power, the power of the truth, belongs to all Americans. It is the basis of our democracy. It is the key to our future.

It is critical, as the United States moves forward, that we preserve our history, learn our history, and understand our history so that we don't repeat the negative aspects of our history.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues and the Congressional Black Caucus for their work on this matter.

Ms. BROWN. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time is remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from Ohio has 4 minutes remaining.

Ms. BROWN. Mr. Speaker, as we talk about the importance of Black history tonight, I also want to highlight northeast Ohio's rich connection to Black history.

In northeast Ohio, our Black history legacy stacks up against anyone's. In fact, one of the first places to celebrate Black History Month for a whole month was Kent State University. After decades as just a week-long event, Kent State made it a full month in 1970, 6 years before the White House did.

Northeast Ohio is also home to the great Jesse Owens who smashed the myth of white supremacy on a global stage, right under Hitler's nose at the 1936 Berlin Olympics.

Northeast Ohio has shaped the life and stories of Nobel Prize-winning author Toni Morrison and the poet, Langston Hughes.

Cleveland is where Larry Doby integrated the American League. Carl Stokes made history as the first Black mayor of a major city, and Garrett Morgan invented the traffic light.

Black leadership from Cleveland also changed the calendar. In 1890, Ohio Representative John Patterson Green, the first Black-elected official in Cleveland, authored legislation to establish Labor Day as a State holiday 4 years before it became a Federal holiday.

Frederick Douglass spoke in Cleveland multiple times, beginning in the 1840s, connecting us to the abolition movement nationwide.

In 1851, Sojourner Truth delivered her famous speech, "Ain't I a Woman?" down the road in Akron; a landmark event in Black feminism.

A century later, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., spoke frequently in Cleveland and lent his support for our local civil rights efforts.

Northeast Ohio's Black history legacy includes three Representatives who came before me: Representatives Louis Stokes, Stephanie Tubbs Jones, and Marcia L. Fudge represented northeast Ohio for over 50 years. They chaired committees and subcommittees and served on some of the House's most powerful committees.

Congressman Stokes and Congresswoman Fudge both chaired the Congressional Black Caucus.

In 2021, Congresswoman Fudge was confirmed as the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development and the first Black woman to lead the agency since the 1970s.

Mr. Speaker, it is important that we continue to celebrate Black leadership, Black achievement, and Black excellence because we have been so frequently ignored, erased, and minimized.

Finally, Black history is American history and local history in Ohio and across the country. In 1967, Dr. King spoke at Glenville High School in Cleveland. Speaking that day, he talked about how our history isn't separate from the country's; it is part of it. He said: "Abused and scorned as we may be, our destiny is tied up with the destiny of America."

Speaking in Cleveland, Dr. King concluded with a simple message which

should be our charge today: "... we must keep moving, we must keep going." The goal of the Congressional Black Caucus is to keep us moving forward.

Mr. Speaker, as my colleagues and I have highlighted over this past hour how this administration is intentionally attacking Black history, which is an attack on American history, we will not allow this attack to continue.

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

#### LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois (at the request of Mr. JEFFRIES) for today on account of flight delays.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Ms. BROWN. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 27 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, May 20, 2025, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

#### EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

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

EC-963. A letter from the Senior Bureau Official, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Department Notification Number: DDTC 25-003 pursuant to Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-964. A letter from the Senior Bureau Official, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Department Notification Number: DDTC 25-027 pursuant to Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-965. A letter from the Senior Bureau Official, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting pursuant to Article 12(3) of the Treaty Between The Government of the United States of America and the Government of Australia Concerning Defense Trade Cooperation, and section 126.16(o) of the International Traffic in Arms Regulations; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-966. A letter from the Senior Bureau Official, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Department Notification Number: DDTC 25-007, Report of Proposed Exports, pursuant to section 40(g)(2) of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2780(g)(2)); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-967. A letter from the Acting Chief Financial Officer, Director, Office of Financial Management, United States Capitol Police, transmitting the Statement of Disbursements for the U.S. Capitol Police for the period October 1, 2024 through March 31, 2025, pursuant to 2 U.S.C. 1910(a); Public Law 109-55, Sec. 1005; (119 Stat. 575) (H. Doc. No. 119-53); to the Committee on House Administration and ordered to be printed.

EC-968. A letter from the Fisheries Regulations Specialist, NMFS, Department of Com-

merce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Summer Flounder Fishery; 2024 Commercial Quota Harvested for the State of New York [Docket No.: 231215-0305; RTID 0648-XE552] received May 17, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. BOST: Committee on Veterans' Affairs. H.R. 1578. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to promote assistance from persons recognized by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for individuals who file certain claims under laws administered by the Secretary, with an amendment (Rept. 119-102). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. BOST: Committee on Veterans' Affairs. H.R. 1969. A bill to amend and reauthorize the Staff Sergeant Parker Gordon Fox Suicide Prevention Grant Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, with an amendment (Rept. 119-103). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. BOST: Committee on Veterans' Affairs. H.R. 1815. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to take certain actions in the case of a default on a home loan guaranteed by the Secretary, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 119-104). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. LANGWORTHY: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 426. Resolution providing for consideration of the joint resolution (S.J. Res. 13) providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency of the Department of the Treasury relating to the review of applications under the Bank Merger Act; providing for consideration of the joint resolution (S.J. Res. 31) providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to "Review of Final Rule Reclassification of Major Sources as Area Sources Under Section 112 of the Clean Air Act"; and waiving a requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII with respect to consideration of certain resolutions reported from the Committee on Rules (Rept. 119-105). Referred to the House Calendar.

#### PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. YAKYM:

H.R. 3479. A bill to improve the licensing and security of submarine and cross-border terrestrial telecommunications cables, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, Natural Resources, and Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. UNDERWOOD:

H.R. 3480. A bill to amend the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to include fertility treatment and care as an essential health benefit; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. BARRETT (for himself and Mr. TRAN):

H.R. 3481. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide for electronic communication relating to educational assistance benefits under the laws administered by the Secretary, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. BARRETT:

H.R. 3482. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish an online program through which an employee of the Department of Veterans Affairs may schedule an appointment for a covered veteran with a non-Department health care provider under the Veterans Community Care Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. BARRETT:

H.R. 3483. A bill to amend title 38, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to use an information technology system to detect fraud, waste, and abuse regarding claims for payment submitted to the Secretary under the Veterans Community Care Program; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. BARR (for himself, Mr. EMMER, Mr. WESTERMAN, and Mrs. HINSON):

H.R. 3484. A bill to terminate unused authorities of the Securities and Exchange Commission that were established pursuant to the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. BEGICH (for himself, Mr. COLE, Ms. TOKUDA, Mr. STAUBER, Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, Mr. WITTMAN, and Mr. CASE):

H.R. 3485. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to eliminate certain requirements relating to the award of construction subcontracts within the county or State of performance; to the Committee on Small Business.

By Mrs. BICE (for herself, Mr. KNOTT, Mr. ZINKE, and Mr. SCHMIDT):

H.R. 3486. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to increase penalties for individuals who illegally enter and reenter the United States after being removed, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BOST:

H.R. 3487. A bill to require the Secretary of Agriculture to designate and maintain at least 20 percent of the total number of trails in the Shawnee National Forest for trail riding by covered vehicles, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. CARBAJAL (for himself and Ms. BROWNLEY):

H.R. 3488. A bill to require the Administrator of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration to apply the final rule relating to valve installation and minimum rupture detection standards to Type A gas gathering lines, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, 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 Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK (for herself and Mr. CISCOMANI):

H.R. 3489. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to codify the requirements for appointment, qualifications, and pay for therapeutic and diagnostic medical physicians of the Department of Veterans Affairs,

and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. CONNOLLY (for himself and Mr. COMER):

H.R. 3490. A bill to require the Government Accountability Office to produce a report on esophageal cancer, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Ms. DEGETTE (for herself, Mr. HUDSON, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. COLE, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. STAUBER):

H.R. 3491. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to carry out a program of research, training, and investigation related to Down syndrome, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. GREENE of Georgia (for herself, Mr. CRANE, Mr. FINSTAD, Mrs. LUNA, Mrs. BICE, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. MCGUIRE, Mr. KUSTOFF, Mr. BIGGS of Arizona, Mr. BURLISON, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mr. BRECHEEN, Mr. NEHLS, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. HARRIS of Maryland, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. HERN of Oklahoma, Mr. COLLINS, Mr. OGLES, Mr. BABIN, Mr. CLYDE, Ms. DE LA CRUZ, Ms. HAGEMAN, Mr. OWENS, Mr. PALMER, Mr. TIMMONS, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. MILLER of Ohio, Mr. STEUBE, Mr. JACKSON of Texas, Mr. MOORE of West Virginia, Mr. COMER, Mr. GILL of Texas, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. McDOWELL, Mrs. HARSHBARGER, and Mr. GOODEN):

H.R. 3492. A bill to amend section 116 of title 18, United States Code, with respect to genital and bodily mutilation and chemical castration of minors; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. KHANNA (for himself, Mrs. LUNA, Ms. KAPTUR, and Mr. BIGGS of Arizona):

H.R. 3493. A bill to reduce prescription drug prices by aligning U.S. prices with international benchmarks; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, and the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia (for herself and Mr. PANETTA):

H.R. 3494. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out an information technology system and prioritize certain requirements to manage supply chains for medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. KILEY of California (for himself and Mr. CUELLAR):

H.R. 3495. A bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to clarify the definition of employee as it relates to direct sellers and real estate agents, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

By Ms. KING-HINDS:

H.R. 3496. A bill to amend the Small Business Act for microloan eligibility for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business.

By Mr. MAST:

H.R. 3497. A bill to establish a medal of service for law enforcement officers and first responders; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MFUME (for himself, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. CARSON, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mrs. MCCLAIN DELANEY, Mr. DAVIS of

Illinois, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Ms. ELFRETH, Mr. EVANS of Pennsylvania, Mr. FIELDS, Mrs. FOUSHEE, Mr. HOYER, Mr. IVEY, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. LYNCH, Mrs. MCIVER, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. NORTON, Mr. OLSZEWSKI, Ms. PLASKETT, Mr. RASKIN, Ms. SEWELL, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, and Ms. WILSON of Florida):

H.R. 3498. A bill to award posthumously a Congressional Gold Medal to Henrietta Lacks, in recognition of her immortal cells which have made invaluable contributions to global health, scientific research, our quality of life, and patients' rights; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on 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 Mr. OWENS (for himself and Mr. MOORE of Utah):

H.R. 3499. A bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to exempt certain employees engaged in outdoor recreational outfitting or guiding services from minimum wage and maximum hours requirements; to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

By Mr. RYAN (for himself and Mr. NUNN of Iowa):

H.R. 3500. A bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to reauthorize the public safety and community policing grant program under part Q of title I of that Act; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. SANCHEZ (for herself, Mr. LAHOOD, Ms. MATSUI, and Mr. BLIRAKIS):

H.R. 3501. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for certain cognitive impairment detection in the Medicare annual wellness visit and initial preventive physical examination; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SCHMIDT (for himself and Ms. HAGEMAN):

H.R. 3502. A bill to ensure recovery of taxpayer costs and damages in restraining actions wrongfully brought against the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. VAN DREW (for himself and Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina):

H.R. 3503. A bill to prohibit life insurance providers from discriminating based on a person's status as a living kidney donor, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. CRAIG (for herself, Mr. VAN DREW, and Ms. TRTUS):

H. Res. 427. A resolution recognizing "National Public Works Week"; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. MESSMER:

H. Res. 428. A resolution expressing support for the designation of May 2025 as "Moving Month"; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. THOMPSON of California (for himself, Mr. KILEY of California, and Mr. MCGARVEY):

H. Res. 429. A resolution expressing support for the designation of May 17, 2025, as "Necrotizing Enterocolitis Awareness Day"; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.



# CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. YAKYM:

H.R. 3479.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. UNDERWOOD:

H.R. 3480.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. BARRETT:

H.R. 3481.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. BARRETT:

H.R. 3482.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. BARRETT:

H.R. 3483.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. BARR:

H.R. 3484.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. BEGICH:

H.R. 3485.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8

By Mrs. BICE:

H.R. 3486.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18: To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. BOST:

H.R. 3487.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. CARBAJAL:

H.R. 3488.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK:

H.R. 3489.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. CONNOLLY:

H.R. 3490.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Ms. DEGETTE:

H.R. 3491.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Ms. GREENE of Georgia:

H.R. 3492.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, United States Constitution

By Mr. KHANNA:

H.R. 3493.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia:

H.R. 3494.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. KILEY of California:

H.R. 3495.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8

By Ms. KING-HINDS:

H.R. 3496.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution

By Mr. MAST:

H.R. 3497.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

By Mr. MFUME:

H.R. 3498.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, clause, 6 empowers Congress to coin money. The U.S. Treasury through the United States Mint has historically exercised its power over coinage to strike national medals.

By Mr. OWENS:

H.R. 3499.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. RYAN:

H.R. 3500.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1

By Ms. SÁNCHEZ:

H.R. 3501.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. SCHMIDT:

H.R. 3502.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Section 1 of Article III of the Constitution

By Mr. VAN DREW:

H.R. 3503.

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. 40: Mr. SMITH of Washington.

H.R. 154: Mr. SUOZZI.

H.R. 255: Ms. VAN DUYN.

H.R. 347: Ms. CHU.

H.R. 373: Mr. HAMADEH of Arizona.

H.R. 404: Mrs. BICE, Mr. LATTI, and Mr. GROTHMAN.

H.R. 486: Ms. ESCOBAR.

H.R. 503: Mr. EZELL.

H.R. 507: Mr. EVANS of Colorado.

H.R. 513: Ms. HAGEMAN.

H.R. 516: Mr. STAUBER and Ms. SCHOLTEN.

H.R. 539: Mrs. HARSHBARGER and Ms. ESCOBAR.

H.R. 556: Mr. CRANK and Mr. LATTI.

H.R. 583: Ms. TOKUDA.

H.R. 628: Ms. BYNUM.

H.R. 643: Mr. TIFFANY.

H.R. 647: Mr. SUOZZI.

H.R. 650: Mr. MOORE of Utah.

H.R. 722: Mrs. HINSON and Mr. LAMALFA.

H.R. 740: Mr. JAMES.

H.R. 768: Mr. HIMES and Ms. JACOBS.

H.R. 777: Mr. CARBAJAL.

H.R. 842: Mr. CROW and Ms. ANSARI.

H.R. 909: Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY.

H.R. 940: Mr. SESSIONS.

H.R. 1004: Mr. PFLUGER.

H.R. 1024: Mr. LIEU.

H.R. 1065: Ms. WILSON of Florida and Mr. NEAL.

H.R. 1068: Mr. HAMADEH of Arizona.

H.R. 1107: Mr. SUOZZI and Mr. DELUZZO.

H.R. 1111: Ms. CHU.

H.R. 1151: Mr. SCHMIDT, Mr. WHITESIDES, Mr. RILEY of New York, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. HAMADEH of Arizona, Mr. MOYLAN, Mr. NADLER, and Ms. DE LA CRUZ.

H.R. 1190: Mr. SESSIONS.

H.R. 1200: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.

H.R. 1229: Mr. YAKYM.

H.R. 1232: Mr. BEGICH.

H.R. 1236: Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky and Ms. TENNEY.

H.R. 1254: Mr. PAPPAS.

H.R. 1291: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.

H.R. 1317: Ms. HOYLE of Oregon.

H.R. 1400: Mr. KENNEDY of New York.

H.R. 1415: Mr. GOLDMAN of Texas.

H.R. 1448: Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois.

H.R. 1469: Mr. NUNN of Iowa.

H.R. 1492: Mr. NUNN of Iowa.

H.R. 1496: Ms. MCCOLLUM.

H.R. 1518: Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. OBERNOLTE, and Mr. LAWLER.

H.R. 1525: Mrs. HINSON.

H.R. 1529: Mr. CRANK and Ms. TENNEY.

H.R. 1551: Ms. PEREZ, Mr. VINDEMAN, Mr. BRESNAHAN, and Ms. TENNEY.

H.R. 1578: Mr. SUOZZI and Mr. MIN.

H.R. 1600: Mr. BELL.

H.R. 1605: Mr. TIFFANY.

H.R. 1616: Ms. SCHOLTEN.

H.R. 1659: Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota.

H.R. 1701: Mr. CALVERT and Mr. BEGICH.

H.R. 1712: Mr. GARCIA of California.

H.R. 1713: Ms. SCHRIER and Mr. ESTES.

H.R. 1735: Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 1742: Ms. DEXTER.

H.R. 1787: Mr. HERNÁNDEZ.

H.R. 1805: Ms. TOKUDA.

H.R. 1851: Mr. MFUME.

H.R. 1900: Mr. SESSIONS.

H.R. 1917: Mr. QUIGLEY.

H.R. 1933: Mr. EVANS of Pennsylvania and Mr. JACKSON of Illinois.

H.R. 2000: Ms. TENNEY.

H.R. 2005: Mrs. HARSHBARGER.

H.R. 2029: Ms. ELFRETH.

H.R. 2049: Mr. LEVIN.

H.R. 2058: Mr. JAMES.

H.R. 2094: Mrs. HINSON.

H.R. 2096: Mr. RUTHERFORD.

H.R. 2117: Mr. THANEDAR and Mr. LAHOOD.

H.R. 2189: Mr. FALLON and Mr. LAMALFA.

H.R. 2225: Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas.

H.R. 2232: Ms. BYNUM.

H.R. 2257: Mr. BOST.

H.R. 2355: Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota.

H.R. 2369: Mr. FALLON.

H.R. 2429: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.

H.R. 2484: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.

H.R. 2532: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.

H.R. 2538: Ms. NORTON and Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 2548: Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. VALADAO, and Mr. COSTA.

H.R. 2555: Mr. HAMADEH of Arizona.

H.R. 2687: Ms. SCHOLTEN and Mr. POCAN.

H.R. 2702: Mr. GARBARINO.

H.R. 2729: Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. EDWARDS, and Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H.R. 2753: Mr. DESAULNIER.

H.R. 2767: Ms. MCBRIDE, Mr. RILEY of New York, and Mrs. MCBATH.

H.R. 2777: Mr. SCHMIDT.

H.R. 2781: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina and Mr. GOLDEN of Maine.

H.R. 2798: Ms. LEE of Florida and Mr. MOYLAN.

H.R. 2799: Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. MOULTON, Ms. ELFRETH, Mr. QUIGLEY, Ms. JACOBS, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Ms. PETTERSEN, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. STANSBURY, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Ms. TOKUDA, and Mr. MORELLE.

H.R. 2808: Mr. CLINE.

H.R. 2823: Mr. MAGAZINER.

H.R. 2835: Mr. BARR.

H.R. 2860: Ms. STRICKLAND and Ms. DELBENE.

H.R. 2864: Mr. PANETTA.

H.R. 2869: Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS.

H.R. 2902: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.

H.R. 2911: Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. FIELDS, Mr. CASE, and Ms. CRAIG.

H.R. 2940: Ms. SCHOLTEN.

H.R. 2941: Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.

H.R. 2947: Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. RUTHERFORD, and Mr. GARCIA of California.

H.R. 2993: Mr. NEGUSE and Ms. CRAIG.

H.R. 3070: Mr. BILIRAKIS.

H.R. 3095: Ms. LETLOW.

H.R. 3105: Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H.R. 3107: Mr. GOLDEN of Maine.

H.R. 3112: Mr. MOULTON.

H.R. 3119: Mr. YAKYM.

H.R. 3133: Ms. JACOBS.

H.R. 3142: Mr. PFLUGER.

H.R. 3144: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.

H.R. 3184: Mr. VASQUEZ, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. NUNN of Iowa, and Mr. CARSON.

H.R. 3194: Mr. CRAWFORD.

H.R. 3199: Mr. FOSTER and Mr. GOTTHEIMER.

H.R. 3205: Mr. ROY.

H.R. 3230: Mr. SESSIONS.

H.R. 3237: Mrs. MILLER of Illinois.

H.R. 3242: Ms. HAGEMAN and Mrs. HINSON.

H.R. 3243: Mr. SUOZZI, Ms. MCCLELLAN, and Mr. MOULTON.

H.R. 3246: Mr. JAMES.

H.R. 3249: Mrs. MCIVER.

H.R. 3258: Mr. FINSTAD.

H.R. 3262: Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H.R. 3292: Mr. BACON.

H.R. 3306: Ms. WATERS.

H.R. 3307: Mr. GOLDMAN of New York.

H.R. 3321: Mr. NORMAN.

H.R. 3322: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 3323: Mr. LICCARDO.

H.R. 3325: Mr. NEGUSE.

H.R. 3330: Mr. GILL of Texas.

H.R. 3335: Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. CASAR, Ms. WATERS, and Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY.

H.R. 3351: Mr. SESSIONS.

H.R. 3373: Mrs. FOUSHEE, Mr. BELL, and Ms. MCCLELLAN.

H.R. 3392: Ms. VAN DUYN.

H.R. 3394: Mr. DAVIDSON and Mr. SESSIONS.

H.R. 3395: Mr. SESSIONS.

H.R. 3396: Mrs. KIM and Ms. TENNEY.

H.R. 3401: Mr. CAREY.

H.R. 3405: Mr. BELL, Mr. COSTA, Ms. PIN-GREE, and Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia.

H.R. 3409: Ms. NORTON and Mr. GOTTHEIMER.

H.R. 3411: Mr. RUTHERFORD.

H.R. 3422: Mrs. WAGNER.

H.R. 3423: Ms. SCHOLTEN.

H.R. 3464: Mr. GOLDMAN of Texas.

H.R. 3470: Ms. TOKUDA.

H.R. 3472: Mr. TAKANO.

H.J. Res. 39: Mr. SCHMIDT.

H.J. Res. 96: Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Ms. JAYAPAL, Ms. McBRIDE, Ms. OMAR, Mr. AMO, and Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania.

H.J. Res. 97: Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Ms. JAYAPAL, Ms. McBRIDE, Ms. OMAR, Mr. AMO, and Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania.

H. Con. Res. 4: Mr. MORAN.

H. Con. Res. 8: Mr. PFLUGER.

H. Con. Res. 12: Mr. RESCHENTHALER, Mr. HUNT, Mr. NUNN of Iowa, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. BEGICH, and Mr. SCHMIDT.

H. Con. Res. 26: Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. ESPAILLAT, and Mr. NUNN of Iowa.

H. Res. 70: Ms. MORRISON, Mr. ESPAILLAT, and Mr. KHANNA.

H. Res. 176: Mr. SELF.

H. Res. 317: Mr. GARAMENDI.

H. Res. 369: Mr. POCAN and Ms. CRAIG.

H. Res. 372: Ms. CHU and Ms. NORTON.

H. Res. 384: Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. GOMEZ, and Mr. LICCARDO.

H. Res. 400: Mr. BELL.

H. Res. 406: Ms. TENNEY and Mr. WIED.

H. Res. 408: Ms. TENNEY.

H. Res. 412: Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. GILL of Texas, and Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H. Res. 417: Ms. NORTON, Mrs. McBATH, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. CARBAJAL, and Mr. MCGOVERN.

H. Res. 419: Mr. LYNCH, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, and Mr. NEGUSE.

H. Res. 424: Mr. TAKANO.



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 119<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 171

WASHINGTON, MONDAY, MAY 19, 2025

No. 84

## Senate

The Senate met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Almighty God, open our hearts to Your movement in our midst. As we trust Your providence and cling to Your promises, give us wisdom and spiritual eyes to see You at work.

Lord, keep our lawmakers from being intimidated by the challenges they face as You protect them by ordering their steps. Clothe them with the armor of integrity, shield them with Your truth, and guide them with Your power. Lord, help our Senators to please You by living blameless, holy, and peaceful lives. Give them a hunger for Your words and a desire to apply Your knowledge in their daily walk.

And Lord, we pray that Your mercy and grace will sustain former President Joe Biden and his family.

We pray in Your precious Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

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

### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BUDD). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

### MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The Senator from Iowa.

### NATIONAL MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, this month of May is a month that is devoted to what we call Mental Health Awareness Month.

Every day, we know Americans cope with depression, anxiety, loneliness, and hopelessness without a support system to help alleviate the burden.

To anyone who is struggling, you are not alone. The national Suicide & Crisis Lifeline is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, at 9-8-8 to offer free and confidential support.

Through telehealth, people can connect with mental health professionals from the comfort of their home, breaking down barriers like distance and stigma.

As chairman of the Senate Finance Committee in 2020, I played a key role in making access to mental telehealth a permanent benefit in Medicare. State Medicaid Programs and commercial insurance have likewise done the same. Today, two-thirds of telehealth is for mental health conditions.

Last month, I introduced a bill with this title: "Fighting Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Act." It takes an essential step toward ensuring first responders have easy access to the mental health care they need and they deserve.

I also recently sent a letter to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to ensure information about inpatient psychiatric facilities is clear and accessible to better support patients with serious mental illness in having access to high-quality, safe care. While the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services has web-based tools to find and compare healthcare providers, that Agency lacks the tools and key information for comparing the quality and safety of inpatient psychiatric facilities so that those patients can make informed decisions.

I will continue to make sure that no one faces their struggles alone and that high-quality care is always within reach.

I yield the floor.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

### GENIUS ACT

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, this evening we are going to once again vote to begin consideration of the GENIUS Act, and I am hoping that the second time will be the charm. We were here, 11 days ago, in the same place, when Democrats inexplicably chose to block this legislation.

The question is, Why? Well, that is a good question. Stablecoin regulation is a bipartisan issue. This bill reflects the bipartisan consensus on this issue, and it has had an open and bipartisan process since the very beginning—what we used, around here, to call regular order.

In March, the Banking Committee marked up the bill text, considering 40 amendments, and the bill ultimately passed out of the committee by a vote of 18 to 6, with support from 5 Democrats. And since then, both Republican and Democrat Members have worked to advance this legislation; that is, until a week and a half ago, when Democrats suddenly decided to block it, just as we were getting ready to have a debate on the floor.

The bill brought up a week and a half ago is the exact same bill the Democrats, apparently, now, are willing to move forward on. And then, as now, Republicans were committed to a full debate on the floor, with the chance for further bipartisan amendments to the already bipartisan piece of legislation.

So it is really hard to understand why we needed to wait an additional 11

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper.

S2957

days for Democrats to finally agree to move. I am not sure if Democrats wanted to deny Republicans and President Trump a bipartisan legislative victory and then perhaps thought better of their obstruction—or what? But, at least, we finally seem to be here, ready to take up this bill because this is important legislation.

The use of cryptocurrency has exploded from the margins to the mainstream, and stablecoins have emerged as a key part of the crypto ecosystem. They offer the speed and security of the blockchain with the stability and usability of the dollar bill. And they provide a business and consumer friendly way to make payments.

But stablecoin issuers and users face challenges. In the United States, stablecoins have operated in a legal gray zone. There are no clear rules of the road to follow. And between that and the Biden administration's targeting crypto companies with numerous lawsuits, many U.S.-based crypto companies have contemplated moving overseas, not something we want to see if we want the United States to remain at the forefront of financial innovation.

Fortunately, the GENIUS Act addresses these problems by providing a clear regulatory framework for stablecoins, a framework that will protect consumers and our national security, while helping to keep the United States at the forefront of financial innovation.

The bill will also create demand for the U.S. dollar and U.S. Treasuries, a good thing for both our national security and our fiscal house.

So this is an important bill, and I am glad that it looks like we are finally going to be able to take it up. And I hope that, in the future, we will be able to take up bipartisan legislation without these unnecessary delays.

I want to again thank my colleagues from both parties for their work on this bill. Senators HAGERTY, LUMMIS, and TIM SCOTT have worked tirelessly with Senators GILLIBRAND and ALSOBROOKS and their Members. And they all deserve a ton of credit for listening to their respective sides of the aisle.

So, Mr. President, I look forward to beginning the floor debate later today.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### BUDGET RECONCILIATION

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, let me tell you a story. It is one of the oldest in our country. It is the story of the American dream. It is one of persever-

ance, where anyone, regardless of their background or circumstances, can achieve success and upward mobility through hard work and determination. It means a job that pays a fair wage, a school that prepares our kids for a better life, a doctor who sees you when you are sick, and a roof over your head at night.

We are now in the midst of debating soon a "reconciliation" bill. For those not familiar with the term, it is basically a special budget bill. If you consider this a legislative organization or body—and I do—if we were accused of legislating this year, I am afraid there is not enough evidence to convict us.

We have been in session now for 5 months. We passed five bills—one a month. If we were being paid for piecework, we would have been left behind for the last 5 months.

But now comes this reconciliation bill that tries to do everything at once. It is starting over in the House of Representatives. Assuming it passes there, it will come over here.

What does it do, this reconciliation bill, this spending bill, budget-cutting bill? It dismantles the American dream, and it strips our institutions of essential services that help the most vulnerable people of our country—all so that the ultimate goal can be served. And what is that goal? To give larger tax breaks to wealthy people.

If you don't have time to read more than a thousand pages of these cuts in this reconciliation bill, let me give you a shortened version. It isn't pretty. Billionaires will win; American families will lose.

President Trump asked Republicans in Congress to provide a massive giveaway to the richest Americans. They want to use programs like Medicaid, food and nutrition programs, and medical research funding as a piggy bank for these tax cuts for wealthy people.

Let's take Medicaid for example. Medicaid insures one in four people in my home State of Illinois. One out of four—3.4 million—people are on Medicaid, including 1.5 million children.

How important is it? Medicaid is a program, an insurance program, that covers nearly half of all births in our State. Two-thirds of nursing home residents receive Medicaid assistance. That is your mom, your dad, your grandparents. The majority of patients with mental health counseling count on Medicaid. A majority of the money for mental health counseling comes from that program. It is a lifeline for children's hospitals. It is a lifeline for rural hospitals.

Knowing how unpopular it is to deprive Americans of healthcare, for months, the Republicans have said: Democrats have it all wrong. We are not cutting Medicaid benefits. We are simply focusing on waste, fraud, and abuse.

If there is a program that is wasteful and fraudulent, put me in line to do something about it. I don't want to see any taxpayers' money wasted. But that

is not what would happen here, and I am afraid my colleagues on the other side of the aisle know it.

With their plans, Republicans are taking a chain saw to our healthcare system and ripping health insurance away. At the end of the day, their reconciliation proposal will remove Medicaid insurance from 14 million Americans.

Mr. President, if you have ever lived in a circumstance where you had no health insurance, it is a sobering, unforgettable experience. I have been there—a sick child and no health insurance. It is something you will never forget.

The reconciliation plan of the Republicans buries elderly patients in complex paperwork requirements that will wrap them up in so much redtape, they will never get the care they need.

Just think, if you have illness in the family, a serious illness, you have to go through a high-stakes government-redtape gauntlet—another government form, another telephone recording when you need a helping hand.

It decimates the funding system for Medicaid, which will force rural hospitals to cut services or close altogether. Three weeks ago, 20 hospital administrators from my State came. Most of them were from downstate, where I live, where I grew up. They told the story of what the reconciliation bill means to them—cutting services in communities, closing down critical hospitals.

Instead of 20 minutes for that pregnant woman, with her first baby, to get to the doctor, to get to the hospital—instead of 20 minutes, it will be an hour and 20 minutes. Does it make a difference? How would you like to be driving in the car under those circumstances? You will never forget it.

Republicans are also targeting food and nutrition programs like SNAP. Forty million Americans rely on these programs to put food on the table, including nearly 2 million in Illinois. They are looking to cut food and nutrition benefits by as much as \$290 billion—the largest cut to anti-hunger funding in our Nation's history.

I was home in Springfield over the weekend. My wife came back from the grocery store, and she said, "I can't believe these prices." Prices are too high, and they keep going higher. What do the Republicans want to do? Cut the benefits to pay for this food that the people need to put on the table. It will take food assistance away from 6 million Americans.

How much money do people receive? Well, it turns out the average SNAP recipient—the food nutrition program at the Federal level—the average recipient would be paid \$5 a day. Try to live on \$5 a day. Imagine what their life must be like.

That is right—the Republican reconciliation bill will take food off the tables of seniors and children so they can pay for these billionaire tax cuts. If that sounds like an exaggeration, it is not.

As Republicans strip Americans of their healthcare and SNAP benefits, millionaires and billionaires will continue to see tax breaks coming their way. In their bill, Republicans give huge tax breaks to multibillion-dollar corporations. They exempt up to \$28 million in taxes from estates that the wealthiest Americans pass on to their children.

In the same breath, they fail to expand the child tax credit, which is one of the most effective tools to reduce poverty and put money back in the pockets of working families. Remember, it was Democrats who expanded the child tax credit in the American Rescue Plan, which led to a historic reduction in poverty in the United States. Research showed that child poverty fell immediately and substantially to the lowest on record—5.2 percent.

So who needs a tax break—working families or the wealthiest people in our country? For me, the answer is obvious.

Republicans are also planning to eliminate the clean energy tax credit enacted in the Democrats' Inflation Reduction Act, which would derail efforts to strengthen U.S. energy security and lower costs. This would hurt American families and small businesses by hitting them with higher energy bills and the loss of nearly 800,000 jobs over the next 5 years. Some States could see double-digit percentage increases in electricity bills, which means hundreds of dollars out of Americans' pockets each year.

Just a few hours ago, the White House claimed their reckless plan "does not add to the deficit." Someone said that with a straight face. But in reality, it explodes the deficit under the guise of fiscal responsibility. The White House and Republican reconciliation plan would add \$3.3 trillion to the Nation's deficit over the next 10 years for tax breaks for wealthy people. President Trump's recordbreaking deficit in his first term will reach new depths of debt to pay for billionaire tax cuts.

Donald Trump is claiming that his sprawling trade war will somehow pay for this bill, but no one buys that, and no one can even explain it the way he does. America's small businesses, workers, farmers, and families are hurting because of this administration's tariffs, while the President continues to weaken America's credibility and alienate us from our biggest trading partners.

If all of this wasn't bad enough, Republican Speaker JOHNSON cut a deal for Members of the House Freedom Caucus over the weekend in order to move this bill. It is reported that they discussed accelerating the plan to condition Medicaid health coverage on redtape requirements—these were originally set for 2029; they now want to end people's insurance as soon as possible, maybe by the end of next year—as well as a quicker phaseout of

clean energy tax credits that were put into law as part of the Inflation Reduction Act.

That is right—the package isn't bad enough for conservative Republicans to support, so they are considering making it even worse for American families.

Americans of all political affiliations rely on the critical services that Republicans plan to cut, not just Democrats. Slashing lifesaving healthcare and cutting food and nutrition benefits for mothers trying to feed their families will hurt Americans in blue and red States.

I heard my colleagues give speeches about tough choices. Let me tell you, choosing to line the pockets of people like Elon Musk while cutting lifesaving medical research isn't tough, it is shameful.

American families aren't asking for special treatment. They are asking for a fair shot at the American dream. They are asking us to remember that this country works best when we invest in its people.

We need four Republicans with good sense to join Democrats and say no to this disaster. Two have already stepped forward. We need two more. The sooner the better.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HUSTED). The Senator from Colorado.

#### REMEMBERING REVEREND DR. JAMES D. PETERS

Mr. HICKENLOOPER. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to honor the incredible life of Rev. Dr. James D. Peters, Jr., who passed away last week at the age of 92. And what a life he lived.

James was truly one of the greatest men I have ever known. Reverend Peters' story started not far from these walls here in Washington, DC. He grew up in Washington during a time of deep segregation and became an early leader in the civil rights movements of the 1950s, 1960s, and into the 1970s.

In 1957, he helped found the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, along with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. He worked with Dr. King for many years to help shape the course of American history.

He marched unbowed in the March on Washington in 1963 and numerous other marches—notably Selma, crossing the Edmund Pettus Bridge in 1965.

Reverend Peters carried that same commitment when he came to Denver and to Colorado—that same commitment to justice. For more than 28 years, he preached Dr. King's gospel of freedom and unity as pastor of the New Hope Baptist Church, the largest Black church in Denver. He served many years on the Colorado Civil Rights Commission to make Colorado a better place for all of our residents.

Along the way, he had a significant impact on many of Colorado's leaders. I was one of them.

In 2003, I was the newly elected mayor of Denver. I was not quite inaugurated yet. On July 5, Paul Childs was shot and killed in his own front hall by an inexperienced Denver police officer. Paul was only 15 years old, but he was beloved by his community, and his death shook the entire city.

Following that awful tragedy, Reverend Peters, alongside my predecessor Wellington Webb—one of the great mayors of the 20th century—they helped organize their community and mentored me on the appropriate ways to address this tragedy in such a way that it could be constructive, that somehow the community would be made stronger and more resilient.

Reverend Peters knew that the community had to change and use this tragedy to make a better future for the entire community. He was one of the leaders who helped us create Denver's first Citizen Oversight Board to oversee the Denver Police and Sheriff Departments and to make sure any allegations of police misconduct could be investigated and to make sure that all neighborhoods had an active voice in how their neighborhoods were policed.

He also helped us start the Office of the Independent Monitor, with subpoena power, again, to make sure that allegations of police misconduct could be fully investigated. Over the past 20 years, the Citizen Oversight Board and Independent Monitor have worked to improve the policies of Denver's police department and improve the relationship and the trust between the community and law enforcement.

Many, many years later—about 8 years ago—I was fortunate enough to join Reverend Peters, along with Rev. Dr. Patrick Demmer and a small group, in Montgomery to visit the National Memorial for Peace and Justice, our country's first national memorial to victims of lynching and racial terrorism in the United States. It is hard to describe the feeling of that memorial—the power is so immense; the weight of our country's nagging, persistent shame remains so heavy.

In walking through the memorial with Reverend Peters, he spoke about his life growing up in Washington, DC, during segregation and his fierce belief in nonviolence and nonviolent movements. He reflected on how their nonviolent tactics led more and more people to join them. He knew that they were—and that we are—strongest when we are united, when we are marching hand in hand.

In walking next to Rev. Dr. Peters, it was impossible not to feel buoyed up by the enduring hope that he carried with him, pretty much at all times. I think so many of those lessons from Rev. Dr. Peters still ring true today.

As Reverend Peter's friend and mentor, Dr. King famously said:

The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice.

Like many around the country today, I have felt in recent years that the arc has not bent as far as we had

hoped, but if Reverend Peters taught us one thing, it is that neither today nor tomorrow is the day to bow our heads. We can't give up our work and our dreams that Dr. Peters fought so hard for.

I yield the floor.

#### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

#### PRESIDENT BIDEN

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, today, our thoughts and prayers are with President Biden and his entire family after his cancer diagnosis this week-end.

If there is one thing we all know about President Biden, it is that he is a fighter. All his life he has faced adversity and tragedy of the worst kind, and each time, his response has been the same. He has faced it with grace, with courage, and with the kind of resilience that only can come from God. This is no different. I know President Biden will face this hardship with everything he has got.

So, today, the entire Senate wishes Joe Biden our very best. We will pray for him; we will root for him; and we know he will bounce back just as he has done his whole life.

(The remarks of Mr. SCHUMER pertaining to the introduction of S. 1804 are printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

#### SAUDI ARABIA

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, now on the Saudi chip deal, today, I am joining with Senator WARREN to lead Senate Democrats in calling on Secretaries Lutnick and Rubio to hit pause on a number of chip deals Donald Trump announced last week with Saudi Arabia and the UAE. I am alarmed that these deals announced by Donald Trump, which involve the most advanced AI-related semiconductors, have "national security threat" written all over them. Without clear and enforceable protections, I am worried that these chips will gradually end up in the hands of the Chinese Government and the Chinese Communist Party, given how cozy the Saudis and Emiratis have been with the Chinese.

Recent history shows that when foreign countries end up with American-made chips, the Chinese Government, the CCP, and their related companies get ahold of these chips. DeepSeek's AI model was precisely accomplished with U.S.-made chips. Now Donald Trump wants to potentially open up another loophole with his Middle East chip deals.

Over the years, Chinese companies and the CCP have forged deep ties with the same Middle Eastern countries

that Donald Trump is now giving unfettered access to our most advanced AI chips. No serious national security expert would tell you this is on the level. It not only threatens our security but also risks cannibalizing the U.S. build-out of AI. If we want to stay No. 1 in AI, which we all do, this is the wrong deal.

Why is Donald Trump building the future of AI in the Middle East, not in America? We all know that he is desperate—Trump is desperate—to show the world he is "Mr. Art of the Deal." But he is so desperate to tout these deals that he is not thinking and protecting the long-term security and job implications to our country. With this deal, American AI chips are being given to the highest bidder at the expense of the American people and American dominance in the rapidly growing and important field of AI.

#### HOSTAGES

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, on the hostages in Gaza, last week, we witnessed a moment of hope: the release of American-Israeli and former New Jersey resident Edan Alexander, who had been held in Hamas captivity for nearly 600 days.

But our work is far from over. We must keep fighting for the release of all 58 hostages still being held by Hamas, including the remains of 4 New Yorkers who were brutally murdered: Omer Neutra, Itay Chen, Gad Haggai, and Judi Weinstein.

I call on all parties to seize the momentum of Edan's release to secure a deal—one that secures the release of the remaining hostages, delivers an immediate surge of humanitarian aid and food for innocent Palestinians in Gaza, and moves us toward a durable and lasting security and peace in the region.

As negotiations continue, I urge both the Israeli Government and the Trump administration to do everything possible to ensure full access to lifesaving aid, shelter, and essential services for all innocent civilians in Gaza.

#### TARIFFS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, on tariffs, last week, Walmart announced that soon it will raise prices on its products nationwide. Then, over the weekend, Donald Trump, who started this stupid trade war to begin with, tried to bully and harass Walmart for having the gall of being transparent about the decision—for having the gall to show that prices are going up because of Donald Trump's tariffs.

Then, today, the CEO of JPMorgan, Jamie Dimon, warned that the impact of tariffs have not yet passed through the broader economy. Even Donald Trump's scaled-back tariffs are "pretty extreme" in Dimon's words.

So Donald Trump can try to blame businesses when they are forced to raise prices, but he can't escape the

economic realities of his own trade war. He made this mess. He is sending prices up. He will bear the responsibility—Donald Trump will.

Finally, it is pretty rich for Donald Trump to tell retailers that they have to "eat the tariffs," but, meanwhile, he is accepting luxury planes and crypto deals in the Middle East. Donald Trump does far more to help himself than to help America.

#### TAXES

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, on the tax scam, on Friday, Moody's Ratings downgraded the U.S. Government's credit rating, citing rising fiscal deficits, soaring interest costs, and fears that Republicans are about to make things worse. You would think Moody's announcement would be a wake-up call to the so-called party of fiscal responsibility to stop their multitrillion-dollar giveaway to the ultrarich.

But nope, last night, Republicans cleared another hurdle to pass their billionaire boondoggle, one that adds trillions to the national debt. Republicans have forfeited any credibility when it comes to complaining about government waste. They are now the undisputed kings of reckless spending, and their "big, beautiful bill" is their crown jewel.

Permanently extending these billionaire tax giveaways could add as much as \$50 trillion to the national debt in the next 30 years—\$50 trillion. No matter what Republicans say, these tax breaks are not going to pay for themselves. The last Trump tax cut certainly didn't. Why will these be any different, particularly given the economic chaos Donald Trump has created with tariffs?

Americans have to be wondering: What are we getting in return for this fiscal timebomb?

The answer is this: more tax breaks for those at the top. That is it.

Those at the bottom, meanwhile, are getting ripped off. A study from Wharton released on Friday found that many Americans making less than \$51,000 a year would lose after-tax income under the Republican proposal. You heard that right. Many making less than \$51,000—that is a lot of Americans—would see their incomes go down. Future generations, meanwhile, would be condemned to a lifetime of higher borrowing costs, incurable inflation, and diminished economic potential.

This is the entire goal behind the Republican's so-called "big, beautiful bill": Help the ultrarich today; screw the middle class tomorrow.

That is not beautiful; that is ugly.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

#### BORDER SECURITY

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, it is no secret to the people of Texas that they



carried a disproportionate share of the burden from President Biden's mismanagement of the southern border during the last 4 years.

In an attempt to shield our State from this crisis of historic mass migration, drug trafficking, and human trafficking, Governor Abbott and our State leadership initiated something called Operation Lone Star, which resulted in the apprehension of more than a half million illegal immigrants by Texas law enforcement. Since the start of this mission, law enforcement in Texas has arrested more than 50,000 criminals, built more than 240 miles of border barrier, and seized more than a half billion deadly doses of fentanyl. Governor Abbott has said that this effort enabled Texas to reduce illegal immigration across the State border by 87 percent.

But these efforts were not without cost to Texas taxpayers. And, recall, this is an international border, which by definition means it is a Federal responsibility. But what is the State supposed to do when the Federal Government simply drops the ball or refuses to enforce the law?

Operation Lone Star cost my State billions of dollars, and this was only necessary because the Federal Government simply abdicated its responsibility.

Last week, I introduced legislation to fulfill Governor Abbott's request that the State be reimbursed for the more than \$11 billion that the State of Texas has had to spend on border enforcement to fill the gaps left by President Biden's open-border policies. My State Border Security Assistance Act will provide funds to the Department of Justice and the Department of Homeland Security to reimburse States for actions they took after President Biden's failure to secure the border. It will reimburse States for the cost of border wall construction, border surveillance, and the apprehension, detention, and prosecution of individuals who violate U.S. laws.

This legislation will appropriate the funds needed to reimburse Texas, and it will sunset at the end of the Trump administration, returning any remaining money to the U.S. Treasury.

While this effort is supported by the entire Republican Texas delegation, my colleague and fellow Texan Congressman CHIP ROY, a member of the Rules Committee, is taking the lead on similar legislation in the House. I am thankful for his partnership and his leadership in this effort.

But there is no doubt that this historic crisis is a direct result of President Biden's policies. Starting on the campaign trail, President Biden invited the massive wave of illegal immigration to the United States by essentially holding up a big "Welcome" sign. Illegal migrants from around the world cheered President Biden's election and his open-border policies, and the Biden-Harris administration did not dis-appoint them.

President Biden abused our immigration processes and rolled out the red carpet to let in millions of unvetted illegal migrants, and the number he let in through illegitimate means does not even account for the millions more of "got-aways," which is what the Border Patrol calls them—people trying to actively evade law enforcement activity.

President Biden couldn't have been more destructive on border security if he had tried. Early in his Presidency, he ended Trump's "Remain in Mexico" policy that had been remarkably effective. The Biden administration halted construction of President Trump's border wall and, instead, used Federal funds to store already-paid-for wall materials.

As this crisis continued to evolve, President Biden ended title 42, the COVID-era policy that was our last line of defense when President Biden refused to do anything else to limit the flow of illegal immigration.

After undoing all of the successful policies of the first Trump administration, President Biden then decided to circumvent Congress and attempted to make illegal immigration legal by abusing authorities under the Immigration and Nationality Act. His Department of Homeland Security actually created an app called the CBP One—or the Customs and Border Protection app—which allowed migrants to register in advance, to schedule an appointment to then be released into the interior of the United States.

Another Biden-Harris administration program allowed up to 30,000 migrants a month to enter from Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua, and Venezuela. They were allowed to enter without any questions, any vetting, and they were also given work permits so they could then compete with American citizens and people legally in the United States.

Of course, we know the tragic consequences of these misguided policies resulted in a crisis of mass illegal immigration but not just illegal immigration. It also included human trafficking and drug trafficking across our southern border. During all 4 years of the Biden administration, the number of illegal migrant encounters with Customs and Border Protection totaled more than 10 million—10 million—people from around the world showing up at the border, only to be waved through by the Biden-Harris administration. There were more than 1.7 million known "got-aways" who evaded Border Patrol entirely and are roaming freely somewhere in the interior of the country, up to who knows what.

Fentanyl, which has taken far too many lives in this country, particularly those of our youngsters, is made with Chinese precursor chemicals that were smuggled through the open border and, as I said, have taken far too many innocent lives. There can be no question about who is responsible for this crisis of gross proportion. The responsibility belongs with President Biden and his misguided policies.

This has become even more obvious when we look at the great success that President Trump has had in securing the border in a few short months and actually reversing the ongoing crisis. After 4-year highs of illegal immigration, Customs and Border Protection is now facing record lows in border encounters. As soon as President Trump was elected but even before he took office, the numbers began to go down because people understood that they would no longer be able to cross the border indiscriminately and without proper legal credentials. In November and December of last year, encounters were at their lowest levels between ports of entry since August of 2020. And for the first 2 weeks of January this year, Customs and Border Protection encounters were nearly 50 percent lower than they were at the same point in 2021, at the start of the Biden administration.

During the latter half of the month, when President Trump actually took office, apprehensions fell by a staggering 85 percent compared to the same period in 2024. And during the entire month of January, there were less than 1,500 apprehensions a day, which sounds like a lot but it was a 40-percent decline from December of last year. In President Trump's first 100 days in office, daily border encounters decreased by approximately 95 percent.

Now, I recall that President Biden and our colleagues across the aisle said in the runup to the campaign: We need to pass some more laws so that the border can be secured. But what this demonstrates is that we didn't need any new laws; we needed a President who would actually enforce the law, which is what we got with President Trump. These wins by the Trump administration since President Trump was sworn into office were a direct result of the deterrent effect created by President Trump's policy changes.

Migrants and the coyotes and the cartels who smuggle people across our border along with drugs and engage in all sorts of other illegal activity know now that our laws will be enforced under President Trump and Secretary Noem, and so they are deterred from even trying, in many instances. Why spend \$10,000 or so to have a human smuggler try to get you into the country if you know that you are unlikely to be successful under President Trump's policies? That is the deterrent effect of actually enforcing the law, something President Biden refused to do.

This is pretty basic stuff. This is not rocket science. Instead of rolling out the welcome mat like President Biden, President Trump began his second administration by pulling up the drawbridge. On day one of his administration, President Trump declared a national emergency at the southern border, giving him flexibility, under our laws, to restore order. He ended the disastrous policies of catch-and-release and reinstated his own tested and proven "Remain in Mexico" policy.

Secretary Noem, the Secretary of Homeland Security, began her tenure as the head of President Trump's Homeland Security agenda by sending a clear message that she intends to enforce the laws that prevent illegal immigration. But she didn't stop there. Under her leadership, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, otherwise known as ICE, arrests have increased by more than 600 percent. This includes arrests of criminal migrants, which have more than doubled. President Trump and Secretary Noem returned to a commonsense, case-by-case approach to humanitarian parole, which had been abused under the Biden administration, and they have clawed back about \$80 million spent by FEMA, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, to house illegal immigrants in luxury hotels in places like New York City.

These policies were part of the reason President Trump got elected. What we had on November 5 was a referendum on President Biden's border policies, and obviously the voters preferred President Trump's approach.

But my point is that, in the 4 years of the Biden administration, somebody had to deal with this flow of humanity and drugs and trafficking across the border; and in my State, my Governor and the State leadership, to their credit, stepped up. Texans have had to bear the brunt of open borders, rampant crime, and deadly fentanyl for the past 4 years.

I am very thankful to President Trump and Secretary Noem for their leadership in ensuring that Americans and Texans once again are safe and secure, but the damage done by President Biden and his policies must be undone. It must be rectified. Congress must reimburse the State of Texas for the costs incurred for filling in for our then-absentee President.

I will continue working with President Trump, Governor Abbott, and the entire Texas delegation, as well as Senator JOHN THUNE and Speaker JOHNSON, to ensure that this priority is included in the reconciliation bill.

President Biden abdicated his duty to keep our citizens safe, and the State of Texas must be made whole for its efforts to protect Texans and the rest of the country from the consequences of his misguided policies.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

#### GENIUS ACT

Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, I rise today to talk about the GENIUS Act.

Analysts expect that passing the GENIUS Act could grow the stablecoin market tenfold over just the next 3 years. That would take a \$200 billion market to a \$2 trillion market, making it just a little bit smaller than the entire GDP of Canada.

Two weeks ago, Democrats refused to vote for the bill because it had inad-

equated safeguards for consumers and it posed too much risk, both for our financial stability and our national security. Democrats also voted no because the bill failed to address President Trump's blatant crypto corruption.

So here we are again. What has changed in the bill since the last vote? The answer: Not much. Its basic flaws remain unaddressed. While a strong stablecoin bill is the best possible outcome, this weak bill is worse than no bill at all.

First, corruption. It is fitting that we are voting on the GENIUS Act just a few days before President Trump hosts a "private intimate dinner" and a VIP White House tour for the top investors in his meme coin, many of whom remain anonymous. Buyers, including some apparently foreign investors, reportedly spent an estimated \$148 million in the contest, enriching Donald Trump and his family. And yet this pay-to-play scheme is only the tip of the iceberg of the President's crypto corruption.

Trump and his family have already pocketed hundreds of millions of dollars from his crypto ventures, and they stand to make hundreds of millions more from his stablecoin, USD1, if this bill passes. It launched only weeks ago, but USD1 is already the fifth largest stablecoin in the entire world. Passing this bill means that we can expect more anonymous buyers, big companies, and foreign governments to use the President's stablecoin as both a shadowy bank account shielded from government oversight and as a way to pay off the President personally. For crooks, it is a two-for-one.

This is not a hypothetical problem. Already, an Abu Dhabi investment firm called MGX is using Trump's stablecoin to finance a \$2 billion investment in the Binance cryptocurrency exchange, essentially just cutting Trump in on the deal of this enormous financial transaction. MGX is chaired by the intelligence chief of the United Arab Emirates and co-owned by a firm with extensive ties to the Chinese Government.

If Congress passes this bill, USD1 won't just be a coercive tool to pay off a corrupt President; it will be a financial instrument blessed by the U.S. Government. And this bill provides even more opportunities to reward buyers of Trump's coins with favors like tariff exemptions, pardons, and government appointments.

For months, many Democrats have pushed for commonsense ethics provisions in this bill. Unfortunately, the final bill does nothing—nothing—to rein in the President's crypto corruption. But some supporters say: Well, that is because the corruption is already happening, and at least this bill won't make it any worse.

That is wrong. The GENIUS Act will accelerate Trump's corruption by supercharging the size of the stablecoin market and the reach and profitability of Trump's USD1. And, for the first

time in American history, this bill will make our President, Donald Trump, the regulator of his own financial product.

This Congress should be a check on the President. Congress should not be making it even easier for him to line his pockets with even more shady crypto cash.

If Congress does not fix this issue here today, then it will be aiding and abetting his corruption every time President Trump's stablecoin is used to finance a corrupt deal.

Second problem: financial stability.

I am deeply concerned that this bill will directly lead to the next financial meltdown. This is not the first time that Congress has listened to the financial industry and created a weak regulatory regime for a new, innovative financial product. We have seen this story before, and we know how it ends.

Twenty-five years ago, Congress passed the Commodity Futures Modernization Act to support the obscure financial derivatives market, and almost nobody noticed. At the time, derivatives were a relatively niche financial product. Most people really didn't understand what they were or what they did. But when the derivatives industry came knocking, begging for so-called regulation, Congress was willing to oblige. After all, people said, surely some kind of regulatory framework was better than nothing.

So Congress created a weak set of rules that was loaded with loopholes, just like the industry wanted. The result was a total disaster. Derivatives moved from the edge of the financial system to the center of it. The result of that law was to massively expand the reach of the derivatives market and further integrate it into the core financial system. That bill helped set the stage for the 2008 financial crash.

Congress came back after the meltdown and cleaned up the mess in Dodd-Frank, but that was long after 10 million people lost their homes and millions more people lost their jobs and their savings.

In the last decade, we saw this story in another version and just barely avoided another disaster because of it. In 2018, Congress debated and enacted S. 2155, the bipartisan Economic Growth, Regulatory Relief, and Consumer Protection Act right here on the floor of the Senate. Republicans and the banking industry pushed that bill, and a number of Democrats joined them as well. They voted to roll back critical post-2008 crisis reforms for some of the largest banks in the country.

Five years later—just 5 years later—three of those newly deregulated banks failed. Those three failures were the second, third, and fourth largest failures among banks in American history. For a while, it looked like we might face a run on the whole banking system. Swift action by regulators to bail out uninsured depositors and a whole lot of luck are the only reasons we

didn't face yet another financial meltdown just 2 years ago. Now here we are back to do the same thing again.

A financial meltdown triggered by crypto instability is not some alarmist, fever dream. In fact, it nearly happened just a few years ago. Crypto markets abruptly lost \$2 trillion—that is trillion with a “t”—after the collapse of several major crypto firms. In 2022, two of the largest stablecoins failed to maintain their pegs.

Luckily, these cryptocurrency markets were mostly separate from the rest of the financial system, so we avoided mass economic destruction. That ends today if we enact this bill. The GENIUS Act folds stablecoins directly into the traditional financial system, while applying weaker safeguards than banks or investment companies must adhere to.

Make no mistake, we are likely to see another financial crisis in the coming years, and we are virtually certain to see another set of wild swings in cryptocurrency values. It will be the American people who will bear the cost of a massive financial crash facilitated by the stablecoin market if Congress passes the GENIUS Act.

Third problem: If this bill passes, it will mean easier access to money for terrorists and drug cartels.

Even today, the crypto industry's own analysts are calling stablecoins “the new kingpin of illicit crypto activity.” According to Chainalysis, a blockchain analytics firm, stablecoins account for more than 60 percent of all illicit crypto transactions. There is a reason for this: These stablecoins are an ideal payment system that works for cartels, terrorists, sanctions evaders, and human traffickers to finance crime.

Unfortunately, the GENIUS Act massively expands the marketplace for stablecoins while failing to address the basic national security risks posed by them. The bill fails to apply anti-money laundering safeguards to exchanges and intermediaries that facilitate the movement, obfuscation, and custody of stablecoins.

The bill includes glaring loopholes that would allow Tether—which has reportedly become the cryptocurrency of choice for illicit actors because of its alleged willingness to turn a blind eye to money laundering—to now get access to U.S. markets. In fact, the bill text now contains a so-called decentralized finance loophole that allows Tether and other noncompliant stablecoins to access U.S. markets without any constraints—a loophole that does not exist today and that didn't even exist in the bill until this past weekend.

I don't want to see fentanyl traffickers or child pornographers or terrorists or countries that are trying to avoid sanctions financing their operations with U.S.-backed stablecoins. I certainly don't want to see a major expansion of access to money by America's adversaries. But if we pass this

bill in its current form, that is exactly where we are headed.

Fourth problem: If this bill passes, it will allow Elon Musk and Mark Zuckerberg to issue their own money.

The bill still permits big tech companies and other conglomerates to issue their own private currencies. Community banks have warned us that by creating a parallel, lightly regulated banking system, the stablecoin market will drain deposits from our local community banks and from the communities they serve. There will be less funding available for small businesses and households all across the country.

So if this bill becomes law, Congress will be responsible if a handful of giants take control of our money and then access and abuse troves of valuable consumer spending data. We will be responsible if small businesses struggle to access credit and if more community banks disappear.

Finally, if this bill passes, mainstream investors will be at greater risk of getting robbed and scammed. The bill jeopardizes CFPB oversight and the suite of consumer protections that people enjoy when using their Venmo app or their bank account. If you get cheated using a stablecoin, you may just be out of luck.

Our constituents will be reaching out to our offices because they have fallen victim to a stablecoin scam or have been saddled with junk fees when they redeem their stablecoin, only to discover that in many cases, there will be no recourse.

Congress should not choose to enable President Trump's egregious corruption. Congress should not fuel the next financial crash. Congress should not put consumers at risk for fraud or make it easier to engage in terrorist activities.

It doesn't have to be this way. A bill that meaningfully strengthens oversight in the stablecoin market is worth enacting. A bill that turbocharges the stablecoin market while facilitating the President's corruption and undermining national security, financial stability, and consumer protection is worse than no bill at all.

For these reasons, I urge my colleagues to vote no on the GENIUS Act. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. MOODY). The Senator from Vermont.

#### PRESCRIPTION DRUG COSTS

Mr. WELCH. Madam President, it is good to see you and be with you.

Madam President, American families are struggling with the cost of living, and one of the biggest challenges they face is the incredibly high cost of prescription drugs.

Last week, President Trump signed a new Executive order that tries to implement international reference pricing on prescription drugs for Americans. At his press conference, President Trump called out pharmaceutical companies for “price gouging,” which he

described as a “great American rip off.”

I agree with President Trump. Prescription drugs are too expensive in America, and we are getting ripped off. There is no reason that pharmaceutical companies should charge American patients more than they charge people in other countries. These excessive price-gouging practices have forced many Americans to pay four times, five times, even six times for the same life-saving medications as folks in other countries pay. There is absolutely no justification for that.

Now, in the last Congress, the Inflation Reduction Act was a significant step toward combating Big Pharma's price gouging and lowering prices for American patients. That act allowed Medicare the ability to negotiate drug prices for the first time ever.

By the way, that is something that all other countries do. They protect their citizens from price gouging.

That bill meant 20,000 Vermonters who take one or more of the first 10 drugs selected by Medicare for negotiation will see lower prices starting in 2026. That can't come soon enough. Over 27,000 Vermonters will save an average of 600 bucks annually thanks to the \$2,000 annual out-of-pocket cost cap that began in January of 2025. The Inflation Reduction Act will save senior Vermonters on Medicare a total of more than \$21 million on prescription drugs.

But when you are the multibillion-dollar pharmaceutical industry, you have a lot of tricks up your sleeve to thwart any policy that cuts into your profits. One of Big Pharma's favorite refrains is that reference pricing—where we pay essentially the same as everybody else pays, not five times more—will put a strain on research and innovation. That is false.

The fact of the matter is that over two decades, the world's largest biopharmaceutical companies have spent way more on advertising and way more on administrative costs—including, by the way, multimillion-dollar CEO pay packages—than they have spent on research and development.

By the way, what they do spend on research and development is subsidized by taxpayers.

So while pharma is doing these maneuvers to keep prices up, real people are hurting. On average, Americans spend over \$1,400 on prescription drugs every year. That is the highest per capita spending in the world, and it is one of the reasons why healthcare costs are so high—by the way, not just with the cost for Medicaid and Medicare but for employers who care about their employees and are fighting against ever-increasing insurance premiums that make that almost out of reach or make them make a decision between increasing pay, which workers want and workers need, and maintaining healthcare benefits that workers want and workers need.

And there is a part of this that I think is really sad and particularly

cruel on the part of pharma. They have this incredible pricing power that comes, in part, because of the patent that they are granted. It comes, in part, because there is a market that is created through taxpayers with Medicare and Medicaid; but it is exploited because what pharma knows is what you and I know: If a member of your family, if your partner, a person you love is in need of a medication, you will do whatever it takes. You will get a second mortgage if you have a home. You will postpone getting a car that you need. You will go into your retirement savings. Whatever it takes.

So this predatory practice of taking advantage of the love one American has for another to exploit on the pricing side is, in my view, quite outrageous. But the cruelty of the situation is that you can have folks in Vermont, just miles from the border in Canada, where right over across the border, folks are paying five times less than what we pay on the Vermont side of the border.

And I have heard from so many folks—and I will bet you have heard similar stories—who have told me the story of dealing with, in this case, type 1 diabetes, and they are trying to get their mental health back in a better place.

The medication they were put on at the beginning of the year was helping, but the cost more than tripled, suddenly, and they can't afford to pay 800 bucks a month. And they are worried about a relapse.

And that story isn't unique. Every day, folks in Vermont and in red and blue States across the country are paying more for their drugs than the same folks are paying for in other countries.

And, by the way, one of the things that I find so compelling about this is we agree, both sides of the aisle, that costs for Americans are too high. We agree, both sides of the aisle, that folks need healthcare. And we do agree, most of us, that the pharma prices are way too high. So this is something, in my view, we can and should do together.

The Inflation Reduction Act has reined in pharma's abusive tactics—but only minimally—by forcing them to the table for the first time. That is good, but we need to do more.

Trump's Executive order is implying the "poke it with a stick" strategy, announcing a new policy and waiting to see what happens. His new Executive order will face the same practical challenges this time around as it did in Trump's first administration from pharmaceutical companies looking to obscure the pricing margins. They tell us how tough times are, even as on the phone calls with Wall Street analysts, they are saying how wonderful times are.

And we have to face up to that in order, as Congress, to support a lower price approach, which includes negotiation and includes reference pricing.

Patients across the country who can't afford these drugs need it now. They need them now, not in 10 years.

And the American people, they do want action in lowering prescription drug prices. And for the life of every person I talk to in Vermont, and I am sure this is true with the folks you talk to in Florida, they just can't understand why we have to pay five times more than folks in other countries.

And they particularly can't understand it when our taxpayers have provided much of the funding for research that went into the creation of these drugs in the first place.

I am very proud to join with my colleague from Missouri Senator HAWLEY in introducing bipartisan legislation that will offer relief for millions of patients by prohibiting pharmaceutical companies from selling drugs here in the United States at higher prices than the international average. Very basic, very fair.

Our bill will put an end to Big Pharma's practice of forcing Americans to pay the highest prices in the world for medications. The bottom line is that President Trump has issued an Executive order that I support. My hope is that he is going to follow through because we are in the need of leadership from the President of the United States and the influence he has in Congress to get us and both sides of this Capitol to get international reference pricing and to make more progress on price negotiation, all for the goal of making lifesaving medications more accessible to folks on Medicare, folks on Medicaid, to folks who have private insurance, and also to bring down the costs for our employers who are facing relentless upward spikes in healthcare premiums.

So I will extend the same challenge to President Trump that he extended to the pharmaceutical companies. Let's get real, as President Trump put it in his inimitable way, don't get cute about avoiding the responsibility we have to bring down prescription drug prices.

So I call on my colleagues and I call on President Trump to follow words with actions. We have got to follow through on this debate. We know how to do it, to bring down Big Pharma's prices and stand up to their greed and support the Hawley-Welch bill to ensure that no one in America ever faces an impossible choice between paying for prescriptions that they need or putting food on the table or paying the rent or fixing a broken-down car.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

#### WAIVING QUORUM CALL

Mr. CURTIS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to waive the mandatory quorum call with respect to the Kushner nomination.

#### 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 senior assistant executive 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. 125, 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.

John Thune, Pete Ricketts, John Barrasso, Tim Sheehy, Bernie Moreno, Steve Daines, Eric Schmitt, Roger Marshall, Tommy Tuberville, John Hoeven, Marsha Blackburn, James Lankford, Bill Cassidy, Roger F. Wicker, Todd Young, Mike Crapo, Markwayne Mullin.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of 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, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) is necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 52, nays 46, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 260 Leg.]

#### YEAS—52

Banks	Fischer	Moreno
Barrasso	Graham	Mullin
Blackburn	Grassley	Paul
Booker	Hagerty	Ricketts
Boozman	Hoeven	Risch
Britt	Husted	Rounds
Budd	Hyde-Smith	Schmitt
Capito	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Justice	Scott (SC)
Collins	Kennedy	Sheehy
Cornyn	Lankford	Sullivan
Cotton	Lee	Thune
Cramer	Lummis	Tillis
Crapo	Marshall	Tuberville
Cruz	McConnell	Wicker
Curtis	McCormick	Young
Daines	Moody	
Ernst	Moran	

#### NAYS—46

Alsobrooks	Fetterman	Klobuchar
Baldwin	Gallego	Lujan
Bennet	Gillibrand	Markey
Blumenthal	Hassan	Merkley
Blunt Rochester	Heinrich	Murkowski
Cantwell	Hickenlooper	Murphy
Coons	Hirono	Murray
Cortez Masto	Kaine	Ossoff
Duckworth	Kim	Padilla
Durbin	King	Peters

Reed	Shaheen	Warren
Rosen	Slotkin	Welch
Sanders	Smith	Whitehouse
Schatz	Van Hollen	Wyden
Schiff	Warner	
Schumer	Warnock	

## NOT VOTING—2

Hawley	Kelly
--------	-------

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. RICKETTS). On this vote, the yeas are 52, the nays are 46.

The motion is agreed to.

## EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of 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.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

(Mr. MORENO assumed the Chair.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SCHMITT). The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

## VOTE ON KUSHNER NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Kushner nomination?

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) would have voted "yea."

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) are necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 51, nays 45, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 261 Ex.]

## YEAS—51

Banks	Budd	Cramer
Barrasso	Capito	Crapo
Blackburn	Cassidy	Cruz
Booker	Collins	Curtis
Boozman	Cornyn	Daines
Britt	Cotton	Ernst

Fischer	Lee	Risch
Graham	Lummis	Rounds
Grassley	Marshall	Schmitt
Hagerty	McConnell	Scott (FL)
Hoeben	McCormick	Scott (SC)
Husted	Moody	Sheehy
Hyde-Smith	Moran	Sullivan
Johnson	Moreno	Thune
Justice	Mullin	Tillis
Kennedy	Paul	Tuberville
Lankford	Ricketts	Young

## NAYS—45

Alsobrooks	Hickenlooper	Reed
Baldwin	Hirono	Rosen
Bennet	Kaine	Sanders
Blumenthal	Kim	Schiff
Blunt Rochester	King	Schumer
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Coons	Lujan	Slotkin
Cortez Masto	Markey	Smith
Duckworth	Merkley	Van Hollen
Durbin	Murkowski	Warner
Fetterman	Murphy	Warnock
Gallego	Murray	Warren
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Welch
Hassan	Padilla	Whitehouse
Heinrich	Peters	Wyden

## NOT VOTING—4

Hawley	Schatz
Kelly	Wicker

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The majority whip.

## WAIVING QUORUM CALL

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call with respect to Calendar No. 66, S. 1582, be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

## 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 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 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, John Barrasso, Tim Sheehy, Bernie Moreno, Steve Daines, Eric Schmitt, Roger Marshall, Tommy Tuberville, Roger F. Wicker, John Hoeven, Marsha Blackburn, James Lankford, Bill Cassidy, Todd Young, Mike Crapo, Deb Fischer, Markwayne Mullin.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 66, 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 assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) is necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 66, nays 32, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 262 Ex.]

## YEAS—66

Alsobrooks	Fischer	Moreno
Banks	Gallego	Mullin
Barrasso	Gillibrand	Murkowski
Blackburn	Graham	Ossoff
Blunt Rochester	Grassley	Padilla
Booker	Hagerty	Ricketts
Boozman	Hassan	Risch
Britt	Heinrich	Rosen
Budd	Hoeven	Rounds
Capito	Husted	Schiff
Cassidy	Hyde-Smith	Schmitt
Collins	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Justice	Scott (SC)
Cortez Masto	Kennedy	Sheehy
Cotton	Lankford	Slotkin
Cramer	Lee	Sullivan
Crapo	Lujan	Thune
Cruz	Lummis	Tillis
Curtis	Marshall	Tuberville
Daines	McConnell	Warner
Ernst	McCormick	Wicker
Fetterman	Moody	Young

## NAYS—32

Baldwin	King	Schatz
Bennet	Klobuchar	Schumer
Blumenthal	Markey	Shaheen
Cantwell	Merkley	Smith
Coons	Moran	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Murphy	Warnock
Durbin	Murray	Warren
Hickenlooper	Paul	Welch
Hirono	Peters	Whitehouse
Kaine	Reed	Wyden
Kim	Sanders	

## NOT VOTING—2

Hawley	Kelly
--------	-------

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 66, the nays are 32.

The motion was agreed to.

## LEGISLATIVE SESSION

GUIDING AND ESTABLISHING NATIONAL INNOVATION FOR U.S. STABLECOINS ACT—Motion to Proceed

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant 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 majority leader.

SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF MAY 29, 2025, AS MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS IN AGRICULTURE DAY

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 143.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 143) supporting the designation of May 29, 2025, as "Mental Health Awareness in Agriculture Day" to raise awareness around mental health in the agricultural industry and workforce and to continue to reduce stigma associated with mental illness.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 143) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of March 26, 2025, under "Submitted Resolutions.")

#### RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following resolutions, which are at the desk: S. Res. 234 and S. Res. 235.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

Mr. THUNE. I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to, the preambles be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, all en bloc.

The resolutions were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

(The resolutions, with their preambles, are printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

#### MORNING BUSINESS

#### ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is still available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications that have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such an annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY  
COOPERATION AGENCY,  
Washington, DC.

Hon. JAMES E. RISCH,  
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,  
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(5)(C) of the Arms Export Control Act (AECA), as amended, we are forwarding Transmittal No. 25-0N. This notification relates to enhancements or upgrades from the level of sensitivity of technology or capability described in the Section 36(b)(1) AECA certification 18-35 of September 13, 2018.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL F. MILLER,  
Director.

Enclosure.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 25-0N

Report of Enhancement or Upgrade of Sensitivity of Technology or Capability (Sec. 36(b)(5)(C), AECA)

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Republic of Korea.

(ii) Sec. 36(b)(1), AECA Transmittal No.: 18-35; Date: September 13, 2018; Implementing Agency: Army.

(iii) Description: On September 13, 2018, Congress was notified by congressional certification transmittal number 18-35 of the possible sale, under Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, of sixty-four (64) Patriot Advanced Capability-3 (PAC-3) Missile Segment Enhancement (MSE) missiles. Also included were two (2) PAC-MSE test missiles, range and test programs, publications and technical documentations, training equipment, spare parts, personnel training, U.S. Government and contractor technical, engineering, and logistics support services, and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total value was \$501 million. Major Defense Equipment (MDE) constituted \$365 million of this total.

On December 22, 2022, Congress was notified by congressional certification transmittal number 23-0C of the inclusion of the following additional MDE items: one-hundred sixteen (116) PAC-3 Missile Segment Enhancement (MSE) missiles; and two (2) PAC-3 MSE test missiles. Also included were spare parts; U.S. Government and contractor technical, engineering, and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total value of the additional items was \$533 million. The estimated non-MDE value increased by \$19 million to a revised \$155 million. The revised estimated total case value was \$1.034 billion. MDE constituted \$879 million of this total.

This transmittal notifies the inclusion of the following additional MDE items: up to one hundred seven (107) PAC-3 MSE missiles; and up to five (5) PAC-3 MSE test missiles. The following non-MDE is also included: spare parts; U.S. Government and contractor technical, engineering, and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total value of the new items is \$1.006 billion. The estimated non-MDE value will increase by \$300 million to a revised \$455 million. The revised estimated total case value will be \$2.04 billion. MDE will constitute \$1.585 billion of this total.

(iv) Significance: This notification is being provided as the MDE items were not enumerated in the original notification. The proposed sale will improve the Republic of Korea's air and missile defense capability and ensure greater interoperability with other PAC-3 MSE missile users in the region.

(v) Justification: This proposed sale will support the foreign policy goals and national security objectives of the United States by

improving the security of a major non-NATO ally that is a force for political stability and economic progress in the Pacific region

(vi) Sensitivity of Technology:

The Sensitivity of Technology statement contained in the original notification applies to items reported here.

The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is SECRET.

(vii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: May 15, 2025.

#### ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is still available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications that have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such an annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY  
COOPERATION AGENCY,  
Washington, DC.

Hon. JAMES E. RISCH,  
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,  
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(5)(C) of the Arms Export Control Act (AECA), as amended, we are forwarding Transmittal No. 25-0Q. This notification relates to enhancements or upgrades from the level of sensitivity of technology or capability described in the Section 36(b)(1) AECA certification 17-67 of November 14, 2017.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL F. MILLER,  
Director.

Enclosure.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 25-0Q

Report of Enhancement or Upgrade of Sensitivity of Technology or Capability (Sec. 36(b)(5)(C), AECA)

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Poland.

(ii) Sec. 36(b)(1), AECA Transmittal No.: 17-67; Date: November 14, 2017; Implementing Agency: Army.

Funding Source: National Funds.

(iii) Description: On November 14, 2017, Congress was notified by congressional certification transmittal number 17-67 of the possible sale, under Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, of phase one of a two-phase program for an Integrated Air and Missile Defense (IAMD) Battle Command System (IBCS) enabled Patriot Configuration-3+ with Modernized Sensors and Components consisting of four (4) AN/MPQ-65 radar sets, four (4) engagement control stations, four (4) Radar Interface Units (RIU) modification kits, sixteen (16) M903 Launching stations adapted, eighteen (18) Launcher Integrated Network Kits (LINKs) (included two



(2) spares), two hundred eight (208) Patriot Advanced Capability-3 (PAC-3) Missile Segment Enhancement (MSE) missiles, eleven (11) PAC-3 MSE test missiles, IBCS software, two (2) future operations—IBCS Engagement Operations Centers (EOCs), six (6) current operations—IBCS EOCs, six (6) engagement operations—IBCS EOCs, fifteen (15) Integrated Fire Control Network (IFCN) relays, four (4) Electrical Power Plants (EPP) III, and five (5) Multifunctional Information Distribution Systems/Low Volume Terminals (MIDS/LVTs). Also included with this request was communications equipment, tools and test equipment, range and test programs, support equipment, prime movers, generators, publications and technical documentation, training equipment, spare and repair parts, personnel training, Technical Assistance Field Team (TAFT), U.S. Government and contractor technical, engineering, and logistics support services, Systems Integration and Checkout (SICO), field office support, and other related elements of logistics and program support. The total estimated program cost was \$10.5 billion. Major Defense Equipment (MDE) constituted \$6.8 billion of that total.

This transmittal notifies inclusion of the following additional MDE items: seven hundred eighty-eight (788) PATRIOT Guidance Enhanced Missile-Tactical (GEM-T) missiles. There are no additional non-MDE items being reported with this notification. The estimated total value of the new items is \$5.8 billion. The estimated total MDE value will increase by \$5.8 billion. The non-MDE value will remain at \$3.7 billion. The total case value will increase by \$5.8 billion, resulting in a revised estimated total case value of \$16.3 billion. MDE will constitute \$12.6 billion of this total.

(iv) Significance: The proposed sale will improve Poland's capability to meet current and future threats by enabling it to field a credible force that can deter adversaries and participate in NATO operations.

(v) Justification: This proposed sale will support the foreign policy goals and national security objectives of the United States by improving the security of a NATO Ally that is an important force for political stability and economic progress in Europe.

(vi) Sensitivity of Technology:

The PATRIOT Guidance Enhanced Missile-Tactical (GEM-T) missile is one of the variants available to both U.S. forces and international customers. The GEM-T missile provides improved ability to defeat tactical ballistic missiles, cruise missiles, or enemy aircraft in complement to the PAC-3 missile. A modernized, digital fuze eliminates obsolescence and introduces significant performance improvements against tactical ballistic missile targets. This design increases sensitivity for improved performance against high-speed tactical ballistic missile targets.

The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is CONFIDENTIAL.

(vii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: May 15, 2025.

#### ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to

the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is still available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications that have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such an annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY  
COOPERATION AGENCY,  
Washington, DC.

Hon. JAMES E. RISCH,  
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,  
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(5)(C) of the Arms Export Control Act (AECA), as amended, we are forwarding Transmittal No. 25-0H. This notification relates to enhancements or upgrades from the level of sensitivity of technology or capability described in the Section 36(b)(1) AECA certification 24-45 of May 16, 2024.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL F. MILLER,  
Director.

Enclosure.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 25-0H

Report of Enhancement or Upgrade of Sensitivity of Technology or Capability (Sec. 36(b)(5)(C), AECA)

(i) Purchaser: Government of Ukraine.  
(ii) Sec. 36(b)(1), AECA Transmittal No.: 24-45.

Date: May 16, 2024.  
Implementing Agency: Army.  
Funding Source: Foreign Military Financing.

(iii) Description: On May 16, 2024, Congress was notified by congressional certification transmittal number 24-45, of the possible sale, under Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, of equipment and services for sustainment support of U.S. Army supplied vehicles and weapon systems, utilizing Blanket Orders, Cooperative Logistics Supply Support Arrangement (CLSSA), and/or Simplified Non-Standard Acquisition Program (SNAP), as well as other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total program cost was \$100 million. There was no Major Defense Equipment (MDE) associated with this sale.

This transmittal notifies inclusion of additional non-MDE equipment and services for sustainment support of U.S. Army supplied vehicles and weapon systems, utilizing Blanket Orders, Cooperative Logistics Supply Support Arrangement (CLSSA), and/or Simplified Non-Standard Acquisition Program (SNAP), and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total value of the new items is \$200 million. The estimated non-MDE value will increase by \$200 million to a revised \$300 million. The estimated total case value will increase by \$200 million to a revised \$300 million. There is no MDE included in this potential sale.

(iv) Significance: This proposed sale will directly contribute to Ukraine's battlefield effectiveness through improved logistics and will contribute to more resilient and rapid repair cycle times.

(v) Justification: This proposed sale will support the foreign policy goals and national security objectives of the United States by improving the security of a partner country that is a force for political stability and economic progress in Europe.

(vi) Sensitivity of Technology:

The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is UNCLASSIFIED.

(vii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: May 16, 2025.

\*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

#### NOMINATIONS FOR THE U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, I must object to the Senate proceeding to any of the four nominations pending on the Senate's Executive Calendar for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

This objection is a direct result of the Agency's cynical attempt to weaponize the Congressional Review Act (CRA) by attempting to submit as "rules" three waivers issued to the State of California under the Clean Air Act (CAA). If this attempt is successful, the consequences will be far-reaching, not only for our clean energy economy, the air our children breathe, and for our climate, but for the future of the CRA and for the Senate as an institution.

The EPA has issued over 100 individual waivers or waiver-related decisions to California pursuant to the waiver authority that Congress passed with overwhelming bipartisan support in 1967. During administrations of both parties, for over 50 years, the EPA has never once submitted these waivers to the Government Accountability Office (GAO) or Congress as "rules" because the Agency knew that they were not rules. Even as EPA Administrators denied or attempted to withdraw a previously granted waiver, as under the George W. Bush and prior Trump administration, the EPA explicitly stated that their actions denying or withdrawing a waiver did not qualify as a rule.

During the first Trump administration, in 2019, the EPA attempted to use administrative procedures to rescind a waiver. The current Trump administration could pursue its own strategy from 2019 and again attempt to rescind these waivers administratively. Instead, it is choosing a much more reckless track, with far-reaching consequences for future Senate procedures. Perhaps because the EPA is firing so many of its own staff experts, they worry the Agency does not have the capacity to take an administrative route, so they must seek a made-up shortcut.

In 2022, a U.S. Senator sought GAO's legal opinion as to whether EPA's restoration of a prior waiver was a rule for the purposes of the CRA. GAO's legal opinion was clear: No, California's waivers are not rules. Further, GAO found that even if the waivers were somehow rules, they would *still* not be covered by the CRA because they would be rules of particular applicability which are not covered under the CRA.

Only now, in 2025, the EPA clumsily attempted—multiple times—to submit three of California's waivers to Congress. One might ask why they only submitted three of the six waivers issued under the prior administration if the Agency's viewpoint is suddenly that the California waivers are rules. EPA's press release announcing their intent to transmit the three California waivers to Congress makes clear that their intent is to have Congress overturn these three waiver decisions. And by attempting to use the CRA, they seek expedited procedures and a majority vote, instead of the Senate's usual cloture procedure and 60-vote threshold.

Thankfully, political appointees at executive branch Agencies do not have the ability to determine questions of privilege on the floor of the Senate, or the Senate floor would become a mockery. That role belongs to the non-partisan, expert Senate Parliamentarian. In this case, the Senate Parliamentarian has made a very clear determination that resolutions related to California's CAA waivers are not privileged under the CRA and can only be considered under regular order, and thus subject to cloture.

Importantly, the Parliamentarian's determination stands on the same foundation that has governed similar CRA determinations for nearly 20 years. It has long been established and respected by both parties that if an agency fails to submit a matter that is a "rule" under the CRA—whether by mistake or by an attempt to avoid congressional authority—that rule does not automatically escape scrutiny under the CRA. The Federal Agency doesn't get to be the final arbiter of what counts as a rule. Instead, any Member may go to GAO and ask for a legal opinion. If the GAO finds that the matter is a rule under the CRA's definition, then the Parliamentarian determines if the relevant resolutions can be considered under the CRA's expedited procedures if they meet the rest of the criteria.

Here, for the first time in the history of the CRA, an Agency submitted matters that they *knew* were not rules. Some of my Republican colleagues are now arguing that the Parliamentarian should have no role to limit this partisan gamesmanship, and the Senate should throw out the rulebook and overturn the Parliamentarian.

Why would we only look to the GAO and the Parliamentarian when an Agency refuses to submit something to dodge the CRA and not also when an Agency submits something in order to exploit the CRA? Just as the Parliamentarian determined that there should be a check against an Agency that tries to dodge the CRA by withholding a rule, the Parliamentarian has determined there should be a check when an Agency tries to exploit the CRA by submitting something that isn't actually a rule. This ensure the CRA process can't be abused in either

direction, and the Parliamentarian's decision protects the legislative branch from executive overreach.

But if the Trump EPA and Senate Republicans are successful at this ploy, the Senate will have no choice but to accept this as status quo in the future. This would grant Agencies unchecked control over the Senate floor, an unprecedented encroachment by the executive branch into the Senate's internal operations.

The current administration could submit any type of Agency action from prior administrations going back to 1996 to Congress and trigger the CRA's expedited procedures for related resolutions of disapproval. The Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission could submit broadcast licenses and other approvals for media outlets when he disapproves of their news coverage. The Secretary of Health and Human Services could submit approvals by the Food and Drug Administration that he disagrees with, such as vaccines, birth control, or mifepristone. Numerous Agencies could submit decisions related to specific organizations that are targets of the President's political retribution campaigns.

None of these actions are rules, which is why they have never been submitted to Congress as rules. But if my Republican colleagues open this door and overturn the Parliamentarian's wise safeguards on this type of abuse, there would be no practical limit, and the Senate could be forced to vote repeatedly on such matters that are clearly not "rules" notwithstanding the plain language of the CRA.

Further, a future Democratic administration could respond in kind. When it comes to the environment and climate issues, future Agency heads could submit individual fossil fuel project leases, loan agreements, or permitting approvals for congressional review, arguing that these are clearly highly significant Agency actions with wide-ranging impacts. LNG export terminals and major interstate and cross-border pipelines would be fair game. In other areas, there are many Trump administration actions—from immigration to foreign policy to unilateral budget and staff cuts by DOGE—for which a future administration and Congress could use the CRA.

Since this cynical attempt to weaponize the CRA was triggered by the administration's political leadership at the EPA, at the urging of their Big Oil allies, I must object to proceeding to any nominations for the EPA pending on the Senate's executive calendar. I will continue to object until the Agency withdraws its false submissions to Congress or the majority leader commits not to overturn the Parliamentarian's determination on this matter.

#### TRIBUTE TO HOWARD LUTNICK

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, I rise to recognize the efforts of Presi-

dent Trump and U.S. Secretary of Commerce Howard Lutnick on the U.S. Department of Commerce's decision to terminate the flawed 2019 Tomato Suspension Agreement. The termination of this agreement is a major win for Florida farmers and tomato growers across the country. By protecting our markets from being flooded by unfairly and artificially priced tomatoes, President Trump and Secretary Lutnick are standing up for American principles and the American farmer. I want to thank Secretary Lutnick for his commitment to ensuring our trade laws work to support American businesses and families.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TRIBUTE TO KIMBERLY STINSON

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Kimberly Stinson of Bismarck on being named Arkansas's 2025 Small Business Person of the Year by the U.S. Small Business Administration.

As the owner of Lil Lions Daycare, Stinson has distinguished herself as a dedicated, active community leader and businesswoman.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Stinson recognized that her community in Hot Spring County was in need of a licensed childcare center when she herself struggled to provide care for her young grandchildren. Realizing that other families were facing a similar situation, she took action, working with the Arkansas Small Business and Technology Development Center to craft a business plan and secure financing that included an SBA-backed loan.

By October of 2021, Stinson opened Lil Lions Daycare's doors after creating an exciting, safe environment for children to learn and play. Her husband Brian helped with building and construction—both pushing ahead in the face of adversity.

But the work did not end with the ribbon-cutting ceremony. Stinson continued to pursue and secure grants that helped her operation care for even more children, including those in foster care and low-income households during a time when local families needed this critical assistance the most.

Having no prior professional childcare experience, Stinson took it upon herself to complete over 400 hours of childcare courses and trainings through Arkansas State University. She then applied her new knowledge to develop a social-emotional learning curriculum that prioritizes mental, social, and physical growth.

Stinson has proved herself to be a passionate, empathetic entrepreneur with an eye for business and heart for community. Lil Lions has received recognition not only for its positive reputation, but for the unwavering care and personal investment Stinson and her team pour into the well-being of children.

Congratulations again to Kimberly Stinson and her team at Lil Lions Daycare, as this exceptional distinction is a result of their outstanding efforts. We are proud to celebrate her and the successes that have made Lil Lions a cornerstone of her community.●

#### RECOGNIZING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARKANSAS MEDICAL SOCIETY

● Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the Arkansas Medical Society's 150th anniversary.

Founded in October 1875 by 225 physicians, the Arkansas Medical Society has become a champion for medical, social, and scientific advocacy. Throughout decades of invaluable service, its members have remained steadfast in their mission to advance medicine and improve the well-being of Natural State residents.

Since its founding, the Arkansas Medical Society's efforts have had a tremendous impact on our State. To advance the health needs of Arkansans and support physicians, the organization has had a hand in the planning, creation, and implementation of our State's first State board of health in response to the yellow fever epidemic; developed Arkansas's first medical licensing laws to ensure uniformity of care for citizens; and supported the establishment of what would eventually become the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences College of Medicine.

Other distinct contributions include the creation of the Arkansas Tuberculosis Sanitarium in 1909, educational efforts to combat malaria and typhoid fever, and later, the creation of Arkansas Blue Cross in 1948, as well as sponsoring a statewide polio vaccination program several years later.

More recently, its members helped successfully push for the development of a statewide trauma system in 2009, enact reforms to ease administrative burdens that delay care, and organize a distribution system to provide personal protective equipment to Natural State healthcare providers and clinics during the COVID-19 pandemic.

It has continuously demonstrated the ability to positively impact our State. Through unwavering dedication to the organization's founding principles, the physicians it mobilizes have furthered public health and wellness for their patients, communities, and beyond.

For more than a century, the Arkansas Medical Society has continued to thrive due to its reputation and effectiveness. I applaud the hard work of its members, past and present, whose innovative work has spurred positive change and bettered the lives of men, women, and children across the Natural State. Congratulations on this significant milestone of 150 years.●

#### RECOGNIZING PREBLE STREET

● Mr. KING. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Preble Street on

their 50th anniversary for their outstanding contributions to the State of Maine and our Nation. Over the past 50 years, Preble Street has provided our most vulnerable Maine community members with shelter, food, medical care, casework, and support. Preble Street has evolved over the past 50 years, but its commitment to helping the people of Maine remains at the heart of its mission. Preble Street started with the inspiration and hard work of Joe Kreisler, a social work professor at the University of Southern Maine, and his dedicated students as a training ground to provide Portland's most vulnerable with basic services: clothing, food, and a place to use the bathroom. The difference this compassionate group has made is indelible; the legacy they have created will continue to change lives well into the future.

The Preble Street team has risen to meet every challenge along the way, of which there have been many. Whether assisting neighboring shelters at risk of closing to ensuring that Maine's people did not lose access to critical services—or contending with the COVID-19 pandemic—Preble Street took their operation on the road to ensure our most vulnerable were safe from both illness and hunger. Preble Street is not just a shelter; it is an integral part of our Maine community, creating jobs and hope for people from every background. In the last year, Preble Street's dedicated staff and volunteers helped hundreds of young people find safety, necessary services, and housing. Additionally, hundreds more homeless adults have been able to meet their basic needs and work toward a better future. Preble Street has also provided over 500 veterans and their families with housing support, ensuring those who have valiantly served our country have a consistent roof over their heads and steady access to healthy foods. It is the effective and passionate work of Preble Street that underscores the collective impact communities can make when coming together.

After each interaction with Preble Street—whether through supporting Stuff the Bus, a Thanksgiving food drive led by Preble Street, or the Food Hub—I and many others leave with a better understanding of what I can do to help those who are suffering in our communities. This is one of the gifts of Preble Street's outreach: to be the voice of many who too often remain voiceless and “walking the walk” to the organization's core belief that the well-being of our entire community depends on identifying the challenging problems that affect us all. Equally sincere is Preble Street's mission and desire to be a part of those solutions. That is the essence of Preble Street's gospel.

Joe Kreisler, Mark “Swannie” Swann, the staff, and volunteers at Preble Street have derived innovative solutions to the challenges faced in Maine. Preble Street's site-based Housing First model—one of the first in the

Nation—led to several locations in Portland that provide long-term housing for chronically homeless adults. In addition to reducing strain on overnight shelters and addressing homelessness, Preble Street has created an extensive system to fight food insecurity, including soup kitchens, mobile food pantries to meet people where they are, and their Food Security Hub. Altogether, Preble Street provides the greater Portland area with over 100,000 meals per month, an amount that does not go unnoticed or unappreciated in Maine's biggest city.

On top of their altruistic mission to provide barrier-free assistance to those in Maine, Preble Street also seeks to do so sustainably. Preble Street is investing in energy-efficient equipment; they partner with local farms; and they source some of their electricity from solar energy. Those experiencing homelessness are some of the most vulnerable to the consequences of climate change, and Preble Street recognizes this challenge. Their commitment to uplifting the people of Maine sustainably is a testament to what our communities are capable of when people come together with a mission to do genuine good and create lasting change.

From its early beginnings in the basement of a chapel, Preble Street has pioneered a way to sustainably provide homes, food, and other services to the most vulnerable in Maine. Preble Street's impact can be felt across our State and has undoubtedly saved many lives and bettered many more. On behalf of the U.S. Senate, I offer my deepest gratitude for the work Preble Street has done and will continue to do in our State.●

#### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Hanley, one of his secretaries.

#### EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

#### PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

REPORT RELATIVE TO THE ISSUANCE OF AN EXECUTIVE ORDER ON MODIFYING RECIPROCAL TARIFF RATES TO REFLECT DISCUSSIONS WITH THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA—PM 27

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 Finance:

*To the Congress of the United States:*

Consistent with applicable law, including the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 *et seq.*), the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1601 *et seq.*), section 604 of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (19 U.S.C. 2483), and section 301 of title 3, United States Code, I hereby report that I have issued an Executive Order on Modifying Reciprocal Tariff Rates to Reflect Discussions with the People's Republic of China.

In Executive Order 14257 of April 2, 2025 (Regulating Imports With a Reciprocal Tariff to Rectify Trade Practices that Contribute to Large and Persistent Annual United States Goods Trade Deficits), I declared a national emergency arising from conditions reflected in large and persistent annual U.S. goods trade deficits, and imposed additional *ad valorem* duties that I deemed necessary and appropriate to deal with that unusual and extraordinary threat, which has its source in whole or substantial part outside the United States, to the national security and economy of the United States. Section 4(b) of Executive Order 14257 provided that “[s]hould any trading partner retaliate against the United States in response to this action through import duties on U.S. exports or other measures, I may further modify the [Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States] to increase or expand in scope the duties imposed under this order to ensure the efficacy of this action.”

Since I signed Executive Order 14266 of April 9, 2025 (Modifying Reciprocal Tariff Rates To Reflect Trading Partner Retaliation and Alignment), the United States has entered into discussions with the People's Republic of China (PRC) to address the lack of trade reciprocity in our economic relationship and our resulting national and economic security concerns. Conducting these discussions is a significant step by the PRC toward remedying non-reciprocal trade arrangements and addressing the concerns of the United States relating to economic and national security matters.

As a result of this significant step, pursuant to section 4(c) of Executive Order 14257, this order modifies the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States to suspend for a period of 90 days application of the additional *ad valorem* duties imposed on the PRC listed in Annex I to Executive Order 14257, as amended by Executive Order 14259 of April 8, 2025 (Amendment to Reciprocal Tariffs and Updated Duties as Applied to Low-Value Imports From the People's Republic of China), and Executive Order 14266, and clarified in the Presidential Memorandum of April 11, 2025 (Clarification of Exceptions Under Executive Order 14257 of April 2, 2025, as Amended), and to instead impose on ar-

ticles of the PRC an additional *ad valorem* rate of duty as set forth in the order, pursuant to the terms of, and except as otherwise provided in, Executive Order 14257, as modified by this order.

My Administration will continue to consult with the Congress on our efforts to address extraordinary and persistent annual U.S. goods trade deficits.

I am enclosing a copy of the Executive Order I have issued.

DONALD J. TRUMP,  
THE WHITE HOUSE, May 19, 2025.

#### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT

##### ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2025, the Secretary of the Senate, on May 16, 2025, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

S. 146. An act to require covered platforms to remove nonconsensual intimate visual depictions, and for other purposes.

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2025, the enrolled bill was signed on May 19, 2025, during the adjournment of the Senate, by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

#### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:02 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, 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. 2240. An act to require the Attorney General to develop reports relating to violent attacks against law enforcement officers, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2255. An act to allow Federal law enforcement officers to purchase retired service weapons, and for other purposes.

#### MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 2240. An act to require the Attorney General to develop reports relating to violent attacks against law enforcement officers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 2255. An act to allow Federal law enforcement officers to purchase retired service weapons, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

#### ENROLLED BILL PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, May 19, 2025, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bill:

S. 146. An act to require covered platforms to remove nonconsensual intimate visual depictions, and for other purposes.

#### PRIVILEGED NOMINATIONS REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

On request by Senator TINA SMITH, under the authority of S. Res. 116, 112th Congress, the following nomination was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Benjamin DeMarzo, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

On request by Senator RON WYDEN, under the authority of S. Res. 116, 112th Congress, the following nomination was referred to the Committee on Finance: Derek Theurer, of Virginia, to be a Deputy Under Secretary of the Treasury.

#### EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-954. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of an action entitled “Action Plan to Reduce Exposure of Vulnerable Federally Listed Endangered and Threatened Species from the Use of Conventional Pesticides” received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 14, 2025; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-955. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Sulfentrazone; Pesticide Tolerances” (FRL No. 12202-02-OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 14, 2025; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-956. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “L-Arginine in Pesticide Formulations; Exemption from the Requirement for a Tolerance” (FRL No. 12727-01-OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 14, 2025; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-957. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting the report of an officer authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of brigadier general in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-958. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting the report of an officer authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of brigadier general in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-959. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of the continuation of the national emergency with respect to the stabilization of Iraq that was declared in Executive Order 13303 of May 22, 2003; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-960. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the continuation of the national emergency, with respect to securing the information and communications technology and services supply chain that was originally declared in Executive Order



13873 of May 15, 2019; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-961. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 13959 with respect to the threat from securities investments that finance certain companies of the People's Republic of China; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-962. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel, General Law, Ethics, and Regulation, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Director, United States Mint, Department of the Treasury received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 13, 2025; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-963. A communication from the Attorney for Regulatory Affairs Division, Office of the General Counsel, Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Standard for Stationary Activity Centers" (Docket No. CPSC-2018-0015) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 13, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-964. A communication from the Supervisory Program Analyst, Wireline Competition Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Lower 37 GHz Band, Use of Spectrum Bands Above 24 GHz for Mobile Radio Service" (FCC 25-24) (WT Docket No. 24-243) (GN Docket No. 14-177) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 13, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-965. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Take-off Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments; Amendment No. 4163" ((RIN2120-AA65) (Docket No. 31602)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 13, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-966. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Take-off Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments; Amendment No. 4164" ((RIN2120-AA65) (Docket No. 31603)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 13, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-967. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Class E Airspace; Tarboro, NC" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2024-1980)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 13, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-968. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Class E Airspace; Roanoke Rapids, NC" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2024-1966)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 13, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-969. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Class E Airspace; Lebanon, NH" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2025-0825)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 13, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-970. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes; Amendment 39-23032" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2024-2427)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 13, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-971. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters; Amendment 39-23019" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2024-2552)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 13, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-972. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Thomsen Aircraft Equipment AG Digital Air Data Computers; Amendment 39-23002" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2024-2322)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 13, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-973. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes; Amendment 39-23029" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2025-0746)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 13, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-974. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier Inc. Airplanes; Amendment 39-23025" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2025-0016)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 13, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-975. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters; Amendment 39-23021" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2025-0007)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 13, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

S. 1799. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for certain cognitive impairment detection in the Medicare annual wellness visit and initial preventative physical examination; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. HYDE-SMITH:

S. 1800. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to modify the criteria for designation of rural emergency hospitals; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. RISCH (for himself, Mr. COONS, Mr. LEE, and Mr. HEINRICH):

S. 1801. A bill to facilitate the development of a whole-of-government strategy for nuclear cooperation and nuclear exports, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 1802. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to prohibit the National Institutes of Health from awarding any support for an activity or program that uses live animals in research unless the research occurs in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BENNET:

S. 1803. A bill to prohibit certain individuals from engaging in prohibited financial transactions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. SCHUMER:

S. 1804. A bill to prohibit the use of funds to procure or modify foreign aircraft for presidential airlift; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. 1805. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to permit nurse practitioners and physician assistants to satisfy the documentation requirement under the Medicare program for coverage of certain shoes for individuals with diabetes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. RICKETTS (for himself and Mr. CURTIS):

S. 1806. A bill to terminate unused authorities of the Securities and Exchange Commission that were established pursuant to the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. BANKS (for himself and Ms. LUMMIS):

S. 1807. A bill to require an income identification and verification platform for certain Federal benefit funds, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. CAPITO:

S.J. Res. 55. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration relating to "Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards; Fuel System Integrity of Hydrogen Vehicles; Compressed Hydrogen Storage System Integrity; Incorporation by Reference"; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

## INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mrs. CAPITO (for herself and Mr. WARNER):

## SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. Res. 234. A resolution designating May 2, 2025, as "United States Foreign Service Day"

in recognition of the men and women who have served, or are presently serving, in the Foreign Service of the United States, and honoring the members of the Foreign Service who have given their lives in the line of duty; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. KING, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. DAINES, and Mr. WICKER):

S. Res. 235. A resolution designating May 17, 2025, as “Kids to Parks Day”; considered and agreed to.

#### ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 180

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) 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 New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) 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. 222

At the request of Mr. MARSHALL, the names of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. JUSTICE) and the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) were added as cosponsors of S. 222, a bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to allow schools that participate in the school lunch program to serve whole milk, and for other purposes.

S. 304

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. MORENO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 304, a bill to amend section 301 of the Immigration and Nationality Act to clarify those classes of individuals born in the United States who are nationals and citizens of the United States at birth.

S. 410

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 410, a bill to amend titles 10 and 38, United States Code, to improve benefits and services for surviving spouses, and for other purposes.

S. 478

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 478, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to prohibit the Secretary of Veterans Affairs from transmitting certain information to the Department of Justice for use by the national instant criminal background check system.

S. 522

At the request of Mr. HAGERTY, the names of the Senator from North Caro-

lina (Mr. TILLIS) and the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) were added as cosponsors 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. 539

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) were added as cosponsors of S. 539, a bill to reauthorize the PROTECT Our Children Act of 2008, and for other purposes.

S. 554

At the request of Mr. SULLIVAN, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 554, a bill to enhance bilateral defense cooperation between the United States and Israel, and for other purposes.

S. 556

At the request of Mr. SULLIVAN, the names of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) and the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) 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. 803

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. ALSOBROOKS) and the Senator from California (Mr. SCHIFF) were added as cosponsors of S. 803, a bill to regulate large capacity ammunition feeding devices.

S. 1162

At the request of Mr. MARSHALL, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1162, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to remove short-barreled rifles, short-barreled shotguns, and certain other weapons from the definition of firearms for purposes of the National Firearms Act, and for other purposes.

S. 1241

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1241, a bill to impose sanctions and other measures with respect to the Russian Federation if the Government of the Russian Federation refuses to negotiate a peace agreement with Ukraine, violates any such agreement, or initiates another military invasion of Ukraine, and for other purposes.

S. 1285

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1285, a bill to amend part A of title IV of the Social Security Act to provide funding to sustain and increase the supply and quality of child care, access to child care, and the child care workforce, and for other purposes.

S. 1318

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1318, a bill to direct the American Battle Monuments Commission to establish a program to identify American-Jewish servicemembers buried in United States military cemeteries overseas under markers that incorrectly represent their religion and heritage, and for other purposes.

S. 1491

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. SLOTKIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1491, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to modify the definition of special Government employee, and for other purposes.

S. 1532

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) 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. 1593

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) was added as a cosponsor 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. 1612

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mrs. MOODY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1612, a bill to limit funds to the United Nations and other organizations that provide any status, rights, or privileges beyond observer status to the Palestine Liberation Organization, and for other purposes.

S. 1677

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) was added as a cosponsor of 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.

S.J. RES. 45

At the request of Mrs. CAPITO, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 45, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to “California State Motor Vehicle and Engine Pollution Control Standards; Advanced Clean Cars II; Waiver of Preemption; Notice of Decision”.

S.J. RES. 46

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 46, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United



States Code, of the rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to “California State Motor Vehicle and Engine Pollution Control Standards; Heavy-Duty Vehicle and Engine Emission Warranty and Maintenance Provisions; Advanced Clean Trucks; Zero Emission Airport Shuttle; Zero-Emission Power Train Certification; Waiver of Preemption; Notice of Decision”.

S. RES. 212

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of 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.

S. RES. 224

At the request of Mr. WELCH, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from California (Mr. SCHIFF), the Senator from Delaware (Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) and the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 224, a resolution calling for the urgent delivery of humanitarian aid to address the needs of civilians in Gaza.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. SCHUMER:

S. 1804. A bill to prohibit the use of funds to procure or modify foreign aircraft for presidential airlift; to the Committee on Armed Services.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, now on the Qatar plane and the Middle East, last week, Donald Trump concluded a visit to the Middle East that was a smashing success for his own bottom line but a dubious outcome for America's economic and security interest.

First, on the Qatari plane, last week, Donald Trump confirmed that he would accept a \$400 million luxury Boeing 747 plane offered by Qatar to use as Air Force One—the largest bribe to an American President in modern history.

So, today, I am introducing the Presidential Airlift Security Act, prohibiting the use of any foreign plane to be utilized as Air Force One. Senate Republicans who say they are troubled by this Qatari gift should join me in supporting this very commonsense legislation.

It should not take an act of Congress to stop the President of the United States from accepting the largest foreign bribe in modern history, but we are dealing with a President who has shown he is perfectly willing to sell out the American people and the Presidency to fill his own pockets.

Specifically, my legislation would prohibit even a single taxpayer dollar from being used by the Department of Defense to procure, modify, or retrofit any foreign aircraft to be used in transporting a U.S. President.

For one, overhauling a foreign luxury plane to serve as Air Force One would cost billions of taxpayer dollars. The refurbishing alone would cost more than the value of the plane itself, and it would take years. It is a senseless waste of taxpayer resources.

Using a foreign plane as Air Force One would also bring unimaginable national security risks. National security experts, from one end of the country to the other, agree: No matter how many modifications are made or how much is spent or how intensely it is retrofitted, there will never be 100 percent confidence that the plane is secure.

This is not a gamble anyone should be willing to take. It makes no practical sense for Donald Trump to accept this luxury gift when other alternatives in the works are less risky and less costly for taxpayers.

This gift reeks of corruption and naked self-enrichment. It reeks of corruption and naked self-enrichment, and Republicans should stand up and support our bill, defend national security, and protect Americans.

In the meantime, I will continue my hold on all political Department of Justice nominees until we get more answers about this clearly unethical deal.

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. 1804

*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 “Presidential Airlift Security Act of 2025”.

#### SEC. 2. PROHIBITION ON USE OF FUNDS TO PROCURE OR MODIFY FOREIGN AIRCRAFT FOR PRESIDENTIAL AIRLIFT.

None of the funds authorized to be appropriated or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2025 or fiscal year 2026 for the Department of Defense may be made available for the procurement, modification, restoration, or maintenance of an aircraft previously owned by a foreign government, an entity controlled by a foreign government, or a representative of a foreign government for the purposes of providing presidential airlift options.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. 1805. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to permit nurse practitioners and physician assistants to satisfy the documentation requirement under the Medicare program for coverage of certain shoes for individuals with diabetes; to the Committee on Finance.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the Promoting Access to Diabetic Shoes Act with my colleague from New Hampshire, Senator SHAHEEN. I want to thank Senator SHAHEEN for her partnership on so many issues affecting individuals with diabetes. Our bipartisan bill would allow nurse practitioners and physician

assistants to prescribe therapeutic shoes under Medicare. This will enable Medicare beneficiaries who have diabetes to more easily access this important preventive care, should they need it.

As cochairs of the Senate Diabetes Caucus, Senator SHAHEEN and I are focused on advancing policies that will improve the lives of the more than 37 million Americans who live with diabetes. Therapeutic shoes help prevent some of the costly and painful complications related to diabetes, such as foot ulcers, which almost 1.6 million individuals with diabetes have. If they do not receive timely care, these individuals are at risk of serious health complications, such as lower limb amputations. Only 10 percent of qualifying Medicare patients receive the diabetic shoes they need because of difficulties accessing qualifying providers. By reducing barriers to this preventive care, the Promoting Access to Diabetic Shoes Act will enable more individuals with diabetes to receive the medical care they need to avoid some serious complications.

Nurse practitioners and physician assistants in Maine and across the country provide the full range of care to patients with diabetes. Many patients see an NP or a PA as their preferred primary care provider for treating diabetes. When the treating NP or PA determines that the patient may need therapeutic shoes, however, the NP or PA must send the patient first to a physician to make the same determination, and then the physician must send them to a podiatrist to actually fit the shoes. To make matters more complicated, under current law, the certifying physician must take over all treatment of the patients diabetic condition. This process not only forces a patient to change providers but also delays patient access to effective treatment for diabetes.

In rural States such as Maine, patients often have to drive long distances to see a podiatrist or even a physician. One nurse practitioner from Bangor shared with me that the closest podiatrist she is able to send patients to is an hour-long drive away and has a many-months long waitlist. Patients with diabetes simply cannot afford to wait months and months for treatment. The removal of this outdated and unnecessary barrier means NPs and PAs would be authorized to certify the need for therapeutic shoes for patients with diabetes and ensure they get the care they need in a timely fashion.

Finally, passage of this legislation will reduce Medicare spending by removing the unnecessary and duplicative certifying visit requirements. Data demonstrate that NPs and PAs manage the care for patients with diabetes in a cost-effective manner that results in healthcare savings. The estimated total annual cost of an individual patient with diabetes is \$17,000. If the patient does not receive treatment in

time, though, and develops a serious complication, the estimated annual individual cost rises to \$52,000. Our bill will create savings for Medicare by reducing the long-term costs of care.

Passage of the Promoting Access to Diabetic Shoes Act will make it possible for NPs and PAs to continue providing high-quality care for their Medicare patients with diabetes. It will also reduce Medicare spending by eliminating duplicative services, improve the timeliness of care for patients with diabetes who need therapeutic shoes, and allow the patient to continue receiving care from the provider of their choice. I urge all of my colleagues to join Senator SHAHEEN and me in supporting the Promoting Access to Diabetic Shoes Act.

#### SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 234—DESIGNATING MAY 2, 2025, AS “UNITED STATES FOREIGN SERVICE DAY” IN RECOGNITION OF THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO HAVE SERVED, OR ARE PRESENTLY SERVING, IN THE FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES, AND HONORING THE MEMBERS OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE WHO HAVE GIVEN THEIR LIVES IN THE LINE OF DUTY.

Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself and Mr. VAN HOLLEN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 234

Whereas the Foreign Service of the United States (referred to in this preamble as the “Foreign Service”) was established through the enactment of the Act entitled “An Act for the reorganization and improvement of the Foreign Service of the United States, and for other purposes.”, approved May 24, 1924 (43 Stat. 140, chapter 182) (commonly known as the “Rogers Act of 1924”), and is now celebrating its 101st anniversary;

Whereas the Rogers Act of 1924 established a career organization based on competitive examination and merit promotion;

Whereas Foreign Service personnel comprise employees from the Department of State, the United States Agency for International Development, the Foreign Commercial Service, the Foreign Agricultural Service, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, and the United States Agency for Global Media;

Whereas the diplomatic, consular, communications, trade, development, security, public diplomacy, and numerous other functions that Foreign Service personnel perform constitute the first and most cost-effective instrument of the United States to protect and promote United States interests abroad;

Whereas the men and women of the Foreign Service and their families are increasingly exposed to risks and danger, even in times of peace, and many have died in the service of the United States;

Whereas employees of the Foreign Service work daily—

(1) to ensure the national security of the United States;

(2) to provide assistance to United States citizens overseas;

(3) to preserve peace, freedom, and economic prosperity around the world;

(4) to promote the ideals and values of the United States, human rights, freedom, equal opportunities for women and girls, rule of law, and democracy;

(5) to promote transparency and provide accurate information;

(6) to cultivate new markets for United States products and services and develop new investment opportunities that create jobs in the United States and promote prosperity;

(7) to promote economic development, reduce poverty, end hunger and malnutrition, fight disease, combat international crime and illegal drugs, and address environmental degradation; and

(8) to provide emergency and humanitarian assistance to respond to crises around the world;

Whereas the foreign affairs agencies and the American Foreign Service Association have observed Foreign Service Day in May for many years; and

Whereas it is both appropriate and just for the United States as a whole to recognize the dedication of the men and women of the Foreign Service and to honor the members of the Foreign Service who have given their lives in the loyal pursuit of their duties and responsibilities representing the interests of the United States and of its citizens: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) honors the men and women who have served, or are presently serving, in the Foreign Service of the United States for their dedicated and important service to the United States;

(2) calls on the people of the United States to reflect on the service and sacrifice of past, present, and future employees of the Foreign Service of the United States, wherever they serve, with appropriate ceremonies and activities; and

(3) designates May 2, 2025, as “United States Foreign Service Day”.

SENATE RESOLUTION 235—DESIGNATING MAY 17, 2025, AS “KIDS TO PARKS DAY”

Mr. WYDEN (for himself Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. KING, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. DAINES, and Mr. WICKER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 235

Whereas the 15th annual Kids to Parks Day will be celebrated on May 17, 2025;

Whereas the goals of Kids to Parks Day are—

(1) to promote healthy outdoor recreation and responsible environmental stewardship;

(2) to empower young people; and

(3) to encourage families to get outdoors and visit the parks and public land of the United States;

Whereas, on Kids to Parks Day, individuals from rural, suburban, and urban areas of the United States can be reintroduced to the splendid national, State, and neighborhood parks located in their communities;

Whereas communities across the United States offer a variety of natural resources and public land, often with free access, to individuals seeking outdoor recreation;

Whereas the people of the United States, young and old, should be encouraged to lead more healthy and active lifestyles;

Whereas Kids to Parks Day is an opportunity for families to take a break from their busy lives and enjoy a day of active, wholesome fun; and

Whereas celebrating Kids to Parks Day will—

(1) broaden an appreciation for nature and the outdoors in young people;

(2) foster a safe setting for independent play and healthy adventure in neighborhood parks; and

(3) facilitate self-reliance while strengthening communities: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates May 17, 2025, as “Kids to Parks Day”;

(2) recognizes the importance of outdoor recreation and the preservation of open spaces in promoting the health and education of the young people of the United States; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to observe Kids to Parks Day with safe family trips to parks.

#### NOTICES OF INTENT TO OBJECT TO PROCEEDING

I, Senator ALEX PADILLA, intend to object to proceeding to the nomination of David Fotouhi, of Virginia, to be Deputy Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, dated May 19, 2025.

I, Senator ALEX PADILLA, intend to object to proceeding to the nomination of Catherine Hanson, of South Carolina, to be Chief Financial Officer, Environmental Protection Agency, dated May 19, 2025.

I, Senator ALEX PADILLA, intend to object to proceeding to the nomination of Jessica Kramer, of Wisconsin, to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, dated May 19, 2025.

I, Senator ALEX PADILLA, intend to object to proceeding to the nomination of Aaron Szabo, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, dated May 19, 2025.

#### ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, MAY 20, 2025

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, May 20; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, morning business be closed, and the Senate resume consideration of the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 66, S. 1582, the GENIUS Act, postclosure; further, that the Senate recess from 12:30 p.m. to 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly conference meetings; and that all time during recess, adjournment, and leader remarks count postclosure on the motion to proceed to S. 1582.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 9:30 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, May 20, 2025, at 10 a.m.

## NOMINATIONS

## Executive nominations received by the Senate:

## IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

*To be major*

BRETT D. BARNER  
KORY M. CAPPS  
CHRISTOPHER H. CRUTCHFIELD  
DAMIEN D. GIPSON  
JUSTIN L. GREENE  
TOSHA S. JAMES  
DAVID A. JENKINS  
GEORGE E. KAHL, JR.  
KEVIN D. PUGH, SR.  
ZACHARY C. RAYGOZA  
NICHOLAS J. REID  
TAMER SAYEDAHMED  
JAMIE M. STIFFLER  
GERALD M. STOUT  
MATTHEW A. THOMPSON  
CHARLES C. UGO  
DEREK C. VANDERMOLEN  
PETER S. VO

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

*To be major*

DANIEL A. AGADA  
REGINA S. AHIABLE  
ALLISON P. BARROSO  
ERIC T. BEECY  
PRISCILLA B. BELLETTINI  
BRITTANY B. BENFIELD  
REBECCA M. BIGGS  
EDLISLYN H. BOWMAN  
JACOB L. BROWN  
PRISCILLA A. BROWN  
THOMAS E. BROWNFIELD, JR.  
RUDYAR A. BURGOS  
JODIE L. CAMPBELL  
RUBEN O. CASTRO  
TANISHA S. CATHREN  
LAURA A. CEDILLO  
ELIZABETH CHANG  
MISTY L. COLE  
AMBER R. COX  
JUSTINE C. COX  
BURGUNDI U. CURRY  
JEREMY T. DAO  
MEAGHAN E. DEBOODT  
DENNIS E. DOERING  
JASON R. DOMMER  
CHELSEA B. DOWNING  
BECKY M. DURRENBERGER  
STACIE L. ELLIOTT  
ALISON E. ELSNER  
SHEENA T. ESTIFANOS  
MATTHEW T. EVANS  
AMANDA M. FLETCHER  
KADY D. FRYE  
DAHLIA M. GARCIA  
TROY A. GEIER  
RONALD S. GOLEMBOSKI  
MICHAEL S. GRADY  
CHRISTOPHER E. GRASSI  
STACI M. GROTHUES  
NATHANIEL A. HAINES  
URSULA A. HALL  
THATCHER D. HALLOCK  
MATTHEW P. HART  
DANIEL M. HARTLING  
DEANNA M. HAXTON  
LISA A. HAYES  
TABITHA E. HICKSON  
TAYLOR E. HOLLOWAY  
SAMANTHA L. HOLMQUIST  
KEVIN L. HOPPER  
KASEY L. HOUSE  
JEANETTE JALOCAN  
JAMES A. JESIONOWSKI  
MI KYEONG JUNG  
FELICIA N. KATZOVITZ  
JOANNA C. KAUHOLA  
CARLY A. KERR  
ESSELL P. KERR  
NEAL D. KETCHUM  
ALEXANDRA N. KIEKHAEFER  
MONIKA KING  
HENRY A. KOZAK  
ELIZABETH P. KUSS  
DONNA ROSE T. LABUGUEN  
MICHAEL A. LARINO  
ROSALYN A. LAUGHLIN  
ANGELA M. LEONARDO  
AMANDA M. LEWIS  
GEORGETTE A. LEWIS  
SARAH B. LONG  
MATTHEW A. LYON  
LAUREN A. MACCOY  
CHRISTINA M. MACLAREN  
ANDREA D. MALONE  
CARLY N. MARSH  
BRITTNEY S. MATHIS  
CHRISTOPHER O. MCCARTY  
STEPHANIE L. MCILWRAITH  
SABRINA D. MCNEAL  
TABETHA D. MEECH

JUSTIN D. MILLEN  
DOLLIE M. MOORE  
SYLVIA N. MUSAU  
JASON M. NEEL  
MELANIE L. NELSON  
JEREMY R. NOTT  
SAMANTHA S. OBRIEN  
DANIEL S. OH  
MARIA R. OLIVER  
TREVOR K. PALMER  
SIERRA L. PAYTON  
JONATHAN P. PAZIENZA  
NICOLE L. PERRAULT  
ERIC L. POPE  
LINDSAY L. POSTRADO  
RIOCORNELL D. PRESTON  
KATE G. PUGH  
CRYSTAL D. RAMAEKERS  
ROCKY A. REED  
KENNO DARYL G. RELOVA  
CASEY E. REYES  
DEVIN J. RICCHUITO  
GRETCHEN B. RICHMOND  
YESENIA M. RIVERA  
MICHAEL A. ROBBINS  
KENDA L. ROBERTS  
SHANNON P. ROBERTS  
JITKA ROHR  
RICHARD J. RUBI  
REUBEN K. SAINA  
ROMAN A. SALAS  
MARIO D. SALES II  
GENESIS KARLO T. SANTOS  
SARAH L. SIACUNCO  
SAMANTHA J. STILWELL  
MAYLIN H. TAYLOR  
CARL B. VALENTINE  
ARLENE A. VALMOJA  
ANNE MARIE K. VAYDA  
CATHERINE M. VIRAY  
CRYSTAL M. WALLACE  
JASMINE S. WARD  
KIMBERLY C. WARSTLER  
JOHN L. WILBUR, JR.  
CARLEEN D. YOUNG  
MARIO L. ZENTENO

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

*To be major*

RODINANTHONYFIL R. ALARCON  
STACY M. ANGEL  
JOI RENEE L. ATHANAXAY  
JAMES E. BASSFORD II  
CHRISTOPHER R. BELTRAN  
CHRISTOPHER J. BENNETT  
PHYLLIS A. BRADLEY  
DYLAN D. BROWN  
ARIELLE D. BUCHANAN  
ISMAEL G. CABRERA  
TRAVIS C. CALLIHAN  
GREGORY H. CHARRIER  
VINCENT CHUNG  
ERIC L. COFFIE  
TAYLOR S. CRITTENDEN  
SOPHIA A. ERHARD  
AKINTUNDE M. EROPHILLIPS  
SAYLOR M. GILBERT  
JASON E. GILZENE  
AMY C. GOODNITE  
KATHY J. GRAHAM  
DANIELLE A. GREGG  
KYLE R. GUTHERIE  
CHRISTAL L. HANRAHAN  
SABRINA N. HATCHETT  
RYAN D. JAMES  
GABRIEL D. LAZURKA  
ELIZABETH H. MAST  
LEVI N. MBURU  
DUSTIN A. MONTI  
ALEXANDER G. MOORE  
ZACHARY L. NICHOLS  
NICHOLAS W. ONEILL  
CANDIS A. OSISIOMA  
ELISABETH J. PAGE-PETTIWAY  
KAITLIN L. PALM  
ZACHARY M. PIWKO  
KRYSTAL A. PRICE  
JACK S. PYLE  
CHRISTINE E. RAMSEY  
JA'LEEN O. RICKS  
OMAR RIVERA RIVERA  
AMANDA K. ROBINSON  
ALLAN S. RODRIGUEZ  
RUSSELL D. RUPPERT  
STEVEN A. RYAN  
NATHANIEL P. SCHEER  
LAUREN A. SHUMAN  
ASHLEY D. STANTON  
ASHLEY J. THOMAS  
ALMENDRA E. VANNESS  
FELICIA K. WILLIAMS  
SHAWN C. WINKLER  
MATTHEW T. WIRSING  
LISA M. YEATER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

*To be major*

LUCEZAR A. ABBOTT  
RANDALL ABELLA  
CHEYANNE N. ALDRICH  
BRANDEN D. ALEXANDER

AARON A. ALLEN  
JUSTIN L. ANDERSON  
KYLIE W. ANDERSON  
NANAYAW B. APPIAHENE  
JOEY C. ARACENA  
NELSON D. ARCE  
VERONICA J. ARNOLD  
MALCOLM E. ARRINGTON  
MOHAMMAD U. ASHRAF  
ASHLYN N. ASIPAUSKAS  
JUAN E. AVILES JIMENEZ  
DEREK K. AVINA  
JUAN G. AYALA  
JONATHAN T. BANKS  
ANDREW K. BARGER  
JAMES D. BARKER  
ALYCE F. BARON  
DOWARD K. BARRETT  
KHALED BASRAWI  
REBECCA B. BATES  
STEPHEN P. BEERS  
HUNTER D. BEGY  
GAVIN R. BENNER  
COURTNEY E. BENSON  
ROBERT G. BENSON  
MATTHEW A. BERGSTEDT  
ANTHONY S. BETZINA  
JEREMIAH P. BILL  
JOHN C. BIRKENTALL  
SARAH C. BIRO  
ABIGAIL E. BLACK  
STEPHAN J. BLASZAK  
SHARON BLUM  
JAYNA M. BOE  
AUSTIN R. BONDY  
SANTOS D. BONILLA  
STEPHANIE A. BOSSERT  
JOSHUA R. BOWLES  
BRIAN M. BOWSER  
BRETT J. BOZEMAN  
LUKE M. BRADFORD  
JOHN A. BRAUTIGAM  
CHRISTOPHER D. BRAZELTON  
MICHAEL T. BREMER  
BRENT L. BRETZ  
ERIC M. BROOKS  
HUNTER M. BROOKS  
MARLEY B. BROOKS  
JOSEPH P. BROWN  
VANESSA N. BROWN  
KAILA C. BRYANT  
KEVIN S. BURG  
DUSTIN P. BURTON  
MATTHEW S. BURZENSKI  
KYLE A. BUSHEY  
KENT C. BUSSON  
ANTHONY M. BUSTAMANTE  
REBECCA J. BUTLER  
JON R. BYNUM  
IEVA BYTAUBERG  
MICHELLE P. CAFARO  
MICHAEL J. CAHILL  
JESSICA I. CALKINS  
RRIET R. CANTEEN  
CORIE A. CAPALBO  
DANIELA G. CARCHEDI  
EDWIN A. CARDENAS  
ISAAC E. CARLUCCIO  
KENNETH J. CARROLL, JR.  
MATTHEW C. CARTER  
GRANT T. CASWELL  
BRANDON C. CHAMBERLAIN  
GRANT E. CHAMPOUX  
ALISON R. CHAPMAN  
AMANDA E. CHAVEZ  
SAMUEL H. CHAVEZ  
MICHAELA L. CHENAILE  
CURTIS A. CHILDERS  
MATTHEW W. CHRONIGER  
SAMUEL H. CHUNG  
RYAN A. CLARK  
EUGENE B. CLAROS  
JOSHUA S. CLEMENTS  
LINDSEY S. COBB  
ATHIEL ANN A. COLOMA  
ANDRES M. COLOM MORALES  
LEIGHTON C. COLVIN  
JEFFREY S. COMISSO  
ROBERT V. COMPTON  
BRITIAN A. CONLEY  
ALEC M. CONNELLY  
JOSEPH D. CONRAD  
MATTHEW H. COOPER  
JUSTIN L. CORNWELL  
JARRETT A. COVAR  
ALEXANDRA N. CROWE  
SPENCER D. CROWE  
NICOLE D. CRUTCHFIELD  
SAGE A. CUNNINGHAM  
DALLAS D. DALTON  
RYAN C. DAVIS  
DANIEL P. DELANEY  
JOSHUA A. DENTREMONT  
TONEY DOAN  
VI N. DOAN  
MAX A. DOELLING  
STEPHEN D. DONNEL  
RENEE L. DOUGLAS  
MICHAEL W. DREW  
KELLY M. DUALAN  
KEVIN E. DUNLAP  
YMER FULTON P. EBORAS  
RYAN M. ELEY  
ANTHONY ELIJAH  
JOSHUA D. ELLIOTT  
KAITLIN M. ELLWEIN  
NOAH A. EMERSON

DONALD G. ENGWALL, JR.  
HANNAH M. EVERSON  
ALEXANDER M. EVICH  
JOSHUA A. FARRIS  
SEAMUS G. FEELEY  
JAMES A. FERGUSON  
ANNA CHRISTINA L. FERNANDEZ  
BRANDON L. FIDLER  
JOSHUA B. FIELD  
DAVID R. FISHER  
DANIEL P. FITZGERALD  
MEGHAN C. FONG  
GARY B. FOSTER II  
JONAS T. FOSTER  
GREGORY S. FOX  
CHANEL D. FRANKLIN  
JENNIFER FUNG  
JESSE A. FUNIESTAS  
DEEANDRA E. FURTADO-BENNER  
WILLIAM E. GALCO  
JAMES GAN  
JORDAN B. GARCIA  
MICHAEL A. GARCIA MARTINEZ  
SETH H. GARLAND  
BRITTANNEY M. GARNER  
JASMINE B. GATLIN  
MARISSA L. GAYTAN  
GRANT G. GEARY  
ROSHAN GEORGE  
JOYCE GERONIMO  
AARON C. GIDDINGS  
AARON K. GLENN  
KATARINA S. GLOVER  
MAXWELL S. GOEKE  
ASHLEY E. GOETHE  
JAMES G. GOFORTH  
AARON M. GOINS  
MACKENZIE S. GOLKA  
JEFFREY D. GOLSON  
RUBEN D. GOMEZ, JR.  
BRAYDEN N. GOODE  
STEVEN A. GOROM  
KEVIN M. GRAY  
ARMAND J. GREEN  
PRESTON A. GREEN  
BRANDON C. GREMILLION  
TREVOR R. GROVES  
KENNETH P. GUEST  
COURTNEY E. GUNNING  
LAWRENCE L. HALLOCK  
BRANDON S. HAMPTON  
HOSEONG HAN  
STEVEN L. HANAN  
KYLE A. HANEY  
CHRISTINE L. HANSON  
ARIFUL HAQUE  
STACY M. HARGROVE  
BAILEE N. HARNETT  
ADAM B. HARRIS  
MICHAEL H. HASSTRITER  
JAMES A. HATFIELD  
HAROLD HAYES III  
IAN C. HEFFRON  
DANIEL J. HEGAR  
GONZALO HERNANDO  
PHILLIPPE R. HERRIOTT  
NATHANIEL D. HICKS  
FAITH C. HIRSCHMANN  
TRAVIS J. HODOS  
JOSHUA A. HOOD  
REGHAN K. HORMAN  
NICHOLAS R. HORSLEY  
MICHAEL M. HOUSE, JR.  
CARLOS A. HUESCA III  
WO-OTINNAH J. IYEGHA  
KEVIN T. JACKSON  
DANIEL B. JAGODA  
MATTHEW S. JASZAI  
NATHAN J. JOHNSEN  
SARAH J. JOHNSON  
SEAN M. JONES  
TYLER H. JONES  
JONTAS T. JORDAN  
ELIZABETH V. KAFER  
KEYVN L. KALER  
LANCE J. KAPRAL  
CASSANDRA L. KELLY  
MICHAEL A. KELLY  
BETHANY L. KENSER  
FELIX J. KNUTSON  
JOSEPH A. KRAIEM  
MADELINE J. KRFPAN  
CHRISTOPHER S. KUENNEN  
GORDON LAM  
KEVIN L. LARKINS  
NICANOR M. LAUDATO, JR.  
ANDREW P. LAWRENCE  
JADE G. LEE  
STEPHEN M. LEE  
NATHANIEL A. LEVESQUE  
ERICA L. LEWANDOWSKI  
KYLE E. LIGHT  
PAUL W. LINDGREN  
NOAH D. LINDSEY  
RACHEL Y. LO  
JAMES P. LOCKATTELL  
JACQUELINE L. LOCKETT  
DEVON A. LOFTUS  
PETER F. LOFTUS  
CLAYTON A. LOGAN  
DANIEL S. LOGAN  
LISSETTE M. LOUGHLIN  
JESSICA L. LOVE  
BRIAN D. LUBASKY  
DANIELLE D. LUCERO  
AARON E. MACY  
EMILY V. MADISON

ASHLEY L. MAESTAS  
JESSE W. MANCHESTER  
LYNSIE S. MARIUTTO  
JEAN V. MARRERO TORRES  
FLAVIO F. MARROQUIN  
ASHLEY R. MARTY  
HENNING R. MATZ  
LOGAN P. MAUK  
HEATHER M. MCBRIDE  
DUSTIN S. MCCLURE  
TAYLOR J. MCCOLL  
JORDAN J. MCCOOL  
LAINA J. MCCROSKEY  
LINDSEY N. MCEVOY  
DEVAUGHN C. MCGEE  
JOSHUA R. MCINTIRE  
HUNTER E. MCKINNEY  
KATIE R. MCKINNEY  
NATHAN W. MCREYNOLDS  
ELISE K. MCSWAIN  
KATHERINE L. MEARS  
ALEJANDRA MEJIA  
ANDREW G. MESSINA  
RYAN D. MICCIO  
REBECCA L. MICK  
AMANDA E. MIKLE  
KAYLA E. MIKOLAJEWSKI  
ZACKERY J. MILDREY  
ERIC J. MILLER  
KATHERINE R. MILLER  
JOSEPH L. MINTZ  
ROBERT A. MIXON  
JOHN M. MORALES  
VALERIE M. MOSSMAN  
AARON C. MOYER  
KATIE M. MUELLER  
SARAH S. MULLINAX  
ZACHARY S. MUNOZ  
TERRENCE R. MURCHISON  
LESTER M. NAOB  
SEUNG EUN NARM  
JONATHAN R. NATION  
DAVID L. NEWSOME  
JUSTIN NG  
CODY B. NICHOLS  
BENJAMIN E. NICHOLSON  
JOSHUA L. NICHOLSON  
AARON E. NICOSON  
KORBIN T. NIEHAUS  
JEREMIAH D. NIESEN  
MATTHEW R. NIXON  
MATTHEW L. NOLTING  
LAUREN E. NOVAK  
CHRISTOPHER R. OKULEY  
ASHLEY M. OLSON  
JESSE S. OPENA  
RYAN S. PALMER  
JIMYUNG PARK  
ANDREW S. PARKS  
ZACHARY C. PAULSON  
RUBEN M. PEREZ  
BIANCA B. PFISTER  
TIFFANY M. PHAN  
DAVID B. PLACE  
DANIEL J. POMERICO  
RONALD S. PRILLWITZ  
EMILY M. PRIM  
AARON M. PURPUR  
VAUGHN J. PYNE  
JOSHUA J. QUINNETH  
ZHECHO P. RADEVSKI  
KATELYN N. RALPH  
JOHN P. RAMEY CLARK  
ALLISON R. RAMOS  
ELIZABETH N. RAMSEY  
AMY B. RASMUSSEN  
KRISTIAN L. RAY  
DONALD H. RECHKEMMER  
ASHLEY A. REED  
NATASHA A. REED  
ALEX D. RESNICK  
GARY A. RICHARD III  
KEITH C. RICHARDS  
MATTHEW D. RIDDLE  
BRADLEY J. RIEDEL  
JASON M. RIMER  
OSVALDO J. RIVERA SANTOS  
CHRISTOPHER A. ROBERTSON  
TIMOTHY A. ROCHE  
RYAN J. RODRIGUEZ  
JOSE L. RODRIGUEZ PEREZ  
STEPHEN J. ROMANS  
KARA A. RONE  
NICOLLE A. ROOSE  
RYAN B. ROPER  
MICHAEL L. ROSE  
MICHAEL L. ROWE  
GABRIEL C. RUIZ, JR.  
JUSTIN RUSHFORD  
BRANDON R. RUSSELL  
MATTHEW J. RYAN  
SHAWN A. SACHI  
WILLIAM J. SAWYER  
TANNER R. SCHEEL  
JARED A. SCHLAK  
HENRY N. SCHMALTZ  
BARRETT G. SCHROEDER  
STUART M. SCHROEDER  
RYAN J. SCHWARZ  
JOSHUA M. SCIASCIA  
ROBERT C. SCIRE  
MELISSA J. SEIBER  
DANIEL I. SEB  
MICHAEL A. SHECK  
SARA C. SHIVELEY  
STONE E. SHOAF

NATHAN T. SHOWERS  
CODY K. SHULTZ  
KEVIN C. SIMON  
BRYCE A. SIMPKINS  
RYAN C. SMITH  
DEREK I. SNEDDEN  
CODY J. SNYDER  
PHILLIP Z. SONDERMAN  
JEFFREY M. SORENSEN  
KAITLYN L. SPRAGUE  
BROOKE N. STAFFORD  
CURTIS B. STAIB  
JOHN C. STANLEY  
IAN H. STEVENS  
KIRK C. STIERS  
RILEY J. SULLIVAN  
LESLIE G. SWEET JUAREZ  
WILSON TAPIA  
JOSHUA O. TAYLOR  
SETH A. TAYLOR  
BRADY A. TECHEN  
WILLIAM B. THEURER  
LUKE THORNTON  
NIKITA G. THORPE  
SANFORD L. THRELKELD  
CHRISTOPHER H. TINSLEY  
HOLLY C. TOLLEY  
ZACHARY J. TOMASZEWSKI  
BRIAN M. TONEY  
VIET A. TRAN  
TARA M. TRENARY  
BLAKE A. TRENHOLM  
SCARLETT A. TRUJILLO  
CHRISTOPHER M. TRUSNIK  
WILLIAM P. TURNER  
ADAM C. TUTT  
BENJAMIN W. TYSON  
RYAN M. UONITES  
JOHN M. VAN PATTEN  
RYAN E. VANGUILDER  
THERESE A. VANINGER  
LIANA VARGAS  
JEREMY C. VERNON  
TREVOR D. VOGELHUBER  
ERIKA E. VOLINO  
STEPHEN N. WAGNER  
CLAIRE E. WALDO  
JULIUS C. WALKER  
CHRISTOPHER D. WANG  
JARED L. WARD  
BRIAN T. WATSON II  
MATTHEW M. WETMORE  
ALLISON M. WHITLEY  
TAYLOR R. WHITNEY AEGERTER  
SUNRISE J. WICKLUND  
PATRICK W. WIGGERS  
KAYLA R. WIGGIN  
BROOK WILKINSON  
CLARENCE O. WILLIAMS II  
LAVELL D. WILLIAMS  
ROBERT J. WILSON  
WILLIAM F. WILSON  
ARON R. WING  
JAY K. WINSLOW  
ANNA O. WOOD  
CARLEY R. WOODARD  
TRAVIS D. WOODEN  
BRAD D. WORLEY  
CHRISTOPHER M. WOYCHAK  
ALLEN M. WRIGHT  
BRIAN C. YARBROUGH  
THOMAS M. YARBROUGH  
CALEB D. YEE  
MINFEI K. YU  
SARAH E. ZAISER  
ROGER D. ZEHR II  
ALEXANDER B. ZIMA

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT  
TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR  
FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

*To be major*

VICTOR A. ACOSTA  
AUSTIN T. ADAMS  
MITCHEL P. BAUGH  
SARAH C. BECKNER  
DALLAS A. BREWER  
STEPHANIE S. BURGESS  
ROBERT M. BUTLER  
TODD C. CALDWELL  
SAMANTHA A. COOK  
WESLEY D. COONRADT  
TARINA L. CROOK  
RYAN W. DOERF  
TRAVIS M. FARRIS  
BRICE A. FIELDS  
SEAN B. GAVAN  
PRESTON S. GODOY  
GABRIELLA C. GRAHAM  
DANIEL J. HANEL  
ADAM L. HAWK  
SETH E. HIRSCHAUER  
AUSTIN A. HYDE  
TORRE Q. JOHNSON  
RICHARD M. LEMIEUX  
EVAN J. LIST  
MELISSA A. LUCAS  
NICHOLAS P. LUCAS  
JARED D. LYNDE  
CHARLES B. MANNING  
DAVID F. MANSFIELD  
ALEXANDER J. MAYNARD  
JOHN C. MCBRAYNER  
ANTHONY D. MCCOWAN  
ELLEN F. MUNSIL  
GREGORY W. NORDHUES

JOSE M. PACHECO  
BRETT C. PETTY  
CALEB J. PUNG  
BONNIE L. QUEEN  
BELEN QUILLEN  
ZACHARY D. RAAK  
KINSEY R. RICHMOND  
MATTHEW J. ROSA  
ZACHARY T. RUTLEDGE  
AVRIL M. SAMMIS  
JEDEDIAH A. SIMPSON  
QUINN T. SOKOLNICKI  
JASON A. SOLES  
EMMA A. STONEHILL  
CHRISTOPHER R. STRAMEL  
KRISTA L. STURM  
BRITTANY A. TALBOT  
PANIDA THERATHAMPITAK  
TORI R. THORN  
WILLIAM D. YAU

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT  
TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR  
FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

*To be major*

DUSTIN C. ADAMS  
MARLIN C. ANTHONY  
LUISA F. ARNONE  
SAMUEL J. ARNONE  
HEATHER R. BEZOLD  
KATELYN BLACKBURN  
JASMINE A. BRASWELL  
MORGAN L. BREWINGTON  
KRISTINA F. BROWNING  
TIFFANY R. CAMPBELL  
SAMANTHA M. CASTANEN  
ADRIAN M. CAVAZOS  
JONATHAN D. CHIKAMOTO  
AYANA F. CLARK  
JOSHUA S. COFFEY  
JAMES M. CORTEZ  
JEFFREY A. CRITCHLOW  
KATELYN H. DEEDS  
MARK J. DEMAREST  
ANGELA R. FISHER  
IVAN D. FONTALVO  
MCKINLEY M. FRANCIS-ANDERSON  
DEREK M. GRISARD  
CHASE E. HAGGARD  
ARIELLE S. HEALD  
DIANDRA A. HERNDON  
MORGAN L. HERRELL  
SAMUEL J. HILLHOUSE  
KYLE S. HOFFMEISTER  
ELIZABETH M. HOUCK  
ANNIE E. JED  
AUSTIN L. JEFFERSON  
JENAVIEVE A. JOHNSTON  
MISTY M. KERSTETTER  
ERICA J. LAVOY  
NATHANIEL V. LE  
SUSAN S. LEE  
USHANE C. LOCKE  
JONATHAN S. MCCLURG  
ERIC P. MCGOWEN  
AHMED M. MOHAMED  
CATHERINE D. MUMFORD  
RAQUEL L. MUSCIONI  
GEORGE OSTROGORSKY  
JOHN A. PATRIKIS  
GRANT M. PATTISON  
THOMAS D. RAINEY  
KYLE J. RALPH  
MALYA ROBERTSON  
DAVID A. ROGERS  
NICHELLE F. ROHRBACH  
HAWAR S. SABIR  
JAMIE E. SCHIBRET MURDOCK  
RASHID A. SHAKIROV  
RACHEL C. SISTRUNK  
MITCHELL I. SMITHPETER  
OLGA STANFORD  
CORY P. STEPHENSON  
RACHAEL R. SWIAATEK  
ERINIKIA R. SYRING  
LEEZA N. TIRADO  
AUSTIN D. TODD  
ERIC TRUDRUNG  
EILIF R. VANDERKOLK  
RILEY E. VANN  
MADELEINE S. VENTICINQUE  
GARRETT M. WELCH  
DONNELL D. WRIGHT

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT  
TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR  
FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

*To be major*

HAVAL L. AARIF  
NICKLAUS R. ABDOU  
TONY A. ABERNATHY, JR.  
RAMI S. ABUKHATER  
TAYLOR T. ADAIR  
HENRY R. ADAMS  
JACOB W. ADAMS  
MARK A. ADAMS  
RYAN P. ADAMS  
RYAN C. ADAMY  
AMER B. ADHAM  
THOMAS C. AHEARN  
GERALD B. AKIES, JR.  
RYAN C. ALBRECHT  
DUSTIN Q. ALGER  
THOMAS M. ALLEN  
INGA K. ALMQUIST

DANIEL J. ALOTTA  
NAOMI A. ALSTON  
ERIN R. ALTABELLI  
MARK A. ALTABELLI  
BRIAN J. ANDERS  
JACOB H. ANDERSON  
MICHAEL S. ANDERSON  
ZACHARIAH R. ANKIEL  
DRAKE F. ANTHONY  
CODY M. APFEL  
JAVIER T. ARANA  
MARIO A. ARCINIEGAS  
KATELYN R. ARMSTRONG  
JASPER T. ARNEBERG  
GREGORY W. ARNHEIM  
COLIN T. ASBURY  
MICHAEL E. ASCHER  
ROBERT K. ASHCROFT  
ANDREW R. ATEHORTUA  
DENIS R. AURELIUS  
EVAN S. AUTRY  
ARON M. AYCOCK  
BENJAMIN F. AYIVORH  
CAMERON H. BAILEY  
JACOB D. BAILEY  
SAVANNAH L. BAILEY  
ADDISON C. BAKER  
BRANDON J. BAKER  
KATHRYN J. BAKER  
SPENCER K. BALDWIN  
CHARLES H. BALLARD  
NICHOLAS M. BANKS  
MIRANDA J. BAPTY  
SEAN M. BAPTY  
KATHERINE S. BARGER  
ZACKERY R. BARKELL  
COLBY S. BARKER  
ZACHARY T. BARKLEY  
BRANDON A. BARNES  
HENRY A. BARON  
SARA E. BARTLETT  
DAISON L. BATANGAN  
CAROLINE L. BATES  
ISMAIL M. BAUMY  
ANDREW P. BEAL  
DEVIN W. BECKWITH  
FRANK J. BEFAY  
JAMES C. BEIDLEMAN  
MATTHEW M. BEINAR  
NICHOLAS W. BELINSKI  
NATALIE R. BELL  
SPENCER J. BELL  
BRADLEY D. BELVEAL  
MARVIN D. BENGE  
THOMAS G. BENNER  
SAMUEL G. BERGEN  
RICHARD W. BERGERON  
BENJAMIN M. BERGMAN  
SAMUEL A. BERNDT  
MICHAEL S. BERTCH  
JOSHUA A. BEZOLD  
BRYCE T. BIGHAM  
MICHAEL J. BILDNER  
ARYK S. BINGHAM HILL  
RYAN S. BISHOP  
CHAD D. BLACK  
ROBERT A. BLAIR  
RUSSELL B. BLAIR  
LUGHTON J. BLANKENBURG  
SEAN W. BLYE  
BRIAN J. BOCSKOVITS  
NICHOLAS L. BODE  
TAYLOR B. BODIN  
NOAH R. BOEDER  
BRENDAN P. BOHEN  
SERAFINO E. BOHRER-PADAVOS  
AUSTIN J. BOLINGER  
PAUL M. BONDURANT  
JORDAN T. BOONE  
NICHOLAS J. BOONSTRA  
JOSHUA P. BORCHARDT  
BENJAMIN C. BOSWELL  
DANIEL K. BOSWORTH  
DAKOTA D. BOTTMLEE  
AARON M. BOUDREAU  
SETH A. BOULET  
JOSHUA M. BRADLEY  
ANDREW L. BRANCH  
JOSEPH J. BRANNEN  
GRANT G. BRANNON  
KIMBERLY A. BRANNON  
CHRISTOPHER K. BRAUN, JR.  
NATHAN R. BRAUN  
MICHAEL A. BRENN  
ALEX N. BREINDEL  
ERIC J. BREMER  
SEAN P. BRENNAN  
JENNIFER R. BRENTON  
AUSTIN W. BRITT  
VANESSA K. BROADBEAR  
JACOB G. BROOKS  
KENNETH W. BROOKS  
STEPHEN M. BROTHERTON  
AUSTIN M. BROWN  
DANIEL J. BROWN  
JEFFERY W. BROWN  
LUCAS A. BROWN  
TYLER A. BROWN  
THOMAS J. BUCKLEY  
LUKE T. BURGSTALLER  
BRYAN M. BURNS  
JOHN R. BURNS  
PETER P. BURNS  
LANCE R. BURTON  
TIMOTHY D. BUSH  
MICHAEL J. BUTLER

ROBERT C. BUTLER II  
JOHN W. BYNUM  
KYLE A. BYRD  
MICHAEL E. CABELLO  
JACOB T. CABLE  
KEVIN C. CABUSORA  
DANIEL S. CADDIGAN  
CHRISTOPHER J. CAHILL  
ASHLEY M. CALE  
JESSE J. CALICO  
ZEN Z. CALILUNG  
WILLIAM R. CAMP  
JOSEPH P. CAMPBELL  
VAUGHN Q. CAMPBELL  
DAVID R. CANNON  
TROY M. CAPASSO  
MCCLAIN L. CARDOSO  
COLBY M. CARR  
DANIEL A. CARR  
WILLIAM M. CARROLL, JR.  
ZACHARY W. CARTER  
DANIEL M. CARTIN  
AUDREY L. CASE  
KATHERINE M. CASE  
CHRISTIAN P. CASEY  
MICHAEL A. CASTILLEJA  
MELISSA J. CASTRO  
JACOB W. CATLOTH  
ROBERT A. CHADO  
HOWARD C. CHAMBERS  
MARK L. CHANDLER  
ZACHERY G. CHARLTON  
ANDREW R. CHASE  
NOLAN C. CHEAP  
DALTON P. CHOQUETTE  
BANDNA CHOUDHARY  
NATHAN P. CHRISTEL  
JOSEPH L. CHRISTENSEN  
LAUREN E. CHRISTIAN  
MATTHEW R. CLAFFEY  
DOUGLAS K. CLARK  
MICHAEL J. CLAY, JR.  
ANDREW H. CLAYPOOL  
CIARA J. CLAYTON  
KYLE D. CLINE  
KEVIN J. CLINK  
FORREST N. CLUNE  
JANIE K. CLUNE  
CONNOR J. COLAS  
VENEITA L. COLCLOUGH  
JOSHUA D. COLE  
DEREK L. COLEMAN  
ADAM J. COLLAMATI  
LOGAN N. COLLIER  
SHELTON L. COLLIER  
JAMES J. CONLAN, JR.  
THOMAS M. CONNELLY  
AMANDA C. CONNORS  
MACKENZIE T. CONROW  
DENNIS M. COOK  
THOMAS C. COOPER  
PETER W. COOTE  
SHELBY A. COPENHAVER  
MARC C. COREY  
ISAAC B. CORNELL  
PATRICK W. CORONA  
DANIEL P. CORRIERO  
SEAN P. COTHMAN  
SAMUEL T. COUGHLIN  
BRYCE P. COULSON  
DAVID J. COURSON  
DANIEL R. COULTTS  
CALEB W. COVERT  
KELSEY L. COX  
BRANDON M. CRAIN  
TIMOTHY J. CRAIN  
ALEXANDER C. CRANDELL  
CHRISTOPHER L. CRAWFORD  
RUSSELL B. CREGER  
ANNALISA N. CROSMER  
ROBERT O. CRUMPACKER  
TOBY JOHN B. CRUZ  
ELLA Y. CURCIC  
JAMES B. CURLEE  
RILEY D. CURNUTT  
NICHOLAS P. CURREN  
COLTON D. CURRIER  
MARY C. CURTIN  
JOHN CYHANUK  
BRETT A. DADIEGO  
DANIEL C. DAHLBY  
ANDREW DANG  
PAUL A. DANIELSON  
ALYX E. DARGER  
SONYA E. DAVENPORT  
SPENCER R. DAVENPORT  
PETER B. DAVIDSON  
COLTON C. DAVIS  
THOMAS C. DAVIS  
TREG D. DAVIS  
ALEC R. DAWSON  
WILLIAM B. DAY  
PAUL T. DEAN  
NICHOLAS J. DEANGELIS  
JUSTIN R. DEAYER  
CHRISTOPHER R. DEBROY  
KYLE L. DEES  
KYLE K. DELGADO  
CHRISTOPHER A. DELZELL  
RICHARD C. DENESSEUS  
REBEKA R. DENIGAN  
TROY A. DENNIS  
CLAYTON S. DENTON  
JACOB D. DEPLEDGE  
NICHOLAS A. DESILVIA  
JOSEPH C. DETERT  
NEIL P. DEVENDORF

KENNETH J. DI GIOVANNI  
 GABRIEL J. DIAMOND  
 CHRISTIAN A. DIAZ  
 ILAN R. DICKERSON  
 MATTHEW C. DICKINSON  
 NATHANIEL C. DICKMAN  
 CONOR E. DILLON  
 STEPHEN A. DILLON  
 JAMES R. DINGMAN  
 TIMOTHY M. DION  
 JOSHUA T. DOIL  
 BRIAN N. DOKAS  
 RYAN M. DOLL  
 KYLE P. DOMFORT  
 CODY L. DONAHUE  
 NICHOLAS F. DONATO  
 ANA E. DONOHUE  
 STEPHEN L. DOWNS  
 AARON D. DOYLE  
 SAMUEL K. DRAKE  
 ANDREW P. DREES  
 LEAH M. DREHER  
 ALEX H. DRUMMOND  
 HIEP M. DU  
 CODY A. DUGRENIER  
 BENJAMIN E. DUNCAN  
 DALE A. DUNCAN  
 KEENYN S. DUNCAN  
 JOSEPH E. DUNHAM  
 MADELEINE R. DUPREE  
 TRAVIS L. DUTTON  
 CHRISTOPHER M. DYLEWSKI  
 DAVID J. DYREK  
 NICHOLAS G. EASTER  
 KELSEY J. EASTHAM  
 ZACHARY J. EBERL  
 JONATHAN C. EBY  
 CHRISTOPHER J. EDWARDS  
 ISAAC H. ELLIS  
 NICHOLAS C. ELEMES  
 BENJAMIN J. ELLER  
 GARRETT W. ELLIS  
 LANDON T. ELLIS  
 AUSTIN L. ELLWEIN  
 LUCAS R. EMERSON SMITH  
 CAMERON S. EMERSON  
 KATHERINE L. ENGEL  
 JANSON D. ERHARD  
 CARLOS E. ESPASAS PEREZ  
 MARC D. ESPOSITO  
 JOSEPH M. ESSWEIN  
 BRYAN K. EVANS  
 ALEXANDRA T. EVELYN  
 DWYANE A. FACHO  
 TYLER J. FALEY  
 WHITNEY T. FARMER  
 BRANDON P. FARRELL  
 ALEXANDER E. FARROW  
 CHRISTOPHER R. FEDERICI  
 VINCENT P. FEELEY  
 EDWARD L. FEHER  
 RACHAEL A. FERGUSON  
 KYLE W. FERRAL  
 JOHN T. FICK  
 AIMEE K. FIEDLER  
 ELLIS A. FIELD  
 DAVID J. FIELDS  
 DRAKE A. FIGUEROA  
 MATTHEW M. FISCHER  
 JOSHUA R. FISHER  
 TOBEY J. FISHER  
 JOHN P. FLANAGAN  
 TRENT T. FLEENER  
 BROCK M. FLIEGER  
 ALLISON N. FOHR  
 JOHN J. FORCIGONE  
 BRADLEY S. FORRER  
 DAVID J. FORREST  
 RAND B. FOWLER  
 CORY D. FRANCIS  
 DANIEL A. FRANCO  
 GEORGE M. FRANK  
 SCOTT J. FRANKE  
 GREGORY K. FRANKLIN  
 GARRETT C. FRANKSON  
 ANTHONY J. FRANZE  
 KEVIN W. FREDENBURG  
 BRIDGER J. FREEMAN  
 PHILLIP H. FREEMAN  
 PATRICK L. FRENCH  
 DANIEL J. FRESELLA  
 GARRETT H. FRITZSCHE  
 MATTHEW E. FRIZZELL  
 DEREK M. FULMER  
 ARELY E. FULTON  
 ESAU GALINDO  
 MATTHEW C. GANDIA  
 CHAD J. GARCIA  
 RONALD GARCIA  
 NICOLE M. GARDNER  
 KEGAN M. GARNETT  
 JOHN W. GARREARD  
 PHILLIP K. GARRETSON  
 JULIO G. GARZON  
 SARAH K. GAYLORD  
 STEVEN M. GAYLORD  
 DERRIN F. GELSTON  
 BRIAN H. GEORGE  
 CHRISTOPHER W. GERICKE  
 JOSEPH A. GERNER  
 ALEX GHARAKANTIAN  
 KAYLA M. GIBSON  
 TRAVIS T. GIFFEN  
 HANSENA R. GILL  
 JACOB T. GILL  
 HUNTER R. GILLON  
 JOSHUA F. GILMER

PATRICK F. GILWEE  
 SEAN P. GING  
 MADELEINE E. GIRARDOT  
 GRAYSON D. GIST  
 THOMAS R. GLADWIN  
 ABRAHAM PHILIP U. GO  
 JACK T. GOCHENOUR  
 RUSHI N. GOHEL  
 EVAN P. GOLDMAN  
 GARRETT E. GOLDSTONE  
 EDUARDO E. GONCALVES  
 LUIS M. GONZALEZ  
 THOMAS J. GOODIN  
 ANTHONY M. GOODWIN  
 SCOTT M. GORHAM  
 JOSEPH A. GOULD  
 RYAN W. GOULD  
 STEVEN A. GOUR  
 BENJAMIN J. GOUVEIA  
 AUSTIN M. GRAF  
 JONATHAN M. GRAHAM  
 ROBERT O. GRAVES  
 LEWIS S. GRAY  
 BRETT A. GRAZETTI  
 KENT W. GREER  
 ANDREW D. GREGG  
 AUSTIN W. GREGORY  
 ZACHARY J. GRIFFIN  
 CAMERON M. GRIM  
 AHMED J. GROCE  
 WILLIAM D. GROFF  
 JOHN C. GRONDIN  
 JEREMY J. GRUSZKA  
 CODY M. GUILLORY  
 CHRISTOPHER V. GULLO  
 DAVID A. GUPTON  
 CODY A. HAGGIN  
 ZACHARY D. HALL  
 NATHAN L. HALLAM  
 TREVOR H. HALLBERG  
 GRANT A. HAMILTON  
 KAYLA R. HAMILTON  
 ALYSSA R. HAMMER  
 ERIC C. HAMMER  
 TYLER D. HANNAH  
 ALEXANDER R. HANSEN  
 TYLER S. HANSEN  
 DANIEL C. HARDER  
 JOSHUA HARIN  
 JOSHUA P. HAROLD  
 JORDAN T. HARRIOTT  
 DANIEL V. HARRIS  
 KYLE P. HARRIS  
 TREVIN Z. HARRIS  
 JOHN A. HART  
 JONATHAN S. HART  
 ALEXANDRA E. HARTFORD  
 TIMOTHY S. HATTHAWAY  
 STEPHEN M. HAYDOCK  
 BRENT M. HEALEY  
 CONNOR J. HEALY  
 MILES L. HEATER  
 DEVIN A. HEATH  
 HUNTER A. HEATON  
 KEVIN R. HECK  
 JONATHAN D. HEDGER  
 CAMERON D. HEFNER  
 ETHAN D. HEFNER  
 MATTHEW D. HEINRICH  
 NATHANIEL L. HELDRETH  
 DANIEL D. HELM  
 GRANT D. HEMMERGER  
 THOMAS C. HEMMINGS  
 NICKOLAUS W. HENDERSON  
 RYAN K. HENRY  
 JAMES T. HERBERT  
 SUTTON J. HERNANDEZ  
 DAVID J. HERR  
 LACIE E. HESTER  
 KELLY L. HIGHTAIA  
 CHRISTIAN J. HINSON  
 ANTHONY T. HITESHEW  
 NORMAN C. HIOSIS  
 ETHAN L. HODER  
 CARTER Z. HOFFMAN  
 CHRISTOPHER S. HOFFMAN  
 JASON W. HOIST  
 HEATHER F. HOLDEN  
 TAYLOR C. HOLLISTER  
 ZACHARY D. HOLMES  
 JENNIFER A. HOLTHOUSE  
 MATTHEW D. HONEYCUTT  
 ANDREW L. HOOD  
 BEATRICE T. HORNE  
 JOSEPH L. HOUSTON  
 DANIEL H. HOWELL  
 JARED B. HRUBY  
 TYLER A. HUDSON  
 DANIEL J. HUGHES  
 MARCO A. HUGHES  
 NICHOLAS M. HUGHES  
 ONEIL M. HUGHES  
 KALEIGH M. HULETT  
 RICHARD D. HUNNEWELL, JR.  
 SHANNON R. HUNTER  
 MICHAEL A. HYDE  
 JOHN L. IKENBERRY  
 CHRISTOPHER R. INGRAM  
 JOSHUA N. IRVIN  
 DANIEL M. IWATA  
 ANTHONY L. IZELU-DOBBS  
 CORY D. JACKSON  
 STEPHANIE T. JAMEER  
 ANDREW M. JARDETTZKY  
 WILLIAM L. JAUNDALDERIS  
 ADAM J. JAVERY  
 RYAN JAYAWARDENA

STEVEN A. JAYME  
 BENJAMIN D. JEFFERS  
 SAMUEL P. JENSEN  
 NATHANIEL R. JEWELL  
 JASON H. JOHN  
 CASEY J. JOHNSON  
 COLTON T. JOHNSON  
 JACOB J. JOHNSON  
 NICKOLAS B. JOHNSON  
 SPENCER S. JOHNSON  
 JASON M. JONES  
 JOSHUA N. JONES  
 NEIL C. JONES  
 STEPHEN M. JONES  
 JONATHAN R. JORDAN  
 BRADLEY T. JOYAL  
 TIMOTHY J. JUDGE  
 NATHAN J. KACZYNSKI  
 RYAN A. KAHN  
 KRISTOFER R. KAIN  
 NOLEN S. KAJIWARA  
 FEDOR A. KALINKIN  
 BRYAN A. KALLEN  
 ERIC J. KAMINSKI  
 EDWARD C. KAN  
 BASANT R. KANDEL  
 CADE S. KARLBERG  
 BRANDON KAULING  
 REBECCA E. KAUTH  
 ZACHARY A. KAY  
 ANDREW J. KEELER  
 CASEY M. KEILBARTH  
 STEPHEN J. KEISLER  
 LEROY S. KELLER III  
 RYAN J. KELLER  
 MATTHEW D. KELLUM  
 BRETT D. KELLY  
 MICHAEL T. KELVIN  
 ANDREW W. KEMPFFER  
 JEFFREY A. KENDZIOR  
 STEPHEN T. KENT  
 ROBERT L. KEPHART  
 BENJAMIN T. KERN  
 MICHELLE V. KESSELMAN  
 MONICA A. KESTERMANN  
 GIANNA M. KHOUDARY  
 ANDREW S. KIEL  
 CHRISTOPHER M. KIERNAN  
 TIMOTHY J. KIKTA  
 WESLEY C. KILMAIN  
 HEJJOONG KIM  
 JUN H. KIM  
 JOHNNY C. KING  
 CAMERON J. KISTLER  
 PHILIP T. KLETZLI  
 BETH A. KLINGELE  
 JOHN A. KLINNER  
 BRADLEY A. KNOWLES  
 JARED S. KOCH  
 ANDREW A. KOCIS  
 ANDREW J. KOELLER  
 JOHN D. KOLO  
 HANS W. KOLLAR  
 DANIEL A. KOLSOVSKIY  
 AUDREY J. KONG  
 JARED S. KORODOS  
 JOHN U. KORNAHRENS  
 RALPH A. KORPMAN  
 AMBER N. KOSLOSKE  
 MICHAEL A. KOSTICK  
 MATTHEW R. KOTTENSTETTE  
 LEE C. KRAMER  
 RAJEEV K. KRISTIPATI  
 STEVEN A. KUHN  
 JOSEPH KURTZ, JR.  
 REBECCA L. KVEDAR  
 MATTHEW J. KWAWEGEN  
 DANIEL S. KYGER  
 QUINN A. LABOWITCH  
 SCOTT T. LAFFERTY  
 CHRISTIAN M. LHMANN  
 CHARLES C. LAMBERT  
 LUCAS A. LAMBRICHT  
 JASON D. LAMONT  
 COLIN D. LANE  
 TYLER S. LANNOM  
 JESSE A. LANNON  
 JASON O. LAPRE  
 DALLIN M. LARSEN  
 JUSTIN J. LARSON  
 LUCAS E. LARZABAL  
 JOHN C. LASKODI  
 KYLE S. LASSITER  
 WESTLEY J. LATINA  
 CLAIRE A. LATSCHA  
 ANH T. LE  
 ANDREW J. LEACH  
 ALEXANDER P. LEAF  
 LUKE E. LEATHERS  
 SEAN A. LEDFORD  
 TRAVIS J. LEDGER  
 RICHARD L. LEDSON III  
 MALCOM C. LEE  
 CHASE S. LEFTWICH  
 ROBERT LEI  
 MATTHEW J. LENGVEL  
 WILLIAM C. LENOIR  
 JOSEPH J. LESAR  
 KEVIN R. LESLIE  
 TABITHA M. LETOURNEAU  
 TRAVIS J. LETOURNEAU  
 JONATHAN M. LEVEILLE  
 ISAAC M. LEWIS  
 ANTHONY R. LIMRON  
 TRACE B. LIND  
 JASON L. LINDERMAN  
 STEPHANIE M. LINDERMAN



CAMERON D. LINDSEY  
ALEXANDER R. LING  
MIRANDA L. LIVINGSTON  
WILLIAM J. LIVINGSTON  
DANIEL T. LOBATO  
LINDSAY T. LOCKE  
DAVID L. LOCOCO  
JOSEPH E. LOEFFLER  
MICHAEL J. LOH  
CARSON H. LOMAS  
DANIEL T. LOPEZ  
JUAN P. LOPEZ  
AUSTIN T. LOVE  
ROBERT F. LOWERY  
JENNIFER M. LUCAS  
NATHANIEL D. LUNSFORD  
WILLIAM T. LUSK  
BRITTANY N. LYNN  
JOSEPH A. MABBITT  
PATRICK T. MACKINTOSH  
JERIKO I. MAFNAS  
HARRISON J. MAGDEFRAU  
BRIAN K. MAIER  
NICHOLAS J. MAIOLO  
MARCUS J. MALECEK  
RACHEL A. MALLETS  
ZACHARY L. MALLETS  
RONALD P. MALLOY  
BROCK W. MANGUM  
MARK D. MANLEY  
JOSHUA T. MANNIX  
MATHEW G. MANSELL  
NIVRUTH R. MARAMREDDY  
ARTURO A. MARIN, JR.  
TAYLOR A. MARINO  
RUSSELL G. MARKOSKY  
MARCOS S. MARRERO DISLA  
ANDREW J. MARSHALL  
CONNOR L. MARSHALL  
AUSTIN D. MARTIN  
NATHAN E. MARTIN  
MARTIN L. MARTINEZ  
WILLIAM R. MASCHMEYER  
ANDREW J. MASEL  
JONATHAN M. MATHEWS  
JORDAN D. MATTHEWS  
DANA M. MATTTSON  
ANDREW T. MAURER  
DERICK R. MAUSER  
JORDAN R. MAYFIELD  
NATHAN A. MAZUROWSKI  
REID E. MCCALLUM  
WILLIAM F. MCCALEY  
SCOTT A. MCCLELLAND  
KATHERINE T. MCCOLAUGH  
COLTON R. MCCONNELL  
JOSEPH E. MCCORMACK  
CALEB L. MCCULLOUGH  
HOLDEN L. MCDANIEL  
AIDAN F. MCDONALD  
GARRETT P. MCELLIGOTT  
COLBY R. MCGINDLEY  
ANDREW N. MCGINNIS  
ALEX J. MCGRATH  
DYLAN M. MCKEEVER  
SAMUEL T. MCKINLEY  
KANE P. MCMAHUS  
CAMERON M. MCNABB  
AARON C. MCNELLEY  
STEPHEN J. MCNULTY  
MATTHEW A. MEDARA  
JOSEPH C. MEIER  
KEVIN R. MEINERKE  
KENT R. MELENDEZ  
MITCHELL A. MELVILLE  
ERIK W. MENDES  
KRISTOFER D. MERIDETH  
COULTER B. MERRILL  
DONALD I. MESSICK, JR.  
JACK A. MEWHA  
BENJAMIN P. MEYER  
BRETT T. MEYER  
HARRISON L. MEYER  
JONATHAN A. MICHELS  
TYLER D. MICHE  
BRAYDEN R. MICKELSON  
STEVEN J. MIDDLETON  
HANNAH E. MILES  
SHAUN S. MILLAR  
MATTHEW J. MILLER  
SARAH E. MILLER  
TITAN G. MILLER  
ZANE A. MILLS  
JONATHAN C. MIMS  
KEVIN D. MITCHELL  
KONNOR-LAWRENCE K. MODEN  
BROOKS A. MODESITT  
ANDREA M. MOFFETT  
PATRICK D. MOHR  
MICHAEL G. MOLINARI  
TRENTON H. MONAGHAN  
SEBASTIAN E. MONNIN  
JOSEPH N. MOODY  
MICHAEL D. MOOIBROEK  
AARON F. MOORE  
CALEB M. MOORE  
LAWRENCE J. MOORE  
TYLER G. MOORE  
WARREN R. MOORE  
SAMUEL A. MOREHEAD  
TRAVIS W. MORGAN  
CHRISTOPHER R. MOROZ  
ZACHARY T. MORROW  
ANTHONY J. MORSHED  
VERONICA P. MORTHORPE  
ANDREW J. MOSS  
WILLIAM H. MOTT

THEODOSIOS E. MOUMOURIS  
DANIEL J. MUMFORD  
TREVOR L. MUZZY  
JOSH D. MYERS  
JOHN J. NAGINIS  
KEN S. NAKANISHI  
RYAN K. NALUAI  
KATHERINE G. NASH  
MATTHEW J. NEDOLAST  
MARIKA N. NEMETH  
KINSEY D. NEWKIRK  
ANDY NGUYEN  
LAUREN A. NICHOLS  
MARY S. NICKLAS  
KARL T. NICOLAY  
BRETT A. NIEMANTSVERDRIET  
JUSTIN S. NIQUETTE  
NATCHANIN NIYOMLAP  
JUSTIN T. NORMAN  
LAURA D. NORTON  
ANDREW B. NOVAK  
NICHOLAS NUNEZ DE VILLAVICENCIO  
KATHERINE E. NUNN  
CAMERON M. O'CONNELL  
SHANE K. O'CONNELL  
TIMOTHY F. O'CONNOR, JR.  
AMANDA M. OLGUIN  
TYLER J. OLSON  
ASHLEY N. ONEILL  
CAITLYN M. ONEILL  
AMBER M. OOSTENBURG  
DAVID N. ORTIZ  
NIKOLE L. ORTIZ  
CARSON W. ORWIG  
PATRICK J. O'SHEA  
SEAN R. O'SHEA  
ALEXANDER F. PACHECO  
MICHAEL J. PADILLA  
ROBERT D. PADRON, JR.  
KEVIN W. PAGE  
JOSE R. PAIZ LARRAVE  
ZACHARY T. PALISCH  
NICHOLE L. PALYOK  
DAVID I. PANCAKE  
BRYAN J. PARK  
SABIN PARK  
BRIAN A. PARKER  
CEDRIC J. PARKER  
ELI V. PARSCH  
DANIEL PARSONS  
PATRICIA A. PASQUE  
EVAN D. PATTORAY  
RYAN P. PATTMAN  
CORTNEY E. PAULDING  
BRIANNA N. PAUSER  
MATTHEW A. PAUTZ  
SAM B. PEARCE  
CARL T. PEEBLES  
ZACHARY A. PELKY  
DEVIN R. PELLETIER  
TYLER G. PELLOQUIN  
BENJAMIN D. PENNA  
DANIEL S. PENIX  
TIMOTHY J. PEREIRA  
TAYLOR W. PERKINS  
DALTON R. PERRY  
ISABELLE I. PERRY  
DANIEL C. PESICH  
ERIC R. PETERSON  
HIEU A. PHAM  
ANDREW D. PHILLIPS  
KASON J. PIPER  
COREY M. PINSONNEAULT  
GREGORY K. PIZZHECK  
CALEB D. POLACHEK  
ANDREW P. POPE  
KEVIN J. PORATH  
NICHOLAS J. PORCELLI  
MICHAEL J. POTTS  
JEFFREY C. POWELL  
ANTHONY S. PRESUTTI  
WILLIAM R. PRICE  
MICHAEL N. PROULX  
JACOB S. PRUCKNER  
TIMOTHY H. QUESADA  
MATTHEW J. QUILLLEN  
BRIAN D. QUINTANILLA  
KYLE W. RAGAY  
JOSHUA A. RAINES  
CRISTIAN K. RAMASAR  
EDUARDO J. RAMIREZ  
JENNIFER R. RAMIREZ  
BRANDON C. RAMSBY  
IAN J. RAMSEY  
NICHOLAS D. RAMUNDA  
KYLE T. RANDALL  
ETHAN D. RASMUSSEN  
ANNA M. RAYMOND  
JORDAN P. READ  
BRIAN P. REAL  
FRANCIS J. RECHNER III  
BRIAN T. REED  
BRANDON T. REESE  
ERIC A. REESE  
HAKHEEM E. REGIS  
QADEER REHMAN  
HEATH G. REICHENBACH  
CLAYTON D. REID  
BRADLEY S. REIMERS  
NICHOLAS R. REISCH  
MATTHEW C. REISER  
KENNETH A. REYES LORING  
ALEX D. REYNOLDS  
DUNCAN W. RICHARDS  
ROBERT H. RICHARDSON  
TYLER C. RICO  
DAVID D. RIDDLE

SARAH J. RIGGS  
SHANE M. RILEY  
NOLAN J. RIPPPE  
PAUL V. RITSCHARD  
ALBERTO C. RIVERA SANTANA  
PETER J. ROACH  
ANTHONY P. ROBBINS  
MATTHEW N. ROBBINS  
BLAIR A. ROBERTS  
CHRISTOPHER M. ROBERTS  
ZACHARY T. ROBINETTE  
DANIEL Z. ROBINSON  
BRIANA N. ROCHA  
CRISTIAN A. RODRIGUEZ  
DUSTIN J. ROEMER  
CONNOR L. ROGERS  
JORDAN L. ROGERS  
AUSTIN T. ROHRER  
DAYLON C. ROITSCH  
AKIL I. ROMANY  
JOSHUA A. ROMERO  
DANIEL B. RONDEZ  
STEPHEN H. ROSE  
ANDREW C. ROSENTHAL  
ASHLEY M. ROSS  
CARMELA M. ROURKE  
JOHN T. ROWAN  
KASSANDRA J. ROWAN  
COLIN J. RUANE  
ANDREW J. RUECHEL  
ANDREW M. RUGGIERO  
JOHN H. RUPPRECHT  
KYLE D. RUSSELL  
JACOB W. RYAN  
AMANDA P. RYCHTANER  
MATTHEW A. RYDER  
SAMUEL K. SABIN  
TAYLAR M. SABIN  
PHATCHARA SAENGNETSIRIPHAN  
JAMES H. SALEM  
RANDALL W. SALTER  
JASON A. SANCHEZ  
ANTHONY R. SAPELLI  
NICHOLAS A. SCARPELLI  
JORDAN A. SCHAFFER  
FORREST J. SCHAFFER  
NATHAN T. SCHEMMEL  
NATHAN J. SCHMEDAKE  
TREVOR J. SCHMIDT  
JOSHUA J. SCHOTTTELKOTTE  
CHRISTIAN P. SCHOMBURG  
PAUL A. SCHONE  
THOMAS J. SCHROEDER  
MILES R. SCHULER  
ANNAMARIE T. SCHUMACHER  
JACOB L. SCHUSTER  
KYLE R. SCHUSTER  
TYLER R. SCHWEIGHART  
ELSBETH K. SCOTT  
PHOENIX D. SCRIMSHAW  
GREGORY F. SEARCH  
ROBERT B. SELLERS  
KENNETH J. SEMON  
ERIC L. SEVERIC  
MARY C. SHANLEY  
JACOB A. SHAPIRO  
TAMMY A. SHARBEL  
BRIAN K. SHAW  
DANIEL F. SHAW  
CECILLA SHELLEY  
DANIEL G. SHELLHOUSE  
TIMOTHY J. SHENK  
TEREMY D. SHIMANEK  
CLARE A. SHIPPEE  
STEELE M. SHOAF  
MARGARET L. SIEMBIDA  
JOHN B. SILVI  
MURPHY M. SIMERSON  
MAXIM A. SIMMONS  
NATHAN J. SINGER  
NICHOLAS D. SIND  
SCOTT E. SIVARD  
MALCOLM X. SKINNER  
TIMOTHY M. SMEDDAL  
ADAM M. SMITH  
ANDREW R. SMITH  
AUSTIN T. SMITH  
DAMEON A. SMITH  
DYLAN K. SMITH  
GALIN W. SMITH  
MICHAEL R. SMITH  
NATHAN L. SMITH  
NATHANIEL Z. SMITH  
PETER A. SMITH  
DONALD W. SNEDKER  
COLTER G. SNOWBARGER  
RILEY B. SNYDER  
FRANCISCO SOLANO BLOODWORTH  
JOSEPH E. SOLIS  
JONATHAN L. SOLLENDER II  
PAUL J. SOLOMON  
NOAH D. SONDAG  
JULIO A. SOSTRE PEREZ  
JOSE A. SOTO  
KENNETH C. SPARAN II  
TYLER J. SPENCE  
CAMERON J. SPERRY  
MATTHEW P. SPRAGUE  
ELI Q. SPRING  
AUDREY E. SPRINGER  
KRISTA D. ST JOHN  
MARCIAL A. ST JOHN  
VINCENT T. STACK  
COREY A. STADER  
BENJAMIN N. STALLMANN  
NICHOLAS R. STARCEVICH  
JOHN P. STARK

RICHARD J. STATES  
 BERNARD J. STEVE  
 BRADLEY A. STEWART  
 KAROLINA N. STIVERS  
 JOSHUA A. STOECKMANN  
 BLAKE G. STOKES  
 AARON C. STOLZE  
 KYLE M. STORAKO  
 ZACHARY T. STRENG  
 COLIN P. STRICKLAND  
 CHRISTOPHER M. STRONG  
 AUSTIN R. STYPA  
 CHAD N. SUFFICOOL  
 CHARLENE B. SUFFICOOL  
 DANIEL E. SULLIVAN  
 SHANNON M. SULLIVAN  
 ANDREW B. SULTAN  
 VLADIMIR M. SWETLITSCHNYJ  
 ALLYSON N. SWIFT  
 JESSICA V. SZELIGA  
 NATHANAEI J. SZUCH  
 THOMAS G. TAKAO  
 DANIEL J. TANNER  
 JENNA L. TASIC  
 JACOB A. TATE  
 MICHAEL D. TAUCHER, JR.  
 DAVID A. TAYLOR  
 IAN W. TAYLOR  
 KIMBERLY E. TAYLOR  
 MATTHEW J. TAYLOR  
 JORDAN A. TENCATI  
 JOHN P. TERRAGNOLI  
 MATTHEW C. TERRELL  
 ASHLEY L. THAXTON  
 JAMES J. THAYER  
 PATRICK J. THIBODEAUX  
 QUINTON A. THIELE  
 DANIEL J. THOMAS  
 DAVID W. THOMAS  
 KEVAN P. THOMAS  
 MICHAEL L. THOMAS, JR.  
 ROBERT K. THOMAS  
 SEAN K. THOMAS  
 SEBASTIAN S. THOMAS  
 WILLIAM C. THOMAS  
 HAYDEN T. THULL  
 NATHANIEL K. TICHENOR  
 WARREN W. TICHENOR II  
 DARREN C. TIDWELL  
 GUY S. TODARO III  
 BRIAN L. TOLLE  
 CALEB K. TOLLEY  
 JOSEPH A. TOMASSI  
 HEATHER M. TOOTH  
 ANTHONY J. TORRES  
 LUIS R. TORRES  
 JOHN P. TOUGAS, JR.  
 CHRISTOPHER D. TOWNS  
 LUKE A. TOWNSEND  
 TIMOTHY S. TRAMMELL  
 NICHOLAS F. TRAVERSO  
 GARRETT A. TREASTO  
 DANIEL A. TRENTLAKE  
 DOMENIC D. TROILLO  
 STEVEN L. TROJAN  
 CRUZ A. TRUJILLO  
 MORGAN B. TUCKER  
 KYLE J. TUOHY  
 ZACHARY H. TURK  
 CHRISTOPHER C. TURNER  
 JACOB C. TURNER  
 CHAD C. TURNERY  
 COLLIN H. TUTHILL  
 MADELINE M. ULLOA  
 MAXIMILIAN J. UMLAND  
 ALAN J. VAILLENCOURT  
 MELLAINE L. VALENTIN  
 DOMINIC A. VALLEJO  
 TAYLOR VANDER MEULEN  
 MATTHEW R. VANINGER  
 STEVEN T. VARNADORE  
 JOHN M. VAUGHAN  
 IRVIN A. VAZQUEZ CALDERON  
 CAMERON M. VEAL  
 KIMBERLY M. VEAL  
 GAUTAM VENKATARAMAN  
 DMITRY G. VENUS  
 IAN M. VERNON  
 STEFAN P. VETTERS  
 PATRICK VIAU  
 EMILY R. VILA  
 AMANDA M. VILLEGAS  
 DEREK C. VINCENT  
 SAMUEL P. VINCENT  
 NATHANIEL K. VOLK  
 RYAN R. VOUTOUR  
 EVAN F. WADE  
 EMILY A. WAGEMAKER  
 ADAM J. WAGNER  
 RYAN P. WAHL  
 MATTHEW P. WALDMAN  
 CHRISTOPHER J. WALDRON  
 CHARLES T. WALET IV  
 AUSTIN T. WALLACE  
 PHILLIP R. WARREN  
 DALE D. WARFIELD  
 ALEXANDER R. WARREN  
 WILLIAM H. WARICK  
 SAMUEL E. WASBERG  
 GRANT T. WADSEN  
 WILLIAM C. WATERS  
 SCOTT M. WAWRZYNAK  
 FORREST K. WEAVER  
 ZACHARY M. WEAVER  
 KIMBERLY N. WEBB  
 SHAWN M. WEBSTER  
 KONRAD WEHRMEISTER

JOHANNES C. WEINBERG  
 TIMOTHY A. WELKNER  
 MICHAEL R. WELLES, JR.  
 ALEXANDER J. WELLS  
 ARIEL L. WELTON  
 ABBIE L. WENDELKEN  
 ERIC J. WERMUTH  
 DAVID A. WETMORE  
 CRAIG M. WHEELER  
 KORY R. WHEELER  
 LEVI E. WHIPPLE  
 CONNOR J. WHITE  
 JONATHAN T. WHITE  
 KOLTON D. WHITE  
 MARCUS D. WHITE  
 STACI M. WILDE  
 FRANCIS C. WILDERMUTH, JR.  
 KAMRYN D. WILLIAMS  
 JUSTIN A. WILLIAMSON  
 ZAID WILLIAMSON  
 MITCHELL R. WILLIS  
 MATTHEW J. WILMOT  
 BRANDEN M. WILSON  
 TIMOTHY WILSON  
 ELIZABETH A. WOJT  
 COSTIN D. WOLT  
 ABBEY C. WOLTERS  
 KEVIN D. WOLTERS  
 JARROD M. WOODEN  
 ISRAEL WOODMANCY  
 RICHARD A. WOODRUFF  
 KALEB E. WORL  
 CHRISTOPHER M. WORLEY  
 JONATHAN D. WRIGHT  
 WILLIAM H. WRIGHT  
 JACOB R. WULFSON  
 EVAN C. YANAGIHARA  
 CONNOR T. YANCY  
 ANDREW N. YANE  
 DAVID S. YELTON  
 JACOB A. YOUNG  
 PAUL A. YOUNG  
 CHRISTOPHER M. YSLAS  
 ZACHARY T. ZALOMSKI  
 NATHANAEI R. ZILLWEGER  
 THOMAS P. ZOGAL

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT  
 TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR  
 FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

*To be major*

JOEY A. ABELON, JR.  
 NICOLAS ADDINGTON RAMOSECHANDI  
 AIGERIM T. AKHMETOVA  
 CHRISTOPHER T. ALBERT  
 JOHN M. ALLEMAN  
 RYAN S. ALLEN  
 SCOTT E. ALLOWAY  
 RAZA ALYAS  
 TROY R. ANDERSON  
 PORFIRIO F. ARAGON  
 ELI A. ARMSTRONG  
 TREVOR J. ARNOLD  
 KARSON GABRIEL C. ARTERO  
 CYNTHIA R. ARZOLA  
 TATE A. ASHTON  
 SHAWN R. AVERY  
 DESMOND K. AWADZI  
 ASHLEY N. BACON  
 JOSHUA D. BAIRD  
 KALON L. BAKER  
 WILLIAM M. BAKER  
 CHRISTOPHER M. BALDENEGRO  
 ALEXANDER J. BALDWIN  
 ALEXIS M. BARFIELD  
 QUANISHA N. BARKLEY  
 KENNETH G. BAUTISTA  
 SCOTT R. BEAN  
 GEOFFREY S. BENDER  
 TODD A. BENSON  
 ERIC BENTUM  
 JACOB D. BERGGREN  
 BRETT A. BETTIT  
 JACOB D. BIERSCHBACH  
 COLIN E. BIERY  
 ERICK R. BITZ  
 JAMES T. BLANKENSHIP  
 JENNIFER C. BLANTON  
 KEVIN L. BOGAN  
 DUSTIN M. BORDELON  
 JULIA F. BORS  
 DUNCAN F. BOWMAN  
 ROBERT S. BRINKERHOFF  
 ERIC T. BRITTAIN  
 DANIEL A. BROWITT  
 CAMERON D. BROWN  
 TYLER J. BRUNJES  
 ANDREA M. BUCHER  
 GREGORY D. BUFORD, JR.  
 JOHN C. BURDICK  
 KITIBHAK B. BUSHYAKANIST  
 DANIEL A. BUTCHER  
 JESSICA A. CANADA  
 CORY M. CASH  
 BRITTANY R. CASTONGUAY  
 CHARLES E. CATUNCAL  
 JOSHUA M. CHAMBERS  
 TIMOTHY R. CHLASTA  
 AARON M. CHURCH  
 BRANDON A. CLARK  
 AARON J. CLINTON-EARL  
 JAMES E. CONNELL  
 MATTHEW D. CORNMAN  
 JASON C. COURTOY  
 JOSHUA A. CRAMER  
 MARK J. CREEL

SIMON CURIEL  
 JENNIFER D. CUTLER  
 AMANDA J. CYPHERS  
 CARLO S. DAMATO  
 EMILY K. DAY  
 CHRISTINE G. DE JESUS  
 TYLER P. DELANEY  
 ALEXANDER S. DIALS  
 ASHELYN M. DIAZ  
 ANDREW J. DIEFENBACH  
 ALEC L. DINH  
 RYANN A. DOMINICIS  
 KRYSTAL L. DOSS  
 AUSTIN G. DRAKE  
 SPENCER L. DRAWS  
 BENJAMIN M. DUCKEN  
 AUSTIN C. DUNCAN  
 MICHAEL E. DVARECKAS, JR.  
 JONATHAN C. EDWARDS  
 DESTINEE D. ELLIOTT  
 TRAVIS S. ELLISON  
 MICHAEL R. EMBRY  
 MANUEL V. FAJARDO  
 DEREK M. FORTE  
 RACHAEL M. FOSCO  
 JACOB A. FRANKIE  
 WAYNE A. FULTZ  
 DYLAN A. GAGNON  
 IOAN A. GAITAN  
 JOE F. GARCIA  
 MANUEL A. GARCIA  
 CHARLES W. GIFFIN  
 YOARMERBY GOMEZ  
 MARSH M. GREENE  
 CHRISTINA D. HALL  
 JAMES N. HAMMONS  
 CHELSEA R. HAZEN  
 STEVEN C. HEDGEPEETH  
 KYLE H. HENDRA  
 BRIENNA N. HERDRICH  
 GORGE L. HERNANDEZ RODRIGUEZ  
 JAMES M. HERZOG  
 RICHARD J. HICKS  
 JARED I. HINES  
 MATTHEW J. HOFFMAN  
 HANNAH E. HOOD  
 ISAAC J. HOOD  
 JOHN W. HOWARD  
 KAITLYN E. HOWARD  
 TOYRE L. HUDSON  
 ROBERT W. HUEBEL IV  
 BENJAMIN D. HUFFMAN  
 JAMES T. HUGHES  
 SAMUEL E. HUNT  
 SYLVONIA N. IRVIN  
 MATTHEW C. JACOBS  
 ZACHARIAH K. JACQUES  
 JANELLE M. JAMES  
 TIMOTHY S. JAMES  
 RYAN N. JANUSICK  
 ANDREW C. JOHNSON  
 DAVID E. JOHNSON  
 ERIC J. JOHNSON  
 PEIGHTON E. JOHNSON  
 MEGAN A. JULIANO  
 ABBY G. KEPPER  
 JOHN F. KEISLING, JR.  
 EMMONNA N. KELLY  
 FOREST T. KERSTETTER  
 CHRISTOPHER S. KIM  
 MIN W. KIM  
 ATISHA J. KING  
 DAVID K. KIRKLAND  
 KAYLEE KOSKA  
 MICHAEL D. KRAFF  
 ARMANDO B. KRAYNICK  
 TYLER J. KRPAK  
 ANDREA J. KUCK  
 RUSTY L. KUERTZ  
 JANSON L. LACKMAN  
 DAVID C. LANE  
 CARA J. LEAF  
 PRISCILLA M. LEDESMA  
 TERRY LEE, JR.  
 CHRISTIAN LEON  
 MAX S. LIPELES  
 JAMES W. LLOYD  
 DANIEL A. LONG  
 MATTHEW D. LOY  
 ERICA J. LUKE  
 STEVEN R. LUNA  
 LAURA J. LUPO  
 ALEXIS G. LUTHER  
 JAMES C. MAGAZZINO  
 PATRICK A. MANUEL  
 FRIEDRICH H. MARTIN  
 STEVEN W. MARTIN  
 MICHAEL C. MASTALSKI  
 MARY W. MCELWEE  
 GAVIN R. MCHENRY  
 SUSAN E. MCLEOD  
 SHERRY L. MEADOWS  
 KALYNN T. MENDEZ  
 AZEEM M. MERCHANT  
 PATRICK E. MICHAEL  
 NIXIE A. MISTRI  
 BRIAN M. MISURACA  
 WILLIAM C. MITCHELL  
 ZACHARY T. MOER  
 DANIELLE N. MOHR  
 ANNABELLE G. MORITA  
 DEREK A. MUELLE  
 COLLEEN E. MURPHY  
 BRIAN R. MUSSER  
 BRYCE R. MUZZY  
 MITCHEAL R. NAIRN  
 ROSS C. NELSON

STEVEN A. NEPRUD  
PHILLIP Q. NGUYEN  
ANDREW W. ONDERICK  
BRITTANY A. OXLEY  
SUZANNA J. PALMER  
ROBERT J. PARATI  
SUN PARK  
SAMUEL J. PARKER  
MICHAEL PARKJUNG  
JASON D. PASSARELLA  
CASEY P. PELOQUIN  
JOSE A. PEREZ RODRIGUEZ  
HECTOR D. PEREZRAMOS  
DANA R. PERODEAU  
STEVEN D. PIECZYNSKI  
CARLA D. PLUMMER  
JOHN D. POLLOCK  
JACOB A. POND  
ALEXANDER C. POULOS  
JENNIFER E. PUVOGEL  
AUSTIN P. RAINS  
ROLLIN H. READ  
JOSHUA N. REESE  
SCOTT A. REILLY  
RICHARD A. REMETA III  
SEVERINO S. REYES IV  
MAYGAN L. RHODES  
JOSHUA A. RICHARD  
JAMIE N. ROBERIE  
DAVID N. ROBINSON II  
STEVEN R. I. ROBINSON  
KYLE J. RODRIGUEZ  
AUSTIN K. ROHLMAN  
JESSICA F. ROHRIG  
TIMOTHY A. RUSCIO  
ADAM T. SACCHETTI  
RYAN P. SAMOLEWSKI  
MICHAEL T. SANDERS  
DANA E. SANELLI  
ANTONIO S. SANTIAGO  
RICHARD C. SCHNEIDER  
CAMDEN K. SCOGGIN  
DANIELLE E. SEASE  
MATTHEW H. SEELY  
MARK A. SEXTON  
BLAKE S. SHAUL  
ALEXANDER R. SIANGPIPOP  
AMY E. SILVERBUSH  
RICKY W. SIZEMORE  
GARRET W. SMITH  
JACOB R. SPILLER  
JOSEPH P. SPLETZER  
LUKE A. STANGL  
JOSEPHIN S. STARRETT  
CAROLINE STEWARD  
EMILY M. STITH  
JESSE A. STOKES  
OWEN J. STRICKLAND  
OLIVIA M. STROM  
SUNG W. SUH  
EMILY A. SULLIVAN  
TYLER K. SULLIVAN  
SCOTT H. SULTEMEIER  
RYAN MARK D. TAGATAC  
SHANNA L. TENNEY  
JAMES J. THOMAS  
HANNAH C. TORDOFF  
LUIS D. TORRES  
RICHMOND S. TOY  
THINH Q. TRAN  
ODIS L. TUCCI, JR.  
D'ANGELO M. TURNER  
JANET L. ULSH  
ANDREW J. VANHOLLAND  
DEREK A. WAHL  
KEVIN A. WARD  
ANTONIO G. WATKINS  
JESSICA R. WEBB  
KEVIN T. WHITEHEAD  
CHRISTOPHER D. WHITEHORN  
CARLY J. WILLS  
KEITH D. WILSON  
MICAH D. WILSON  
ALYSE M. WINTON  
NATALEE R. WINTON  
NATHAN G. WUNZ  
RYAN N. YEARGIN  
LOUIS J. ZIB III

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT  
TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR  
FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

*To be major*

CRISTIAN AGREDO  
DEREK M. ALLISON  
JACOB P. ANTHONY FISCHER  
BRIAN J. AUSTIN

ABD ALMALEK O. AWAD  
MICHAEL J. BAMBARGER  
CHRIS H. BANG  
LAYNE C. BARRETT  
MITCHELL A. BARTLETT  
TIMOTHY J. BATE  
ANDREW J. BAXLEY  
COURTNIE M. BAXLEY  
ADAM L. BAXTER  
MICHELLE L. BERNARD  
KAITLIN R. BERNER  
BRIAN D. BILBO  
ADAM J. BILYEU  
JOCELYN E. BLY  
PATRICK W. BOSS  
RYAN T. BOUDREAUX  
CHARLES J. BOYD III  
JAMEE M. BOYER  
MICHAEL K. BRANNON  
JARVIS D. BROWN  
DEREK E. BUCKLEY  
WILLIAM R. BUMGARDNER  
KAITLYN L. BUTLER  
JINHEE F. BYUN  
ANGELEA L. CAMPBELL  
PHILIP M. CASTILLO  
XIAO YONG N. CHEONG  
JEFFREY W. CHRISTENSEN  
SEAN P. CONWAY  
CHRISTOPHER B. COOK  
PATRICK W. CORNWELL  
JACOB A. DAHLKE  
SHANNON R. DAILY  
BILLIE V. DELUCA  
KEVIN J. DEMARCO, JR.  
DEREK N. DENNIS  
NICOLE M. DIETZ  
SAMANTHA S. DOERFLER  
DAVID R. DONZE  
DAVID W. DURHAM  
THOMAS H. EASTWICK  
MATTHEW D. EILERTSON  
THOMAS L. ENLOE  
DAVID J. FEIBUS  
OLIVIA M. FELDPAUSCH  
LAJAMIE T. FERGUSON  
CHRISTOPHER L. FERNANDEZ  
SEAN M. FESCHAK  
BENJAMIN P. FINGERLE  
MATTHEW G. FOX  
SAMUEL S. FRENCH  
KYLE M. GAPINSKI  
ENRIQUE E. GARCIA  
PATRICK D. GARRETT  
TIMOTHY E. GATLIN  
BRIAN M. GATZKE  
JAMES B. GEGENHEIMER  
MARK L. GHIGLIOTTI  
THOMAS R. GLENN  
DYLAN W. GNOJEK  
DEVIN A. GONZALES WILLIAMS  
IAN R. GOODBODY  
IAN W. GOULET  
BRENNAN J. GRAVES  
MARC B. GREEN  
JESSE A. GREGOIRE  
RYAN J. GRIMES  
TYLER E. HAND  
SIMEON R. HANKS  
RIOSHAUNE' O. HARRIS  
TIFFANY A. HATCHER  
FRANKLIN R. HAYDEN  
ANDREW J. HENDERSON  
STEPHEN M. HOCKING  
APRIL J. HOELZER  
RICHARD F. HOLLOWAY  
JOHN M. HOOK  
JEREMY B. HOOVER  
ASHLEY M. HOUSER  
RILEY HUFF  
VICTORIA A. HUTZLEY  
NATHAN O. JACKSON  
MATTHEW D. JENSEN  
AVALISA M. JONES  
KEITH R. JONES, JR.  
ROBERT A. JONES  
DANIEL C. KEEL  
RYAN M. KEENEY  
JOSHUA A. KEY  
JESSICA A. KING  
DAMON O. KIRKPATRICK  
MARCUS B. KOSKOSKY  
CALEB D. KROLAK  
JOHN A. KROLOW  
BEVERLY C. LAY  
CELINE M. LEDESMA  
RYAN P. LEWIS

MITCHELL R. LICHTENWALD  
JOSEPH B. LOCKLAR  
JEFFREY M. LOWDER  
NICHOLAS J. MARCO  
TYLER S. MARTIN  
SEAN T. MCCANNA  
JESSICA L. MCCOOL  
NICHOLAS M. MCCOY  
CALEB M. MCGRAY  
CAITLYN R. MCINTYRE  
KURT L. MEIER  
CALEB A. MILD  
JUSTIN R. MILLER  
PHYLLIS K. MORGAN  
LOREN E. MYERS  
ROBERT J. OLESEN  
EVAN P. OREN  
CHRISTOPHER R. PALMER  
ISAAC R. PARKER  
BILL T. PENAMERIA  
SEELEY M. PENTECOST  
RICHARD D. PETERSON  
NIKO A. PETROCELLI  
JOHN M. PHINNEY  
CONNOR M. PIPAN  
KAITLIN T. POOLE  
CHRISTIAN T. POTTS  
GIDEON D. POWERS  
ALEXANDER C. PUMERANTZ  
MINH K. QUAN  
BALRAM RAMDATT  
TAYLOR M. REMSING  
PATRICK S. RICHARDS  
STEPHANIE L. ROBINSON  
CHARLES W. ROCKETT  
RICHARD RODRIGUEZ MARQUEZ  
ALEKSANDER A. ROMICH  
DAVID P. SARDO  
BRITTNEY N. SIMPSON  
DYLAN T. SLIZEWSKI  
PRESTON K. SPAULDING  
TIMOTHY L. SPEAR  
LUKE M. STEINBERG  
MALIA L. STEPHENS  
ELIZABETH C. STERCHELE  
DANIEL L. STONE  
CHELSEY M. STURTEVANT  
JONATHAN L. SUMERLIN  
RYAN M. SYPHER  
RYAN M. TAYLOR  
ANTHONY X. THOMPSON  
EVAN W. THREKELD  
RYAN M. TORRES  
JASMINE C. TOYE  
EMILY M. TRITSCHLER  
SAMUEL O. VONNEDERHAUSERN  
CHRISTOPHER R. WADDINGTON  
KAYLENE E. WALL  
BRADY C. WEAVER  
KEITH E. WELLS  
LELAND S. WHIPKEY  
ADAM J. WILKINS  
EIEN Q. WILLIAMS  
MARK J. WILLIFORD  
JAMES R. WINTON  
JOSHUA T. WINTON  
DEREK W. YARKE  
BRENT J. YOUNG  
JENA M. ZANDER

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT  
TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY  
MEDICAL CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 531  
AND 7064:

*To be major*

BRENT T. BUBANY

CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by  
the Senate May 19, 2025:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

CHARLES KUSHNER, OF NEW YORK, TO BE AMBAS-  
SADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF  
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE FRENCH RE-  
PUBLIC, AND TO SERVE CONCURRENTLY AND WITHOUT  
ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION AS AMBASSADOR EX-  
TRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED  
STATES OF AMERICA TO THE PRINCIPALITY OF MONACO.

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

## APPRECIATING JAKE MOORE

**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 19, 2025*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, South Carolina, this week, will recognize the newest recipient of the Order of the Palmetto, extraordinarily proven Community Visionary Jake Moore, awarded by Governor Henry McMaster.

S. Jahue "Jake" Moore was born September 8, 1951. His family is from near Lake City, South Carolina, though he grew up in Charlotte, North Carolina. Jake was raised in humble circumstances but received a gift through which he was able to attend Presbyterian College in Clinton, South Carolina, where he graduated in 1973.

Jake was then admitted to the University of South Carolina School of Law where he graduated with a Juris Doctorate in 1976.

While studying at the USC School of Law, Jake worked as a law clerk for the firm Kirkland, Taylor, and Wilson in West Columbia—hired by JOE WILSON who co-signed a bank note for him to upgrade his wardrobe for professionalism. In the next generation, Jake hired my son Alan, as a law firm runner leading to Alan being elected the youngest state Attorney General in America in 2010.

When he graduated, he was employed permanently at the firm and later became a partner. The firm now bears his name as Moore Bradley Myers Law Firm, P.A.

Even though an ardent Democrat in a Republican community, he represented Republicans tirelessly in election disputes. As Republicans visited his office, I advised them not to comment on his office picture of Al Gore which would result in an hour soliloquy which they would be billed for Jake's defense of Al.

Jake's practice is a general litigation practice. He has tried hundreds of cases during his almost fifty-year career. These include criminal cases in which he has defended people accused of crimes ranging from driving under the influence of alcohol to murder. He has also prosecuted cases on behalf of the Town of Irmo which he has represented for many years. Jake also practices both plaintiff and defense civil law.

Jake has been hired by many large organizations to defend cases. He also brings cases on behalf of injured people, establishing professional law enforcement and stopping predatory Columbia annexation. He has represented the Town of Irmo for many years while representing Lexington County School District Two.

Jake has been a guest lecturer at the University of South Carolina School of Law classes on trial advocacy and has also taught Continuing Legal Education classes on trial advocacy and spoken to numerous groups regarding the legal profession.

Jake is a founding member of Ashland United Methodist Church in the St. Andrews

community of Lexington County. He and his wife Becky were original members of the Church from a mission in 1978. He has taught high school Sunday School classes and adult Sunday School classes at Ashland Methodist Church since that time.

Jake served four years on the Board of Visitors for the University of South Carolina and served as chairman on the Board of Visitors. During his time on the Board of Visitors, he advocated for beautification of the campus by the planting of trees.

Jake founded the Irmo Arbor Day Committee which has been responsible for millions of dollars of landscaping work in the Irmo/St. Andrews area including landscaping for churches and five schools. He was also instrumental in creating a Veteran's Park in the Irmo area and a public park in that area at very low costs to the Town through securing donations. Jake was also a founding chairman of the West Columbia Beautification Commission and has spearheaded many beautification and landscaping projects in West Columbia, especially Sunset Boulevard, through securing donations for the improvement of the area.

Jake has served as a member of the South Carolina Legislative Audit Council and was named Ambassador of the Year by the Irmo Chamber of Commerce and Citizen of the Year by the West Columbia Chamber of Commerce.

He has received the Golden Acorn Award from the South Carolina Forestry Association and the Leadership Award from the Mid-Carolina Cooperative Lexington Soil Conservation District. He and his wife Becky have established a scholarship fund at Presbyterian College.

Jake and his daughter Katherine wrote the children's book "Bruce the Moose." He has given copies of this book to many children and classes in the area as well as visiting elementary classrooms to read the book. He has been significantly involved in the Family Promise Ministry which is an ecumenical project dedicated to lifting working homeless families out of poverty.

Professionally, Jake has tried hundreds of jury trials both criminal and civil. He has been recognized for his trial excellence by the American Board of Trial Advocates, an invitation only society dedicated to the practice of jury trials. He is a member of the South Carolina Association of Justice, the South Carolina Bar and the Lexington County Bar. Jake has also been recognized by Super Lawyers as an outstanding lawyer and holds an AV rating from Martindale-Hubbe, a lawyer rating service.

Jake and his wife Becky have three children—Jake Moore, Jr., John Moore, and Katherine Moore-Merrel, with six grandchildren—Callahan Moore, Jake Moore, Josh Moore, Ben Moore, Mary Dawkins Merrell, and Sam Merrell.

## CELEBRATING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF MS. EILEEN TROY

**HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 19, 2025*

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to celebrate the occasion of Ms. Eileen Troy's 100th birthday. Her life is a remarkable story of love and resilience, which we celebrate as she reaches this significant milestone.

Born on May 25, 1925, in Western New York, Ms. Troy has witnessed a century of history and shaped the lives of those around her with her spirit and unwavering dedication to her community. For the last 25 years, she has been an active and devout member of her church, North Presbyterian Church, where she served in the Presbyterian Women's Association and as a deacon.

In the Presbyterian Women's Association, Ms. Troy worked to raise funds for church events, building improvements, and mission work. She also played an integral role in organizing events and cultivating relationships throughout the congregation. As a deacon, Ms. Troy's compassion was frequently reflected by visiting the sick, elderly, and grieving, closely mirroring her faith and the church's mission that service to others is fundamental to living as a Christian.

Ms. Troy's life is a testament to enduring love. She is the proud mother of four, grandmother of seven, and great-grandmother of six. Her compassion, banter, and talents are cherished by all who have crossed her path. As she looks to the future, her goals remain simple: she plans to continue to explore her love of reading, ice cream, and watching her favorite western shows and movies.

Mr. Speaker, today, we honor Ms. Eileen Troy for her lifetime of service, love, and faith to both her family and community. Ms. Troy's life is a testament to the power of goodwill and dedication to others. On behalf of a grateful community, I wish Ms. Troy a joyful and blessed 100th birthday.

## COMMENDING LAKE SHORE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR HONORING THE LEGACY OF AMERICAN VETERANS THROUGH THE WILLIAM G. HOUSTON MIDDLE SCHOOL VETERANS MEMORIAL

**HON. NICHOLAS A. LANGWORTHY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 19, 2025*

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary efforts of the William G. Houston Civics Club in Angola, New York, and to commend the entire Lake-shore Central School District for fostering a

• 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.

culture of gratitude, patriotism and civic responsibility in the next generation of Americans.

Behind the school now stands a veterans memorial—conceived, designed, and brought to life by eighth-grade students as a permanent tribute to those who served. This project is more than just a monument—it is a testament to the values of patriotism and reflection, cultivated in the classroom and carried forward into the community.

The newly established Veterans Memorial at William G. Houston Middle School stands as a permanent and growing tribute to over 120 local veterans—men and women who either attended Lake Shore (Evans-Brant) schools or now reside within the district. These heroes served across all five branches of the United States military, representing a broad spectrum of service, sacrifice, and commitment to this country.

This memorial is not dedicated to a single war or era. Rather, it honors the full sweep of service—veterans whose lives have intersected with this community and who answered the call of duty. Their names are now etched into history through this tribute, with space intentionally left to recognize even more veterans in the years to come. It is a living monument—one that will grow alongside the students and community it inspires.

This initiative did not happen by accident—it was made possible by a school community that believes in teaching not only the facts of history, but the weight of its meaning. I thank the teachers, administrators, and advisors who guided this effort, and I applaud Lakeshore Central School for its enduring commitment to shaping thoughtful and engaged citizens.

Let this memorial stand not just as a symbol of remembrance, but as a proud reminder that patriotism begins at home—and sometimes, behind a school, where students dared to imagine something worthy of the heroes who came before them.

#### RECOGNIZING NEVA MELLOW, GOLD AWARD GIRL SCOUT

#### HON. MARK E. AMODEI

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 19, 2025*

Mr. AMODEI of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Neva Mellow. Neva is a member of Girl Scouts of the Sierra Nevada, Troop 317, 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 to 2 years, Gold Award Girl Scouts demonstrate significant initiative, commitment, and leadership, distin-

guishing them from their peers. Through their resourcefulness and perseverance, they embody the Girl Scout Law to truly make the world a better place.

Neva Mellow created “The Art of Letting Go”. There is a common misconception that young people do not experience grief, which is untrue. In the first class she presented to, out of 15 students, 10 had suffered the death of a loved one. Of those 10, four had suffered the loss of a parent, three the death of a sibling, and two had experienced losing someone to suicide. Neva hosted five seminars for Carson City School District freshmen, educating them on 16 types and five stages of grief. She emphasized the importance of support groups and self-care in navigating these emotional challenges. Following the seminars, students created art pieces to express their journey of overcoming grief. These artworks were then donated and displayed at the Brewery Arts Center and local organizations focusing on mental health, helping to raise awareness and foster healing within the community.

On behalf of the 2nd Congressional District of Nevada, I congratulate Neva Mellow for achieving the highest distinction in Girl Scouts, the Gold Award. We thank Neva for her leadership and for making such a positive, lasting change in our community.

#### RECOGNIZING MIDDLETOWN TOWNSHIP POLICE LIEUTENANT MICHNIEWICZ'S 35 YEARS OF SERVICE

#### HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 19, 2025*

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an exceptional constituent from my district—Lieutenant John Michniewicz of the Middletown Township Police Department—who is retiring after 35 years of dedicated service in law enforcement.

Lieutenant Michniewicz began his career in 1990, graduating from the Philadelphia Police Academy. Over the course of his distinguished career, he served in a wide range of roles, including Patrolman, K-9 Officer, Detective, Sergeant, and Lieutenant. He earned numerous awards and commendations for his exemplary service and unwavering commitment to public safety.

Among his many contributions, Lieutenant Michniewicz conducted numerous background investigations for police recruits. His diligence and attention to detail ensured that only the most qualified candidates were selected to serve the Middletown community—upholding the highest standards of integrity and professionalism.

He is also a graduate of several prestigious police leadership programs, including the Northwestern University School of Police Staff and Command, the Police Executive Research Forum's Senior Management Institute for Police, and the FBI Law Enforcement Executive Development Program. For the past 15 years, he served as a member of the department's command staff, playing a pivotal role in implementing key initiatives that enhanced the department's responsiveness and strengthened community relations.

After a long and honorable career in law enforcement, Lieutenant Michniewicz now looks

forward to a well-earned retirement, where he plans to spend time with his wife Diane and family, enjoy the beach, and travel.

Mr. Speaker, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to Lieutenant John Michniewicz on his retirement and thank him for 35 years of dedicated and distinguished service to the citizens of Bucks County and the Middleton Township Police Department.

#### THANKING JAMES TIANI FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

#### HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 19, 2025*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to thank James Tiani, who is retiring June 17, 2025, after over twenty years of outstanding service to the House of Representatives in the Office of Acquisitions Management. He lives in Oakton, Virginia, and I am proud to represent him here in Congress.

Originally from New Canaan, Connecticut—just 35 miles outside of New York City—Jim spent his early years enjoying the city's nightlife before diving into his professional journey. Working with Mobil Oil in sales and marketing, Jim was known as “Pitbull” for his sharp negotiating skills, intensity and passion. He transitioned to the contracting side when his company moved to Virginia, where he was asked to set up a marketing purchasing group. He retired from Mobil after a 30-year career in 1998.

Jim was enjoying life as a retiree from Mobil Oil and doing part-time consulting. After 9/11, he decided to give back his corporate knowledge to the Government and he accepted a part-time position at the House in 2001, as a contractor in Acquisitions Management. After two years, he accepted a permanent position as Contracts Specialist, which he thought would be for just a few more years but continued until now. Jim is retiring after having lent his talents and skills to the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) for over twenty years.

A devoted sports fan, he roots for the Washington Commanders in football and splits his baseball loyalties between the Nationals and the Yankees. Outside of work, he treasures time with his two grandchildren, ages 6 and 4, and enjoys Italian food, lamb, and a classic martini. He's an avid reader of David Baldacci, a fan of Top Gun: Maverick, and a proud Corvette enthusiast. Travel is another one of his passions—especially to Italy, where his family roots run deep. A Count by lineage, his family, the Tiani's, were knighted by Napoleon and once protected the king and the pope. With strong ties to Rome and nearby Sete Frati, Jim is proud of his Tuscan heritage. He's looking forward to his next adventure—an Alaskan cruise this July.

I congratulate Jim and I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking him for his distinguished service to the House and the Nation it serves. I wish him all the best as he begins a new chapter in his life.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY  
OF ALMA ALLEN**HON. MARC A. VEASEY**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 19, 2025*

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the life and legacy of Alma Allen, a pillar of our Fort Worth community and a woman whose presence touched the lives of so many.

Alma was born on December 5, 1932, in Fort Worth, Texas, to Leroy Tucker and Luvane Edwards. After graduating from I.M. Terrell High School in 1949, Alma began her career as an interior decorator, using her eye for design and creativity to bring warmth and beauty into the homes of others. Later in life, she turned her attention toward advocacy, becoming a passionate activist and respected historian of the Stop Six neighborhood in Fort Worth—a role in which she preserved and uplifted the stories of our community.

Throughout her life, Alma enjoyed a wide range of interests that reflected her creativity and love for simple joys. She found fulfillment in sewing, cooking, working in her garden, and relaxing with adult coloring books. In quieter moments, she looked forward to her favorite television programs, especially westerns, soap operas, and episodes of Judge Judy, which never failed to bring a smile to her face.

Her family remembers her not only for her many talents but for her deep well of love. She was a devoted mother and grandmother, affectionately known to those closest to her by many names, but most lovingly as “Ma’Maw.”

Alma was preceded in death by her parents; her daughter, Rosaline Dory; her son, Zachary; and her sisters, Doris and Vera. She is survived by her children: Regina, Raymond, Megal, and Jessica, her sister Barbara, and a large extended family of grandchildren and great-grandchildren who carry forward her legacy.

While our community mourns the loss of this extraordinary woman, we should also take this moment to celebrate a life defined by compassion, strength, and service. She will not be forgotten.

RECOGNIZING MILLIE GRIEVE,  
GOLD AWARD GIRL SCOUT**HON. MARK E. AMODEI**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 19, 2025*

Mr. AMODEI of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Millie Grieve. Millie is a member of Girl Scouts of the Sierra Nevada, Troop 188, 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 to 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.

Millie Grieve’s project “Breast Vests” aimed to reduce the fear around touching women to perform life-saving CPR by increasing exposure and answering uncomfortable questions. Millie has been a lifeguard for the City of Reno for two years and noticed lifeguards were uncomfortable with the concept of performing CPR on the female anatomy because they lacked training. She created vests to zip over the mannequins that the City of Reno already had, using neoprene to make the vests more effective on the pool deck. Millie then personally presented her project to more than 100 lifeguards and surveyed them afterward, showing a 20 percent increase in overall comfort in performing CPR and using an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) on women.

On behalf of the 2nd Congressional District of Nevada, I congratulate Millie Grieve for achieving the highest distinction in Girl Scouts, the Gold Award. We thank Millie for her leadership and for making such a positive, lasting change in our community.

RECOGNIZING CAMILLE  
CINTOFANTI’S 100TH BIRTHDAY**HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 19, 2025*

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Camille Cintofanti, an outstanding constituent from my district who will celebrate a remarkable milestone—her 100th birthday—on May 31, 2025. Born on May 31, 1925, to Joseph and Concetta Tommillo, Camille was raised in a loving Italian household rooted in strong cultural traditions. Her parents immigrated from Bari, Italy, bringing with them the rich heritage, values, and customs that would shape Camille’s upbringing and lifelong sense of family and community. Camille was the second born of four children, and from an early age, she embraced her role with warmth, responsibility, and love. Her life stands as a testament to enduring love, strength, and devotion.

On October 1, 1949, Camille married the love of her life, Joseph A. Cintofanti. A proud and decorated veteran, Joseph served in World War II, where he was awarded the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star Medal for his bravery and service to his country. Their marriage was filled with love, mutual respect, and shared values that built a strong and supportive home. Together, they raised two children: their son Joseph, Jr., who married Barbara Sibila, and their daughter Nancy, who married Gary Marchunsky. Camille has always been a devoted wife, mother, and grandmother. Her warmth and unwavering support have been the cornerstone of her family’s strength and unity.

Camille’s many passions brought joy to those around her. She found great pleasure in

gardening, where she created beauty with her hands and found peace in nature. Her love of baking, inspired by her Italian roots, filled her home with the comforting aromas of fresh bread, cookies, and traditional family recipes. Camille also had a vibrant social spirit—she found a love for dancing and never missed an opportunity to get on the dance floor. Bingo was another favorite pastime, where she combined her sharp mind with her love for fun and community.

In addition to her deep dedication to her loved ones, Camille generously gave her time to the community. She was an active and beloved volunteer at both the Pennridge Senior Center in Perkasio and the Central Bucks Senior Center in Doylestown, where her compassion, energy, and cheerful spirit made a lasting impact. Her two granddaughters, Ashley and Alyssa, continue to be inspired by her example of kindness, strength, and resilience. As Camille turns 100, she is celebrated not only for her longevity, but for a life filled with joy, service, and unwavering devotion to family and community.

CONGRATULATING JIMMY  
EMMONS ON HIS SWEARING IN  
TO THE NATURAL RESOURCES  
CONSERVATION SERVICE**HON. FRANK D. LUCAS**

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 19, 2025*

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, as a lifelong Oklahoman, Jimmy Emmons has spent years working around the state and across the country promoting innovative and voluntary conservation practices.

Having someone like Jimmy in a position to lead farm policy isn’t just beneficial for Oklahoma, but the entire country and the world.

I am proud of my longtime friend and fellow Oklahoman for his willingness to serve the Nation at the Natural Resources Conservation Service and his commitment to the American farmer.

CELEBRATING THE ASIAN  
AMERICAN HERITAGE FESTIVAL**HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 19, 2025*

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the Asian American Heritage Festival. A cultural event that is dedicated and celebrated for the cultural traditions and contributions of Asian Americans throughout the United States.

The Asian American Heritage Festival is committed to enriching the cultural fabric of our community, fostering understanding, appreciation, and shared experiences among people of all backgrounds. It stands as a vital bridge to connect culture, diversity and unity through storytelling, exciting performances, and delicious food.

Beyond all of the exciting attractions that the Asian American Heritage Festival offers, there is a strong focus on community and education. Generations-long recounting of resilience, and



cultural history are provided for those who listen.

The Asian American Heritage Festival is a dynamic hub for community engagement and cross-cultural connection. It represents a bold vision: one where multiculturalism is not only celebrated but woven into the daily life and economic vitality of our region.

Mr. Speaker, as we acknowledge this celebration, let us recognize the essential role that the Asian American Heritage Festival plays—not just as an event, but as a beacon of cultural exchange, generational growth, and community spirit. Please join me in celebrating and honoring the achievements of the Asian American Heritage Festival, as they remain an enduring source of pride and connection for generations to come.

#### HONORING 75 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE AT MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 19, 2025*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the remarkable 75-year legacy of Mississippi Valley State University (MVSU), an institution that has profoundly impacted the Mississippi Delta and the state of Mississippi as a whole.

Founded in 1950 as Mississippi Vocational College, MVSU began with a mission to train teachers for rural and elementary schools and to provide vocational training. Over the decades, it has evolved into a comprehensive university offering a diverse range of undergraduate and graduate programs, including degrees in environmental health, criminal justice, business administration, and education. MVSU's commitment to academic excellence and community service has remained steadfast throughout its history.

Under the leadership of its eighth and current president, Dr. Jerryl Briggs, Sr., MVSU continues to advance its mission with the mantra: "ONE GOAL. ONE TEAM. ONE VALLEY . . . IN MOTION." The university has expanded its reach through off-campus centers such as the Greenwood Center and the Greenville Higher Learning Center, enhancing access to education in the Mississippi Delta.

As we commemorate this significant milestone, let us recognize the contributions of MVSU's students, faculty, alumni, and administration. Their dedication and hard work have ensured that Mississippi Valley of State University remains a beacon of opportunity and a catalyst for positive change in our community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mississippi Valley State University on its 75th anniversary and look forward to the continued success and impact of this esteemed institution.

#### RECOGNIZING KRISTIANNA MEISTER, GOLD AWARD GIRL SCOUT

**HON. MARK E. AMODEI**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 19, 2025*

Mr. AMODEI of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in con-

gratulating Kristianna Meister. Kristianna is a member of Girl Scouts of the Sierra Nevada, Troop 1306, 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 to 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.

Kristianna Meister designed "Dancing Through The Decades" to enhance the lives of senior citizens and those who may need extra assistance going through life. Through dance, Kristianna created a program that engaged participants both mentally and physically, with the goal of getting people up and moving. She led participants in guided stretches to help them feel good in their bodies. She taught them about the history of different styles of dance and basic steps from each style of dance to get the participants engaged and moving. She created instructional videos for the dances, which were posted on YouTube and distributed to Senior Centers around the country.

On behalf of the 2nd Congressional District of Nevada, I congratulate Kristianna Meister for achieving the highest distinction in Girl Scouts, the Gold Award. We thank Kristianna for her leadership and for making such a positive, lasting change in our community.

#### RECOGNIZING THE FIRST RESPONDERS OF THE MARCH 9, 2025 PLANE CRASH IN LANCASTER COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

**HON. LLOYD SMUCKER**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 19, 2025*

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize and commend the emergency service personnel who responded to the March 9 plane crash in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania.

On March 9, 2025, a small plane carrying five people crashed just outside of Lancaster Airport and into the parking lot of Brethren Village, a nearby retirement community in Manheim Township. Within minutes, four EMS agencies arrived and provided lifesaving care to the victims of the airplane crash. The rapid and courageous actions of these first responders proved critical and ultimately contributed to more positive outcomes for the victims involved.

I include in the RECORD, the following individuals that responded to the scene and deserve our deepest appreciation and recognition for their heroism:

Manheim Township Ambulance Association: David Mortimer, Leanne Yake, Kayla Farkas, Ashlyn Eder, Collin Stritch, and Connor Kriston

Rothsville Ambulance: James Hoover and Lester Martin

Warwick Community Ambulance: Scott Strippel, Karly Emmert, Makayla Arnold, Gabriel Mitchell, and Rosene Ringler

Penn Medicine Lancaster General: Tyler McCardell

I am grateful for the heroism and commitment demonstrated by these individuals and their respective EMS agencies. First responders safeguard our wellbeing, and I am proud to stand here today and recognize their service in Pennsylvania's 11th Congressional District.

#### WELCOMING KIMBERLY-CLARK EXPANSION

**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 19, 2025*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, South Carolinians are grateful that the Kimberly-Clark Corporation is expanding within the Second District of South Carolina. As a producer of personal care products, Kimberly-Clark produces well-known brands such as Cottonelle, Huggies, Kleenex, Scott, and more.

Since its establishment in 1968, the Beech Island facility, with the leadership of plant manager, Jeff Hutter, has grown to become the company's largest manufacturing site globally. The planned addition of 1.1 million square feet in 2027 will further expand its capabilities and impact.

The \$200 million investment will create more than 150 new jobs, strengthen the local economy, and enhance career opportunities across the state. The expansion will also incorporate advanced robotics, artificial intelligence powered logistics systems, and high-density automated storage to improve operation efficiencies.

With a workforce of over 40,000 and a presence in more than 175 countries, Kimberly-Clark continues to demonstrate a commitment to innovation and growth. I appreciate the dedication and leadership of President Russ Torres.

Best wishes to Kimberly-Clark for success in their future endeavors.

#### CONGRATULATING MARY VOLLINK ON EARNING THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

**HON. JACK BERGMAN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 19, 2025*

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to congratulate Mary Vollink, an exceptional resident of Traverse City, Michigan, for receiving the Distinguished Service Award from the Traverse Connect Board of Directors. Since 1929, this prestigious honor has been awarded to outstanding individuals for their significant contributions to social, economic, and

cultural improvements within the Traverse City area.

Currently, Ms. Vollink serves as the Office Manager and Volunteer Coordinator for the Salvation Army in Traverse City, where her dedication to public service has made an immeasurable impact on Northern Michigan. Her tireless efforts have both helped countless individuals in times of need and undoubtedly strengthened the community across Grand Traverse County. Ms. Vollink's selection for this award speaks volumes about her character and her commitment to improving the lives of others.

Mary's work with the Salvation Army began nearly 40 years ago in Holland, Michigan. After relocating to Traverse City in 1988, Ms. Vollink joined the Traverse City Salvation Army while simultaneously working for the TCAPS Transportation Department as a school bus driver for elementary students and students with special needs—a role she held until 2010. In addition to serving as the Office Manager and Volunteer Coordinator for the Salvation Army, Ms. Vollink works as an Emergency Disaster Services Coordinator for the region. Throughout her continued commitment to public service, she has formed lasting bonds with countless Northern Michigan families.

Mr. Speaker, Mary Vollink exemplifies the spirit of selfless service that strengthens communities across Michigan's First District. Her selection for the Distinguished Service Award is well deserved, and I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mary Vollink on this outstanding achievement and thanking her for her decades of exemplary service to the people of Traverse City and Northern Michigan.

**RECOGNIZING THE WINNERS OF  
NORTHGLENN HIGH SCHOOL'S  
ANNUAL CONGRESSIONAL APP  
CHALLENGE**

**HON. GABE EVANS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 19, 2025*

Mr. EVANS of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the winners and honorable mentions of Northglenn High School's annual Congressional App Challenge. This competition has allowed high school students to recognize and encourage STEM talent across the Nation, as well as in my Congressional District. This year, I'm proud to recognize the following individuals for their talent and ingenuity in this year's Congressional App Challenge.

Payton Dollens developed an app to help high school students get involved in school activities by creating incentives through prizes and competitions. Her app addresses the importance of school involvement and giving students an opportunity to participate in our community. As a result of her ingenuity and creativity, her app won Best in Show in the Open Division.

Honorable mentions to highlight are Brayden Green, Bryan Korsen, and Desmond Reynolds. This group created an app that shares the negative effects of pollution on our oceans. The app both educates users about what needs to be cleaned out and shares how that can be done. With the combination of

education and animations, this group earned an Honorable Mention in the Open Division.

Alongside those from our Open Division are winners from this year's Rookie Division. The four students I would like to recognize for winning Best in Show are Lena McLaughlin, Hailey Fredrickson, Magdalena Herron-Skretta, and Kaylee Reinhardt. They developed an app that helps others learn how to cope with different emotions. By utilizing games, educational material, and informative tips, their app provides helpful insight on how to better handle emotions.

Finally, I would like to recognize Gus Blackham and Ila Locke for earning an Honorable Mention in the Rookie Division. Their app teaches about the negative effects of plastic on our oceans. The duo did this by developing a game to educate users about the consequences of plastic on ocean wildlife and help spread awareness about keeping our oceans clean.

Once again, I want to extend my sincerest congratulations to the winners and honorable mentions in this year's Congressional App Challenge at Northglenn High School. I am proud of the hard work and dedication they have put into their projects and am excited to see what they will achieve in the future.

**RECOGNIZING THE LIFE, SERVICE,  
AND SACRIFICE OF OUR MILITARY  
SERVICE MEMBERS: CLARENCE  
VETERANS MEMORIAL  
HONOR WALLS, MEMORIAL DAY  
DEDICATION**

**HON. NICHOLAS A. LANGWORTHY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 19, 2025*

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life, service, and sacrifice of the brave men and women who served our great Nation. Memorial Day is a holiday of reverence: a date set for us to come together as a Nation and ensure that we remember our debt of gratitude to those brave soldiers who gave their lives defending our country and freedoms.

On May 26, 2025—this Memorial Day—eighteen names will be added to the Clarence Veterans Memorial Honor Walls. I am honored to include their names in the RECORD to be remembered and honored forever.

ARMY

Leroy W. Bender  
Eric W. Gibson  
Michael W. Gibson  
George W. Bluhman  
Joseph N. Currie  
Eric J. Draves  
Robert "Jim" J. Gustafson  
Walter P. Leising  
Justin J. Lex  
Chad R. Stockwell

AIR FORCE

Gary A. Bugenhagen  
R. Kenneth Miller

MARINE CORPS

Kenneth H. Bugenhagen  
Joseph A. Morgante

NAVY

Arnold D. Castren  
Robert H. Schurr

Charles R. Fiegl

COAST GUARD

John D. O'Neil

It is now our duty to remember their sacrifice, courage, and valor as we go forward and continue to grow and build the greatest Nation the world has ever seen.

**RECOGNIZING DELAYNIE BOWLEY,  
GOLD AWARD GIRL SCOUT**

**HON. MARK E. AMODEI**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 19, 2025*

Mr. AMODEI of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Delaynie Bowley. Delaynie is a member of Girl Scouts of the Sierra Nevada, Troop 188, 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 to 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.

For her Gold Award project, Delaynie Bowley created "Pet Safety Patrol" to tackle the widespread issue of pet poisoning, which affects more than 401,500 animals annually in the U.S. Recognizing a gap in pet owners' knowledge about household hazards and essential pet first aid, Delaynie assembled and distributed pet first aid kits at Desert Hills Animal Hospital. She educated more than 50 people in one-on-one meetings about common dangers in their own homes. She provided each participant with a pet first aid kit, which included a pamphlet with a link to her website, which offers additional resources and a customizable pamphlet for animal hospitals and veterinarians to use nationwide.

On behalf of the 2nd Congressional District of Nevada, I congratulate Delaynie Bowley for achieving the highest distinction in Girl Scouts, the Gold Award. We thank Delaynie for her leadership and for making such a positive, lasting change in our community.

**RECOGNIZING U.S. ARMY CHAPLAIN  
(LIEUTENANT COLONEL)  
JOHN M. DILLER'S 21 YEARS OF  
SERVICE**

**HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 19, 2025*

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding constituent from

my district, U.S. Army Chaplain (Lieutenant Colonel) John M. Diller who is retiring from Chaplain service to the Pennsylvania Army National Guard and the U.S. Army Reserve after over 21 years.

Chaplain Diller was born in Lancaster, Pennsylvania to a family with a rich history of ecclesiastical and military service. Chaplain Diller's lineage includes servicemembers involved in every major United States military campaign since his ancestors immigrated to America in the early 1900's.

After earning his Bachelor of Science in Music Education from Lebanon Valley College, Annville, Pennsylvania in 1991, John taught music in elementary and middle schools and directed several choirs. After several career changes, John felt his calling to enter seminary and to join the Pennsylvania Army National Guard as a Chaplain following the September 11, 2001 attacks. He was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant, Chaplain Candidate on February 26, 2004, and began drilling with the 108th Field Artillery, 56th Brigade, in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. Chaplain Diller served with the 2nd Brigade Special Troops Battalion before being called back to the 56th Stryker Brigade for mobilization to Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2008 to 2009.

Chaplain Diller transferred to the Army Reserves in 2015, upon a family move to Orange Park, Florida. His first assignment was as a Brigade Chaplain with the 207th Regional Support Group out of Fort Jackson, South Carolina. Though he left the 207th because he was selected to serve as the Mission Support Element Chaplain for the 143rd Mission Support Element in Orlando, the 207th requested his return when the unit was marked for their first deployment since the start of the Global War of Terror. The 207th was the Base Operations Support element on Al Asad Air Base when it was attacked on January 8, 2020, by Iranian ballistic missiles. Chaplain Diller was the only Chaplain on the base, and the only Soldier Support element. For 5 days, Chaplain Diller drew upon his training in Traumatic Event Management and Critical Incident Stress Management to perform at least seven group debriefings/de-escalations following the attack. On the 5th, when multiple Behavioral Health and Chaplain teams finally arrived, the Behavioral Health lead Officer observed Chaplain Diller's program and instructed his teams to "learn and perform that program."

After, Chaplain Diller was selected as the Command Chaplain for the Deployment Support Command (DSC), in Birmingham, Alabama. He oversaw 56 Chaplains, Chaplain Candidates, and Religious Affairs Specialists in 16 states and 4 time zones.

Chaplain Diller has consistently received the highest praise and commendation from both his Branch Supervisors and his Unit Commanders. His dedication to the highest standards of the Army Values, and the principles of duty, honor, respect reflect well upon himself, the Army, and the Chaplain Corps. The residents in my district are blessed to have this Pennsylvanian grown citizen back home, and I congratulate him on his Army retirement and wish him, his family, and his congregation God-speed.

## COMMEMORATING THE 1842 BUFFALO CREEK TREATY

**HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 19, 2025*

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate and recognize the 1842 Buffalo Creek Treaty, a landmark agreement that contributed to the history of Native Americans and the United States. Signed in a partnership agreement between the United States and the Seneca Nation of Indians, the Buffalo Creek Treaty ensured that the culture and heritage of the Seneca Nation remains on their rightful land in the Allegany and Cattaraugus Reservations.

Signed nearly two centuries ago in Western New York, the Buffalo Creek Treaty reaffirmed the Seneca Nation's right to self-govern and protect their remaining land. Seneca Nation leaders banded together, ensuring that the various nations of Western New York were not displaced and their culture allowed to survive—a significant victory for the Seneca people. The unwavering dedication to their heritage and people ensures the well-being, sovereignty, and prosperity of future generations.

To this day, the Seneca Nation territory in Allegany and Cattaraugus counties are sovereign territories. It is immensely important that the provisions of the Buffalo Creek Treaty continue to be recognized and followed, as it is a symbol of self-determination and coexistence. As we uphold the Buffalo Creek Treaty, we are continuously working toward mending and strengthening the ties between New York State and the Seneca Nation of Indians.

Today, as we celebrate 183 years of the 1842 Buffalo Creek Treaty, we look forward with hope for the future, but also acknowledgment of the past. The Buffalo Creek Treaty is a promise of sovereignty and respect. Please join me in recognizing and celebrating the Seneca Nation of Indians for their many contributions to Western New York and the United States of America.

## SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, May 20, 2025 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

## MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MAY 21

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To receive a closed briefing on an update on Yemen.

SVC-217

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

Business meeting to consider the nominations of Jonathan Brightbill, of Virginia, to be General Counsel, Tina Pierce, of Idaho, to be Chief Financial Officer, and Conner Prochaska, of Texas, to be Director of the Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy, all of the Department of Energy, and Ned Mamula, of Pennsylvania, to be Director of the United States Geological Survey, Department of the Interior.

SD-366

10 a.m.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Business meeting to consider S. 190, to enhance the operations of the North Pacific Research Board, S. 318, to require a plan to improve the cybersecurity and telecommunications of the U.S. Academic Research Fleet, S. 337, to amend title 49, United States Code, to clarify the authority of the Administrator of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration relating to the shipping of household goods, S. 503, to direct the Federal Communications Commission to evaluate and consider the impact of the telecommunications network equipment supply chain on the deployment of universal service, S. 1092, to require certain products to be labeled with 'Do Not Flush' labeling, S. 1442, to amend title 49, United States Code, to allow for eligibility for projects for the installation of human trafficking awareness signs at rest stops, S. 1523, to modify operations of the National Water Center of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, S. 1626, to reauthorize the National Landslide Preparedness Act, and the nominations of David Fink, of New Hampshire, to be Administrator of the Federal Railroad Administration, David Fogel, of Connecticut, to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce and Director General of the United States and Foreign Commercial Service, Robert Gleason, of Pennsylvania, to be Director of the Amtrak Board of Directors for a term of five years, and Pierre Gentin, of New York, to be General Counsel of the Department of Commerce, and promotions in the Coast Guard.

SR-253

Committee on Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2026 for the Environmental Protection Agency.

SD-562

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine the state of higher education.

SD-430

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship

To hold hearings to examine fueling America's manufacturing comeback.

SR-428A

10:15 a.m.

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine certain pending nominations.

SD-226

10:30 a.m.

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Dudley Hoskins, of the District of Columbia, to be Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs, and Scott Hutchins, of Indiana, to be Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics, both of the Department of Agriculture.

SD-106

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Department of Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2026 for the Department of the Interior.

SD-124

2 p.m.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations

To hold hearings to examine science and Federal health agencies, focusing on Myocarditis and other events associated with the COVID-19 vaccines.

SH-216

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2026 for the Department of Energy.

SD-124

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2026 for the Small Business Administration.

SD-138

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Cybersecurity

To hold hearings to examine defense of the Department of Defense Information Network; to be immediately followed by a closed session in SVC-217 at 3:30 p.m.

SR-222

Committee on the Judiciary

Subcommittee on Privacy, Technology, and the Law

To hold hearings to examine AI-generated deepfakes.

SD-226

Select Committee on Intelligence

To receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters.

SH-219

4 p.m.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine S. 214, to amend title 38, United States Code, to increase the rate of the special pension payable to Medal of Honor recipients, S. 219, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program to improve the ability of veterans to access medical care in medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs and in the community by providing veterans the ability to choose health care providers, S. 506, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program to coordinate, navigate, and manage care and benefits for veterans enrolled in both the Medicare program and the system

of annual patient enrollment of the Department of Veterans Affairs, S. 585, to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish a pre-transition health care registration process to facilitate enrollment in the patient enrollment system of the Department of Veterans Affairs by members of the Armed Forces who are separating from the Armed Forces, S. 599, to amend title 38, United States Code, to increase the mileage rate offered by the Department of Veterans Affairs through their Beneficiary Travel program for health related travel, S. 605, to amend title 38, United States Code, to increase the maximum age for children eligible for medical care under the CHAMPVA program, S. 635, to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to recognize nurse registries for purposes of the Veterans Community Care Program, S. 649, to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand eligibility for Post-9/11 Educational Assistance to members of the National Guard who perform certain full-time duty, S. 778, to amend title 38, United States Code, to require a lactation space in each medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs, S. 784, to expand and modify the grant program of the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide innovative transportation options to veterans in highly rural areas, S. 800, to modify the Precision Medicine for Veterans Initiative of the Department of Veterans Affairs, S. 827, to extend and modify the transportation grant program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, S. 879, to expand medical, employment, and other benefits for individuals serving as family caregivers for certain veterans, S. 1318, to direct the American Battle Monuments Commission to establish a program to identify American-Jewish servicemembers buried in United States military cemeteries overseas under markers that incorrectly represent their religion and heritage, S. 1320, to direct the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to take certain steps regarding research related to menopause, perimenopause, or mid-life women's health, S. 1383, to establish the Veterans Advisory Committee on Equal Access, S. 1441, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to award grants to nonprofit entities to assist such entities in carrying out programs to provide service dogs to eligible veterans, S. 1533, to amend title 38, United States Code, to make permanent and codify the pilot program for use of contract physicians for disability examinations, S. 1543, to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish in the Department of Veterans Affairs the Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration, and S. 1591, to amend title 38, United States Code, to reorganize the acquisition structure of the Department of Veterans Affairs and to establish the Director of Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation in the Department.

SR-418

MAY 22

Time to be announced

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Business meeting to consider the nominations of Julie Hocker, of Virginia, to

be an Assistant Secretary, Wayne Palmer, of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary for Mine Safety and Health, and Henry Mack III, of Florida, to be an Assistant Secretary, all of the Department of Labor, Marco Rajkovich, Jr., of Virginia, to be a Member of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission, and Kirsten Baesler, of North Dakota, to be Assistant Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education, Kevin O'Farrell, of Florida, to be Assistant Secretary for Career, Technical, and Adult Education, and Nicholas Kent, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary, all of the Department of Education.

TBA

10 a.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2026 for the Department of Labor.

SD-138

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine securing America, focusing on key authorities under the Defense Production Act.

SD-538

10:15 a.m.

Committee on the Judiciary

Business meeting to consider the nominations of Terrance Cole, of Virginia, to be Administrator of Drug Enforcement, Gadyaces Serralta, of Florida, to be Director of the United States Marshals Service, and David Charles Waterman, to be United States Attorney for the Southern District of Iowa, all of the Department of Justice.

SH-216

10:30 a.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2026 for the Food and Drug Administration.

SD-124

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Department of Defense

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2026 for the National Guard and Reserves Forces.

SD-192

## POSTPONEMENTS

MAY 21

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Seapower

To hold hearings to examine Navy unmanned systems.

SR-232A

MAY 22

10 a.m.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Subcommittee on Consumer Protection, Technology, and Data Privacy

To hold hearings to examine World Anti Doping Agency, focusing on swimming in denial over Chinese doping.

SR-253

# Daily Digest

## Senate

### Chamber Action

**Routine Proceedings, pages S2957–S2981**

**Measures Introduced:** Nine bills and three resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 1799–1807, S.J. Res. 55, and S. Res. 234–235. **Pages S2971–72**

#### Measures Passed:

**Mental Health Awareness in Agriculture Day:** Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 143, supporting the designation of May 29, 2025, as “Mental Health Awareness in Agriculture Day” to raise awareness around mental health in the agricultural industry and workforce and to continue to reduce stigma associated with mental illness, and the resolution was then agreed to. **Pages S2965–66**

**United States Foreign Service Day:** Senate agreed to S. Res. 234, designating May 2, 2025, as “United States Foreign Service Day” in recognition of the men and women who have served, or are presently serving, in the Foreign Service of the United States, and honoring the members of the Foreign Service who have given their lives in the line of duty. **Pages S2971–72**

**Kids to Parks Day:** Senate agreed to S. Res. 235, designating May 17, 2025, as “Kids to Parks Day”. **Page S2972**

#### Measures Considered:

**Genius Act—Agreement:** Senate resumed consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 1582, to provide for the regulation of payment stablecoins. **Page S2965**

During consideration of this measure today, Senate also took the following action:

By 66 yeas to 32 nays (Vote No. EX. 262), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn, having voted in the affirmative, Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill. **Page S2965**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill, post-cloture, at approximately 10 a.m., on Tuesday, May 20, 2025;

and that all time during recess, adjournment and Leader remarks count post-cloture on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill. **Page S2974**

**Message from the President:** Senate received the following message from the President of the United States:

Transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the issuance of an Executive Order on Modifying Reciprocal Tariff Rates to Reflect Discussions with the People’s Republic of China; which was referred to the Committee on Finance. (PM–27) **Pages S2969–70**

**Nomination Confirmed:** Senate confirmed the following nomination:

By 51 yeas to 45 nays (Vote No. EX. 261), 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. **Page S2965**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 52 yeas to 46 nays (Vote No. EX. 260), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Pages S2964–65**

**Nominations Received:** Senate received the following nominations:

Routine lists in the Air Force, and Army.

**Pages S2975–81**

**Messages from the House:** **Page S2970**

**Measures Referred:** **Page S2970**

**Enrolled Bills Presented:** **Page S2970**

**Executive Communications:** **Page S2971**

**Additional Cosponsors:** **Pages S2972–73**

**Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:** **Pages S2973–74**

**Additional Statements:** **Pages S2968–69**

**Notices of Intent:** **Page S2974**

**Record Votes:** Three record votes were taken today. (Total—262) **Pages S2964–65**

**Adjournment:** Senate convened at 3 p.m. and adjourned at 9:30 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, May 20, 2025. (For Senate’s program, see the remarks of

the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S2974.)

## Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

No committee meetings were held.

# House of Representatives

## Chamber Action

**Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced:** 25 public bills, H.R. 3479–3503; and 3 resolutions, H. Res. 427–429, were introduced. **Pages H2145–46**

**Additional Cosponsors:** **Pages H2147–48**

**Reports Filed:** Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 1578, to amend title 38, United States Code, to promote assistance from persons recognized by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for individuals who file certain claims under laws administered by the Secretary, with an amendment (H. Rept. 119–102);

H.R. 1969, to amend and reauthorize the Staff Sergeant Parker Gordon Fox Suicide Prevention Grant Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, with an amendment (H. Rept. 119–103);

H.R. 1815, to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to take certain actions in the case of a default on a home loan guaranteed by the Secretary, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 119–104); and

H. Res. 426, providing for consideration of the joint resolution (S.J. Res. 13) providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency of the Department of the Treasury relating to the review of applications under the Bank Merger Act; providing for consideration of the joint resolution (S.J. Res. 31) providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to “Review of Final Rule Reclassification of Major Sources as Area Sources Under Section 112 of the Clean Air Act”; and waiving a requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII with respect to consideration of certain resolutions reported from the Committee on Rules (H. Rept. 119–105). **Page H2145**

**Speaker:** Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Kim to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H2109**

**Recess:** The House recessed at 12:20 p.m. and reconvened at 2 p.m. **Page H2111**

**Recess:** The House recessed at 2:13 p.m. and reconvened at 3:23 p.m. **Page H2113**

**Recess:** The House recessed at 5:49 p.m. and reconvened at 6:30 p.m. **Page H2135**

**Suspensions:** The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures: Clean Energy Demonstration Transparency Act of 2025: H.R. 1453, to amend the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act to require reporting regarding clean energy demonstration projects; **Pages H2115–16**

**Strengthening the Quad Act:** H.R. 1263, to require a strategy for bolstering engagement and cooperation between the United States, Australia, India, and Japan and to seek to establish a Quad Inter-Parliamentary Working Group to facilitate closer cooperation on shared interests and values, by a  $\frac{2}{3}$  yeas-and-nays vote of 334 yeas to 51 nays, Roll No. 132; **Page H2119–21, H2135–36**

**Communities Helping Invest through Property and Improvements Needed for Veterans Act of 2025:** H.R. 217, amended, to amend title 38, United States Code, to make permanent the pilot program authorized by the Communities Helping Invest through Property and Improvements Needed for Veterans Act of 2016; **Pages H2121–23**

**Veterans Accessibility Advisory Committee Act of 2025:** H.R. 1147, amended, to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish the Veterans Advisory Committee on Equal Access; **Pages H2123–24**

**Simplifying Forms for Veterans Claims Act:** H.R. 1286, amended, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to seek to enter into an agreement with a federally funded research and development center for an assessment of forms that the Secretary sends to claimants for benefits under laws administered by the Secretary, by a  $\frac{2}{3}$  yeas-and-nays vote of 386 yeas to 1 nay, Roll No. 133; **Pages H2124–26, H2136–37**

**VA Home Loan Program Reform Act:** H.R. 1815, amended, to amend title 38, United States



Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to take certain actions in the case of a default on a home loan guaranteed by the Secretary;

**Pages H2126–29**

***VA Budget Shortfall Accountability Act:*** H.R. 1823, amended, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Comptroller General of the United States to report on certain funding shortfalls in the Department of Veterans Affairs;

**Pages H2129–30**

***Improving VA Training for Military Sexual Trauma Claims Act:*** H.R. 2201, amended, to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve claims, made under laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, regarding military sexual trauma;

**Pages H2130–32**

***Automotive Support Services to Improve Safe Transportation Act of 2025:*** H.R. 1364, amended, to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide clarification regarding the inclusion of medically necessary automobile adaptations in Department of Veterans Affairs definition of “medical services”; and

**Pages H2132–33**

***Veterans Claims Education Act of 2025:*** H.R. 1578, amended, to amend title 38, United States Code, to promote assistance from persons recognized by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for individuals who file certain claims under laws administered by the Secretary.

**Pages H2133–35**

**Suspensions—Proceedings Postponed:** The House debated the following measures under suspension of the rules. Further proceedings were postponed.

***Accelerating Networking, Cyberinfrastructure, and Hardware for Oceanic Research Act:*** H.R. 1223, to require a plan to improve the cybersecurity and telecommunications of the U.S. Academic Research Fleet; and

**Pages H2113–15**

***Strategic Ports Reporting Act:*** H.R. 1701, to require the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of State to monitor efforts by the People’s Republic of China to build or buy strategic foreign ports.

**Pages H2116–19**

**Discharge Petitions:** Representative Meeks presented to the clerk a motion to discharge the Committee on Rules from the consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 391) entitled, a resolution providing for consideration of the joint resolution (H. J. Res. 72) relating to a national emergency by the President on February 1, 2025 (Discharge Petition No. 4).

Representative Meeks presented to the clerk a motion to discharge the Committee on Rules from the consideration of the resolution consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 393) entitled, a resolution pro-

viding for consideration of the joint resolution (H. J. Res. 73) relating to a national emergency by the President on February 1, 2025 (Discharge Petition No. 5).

**Presidential Message:** Read a message from the President transmitting a notification of the issuance of an Executive Order on Modifying Reciprocal Tariff Rates to Reflect Discussions with the People’s Republic of China referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Ways and Means and ordered to be printed (H. Doc. 119–54).

**Page H2135**

**Quorum Calls—Votes:** Two yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H2135–36 and H2136–37.

**Adjournment:** The House met at 12 p.m. and adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

## Committee Meetings

### MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE

***Committee on the Budget:*** On Sunday, May 18, Full Committee concluded a markup on legislation to provide for reconciliation pursuant to title II of the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2025, H. Con. Res. 14. Legislation to provide for reconciliation pursuant to title II of the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2025, H. Con. Res. 14 was ordered reported, without amendment.

### PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL OF THE RULE RELATING TO THE REVIEW OF APPLICATIONS UNDER THE BANK MERGER ACT; PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL OF THE RULE RELATING TO REVIEW OF FINAL RULE RECLASSIFICATION OF MAJOR SOURCES AS AREA SOURCES UNDER SECTION 112 OF THE CLEAN AIR ACT

***Committee on Rules:*** Full Committee held a hearing on S.J. Res. 13, providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency of the Department of the Treasury relating to the review of applications under the Bank Merger Act; and S.J. Res. 31, providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to “Review of Final Rule Reclassification of Major Sources as Area Sources Under Section 112 of the Clean Air Act”. The Committee granted, by a record vote of 7–3, a rule providing for consideration of S.J. Res. 13, Providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8

of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency of the Department of the Treasury relating to the review of applications under the Bank Merger Act, and S.J. Res. 31, Providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to “Review of Final Rule Reclassification of Major Sources as Area Sources Under Section 112 of the Clean Air Act”. The rule provides for consideration of S.J. Res. 13, Providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency of the Department of the Treasury relating to the review of applications under the Bank Merger Act. Hearing Information, under a closed rule. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the joint resolution. The rule provides that the joint resolution shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the joint resolution. The rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Financial Services or their respective designees. The rule provides one motion to commit. The rule further provides for consideration of S.J. Res. 31, Providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to “Review of Final Rule Reclassification of Major Sources as Area Sources Under Section 112 of the Clean Air Act”, under a closed rule. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the joint resolution. The rule provides that the joint resolution shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the joint resolution. The rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce or their respective designees. The rule provides one motion to commit. Finally, the rule provides that the requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII for a two-thirds vote to consider a report from the Committee on Rules on the same day it is presented to the House is waived with respect to any resolution reported through the legislative day of May 23, 2025, relating to a measure providing for reconciliation pursuant to title II of H. Con. Res. 14. Testimony was heard from Representatives Flood, Casten, Guthrie, and Tonko.

## IMPROVING SOFTWARE LICENSING MANAGEMENT

*Committee on Veterans' Affairs:* Subcommittee on Technology Modernization held a hearing entitled “Im-

proving Software Licensing Management”. Testimony was heard from Jeff VanBemmel, Executive Director of End User Operations, End User Services, Office of Information Technology, Department of Veterans Affairs; Don Carter, Executive Director for Contract and Operations Management, Office of Information Technology, Department of Veterans Affairs; and Carol Harris, Director, Information Technology and Cybersecurity Issues, Government Accountability Office.

## Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

## COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR TUESDAY, MAY 20, 2025

*(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)*

### Senate

*Committee on Appropriations:* Subcommittee on Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2026 for the Department of Health and Human Services, 10 a.m., SD-124.

Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2026 for the Department of State, 2 p.m., SD-138.

*Committee on Armed Services:* to hold hearings to examine the posture of the Department of the Air Force in review of the Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2026 and the Future Years Defense Program; to be immediately followed by a closed session in SVC-217, 9:30 a.m., SD-G50.

Subcommittee on Strategic Forces, to hold hearings to examine the Department of Energy's atomic energy defense activities and Department of Defense nuclear weapons program in review of the Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2026 and the Future Years Defense Program, 4:45 p.m., SR-222.

*Committee on Finance:* to hold hearings to examine the nomination of William Long, of Missouri, to be Commissioner of Internal Revenue, Department of the Treasury, 10 a.m., SD-215.

*Committee on Foreign Relations:* to hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2026 for the Department of State, 10 a.m., SD-419.

*Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs:* to hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2026 for the Department of Homeland Security, 9:30 a.m., SD-342.

*Committee on the Judiciary:* to hold hearings to examine defending against drones, focusing on setting safeguards for counter unmanned aircraft systems, 10:15 a.m., SD-226.

*Select Committee on Intelligence:* to receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH-219.

## House

*Committee on Appropriations*, Subcommittee on Defense, oversight hearing on the National Guard and Reserves Forces, 10 a.m., 2359 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government, oversight hearing on the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, 10 a.m., 2362–A Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, budget hearing on the Department of the Interior, 10 a.m., 2008 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies, hearing entitled “Member Day”, 10 a.m., 2358–C Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Homeland Security, oversight hearing on the Transportation Security Administration, 1 p.m., 2362–B Rayburn.

*Committee on Armed Services*, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Member Day”, 10 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

*Committee on Education and Workforce*, Subcommittee on Workforce Protections, hearing entitled “Empowering the Modern Worker”, 10:15 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

*Committee on Energy and Commerce*, Subcommittee on Environment, hearing entitled “The Fiscal Year 2026 Environmental Protection Agency Budget”, 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

*Committee on Financial Services*, Full Committee, begin markup on H.R. 1013, the “Retirement Fairness for Charities and Educational Institutions Act of 2025”; H.R. 1190, the “Expanding Access to Capital for Rural Job Creators Act”; H.R. 1469, the “Senior Security Act of 2025”; H.R. 2225, the “Access to Small Business Investor Capital Act”; H.R. 2441, the “Improving Disclosure for Investors Act of 2025”; 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; H.R. 3323, the “Helping Startups Continue To Grow Act”; H.R. 3339, the “Equal Opportunity for All Investors Act of 2025”; H.R. 3343, the “Greenlighting Growth Act”; H.R. 3348, the “Accredited Investor Definition Review Act”; H.R. 3351, the “Improving Access to Small Business Information Act”; H.R. 3352, the “Helping Angels Lead Our Startups Act of 2025”; H.R. 3357, the “Enhancing Multi-Class Share Disclosures Act”; H.R. 3381, the “Encouraging Public Offerings Act of 2025”; H.R. 3382, the “Small Entity Update Act”; H.R. 3383, the “Increasing Investor Opportunities Act”; H.R. 3394, the “Fair Investment Opportunities for Professional Experts Act”; H.R. 3395, the “Middle Market IPO Underwriting Cost Act”; H.R. 3422, the “Promoting Opportunities for Non-Traditional Capital Formation Act”; H.R. 940, the “Fair Audits and Inspections for Regulators’ Exams Act”; H.R. 1900, the “Financial Institution Regulatory Tailoring Enhancement Act”; H.R. 3379, the “Halting Uncertain Methods and Practices in Supervision Act of 2025”; H.R. 3380, the “Taking Account of Institutions with Low Operation Risk Act of 2025”; and H.R. 2702, the “Financial Integrity and Regulation Management Act”, 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

*Committee on the Judiciary*, Subcommittee on Oversight, hearing entitled “Examining Threats to ICE Operations”, 2 p.m., 2141 Rayburn.

*Committee on Natural Resources*, Subcommittee on Federal Lands, hearing on legislation on the FORESTS Act, 10:15 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Fisheries, hearing on H.R. 1885, the “Town of North Topsail Beach Coastal Barrier Resources System Map Amendment Act of 2025”; H.R. 2294, to reauthorize the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act of 2009; H.R. 2860, the “Northwest Straits Marine Conservation Initiative Reauthorization Act of 2025”; and H.R. 3179, to rename the Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge located in the State of Texas as the “Jocelyn Nungaray National Wildlife Refuge”, 10:30 a.m., 1334 Longworth.

Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources, hearing on H.R. 513, the “Offshore Lands Authorities Act of 2025”; H.R. 931, to allow certain Federal minerals to be mined consistent with the Bull Mountains Mining Plan Modification, and for other purposes; H.R. 2250, the “National Landslide Preparedness Act Reauthorization Act of 2025”; H.R. 2556, the “CORE Act of 2025”; H.R. 3168, the “National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program Reauthorization Act of 2025”; H.R. 3176, to amend the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act to reauthorize the National Volcano Early Warning and Monitoring System, 2 p.m., 1324 Longworth.

*Committee on Oversight and Government Reform*, Subcommittee on Economic Growth, Energy Policy, and Regulatory Affairs; and Subcommittee on Health Care and Financial Services, joint hearing entitled “Mandates, Meddling, and Mismanagement: The IRA’s Threat to Energy and Medicine”, 10 a.m., HVC–210.

Task Force on the Declassification of Federal Secrets, hearing entitled “The JFK Files: Assessing Over 60 Years of the Federal Government’s Obstruction, Obfuscation, and Deception”, 2 p.m., HVC–210.

Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Information Technology, and Government Innovation, hearing entitled “Breach of Trust: Surveillance in Private Spaces”, 2 p.m., 2247 Rayburn.

*Committee on Science, Space, and Technology*, Subcommittee on Environment, hearing entitled “Innovations in Agrichemicals: AI’s Hidden Formula Driving Efficiency”, 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

*Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure*, Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management, hearing entitled “Federal Courthouse Design and Construction: Examining the Costs to the Taxpayer”, 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

## CONGRESSIONAL PROGRAM AHEAD

Week of May 20 through May 23, 2025

## Senate Chamber

On *Tuesday*, Senate will continue consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 1582, GENIUS Act, post-cloture.

During the balance of the week, Senate may consider any cleared legislative and executive business.

## Senate Committees

*(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)*

*Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry:* May 21, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Dudley Hoskins, of the District of Columbia, to be Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs, and Scott Hutchins, of Indiana, to be Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics, both of the Department of Agriculture, 10:30 a.m., SD-106.

*Committee on Appropriations:* May 20, Subcommittee on Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2026 for the Department of Health and Human Services, 10 a.m., SD-124.

May 20, Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2026 for the Department of State, 2 p.m., SD-138.

May 21, Subcommittee on Department of Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2026 for the Department of the Interior, 10:30 a.m., SD-124.

May 21, Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2026 for the Department of Energy, 2:30 p.m., SD-124.

May 21, Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2026 for the Small Business Administration, 2:30 p.m., SD-138.

May 22, Subcommittee on Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2026 for the Department of Labor, 10 a.m., SD-138.

May 22, Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2026 for the Food and Drug Administration, 10:30 a.m., SD-124.

May 22, Subcommittee on Department of Defense, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2026 for the National Guard and Reserves Forces, 10:30 a.m., SD-192.

*Committee on Armed Services:* May 20, to hold hearings to examine the posture of the Department of the Air Force in review of the Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2026 and the Future Years Defense Program;

to be immediately followed by a closed session in SVC-217, 9:30 a.m., SD-G50.

May 20, Subcommittee on Strategic Forces, to hold hearings to examine the Department of Energy's atomic energy defense activities and Department of Defense nuclear weapons program in review of the Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2026 and the Future Years Defense Program, 4:45 p.m., SR-222.

May 21, Full Committee, to receive a closed briefing on an update on Yemen, 9:30 a.m., SVC-217.

May 21, Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, to hold hearings to examine defense of the Department of Defense Information Network; to be immediately followed by a closed session in SVC-217 at 3:30 p.m., 2:30 p.m., SR-222.

*Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:* May 22, to hold hearings to examine securing America, focusing on key authorities under the Defense Production Act, 10 a.m., SD-538.

*Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:* May 21, business meeting to consider S. 190, to enhance the operations of the North Pacific Research Board, S. 318, to require a plan to improve the cybersecurity and telecommunications of the U.S. Academic Research Fleet, S. 337, to amend title 49, United States Code, to clarify the authority of the Administrator of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration relating to the shipping of household goods, S. 503, to direct the Federal Communications Commission to evaluate and consider the impact of the telecommunications network equipment supply chain on the deployment of universal service, S. 1092, to require certain products to be labeled with 'Do Not Flush' labeling, S. 1442, to amend title 49, United States Code, to allow for eligibility for projects for the installation of human trafficking awareness signs at rest stops, S. 1523, to modify operations of the National Water Center of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, S. 1626, to reauthorize the National Landslide Preparedness Act, and the nominations of David Fink, of New Hampshire, to be Administrator of the Federal Railroad Administration, David Fogel, of Connecticut, to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce and Director General of the United States and Foreign Commercial Service, Robert Gleason, of Pennsylvania, to be Director of the Amtrak Board of Directors for a term of five years, and Pierre Gentin, of New York, to be General Counsel of the Department of Commerce, and promotions in the Coast Guard, 10 a.m., SR-253.

*Committee on Energy and Natural Resources:* May 21, business meeting to consider the nominations of Jonathan Brightbill, of Virginia, to be General Counsel, Tina Pierce, of Idaho, to be Chief Financial Officer, and Conner Prochaska, of Texas, to be Director of the Advanced Research Projects Agency—Energy, all of the Department of Energy, and Ned Mamula, of Pennsylvania, to be Director of the United States Geological Survey, Department of the Interior, 9:30 a.m., SD-366.

*Committee on Environment and Public Works:* May 21, to hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2026 for the Environmental Protection Agency, 10 a.m., SD-562.

*Committee on Finance:* May 20, to hold hearings to examine the nomination of William Long, of Missouri, to be Commissioner of Internal Revenue, Department of the Treasury, 10 a.m., SD–215.

*Committee on Foreign Relations:* May 20, to hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2026 for the Department of State, 10 a.m., SD–419.

*Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:* May 21, to hold hearings to examine the state of higher education, 10 a.m., SD–430.

May 22, Full Committee, business meeting to consider the nominations of Julie Hocker, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary, Wayne Palmer, of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary for Mine Safety and Health, and Henry Mack III, of Florida, to be an Assistant Secretary, all of the Department of Labor, Marco Rajkovich, Jr., of Virginia, to be a Member of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission, and Kirsten Baesler, of North Dakota, to be Assistant Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education, Kevin O'Farrell, of Florida, to be Assistant Secretary for Career, Technical, and Adult Education, and Nicholas Kent, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary, all of the Department of Education, Time to be announced, Room to be announced.

*Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs:* May 20, to hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2026 for the Department of Homeland Security, 9:30 a.m., SD–342.

May 21, Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, to hold hearings to examine science and Federal health agencies, focusing on Myocarditis and other events associated with the COVID–19 vaccines, 2 p.m., SH–216.

*Committee on the Judiciary:* May 20, to hold hearings to examine defending against drones, focusing on setting safeguards for counter unmanned aircraft systems, 10:15 a.m., SD–226.

May 21, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine certain pending nominations, 10:15 a.m., SD–226.

May 21, Subcommittee on Privacy, Technology, and the Law, to hold hearings to examine AI-generated deepfakes, 2:30 p.m., SD–226.

May 22, Full Committee, business meeting to consider the nominations of Terrance Cole, of Virginia, to be Administrator of Drug Enforcement, Gadyaces Serralta, of Florida, to be Director of the United States Marshals Service, and David Charles Waterman, to be United States Attorney for the Southern District of Iowa, all of the Department of Justice, 10:15 a.m., SH–216.

*Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship:* May 21, to hold hearings to examine fueling America's manufacturing comeback, 10 a.m., SR–428A.

*Committee on Veterans' Affairs:* May 21, to hold hearings to examine S. 214, to amend title 38, United States Code, to increase the rate of the special pension payable to Medal of Honor recipients, S. 219, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program to improve the ability of veterans to access medical care in medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs and in the community by providing veterans the ability to choose health care providers, S. 506, to require the

Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program to coordinate, navigate, and manage care and benefits for veterans enrolled in both the Medicare program and the system of annual patient enrollment of the Department of Veterans Affairs, S. 585, to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish a pre-transition health care registration process to facilitate enrollment in the patient enrollment system of the Department of Veterans Affairs by members of the Armed Forces who are separating from the Armed Forces, S. 599, to amend title 38, United States Code, to increase the mileage rate offered by the Department of Veterans Affairs through their Beneficiary Travel program for health related travel, S. 605, to amend title 38, United States Code, to increase the maximum age for children eligible for medical care under the CHAMPVA program, S. 635, to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to recognize nurse registries for purposes of the Veterans Community Care Program, S. 649, to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand eligibility for Post-9/11 Educational Assistance to members of the National Guard who perform certain full-time duty, S. 778, to amend title 38, United States Code, to require a lactation space in each medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs, S. 784, to expand and modify the grant program of the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide innovative transportation options to veterans in highly rural areas, S. 800, to modify the Precision Medicine for Veterans Initiative of the Department of Veterans Affairs, S. 827, to extend and modify the transportation grant program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, S. 879, to expand medical, employment, and other benefits for individuals serving as family caregivers for certain veterans, S. 1318, to direct the American Battle Monuments Commission to establish a program to identify American-Jewish servicemembers buried in United States military cemeteries overseas under markers that incorrectly represent their religion and heritage, S. 1320, to direct the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to take certain steps regarding research related to menopause, perimenopause, or mid-life women's health, S. 1383, to establish the Veterans Advisory Committee on Equal Access, S. 1441, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to award grants to nonprofit entities to assist such entities in carrying out programs to provide service dogs to eligible veterans, S. 1533, to amend title 38, United States Code, to make permanent and codify the pilot program for use of contract physicians for disability examinations, S. 1543, to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish in the Department of Veterans Affairs the Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration, and S. 1591, to amend title 38, United States Code, to reorganize the acquisition structure of the Department of Veterans Affairs and to establish the Director of Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation in the Department, 4 p.m., SR–418.

*Select Committee on Intelligence:* May 20, to receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH–219.

May 21, Full Committee, to receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH–219.

### House Committees

*Committee on Appropriations*, May 21, Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies, budget hearing on the Army Corps of Engineers (Civil Works) and the Bureau of Reclamation, 10 a.m., 2362–B Rayburn.

May 21, Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government, oversight hearing on the Federal Communications Commission, 10 a.m., 2358–A Rayburn.

May 21, Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies, budget hearing on the Department of Education, 10 a.m., 2358–C Rayburn.

May 21, Subcommittee on National Security, Department of State, and Related Programs, budget hearing on the Department of State and Related Programs, 2 p.m., 2359 Rayburn.

*Committee on Education and Workforce*, May 21, Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Development, hearing entitled “Restoring Excellence: The Case Against DEI”, 10:15 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

*Committee on Energy and Commerce*, May 21, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigation, hearing entitled “Examining Ways to Enhance Our Domestic Critical Mineral Supply Chains”, 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

May 21, Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade, hearing entitled “AI Regulation and the Future of US Leadership”, 10:15 a.m., 2322 Rayburn.

*Committee on Financial Services*, May 21, Full Committee, continue markup on H.R. 1013, the “Retirement Fairness for Charities and Educational Institutions Act of 2025”; H.R. 1190, the “Expanding Access to Capital for Rural Job Creators Act”; H.R. 1469, the “Senior Security Act of 2025”; H.R. 2225, the “Access to Small Business Investor Capital Act”; H.R. 2441, the “Improving Disclosure for Investors Act of 2025”; 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; H.R. 3323, the “Helping Startups Continue To Grow Act”; H.R. 3339, the “Equal Opportunity for All Investors Act of 2025”; H.R. 3343, the “Greenlighting Growth Act”; H.R. 3348, the “Accredited Investor Definition Review Act”; H.R. 3351, the “Improving Access to Small Business Information Act”; H.R. 3352, the “Helping Angels Lead Our Startups Act of 2025”; H.R. 3357, the “Enhancing Multi-Class Share Disclosures Act”; H.R. 3381, the “Encouraging Public Offerings Act of 2025”; H.R. 3382, the “Small Entity Update Act”; H.R. 3383, the “Increasing Investor Opportunities Act”; H.R. 3394, the “Fair Investment Opportunities for Professional Experts Act”; H.R. 3395, the “Middle Market IPO Underwriting Cost Act”; H.R. 3422, the “Promoting Opportunities for Non-Traditional Capital Formation Act”; H.R. 940, the “Fair Audits and Inspections for Regulators’ Exams Act”; H.R. 1900, the “Financial Institution Regulatory Tailoring Enhancement Act”; H.R. 3379, the “Halting Uncertain Methods and Practices in Supervision Act of 2025”; H.R. 3380, the “Taking Account of Institutions with Low Operation

Risk Act of 2025”; and H.R. 2702, the “Financial Integrity and Regulation Management Act”, 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

*Committee on Foreign Affairs*, May 21, Full Committee, hearing entitled “FY26 State Department Posture: Protecting American Interests”, 10 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

May 22, South and Central Asia Subcommittee, hearing entitled “Assessing the Terror Threat Landscape in South and Central Asia and Examining Opportunities for Cooperation”, 9 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

May 22, Africa Subcommittee, hearing entitled “A Dire Crisis in Sudan: A Global Call to Action”, 9 a.m., 2200 Rayburn.

*Committee on Homeland Security*, May 21, Subcommittee on Emergency Management and Technology, hearing entitled “Mass Gathering Events: Assessing Security Coordination and Preparedness”, 2 p.m., 310 Cannon.

*Committee on the Judiciary*, May 21, Full Committee, markup on legislation on the Protect Children’s Innocence Act of 2025; legislation on the Stop Illegal Entry Act; H.R. 589, the “FACE Act Repeal Act of 2025”; H.R. 1163, the “Prove it Act of 2025”; and H.R. 1605, the “Separation of Powers Restoration Act of 2025”, 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

*Committee on Natural Resources*, May 21, Subcommittee on Indian and Insular Affairs, hearing on H.R. 2130, the “Tribal Trust Land Homeownership Act of 2025”; H.R. 2388, the “Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe Project Lands Restoration Act”; H.R. 2815, the “Cape Fox Land Entitlement Finalization Act of 2025”; and H.R. 3073, the “Shivwits Band of Paiutes Jurisdictional Clarity Act”, 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

May 21, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled “Unleashing a Golden Age: Examining the Use of Federal Lands to Power American Technological Innovation”, 2 p.m., 1324 Longworth.

*Committee on Oversight and Government Reform*, May 21, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 580, the “Unfunded Mandates Accountability and Transparency Act”; H.R. 3279, the “Renewing Efficiency in Government by Budgeting Act”; H.R. 2409, the “Guidance Clarity Act”; H.R. 2953, the “All Economic Regulations are Transparent Act”; H.R. 67, the “Modernizing Retrospective Regulatory Review Act”; H.R. 689, the “Full Responsibility and Expedited Enforcement Act”; H.R. 884, to prohibit individuals who are not citizens of the United States from voting in elections in the District of Columbia and to repeal the Local Resident Voting Rights Amendment Act of 2022; H.R. 2096, the “Protecting Our Nation’s Capital Emergency Act”; H.R. 3095, to direct the United States Postal Service to designate single, unique ZIP Codes for certain communities, and for other purposes; H.R. 672, to establish new ZIP Codes for certain communities, and for other purposes; legislation on the Esophageal Cancer Awareness Act; H.R. 1008, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 298 Route 292 in Holmes, New York, as the “Sheriff Adrian ‘Butch’ Anderson Post Office Building”; and H.R. 1009, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 86 Main Street in



Haverstraw, New York, as the “Paul Piperato Post Office Building”, 10 a.m., HVC–210.

*Committee on Rules*, May 21, Full Committee, hearing on legislation on the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, 1 a.m., H–313 Capitol.

*Committee on Veterans' Affairs*, May 21, Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity, hearing entitled “Pushing VA Forward: Review of VA’s Adaptive Programs for Disabled Veterans”, 10:30 a.m., 360 Cannon.

*Next Meeting of the SENATE*

10 a.m., Tuesday, May 20

## Senate Chamber

**Program for Tuesday:** Senate will continue consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 1582, GENIUS Act, post-cloture.

*(Senate will recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. for their respective party conferences.)*

*Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES*

10 a.m., Tuesday, May 20

## House Chamber

**Program for Tuesday:** Consideration of H. Res. 426, providing for consideration of the joint resolution (S.J. Res. 13) providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency of the Department of the Treasury relating to the review of applications under the Bank Merger Act; providing for consideration of the joint resolution (S.J. Res. 31) providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to "Review of Final Rule Reclassification of Major Sources as Area Sources Under Section 112 of the Clean Air Act"; and waiving a requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII with respect to consideration of certain resolutions.

## Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

## HOUSE

Amodei, Mark E., Nev., E446, E447, E448, E449  
Bergman, Jack, Mich., E448  
Connolly, Gerald E., Va., E446

Evans, Gabe, Colo., E449  
Fitzpatrick, Brian K., Pa., E446, E447, E449  
Kennedy, Timothy M., N.Y., E445, E447, E450  
Langworthy, Nicholas A., N.Y., E445, E449  
Lucas, Frank D., Okla., E447

Smucker, Lloyd, Pa., E448  
Thompson, Bennie G., Miss., E448  
Veasey, Marc A., Tex., E447  
Wilson, Joe, S.C., E445, E448



# Congressional Record

printed pursuant to directions of the Joint Committee on Printing as authorized by appropriate provisions of Title 44, United States Code, and published for each day that one or both Houses are in session, excepting very infrequent instances when two or more unusually small consecutive issues are printed one time. ¶Public access to the *Congressional Record* is available online through the U.S. Government Publishing Office, at [www.govinfo.gov](http://www.govinfo.gov), free of charge to the user. The information is updated online each day the *Congressional Record* is published. For more information, contact the GPO Customer Contact Center, U.S. Government Publishing Office. Phone 202-512-1800, or 866-512-1800 (toll-free). E-Mail, [contactcenter@gpo.gov](mailto:contactcenter@gpo.gov). ¶To place an order for any of these products, visit the U.S. Government Online Bookstore at: [bookstore.gpo.gov](http://bookstore.gpo.gov). Mail orders to: Superintendent of Documents, P.O. Box 979050, St. Louis, MO 63197-9000, or phone orders to 866-512-1800 (toll-free), 202-512-1800 (D.C. area), or fax to 202-512-2104. Remit check or money order, made payable to the Superintendent of Documents, or use VISA, MasterCard, Discover, American Express, or GPO Deposit Account. ¶Following each session of Congress, the daily *Congressional Record* is revised, printed, permanently bound and sold by the Superintendent of Documents in individual parts or by sets. ¶With the exception of copyrighted articles, there are no restrictions on the republication of material from the *Congressional Record*.

**POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to the Superintendent of Documents, *Congressional Record*, U.S. Government Publishing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402, along with the entire mailing label from the last issue received.